

1920 Hrs

21st August, 2017.

THE HEADLINES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviews progress of Soil Health Cards Scheme.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh expresses hope for Doklam standoff between India and China to resolve soon.
- Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang goes digital; aims to facilitate better communication with the citizens.
- Nagaland Gaon Bura Federation calls on Chief Minister; submits copy of memoranda addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reviewed the progress of two agriculture sector related schemes, Soil Health Cards and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in New Delhi. Mr Modi said, appropriate checks should be undertaken for variation, both within a sampling grid and across different soil testing labs which will help ensure quality in the reports. The Prime Minister also emphasized that soil health cards should be printed in the local dialect of the area, so that the farmers are able to read and understand them easily. Encouraging the rapid adoption of latest technology, Mr Modi said that soil testing should eventually be possible

through hand-held devices. He urged officials to explore the possibility of involving start-ups and entrepreneurs in the exercise.

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Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today expressed hoped that Doklam standoff between India and China will be resolved soon. Addressing the Indo Tibetan Border Police, ITBP Pipping ceremony in New Delhi today, Mr Singh said, he hopes that China on its part will make a positive move and a resolution to the dispute. Asserting that the nation's Security Forces are capable of safeguarding the borders, Rajnath Singh said that India has neither expansionist designs nor attacked any country. The Union Home Minister said India want friendly relations with all neighbours, and with this intention, the Prime Minister had invited leaders of all neighbouring countries for the swearing in ceremony of his Government, he added. Lauding the ITBP for its work in Sino-Indian Border, the Home Minister said, Government is looking at resolving other issues of ITBP relating to promotion and housing.

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Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang goes digital by launching his official facebook, twitter, YouTube and Instagram. The programme was held at the State Banquet Hall this evening with Parliamentary Secretary, IPR & SIRD Imtikumzuk launching the Chief Minister's online account. Today's launching marks the entry of the State Chief Minister into the digital world with the primary motive to facilitate better communication with the citizens

of the State using social media as a tool. The initiative aims to gather feedback, suggestions and share ideas with the intention to absorb them into the policy-making process and to enhance good local governance in Nagaland. While inviting participation and cooperation from the citizens, the Chief Minister's Office was positive that this will set a precedent for a new era of Government-citizen engagement towards transparency and collaborative future. Also during the occasion MP Neiphiu Rio released a documentary entitled T R Zeliang, the story so far.

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A Three-member delegation of Nagaland Gaon Burahs Federation (NGBF) today called on Chief Minister TR Zeliang at his office chamber, and apprised him of their recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The delegation also submitted the copies of memoranda addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Centre's interlocutor for Naga peace talks RN Ravi, in which they appealed the government of India to take on board all the stakeholders for final solution. NGBF President L. Shahlem Konyak and General Secretary Shikuto Zalipu informed the Chief Minister that the 15-member delegation of GBs also met R.N. Ravi, Th. Muivah and Khole separately at Delhi to urge them for inclusiveness of all stakeholders. The Chief Minister has assured the delegation to look into the matter at the earliest and urged them to play a constructive role to voice fearlessly for the unity of all Nagas. He expressed the hope that Centre would work out a formula for inclusiveness and that all stakeholders would be taken into account before signing of final Frame-work Agreement.

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The DAN Chairman and MLA, Kuzholuzo Nienu today categorically termed Neiphiu Rio assigning himself as Interim President and now President of the NPF party is merely to confuse the people. Addressing the party leaders meeting today, the DAN Chairman said that Neiphiu Rio is not only confusing the people but making a mockery of himself before the society. Terming the recent dismissal of the Special Leave Petition by the Supreme Court as not a big issue, stating that it was a petition filed against the Governor for summoning an emergent Assembly session. Chairman DAN Kuzholuzo therefore said that since the Assembly was also already conducted therefore the judgement of the Supreme Court does not hold any valid point. He said that the main issue which now lies in the Court is the recognition of Kiyaniie Whip or Zeliang's Whip. Further, urging the party leaders Neinu expressed optimism that Supreme Court will uphold the Constitution of India in true spirit and deliver its verdict soon. However, the DAN Chairman said that if the suspended rival NPF MLAs manage to purchase the Court and the judgement is not delivered to the Naga people under the provision of the Indian Constitution, the Indian Government should set the Naga people free and let them have its own constitution, he added.

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Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) under the Home department will be conducting the "Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) on August 29 and 30. As a precursor, a two-day table top exercise will be held for Heads of all Department tomorrow and on 23rd

at the ATI Kohima. Additional and Heads of Department along with two officials each from the District Disaster Management Authority have been asked to attend the programme. Meanwhile, NSDMA Commissioner and Secretary, Khrienuo Metha has directed the District Disaster Management Authority participants, to mandatorily impart the table top exercise in their respective districts to be held on 29th of this month.

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Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba will be on a five day visit to India from 23rd of this month. In a release, the External Affairs Ministry said today that this is Deuba's first visit abroad after assuming the office of Prime Minister of Nepal in June this year. A high-level delegation will accompany the Nepalese Prime Minister. During his stay in India, the visiting dignitary will call-on the President and Vice President of India and will hold talks with the Prime Minister. AIR correspondent reports that the upcoming visit will provide an opportunity to both India and Nepal for holding wide-ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest, and advancing age old, special ties of friendship between the two countries.

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Tobacco cessation facility is now available in different medical centres in Dimapur. This was revealed by District Nodal Officer for National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Dr C. Tetseo during a review meeting cum orientation on tobacco cessation for counsellors held in Dimapur on 18th of this month. Dr Tetseo said counselling is the most important component of tobacco cessation program and this facility is now available

in the above centres. He also asked tobacco users desiring to quit, to avail the service while also informing that those who need substitutes, District Tobacco Control Cell is providing nicotine gum and patch free of cost.

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