

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

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HEADLINES:-

- The commissioning of the EVM and VVPATs for the upcoming Simultaneous Election 2024 in Arunachal Pradesh commences in all districts.
- The withdrawal of nominations for the second phase of Lok Sabha elections ends today.
- Election Commission of India appoints special observers for general and police categories for six States.
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visits Meghalaya to gain insights into the state's existing healthcare infrastructure.
- The dance with joy known as 'Chad Sukra', an annual festival of the indigenous Pnar community of Meghalaya to herald the sowing season concluded at Iawmusing in Jowai.

NEWS IN ORDER:-

COMMISSIONING:

The commissioning of the EVM and VVPATs for the upcoming Simultaneous Election 2024 in the state of Arunachal Pradesh has commenced in all districts from Saturday. A total of 180 engineers from Electronics Corporation of India Limited have arrived in the State and they have been allocated across 25 districts of the State for commissioning of EVM and VVPATs. The Observers as appointed by the Election Commission of India are overseeing the preparation of the Lok Sabha Election 2024 and are also present during Commissioning of EVMs. Enforcement agencies have placed requisite measures like frisking, metal detector, gadget free commissioning halls and the commissioning is taking place under tight security wherein the machines will be made fully ready for the April 19 poll. Through EVM commissioning, the names of the contesting candidates who are in fray are attached with the ballot units.

WITHDRAWAL:

The withdrawal of nominations for the second phase of Lok Sabha elections ends on Monday. In this phase, the polling will be held on 26th of this month for 88 Lok Sabha seats in 12 States and Union Territories along with remaining part of the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha constituency. A part of the Outer Manipur constituency will go to polls in the first phase on 19th April. 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 the second phase.

PORTAL:

The Election Commission said that over 73 thousand applications have been received on the Suvidha Portal in just 20 days since the announcement of General Elections 2024. Recognising the importance of the election campaign period, where parties and candidates engage in activities to reach out to voters, the

Suvidha Portal caters to a diverse range of permission requests transparently on the First in First Out principle. It caters to permissions for organising rallies, opening temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans, helicopters, obtaining vehicle permits, and distributing pamphlets. The Commission said, more than 44 thousand 600 requests have been approved and the First in First out principle is ensuring a level playing field for parties and candidates. It said, Suvidha Portal also promotes transparency in election management.

OBSERVERS:

The Election Commission of India recently appointed special observers in two categories (general and police) for six States, including Maharashtra. The ECI said that the special observers, former civil servants with brilliant track records in domain expertise and experience with election processes, were tasked to oversee the electoral process with strict vigilance, particularly against the backdrop of challenges posed by the influence of “money, muscle and misinformation. It also said that the observers are expected to provide critical feedback and work to ensure fairness, impartiality and credibility of elections, and prevent any attempt to subvert the democratic process.

HEALTH:

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited the Meghalaya to gain insights into the state’s existing healthcare infrastructure, with a particular focus on reproductive health, child health, nutrition, primary healthcare, supply chain management, and the structure and functioning of key institutions such as the State Health Systems Resource Centre, Reproductive Health and Family Welfare Training Centre, Nursing Department, and Digital Health initiatives. The meeting was chaired by Sampath Kumar, Principal Secretary of Health & Family Welfare for the Government of Meghalaya.

DANCE:

The dance with joy known as 'Chad Sukra', an annual festival of the indigenous Pnar community of Meghalaya was concluded yesterday. The festival was celebrated to herald the sowing season. The festival is observed annually to invoke Mother Earth for her blessings on the community. It invokes God Almighty for the general wellbeing of the community good health, peace and harmony and also to protect the crops from natural calamities. Seinraij Jowai organized the two-day Chad Sukra on the 6th evening and 7th of this month. Justice H .Singh Thangkhiew Judge High court Shillong was the Chief Guest at the festival held at Iawmusiang in Jowai yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, Justice Thangkhiew expressed appreciation to the indigenous faith Niamtre for organising and preserving the rich culture of the Pnar community. He urged the youth to take the responsibility to keep or preserve the customs and traditions which the world is now looking upon.
