

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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Nagaland is going to the polls today for the General Election to the Lok Sabha 2024 along with other 101 parliamentary constituencies spread over 16 states and four Union Territories. Voting is being held from 7 AM to 4 PM. Over 13 lakh voters of Nagaland will decide the fate of the three candidates namely Dr Chumben Murry of NDPP, S Supongmeren Jamir of Congress and Independent Candidate Hayithung Tungoe Lotha vying for state's lone Lok Sabha seat. All electors having Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) have to produce the EPIC for their identification at the polling station before casting their votes. Electors who are not able to produce the EPIC will have to produce alternate photo identity documents for establishing their identity such as Aadhaar Card, passbooks with photograph issued by bank or post office, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the schemes of Ministry of Labour, Driving License, Pan Card, Pension document with photograph, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central, State government, PSUs or Public Limited Companies.

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Following the Eastern Nagaland Public Emergency Control Room's announcement of indefinite total shutdown in eastern Nagaland on the eve of polling day, Chief Electoral Officer, CEO Nagaland Vyas R has issued a show-cause notice to the president of Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organization asking why action should not be initiated as per Sub-Section (1) of Section 171 C of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The CEO said that the public notice issued under the authority of the Eastern Nagaland Public Emergency regarding the indefinite total shutdown was viewed as an attempt to exert undue influence during elections. The CEO directed the president of ENPO to reply to the show-cause immediately.

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Chief Electoral, CEO Officer Nagaland, Vyas R has cautioned the Congress candidate for the Lok Sabha election from Nagaland, S Supongmeren Jamir, against appealing to communal feelings for securing votes. The CEO issued the order yesterday following a complaint lodged by BJP Dimapur unit President, Imchainba against a letter written by the Congress candidate to the Dimapur Lanpangkong Council Union in Ao dialect. The order said it was confirmed that the letter written by Jamir may be interpreted as appeal by the candidate to vote on the ground of religion for furthering the prospect of his election. It pointed out that under the Representation of People Act 1951, appealing by a candidate on ground of his religion is a corrupt practice. The order said there is urgent need to maintain decorum during the remaining hours lefts for polling to commence.

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Regional News Unit, Akashvani Kohima, is presenting special Hourly Election Bulletins today. The Lok Sabha Election Bulletins for the Lok Sabha election will be presented hourly from 9 AM till 5 PM in Nagamese and English.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has appealed to the voters to realize their democratic responsibility saying elections belong to people and the choices belong to them. He said that they do it for their sake, for their families, children, villages, towns, and for the country. Talking to Akashvani News, Kumar emphasized that the countrymen should never underestimate the power of one vote as there are many instances, when one vote has mattered in a critical contest. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India, ECI has said that all preparations have been made to welcome voters to the biggest festival of democracy that any nation has witnessed, the elections to the 18th Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies in four states that starts today with Phase-1. The ECI reiterated its uncompromising commitment to deliver a free, fair, peaceful, accessible, participative and inducement free poll. The Commission asked voters to guard against misinformation and fake news from influencing them or dissuading them from participating in these elections, especially against false narratives being peddled on social media.

