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THE HEADLINES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says partnership between India and Russia has now grown into a special privileged strategic partnership.
- Nagaland Governor PB Acharya asks young educated people to share their knowledge with society.
- President Ramnath Kovind calls upon students to move towards self-employment.
- Election Commission of India and former CECs/ECs emphasizes on urgent need to control hate speeches in larger public interest.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. Modi said the seeds of the strategic partnership sown by then Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Putin, has now grown into a special privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. He thanked Russia for playing a major role in helping India get a permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation - an eight nation bloc which aims at military and economic cooperation between the member states. Modi said India and Russia are working together on International North-South Transport Corridor, INSTC and BRICS. Putin said Russia and India have been cooperating on several fronts in the multilateral

and the international forum. Welcoming Prime Minister Modi to Sochi, Putin said his visit would give a fresh impetus to bilateral ties.

Nagaland Governor, P B Acharya today said the young educated people should share their knowledge with society. In this regard, Acharya said there is a need for direct and constructive interaction between the Universities and Self-Help Groups, SHGs in the State to produce positive results. The Governor was interacting with members from the National Rural Livelihood Mission SHGs and Startup Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP) entrepreneurs at the Raj Bhavan in Kohima. He called on the SHGs and Entrepreneurs not to stop at being self-reliant, but to become economic-centered so that they can contribute to the overall development of the society. Stating that ignorance is no bliss, the Governor urged the people at the grass-root level to be aware of the various schemes provide by the Government for their benefits and avail them. Earlier in her welcome address, Additional Secretary for Rural Development and Mission Director, Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission, NSRLM, Athel O. Lotha said development can happen only if people at the grass-root level, especially the women are empowered. She said NSRLM is the implementing agency of the National Rural Livelihood Mission, and has been promoting and nurturing Self-Help Groups since its inception in 2012.

The Prime Minister's Office has asked the India Meteorological Department to advise people on the action they need to take when it

issues severe weather warnings. The PMO's directive comes following recent thunderstorms that killed over 200 people in seven states. Secretary M Rajeevan said the prime minister was concerned over the deaths caused by extreme weather conditions and had asked the IMD to give actionable points. He said the PMO and the National Disaster Management Authority want alerts issued by the IMD to be more specific.

A grateful nation is remembering former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary today. Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress President Rahul Gandhi among other party leaders paid floral tributes at Vir Bhumi in Delhi. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21st May in 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu during a poll campaign. The day is also observed as Anti-terrorism Day. On the occasion, people took the pledge to oppose all forms of terrorism and violence.

In Kerela, death toll from nipah virus-induced fever has risen to ten. The State Health department has issued an alert to the public. A high-level central team is presently visiting the infected areas of the district and is scheduled to have detailed discussion with administration and health department. State heath Minister KK Shailaja said that all necessary measures has been taken for the protection of patients and hospital staff. He said the state government is in constant touch with the Central government for all necessary assistance to deal with the

situation. This is the first detection in Kerala of the Nipah virus which has a high fatality rate and spreads mainly through bats, pigs and other animals.

President Ramnath Kovind has called upon students to move towards self-employment. He was speaking as chief guest at the 9th convocation of Dr. YS Parmar Horticulture and Forestry University at Nauni in Solan distict of Himachal Pradesh today. Addressing the students, President Ramnath Kovind said the student should use their knowledge in a practical way. He urged the students to move towards the self employment as government jobs are limited. Emphasizing the use of modern technology, the President said that, farmers can increase their yield by using organic farming. On the occasion, the President honored nine outstanding students with gold medals in the field of horticulture and forestry. It may be recalled, that president is on a six days visit to Shimla.

The Election Commission of India, ECI and former CECs/ECs in a consultative meeting today emphasized on the urgent need to control hate speeches in larger public interest. It was noted that hate speeches are being used during campaigns which vitiate the political atmosphere. The meeting which was attended by nine former CECs/ECs deliberated to analyse the duration of polls so that the number of phases is reduced. While commending the universal use of EVM/VVPAT as a commendable initiative, the meeting noted that awareness programmes should be conducted to avoid any

controversy about its use. The former CECs/ECs lauded the Election Commission for initiating the consultative meeting and expressed hope that such consultations would become a regular feature. Earlier Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat, Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa, welcomed all former CECs/ECs present.

Minister of State for Home Affairs, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir has said the government is committed to women's safety and security. He said, focus is on building a strong machinery to deal with crimes against women effectively. The Minister was speaking at a seminar on Gender Justice in Criminal Law in New Delhi today. Ahir said with the recent amendment in laws against crimes against women, the system will be capable enough to deal with sexual offenders.

In Tripura, normal life has been disrupted due to incessant rain that has claimed two lives. AIR Correspondent reports that the state has been witnessing heavy rain for the last few days. Two persons were killed yesterday in a landslide triggered by heavy rain in Amarpur subdivision of Gomati and Jirania subdivision of West Tripura districts. State Disaster Management officials said that total 79 relief camps have been started across the state in which more than 19,000 people have taken shelter.

In Assam, the government has waived application fees for grade III and grade IV jobs. Talking to newspersons in Guwahati today, Assam Finance and Health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said now onwards, no candidate should give fees for applications for state government jobs in these categories. He said the salary of contractual high school teachers has been raised to 20 thousand rupees from current 15 thousand in line with the budget announcement. The minister said the Assam government and Tata Trust will set up 19 cancer care institutes in the state with a budget of 2000 crore rupees.

