

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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The Election Commission has 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. The portal caters to permissions for organising rallies, opening temporary party offices, door-to-door canvassing, video vans, helicopters, obtaining vehicle permits, and distributing pamphlets. The Suvidha portal is a technological solution developed by ECI to ensure a level playing field upholding the democratic principles of free, fair and transparent elections.

The process of commissioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and VVPATs for 50 Assembly and two parliamentary constituencies began in the State yesterday. A total of 180 engineers from Electronics Corporation of India Limited have arrived and are allocated across 25 districts of the State for the commissioning process. The Observers are being appointed by the Election Commission of India for overseeing the preparation of the Lok Sabha Election 2024 and for Commissioning of the EVMs. The 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. Returning Officers of ACs and AROs of Parliamentary segments are overseeing the whole process of commissioning of the EVMs. M3 model of EVMs will be used for this year's poll.

Microsoft has warned that China is gearing up to disrupt the upcoming elections in India, the United States and South Korea by using artificial intelligence-generated content. The warning comes after China conducted a trial run during Taiwan's presidential election, employing AI to influence the outcome. Across the world, at least 64 countries, in addition to the European Union, are expected to hold national elections this year. These countries collectively account for approximately 49 per cent of the global population. According to Microsoft's threat intelligence team, Chinese state-backed cyber groups, along with involvement from

North Korea, are expected to target several elections scheduled for 2024. Microsoft said that China will likely deploy AI-generated content via social media to sway public opinion in favour of their interests during these elections.

The General Observer 41 - Anini (ST) Assembly Constituency, H.N Gopala Krishna, embarked on a foot march yesterday to visit polling stations, including those situated in remote areas to ensure inclusivity and integrity of the electoral process. During the journey, interactions with villagers facilitated constructive dialogues on improving accessibility and voter education. The General Observer reaffirmed the importance of addressing the specific needs of remote communities to uphold the principles of democracy and the commitment to ensuring every eligible citizen's right to vote is upheld. Till date the General Observer has visited 19 polling stations under Anini- Mipi and Anelih Circle out of 43 polling stations in the district.

Inspector General of Police, PHQ Itanagar, Take Ringu yesterday emphasized the necessity of readiness to manage any situation, suggesting the utilization of Gaon Burahs' services for smooth and peaceful conduct of the polls. Highlighting the significance of elections as a celebration of democracy, underlining citizens' right to choose their representatives as per the Indian Constitution, the IGP proposed the formation of committees by Gaon Burahs (GBs) at village level, involving the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions, to support the poll officials and maintain peace while thwarting any disruptive elements. He was interacting with the GBs and administrative officers from Tawang and Kyidphel (Kitpi) circles at the Tawang Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday. The IGP appealed for citizens' cooperation towards curbing the 'money culture' during polls, emphasizing the collective responsibility to ensure free and fair elections.

For the first time in India an elusive butterfly species, *Neptis philyra*, a member of the family Nymphalidae was documented in Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Ziro by a group of butterfly enthusiasts. The rare species also known as Long-streak Sailor was documented by a group of enthusiast in June 2023 last. Sources informed that, 'This finding is important for informed conservation efforts and strategic management decisions, contributing to the preservation of biodiversity within the sanctuary and its surrounding ecosystems'. The ground-breaking discovery was later documented and disseminated in the esteemed international scientific journal --

Journal of Tropical Lepidoptera Research, Florida, USA on Friday. This butterfly was first described in 1859 from Russia.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two key conspirators in West Bengal's Bhupatinagar blast case that killed three persons in December 2022. NIA in a statement today said that the accused were arrested amid stiff resistance from an unruly crowd in the state's East Medinipore district. One team member of NIA suffered minor injury and the agency's official vehicle was also damaged by some miscreants. Meanwhile, NIA has lodged a complaint at the local police station in this regard. The two arrested individuals had actively participated in the conspiracy to manufacture and explode crude bombs to spread terror.