

Election of House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly, 2022

Daily Report

November 18, 2022, Friday

As per the government, all the necessary arrangements have been made to make the upcoming election free, fair and fearless. In a press conference hosted in Kathmandu, the Ministry of Home Affairs said that security personnel have been mobilized to maintain pre, post and election period security. Home Secretary, Binod Prakash Singh informed that about 300,000 Nepal Army, 71,000 Nepal Police, 35,000 Armed Police, 2,000 Investigation Department and 115,000 temporary Police have been deployed for election security. He said that they have adopted a zero-tolerance policy in anti-election activities to make the election successful. He further added surveillance has been increased to spot the violation of the election code of conduct.

Likewise, spokesperson Singh informed that mobile security monitoring teams have been deployed in each constituency and they will be monitoring the election code of conduct. Similarly, from the silent period until the counting of votes, the sale of alcoholic substances has been banned across the country, according to the ministry.

Province 1

On November 18, candidates solicited votes on social media during the silent period. Out of 1,897 polling booths in Province 1, 438 polling are highly sensitive, 824 sensitive, and 635 normal. Of the 4,099 polling centres designated for the election, 971 have been classified as highly sensitive, 1,855 as sensitive, and 1,273 as normal.

Out of 57 polling booths established in Taplejung, 23 are sensitive, and 29 are normal. 108 polling booths of Sankhuwasabha have been classified based on security sensitivity. Out of 103 polling booths, 82 are considered sensitive, and 18, are considered sensitive. Out of 122 polling booths in Solukhumbu, 11, are classified as highly sensitive, 33 as sensitive, and 78 as normal. Out of 84 polling stations in Okhaldhunga, 12, as highly sensitive, 20 as sensitive,

and 52 as normal. About 163 polling centers are designated. Out of 136 polling stations in Khotang, 40 polling stations have been classified as highly sensitive, 57 polling stations as sensitive, and 39 polling stations as normal. Out of 194 polling centers, 55 are classified as highly sensitive, 89 as sensitive, and 50 as normal. Out of 87 polling stations in Bhojpur, 33 polling stations have been classified as highly sensitive, 20 polling stations as sensitive, and 34 polling stations as normal. Out of 153 polling centers, 52 are classified as highly sensitive, 35 as sensitive, and 66 as normal. Out of 119 polling stations in Dhankuta, 16 polling centers have been classified as highly sensitive, 49 as sensitive, and 54 as normal. There are 162 polling centers in 119 polling stations. Out of 56 polling stations in Tehrithum, 21 polling stations have been classified as sensitive and 35 polling stations as normal. Out of 93 polling centers, 27 are classified as sensitive and 66 as general polling stations.

Out of 120 polling stations in Panchthar, 34 polling stations have been classified as highly sensitive, 58 polling stations as sensitive, and 10 polling stations as normal. Out of 177 polling centers, 58 are classified as highly sensitive, 97 as sensitive, and 22 as normal. Out of 150 polling stations in Ilam, 36 polling stations are highly sensitive, 55 are sensitive, and 59 are normal. 150 polling centers have been designated. Out of 766 polling stations in Jhapa, 271 polling stations have been classified as highly sensitive, 381 polling stations as sensitive, and 114 polling stations as normal in terms of security. Out of 306 polling stations in Morang, 50 polling stations are highly sensitive, 50 polling stations are highly sensitive, 144 polling stations are sensitive, and 112 polling stations are normal. Out of 839 polling centers, 137 are classified as highly sensitive, 388 as sensitive, and 314 as normal.

Out of 166 polling stations in Sunsari, 59 polling stations are classified as highly sensitive, 65 as sensitive, and 42 as normal. Out of 591 polling centers, 184 are highly sensitive, 281 are sensitive, and 126 are normal. Out of 110 polling stations in Udaipur, 21 polling stations are classified as highly sensitive, 53 polling stations as sensitive, and 27 polling stations as normal. Out of 264 polling centers, 42 are highly sensitive, 145 are sensitive, and 77 are

classified as normal.
864 prisoners in 14 District Jails in Province 1 will vote. 46 inmates of Taplejung Jail, 62 inmates of Sankhuwasabha Jail, 48 inmates of Solukhumbu Jail, 25 inmates of Okhaldhunga Jail, 44 inmates of Khotang Jail, 60 inmates of Bhojpur Jail, 40 inmates of Tehrithum Jail, 43 inmates of Panchthar Jail, 61 inmates of Ilam Jail, 148 inmates of Jhapa prison, 187 inmates from Morang Prison, 58 inmates of Sunsari Jhumka Regional Jail and 62 inmates of Udaipur Jail will vote.

According to Pachthar Representative Shaman Bishwakarma, Madhu Jawegu promoted herself to vote through her Facebook ID during the silence period issued. Jawegu is a proportional candidate for the House of Representatives from the Nepali Congress.

According to Sankhuwasabha representative Bhawin Karki, Deepak Khadka, a candidate for the post of member of the House of Representatives from the Nepali Congress, and Rajendra Karki, a candidate for the position of a member of the Provincial Assembly, were found soliciting votes during the silent period.

According to Morang Representative Binod Subedi, the Joint General Minister of Nepali Congress Province 1, Khadg Fago, has declared to cast his vote in favor of proportional election candidate Uddhav Thapa through his Facebook ID. From the alliance, on behalf of the CPN Maoist Center, Morang area 1 (A) candidate Kul Prasad Samba Kushal has called to vote on the hammer and sickle symbol from the official Facebook ID of Kushal Limbu Secretariat office and his personal ID. Hom Gautam, a candidate for the post of member of the House of Representatives of Morang Region No. 1 from the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party and a central member of the party, has asked for votes from his Facebook ID during the silent period.

According to Dhankuta Representative Ishwar Thapa, Manoj Rai, chairperson of the District Sports Development Committee Dhankuta, has called on his Facebook ID to vote for Arjun Rai, the candidate for the Provincial Assembly member post 'A' of the United Samajwadi Party. CPN-UML provincial member Baldeep Rai has written on his Facebook ID

to vote in favour of CPN-UML representative assembly candidate Rajendra Rai, provincial assembly 'A' candidate Niran Rai, 'B' Indramani Parajuli. During a silent period of 48 hours, Rabin Kattel, Chairperson of Press Chautari Nepal Dhankuta, through his Facebook ID, called for voting in favour of CPN-UML Representative Assembly candidate Rajendra Rai and Provincial Assembly B candidate Indramani Parajuli.

According to Jhapa Representative Naresh Khati, CPN-UML and Rashtriya Prajatantra Party have placed their election symbol flags at Kankai Dham Religious Development Institution Kotihome, Kankai Municipality-5.

Bagmati Province

According to the Chief Election Office, all the preparations for the upcoming elections in all 13 districts of Bagmati province have been completed. There have been reports of violations of the code of conduct, and the election office is asking for clarification. According to the Commission, about a dozen polling stations in the Provincial Assembly Constituency No. 1 of Dolakha have been kept under 'A' category security surveillance. Two booths in Garimudi and one in Mirgeka, located in one of the three polling centers of Baityashwar Rural Municipality, have been kept under surveillance.

Similarly, Jugu, Jhyaku, and Marbu of Gaurishankar Rural Municipality have also been kept under surveillance. At the same time, Jafe, Malu, Zhule, and Shahre of Tamakoshi Rural Municipality are classified as polling stations with booths more likely to be occupied. In addition, some polling stations of Melung and Shailung, Bigu Rural Municipality, along with the Thulo Patal of Jiri municipality, are also considered sensitive. The Commission is prepared to conduct re-polling in areas captured in the past, saying that more security personnel will be arranged in those areas.

According to Sindhupalchowk Representative Natibabu Dhital, Chief of District Election Office Bikash Rijal, polling officers, assistant polling officers, and other employees are present in all 320 polling centers in the district to complete the House of Representatives

and Provincial Assembly elections. This time, 14 out of 80 inmates in the district jail will vote for the proportional representation of the House of Representatives. Out of 80 prisoners, including six women in Rasuwa prison, 14 will be allowed to vote this time. Head of the District Election Office Shreeram Thapa said that even though the number of prisoners and detainees is large, they were not included in the voter's list. There are 54 polling centers in 34 locations in Rasuwa, along with two temporary centres in the District Jail and the District Coordination Committee. There are 791 temporary voters.

In the ward building in Uttargaya Rural Municipality-5, three polling stations, namely A, B, and C, have to be installed in a congested space. There was also a problem in the last election in the place with the highest number of voters. There are 2,400 voters here, but the issue still needs to be resolved even though the voters complained earlier that it would be crowded. Locals complain that despite the request to shift the polling station to the local Shivayal Basic School, no attention is paid to it. Chief District Officer Navaraj Jaisi said that nothing happened during the preparations for the election, and the district was peaceful.

According to Rasuwa Representative Hemnath Khatiwada, the polling centre's staff have completed all party meetings. There are 114 polling stations and 333 polling centres in Dhading, and 1,688 security personnel and 2,500 security personnel have been deployed.

According to Dhading Representative Sitaram Adhikari, two days before the election, the all-party meeting was completed in Rubi Valley rural municipality, a remote and geographically difficult district area. There are 114 polling stations and 333 polling centres in Dhading, and 1,688 policemen and 2,500 security personnel have been deployed. The District Security Committee has placed 14 polling stations in the list of highly sensitive out of 140 polling stations in the district. The police have urged everyone to exercise their right to vote confidently, saying they can conduct elections in a fear-free environment.

According to Kathmandu Representative Bimal Paudel, at Kathmandu's House of Representatives Constituency No. 5, a suspicious object was found in Budhanilkanth and was disposed of by the Nepali Army team. On November 18, around 2:30 am, the team of Armed

Police Force informed that the bomb disposal team of the Nepali Army found a pressure cooker bomb in the special chowk of Budhanilkanth Municipality-7.

Similarly, the suspicious object found at 3 am on Friday morning in Kathmandu Metropolitan City-5 Handigaon has also been disposed by the Nepali Army team. The Nepali Army team disposed the suspicious item found with a wire attached to a pressure cooker on the way to the broken bridge in Handigaon.

Meanwhile, unknown parties vandalized the office of Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) Kathmandu Constituency No. 5 by an unidentified group on the night of November 18.

Spokesperson Shrestha said that they have lodged a complaint with the Maharajganj police circle for investigation, demanding an investigation into the incident. Meanwhile, the Election Commission has asked Dhruva Prasad Silwal, Campus Head of Nepal Commerce Campus, Minbhawan, for an explanation within 24 hours.

Similarly, the Commission has asked Assistant Professor Khilraj Sapkota of Ratnarajya Lakshmi Campus, Kathmandu for an explanation. Guru Prasad Aryal, Assistant Spokesperson of the Commission informed that National Vigilance Centre had written to the Commission informing that Sapkota had spread election campaigns through his Facebook page.

Similarly, the Election Commission has sent a letter to Professor Pramila Dewan, registrar of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, to give a clarification within 24 hours based on the complaint that she was involved in the election campaign of Nepal Communist Party (Unified Marxist Leninist). 5,779 security personnel have been mobilized in Kathmandu for the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections 2079. Spokesperson of District Police Range Kathmandu and SP Dineshraj Mainali informed that 2,500 Nepal Police and 3,279 Madi Police have been mobilized in 320 polling stations and 757 polling centres in Kathmandu to conduct the election peacefully. Similarly, in view of the election, SP Mainali said that mobile patrols, civil police deployment, code of conduct violation monitoring, security check at checkpoints in Kathmandu are being carried out.

According to Makwanpur Representative Pushparaj Adhikari, the car of the Indra Bahadur Baniya candidate of Makwanpur Constituency no. 2 (B) has been vandalized. The Nepal Communist Party Makwanpur has vandalized the vehicle of the candidate on the east-west highway near Hetauda Sub-metropolitan-19 Dalimatar. After the incident, CPN

Makwanpur issued a statement and claimed to have taken action against Baniya. CPN Makwanpur accused Baniya of operating the mine in Gingu without compensation to the local people and against the court decision, excavating and transporting Shivam cement mine against the people's interest, and buying voters by spending money for elections. Baniya was also shown a black flag by his own party workers in Manhari rural municipality.

Gandaki Province

According to Myagdi Representative Amrit Prasad Paudel, it is difficult to bring election materials to Gurja of Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality-1, because of the distant venue. The venue is at the farthest from the district headquarters Beni. On November 16 the employees reached Darwang on the Beni-Darwang road section and then reached the entry of the Darwang Muna road section. Gurja Polling Station Election Officer Amrit Subedi Command's election team reached the polling station after travelling through the lonely forest.

Karnali Province

There are two days left for voting in the representative and provincial assembly elections 2022. The staff mobilized for the election organized an all-party meeting on November 18. Polling officials have notified the citizens not to bring hand weapons, or consumption and sale of alcohol around the polling station.

According to Kalikot Representative Kali Bahadur Malla, As the election is around the corner, the information officer of the district election office, Dhan Bahadur Malla has informed that the all-party meeting was held at 113 polling stations and 124 polling centres in Kalikot district.

According to Dailekh Representative Amar Sunar, despite the imposition of a 48-hour-long silent period starting from 12:00 am on November 17, candidates and cadres were found running their campaigns through social media. Dailekh's Code of conduct monitoring committee has requested to stop these activities promptly. According to Mohan Jaiswal,

Election code of conduct Monitoring Officer, Karnali Provincial Assembly Member Candidate Dharmaraj Regmi, Nepali Congress Party Secretary Narayan Regmi, and Congress Worker Yam Bahadur Malla were asked to remove their statuses on November 18 upon spotting the request for votes through Facebook.

According to Jajarkot Representative Dinesh Shrestha, district election officer Nabin Kathayat said that all the staff have reached to the polling centres they were assigned to, covering 142 centres of the district and they have commenced the all-party meetings to make the elections free and fair in their respective centres.

According to Humla Representative Nanda Singh, District election officer, Shyam Bahadur Rana informed that all-party meeting has been conducted in 25 polling centres out of 59. According to Officer Rana, polling officers, employees and representatives of political parties and local people conducted the all-party meeting. As per him, decisions were taken in the meeting to disseminate timely notification, prohibit small arms, prohibit of propaganda and designate the election area. He further added, there have been no verbal or written complaints of violation of code of conduct in Humla.

According to Surkhet district representative Prabha Rawat, the officials have reached to all the polling stations in the district on November 18. They are preparing for the necessary work such as arranging the goods, setting up the fences, arranging the lines, putting ropes etc. for the election. Leaflets and pamphlets of the alliance were found pasted around Chinchu in Bheriganga Municipality. Code of conduct monitoring officer, Gopi Bhandari, informed that they have requested to remove the pasted leaflets and pamphlets.

Lumbini Province

According to the INSEC observer from Banke Duduwa Rural Municipality, Sher Bahadur Shahi, considering the security of the border area, the security agencies of the two countries have conducted a joint patrol in Dasgaja falling under Nepal-India border area.

A joint patrol was conducted from pillar number 651 to 651/11, under the joint command of Inspector Roshan Joshi in charge of BOP Jamunaha under Bageshwari of Armed Police Force Nepal-30 and Arun Kumar, Indian Armed Forces (SSB). Notably, the joint patrol was conducted to prevent unwanted activities and crimes from the border area during the elections.

According to Nawalparasi West Representative Narayan Parajuli, a few hours before the start of the silent period, the police arrested one person for spreading false information against Hridayesh Tripathi, the candidate for House of Representative from Constituency No. 1, Nawalparasi West Bardaghat Municipality-12, Bhataulia. The police arrested Krishna Bahadur Rana of Bardaghat Municipality-1 Moti Basti, working in Binod Chaudhari's company, a candidate for the ruling coalition, for campaigning against Tripathi. DSP Bhojraj Pandey said that while he was distributing a small booklet using children on a motorcycle, the locals took him into custody and handed him over to the police.

Sudurpaschim

According to Achham Representative Shivaraj Dhungana, in coordination with polling officers and assistant polling officers assigned to complete the election of representatives and provincial assembly members, they have started the work of holding all-party/all-party meetings, building booths, managing agents, distributing voter ID cards and necessary coordination at the polling station. To make the voting process fair, peaceful, fearless, and orderly, all-party/all-party meetings were held in all 230 polling centres of the district. There are 208 polling centres in 130 polling stations at ten local levels of the district. According to the number of polling stations, 2,489 polling officers, assistant polling officers, assistant staff, and volunteers have been assigned.

According to Darchula Representative Narendra Singh Karki, polling officers and employees reached the field and held an all-party meeting. District Election Officer Pradip Singh Dhimi informed that polling officers and staff had reached all the polling stations and centres across the district. Demarcation of the election station, declaration of alcohol-

prohibited area, all-day meetings, appointment of volunteers, etc. have all been done.

According to Kailali Representative Mainamoti Chaudhary, polling officers and election materials have reached all the polling stations in the district. Ram Prasad Upadhyay, polling officer of Municipality-6 Amar Secondary School polling station, told Deepak Nepali, facilitator of INSEC, who was assigned to supervise Shivaraj Nepal, polling officer at Pashupati Secondary School in Gauriganga Municipality-1, and Gyanendra Bahadur Bhatta, polling officer of Janajagruti Secondary School polling station, and the same have conducted all-party meetings, completed preparation of physical structure and distribution of volunteer identity cards.

According to INSEC Bajhang district representative Satyaraj Bahadur Singh, the staff assigned to conduct the voting are engaged in the construction of polling stations and all-party discussions. The polling officers arrived at the polling station with voting material on November 17 and have been involved in all-sided discussions and construction of the polling station since the morning of November 18.

According to Baitadi Representative Nari Badu, the preparations for the election have reached the final stage in this district, which has 129 polling stations and 211 polling centres. Chief Electoral Officer Jayanand Paneru said that the polling staff had reached the respective areas along with the necessary materials. The workers are involved in building booths, holding all-party meetings, etc. Chief District Officer Suresh Panthi said the absence of polling staff and election preparation is being monitored. 2,500 security personnel assigned to the election have reached the relevant areas and are engaged in peacekeeping operations.

According to Bajura District Representative Padam Bahadur Singh, Chief of District Election Office Navaraj Awasthi said that the construction of polling stations has been started at polling stations in the district. Nine hundred ninety-three employees have been deployed in 70 polling stations and 112 polling centres in the district. The polling staff said they would be involved in the construction of the polling station and the holding of all-party meetings are going on. Chief District Officer Prakash Chandra Adhikari said that Temporary Police,

Nepal Police, Armed Police, and Nepal Army would provide security.

According to Kanchanpur Representative Lily Kunwar, the information office, district election office, Bhansingh Mahara, informed that the staff and security personnel had reached all the polling stations in the district. According to DSP Chakra Bahadur Shah, the District Police Office, security teams of Nepal Police, Armed Police, and Madi Police are mobilized to conduct the elections in a peaceful, fair, and fearless environment.

According to Dadeldhura Representative Bhupendra Bista, it has been found during monitoring that Sher Bahadur Deuba, the candidate for the post of Prime Minister and member of the House of Representatives from Dadeldhura district, has gathered voters outside the resort of his residence during the silent period.

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

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