

HEADLINES:-

- In Mizoram, election for members of village and local councils held today.
- NPP president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma campaigns in Nongstoin in support of party candidate for Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council election.
- Sikkim government to introduce amendments to Tenant and Domestic and Professional Helps (Compulsory Verification) Act.
- Ri-Bhoi Poultry Farmers Association urges Meghalaya government to regulate poultry imports and ensure fair pricing.
- North-Eastern Hill University, in collaboration with IIT Bhillai organizes outreach program on "Sensitization of App Connecting Housemaids with Prospective Employers".
- 55th Annual Koch Conference to take place from 21st to 23rd February in South West Garo Hills.
- Meghalaya receives official letter from Indian Olympic Association, confirming the state as host for 39th National Games.

NEWS IN ORDER:-**MIZORAM:**

In Mizoram, voting is underway since 7 this morning to elect members of the village and local councils. Elections for 544 Village Councils and 111 Local Councils are being held in nine districts, excluding Lawngtlai and Siaha, which come under the Autonomous District Council. More than 4 lakh, 37 thousand voters are eligible to exercise their franchise for the Village Council election, while more than 2 lakh, 85 thousand voters are eligible to take part in the Local Council elections. Speaking to Akashvani News, State Election Commissioner H. Lalthlangliana said that voting will continue till 4 PM and counting of votes will be held from 7 PM today.

**POLLS:**

NPP president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma yesterday campaigned in the Nongstoin constituency to garner support for his party's candidate for the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council election, Dressar Marngar. Dwelling on ban on coal mining in Meghalaya, he remarked that it was the NPP that challenged it and successfully obtained approval for scientific mining. Mr Sangma also highlighted his government's initiatives for the development of sports, education, and infrastructure and sought mandate for the ruling party.

**SIKKIM**

The Sikkim government is set to introduce amendments to the Sikkim Tenant and Domestic and Professional Helps (Compulsory Verification) Act, 2008 to make the ongoing tenant verification process more local-friendly and efficient. The verification process aims to regulate the influx of non-residents, maintain security, and create a structured database of those entering the state.

**POULTRY:**

The Ri-Bhoi Poultry Farmers Association has urged the Meghalaya government to regulate poultry imports and ensure fair pricing to safeguard the livelihood of local farmers. The Association has alleged that excessive import of poultry from other states is a key factor behind the price drop, severely impacting local farmers, especially in Ri-Bhoi district. Local farmers also expressed deep concern over this crisis, stating that while their earnings have dwindled, retail prices of chicken in markets remain unchanged. The farmers said that despite government efforts to promote self-employment and livestock farming, many young aspiring poultry farmers are abandoning their ventures due to the unregulated influx of poultry from outside the state.

**NEHU:**

The North-Eastern Hill University, in collaboration with IIT Bhillai organized an outreach program on "Sensitization of App Connecting Housemaids with Prospective Employers" at its campus in Shillong yesterday. The program aimed to introduce "Maidful", a mobile application designed to connect housemaids with potential employers in a safe, efficient, and transparent manner. The app is available in both Khasi and English. NEHU Vice Chancellor, Professor Nirmalendu Saha observed that the informal sector, particularly domestic workers, forms the backbone of the economy, yet they often face challenges such as job insecurity and lack of fair

wages. The initiative is expected to provide employment opportunities for housemaids in the region, while ensuring their safety and well-being.

KOCH:

The 55th Annual Koch Conference is set to take place from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Dumnigaon, Garobadha, in South West Garo Hills district. To be organized by the Meghalaya Koch Association, the event is expected to bring together community members, scholars, and leaders to discuss cultural preservation, social issues, and the future of the Koch people. The conference will feature cultural performances, traditional rituals, and discussions on the Koch heritage and identity.

GAMES:

The Government of Meghalaya received an official letter from the Indian Olympic Association, IOA yesterday, confirming the state as the host for the 39th National Games, scheduled to take place in February or March 2027. The letter, signed by IOA president PT Usha, was addressed to Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, recognizing the state’s commitment to promoting sports and its capability to host a multi-sport event of this scale. The IOA has invited Chief Minister Conrad Sangma to the closing ceremony of the 38th National Games in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, where the ceremonial handover of hosting rights will take place.

\*\*\*\*\*