

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

Shri Amit Shah inaugurates the North East Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition in Aizawl

Handloom and handicrafts can generate huge employment opportunities in the North East, due to availability of natural resources and presence of traditional culture and skill: Home Minister

In last 5 years, PM Shri Narendra Modi has worked day and night to initiate whole of the North East on a path of peace and prosperity: Shri Amit Shah

Once affected by insurgency, Mizoram today stands as a symbol of peace and fraternity and is giving this message to the whole World: Shri Amit Shah

Home Minister stresses on the importance given to North East by Narendra Modi Government and gives details of developmental initiatives taken in last 5 years

New Delhi, October 5, 2019

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the North East Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition in Aizawl, Mizoram today. Also gracing the occasion were Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Zoramthanga and Union Minister of State (IC) for Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Departments of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh.



Addressing at the event, the Home Minister expressed happiness to visit one of the most beautiful states in India and called it an important representative of Indian Democracy. "Once affected by insurgency and separatism, today Mizoram stands as a symbol of peace and fraternity and is giving this message to the whole World", he added.

Shri Shah said that this is the first Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition being organised in the North East. Handloom holds the capability to generate huge employment opportunities in the North East and play an important role in the growth and development of the people, he said.



Shri Shah observed that India's North East is rich in availability of forest produce and other raw materials for the handloom and handicraft sector. Combining this with the traditional culture of making handicrafts and presence of skilled people, he said, handicrafts can play a pioneering role in the development of the North East.

The Home Minister said that during the first Narendra Modi Government, Bamboo was taken out of the list of trees that were prohibited for felling due to environmental concerns. With this decision, the availability of Bamboo has been increased to facilitate the handicrafts sector by the government. The region that would benefit the most would be the North East, he added.



Talking about the steps taken under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to make the North East prosper, Shri Shah said that the PM has worked day and night to initiate whole of the North East on a path of peace and prosperity. In Mizoram, in the last 5 years, a number of developmental projects have been initiated which include 60 MW Tuirial hydro electric power project. The Home Minister also expressed confidence that by 2021, Aizawl would be connected by broadgauge railways. The Kaladan multi modal waterway and establishing of new border hats would bring huge opportunities of trade and commerce to Mizoram. Other initiatives that have been initiated in Aizawl are Greater Aizawl water project, state referral hospital, state sports academy, horticulture colleges and a cricket stadium, he added.



Drawing a comparison with the previous government, Shri Shah said that Mizoram received over Rs. 19,970 crores during 13th Finance Commission (FC), whereas, during the 14th FC, over Rs. 42, 970 crores have been spent by the Modi Government for Mizoram's development. He also gave details of progress on various flagship schemes of Government of India like LPG connections under PM Ujjwala Yojana, houses under PM Awas Yojana, bank accounts opened under PM Jan Dhan yojana, loans given to Mizo youth under PM Mudra yojana, building of national highways, household electrification and construction of toilets in Mizoram. Today, Mizoram is a totally open defecation free state, he noted with pride.

Stressing on the importance the government gives to the development of the North East, Shri Shah said, "Narendra Modi Government is totally committed to ensure development of Mizoram and to find solutions to all kinds of challenges that the state is facing". He concluding the address by assuring the Mizoram CM of government of India's full cooperation and assistance in taking the state on the path of swift progress and development.

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