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'1 million Heros' training displaced persons of Manipur in crocheting amigurumi doll making

BISWADEEP GUPTA
IMPHAL, SEPT 16

In a relief camp Khangabok in Thoubal district of Manipur houses around 210 people. A new light of ray is being ushered in where '1 million Heros', a global, multi-platform entertainment brand, dedicated to inspire and instill confidence in a generation of children around the world has come up with an idea for sustainable livelihood for the internally displaced persons in Manipur.

'1 million Heros' team is training the displaced persons in crocheting amigurumi dolls for global sales.

It is one of the five relief camps across Manipur where amigurumi doll making training is being imparted to inmates, mostly women.

36-year-old Laishram Geeta Leima, mother of 3, is one of the trainees pinning her hope on crocheting for short term livelihood of her family in these times of trouble. She had to flee for safety when her village in Sugnu Awang Leikai in Kakching district was attacked by armed miscreants on 27th May. Geeta sees a ray of hope in the art of crochet being easy to master, satisfying and productive as well.

Many in Manipur are languishing in make-



shift relief camps as an impact of the ongoing violence in the State that has so far killed over 175 lives, injured at least 1,108 and 4,786 houses set on fire

Since August first week, the '1 million heroes' has been visiting relief camps and training interested persons to crocheting amigurumi dolls, providing them with the know-hows, detailed templates, the tools and raw materials.

The target is to train groups of individuals in 5 relief camps and each camp specializing in each of the 5 characters, conceived as the first line of the global amigurumi doll brand. The characters include – Buddy- the pet Dog, Mitten-the Cat, Raja-the Tiger, Oliver -the Bear and Bola – the Buddy

Besides several private enterprises conducting livelihood activities training at the re-

lief camps, Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM) of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department of the Government of Manipur has also organized different livelihood activities training programmes, such as agarbatti-making, floor disinfectant like phenyl, detergent-making, liquid dishwash making, cocoon reeling, scrunchies making and paper bag, targeting the internally displaced persons sheltered in relief camps with the objective to generate easy cash with short term livelihoods activities. A total 184 inmates of relief camps in Imphal East district alone were benefited by way of wages through these programmes.

Contributing towards the rehabilitation of the inmates of the relief camps, Commissioner of Trade, Commerce & Industries, Government of Manipur, PK Jha assured that the Manipur Handloom and Handicraft Corporation will buy all the products made in the relief camps and give money immediately.

At a time when memories of their houses set ablaze are fresh and people continue to be displaced, other than the economic aspects the dollmaking also help in improving the mental health of the victims of violence by diverting the bad memories to create puffy, beautiful dolls, that give them self-confidence and hope.

Vice-President confers Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards



NEW DELHI, SEP 16

The Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar today emphasized the need to promote India's glorious cultural heritage of India, spanning over 5000 years. He called upon the media to recognize our cultural heritage and expressed the need to protect, support and nurture our artists in a structured manner.

Addressing a gathering after conferring the

Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, the Vice President expressed his happiness in honoring the individuals whose contributions uphold the cultural heritage and pride of the nation.

Expressing his profound admiration for individuals, all above 75 years of age, awarded today, Dhankhar highlighted the historical disparity in acknowledging the achievements of these distinguished personalities. Referring to

many unsung heroes whose contributions have been recognised through Padma Awards in recent years, he noted the massive public approval of Awards to such individuals.

While describing veteran artists as the true defenders and architects of our cultural heritage, Dhankhar stated that their invaluable contributions should have been recognized long ago. He also lauded the resplendent display of Indian culture on the global stage during the G-20 summit, and expressed confidence that with right leadership in place, India will reach its pinnacle on the global stage in 2047.

Quoting from Justice Ansaria's judgment, the Vice President recounted a conversation between a soldier and a professor and underlined that these individuals who have been honoured today are the real protectors of our cultural heritage.

Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of Law and Justice of India, Meenakshi Lekhi, MoS External Affairs and Culture, Dr Sandhya Purecha, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi, senior officials from the Ministry of Culture, eminent artists from across the country and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

49th Foundation Day of Manipur Journalists celebrated in low-key affairs

KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU
IMPHAL, SEPT 16

Working journalists representing various media houses across the state paid floral tributes to the memorial pillar of the departed members of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) at the Press Club complex, Imphal on Saturday.

The tributes to those former newsmen were paid as a part of the 49th Foundation Day celebration of the AMWJU, the apex journalists' body in the state, which was held on Saturday. The observation paved the way for the completion of 50 years of its establishment next year.

The celebration was organized in a scaled-down manner owing to the unrest situation in the state but the key affairs of observation would be organized for a year to mark the Golden Jubilee year celebrations, the president of the AMWJU president Bijoy Kakchingtabam said.

On the occasion, a 2-minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to those departed souls. Besides, founder members of AMWJU were also honored with a citation. It was attended by Founder members of the journalists' body, Th Tarun Kumar, Keisam Shyamkishore, President of Editor Guild of Manipur Khogendra Khondram, and incumbent president of the AMWJU Bijoy Kakchingtabam as dignitaries on the dais.

Manipur Govt to work six-day a week: CM

IMPHAL, SEPT 16

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today launched the Swachhata Hi Seva in the State at the Cabinet Hall, CM Secretariat.

As a prelude to Swachh Bharat Diwas, the annual Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) fortnight, being jointly organised by Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban and Grameen between 15th Sept to 2nd Oct '23 was launched yesterday by Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri and Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh.

The 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign's theme for 2023 is 'Garbage Free India'.

He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, the country has witnessed a big difference in the country's rivers, lake, municipality areas, etc, during the past nine years, the Chief Minister said various schemes have also been introduced in the State including the Nambul River Rejuvenation Project.

The Chief Minister said that waste water from 72 drains will be trapped and treated at Heirangoithong Waste Treatment Plant before



release to the River. He added that the State has already received the technical clearance for similar projects for Imphal River and Kongba River from the Centre and that two other projects for Moirang River and left out portion of Nambol River are in the consideration stage.

N. Biren Singh also said that four more projects for Thoubal River, Chakpi River, Moreh River, Heirok River are in the DPR stage.

Keeping Manipur clean and hygienic is the collective responsibility of the people, the Chief Minister said and further called on all including meira paibis, students, local clubs, panchayat level to join the fortnight long campaign till

October 2 to keep the environment clean.

He expressed the need for unity among all sections of the society including government officials, general public, elected members in making Manipur a lively State by taking part in tree plantation drives, safeguarding water bodies, etc.

He said that the tender process for Lamphelpat Project is already complete and dredging work will commence in the first phase.

Expressing serious concern on the lack of rainfall and the ecological imbalance, the Chief Minister also spoke on the need for rain water harvesting, tree plantation, safeguarding forest cover.

He further mulled the idea of making it mandatory for all households to harvest rainwater. There is also another long-time plan project in the pipeline to create reservoirs by bringing water through pipes from the Loktak Project, he added. N. Biren Singh also said that starting from October, the government is planning to resume the six-day working week and there will be no holidays on Saturdays. He said that in the last six or so years, Manipur had achieved so much with the support of the people.

WHO SAID WHAT

Deeply saddened by the news of Anantnag terror attack and the loss of lives of four soldiers. Terrorism must be stopped.

~ Taslima Nasreen, Author.

KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED

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HINDI IS INTEGRATING BHARAT

Three languages that are very pertinent in our lives in India are our mother tongue, English and Hindi. Mother tongue is what we definitely inherit and English is something we strive to master but what binds India across the length and breadth of the country is Hindi. Though there are differences of perception and politically we become very sensitive many a time when Hindi is given some priority by the Centre, we start objecting to accept the dominance of Hindi and its imposition on us.

Most of the North eastern states of India does not study Hindi nor does it culture it in their daily needs as many revolutionary groups across the region had objected and banned its use in past decades. Subsequently, sentiments are fueled by politicians for their own sweet purpose. Same is with the southern region where any special mention of Hindi creates emotions flaring.

But if we observe the last few decades, with the penetration of cable networks into our homes and now the new media, the people are slowly getting glued to the language. The TV opera and serials had hooked youths and housewives to mega family shows. Reality shows have taken people to another dreamland and migration of people for education and profession has made it necessary for us Indians to have a common language. Hindi has filled up that space and we are quite accommodating it with the use of the language.

A country like India with such diversity, it is very difficult to have a common language but this diversity is the strongest reason to have a common communicating language that the whole of the nation can understand and communicate. The very reason we can sing our National Anthem keeping our head high.

The Hindi language has done its part and people have adopted it as the second language after their mother tongue. It will be self-serving if the politician can leave it aside for their selfish needs, divisive force using it as a tool to divert attention and Central Government not to forcefully impose it on people.

Let us bind ourselves as a nation, concentrate on our local development and culture, our tradition and let language be not a reason we fight among ourselves but let us cherish our rich culture, diverse traditions and various languages.

Let Hindi or any other language flourish but we definitely need a common language to communicate, transact, and showcase. English cannot be that language as it is a foreign language. So what better than Hindi? Jai Hind!

Quote of the day

"THE MOST DANGEROUS THINGS IN THE WORLD ARE IMMENSE ACCUMULATIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE MANIPULATED BY ONLY A FEW HEADS."

~ CARL JUNG

MDBs, DPI, Biofuels | G20 Opens Up Many Doors

SHIVAJI SARKAR

The G20 year-long India presidency bash achieves a lot amid global Ukraine-Russia conflict overshadowing the bid for peace. India's bilateral with the US, neighbours and Indian Ocean partners Mauritius and neighbour Bangladesh clinch many issues. The G20 has sealed many pacts on digital payments, debt, multilateral development banks, crypto currency, One Future Alliance (OFA), biofuels alliance and a greater push to sustainable development goals (SDGs) since November 2022 at 220 meetings spread across 60 cities in 28 States.

India has included Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore and UAE as the guest countries. It also insists that Africa is given special treatment as well. This is an Indian overreach to give a new dimension to global discussions.

The summit sums it up with bridging divides, breaking barriers, sowing seeds of collaboration in a world where unity prevails over discord, says Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he connects G20 to ASEAN meet being held in Malaysia.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said India's G20 Presidency, which focused on supporting "inclusive" and "sustainable" global growth, held several "rich and intense" discussions with members on strengthening MDBs (multilateral development banks.) There is a general consensus on four key financial matters – including the Global South in industrial economies' growth strategies, restructuring MDBs for inclusive global growth, leveraging digital technology for societal development and exploring potential of new technology for common good. At the same time, the country has shown a finesse of holding and spreading G20 meets in remote areas and exposing people to the grand G20, an effective extension of G7 and its multinationals. India has steered a global developmental agenda.

The grand operations were allocated Rs 990 crore for the bid to bring a new world economic order. While the budget for direct expenses related to the presidency has been presented, the government has also spent money on preparation of New Delhi for the grand summit. Over Rs 4,100 crore was spent on Delhi in the lead up to the G20 summit, according to a document posted by Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi on X. As per the document, the cost was incurred by Delhi and Central government

agencies. Closures of core area markets for smoothening security also has cost the local business, trade bodies say.

According to the report, the money was spent on roads, security, footpaths and lighting, among several other things. Several sculptures have also been installed at various places in the national capital as part of the makeover process. Other direct costs related to the event being held in Delhi have not been revealed so far. In many cases the State governments also spent to spruce up the meet venues on their home turf.

Such summits bring in benefits as well open up doors of multinational corporations to increase their footprints as well. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meets held in New Delhi also had a cost. The Asiad Games and Commonwealth Games and several other international conferences have given India the expertise to hold mega shows over decades, starting from 1951 Asiad Games.

A key achievement of the G20 summit is to see the emergence of an India-led multilateral and multi-stake holder institution dedicated to taking Indian experience of digital public infrastructure (DPI) global, called the One Future Alliance (OFA). The OFA will be the third major international institution to be pioneered by India under Modi. It also paves the way for a Global Biofuels Alliance, a multi-system low carbon pathway. The Union Cabinet approved it and it is being considered a major takeaway of the summit. This will open up sharing of best bio-fuel practices.

The others are the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The OFA, if successful, will aim at building capacity, provide funding, offer technical assistance and synergise global efforts in the domain of DPI. It will be supported by a new Global DPI Depository, a virtual and voluntary bank of DPI initiatives of G20 members. The headquarters may just be in India. The DPI and the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan 2024-26 will play a crucial role in enabling progress towards SDG, a key United Nations objective.

The other area of convergence is around the regulation of crypto currency and its assets. The crypto currency has huge risks as highlighted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Financial Stability Board. The IMF-FSB underlined macro-economic risks and has now laid down a comprehensive road map on crypto asset

regulation.

All of it is an outcome of the 27 meetings, including four ministerial meetings across 12 States and two Union Territories, hosting 3000 delegates. The summit has assembled over 30,000 delegates, official entourage, business participants and 3000 journalists covering the programme from across the globe. Indeed, a mega show.

Another major achievement is to shake up the multilateral development bank (MDB) for the 21st century. This is based on the work of an expert group led by US Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and Indian 15th Finance Commission chair NK Singh. The group submitted its first report in July 2023 in Gandhinagar. It will give its second report in Marrakesh in October. The debt management mechanism like that of Sri Lanka, Gambia, and Ghana has also been discussed. However, China is opposed to it.

The G20 has worked out a broad consensus around the issue of climate finance and enhancing the role of MDBs. A related issue pertains to setting up a G20 Technical Assistance Action Plan (TAAP) and the recommendations made to overcome data-related barriers to climate investments in a transitional world. It was originally termed as climate transition. Saudi Arabia objected to it and it was simplified to transition. Despite Russia's objection, G20 has agreed to express concern over macroeconomic consequences of food and energy requirements. This hits the low-income countries (LIC) the most.

Consensus has not been easy. Brazil and South Africa helped India forge a text in the last minute negotiations where Russia and China took tough stands. The Indian presidency would be remembered for enshrining G20 with its stamp of a compassionate voice for poor nations, particularly the Global South.

As Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said, "It's a fact that the industrial economy comes from a vastly different economic base, social base, and the Global South comes from a different economic base. But this is not to say that the priorities, interests and the concerns of the Global South are not relevant in the context of the G20. . . If anything, they are perhaps, central to the effective functioning and successful outcome". The years ahead would unfold the benefits the world has because of India. —INFA

CLIMATE INACTION PUTS LIVES ON THE LINE: WMO

UN NEWS

UN Secretary-General António Guterres echoed that message, warning that record temperatures and extreme weather were "causing havoc" around the world.

The global response has fallen "far short", Mr. Guterres insisted, just as latest UN data indicates that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are only 15 per cent on track at the midway point of the 2030 Agenda.

'Supercharge progress' on SDGs According to WMO, current policies will lead to global warming of at least 2.8 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels over the course of this century – well above the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C.

This year's northern hemisphere summer has been the hottest on record, prompting the UN chief last week to reiterate his call for a "surge in action".

In his foreword to the report, Mr. Guterres underscored that weather, climate, and water-related sciences can "supercharge progress on the SDGs across the board".

Lives in the balance The United in Science report, which combines expertise from 18 UN organizations and partners, shows how climate

science and early warnings can save lives and livelihoods, advance food and water security, clean energy and better health.

After recent flooding in Libya that has claimed thousands of lives, WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas stressed that a lack of adequate forecasting capacity can have deadly consequences for a country when faced with extreme weather events.

He highlighted the risky situation developing in Sudan, where conflict has crippled the agency's capacity to forecast hazards. The head of the country's met service told him that most of her staff members escaped Khartoum and were unable to "run their business in a normal way", he said.

"They are not able to forecast this kind of high-impact weather events anymore," he warned.

Tweet URL

Extreme weather events are also a key factor in the spread of global hunger and the new report seeks to inform urgent action on this front as the UN estimates that nearly 670 million people may be food insecure in 2030.

The report's authors explore the link between life-saving food production and nutrition, and investments in weather sci-

ences and services which enable farmers to make decisions on crops and planting.

Early warnings are also crucial to "helping identify potential areas of crop failure that may lead to emergencies".

Anticipate deadly outbreaks

"United in Science" includes analysis from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which warned that climate change and extreme events such as heatwaves are set to "significantly increase ill health and premature deaths".

The report's findings show that integrating epidemiology and climate information makes it possible to forecast and prepare for outbreaks of climate-sensitive diseases, such as malaria and dengue.

Limit losses from disasters

Early-warning systems can also help to reduce poverty by giving people the chance to anticipate and "limit the economic impact" of disasters.

The WMO-led report shows that between 1970 and 2021, there were nearly 12,000 reported disasters from weather, climate and water extremes, causing \$4.3 trillion in economic losses – the majority of them in developing countries.

Manipuri Wushu Players And Coach Excluded For Indian Squad For The Asian Games On Whimsical Grounds



**WAARI SINGBUL NETWORK
IMPHAL, SEPT 16**

The adage that Manipur is a powerhouse of sports in the country suffers a serious blow as two reigning national wushu champions and India's seasoned Taolu Coach, who has produced a number of international and national champions are left out from the Indian squad for the 19th Asian Games 2023 scheduled from 23 September to 8 October at Hangzhou, China.

For Wushu Taolu players, Hanjabam Karnajit Sharma and Leimapokpam Sanatombi Chanu from Manipur, both reigning national champions, undergoing Asian Games coaching at Patiala, not finding their names in the Indian squad after being selected in the Indian trials is their worst nightmare.

The same is true of Taolu Coach Mayanglambam Sachidananda who has been excluded from the national squad for the third consecutive time despite being the most senior and experienced Taolu coach who had produced several national and international Taolu champions.

The two wushu athletes' dream to compete at the Asian Games representing the country has been snatched away by a whimsical decision of the selectors concerned. It has been a devastating blow, besides world championships, Asian Games is the most reputed competitive platform as the game is still yet to be included in the Olympics.

Apparently, the players were dropped from the Indian squad on the grounds that they have no international tournament achievement to show their worth. Officials of the ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports who are responsible

for the selection have apparently taken the Moscow Wushu Star Championship 2023 as the criteria without any formal notification to that effect and because of the Covid 19 pandemic, major international championships were cancelled or postponed till date.

Mayanglambam Amitkumar, a Wushu coach and a former international Indian Wushu player from Manipur appealed to the ministry to reconsider its decision. He has a strong view that the performances of the players at the trials should take precedence for the country to garner medals in the Asian Games.

"Because of Covid, all big international tournaments were cancelled or postponed till now. So there is no chance of participating in such tournaments to show the performance for the country. But they have taken one tournament, Moscow Wushu Star as a criteria. It is an invitation tournament. We didn't have any pre-government sanction for the tournament. So, most of our best players didn't go for that tournament", he said.

Further Amitkumar continued, "In this scenario, the trail selection conducted by the federation should take precedence of the Moscow tournament. It doesn't make sense to send underperforming players instead of the best players. Priority should be given to the best performers to represent the nation." Meanwhile, the Wushu Association of India as well as the Sports minister of Manipur has written to the ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to reconsider its decision and consider including the two Manipuri Wushu players and the coach so that justice may be delivered to them.



Tripura CM meets PM Modi on Saturday

MoS Kaushal Kishore visits Belonia in Tripura



AGARTALA, SEP 16

Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore participated in a review

meeting at the conference hall of Belonia Circuit House on Thursday where the developmental work of various departments of South Tripura district was reviewed.

District Magistrate Saju Vaheed A of South Tripura district highlighted the progress of the work of the departments of education, health, drinking water, roads, transport, water resources, rural development,

urban development, agriculture, electricity, social welfare and social education. He drew the attention of the Union Minister regarding the establishment of railway connection with Bangladesh from Belonia, problem of integrated check post, opening of Maitri Setu, long-distance train that will start from Sabroom and stop at Belonia station. The Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs assured to solve the problems through discussion with the concerned department. Kaushal Kishore discussed in detail how drug addiction is destroying the youth and the causes of drug addiction and its ill effects. He called for a drug-free India and Tripura. Among others present in the meeting were Private Secretary to Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs MB Singh, Director of Urban Development Department Rajat Pant, Additional District Magistrate Santosh Das, District Officers of various departments, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of three sub-divisions, BDOs of all blocks of the district.

Gunmen shoot an abducted man: Manipur Police

**KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU
IMPHAL, SEP 16**

An alleged abducted man was shot at a place in Moirang about 42 km from Imphal on Friday night, a police report said here on Saturday. Somorjit Nongthombam, 43, a resident of Uripok Naoremthong in Imphal East district was reportedly abducted by unknown armed miscreants from a place in Imphal. The gunmen shot at Somorjit at a secluded place in Moirang under the Moirang police station at about 7 p.m. on Friday, the police said.

Somorjit suffered a bullet injury in his left calf. The single bullet passed through his calf, the police said. After giving first aid at the Moirang Health Center, he was evacuated to the hospital in Imphal, the police said. The cause of the crime is under investigation and no underground outfit claims responsibility over the incident as of now. Police said a case has been registered in this connection and attempts are on to nab the culprits at the earliest.

NBSE Announces Tentative Examination Schedule For 2024



KOHIMA, SEPT 16

The Nagaland Board of School Education has released a notification

to inform all educational institutions that the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC), Class XI Promotion, and Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (HSSLC) Examinations for the year 2024 are tentatively scheduled to begin in the 3rd week of February 2024 and may conclude by the 2nd week of March

2024. Registered schools have been requested to take note of these dates and plan their academic activities accordingly. It is important that students are also made aware of these tentative examination dates so they can prepare and organize their studies for the upcoming examinations. Additionally, it has been announced that the Phase II Examinations for Class VIII & IX for the year 2023 will commence from 2nd December 2023.

Naga Students' Association urged the CM

IMPHAL, SEP 15

The All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) has urged the Chief Minister of Manipur on Thursday "to declare the results of the interview which was held in the month of September 2021 for the appointment of 190 posts of assistant professors (145+45-ST Special Drive) for the government colleges of Manipur in the light of Article 14, 15, 16 and 21 of the constitution of India".

Two promising students of poor families given Rs 50,000 each by Assam Rifles

**KRC TIMES MANIPUR BUREAU
IMPHAL, SEPT 16**

Two promising students who were facing financial support owing to the ethnic violence were provided Rs 50,000 each in a simple function held at the Saini School, Imphal on Saturday.

The function was organized by the Assam Rifles. Cadet RK Lingelsana, a girl student in class 6, hailing from Moreh, Tengnoul district of Manipur, and Cadet Robinson, a student in class 10, from Phayeng, a scheduled caste village in the state were given Rs 50,000 each for their further studies.

The official distribution of



financial support took place on Saturday at Sainik School, Imphal, and was attended by the school's Principal, staff members, parents of the students, and esteemed alumni of Sainik School Imphal. The two students after the function said that the assistance ensured them of pursuing their education without interruption as of this current year.

QUEST

Your brain makes decisions for you seconds before you realize you're making a decision.

Indian Pollution Control Vessel deployed to ASEAN countries

As part of India's initiative for Marine Pollution Response in the region

NEW DELHI, SEPT 16

The Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Prahari, a specialized Pollution Control Vessel, is currently on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries from 11 Sep to 14 Oct 2023. This deployment is part of India's ASEAN initiatives for Marine Pollution Response, showcasing the Pollution Response capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and its commitment to addressing marine pollution issues and enhancing capacity in the region.

The ship is equipped with a Chetak Helicopter in Pollution Response configuration, enhancing its capabilities

in this area. This initiative was announced by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh during the ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting Plus meeting in Cambodia in November 2022.

During this deployment, the ship is scheduled to make port calls in Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh, and Jakarta. It will demonstrate the ICG's pollution response capabilities and its dedication to collaborative efforts for marine pollution response.

As part of an overseas exchange program, the ship has embarked 13 NCC cadets to participate in "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan," an international outreach program focused on beach

clean-ups and similar activities in coordination with partner nations.

This visit holds significant importance in strengthening bilateral relationships with key maritime agencies, including the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Centre and BAKAMLA (Indonesia Maritime Security Agency). These relationships have evolved over the years to ensure the safety, security, and cleanliness of the seas in the region. Engagements with senior officials and personnel from these agencies during the visit will further enhance regional safety and security.

The visit's agenda includes professional exchanges, cross-deck visits,

planning and tabletop exercises, joint exercises, as well as official and social engagements including visits to capacity-building facilities.

The visit of ICGS Samudra Prahari to ASEAN countries reinforces India's continuous efforts to foster friendly relations through maritime cooperation. This aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, known as "SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region," which seeks to unite the region. It also echoes the Indian government's theme during its G20 Presidency: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – One Earth, One Family, One Future.

23 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode approved

NEW DELHI, SEPT 16

The Government of India has approved the initiative of setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership with NGOs/Private Schools/State Governments in a graded manner class-wise, starting from Class 6th onwards. Under this initiative, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been signed by Sainik Schools Society with 19 New Sainik Schools located all over the country.

Following further evaluation of applications for opening new Sainik Schools under partnership mode, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has approved setting up of 23 New Sainik Schools in partnership mode. This initiative has increased the tally of new Sainik Schools under partnership mode functioning under the aegis of Sainik School Society to 42 apart from the existing 33 Sainik Schools already functioning under the erstwhile pattern.

The objectives behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools is to provide quality education to the students in tune with National Education Policy and give them better career opportunities, including joining the Armed Forces. It also gives an opportunity to the private sector to work hand-in-hand with the Government towards nation building by refining today's youth to become responsible citizens of tomorrow.

These new Sainik Schools, besides their affiliation to respective education boards, will function under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society and will follow the Rules and Regulations for new Sainik schools in partnership mode prescribed by the Society. In addition to their regular affiliated board curriculum, they will also impart education of Academic PLUS curriculum to the students of Sainik school pattern.

Modi to launch PM-VISHWAKARMA Scheme on Sunday

NEW DELHI, SEPT 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Central Sector Scheme PM-VISHWAKARMA on September 17 at New Delhi. The new scheme intends to provide recognition and holistic support to the traditional artisans & craftsmen working with their hands and elementary tools, so as to improve the quality, scale and reach of their products and also to integrate them with MSME value chains.

Under the whole-of-the government approach, the event would also be organised at about seventy locations in different parts of the country to spread wider awareness among beneficiaries.

The arts and crafts of India are distinct, rich in antiquity, values and conviction. Traditional Artisans and Craftsmen, customarily called as

'Vishwakarmas', work in an artistic capacity, both creating items with their hands using traditional tools and techniques. The Vishwakarmas are the builders of this country. The Union Cabinet of India, on August 16 of this year took a decision for the traditional artisans & craftsmen, by giving its nod to implement a new scheme namely "PM Vishwakarma Yojana" in the whole of India.

18 Traditional Trades are included by Government of India under PM Vishwakarma Yojana: Fishing Net Maker, Tailor (Darzi), Washerman (Dhobi), Garland Maker (Malakaar), Barber (Nai), Doll and Toy Maker (Traditional), Basket/ Mat/ Broom Maker/ Coir Weaver, Mason (Rajmistri), Cobbler (Charmkar/ Shoesmith/ Footwear Artisan), Sculptor

(Moortikar/Stone Carver), Stone Breaker, Potter (Kumhaar), Goldsmith (Sonar), Locksmith, Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Blacksmith (Lohar), Armourer, Boat Maker, Carpenter (Suthar). The roles of net makers and boat makers in development of small-scale industries and fisheries sector are imperative; they play a vital role in the smooth functioning of our fishing industry and serve as backbone of Indian marine fisheries. The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise is the nodal ministry of PM Vishwakarma Yojana. Multiple implementation activities planned under the scheme includes identification & verification of beneficiaries, their mobilization for skill up-gradation training, facilitating credit support, marketing support, etc. to enable them to move up the value-chain.

175 persons killed, 1108 injured, 32 missing in communal clash: Manipur Police



IMPHAL, SEPT 16

Inspector General of Police, (Operation), Manipur police, Dr. IK Muivah on Thursday said that a total of 175 persons including women and children lost their lives as of September 14, 2023, in the ongoing communal carnage. The senior police officer was talking to newsmen at the Manipur police headquarters, Imphal on Thursday. There are 96 unclaimed bodies while the rest have been claimed by the next of

kin of the killed persons, the officer said. 42 unclaimed bodies are at present lying at the Churachandpur district hospital, 28 at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, and 26 at the state government-run Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences. A total of 32 persons are on the missing lists so far and 1108 persons including women and children sustained injuries in the violence, the officer added.



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LETTER WRITING COMPETITION BY DEPARTMENT OF POST

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS
डाई आखर | Dhai Akhar
राष्ट्रीय पत्र लेखन प्रतियोगिता
NATIONAL LETTER WRITING COMPETITION
(2023-24)
"Digital India for New India"

(i) Up to 18 years:- (ii) Above 18 years:-
• Inland Letter Card • Envelope

The letter can be written in English or Hindi or any Vernacular

For details log on to:
www.indiapost.gov.in/vas/Pages/News/Dhai_Akhar_National_Competition

Rules & Regulations

- On A4 sheet or Inland Letter Card (ILC)
- Word limit - 1000 words for Envelope (A4 Sheet)
- 500 words for Inland Letter Card

Eligibility

- Any citizen of India can participate in this competition

Prizes at Circle/State Level

- 1st Prize (4 Nos.): ₹25,000/-
- 2nd Prize (4 Nos.): ₹10,000/-
- 3rd Prize (4 Nos.): ₹5,000/-

Prizes at National Level

- 1st Prize (4 Nos.): ₹50,000/-
- 2nd Prize (4 Nos.): ₹25,000/-
- 3rd Prize (4 Nos.): ₹10,000/-

Last date for posting of Letters/ILC - 31st October

The Department of Post is holding the National Level 'Dhai Akhar' Letter Writing Campaign for the financial year 2023-24 on the theme "Digital India for New India". 'Dhai Akhar' is a National Level Letter Writing Competition on a theme/ subject decided by the Department of Posts.

Participants will write a Letter expressing their views on the subject addressed to the Chief Postmaster General of the respective Circle.

The details of Chief Postmaster General of different Circles are available at <https://www.indiapost.gov.in/VAS/Pages/DirectoryOfEmployees/Category-Head%20of%20Circles>

Eligible participants for Cash awards will be shortlisted first at Circle level and then Directorate level. The campaign started from 01.08.2023 and is upto 31.10.2023.

The theme of the 'Dhai Akhar' Letter Writing Campaign is 'Digital India for New India'. The letter can be written in English/Hindi/any

vernacular Language.

The categories for National Level Dhai Akhar Letter Writing Campaign are

(i) Up to 18 years: (a) Inland Letter Card Category and (b) Envelope Category

(ii) Above 18 years, (a) Inland Letter Card Category and (b) Envelope Category.

The letter can be written on plain A-4 size paper with a word limit of not more than 1000 words under envelope category, or in an Inland Letter Card (ILC) with a word limit of not more than 500 words for ILC category.

Only handwritten letters will be accepted.

The embossed envelope / envelope with required stamp affixed and Inland Letter Card (ILC) will be the permitted stationery for participating in the campaign. The final result at circle level will be declared by December 15, 2023.

The proposed prize money to be given to the winners of Circle Level and National Level Letters in each category are: Rs.25,000/- for First Prize in each Category, Rs.10,000/- for Second Prize in each Category, Rs.5,000/- for Third Prize in each Category. The National Level Prizes are Rs.50,000/- for First Prize in each Category, Rs.25,000/- for Second Prize in each Category and Rs.10,000/- for Third Prize in each Category.

The participants need to submit a certificate of proof of their age. The Envelope/Inland Letter may be superscribed as "DHAI AKHAR Letter".

For more details please log on to www.indiapost.gov.in. <https://www.indiapost.gov.in/vas/Pages/news>

Multi-asset playbook divides mutual fund industry; hybrids in demand



Funds holding a minimum of 65 per cent in equity qualify for equity taxation, while those investing less than 35 per cent in equity are taxed as pure debt schemes.

The rest of the schemes with 35-65 per cent equity exposure qualify for the debt taxation structure that was applicable until the end of FY23 (20 per cent tax with indexation benefits for those holding the units for more than three years).

More recently, Kotak Mahindra and

DSP have launched their schemes in the multi-asset category, both taking a divergent approach.

Nilesh Shah, managing director of Kotak Mahindra AMC, says the fund house evaluated both fund structures before opting for the equity set-up due to two reasons: higher return potential and the possibility to leverage the experience of managing equity-oriented multi-asset fund of funds (FoF) over the years.

"Undoubtedly, it (the debt struc-

ture) would have given us more flexibility.

"But based on our track record of managing multi-asset FoF for the past 19 years, we thought an equity-oriented fund could better optimise the risk and return compared to a debt-oriented fund," he said.

DSP MF cited asset allocation flexibility with the debt taxation structure as the rationale behind its decision to opt for an innovative asset allocation framework.

"Based on our analysis, using arbitrage allocation instead of debt allocation can drag down the returns of the portfolio.

"When interest rates are falling, typically the arbitrage spreads also reduce, and so it reduces the overall returns," said Anil Ghelani, head of passive investments and products, DSP MF.

Most multi-asset fund managers use arbitrage as a strategy to bring down their net equity allocation to below 65 per cent while maintaining the equity-taxation advantage.

According to analysts, the two fund structures have their own merits relative to each other.

For example, equity taxation products give investor the flexibility to withdraw at any time after one year without losing the tax benefits.

In the case of debt taxation, they will have to stay invested for a minimum of three years. "In the case of debt taxation hybrid schemes, the advantage lies in their flexibility to make pure merit-

based allocations," said Arun Kumar, vice-president and head of research, FundsIndia.

The long-term capital gains tax (10 per cent for capital gains of over Rs 1 lakh) kicks in for equity funds after one year, while in debt, the minimum holding period is three years.

"While the fund suitability differs from investor to investor, the tax impact on returns is likely to be similar across schemes for those investing for the medium-to-long term (over three years)," Kumar said.

Apart from the multi-asset route, fund houses are also looking at a little-known hybrid fund category to launch funds with the former debt taxation.

On Monday, 360 ONE launched the first balanced hybrid MF scheme.

WhiteOak MF has also filed papers for a similar scheme.

These will be akin to a balanced advantage fund (BAF), except that the fund manager will have to maintain a minimum 40 per cent allocation in both equity and debt.

In BAFs, fund managers have full flexibility, i.e., the equity or debt allocation can range anywhere between 0 and 100 per cent.

However, only a few fund houses have the option to launch a 'balanced hybrid' fund, given that the MF regulations allow fund houses to launch only one of these two hybrid schemes: balanced hybrid and aggressive hybrid.

Most fund houses already have an aggressive hybrid scheme.