

Evening News Scrip

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THE HEADLINES:-

- Over 2.23 lakh voters to decide fate of 523 candidates in ULB elections tomorrow; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio appeals all eligible voters to cast their vote
- Section 144 CrPC imposed in Chümoukedima, Dimapur, Niuland and Peren districts in view of ULB elections
- S. Supongmeren Jamir takes oath as member of the 18th Lok Sabha
- And, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, and NEIGRIHMS in Shillong empanelled under Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme

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Nagaland will go to Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections tomorrow, marking the first such elections in 20 years. This election includes a 33 percent reservation for women. Over 2.23 lakh voters will decide the fate of 523 candidates contesting in 214 wards from three municipalities and 21 town councils. Out of the total electors, one lakh 10 thousand 115 are male and one lakh 13 thousand 521 are female. Polling will take place from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM through ballot paper voting across 420 polling stations. While a total of 222 female candidates had filed nominations, 198 are contesting on Tomorrow as 24 contenders had already been elected unopposed. A total of 325 male candidates are also in fray. All the nine candidates from Chiephobozou Town Council were elected unopposed. Also, all 14 town councils under ENPO areas are abstaining from participating in the election. Meanwhile, polling parties with ballot boxes and polling materials were dispatched across polling stations. For voter

identification, the State Election Commission has said electors can carry any government-issued identification document, such as Aadhaar, PAN card and others.

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As Nagaland gears up for the ULB elections, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has called upon all eligible voters to cast their vote. He said, the ULBs are crucial as they provide a platform for citizens' participation in urban management, and development of our towns and cities. The Chief Minister extended his best wishes for a peaceful and successful polling day.

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June 26 has been declared a paid holiday for all state government employees in the Municipal and Town Councils areas going to polls. The holiday also applies to all categories of employees ordinarily residing in one area but having the place of work in another area. Paid Holiday has also been declared for all employees of Banks and Financial Institutions in the polling areas. Additionally, workers engaged in Commercial and Industrial Establishments in the state have also been granted the paid holiday.

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In view of the ULB elections in the state tomorrow, Commissioner of Police, Dimapur Kevithuto Sophie has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC in the three districts of Chümoukedima, Dimapur and Niuland. The order is effective from 5 PM this evening until 7 PM Thursday, and was issued following apprehension of breach of peace and threat to public tranquility that might affect the peaceful conduct of the elections. It is enforced within the jurisdiction of Dimapur Municipal Council as well as Town Councils of East Dimapur, Chumoukedima, Medziphema and Niuland. The order prohibits assembly of five or more people, except within 100 meters of the polling station during the scheduled polling period. It also bars movement of persons from one ward to another, or from adjoining villages to municipal or town council jurisdictions on the day of poll. Further, carrying lethal weapons and firearms or any kind of inflammable objects has been prohibited. The order cautioned that any individual or group found to be in violation will be liable for punitive action under Section 188 of Indian Penal Code and the Nagaland Municipal Act 2023.

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Peren district administration has promulgated Section 144 CrPC across the district as a precautionary measure against any untoward incident, and to maintain peace and tranquility in all town council areas during the conduct of the ULB elections. In an order, Deputy Commissioner Peren, Vineet Kumar prohibited assembly of five or more persons and vehicular movement of non-essential nature with effect from 5 PM today till 11 PM tomorrow. Movement of commercial vehicles carrying goods, passengers, or essentials commodities, press, medical and telecom services as well as administration staff, security personnel and individuals engaged in election duty, are exempted from the restrictions.

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Commissioner of Police, Dimapur, Kevithuto Sophie today said the police department is on high alert following reports of potential disruptions and attempts to undermine the integrity of the ULB election. Addressing media persons, Sophie said Section 144 CrPC has been imposed as a preventive measure to avoid any possible unrest or interference in the electoral process. He added that youths reportedly mobilized to disrupt the elections are being monitored closely to prevent any influence on the fairness of the process. As part of security measures, detention centers have been set up for any potential arrests until the election process is complete. He said, all possible manpower resource are being deployed to ensure smooth and secure voting across all wards, especially those categorized as sensitive or vulnerable. Sophie also said, reports of any electoral misconduct or disturbances can be made directly to the designated election offices.

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Nagaland's Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, S. Supongmeren Jamir, took the oath of affirmation today, administered by Protem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab in New Delhi. Jamir, elected from the Indian National Congress for Nagaland's lone parliamentary seat, took the oath on the second day of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, holding a pocket copy of the Indian Constitution. The new MP adorned a traditional Ao sash while taking the oath. After completing the oath-taking, Jamir remarked, "Long live Northeast India."

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Senior BJP MP Om Birla, who was also the Speaker in the last Lok Sabha, will be the NDA nominee for the post this time as well. whereas the Opposition INDIA bloc has fielded Congress MP K. Suresh. Both the candidates today filed their nominations for the Speaker's post for which the election is scheduled to be held tomorrow. Earlier, the Government and Opposition failed to reach a consensus for the post.

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Two major hospitals in the northeast namely Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal, and the North East Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) in Shillong have been empanelled under Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS). Nagaland Health Protection Society CEO Thavaseelan K informed that beneficiaries of CMHIS can now seek cashless treatment at both RIMS and NEIGRIHMS. Beneficiaries can visit the hospitals' websites at www.rims.edu.in and [www. neigrihms.gov.in](http://www.neigrihms.gov.in) for the detailed list of specialties and services provided. For further inquiries, one can reach out to CMHIS helpline on phone numbers 8880515011, 8880515012, 8880515013, and 8880515014, or email to nagaland.nhpm@gmail.com.

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Advisor for Law and Justice and Land Revenue, TN Mannen, today underlined the benefits of engaging in games and sports for both physical and mental health. He said this at the launch of the Morning Premier League (MPL) 2024 at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima. Mannen said participating in sports also relieves boredom and tension, which can contribute to a longer and healthier life. He further emphasized the camaraderie built through sports, and the importance of teamwork fostered by football. The Advisor expressed hope that the league would inspire a sports culture across the entire state. The ninth edition of MPL will feature ten teams playing on a league basis over the next six months.

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