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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland projects Dzükou valley as global tourism destination
- Defence Minister approves 100 percent hike in welfare grants for ex-servicemen and dependents
- Nagaland Police urges vehicle owners to update mobile numbers on parivahan and sarathi portals
- State-level 'Catch Them Young' under-14 Sepaktakraw Tournament concludes

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Nagaland's Tourism Minister Temjen Imna Along has spotlighted Dzükou valley as a key focus for world-class tourism development. Speaking at the ongoing State Tourism Ministers Meet in Udaipur, Rajasthan, he emphasized the valley's pristine landscape and cultural significance. Noting that Dzükou valley attracts the highest number of tourists from across the country, Mr Along stressed the need for sustainable tourism, resisting mass road construction to preserve the valley's natural integrity.

The Minister proposed Dzukou Valley as the State's nomination under the 'Development of 50 Tourist Destinations of Global Standards' initiative. The proposal envisions a transformative development plan of 250 crore rupees, including construction of a eco-friendly luxury hotel, other tourist facilities and supporting infrastructure to enhance accessibility and visitor experience while preserving the valley's natural eco-system. Acknowledging support from the central government, he said the state is advancing in the tourism sector, including in spiritual and eco-tourism. Mr Along urged for engaging expert consultants to shape Nagaland into a globally recognized destination.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a hundred per cent increase in financial assistance for Ex-Servicemen and their dependents under schemes implemented by the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare. The penury grant has been doubled from four thousand rupees to eight thousand rupees per month per beneficiary. This will provide sustained lifetime support to aged and non-pensioner Ex-Servicemen and their widows above 65 years of age with no regular income. The Ministry said, the education grant has been increased from one thousand to two thousand rupees per month per head for up to two dependent children. The marriage grant has also been raised from 50 thousand to one lakh per beneficiary. The Ministry said, the revised rates take effect for applications submitted from 1st November this year onwards

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Nagaland Police has urged all driving licence holders and registered vehicle owners to ensure their mobile numbers are updated on the Parivahan and Sarathi portals. In a public notice, the police informed that vehicle owners can add or update their mobile numbers through an Aadhaar-based authentication process by visiting parivahan.gov.in. A pop-up window will display two links - vahan.parivahan.gov.in/mobileupdate/ and sarathi.parivahan.gov.in/sarathiservice/mobNumUpdpub.do for updating mobile details. The police advised that the same mobile number linked with Aadhaar must be used for both portals. All updates should be completed by October 23, after which fines and penalties will be imposed during checking. The police also reminded that defaulters must always ask for official receipts when fines are imposed.

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The GST Bachat Utsav, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and commencing on the 22nd of last month, is benefiting the country as a whole. Today, our correspondent brings a report on the GST reforms that are set to empower various sectors in Nagaland. A report:

The ICAR - National Research Centre on Mithun (ICAR-NRCM), Medziphema, celebrated its 38th Foundation Day today. Addressing the event, former Director ICAR-NRC, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, emphasized Mithun's role in strengthening national food security and highlighted its potential as a sustainable livestock resource in the northeastern region. He called for collaborative efforts to scale up Mithun production its quality. He said, scientific innovation and coordinated action in the livestock sector are key to achieving long-term national food and nutritional security under the vision for 'Amrit Kaal' and Viksit Bharat. Meanwhile, GB Member, ICAR, Dr. Kishore Kumar Baruah, urged adoption of advanced technologies like machine learning and precision farming to boost Mithun productivity. He advocated for a circular economy model to maximize benefits for farmers. Other speakers at the event also emphasized integrating Mithun as an essential component of sustainability in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. The event reinforced the traditional significance of Mithun and its role in livestock research and sustainable economic development in the region.

Advisor for School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome has stressed the growing importance of the wellness industry and the role of sports in building health, confidence, and career opportunities. He said while addressing the closing ceremony of the State-Level 'Catch Them Young' Under-14 Sepaktakraw Tournament in Kohima today.

Emphasising the importance of personal discipline and early talent development, he expressed optimism that the tournament aligns with the Nagaland School Sports Policy in identifying an nurturing young talents. Highlighting Sepaktakraw's growth in the state, Mr Yhome encouraged young athletes to aim for national and international platforms. King David Hr. Sec. School, Chümoukedima, emerged as champions in the boys' category while Lorna's Hr. Sec. School, Dimapur, clinched the girls' titles at the tournament.

The 5th All Nagaland Dr. Imkongliba Ao Memorial Volleyball Trophy 2025 kicked off at DDSC stadium in Dimapur today. The three day event will see nine teams compete for the trophy. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Dimapur Municipal Council Chairman Hukheto Yepthomi said events like this strengthen community bonds, standing as a beacon of hope during challenging times, promoting peace, unity and progress. Highlighting the power of sports in fostering resilience and inspiring individuals, Mr Yepthomi encouraged youth to take up sports as a path toward personal growth, discipline, and community harmony. In the inaugural match MH-10 defeated Street Boys Club, Pangti 25-7, 25-7.