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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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44,534 voters to get a second chance at choosing representatives on Monday

**ARPAN PRADHAN
OCTOBER 19:**

Nearly forty-five thousand voters will receive the chance to vote again to elect representatives from their constituency when by-elections are held at three assembly constituencies in Sikkim on Monday.

The by-elections were

necessitated after two SDF candidates – Pawan Chamling and DT Lepcha – and one SKM candidate, Kunga Nima Lepcha, won from two constituencies each and had to accordingly relinquish one. As a result, the constituencies of Poklok-Kamrang, Martam-Rumtek and Gangtok were thrown open

for a fresh contest.

Interestingly, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is not contesting from Gangtok, the only of the three constituencies it had won from earlier this year. Following a last-minute seat sharing alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party, SKM stepped away from contesting Gangtok and Martam-Rumtek and retained only Poklok-Kamrang, the only general seat going for bypolls for its president, Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] to contest from.

Meanwhile, as per data from the Election Department of Sikkim, the three constituencies have a total of 44,534 voters. The result will be declared on 23 October and the entire election process completed by 27 Oct.

The contest, even though by-elections have traditionally been won by the party in government in Sikkim, is expected to be keen.

Poklok-Kamrang, a seat that SDF has retained since 1994 is also considered an SDF stronghold given that Mr Chamling represented the constituency [even in its pre-delineation

swathe] through most of his political career.

He had won by a margin of 2,899 votes from the constituency earlier this year. He obviously decided to release this seat to improve the



chances of his party winning the by-elections. His victory-margin in the second constituency he won from – Namchi Singithang – was barely 300 votes, a gap that SKM had better chances of covering now that it has already formed the government.

A difference of nearly 3,000 votes in a constituency of 15,599 voters [12,704 or whom voted in April 2019] is a more challenging difference to cover which perhaps why this is also the only constituency from where

Name of the Constituency	Female Voters	Male Voters	Total Voters	Voters Turnout (April 2019)	Vote percentage (April 2019)
Martam-Rumtek	8498	8413	16911	13357	78.98%
Poklok-Kamrang	7737	7862	15599	12704	81.67%
Gangtok	5510	6139	11649	7253	62.39%
TOTAL	21,745	22,414	44159	33,314	

anti-alliance votes will be distributed among the other candidates, all of whom appear to

be campaigning harder than they had done in the April elections.

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Special Police Observer for Poklok-Kamrang by-election arrives

NAMCHI, 19 OCT [IPR]: Special Police Observer Vivek Dube appointed by the Election Commission of India for the ensuing by-elections at Poklok Kamrang constituency reached Namchi today.

Mr Dube will be stationed at the VIP Guest House at Char Dhaam, Namchi, and will be overseeing the law & order and other security related issues.

He will be in Namchi till 24 October and can be reached at phone number 7863987342 at any time of the day.

Meanwhile, Returning Officer [South], Ragul K, has informed that a Control Room has been set up at DAC, Namchi, for the by-election at Poklok Kamrang assembly constituency. The following land line numbers are set up in the Control Room: 03595-263734, 263808 and Fax: 03595-264734.

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SKM-BJP alliance will sweep bypolls: Chauhan

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 OCT:**

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh president, DB Chauhan, has expressed confidence that his party's alliance with the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha will win all three seats in bypolls with a huge margin.

He claimed that the people have already accepted the alliance and victory will be for the development of Sikkim and its people.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Chauhan stated that the by-election was not to form the government but to lead Sikkim on the path of development and prosperity.

He said that SKM was already in government in the State and BJP at the Centre, so now the two parties will work together in the interest of Sikkim and its people.



"We have not taken out a manifesto for the by-polls as both parties are already in government and are already working on their promises and programmes as included in our respective manifestos for the April elections," he said.

On allegations being leveled against the SKM-BJP alliance by the SDF and HSP, Mr Chauhan counter alleged that both these parties had unsuccessfully tried for an alliance with BJP and were

now trying to deceive and confuse the people.

He asserted that BJP was committed to fulfill all pending political demands of the State and give justice to the people of Sikkim.

"In case of any injustice or betrayal of the people of Sikkim by the Centre, we, the state-unit and our MLAs, would speak against the Centre until the fulfillment of all demands of the State," he announced.

Passang Sherpa wants voters to choose State's future over conniving parties

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 19 OCT:**

Independent candidate from Martam-Rumtek constituency, Passang Sherpa, today argued that even more than the development of the State it was important for the people to protect their identity and rights.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Sherpa stressed that the people need to side-step traps laid by political parties and leaders in the name of development.



In this regard, Mr Sherpa alleged that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Sikkim Democratic Front and Bharatiya Janata Party conniving to fool the people even as they indulge in a politics driven solely by the greed for chair and power.

He alleged that these

parties have betrayed the trust of the people of Sikkim and now the people have to take a strong stand for their rights and to save Sikkim and its future generations.

About the SKM-BJP alliance, he remarked that there was no need for such an alliance to fulfill the political demands of the State or to ensure development.

If he was voted to the Legislative Assembly, he would raise his voice for Sikkim and its people, Mr Sherpa assured.

