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:: THE HEADLINES ::

• Centre brings into force stringent law to curb irregularities in competitive exams.

• All public meetings for state's ULB elections to be prohibited during 48 hours preceding the poll.

• Tenyimi Union Nagaland observes its first foundation day with calls for unity among Naga people.

 And, Nagaland Olympic Association organises Olympic Day Run 2024 at Indira Gandhi stadium, Kohima.

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Centre has enacted a stringent law that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations. The law entails provisions for maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to 1 crore rupees for offenders. In a notification published in the official gazette, Ministry of Personnel said that provisions of the law will come into force today. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on February 6 and 9, respectively. President Droupadi Murmu gave approval to the bill on February 12, turning it into a law. The Act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission, Staff Selection Commission, National Testing Agency, Railway Recruitment Board, and banking recruitment examination bodies, among others. It has provisions for minimum of three to five years of imprisonment to curb cheating, and those involved in organised crimes of cheating will face five to 10 years of imprisonment and minimum fine of 1 crore rupees.

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State Election Commission, Nagaland has notified all Political Parties and Candidates in the matter of ULB elections 2024 according to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. No person shall convene, hold or attend, join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with the election in any polling area during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll. No one shall display to the public any election matter by means of cinematography, television or other similar apparatus. No person shall propagate any election matter to the public by 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 thereto, in any polling area during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of the poll for the election in the polling area. Further, any person who contravenes the provision of subsection (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

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Tenyimi Union Nagaland (TUN) observed its first foundation day today, hosted by Kohima Village Council at Kohima Village VDB Hall Ziekiezou Kohima with calls for unity among Naga people. President, Angami Public Organization and Convenor, Advisory Board, TUN Razouvotuo Chatsu, addressing the event as speaker asserted that the five tribal bodies of Tenyimi in Nagaland- Angami, Chakhesang, Pochury, Rengma and Zeliang came together to form the Tenyimi Union Nagaland last year. Highlighting the rich legacy and glories of forefathers of the Tenyimi who were considered as guide, leaders and sought after for decision making which is still valued and regarded, Chatsu asked the present leaders for a rethinking of such legacy in order to regain and not bask on the past glories. President of Tenyimi Women Union Nagaland Zhonelu Tunyi, while pointing out ULB election with 33 percent women reservation, asked its constituent units to elect the right person to represent the various wards.

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Nagaland Olympic Association organised the Olympic Day Run 2024 at Indira Gandhi stadium, Kohima today with the theme "Let's Move & Celebrate". Speaking during the prize distribution ceremony, Secretary General, Nagaland Olympic Association & Vice president, Athletics federation of India, Abu Metha congratulated all the participants and mentioned that they are joining millions of kids across the world to observe the Olympic Day celebration. Metha further encouraged children to dream big to become champions in their future careers. The Olympic Day Run included 50 meters for 6 years and below 8 years, 80 meters for 8 years and below 10 years, and 100 meters for 10 years and below 12 years.

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A Security Coordination meeting was convened at the DC Office, Kohima yesterday to discuss preparations for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections for the Kohima Municipal Council (KMC). The meeting was attended by key officials including Returning Officer & Assistant Returning Officer for KMC, various administrative officers, Nodal Officers, Sector Officers, and Sector Commanders. Deputy Commissioner Kumar Ramnikant, highlighted potential influences from unwanted elements and advised Sector Officers, and Sector Commanders to remain vigilant, gather information, and maintain neutrality while performing their duties. Additional SP Kohima assured that a comprehensive security plan is already in place, with sufficient security forces for the 76 polling stations in Kohima adding that flag marches and mobile patrolling have commenced. Election Observer for KMC, Anthony Ngullie, emphasized the importance of enhanced coordination and information sharing between Sector Officers and Sector Commanders. Kohima's ULB elections encompass both Chiephobozou and KMC jurisdictions. All the wards in Chiephobozou and five wards in KMC are uncontested, leaving 14 wards in Kohima to undergo elections.

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State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Nagaland organised a one day awareness training on 15th Finance Commission (15 FCG) & Disaster Management for village functionaries for RD Block of Wokha, Bhandari, Chukitong, Wozhuro, Sanis, Chanpang and Ralan yesterday at VDB hall, Wokha. Course Director, Dr. Kidise Pucho, Principal ETC Phek, SIRD Nagaland, speaking on the concept of 15th Finance Commission, said 15th FC is an important and specific grant to project the activities, programme and schemes to bring about development in rural local bodies. He said, the objective is to augment the consolidated funds of the state and to supplement

the resources of local bodies and recommend grant-in-aid. He said, 15th FC assures transfer to local bodies for planning and development of basic service smoothly and effectively within the functions assigned to them under relevant legislation. Dr. Kidise also highlighted on the concept and vision of Disaster Management, Centre & State responsibilities, role of Village Council and Village Development Board and community, capacity building and personal safety. Village Council Chairman and VDB Secretaries from all the blocks under Wokha district attended the training programme.

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Narcotic Coordination Centre Mokokchung in collaboration with District Hub For Empowerment of Women Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan organised a Half Marathon race today in Mokokchung in commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Deputy Commissioner Mokokchung Thsuvisie Phoji flagged off the race from DEF camp. The culmination and prize distribution programme was held at main police point where Senior SP Mokokchung administrated the pledge against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In the school boys category, Tekasanen emerged as the winner, followed by Shapong and Sungjimtoshi as the second and third winners respectively. In the school girls category, Chuchusangla came out first, with Imsusenla and Watilemla as second and third winners respectively. In women's open category, Imchaienla was declared the winner, while in men's open category, John Minj was the winner.

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