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THE HEADLINES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says settlement of Naga issue is also in the interest of India.
- NPCC President K. Therie appeals every voter to cast their vote consciously.
- Nagaland Home Commissioner declares 27th February as Paid Holiday to all Government and Private Establishments employees.
- Night curfew imposed in areas of Mon district bordering Myanmar with immediate effect.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he is trying his best to speed up settlement of the Naga political issue for benefit of the Naga people. Addressing a BJP-NDPP combined election rally at Tuensang public ground in Nagaland yesterday, the Prime Minister said settlement of the Naga issue is also in the interest of India. He expressed confident that in the next few months, the people of Nagaland will get an honorable solution to the Naga peace process. The Prime Minister said he is well aware of the demand and aspirations of the Naga civil societies and other organizations, and the general desire for peace. Stating that Nagas have greatly contributed in nation building in diverse fields, Modi assured that Naga dignity and way of life would be respected and secured.

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District Magistrate of Mon district, K. Thavaseelan, has imposed prohibitory order under section 144 CrPC, enforcing night curfew from 10:00 PM to 03:00 AM. The prohibitory order will be in force for three months, up to 21st of May. The prohibitory order has been issued for areas in the three Kilometer belt under Mon district bordering Myanmar, with immediate effect.

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Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has expressed discontentment over the response of the School Education Director, on the reason cited for delay in distribution of text books and study materials. Department of School Education informs that text books will be dispatch to the schools immediately after the elections. Earlier, Director of School Education, Wonhungo Tsopoe has informed in a press note that the text books had already reached Dimapur. However, since the department vehicles have been requisitioned for poll duty, he said the text books could not be distributed immediately. A press release issued by the Federation today termed the justification as silly, and has accused the Department of being insincere and irresponsible. The release said the Department was well aware that the State was bound for election by early part of the year and knowing that the academic session for the students starts by February as well, the Department should have made necessary arrangement for timely distribution of text books and study materials under any circumstances.

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Assam Rifles Tuensang Battalion, under the aegis of Headquarter, Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) today organized an awareness lecture on 'HIV and AIDS free Nagaland', at Jakphang Village. The aim of the event was to create awareness amongst the villagers about HIV/AIDS and its negative impact on physical and mental health. The event also gave a message to stop discrimination against people suffering from HIV/AIDS and help them to lead a healthy and normal life.

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Union Health Ministry has clarified that Indian candidates intending to obtain medical qualifications from abroad on or after May 2018 would have to mandatorily qualify the national eligibility-cum-entrance test, NEET. A Statement from the Ministry said students who have already taken admission under current regulations to pursue the primary medical course by taking Eligibility Certificate from MCI are exempted from qualifying NEET. The decision will be implemented prospectively from May-2018. The clarification came after the ministry received grievances urging it to exempt students who have already gone abroad from the requirement of qualifying the NEET.

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Textiles Secretary, Anant Kumar Singh said handicrafts sector plays a significant and important role in the country's economy, and is a key creator of employment to a vast segment of craft persons in rural and semi-urban areas. Inaugurating the 45th addition of IHGF Delhi Fair - Spring 2018 today, Singh said the sector generates substantial foreign exchange for the

country while preserving its cultural heritage. He said handicrafts exports during the year 2016-17 was over 24,300 crores rupees, with overall 13.15 percent increase in comparison to last year. The Textiles Secretary said, the growth in exports ultimately results in the generation of employment and improving living standards of poor craft persons engaged in the production of handicrafts.

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Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said government officials should be given a work-friendly environment. Talking to media after meeting a delegation of IAS association in Delhi, Dr. Singh said the government should be able to get the best out of officers. He said an enabling environment must be provided, so that officers can give the best of their performance in the interest of the nation.

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