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**Election Commission of India reviews
Election Preparedness in Odisha on the second day of its visit.**

Bhubaneswar, 17/02/2024

Hon'ble Election Commission of India (ECI) comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sri Rajiv Kumar and Hon'ble Election Commissioner of India Mr. Arun Goel conducted a comprehensive review of election preparedness in Odisha today. Over the course of two days, high-level meetings were held with key officials from the state government and enforcement agencies to assess the readiness for the upcoming simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly of Odisha. The day commenced with discussions involving the CEO, State Police Nodal Officers, and CPF Nodal Officer, focusing on crucial aspects of election management. Subsequently, a meeting convened with representatives from various enforcement agencies such as NCB, State CT&GST, CISF, BSF, RBI, ED, and the IT Department to ensure a collaborative approach towards maintaining electoral integrity emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to facilitate a seamless electoral process.

The delegation of ECI included Senior Deputy Election Commissioners Mr. Dharmendra Sharma and Mr. Nitesh Vyas, Deputy Election Commissioner Mr. Manoj Kumar Sahu, Director General of Media, Mr. B. Narayanan, and The Economic Director of the Commission Mr. Pankaj Shrivastava. The CEO cum ACS Sri Nikunja Bihari Dhala and ACEO Dr. N. Thirumala Naik were also actively involved in all the discussions with various stakeholders. In the afternoon, the ECI took a meeting with the Chief Secretary Sri Pradeep Kumar Jena and DG , Police Sri Arun Kumar Sarangi and discussed various issues related to the election preparedness.

The visit culminated with a press conference where Chief Election Commissioner Sri Kumar and the ECI team addressed the media, shedding light on different dimensions of the upcoming simultaneous election and reaffirming their commitment to ensuring a fair and transparent electoral process in Odisha.

Prafulla Kumar Mallick
PRO to CEO, Odisha