

HEADLINES:-

- 1. The Election Commission has changed the date of counting of votes for Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim assembly polls to 2nd June instead of 4th June.**
- 2. In Tripura, the State election department is gearing up its machinery for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections for two seats to be held on the 19th and 26th of April.**
- 3. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma yesterday announced that the National People's Party will not field candidates in the two Lok Sabha seats in Arunachal Pradesh and support the BJP nominees.**
- 4. The Zoram People's Movement will fight its maiden Parliamentary election as Mizoram's lone constituency will vote in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections on 19th April.**
- 5. In view of the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for 19th April in Meghalaya, all district magistrates have issued notifications directing arms holders to deposit their license and arms to the authorities.**
- 6. Election Commission of India will set up special polling stations in relief camps in Manipur to facilitate voters displaced by ethnic violence to cast votes in the Lok Sabha polls.**
- 7. A national training programme on agriculture was held at ICAR Research Complex in Umiam, Meghalaya, recently.**

NEWS IN ORDER:-

POLLS

The Election Commission has changed the date of counting of votes for Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim assembly polls to 2nd June instead of 4th June. There will be no change in respect of the schedule for the Parliamentary constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. The 32-member Sikkim assembly and 60-member Arunachal Pradesh assembly will go to polls in single phase along with the first phase of Lok Sabha elections on 19th April.

TRIPURA

In Tripura, the State election department is gearing up its machinery for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections for two seats, slated to be held on the 19th and the 26th of April. Polling for Tripura (West) seat will be held on the 19th of April, whereas the electorate in Tripura (East) Lok Sabha seat will vote on 26th April. The by-election to the Ramnagar Assembly seat will take place on 19th April. Over 28.56 lakh electorate in Tripura are eligible to exercise their right to franchise in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections.

ARUNACHAL

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma yesterday announced that the National People's Party (NPP), of which he is president, will not field candidates in the two Lok Sabha seats in Arunachal Pradesh and support the BJP

nominees. The NPP is a constituent of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre and also part of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA). Assam Chief Minister and NEDA convener, Himanta Biswa Sarma lauded Sangma's decision to support the BJP nominees. They are Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Kiren Rijiju for the Arunachal West Lok Sabha seat and Tapir Gao for the Arunachal East Lok Sabha seat.

MIZORAM

The Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) will fight its maiden Parliamentary election as Mizoram's lone constituency will vote in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections on 19th April. Mizoram's solitary Lok Sabha seat is reserved for the Schedule Tribe community, which comprises around 95 per cent of the state's 1.2 million population. Chief Electoral Officer Madhup Vyas said that for the past few decades, female voters in Mizoram have outnumbered their male counterparts.

ARMS

In view of the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for 19th April in Meghalaya, all district magistrates have issued notifications directing arms holders to deposit their license and arms to the Executive Magistrate, Superintendent of Police or nearest police stations within seven days. The notifications also said that failure to deposit both the license and arms within the specified time will be liable for prosecution.

MANIPUR

Manipur's Chief Electoral Officer Pradeep Kumar Jha has said the Election Commission of India will set up special polling stations in relief camps in the state to facilitate voters displaced by the ethnic violence to cast their votes in the Lok Sabha polls. Designated Assistant Returning Officers will be appointed for each district to take the votes of the displaced persons in the relief camps. Of the two Lok Sabha seats in Manipur, polling will be held in Outer Manipur (reserved for the tribals) in two phases on 19th and 26th of April. In the Inner Manipur seat, polling will be held on the 19th of April.

TRAINING

A national training programme on "Extension NEXT: Changing Roles and Innovations in Agricultural Extension" was held at the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region in Umiam, Meghalaya, recently. About 30 participants from all over the country and the North Eastern states took part in the five-day training. It was sponsored by the National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management, Hyderabad. The objective of the training was to understand the changing roles of agricultural extension and enable participants to learn about innovations and good practices in agricultural extension. As part of the training program, exposure visits were organized, an ICAR statement said.
