

## EVENING NEWS

1920 Hrs  
27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

### THE HEADLINES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says Netherlands is a natural partner in India's development.
- Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Pollution Control Boards.
- Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh says Northeast will benefit from GST.
- Election to the office of President of India scheduled on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said Netherlands is a natural partner in India's development. Expressing that his Netherlands tour comes at a time when the two countries are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations, Mr Modi said the two countries have centuries old relations and are together progressing ahead steadily. Stressing that today world is interdependent and interconnected, he said, India & Netherlands have convergence of views on the global issues. Earlier, he was received by Dutch prime minister at his official residence 'Catshuis' and later signed two MOUs in areas of water management and cultural exchanges. Prime Minister Modi will interact with the CEOs of some Dutch companies inviting them to utilize the vast opportunities provided by 'Make in India' initiative.

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Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that there is a need to clear the pollution of corruption from the system, besides clearing air and water pollution. Addressing the inaugural session of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Chairmen & Member Secretaries of Pollution Control Boards and Committees in New Delhi today, the Environment Minister said that Information Technology will help in resolving issues with State Pollution Control Boards. The Minister stressed upon the need to address the gaps in the disposal of Solid Waste Management, as 50 per cent of the waste collected is dumped unscientifically. He also pointed out that while over two lakh fifty thousand tonnes of plastic waste is generated every day, only 14 States and Union Territories have banned plastic carry-bags. The Minister called for an emphasis on the implementation of the concept of 4 Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover, for the proper management of solid waste and sewage. He directed the Boards to ensure strict adherence to timelines to achieve a reduction in waste generation, as incorporated in the amended Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

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US President Donald Trump has said that his country is keen to work with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on creating a "fair and reciprocal" trading relationship between the two nations. Trump said he looks forward to working with India to create jobs in both the countries, to grow their economies and to create fair trading relationship. He also calls for removal of barriers for US exports to India and reduce trade deficit with India. Referring to the GST reform to be implemented across India starting next month, Trump said it was the largest tax overhaul in the country's history. Trump's remarks came at the White House Rose Garden following his meeting with Modi. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today extended a warm invitation to US President Donald Trump and his family to visit India. Mr Modi specially invited Trump's daughter Ivanka to lead the US delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India later this year. Mr Modi also thanked Mr Trump for his feelings of friendship towards India and himself.

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Government of Nagaland in partnership with Zynorique Initiative, Youth Net and Directorate of Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship yesterday launched a training Programme of the 'Year of Construction Workers' for Re-Skilling and Up Skilling at Government ITI, Wokha. Exhorting the trainees SDO (Civil), Wokha, T. Lanusenla Longkumer expressed the hope that the training would be the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of construction workers and urged them to take the weeklong training programme seriously. Ms. Longkumer said that the government initiated the programme to tap human resources and local talents besides creating job opportunities and making the people self-reliant. Altogether 50 trainees are participating in the skilling training.

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Inspector General of Police, Nagaland, K Mero said lack of discipline in all levels of society and the urge to get easy money are fertile grounds for drug dealing and usage. Speaking during the observation of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Kohima yesterday, Mero also criticized the complacency of citizens towards drug trafficking and usage. The Police Officer informed that since 2016, 560 persons have been arrested for smuggling liquor and banned drugs in the state, and 427 cases have been registered. The IGP said the seizures may be the tip of the iceberg only while much more must be entering the state. He said that Nagaland is primarily used as a conduit route by drug traffickers due to its close proximity to the Golden Triangle especially with Myanmar. The onus on the law enforcement agencies is not only to undertake preventive work but also to sensitize the masses against the effects of drug abuse, the IGP said. He further lamented that

the State Police Department do not have the manpower, the gadgets and the knowledge to identify and detect illegal materials and control trafficking.

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Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh said that Northeast states will be benefited from the GST. Addressing a function in New Delhi yesterday, Dr Singh said, contrary to certain misconceived notions in certain quarters, GST will offer the States an opportunity to realize fiscal growth in tandem with the more developed states of India. He said, Government's target of Housing for All by 2022 will also gain momentum through reinforced State exchequer following the implementation of GST.

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The Election to the office of President of India is scheduled to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. Informing this in a press release today, Commissioner and Secretary Nagaland Legislative Assembly, N. Benjamin Newmai said that in the event of the election, if any Legislative member from the State requires to cast his vote at New Delhi due to unavoidable circumstances, may obtain the application form from the Commissioner & Secretary's office Nagaland Legislative Assembly, and submit the same latest by 3<sup>rd</sup> July for onward submission to the Election Commission of India. It also informed that option once availed will be final and no change will be allowed or entertained by the commission thereafter.

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UPA Presidential candidate Meira Kumar today rejected the perception that this Presidential election is Dalit vs Dalit. Briefing media in New Delhi, the former Lok Sabha Speaker said in the past, several candidates from upper caste were pitted against each other but no one highlighted their castes. The former Lok Sabha speaker said there is a need to remove the caste structure and caste based politics and this election should not be turned into a Dalit fight. She said she was selected unanimously by 17 major political opposition parties to be their candidate in Presidential election.

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An RTI exposure has uncovered anomalies in the Excise department in regard to backdoor appointment and illegal retaining of government vehicles by officers already retired. The RTI report shows twenty two persons, including three on compassionate ground, were recruited directly since 2015, while Eleven vehicles were allotted to officers without entitlement till date. This came to light following an RTI by former president of Highway Area Sumi Students' Union Vikato S Aye, whose case was taken up by Dimapur District Congress Committee. While

admitting that there was no reservation provision in the department for people with disabilities, surprisingly, the RTI reply stated that uniformed personnel with disability in Dimapur were assigned with Excise field duties for detection and seizure of liquor and drugs. In the light of the above stated circumstances, Dimapur DCC president Kughato S Aye has demanded probe by Special Investigation Team (SIT) into backdoor appointments and illegal allotment of vehicles and all other anomalies in the Department concerned.

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