

Morning News Script

0730 hrs of

16th April 2024.

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Campaigning period for Lok Sabha election in Nagaland will come to an end at 4PM today, marking the beginning of the 48 hours 'silent period' and ending before the voting closure time. Chief Electoral Officer Nagaland Vyas R informed that as mandated in Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, after 4 PM today, individual would not be allowed to convene/hold/ attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection to election matters. Public display of election matters by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus and holding, or by arranging the holding of, any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other, entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public would be strictly prohibited. The CEO warned that, any person who contravenes the provision will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. In addition, after the closure of campaign period no campaign can take place within the constituency. Political functionaries and party workers, who have been brought from outside the constituency and are not voters of the constituency, should not remain present in the constituency as their continued presence after end of the Campaign period would undermine the atmosphere for free and fair poll. Further , the District Election Administration or Police Administration are directed to ensure that all political functionaries leave the constituency immediately after the campaign period is over which is after 4:00 PM of 17th April. However the said restriction would not

be insisted upon those office bearers of political parties who are in-charge of the State. Such office bearer should declare his/ her place of stay in the State Headquarters while, his/her movement during the period in question should remain confined normally between his/ her party office and place of his/ her stay

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Prime Minister and Senior BJP leader Narendra Modi yesterday said that he take decisions for the wholesome development of the nation. Speaking in an interview with a news agency, Modi spelt out his vision for a developed India by 2047. The Prime Minister said, the implementation of 'One nation, One election' is the commitment of his government. He said, the committee formed under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind to prepare the report on 'One nation, One election', received very positive and innovative suggestions. Refuting the opposition parties' allegations of being targeted by the BJP government, Modi said the maximum number of cases registered by the Enforcement Directorate are against those persons and entities who have no connection with politics. Replying to a query on electoral bond, Modi said, it was meant to fight the use of black money in elections. He added that everyone will regret it when there is an honest reflection on the scheme. On the other hand, Congress took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interview saying he did not speak about inflation, farmers and unemployment.

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Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) leader and Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang yesterday stressed on the need for Naga people to seriously unite and resolve the protracted Naga Political

Issue, for posterity. Addressing the Election Campaign rally for PDA consensus candidate at Peren Town Council Hall, he said, having 24 Nationalist Factions are adversely affecting the state economy, and called for people to introspect and retrospect at its own shortcomings, considering the disunity among the NGOs and Multi-Nationalist Groups and not put blame on the centre alone. Zeliang also appealed to the people of the state to exercise their franchise on April 19 on the day of polling and no one should go for any work.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended greetings to the brothers and sisters from the Yimkhiung community on the occasion of Wangtsunuo. Rio prayed that the post-harvest festival brings blessings of good fortune and well-being in everyone's life. Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton on behalf of the state BJP legislators, conveyed heartiest festive greetings to the Yimkhiungs as they celebrate their spring festival and hope that the festival is celebrated in unity and brotherhood.

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The country is likely to receive above normal monsoon rainfall this year. Briefing media on Southwest Monsoon season rainfall forecast in New Delhi, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr M. Ravichandran said, the monsoon seasonal rainfall from June to September is likely to be 106 per cent of the long period average. He however said that in some areas of northwest, east and northeastern states, rainfall is likely to be below normal. India Meteorological Department Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said El Niño conditions are likely to weaken during the early part of the monsoon season.