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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland government to introduce Bill on establishing FNTA during current assembly session
- MLA Nuklutoshi calls for Sadar administrative area in Mokokchung
- Lok Sabha MP Supongmeren Jamir stresses need for public awareness on smart meters
- In cricket, Nagaland beat Mizoram in opening Women's Under-23 One Day Trophy plate match

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The Nagaland Legislative Assembly will introduce a Bill to establish the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) during the ongoing Eighth Session of the 14th House. This was announced by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio yesterday during his concluding remarks on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address. Mr. Rio said the proposed legislation will incorporate provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement signed earlier this month, following discussions with the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), while adhering to mutually agreed basic principles. He expressed hope that the Bill would be passed in the current session.

The Chief Minister said, the Government is actively working to constitute an Interim Council for the FNTA in consultation with ENPO and tribal bodies of Eastern Nagaland. He conveyed gratitude to the Government of India for its guidance and support

in signing of the historic agreement. Mr Rio congratulated ENPO and expressed hope for continued cooperation in taking the process forward.

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MLA Nuklutoshi has called for the creation of a Sadar Administrative Area in Mokokchung district, emphasizing that the move would enhance governance, reduce delays in land and judicial matters, and open economic opportunities for local communities. Raising the issue yesterday, during the question hour on the second day of the Eight Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly, the MLA said Mokokchung remains one of the few districts in the state without a Sadar jurisdiction, adding that establishing a Sadar circle will enable access to bank loans under the SARFAESI Act, thereby encouraging entrepreneurship and reducing dependence on government jobs.

Responding on the matter, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton said the government is open to examining the matter if a formal proposal for a Sadar jurisdiction is submitted.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio noted that the issue is complex given legal provisions under Article 371(A) of the Constitution and customary laws and traditional village governance.

The Chief Minister described the matter as pertinent and requires more clarity and careful study before any decision is taken.

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National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched the TRIBES project in Kangtsung village under Mokokchung district, to boost sustainable livelihoods and empower rural communities with improved economic opportunities. The project seeks to promote aromatic and medicinal plants, and enhance farm productivity through integrated fishery, scientific cultivation, value addition, and organised marketing. The initiative reflects NABARD's continued commitment to empowering rural households through sustainable and community-led interventions, particularly in the North-Eastern Region.

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Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Supongmeren Jamir stressed the need for public awareness on smart meters. Addressing the first meeting of the District Electricity Committee to Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Kohima yesterday, he urged the department to highlight benefits of shifting from conventional meters to smart meters. Mr Jamir, who is also the committee's chairperson, sought detailed assessments of un-electrified and partially electrified habitations in the district, and called for transparency and joint efforts to address challenges in power distribution. Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, also emphasised the benefits of smart metering and rooftop solar to improve efficiency. Presenting an overview of RDSS, Additional Chief Engineer, Power Department, Lobosang Jamir, noted that smart metering is being implemented to reduce

loss faced by the state. He informed that only 37,081 smart meters have been installed out of the total target of 3,23,878. The department has also launched a 'Smart Meter Pakhwada' campaign to raise consumer awareness across Nagaland.

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Former Governor and Chief Minister Dr. S.C. Jamir today stressed that communities must adapt to modern development in a rapidly evolving world. He said villagers, especially youth, need to move beyond traditional practices and embrace progressive thinking to secure a stronger future. Dr Jamir was speaking at the silver jubilee celebration of Tir Yim village under Chumoukedima district. Also addressing the event, Nagaland Legislative Assembly Speaker Sharingain Longkumer urged the community to pursue self-reliance instead of depending solely on government assistance. Describing jubilee as a moment for introspection and future planning, Mr Longkumer emphasized the need to prepare a master plan for the village's development.

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The festival of colours, Holi is being celebrated throughout the country today. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil and marks the onset of Spring season. In Dimapur, the celebrations are being marked by vibrant color play and communal feasts. Our correspondent has the details...

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In cricket, Nagaland secured a 15-run victory over Mizoram in their opening Women's Under-23 One Day Trophy plate match in Chandigarh yesterday. Put to bat first, Nagaland posted 212 runs,

with Vipeni leading the charge with a brilliant 82 runs. In reply, Mizoram were bowled out for 197. Vipeni also starred with the ball claiming 5 wickets to complete an all-round performance. Nagaland will face Arunachal Pradesh in their next match tomorrow.

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