THE HEADLINES:-

- 1. Notification for first phase of Lok Sabha elections 2024 to be issued tomorrow
- 2. Supreme Court refuses to stay implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act

3. Congress Working Committee discusses party's manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

4. and National Commission for Women and Railway Protection Force signs MoU to prevent and combat human trafficking

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The notification for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections 2024 will be issued tomorrow. Elections will be held in 102 Lok Sabha seats in 17 States and Four Union Territories in this phase. Thirty-nine seats of Tamil Nadu, 12 seats of Rajasthan, eight seats of Uttar Pradesh, six seats of Madhya Pradesh, five seats each in Uttarakhand, Assam and Maharashtra, four seats of Bihar, three seats of West Bengal, two seats each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry will go to polls in the first phase. Nominations can be filed till the 27th of 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. The Election Commission said it is committed to conducting the Lok Sabha polls fairly, freely, while also ensuring safety. The commission has laid out plans to address all existing challenges or those which may occur during the elections. The Commission said enough Central Armed Police Force will be deployed in areas prone to incidents, while webcasting facility will be put in place at sensitive polling booths

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The Supreme Court today refused to stay implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, CAA. The apex court also gave the government three weeks to respond to 237 petitions challenging the law that was notified last week. The matter was heard by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra. The petitioners included the Indian Union Muslim League, opposition leaders Jairam Ramesh of the Congress and Mahua Moitra of the Trinamool Congress. The next hearing in this case has been set for 9th April

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The Congress Working Committee today discussed the party's manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The Committee held its meeting in New Delhi which was attended by party President Mallikarjun Kharge, former Presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and other senior leaders including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, P Chidambaram, Digvijaya Singh, Ajay Maken and K C Venugopal. Briefing media after the meeting, Venugopal said the party's Working Committee authorised the Congress President to have a final approval for the manifesto. Earlier in a social media post, Kharge claimed that his party's manifesto has been regarded as a document of trust and commitment. He added that the country is demanding a change.

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The Eastern Nagaland Public Emergency has resolved to temporarily suspend all forms of ongoing restrictions under its banner with effect from March 21. However the Eastern Nagaland Public

Emergency will continue to be in force until further notice. The decision was taken during the Eastern Nagaland Public Emergency Public meeting held today at Tuensang HQ. The Eastern Nagaland Public Emergency also unanimously resolved to go by its 23rd February 2024 public resolution of not to participate in any central and state election. The house endorsed that ENPO will write a letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs, not to entertain any write-up or suggestions with regard to Frontier Nagaland Territory other than ENPO. Further, ENPO has been endorsed to convene another Public Meeting along with all 20 ENLU members within a week time at Tuensang HQ, in consultation with ENLU.

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The National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Railway Protection Force have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi to prevent and combat human trafficking. Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of NCW Rekha Sharma said, Railway Protection Force personnel deployed at Railway stations are playing a crucial role in the crime against women and children. She said, 70 per cent of cases of human trafficking are related to women and Girl children. The Director General of the Railway Protection Force, RPF Manoj Yadava said, the overall objective of this MoU is to provide a safe and secure travel experience to women. He said, RPF will ensure that the Railway network is not allowed to be used for any atrocities against women including trafficking.

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A massive fire broke out today at Kitsubozou, Kohima which razed down several houses, leaving 14 families homeless while shops were also burnt down. Giving details of the incident, Officer-incharge of South Fire Station Kohima, Inspector Sedevizo Hibo said a total of six vehicles were burnt down and the cause of fire is suspected to have been from LPG leakage and further investigations are on. The officer informed that it took seven fire tenders from North and South Fire Station and a total of 14 trips to bring the fire under control. Besides the personnel from fire and emergency services, security personnel, disaster response force and other organizations were involved in bringing the fire incident under control.

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Deputy Commissioner of Peren and Tseminyu has prohibited carrying of any kind of arms or ammunition by any person. In a notification, District Magistrate Peren, Vineet Kumar directed that all licensed arms must be deposited to the nearest police station on or before 30th March. Kumar said this has been necessitated to ensure conduct of free, fair, participative, accessible, inclusive and safe election to the Lok Sabha. Kumar also informed that the order is applicable to all the persons within Peren District except the Police personnel and the Security forces and the Officials or personnel involved in law and order duty. District Magistrate Tseminyu, Rohit Singh also informed that with the Model Code of Conduct in place, carrying of licensed arms may lead to intimidation of electors, cause breach of peace and tranquillity and may disrupt public order within the Tseminyu District which may adversely impact the peaceful, free and fair conduct of General Election within the District. The District Magistrate has therefore directed all licensed arms holders within Tseminyu District to deposit the licensed arms and ammunitions under their possession to the nearest police station on or before 30th March. Singh informed that the licensed arms and ammunitions deposited will be released one week after the declaration of election results.

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A Half-Marathon race was held today in Wokha as part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities and awareness on election. Speaking at the event, SDO Civil Wokha and SVEEP Nodal officer Nuhuta Tunyi emphasized on the importance of voting and urged the students to spread the message that voting is a fundamental right for every citizen. Tunyi said that the marathon participants were prospective voters representing the future electorate and stressed on the significance of preparing them to exercise their voting rights when they come of age. Tunyi also encouraged the students to raise awareness among their peers, elders, and community members to

ensure broader participation in the electoral process. The Half Marathon was held with the aim to engage the community and foster a culture of civic responsibility and active participation in the democratic process.

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Advisor and Former President Nagaland Volleyball Association, H.K Khulu said Northeast is lacking in terms of sports infrastructure but have over the year seen quality of sportsperson improved. Speaking at the inaugural of the Volleyball event at the ongoing 3rd Northeast Sports Meet 2024 in Sovima today, Khulu said we have so many sportsperson that had excel not only in the national level but international level as well, which shows that we can become a powerhouse of sports. He encouraged the participants to strive, excel, and put their names firmly on national and international level. Khulu further urged all participating teams to uphold the values of fair play, give their best, compete with passion and embody the spirit of unity and uniqueness.

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