

Morning News Script

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth yesterday reviewed the India-US defence cooperation spanning across multiple domains including land, air, maritime and space. During their conversation, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the ties. The two Ministers have decided to work together on technology cooperation, integration of defence industrial supply chains, enhanced interoperability, logistics and information sharing and joint military exercises. They also agreed to provide enhanced support to the growing defence innovation collaboration between the governments, start-ups, businesses and academic institutions.

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Secretary General of Quality Council of India (QCI), Chakravarthy T Kannan met officials from Nagaland to discuss role of Quality in driving social and economic development yesterday. The QCI team met the Chief Secretary Dr J Alam and Resident Commissioner, Government of Nagaland Wennyei Konyak at Nagaland House, New Delhi. The meeting converged on how the role of Quality can further empower communities, institutions, and people, ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable progress in the region.

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Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya yesterday announced that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has reached a significant milestone by surpassing 5 crore claim settlements in the financial year 2024-25, exceeding the 4.45 crore claims settled in the previous year. Dr. Mandaviya attributed this achievement to a series of transformative reforms introduced by EPFO to streamline the claim settlement process and reduce member grievances.

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The government yesterday said over 90 lakh houses have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries so far under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu said, over 1 crore 18 lakh houses have been sanctioned, out of which over 1 crore 12 lakh houses are under construction.

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Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan yesterday slammed some political leaders including the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for their alleged statements distorting the progressive educational reforms into imagined threats in order to uphold their political narratives. Mr Pradhan called their remarks unfortunate and concerning. He said, UGC draft regulations aim to expand opportunities, not limit them. He added that they preserve institutional autonomy and celebrate linguistic diversity and also strengthen academic institutions, rather than undermine them.

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In a shocking incident, Wokha Police has arrested a 52-year-old man for alleged charges of sexually abusing a minor multiple times. Additional SP of Wokha, Vitoshe K. Sumi said the accused was taken into custody based on FIR lodged by the victim's family at Sungro Police Station and investigations are ongoing.

(The crime is said to have come to light on 3rd February, after the accused allegedly committed the offense again. Sources revealed that the accused is employed as a peon in a government higher secondary school in Wokha where the victim has recently enrolled in the school. The accused has been booked under relevant sections of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita of the POCSO Act, 2012.)

In a condemnation note, Lotha Eloë Hoho, apex women body of the Lotha tribe condemned the crime and urged law enforcement to ensure strict punishment for the accused. The organization also warned that perpetrators of such acts would face both legal and customary consequences while emphasizing the need for justice and protection of vulnerable individuals.

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Assam Rifles yesterday organized Millets Mela at Tuensang Garrison, Nagaland with the aim to promote nutritional benefits of millets and encourage inclusion in daily diets. A total of 52 families from Tuensang participated in the programme by preparing and showcasing variety of millet-based dishes. The event featured cooking demonstrations, interactive sessions on millet cultivation, and food tasting and conducting awareness on sustainable and healthy eating habits.

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