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Ahead of LS polls: Schools in Delhi & NCR likely to conduct electoral literacy campaigns

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Schools in Delhi and NCR are planning to conduct electoral literacy campaigns ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections to help students become “electoral ambassadors” and encourage people to vote. With the new academic session set to begin, the focus of the campaign will be to enlighten students about the importance of vote, to train them in the electoral process and encourage them to ensure the adults around them exercise their franchise.

The campaign will run through the month of April.

“We have planned a series of activities to make students understand the value of their vote and the need to exercise their suffrage in a confident, comfortable and ethical manner so that when they pass out from school and enrol themselves as first time voters they are enlightened enough about the process,” said Seema Trikha, Principal, Vasant Global School in Noida. She said the students will also be encouraged to act as electoral ambassadors in their

respective neighbourhoods or nearby slums where they can impart the knowledge gained by them at school. The sessions will begin from April.

A senior official of the Directorate of Education (DoE) said, the electoral literacy clubs which has teachers with election duty experience will help students understand the constitutional, legislative and legal provisions, technological innovation besides the role of the EC, courts, media and other stakeholders in the poll process. Shiv Nadar school in Gurgaon and Noida have scheduled mock elections for the students next month and are also advancing the teaching of the chapters on legislature elections to time it with the Lok Sabha polls.

“We will be planning mock elections for the students to give them an idea about how the entire set up works. There will be screening of certain videos related to the poll process to help students understand the functioning of the democratic set up and importance of exercising votes”, said Dr Smriti Sabbarwal, teaching faculty, Shiv Nadar School Gurugram.

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CBSE officials, its schools exempt from election duty

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ALL OFFICIALS of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), principals, teachers and exam-related staff of affiliated schools which are involved in board examination duty have been exempted from Lok Sabha election duty.

This exemption was granted by the Election Commission following a letter from CBSE chairperson Anita Karwal requesting the same.

The CBSE board examinations, which began on February 15, will continue till April 4. Following this, the evaluation and processing of results will take place, which will continue till early June.

"This year, about 33 lakh students from 21,000 affiliated schools from India and 28 other countries are appearing in the board examinations being conducted for classes X and XII... CBSE is a small organisation...

and requires the presence of all its personnel during the process," the letter from CBSE stated.

It goes on to state that around 5,000 schools are functioning as examination and evaluation centres, and that principals, teachers and staff of these schools are involved in conducting examinations and evaluating answer books. It also states that PGT and TGT teachers, physical education and vocational subject teachers are also board evaluators.

"In view of the above, it is requested that officials of CBSE... and principals and teachers, and other exam-related staff of affiliated schools... that are involved either in the conduct of exams or evaluation may not be given election duty in the forthcoming Parliament Election. It is also informed that all these officials have never been assigned any election duty during the board exams in the past i.e. since the establishment of CBSE," the letter stated.