

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

Press Communiqué

Future of democracy depends on making ballot access more inclusive, accessible and meaningful for every eligible citizen while firmly safeguarding the integrity and credibility of the electoral process: Governor

Governor participates in International Conference on Ballot Access by Political Parties and candidates

Governor stresses the importance of creating greater opportunities for women, youth, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities and other underrepresented groups to participate fully in democratic life

Governor emphasizes that a clear understanding of existing challenges enables the formulation of more effective reforms and responsive policies

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt Gen KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) participated in the virtual International Conference of the thematic theme 'Ballot Access by political parties and Candidates at Lok Bhavan, Itanagar on 10th July 2026. The conference has been organized by the State Chief Electoral Office, Arunachal Pradesh under the guidance of India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) and in collaboration with Raj Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh.

In his keynote address, the Governor emphasized that a clear understanding of existing challenges enables the formulation of more effective reforms and responsive policies. He urged all stakeholders to approach issues with sensitivity, empathy, and an inclusive perspective, ensuring that governance remains people-centric and responsive to the needs of every citizen.

The Governor said that his long years in public service have taught him that institutions remain strong not because of authority alone, but because of their willingness to learn, adapt and improve. The most respected institutions are those that remain open to new ideas, learn from experience and embrace constructive change. He described the International Conference on Ballot Access by Political Parties and Candidates as more than a professional forum, calling it a celebration of democracy's enduring values. The conference, he said, reinforces the collective commitment to ensuring that every eligible citizen can participate in the democratic process, every genuine political voice is heard, and democratic institutions remain fair, transparent and inclusive.

Highlighting the Election Commission of India's proactive approach, the Governor appreciated IIIDEM for bringing together election practitioners, technology experts, academicians, media professionals and international partners to address emerging challenges in a rapidly changing technological landscape. He also commended the involvement of all thirty-six Chief Electoral Officer offices in thematic research on election management.

Stressing that every democracy offers valuable lessons, he said collaboration and dialogue help strengthen democratic institutions worldwide. Referring to India's role as the world's largest democracy, he noted initiatives such as the Atlas of Democracies of the World and ECI-Net as examples of India's commitment to innovation and global cooperation. He added that holding these deliberations in Arunachal Pradesh is significant, as the State's rich cultural diversity and ongoing electoral roll revision covering nearly 8.9 lakh electors reflect its deep democratic commitment.

The Governor said that the future of democracy depends on making ballot access more inclusive, accessible and meaningful for every eligible citizen while firmly safeguarding the integrity and credibility of the electoral process. He emphasized the need to harness the transformative power of technology to enhance transparency, efficiency and public confidence in elections, while remaining alert to emerging challenges.

The Governor also stressed the importance of creating greater opportunities for women, youth, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities and other underrepresented groups to participate fully in democratic life, noting that their aspirations, talents and perspectives are vital for building stronger, more representative and vibrant societies.

Underscoring the importance of global cooperation, the Governor said that Election Management Bodies must work closely together by sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices and learning from one another's experiences. While challenges may vary across nations, he noted that the commitment to democratic values is universal. Such collaboration, he said, can help build institutions that are resilient, innovative and responsive to the needs of the people. The Governor observed that democracy has endured through generations because people chose not only to inherit it but also to strengthen it. He called upon all stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to preserving public trust and ensuring that democracy remains a powerful force for peace, dignity, progress and inclusive development.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pawan Kumar Sain, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Shri Liken Koyu, Shri Pramod K. Jain (Rtd. IAS), Chairman, Administrative Reforms Commission, Arunachal Pradesh, and Prof SK Nayak, RGU, among others also shared their thoughts on the occasion.

PowerPoint Presentations on various aspects of the electoral process were presented on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner, East Kameng District Ms Yashaswani B presented a PPT on 'Trust and Democratic Resilience Electoral Management and Political Representation', while Professor Chandrachur Singh, Hindu College, Delhi deliberated on 'Trust and Democratic Resilience Electoral Management and Political Representation'. Deputy Commissioner, Longding District Shri Kunal Yadav, presented a PPT on 'Diagnosing and Institutionalising Electoral Resilience, from Democratic Stress Points to Model', while Professor Rohit Dwivedi, IIM, Shillong deliberated on 'Diagnosing and Institutionalising Electoral Resilience, from Democratic Stress Points to Model Standards'. Superintendent of Police of Keyi Panyor District, Shri Angad Mehta, gave a presentation on 'Strengthening Electoral Democracy International Norms, Comparative Practices and Standards for Inclusive Participation' while Professor Vandana Mishra, JNU, Delhi deliberated on 'Strengthening Electoral Democracy International Norms, Comparative Practices and Standards for Inclusive Participation'. There were Open discussions and interaction with the participants.

Large number of participants, from various countries including representatives from South Africa, Chief Electoral Officers of all States of India and District Election Officers (DEO) participated in the Conference virtually. Many DEOs were physically present in the conference.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, July 10, 2026