

**THE HEADLINES:-**

- 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi says centre focusing on research, learning and innovation in a big way**
- 2. Centre rejects claims of mandatory transaction of money in Aadhaar banking at least once in a month**
- 3. Nagaland Industries & Commerce Directorate felicitates State Entrepreneur and Handicraft awardees**
- 4. Deputy Commissioner Shamator, Y. Chingyak Konyak says unprecedented rains cut off major links to district**



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the central government is focusing on research, learning and innovation in a big way. In a social media post, Modi said the emphasis on quality education in the future will deepen even further to benefit India's Yuva Shakti. He called India's performance in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world rankings on higher education encouraging. Modi also met with QS Chief Executive Officer Nunzio Quacquarelli, who had earlier noted that Indian universities demonstrated the highest performance improvement among all G20 nations this year, and have become one of the world's most rapidly expanding research centres.**



**The Central government has rejected the claims of mandatory transaction of money in Aadhaar banking at least once in a month. Branding the claims as fake, the PIB Fact Check Unit has denied that new updates by the Reserve Bank of India has made it mandatory for people to transact money through Aadhaar every month. It added that failure to do so will not lock the customer's Aadhaar transaction facility as claimed. PIB clarified that no such guidelines have been issued for account holders for mandatory Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions every month to keep the services active. It added that the National Payments Corporation of India has not made it compulsory to link mobile numbers to bank accounts for AEPS transactions through any circular.**



**A felicitation programme for State Entrepreneur 2023 and State Handicraft Award 2023-24 was held today at the Directorate of Industries & Commerce in Kohima. Commissioner & Secretary Kekhrievor Kevichusa said it was very encouraging to see the variety and creativity of Naga craftsman from different fields. He asked the awardees and department officials to maintain good ties so as to identify the assistance required for the benefit of the people. Director Industries & Commerce, A. Temjen Jamir said the state entrepreneur award aims to encourage and promote the culture of entrepreneurship, and to serve as a platform for honouring the remarkable contribution and innovations of entrepreneurs across the state. The State Entrepreneur Award 2023 was awarded to Peihauding of M/s Ngurie company from Peren district for his innovative Bio-enhancer, Mulungnenla Pogen of M/s ISTI Natural Dimapur, and Nengneithem Hengna of M/s Runway India Dimapur. Meanwhile, seven individuals were awarded the state Handicraft award 2023. Under One District One Product, 20 farmers were also given organic certification as per National Program for Organic Production standard.**



**Deputy Commissioner Shamator, Y. Chingyak Konyak has informed that unprecedented rainfall on the 19th and 20th April left a trail of damage in the district, with 10 villages completely cut-off. He said, power and cellular connectivity have been severely affected, and scores of culverts and minor bridges have been washed-off. Landslides and mudslides have blocked most of the roads connecting the district, he added. Three major bridges, namely Langa bridge, connecting Shamator headquarter and Tuensang; Muksuke bridge, connecting Chessore Sub division with Tuensang; and Shipong bridge, connecting Shamator headquarter with Mangko, were severely damaged and on the verge of collapse. Chingyak added that the rains had washed of hundreds of terrace fields and fisheries. The DC further said many vehicles returning from election duty are still stranded in various parts of the district. While the District Disaster Management Authority is working on the matter, Chingyak said lack of machineries and resources is severely hampering road clearance and other restorative works in the district.**



European Union, EU has adopted new visa rules that will allow frequent travelers from India to apply for multiple-entry Schengen visa with longer validity, easing travel to 29 European countries. This was announced by the EU delegation to India and Bhutan yesterday. The delegation's statement said, Indian nationals can now be issued long-term, multi-entry Schengen visas valid for two years after having obtained and lawfully used two visas within the previous three years. The two-year visa will normally be followed by a five-year visa, if the passport has sufficient validity remaining. It added that during the validity period of these visas, holders will enjoy travel rights equivalent to visa-free nationals. EU ambassador to India Hervé Delphin lauded the new rules saying the EU had taken another step towards enhancing people-to-people contact with India.



Directorate General of Civil Aviation has asked airlines to ensure that children up to the age of 12 years are allocated seats with their parents and guardians who are travelling on the same PNR. In a statement, DGCA said, it had noticed various instances wherein children below the age of 12 years were not seated along with their parent and guardian. The authority said, the existing air transport circular has been suitably modified.



Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Dimapur, Dr. Tinojongshi Chang has informed that hiring charges for commercial vehicles engaged for election duty will be paid on April 29 and 30 between 10 AM and 4 PM. In Chümoukedima, the payments will be released from the office of the DC & DEO, during office hours with Auto, Alto, Wagon R on 26th and 27th April; Sumo, Eeco Van, Force Traveller, Winger on the 29th; and Pick up and Bus on April 30. In Kiphire, payments will commence tomorrow till the 26th of April for private vehicles requisitioned for election duty. Noklak will release the payments tomorrow and the day after at the office of the DC & DEO Noklak during office hours. In Longleng, the hiring charges will be disbursed from the office of the Deputy Commissioner & District Election Officer Longleng on April 25 and 26 during office hours. In Mon, payments for all private vehicles engaged for election duty will be released from 25th to 30th April.



**Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended Tsukhenie greetings to all who are celebrating the festival from the Chakhesang community. In a social media post, Rio wished that the festivity may foster oneness and bring blessings of good health and fruitfulness, in all our endeavours, in the year ahead.**



**India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rains at various places across the northeast state over the rest of the week. In Nagaland, light rain is very likely to occur at isolated places. The department added, thunderstorm and lightning with gusty winds with speed reaching upto 30 to 40 kilometer per hour is very likely at isolated places in the state during the next couple of days.**

