

:::THE HEADLINES:::

- Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat says with support of Centre and Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Hornbill festival can become globally recognized event.
- Delegation from Nagaland attend regional workshop on improving education key Performance Indicators in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Union Minister Amit Shah says government provides financial assistance to cooperative societies exclusively promoted by women.
- And,Deputy Commissioner of Wokha Vineet Kumar highlights gym's potential to offer youth positive alternative to drug addiction.

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Union Minister of Culture & Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat today said, with the support of Government of India and Ministry of Tourism and Culture, the Hornbill festival can reach new heights and become a globally recognized event. The Union Tourism Minister said this today while participating at the Stone Pulling programme commemorating 25 years of Hornbill Festival, organised by the SAPO and SAYO at Kigwema under Kohima District. Mr. Shekhawat said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed significant transformation over the last 10 years. To this he said, in the next 25 years, as India evolves into a developed nation, the northeastern states, especially Nagaland, have the potential to be key drivers of this transformation. The Union Minister referred to Prime Minister Modi's slogan, 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi' (Heritage and Development), highlighting that we must honor and preserve our legacy, culture, and rich diversity, while simultaneously striving for progress and development.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said, the stone pulling ceremony marked an important cultural event and symbolises progress, oneness, and unity.

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A high-level delegation from Nagaland attended the regional workshop on improving education key Performance Indicators under the "NeVolution" initiated by NITI Aayog, at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh yesterday. The workshop aimed to address critical challenges in education across Aspirational Districts and Blocks,

fostering a collaborative approach to transformative reforms. The Nagaland Delegation include Principal Director of School Education, Thavaseelan K Nodal Officers of Aspirational Blocks in the different districts. Speaking at the workshop, Thavaseelan K highlighted the unique challenges faced by Northeast states, including Nagaland, such as Teaching students from diverse culture and linguistic backgrounds. The Principal Director also stressed on the issues of balancing resources, need for a strong foundation, high dropout rates and rationalizing resource allocation, especially for teacher placements and training.

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Union Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah today said that the National Cooperative Development Corporation, (NCDC) has sanctioned financial assistance of over seven thousand 708 crore rupees for development of cooperative societies exclusively promoted by women. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, he said there are 25 thousand 385 Women Welfare Cooperative Society registered in the country. Mr. Shah said NCDC has been playing a significant role in improving the socio-economic status of women cooperatives enabling them to take up business model-based activities. He said the government has taken various initiatives to promote the participation of women in cooperatives. The Union Minister informed that there are over one lakh 44 thousand dairy cooperatives in the country and a large number of rural women are engaged in the sector.

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Centre today said 5G services are available in 779 districts out of 783 districts in the country. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said over 4.6 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations have been installed in the country. He said Telecom Service Providers have expanded 5G services across the country, including coastal areas, going beyond the minimum rollout obligations. The Union Minister observed that with the availability of 4G and 5G networks, there has been increased adoption of online banking services, e-commerce, online education and online government services among the users.

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The Lok Sabha today took up the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024 for consideration and passing. Moving the Bill, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, the Bill is intended to bring more efficiency in the Railways sector. He said 44 thousand kilometres of railways network were electrified in the past 10 years. Speaking on the Bill, Manoj Kumar of Congress expressed apprehensions that the Bill will open up the Railways to privatization. He also raised the issue of high ticket fares in Vande Bharat trains. Ravi Kishan of the BJP highlighted the

achievements of Railways under the Modi Government. He said the corruption-ridden image of the Railways has been reformed since 2014.

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Deputy Commissioner of Wokha district, Vineet Kumar said gyms are not solely for bodybuilding and highlighted it's potential to offer youth a positive alternative to drug addiction. Mr. Kumar was speaking after inaugurating Pro Fitness Gym at OCK Complex Market in Wokha yesterday, along with fitness icon, Moalong Yaden. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed on importance of fitness in daily life, urging people to prioritize health over work. Moalong Yaden shared how fitness transformed his life from addiction and expressed hope that the gym would inspire physical, mental and spiritual growth in the community. Entrepreneur Ren Khuvung stated that the facility aims to promote a culture of wellness in Wokha, encouraging healthier lifestyles and community transformation.

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Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Government has approved two crore 95 lakh houses in its efforts to provide pucca house for every poor person. Addressing a press briefing in New Delhi today, he said that two crore more houses will be built in the next five years. He added that under PM Awas Yojana-Rural, 38 lakh houses have been allotted for which more than ten thousand six hundred crore rupees funds have been released. The Union Minister said that Under PM-JANMAN, more than 46 thousand houses have been allotted for the year 2024-25 specifically for tribal families.

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NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Suman Bery launched the NITI Aayog Trade Watch Quarterly Report in New Delhi today. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bery said the country's trade landscape is rapidly evolving in response to global challenges. He added that India is historically a global trading nation and the quarterly report provides analysis of India's trade dynamics and also examines the impact of geopolitical tensions. The quarterly report has been published for the first quarter from April to June of the financial year 2025.

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Nagaland State Department of Youth Resources & Sports today organized the indigenous game, Standing Broad Jump, as part of the on-going Hornbill Festival celebrations at Kisama. The competition, opened to visiting tourists, saw an exciting participation of fourteen athletes, including two foreign tourists. After three thrilling rounds of competition, Shubham from Pune emerged as the winner with an impressive jump of 7.11 feet. Alex from the USA narrowly missed the top spot, securing second place with a jump of 7.10 feet, while Atheelth from Kerala

claimed third place with a jump of 7.8 feet. The winners were awarded cash prizes in recognition of their achievements.

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