

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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The Scrutiny of nominations for the first phase of Lok Sabha Elections along with single-phase Assembly polls in two north-eastern states will take place today. The last day for the withdrawal of candidatures is Saturday. The filing of nominations for the first phase ended yesterday evening. In the first phase, 102 Lok Sabha seats in 17 States and four Union Territories along with 32 Assembly constituencies in Sikkim and 60-member House in Arunachal Pradesh will go to polls on 19<sup>th</sup> of next month. Among states going to polls in a single phase for the Lok Sabha polls are Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. Meanwhile, PDA Consensus candidate Dr Chumben Murry, Congress, S Spongmeren Jamir including a substitute candidate for Congress nominee, and Hayithung Tungoe Lotha, Independent candidate have filed their nominations for Nagaland's lone Parliamentary Constituency to Lok Sabha.

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The notification for the second phase of the Lok Sabha election will be issued today. Elections will be held in 88 Lok Sabha seats in 12 States and Union Territories along with the remaining part of the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha constituency in this phase. A part of the Outer Manipur constituency will go to polls in the first phase. Twenty seats of Kerala, 14 seats of Karnataka, 13 seats of Rajasthan, eight seats each of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, seven seats of Madhya Pradesh, five seats each in Assam and Bihar, three seats each of West Bengal and Chhattisgarh and one seat each in Manipur, Tripura and

**Jammu and Kashmir will go to polls in this first phase. Nominations can be filed till the 4th of April. Voting for this phase will be held on the 26th of April.**

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**Vice-President, Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that empowering women is an investment in the present and future of the world. Addressing members of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) at Bharat Mandapam on the occasion of the culmination of 40 years of this organisation, Dhankhar said that gender equality and women-led development are fundamental principles of a just and progressive society. The Vice-President lauded the enabling gender-neutral ecosystem in place. He noted a series of recent affirmative initiatives like a permanent commission for women in the Armed Forces and admission of girls in Sainik Schools. He emphasised that women today are reclaiming their rightful place in society and are no longer controlled by their male family members. Highlighting the inextricable link between gender justice and sustainable development, Dhankhar said “Gender justice and women’s economic justice are key to achieving Sustainable Development. Calling women natural ambassadors of economic nationalism, the Vice President exhorted all to follow economic nationalism.**

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**The High-Power Committee of the JICA assisted Nagaland Forest Management Project Society yesterday held a meeting under Chief Secretary J Alam, who is also the Chairperson of the High-Power Committee. The objective of the meeting was to review progress of the project and approve the work programme for the coming financial year, 2024-25. The State Government representatives from the Finance Department, the Agriculture Production Commissioner, PHED, Director, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Secretary, Environment, Forest & Climate Change also attended the meeting. The project was represented by the Project**

**Management Unit, NFMP headed by the Chief Project Director, Dharmendra Prakash. During the meeting, the progress of the JICA project was highlighted. The project has so far covered an area of 35,082 Hectares in 144 villages against a target of 185 villages and an area of 79,000 hectares. Altogether, 410 Self Help Groups have received revolving funds in the form of loan under the project. In addition, around 78 lakh seedlings have been raised and planted and around 18 lakh person days employment have been generated by the project. The work plan for the coming financial year presented the project target of 41 villages covering an area of 9129 hectares. Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary appreciated the MIS program developed by the project and stated that the program could be used by other departments . The Annual Report of the project was also released during the meeting.**

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