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- Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches Watershed Yatra
- Nagaland joins nationwide launch of Watershed Yatra
- Nagaland Police seizes drugs worth 10 to 15 crore rupees in last couple of weeks
- MLA Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso emphasizes need to promote wrestling at professional level

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Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Watershed Yatra, a nationwide initiative, in Hybrid mode today. The mass outreach campaign with the theme “Jal Laaye Dhan-Dhaanya” aims to boost public participation and create awareness about the Watershed Development activities. The outreach will consist of the movement of vans for around 60 to 90 days across 805 projects, covering 6 thousand 673 gram panchayats in 26 states and two Union Territories. The campaign, part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0, seeks to highlight sustainable natural resource management's role in enhancing agriculture, livelihoods, and environmental health.

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Nagaland today joined in the nationwide launch of Watershed Yatra. The state-level programme was held at the Directorate of Land Resources, Kohima. Addressing the event, Advisor, Land Resources, G. Ikuto Zhimomi stressed the need for collaborative efforts to address the challenges of water scarcity and land degradation. He reiterated the government's commitment to empowering rural communities and supporting community-based watershed management projects. Lauding the initiative, the Advisor said, this mass outreach programme will help to ensure the sustainable use of land and water resources for the future generations.

Meanwhile, Director Land Resources, Albert Ngullie, highlighted the importance of the Watershed Yatra in the context of the state's unique ecological landscape. He encouraged every citizen to create awareness at both individual and

community levels for sustainable utilization and management of natural resources.

Key highlights of the event included felicitation of progressive farmers who have significant contributions to water conservation and sustainable agriculture, and experience-sharing by a beneficiary of the PM Kisan Sampada Yojana - Watershed Development Component.

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Nagaland Police has seized drugs worth 10 to 15 crore rupees in the last couple of weeks registering seven cases. This was informed by Inspector General of Police (CID) Vikram Khalete at a press conference in Chumukedima today while providing an update on the Nagaland Police's efforts in combating drug trafficking. He said, in 2024, a total of 199 cases were registered, and 343 individuals were arrested in connection with drug-related offenses.

Mr Khalete emphasized that the drug trafficking network extends beyond Nagaland, with links to neighboring states, particularly Assam, and other parts of India. He assured that investigations into the inter-state and international connections of these drug cartels are ongoing. He urged the public to remain vigilant and report any information related to the sale or distribution of narcotics, drugs, or illegal substances. Mr Khalete reassured the community that the identity of informants would be kept confidential.

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MLA Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso, today emphasized the need to promote wrestling at a professional level. Addressing the Southern Angami 2nd Open Naga Wrestling Championship at Viswema village, he highlighted the significance of sports in fostering understanding and strengthening friendships. Citing Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, he advocated for Naga Wrestling to be played across all districts rather than being confined to specific tribes. This, he said, would help promote the sport and broaden its appeal. Drawing a parallel with the Nagaland Super League, where players earn significant incomes through professional engagement, he stressed that wrestling can also be developed into a professional sport and a viable career, enabling wrestlers to earn a livelihood. The MLA also noted that the state government is actively working towards youth empowerment and supporting sports as a means of livelihood.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today took a holy dip in Triveni Sangam at Mahakumbh, Prayagraj. In a social media post, Mr Modi said, the Snan at the Sangam is a moment of divine connection. He said, like the crores of others who have taken part in it, he was also filled with a spirit of devotion. Mr Modi hoped

that Maa Ganga will bless countrymen with peace, wisdom, good health and harmony. More from our correspondent:

(BYTE:) Prime Minister Modi took a boat ride with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to reach Triveni Sangam. Mr Modi performed aarti and Puja at Triveni Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati river. The Mahakumbh 2025, which commenced on 13th January, is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. It will continue until 26th February. More than 39 crore devotees have taken holy dip in the Triveni Sangam so far. With Dipendra Kumar, Aman Yadav, Akashvani News Delhi.)

Union Minister Kiren Rijju also took a holy dip in Prayagraj, Mahakumbh this morning.

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Foreigners Division of the Home Affairs Ministry has issued an advisory to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territories regarding violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act tied to hospitality by officers. Among others, it said some officers are not obtaining prior permission as mandated under the Act for accepting foreign hospitality from a foreign host. The ministry said, acceptance of foreign hospitality without obtaining prior permission; or obtaining hospitality from unlisted hosts is an offence under the Act. The ministry has requested that suitable instructions be issued to relevant officers to ensure strict compliance with provisions of the Act.

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