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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Koridang Assembly bye-poll concludes; Records turnout of more than 82 percent
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says women reservation in legislative bodies is key to more vibrant and participative democracy
- Women and Child Development Ministry launches 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada 2026
- Districts hold Stakeholder Consultative Workshops on Viksit Nagaland at 2047

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The bye-election to the Koridang Assembly Constituency in Mokokchung district was conducted today recording an average voter turnout of more than 82 percent. Voting took place under tight security arrangements across all 30 polling stations. The polling station at Mangmetong 2 South Wing recorded the highest turnout with 99 percent, while Alichen 2 recorded the lowest at 15 percent. Overall, polling remained peaceful. An incident of EVM malfunctions was reported early at Polling Station-1 under Chungtia village, however, they were promptly replaced, ensuring no disruption to the voting process. Six candidates are contesting the seat, namely Daochier I. Imchen of the BJP, T. Chalukumba Ao of the Congress, I. Abenjang of the NPP, along with three Independent candidates Imchatoba Imchen, Major Toshikaba, and Imtiwapang Kichu. Counting of votes is scheduled for May 4. Meanwhile, polling also concluded peacefully for the Assembly Elections in Assam, Keralam, and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that reservation for women in legislative bodies is the need of the hour to make Indian democracy more vibrant and participative. Expressing his thoughts in an Op-Ed, Mr Modi said any delay in bringing this reservation will be deeply unfortunate. Sharing a video, the Prime Minister said Parliament has been convened on the 16th of this month to discuss and pass an important bill that advances women's reservation.

Highlighting the contribution of women, the Prime Minister said, when women participate in administration and decision-making, they bring with them experiences and insights that enrich public discourse and improve the quality of governance.

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Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi today launched the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada 2026 in New Delhi. The theme is 'Maximizing brain development in the first six years of life'. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the Pakhwada is an effort to turn nutrition into a people's movement. She said Anganwadi, ASHA and frontline workers are the backbone of this movement. She added that the government will identify and scale up best practices from states to strengthen nutrition outcomes nationwide. During the event, the Minister also launched the 'Home Visit Scheduler' in the POSHAN tracker app.

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Nagaland today joined the rest of the nation in launching the 8th POSHAN Pakhwada. State Programme Management Unit, POSHAN Abhiyaan, will observe the campaign across the state till the 23rd of April, in line with the nationwide initiative. Launch programmes were held across districts, including Kiphire and Shamator.

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Chumoukedima District Administration today conducted a District Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on 'Viksit Nagaland at 2047' as part of wider efforts to prepare a long-term vision document for the state. Speaking at the inaugural session, Deputy Commissioner, Chumoukedima, Polan John, noted that the consultation seeks to ensure inclusive and holistic planning by incorporating diverse perspectives, identifying critical issues and bottlenecks, and addressing needs of vulnerable groups. The discussions focused on economic development, social development, environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and governance and institutional strengthening. During the programme, various district departments presented updates on their activities and flagship schemes, followed by interactive group discussions on sectoral challenges and opportunities. The day-long workshop saw participation from government departments, public sector undertakings, NGOs, and community representatives. A similar workshop was also held in Tseminyu yesterday with all stakeholders, Department Officials and Civil society organisations.

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The state Home Department has issued directives for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Census 2027. For Nagaland, the 1st Phase of the Census will commence from 1st of July and continue till 30th July. A report...

Emphasizing the importance of the Census in planning and formulation of policies and effective governance, the Department has urged the public to cooperate during the Census and provide correct information.

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A one-day orientation and training programme on Adoption Regulations, 2022 for Nagaland was held today in Kohima. The programme was organised by the State Adoption Resource Authority, Mission Vatsalya, Department of Social Welfare, and sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Central Adoption Resource Authority. Addressing the event, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, and Mission Director, Limawabang, said adoption is not merely a legal process but a compassionate act that transforms lives. He said the Adoption Regulations, 2022, introduced under the Juvenile Justice framework, aim to make the process more transparent, efficient, and child-centric.

Mr Limawabang said the regulations emphasise promoting in-country adoption; ensuring transparency and accountability through digital systems and centralised registration; strengthening the role of authorities to speed up adoption process; and safeguarding children through strict procedures, monitoring, and post-adoption follow-ups. He added that these reforms reflect the Government’s commitment to ensuring every child's right to grow up in a loving and secure family environment. The Secretary appealed stakeholders to work with empathy while dealing with adoption.

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And, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Bhagirath Choudhary today emphasized the growing importance of horticulture in transforming country's agricultural landscape and boosting farmers’ incomes. Addressing India Horticulture Summit 2026 in New Delhi, the Minister said agriculture sector continues to show strong and resilient growth, providing a solid foundation for rural livelihoods and national food security. He noted that horticulture has emerged as a key driver of agricultural transformation in the country. Mr Choudhary highlighted that the horticulture sector now contributes nearly one-third to the agricultural Gross Value Added, reflecting its increasing significance. The Minister said enhanced productivity, improved quality, and advancements in supply chain infrastructure have further strengthened the sector, encouraging farmers to adopt horticulture practices.

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