

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

20th March 2024.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two day State visit to Bhutan from Tomorrow. During the visit, the Prime Minister will receive audience with the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the Fourth King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuck. He will also hold talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay. Ministry of External Affairs said, the visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Bhutan and the Government's emphasis on its Neighbourhood First Policy. It said, India and Bhutan share a unique and enduring partnership which is rooted in mutual trust, understanding and goodwill. MEA said, the shared spiritual heritage and warm people to people ties add depth and vibrancy to India-Bhutan exceptional relations. It said, the visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to exchange views on bilateral and regional matters of interest and deliberate on ways to expand and intensify the exemplary partnership for the benefit of the people of both countries.

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The notification for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections will be issued today. Elections will be held in 102 Lok Sabha seats in 17 States and Four Union Territories in this phase. Nominations can be filed till the 27th of March. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on 28th March while last date of withdrawal of candidature is 30th March. Voting will be held on 19th of next Month. The Lok Sabha are scheduled to be conducted in seven phases in the country, while the counting will take place on 4th June.

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In view of the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly polls in four States, Election Commission of India (ECI) has notified the category of electors mentioned for the purpose of facility of voting through postal ballot as absentee voters in the category of persons employed on essential services. The list includes the employees of Metro, Railways, BSNL Electricity and Health Department, Fire Services, Postal Services, Aviation, Disaster Management, Doordarshan and All India Radio and media persons authorised by the Commission for polling day coverage among others. The Commission said that as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and on due consideration of the matter, it has been notified the persons employed in the essential services as a class of persons to cast vote by postal ballot on being on

duty on the day of poll in the current General Elections and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, and bye-elections in 26 Assembly Constituencies in 13 States.

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The Union Public Service Commission has decided to postpone the Civil Service Preliminary Examination 2024. The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2024 which also serves as screening test for Indian Forest Service Examination, 2024 will now be held on 16th June this year. The exam was earlier scheduled to be held on 26th May this year. The Commission has decided to postpone the schedule due to the ensuing General Election.

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The Department of Law & Justice has informed that the Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati bench will be visiting Kohima on 3rd April. The team comprising of Judicial Member & HOD, Urmita Datta (Sen), and Administrative Member Sumeet Jerath will hold Circuit Court at Kohima during the visit.

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Host state Nagaland lead in the medal tally on the first day of the 3rd Northeast Games with 8 Gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze fetching 17 medals in total. Manipur finished second with 6 Gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze totalling to 16 medals and Assam in third with 18 in total- 4 gold, 9 silver and 5 bronze. Meanwhile, Meghalaya fetched 5 medals in total, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura have 2 medals each. Mizoram and Sikkim state are yet to claim their position in the medals tally. In football Group –A category played at NAPTC, Chumoukedima, Nagaland defeated Tripura 1-0, Arunachal Pradesh stunned Meghalaya 2-1. For Group-B opening match, Mizoram blanked Manipur 4-0. In Volley, Assam beat Sikkim in straight sets 27-25, 25-15, 25-15 in the opening first league match. In athletics competition which is underway at IG Stadium, Manipur bagged the gold medal in 100 metre Men's final.

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