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ASI TO LAUNCH “ADOPT A HERITAGE 2.0 PROGRAMME” INDIAN HERITAGE APP AND E-PERMISSION PORTAL ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has 3696 monuments under protection, which are spread, throughout the country. These monuments not only exhibit the rich cultural heritage of India but also play a significant role in fostering the economical growth. In order to sustain the rich cultural legacy, the heritage sites require time to time enhancement of the amenities. To this end and to further enhance the experience of visitors, ASI will be launching “Adopt a Heritage 2.0” programme on 4th September 2023 at Samvet Auditorium, IGNC, New Delhi. Under this programme, ASI invites corporate stakeholders to enhance the amenities at the monuments by utilizing their CSR funds. The programme is a revamped version of the earlier scheme launched in 2017 and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per AMASR Act 1958. The stakeholders can apply for adopting a monument or specific amenity/ amenities at a monument through a dedicated web portal with URL www.indianheritage.gov.in, which contains details of monuments sought for adoption along with gap analysis and financial estimation of amenities.

Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G Kishan Reddy, spoke about the importance of cultural heritage in shaping our identity. “Our heritage monuments are not mere structures, they are living testaments of our history, art and architecture. The ‘Adopt a Heritage 2.0’ programme seeks to foster collaboration with corporate stakeholders through which they can contribute in preserving these monuments for our upcoming generations”, said the minister. The process for selection will be carried out after due-diligence and discussions with various stakeholders and assessing the economic and developmental opportunities at each monument.

The selected stakeholders will develop, provide and/or maintain amenities in hygiene, accessibility, safety and knowledge categories. In doing so, they will get an opportunity to be recognized as a responsible and heritage-friendly entity. The term of the appointment will be for a period of five years initially, which may be further extended up to five years.

Further, a user-friendly mobile app, named ‘Indian Heritage’ will be launched on the same day, which will showcase the heritage monuments of India. The app will feature state-wise details of monuments along with photographs, list of public amenities available, geo-tagged location and feedback mechanism for citizens. The launch will be in a phased manner, with the ticketed monuments launched in Phase I, followed by the remaining monuments. An e-permission portal, with URL www.asipermisionportal.gov.in for obtaining permission for photography, filming and developmental projects on monuments will also be launched. The portal will fast-track the process for obtaining various permissions and solve operational and logistical bottlenecks involved.

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UNION MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING, SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LEADS THE SECOND DAY OF SAGAR PARIKRAMA

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Economics of Animal-Rearing incl. White, Blue & Pink Revolutions

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala led the second day of Sagar Parikrama along with Minister of State Dr. L. Murugan in the presence of Joint Secretary, Smt. Neetu Kumari Prasad and Chief Executive, National Fisheries Development Board, Dr. L.N Murthy. Sagar Parikrama Yatra reached today at Tharuvaikulam of Tamil Nadu .



Shri Parshottam Rupala along with other dignitaries visited the coastal regions of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts of Tamil Nadu. The delegation also visited Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi district and interacted with beneficiaries such as fishermen, fish farmers. In subsequent interactions at the coastal village, fishermen urged the Ministers on various aspects such as establishing the Harbour at Uvari Village. Fishermen suggested that the department to be renamed with fishermen welfare department. Various scheme beneficiaries, fishermen, fisherwomen, fish farmers and boat owners shared their on-ground experiences with the delegation.

Union minister Shri Parshottam Rupala emphasized on Sea weed cultivation. Shri Rupala said that Sagar Parikrama is being undertaken to understand issues and challenges of fisherman, to directly connect with fishermen and fishing community, to see condition of infrastructure for overall improvement of the Fisheries sector, it will give opportunity to fishermen at their door step. He thanked everyone for providing their valuable time. He has also shared his opinion that carrying out the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY) scheme activities shall have a significant impact on the fisheries sector in India which aims to enhance the production, strengthen coastal ecosystem and productivity of fish through the adoption of modern and

scientific methods of fishing. This will not only boost the income of fishermen and fish farmers but also increase the availability of fish in the market, which will have a positive impact on food security and nutrition. Shri Rupala felicitated with KCC at Uvari Fishing Village to beneficiaries.



MoS, Dr. L. Murugan addressed regarding the schemes such as PMMSY and other multidimensional activities with major focus on increasing fisheries production and productivity for both inland & marine and its associated activities, including infra development, marketing, exports, and institutional arrangements. He highlighted on the announcement made by Government in 2019 about setting up of separate Department of fisheries which was immediately approved by the Prime Minister. He requested volunteers to help in creating awareness of the schemes so that the beneficiaries can take benefit of the same.

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The program continued at Thoothukudi Fishing Harbour with a warm welcome of the delegation and other dignitaries by fishermen and fisher women followed by a prayer.

Shri Parshottam Rupala recognizes the critical role of fish farmers in meeting the growing demand and the invaluable contributions of fishermen and fish farmers who tirelessly work to provide us with a vital source of food and sustenance. He emphasized on sustainable fishing practices that not only increase productivity but also minimize environmental impacts.

Shri Rupala said that due to high demand of fishermen from all over the country to support them in improving their livelihood, Prime Minister established separate department of fisheries. He said that from 1950 to 2014, the investment in fisheries sector was of around Rs 3,681 Cr, since 2014 government has introduced the schemes such as PMMSY, FIDF and others with budget of about Rs. 32,000 Cr. for the development of fisheries sector by understanding the ground realities. He emphasized on the following parameters such as KCC which has been introduced for fishermen & fish farmers, requirement of seaweed cultivation for sustainable opportunity in Tamil Nadu, up gradation of fishing harbours in Tamil Nadu. He appreciated that fish production in Tamil Nadu have been increased and our fishermen have been able to interact through Sagar Parikrama Yatra.



Shri Parshottam Rupala interacted with the President of Fishermen Boat Owner Association, Mr John Boscoa regarding deep-sea fishing vessel and the President of JEEVA Oli Boat Owner Fishing Community Association, Mr Jobai, regarding infrastructure development which will be crucial to gather information and insights about their experiences and challenges. He felicitated the beneficiaries like fishermen, fish farmers and other stakeholders for PMMSY related activities at Thoothukudi Fishing Harbour.

The interaction continued at Tharuvaikulam Fishing Harbour and Mookaiyur Fishing Harbour with coastal communities and fishermen to understand the on-ground scenario which will be an instrument in making informed decisions and supporting fishermen livelihoods. Around more than 2000 fishermen, various fisheries stakeholders, scholars and other officials attended the Sagar Parikrama Phase VII program.

Joint Secretary Smt. Neetu Kumari Prasad enlightened on Sagar Parikrama Phase VIII Yatra in Tamil Nadu. She discussed many prominent issues regarding economic upliftment through various schemes such as PMMSY. She also informed that the team has been taking stoke of all the issues during Sagar Parikrama Yatra such as upgradation of harbours, requirement of new jetty, fishing nets etc.

Sagar Parikrama Phase VIII, which started on 30th Aug 2023 from Vizhinjam, covered Muthalapozy Fishing Harbour, Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour, CMFRI Centre as well as covered along the coast to Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. The Sagar Parikrama Yatra encompass felicitation of beneficiaries, addressing the gathering and interactions with fishermen at various fishing harbours and villages, including Thengapattanam Fishing Harbour, Thoothoor Fishing Village, Vallavilai Fishing Village, Kurumpanai Fishing Village, Vaniyakudi Fishing Village, and Colachel Fishing Harbour. Sagar Parikrama is a program reflecting the far-reaching policy strategy of the government leading to the direct interaction with fishers and fish farmers to understand the issues of coastal areas and problems related to fishermen.

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UNION HOME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION, SHRI AMIT SHAH, LAUNCHED THE AMRIT KALASH YATRA UNDER THE 'MERI MAATI-MERA DESH' CAMPAIGN IN NEW DELHI, TODAY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched the Amrit Kalash Yatra under the 'Meri Mati-Mera Desh' campaign in New Delhi, today. Many dignitaries including the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi and Secretary, Ministry of Culture were present on the occasion.



In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that today's event is somewhat like an evening, as it is happening at a time when India has completed 75 years of independence. He said that upcoming Amritkal and "Sankalp Se Siddhi" will put India at the forefront in every field globally by August 15, 2047. Shri Shah said that India, as envisioned by our freedom fighter, will be created in the next 25 years. He added that over the past 75 years, India has got many achievements, but they are not sufficient. Shri Shah said that after a long period of subjugation and the sacrifices of millions, we gained independence, and in the last 10 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, every Indian has been given the opportunity to come together and help create a greater India.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that the Meri Mati-Mera Desh programme expresses its meaning through its name itself. He said that now we are living in independent India, and for this, millions have made sacrifices. He added that from 1857 to 1947, for 90 years, a long struggle for freedom was fought, and countless known and unknown freedom fighters sacrificed their life to the cause. He said that only a person like Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who is full of patriotism in his heart, could have imagined initiating this journey of “Sankalp se Siddhi”, by taking a pledge with ‘Mitti’ in his hand and paying homage to those who have made the sacrifices. Shri Shah said that the idea behind this programme is that every individual, family, citizen, and child should connect emotionally with the idea of creation of great India. He said that from 1-30th September, every household, ward, and village will collect the ‘Mitti’ or grains in a pot, following it up from 1-13th October at the block and later from 22-27th October at state level, and finally, from 28-30th October these 7,500 pots will reach New Delhi, the capital of the country. Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will put soil from these Amrit Kalash in the Amrit Vatika created at Delhi honour of our great veers, which will keep on reminding every citizen that we must make India great during the period of Amritkal.



Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has integrated several programmes into this initiative, and has providing every Indian with an opportunity to become part of the initiative. He said that a new series has been made by 5 programmes aimed at re-dedicating oneself to the country. Under these progarmmes inscription have been installed in every village of the country, crores of citizens of the country have taken the pledge of 'Panch Pran' which will pave the way to make India great, 75 trees have been planted in the celebration of Amrit Mahotsav under the Vasudha Vandan programme and honouring the heroes and hoisting the national flag has been done.



Union Home Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, organisation of over 2 lakh programmes during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav have once again awakened the spirit of patriotism in the entire nation and these programmes will conclude with Meri Mati-Mera Desh programme. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had called upon all the countrymen from the ramparts of the Red Fort to take 'Panch Pran' – the goal of a developed India, to remove the mentality of slavery, to be proud of our traditions, to dedicate whole life for unity and integrity, and, to awaken a sense of duty in the mind of every citizen. Shri Shah said that these 'Panch Pran' are the highway to building a great India. He said that 23 crore houses, offices and buildings across the country were beautified with the Tricolour after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan'. Shri Shah said that the whole country joined the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan by respecting the call of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the result of this patriotic feeling was that recently our Chandrayaan reached the Shivshakti point on the Moon, which is a very proud moment for all the countrymen. He said that the feeling of pride in the mind of every person of the country has arisen with the tricolor campaign in every house.



Shri Amit Shah said that connecting every person with the future of the country, connecting his feelings with the progress of the country and connecting the efforts of every person with the progress and development of the country is the test of leadership and its responsibility. He said that the whole country is fortunate that after a long time, we have got such a leader like Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who is paving the way to make the country first in the world during Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Shri Shah said that today our economy has moved from 11th to 5th position in the world and soon we will become the 3rd largest economy. He said that the self-confidence that has been awakened in the mind of every citizen of India has happened through such programmes. Shri Shah said that the confidence instilled in the minds of every Indian citizen through such programmes serves as inspiration for our courageous soldiers to carry out surgical strikes, empowers our scientists to develop the COVID-19 vaccine, and provides the courage for ISRO scientists to reach the Moon and the orbit of Sun.



The Home Minister said that Meri Mati - Mera Desh is not just a programme, but it is a medium to connect oneself with the future of the country. Shri Shah said that this programme can become a medium to make oneself a part of the process of making the country great and after 25 years when the present generation will lead a great India, then they will have the satisfaction in their mind that previous generation had helped make a very strong India.

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur during his address said that Meri Maati Mera Desh was not a mere programme but a sentiment, and this sentiment must metamorphose from Jan Bhagidari to Jan Andolan to strengthen India's unity and lay foundations a developed India.

He added that Meri Maati Mera Desh is a movement to immortalise the contribution of unsung heroes of the freedom struggle. Exhorting the people of the nation to participate in this movement, he stated that these unsung heroes had sacrificed their lives for the nation and it was now our turn to contribute towards building a developed India.

The Minister further said that with this initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the country will remember those great men who made valuable contributions for India's independence but did not get due respect.

The "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign is being organized nationwide as the closing program of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities. After the independence of the country, the Amrit Mahotsav Abhiyan stands as a monumental endeavor to commemorate it as India's grandest festival and ceremony.

Saurabh Singh

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HARYANA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA PARTICIPATES IN MERA BILL MERA ADHIKAAR CAMPAIGN; ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO DEMAND A GST INVOICE ON THEIR PURCHASES

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

In order to encourage the culture of generation of GST invoice/bills on payments, Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Dushyant Chautala, participated in the *Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar* campaign in presence of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Revenue (DoR), Government of India; and Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in Gurugram, today.



Shri Chautala, along with senior officials of the DoR, visited a marketplace in Gurugram to encourage customers to demand a GST invoice on their purchases.



The **Mera Bill Mera Adhikar** scheme became active from 12.00 AM on 1st September 2023 and has already gathered pace with more than 1.51 lakh downloads of the app with consumers actively participating in the pilot scheme.

Mera Bill Mera Adhikar

Advisory on
Mera Bill Mera Adhikar

What do you want to do?

- My Invoice
- Help
- Statistics

Upload GST invoices of your purchases & get a chance to earn lucky rewards every month

You can only upload 25 invoices in a month

Take photo via Camera | Choose via Gallery | Upload a PDF

On the occasion, Shri Chautala said, “I laud the GSTN for starting this new initiative from Gurugram in an effort towards making taxation more rewarding for the taxpayers. This scheme will encourage the citizens to ask for the invoice/bills after payment. This will also ensure that the taxpayer’s money reaches its desired destination in the Government.”

Informing about the details of the scheme, Shri Chautala said, “A corpus of Rs. 30 crore has

been made available towards the fund under this initiative on an annual basis. Every Quarter of year, there will be 2 awards worth Rs. 1 crore each, which translates to 8 awards of Rs. 1 crore in a year, will be given to the winners through draw of lots. Every month, there will be 10 awards of Rs. 1 lakh each, and 800 awards of Rs. 10,000 each.”

Concluding his address, Shri Chautala appealed to all the businessmen to encourage customers to take their invoice/bill at the time of purchase and participate in the *Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar* scheme and make it a big success in Haryana.

In his address on the occasion, Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, DoR, said, “The main purpose of this scheme is to encourage customers to use their right to demand for an invoice/bill. This will ensure that they will participate in the *Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar* scheme and also induce them to use bills for other purposes related to the product.”



“We started this scheme on the pilot basis in 3 States and 2 Union Territories and going forward we’ll implement this scheme across India on the basis of the outcomes and learnings from this pilot scheme,” Shri Malhotra said.

Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairman, CBIC, and Shri Shashank Priya, Member, CBIC, also made purchases in the marketplace and received their GST bills to participate in the *Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar* scheme.



Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar Scheme shows the commitment of the Government of India to empower the consumer as it is designed to encourage consumers to demand bills for their purchases from vendors, thereby protecting their rights and promoting transparency in commercial transactions.

This Scheme is built on a foundation of incentives and awareness campaigns, with a multi-pronged approach towards transforming consumer behaviour and fostering accountability among sellers. By facilitating consumers in obtaining and recording their bills, the government is actively involving citizens in combating tax evasion and promoting honest business practices.

On the occasion, Smt. Renu K. Jagdev, DG, Directorate General of Taxpayer Services (DGTS); Shri Upender Gupta, Chief Commissioner, CGST, Panchkula Zone; Shri D. S. Kalyan, Principal Secretary, Excise & Taxation Haryana, and other senior officials of Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Government of Haryana were present.

All B2C invoices issued by GST registered suppliers (registered in the States of Assam, Gujarat & Haryana and UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu) to consumers will be eligible for the scheme. Minimum value for invoices to be considered for a lucky draw has been kept at Rs. 200.

NB/VM/KMN

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ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE SAGAR PARIKRAMA PHASE VIII, MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING, SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LAYS THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTI-PURPOSE SEAWEED PARK IN TAMIL NADU TODAY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

On the third day of the Sagar Parikrama Phase VIII, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala laid the Foundation Stone for the establishment of Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park today in Tamil Nadu. Minister of State, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Dr. L. Murugan, former Minister in the Government of India, Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan, Joint Secretary (Fisheries), GoI, Smt. Neetu Kumari Prasad, Chief Executive, National Fisheries, Development Board (NFDB), Dr. L. N. Murthy, Commissioner of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. K. S. Palanisamy, Collector of Ramanathapuram District, Shri Thiru B. Vishnu Chandran and other key dignitaries were also present on the occasion. This begins a new chapter and is seen as a key strategic initiative to boost the seaweed sector in India.

The program was started with Bhumi Pujanam and foundation-stone laying at the Multipurpose Seaweed Park site, at Valamavur, Thondi, Ramanathapuram by Shri Parshottam Rupala, Dr. L. Murugan and other dignitaries. Prior to arrival at Seaweed Park site at Valamavur, Shri Parshottam Rupala had interactions with groups of fisherwomen engaged in seaweed cultivation at Mandapam centre of CMFRI. He informed the objectives of Seaweed Park namely seaweed cultivation for creation of employment opportunity for the coastal fisher youth and fisherwomen, development of value-added seaweed products by encouraging private sector/entrepreneurs and support them in setting up seaweed processing units in the proposed seaweed park, development of seaweed seed bank in collaboration with research institutes, universities, private entrepreneurs and fisheries department, exploration of untapped seaweed potential in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu through scientific and traditional seaweed farming and development of R&D centres for production of quality seaweed.

The seaweed park includes promotion of seaweed cultivation in 136 coastal fishing villages in 6 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu namely Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi. It will involve and engage manpower of 8821 people to promote their livelihoods, establishment of tissue culture labs and R&D facilities, shore-based infrastructure facilities (drying yard, warehouse etc), skill development and capacity building, storage and marketing facility, processing and value addition facility etc. The seaweed park will also provide a single window support for the entrepreneurs, processors etc. to access information on schemes, licenses/approvals required, while also providing space to set up processing centres.

In addition to promoting seaweed cultivation, the park will also focus on the conservation of marine ecosystems and will house an aquarium highlighting various marine species that rely on seaweed for survival. It is expected to attract tourists, researchers, and entrepreneurs interested in the potential of seaweed as a sustainable resource while serve as platform to create employment opportunities for local communities and contribute to the economic growth of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, Multipurpose Seaweed Park stands not just as a testament to human ingenuity, but as a promise to safeguard the delicate balance of our planet's ecosystems.

Department of Fisheries, Government of India is focused on strengthening the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector by understanding grass root challenges and pave a roadmap with actions that needs to be implemented to make India, a hub for Aquaculture and Fisheries Investment. The core objectives of the “Sagar Parikrama Yatra” are to create awareness among fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders on the sustainable use of marine fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems; to facilitate interaction with fishermen, coastal communities and other stakeholders so as to disseminate information of various fisheries related schemes and programs being implemented by the government and showcasing the best practices that may be adopted; to maximize the benefits of public sector schemes so as to raise the standard of living of the fishers living in the coastal areas; to demonstrate solidarity with all fishers, fish farmers and stakeholders as a spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat; to protect the marine life and sea from pollution and to solve the problems of fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders.

In last seven phases, the East coast has been covered in key locations in coastal areas of Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Phase VIII programme of Sagar Parikrama has been organized during 31st August to 02nd September, 2023 from Kanniyakumari to Ramanathapuram through a pre-decided sea route covering 4 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

In line with the Union Budget 2021 announcement, India’s 1st Fisheries Aquapark in form of ‘Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu’ was announced by Finance Minister. In due course of time with due technical evaluation and due diligence, the project was approved with the total investment of Rs 127.7 crore. Based on the hub-and-spoke model, it aims to promote the cultivation and conservation of seaweed and is envisioned as a research and development centre for seaweed cultivation for scientists and researchers to study different species of seaweed and their potential applications while also serving as a training centre for local communities to create awareness.

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ON THE EVE OF TEACHERS' DAY, PM INTERACTS WITH WINNERS OF NATIONAL TEACHERS' AWARD 2023

Relevant for: null | Topic: Miscellaneous Facts

On the eve of Teachers' Day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with the winners of National Teachers' Award 2023 at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg earlier today. 75 award winners participated in the interaction.

Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of teachers in nurturing the young minds of the country. He highlighted the importance of good teachers and the role they can play in shaping the destiny of the country. He emphasised the importance of inspiring children by educating them about the success of the grassroot achievers.

Prime Minister talked about taking pride in our local heritage and history and urged the teachers to inspire students to learn about their region's history and culture. Highlighting the strength of diversity in the country, he requested the teachers to celebrate the culture and diversity of different parts of the country in their schools.

Discussing the recent success of Chandrayaan-3, Prime Minister underscored the importance of encouraging curiosity in students about science and technology as the 21st century is a technology driven century. He also talked about the importance of skilling the youth and making them future ready.

Talking about Mission LiFE, Prime Minister discussed the importance of recycling as opposed to the use and throw culture. Several teachers also briefed the Prime Minister about the Swachhata programmes being held in their schools. Further, Prime Minister advised teachers to constantly learn and upgrade their skills throughout their career.

The purpose of the National Teachers' Award is to celebrate the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country and to honour those teachers who, through their commitment, have not only improved the quality of education but also enriched the lives of their students. This year, the scope of the award has been expanded from earlier including teachers selected by Department of School Education & Literacy to now also including teachers selected by Department of Higher Education and Ministry of Skill Development.

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ASI'S "ADOPT A HERITAGE 2.0 PROGRAMME" INDIAN HERITAGE APP AND E-PERMISSION PORTAL LAUNCHED

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has 3696 monuments under protection, which are spread, throughout the country. These monuments not only exhibit the rich cultural heritage of India but also play a significant role in fostering the economical growth. In order to sustain the rich cultural legacy, the heritage sites require time to time enhancement of the amenities. To this end and to further enhance the experience of visitors, ASI launched "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" programme on 4th September 2023 at Samvet Auditorium, IGNC, New Delhi. Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G Kishan Reddy, who attended the launch programme virtually, urged all entities to come forward and help in better upkeep and rejuvenation of India's rich cultural heritage, in line with the vision of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi'.

He further said that 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme seeks to foster collaboration with corporate stakeholders through which they can contribute to preservation of these monuments for the next generations.



Under this programme, ASI invites corporate stakeholders to enhance the amenities at the monuments by utilizing their CSR funds. The programme is a revamped version of the earlier scheme launched in 2017 and clearly defines the amenities sought for different monuments as per AMASR Act 1958. The stakeholders can apply for adopting a monument or specific amenities at a monument through a dedicated web portal with URL www.indianheritage.gov.in, which contains details of monuments sought for adoption along with gap analysis and financial

estimation of amenities. Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakashi Lekhi, Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan and Director General of ASI, K. K. Basa, were present on the occasion.



Minister of state for Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, elaborates the importance of cultural heritage in shaping the identity. She said that G20 Presidency is an opportunity to showcase the Cultural heritage of our country. She said that the process for selection will be carried out after due diligence and discussions with various stakeholders and assessing the economic and developmental opportunities at each monument.



The 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme seeks to foster collaboration with corporate stakeholders through which they can contribute in preserving these monuments for our upcoming generations", said the minister. The process for selection will be carried out after due-diligence and discussions with various stakeholders and assessing the economic and developmental opportunities at each monument.



The selected stakeholders will develop, provide and maintain amenities in hygiene, accessibility, safety and knowledge categories. In doing so, they will get an opportunity to be recognized as a responsible and heritage-friendly entity. The term of the appointment will be for a period of five years initially, which may be further extended up to five years.

Further, a user-friendly mobile app, named 'Indian Heritage' also launched on the same day, which will showcase the heritage monuments of India. The app will feature state-wise details of monuments along with photographs, list of public amenities available, geo-tagged location and feedback mechanism for citizens. The launch will be in a phased manner, with the ticketed monuments launched in Phase I, followed by the remaining monuments. An e-permission portal, with URL www.asipermisionportal.gov.in for obtaining permission for photography, filming and developmental projects on monuments was also launched. The portal will fast-track the process for obtaining various permissions and solve operational and logistical bottlenecks involved.

www.indianheritage.gov.in

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SKT

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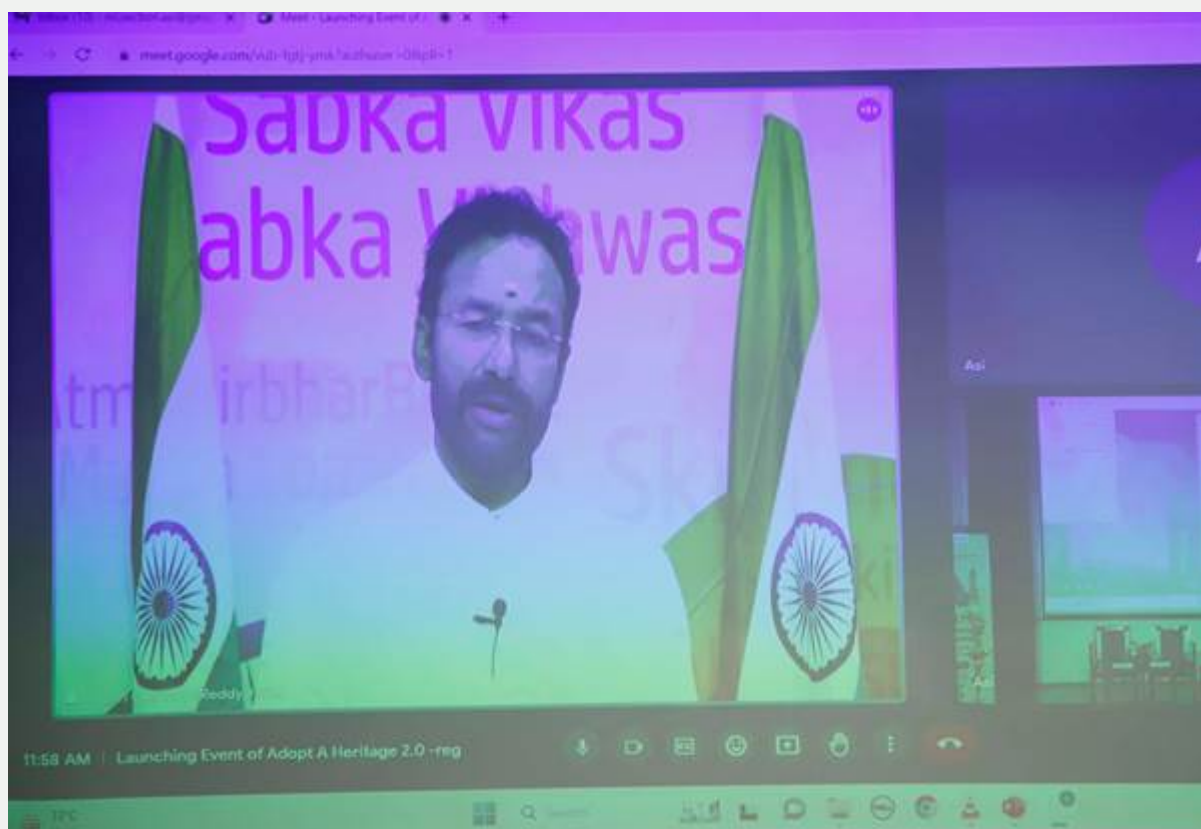
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CONFERENCE ON TRANSNATIONAL GRID INTERCONNECTIONS FOR ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID HELD IN NEW DELHI

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

In the run-up to [the 18th G20 Summit](#), a day-long conference on "Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)" was held in New Delhi, on 6th September, 2023. The conference was organized by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' company under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.

Addressing the conference virtually, Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh said that India has already established cross border interconnections with its neighbours and that strengthening of various cross border links is under process. "OSOWOG will enable all nations to reap the benefit of energy from the sun. This is very relevant to today's context particularly when we are transitioning to renewable energy. It will make round-the-clock renewable energy much cheaper. It will also reduce the necessity for reserves. It will thus bring down the cost of electricity for the general population and will help in energy transition."



The Minister said that once the transnational grid interconnection happens, it will do away with dependence on storage, which is costlier and required for round-the-clock renewable energy. "Once we have OSOWOG, no one will ever have to go without electricity. This will unite the world and ensure energy access to the millions of people who do not have access. It is essential that all of us take this forward, I am sure this will become a reality." The Minister wished the seminar a great success.

Addressed a seminar on 'Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)' through a video message today. pic.twitter.com/m7KCrmE9dE

Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Power, Shri Ashish Upadhyaya; Chairperson, CEA, Shri Ghanshyam Prasad; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shri Ajay Tewari; and CMD, POWERGRID, Shri K. Sreekant, addressed the inaugural session of the seminar, which was attended by think tanks, industry, academia, sector experts and media.

The panel for the conference consisted of eminent experts from India and abroad. Mr. Waleed S. Alsuraiah from The World Bank presented the Transnational Grid Interconnection-Middle East & Africa perspective. He emphasized that once the full Pan Arab Electricity Market (PAEM) is operational, it will enable interregional grids' integration between South Asia via GCC, EU & Africa, and trade with 5 regional electricity markets. The envisaged PAEM grid connects its 3

sub-regions and strengthens the potential for further integration with other regional markets.

“Complementarities of SAARC, BIMSTEC and ASEAN countries can be utilized through transnational interconnections”

Senior Advisor, IRADe, Mr. Pankaj Batra provided the ASEAN perspective stating that the complementarities of energy resources of SAARC, BIMSTEC and ASEAN countries can be utilized through transnational interconnections. Dy. COO, CTUIL, Mr. Ashok Pal discussed technical considerations and business models of existing Indian cross border interconnections. The System Operation Aspects for Regional Grid Interconnection were shared by CMD, Grid Controller of India, Mr. S. R. Narasimhan.

During the seminar, Chief, CERC, Dr. S. K. Chatterjee gave insights into the Regulatory and Legal aspects for Regional Grid Interconnection while Chief Manager, Siemens Energy, Mr. Niket Jain discussed various technologies for transnational interconnections. The session on OSOWOG was moderated by Mr. Shubhranshu Patnaik, Deloitte India. The seminar ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Abhay Chaudhary, Director (Projects), POWERGRID.

Globally, energy transition and energy security, driven by renewable capacity addition are the thrust areas towards sustainability. Considering that the sun never sets and that every hour, half the planet is bathed in sunshine, harnessing energy from sun, wind and water would facilitate generation of clean energy, enough to meet the needs of everyone on the earth. However, this requires transnational exchange of electricity through grid interconnections. These efforts need to be synergized and supplemented by establishing an inter-connected global electricity grid through transnational interconnections. This is the vision for One Sun, One World, One Grid; through development of transnational grid connections towards ensuring energy security for a sustainable future.

Following the theme of G20 “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” i.e. One-Earth, One-Family and One-Future, India under its G20 presidency highlighted the importance of transnational grid Interconnections in enhancing energy security, fostering economic growth, and facilitating universal energy access for all, in affordable, reliable and sustainable manner which will accelerate integration of Renewable Energy towards energy transition, with enhanced resiliency.

In [the recently concluded Energy Transitions Ministerial in Goa](#), all G-20 countries came together on the same page and declared the following in Para No. 5 of the [ETWG Outcome Document and Chair Summary](#).

"We also recognize the role of grid interconnections, resilient energy infrastructure and regional/cross-border power systems integration, where applicable, in enhancing energy security, fostering economic growth, and facilitating universal energy access for all, in affordable, reliable and sustainable manner. In particular, we recognize that expanded and modernized electricity networks will be essential to scale up the deployment of zero and low emission technologies including renewables. This entails enhanced voluntary international cooperation in coordinated planning, mutually agreed information sharing, joint research and development, technical assistance, technology development and harmonization of regulatory frameworks for design, planning and system operations. In this regard, we take note of Presidency's initiative to connect different regional grids through interconnections to transfer renewable energy power. We call for increased public and private investments, noting the important role of International Finance Institutions including Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in supporting developing countries to exploit the full benefits of regional/crossborder interconnections, where deemed

appropriate."

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In the run-up to [the 18th G20 Summit](#), a day-long conference on "Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)" was held in New Delhi, on 6th September, 2023. The conference was organized by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' company under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.

Addressing the conference virtually, Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh said that India has already established cross border interconnections with its neighbours and that strengthening of various cross border links is under process. "OSOWOG will enable all nations to reap the benefit of energy from the sun. This is very relevant to today's context particularly when we are transitioning to renewable energy. It will make round-the-clock renewable energy much cheaper. It will also reduce the necessity for reserves. It will thus bring down the cost of electricity for the general population and will help in energy transition."



The Minister said that once the transnational grid interconnection happens, it will do away with dependence on storage, which is costlier and required for round-the-clock renewable energy. "Once we have OSOWOG, no one will ever have to go without electricity. This will unite the world and ensure energy access to the millions of people who do not have access. It is essential that all of us take this forward, I am sure this will become a reality." The Minister wished the seminar a great success.

Addressed a seminar on 'Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)' through a video message today. pic.twitter.com/m7KCrME9dE

Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Power, Shri Ashish Upadhyaya; Chairperson, CEA, Shri Ghanshyam Prasad; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shri Ajay Tewari; and CMD, POWERGRID, Shri K. Sreekant, addressed the inaugural session of the seminar, which was attended by think tanks, industry, academia, sector experts and media.

The panel for the conference consisted of eminent experts from India and abroad. Mr. Waleed S. Alsuraiah from The World Bank presented the Transnational Grid Interconnection-Middle East & Africa perspective. He emphasized that once the full Pan Arab Electricity Market (PAEM) is operational, it will enable interregional grids' integration between South Asia via GCC, EU & Africa, and trade with 5 regional electricity markets. The envisaged PAEM grid connects its 3 sub-regions and strengthens the potential for further integration with other regional markets.

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MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ, SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH CHAIRS NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON ENABLING 2 CRORE 'LAKHPATI DIDIS' TODAY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) organized a National Conclave today on Enabling 2 Crore 'LAKHPATIDIDIS'- SHG Didis who earn sustainable income of at least Rs one Lakh per annum per Household. Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Singh chaired the National Conclave to review the mission's strategy for the Lakhpati Didi initiative. The ambitious goal was announced by Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2023 in his Independence Day address. He said, "Today 10 crore Rural Women are part of the Self-Help Groups. When you go to a village, you will find 'bank-wali didi', 'Anganwadi didi' and 'dawai-wali (medicine) didi'. It is my dream to make two crore lakhpati didis in the villages".



Addressing the participants, Shri Giriraj Singh said that the mission is inspired and geared to realise Prime Minister's dream in reality with hard work and multi-pronged approach in a time bound manner. He stressed on adopting Whole of Government approach for maximum impact through convergence to transform the rural economy with the enabling of Lakhpati Didis. He added that DAY-NRLM, the flagship poverty alleviation program of the Government of India is the world's largest initiative to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

Minister of State, Rural Development and Steel, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, joining online from Bhopal stated that the Lakhpati Didis, as envisioned by the Prime Minister, are going to be driving the rural economy and landscape in the Amrit Kaal.



Welcoming the participants, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh thanked Minister for his guidance and support in efforts of DAY-NRLM towards enabling Lakhpati Didis and making this a goal for the mission. To give impetus to economic empowerment of Women, the Lakhpati Didi initiative has been initiated by the Mission, wherein each SHG household is encouraged to take up multiple livelihood activities coupled with value chain interventions, resulting in a sustainable income of Rupees One Lakh or more per year.

Setting the context, Additional Secretary, Rural Livelihoods and Mission Director, DAY-NRLM, Shri Charanjit Singh explained the horizon of the Lakhpati Didi initiative and the roadmap the Mission is taking for it. He added that the Mission has adopted WHOLE OF SOCIETY approach where in collaboration and partnership is strengthened with Government, Private Sector, Multi-lateral agencies, CSOs and technical institutions to provide all necessary support in enhancing income of the SHG Households.

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The participants included various partners and support organisations both from the government and development sectors and Lakhpati SHG Didis and SHG Didis who aspire to join the Lakhpati Didi Club alongside State Rural Livelihoods Mission from all over India. Over 1 crore SHG Didis from all over India joined the conclave via webcast.

Joint Secretary, Rural Livelihoods, MoRD, Ms. Swati Sharma in vote of thanks, thanked Minister for the guidance. She also thanked all participants for reflecting their commitment for the initiative. Deputy Director, DAY-NRLM, Shri Raman Wadhwa summed up the key takeaways of the conclave.



Backgrounder:

Some of the key achievements made under the Mission till date are: -

The Mission in its endeavour to empower the SHG women, have made concerted efforts in collectivization of women, strengthening their federations, capacitating them with knowledge and skills for livelihood intervention, financing and credit support etc. for the livelihood augmentation of the SHG women.

The Mission seeks to achieve its objective through investing in four core components viz., (a) social mobilization and promotion and strengthening of self-managed and financially sustainable community institutions of the rural poor; (b) financial inclusion of the rural poor; (c) sustainable livelihoods; and (d) social inclusion, social development and convergence.

Under the Non-Farm strategy, DAY-NRLM works on *Start Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)* that aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up local enterprises. Implemented since 2016-17, nearly 2.45 lakh enterprises have been supported under SVEP thus far.

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INDIA SHOWCASES PM GATISHAKTI NATIONAL MASTERPLAN AT ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S 2023 REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION CONFERENCE

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

India showcased PM Gatishakti National Master Plan at the '2023 Regional Cooperation and Integration Conference: Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration through Economic Corridor Development (ECD)', organized by Asian Development Bank (ADB) at Tbilisi, Georgia. The conference, held from 5th to 7th September, 2023, observed participation from more than 30 member countries comprising senior officials of ADB's Developing Member Countries responsible for ECD, representatives of Development partner agencies and Regional cooperation organizations.

Indian delegation was led by Special Secretary (Logistics), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Sumita Dawra.

The objective of the conference was to (i) explore ways to integrate spatial transformation/area-centric approach with the ECD and strengthen regional cooperation through a broader approach; and (ii) Knowledge sharing on application of the Economic Corridor Development (ECD) framework and operational guidelines, onto investable projects.

Ms Dawra informed the conference that PM GatiShakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, a Made in India initiative, is a transformative 'whole-of-government' approach for integrated planning of multimodal infrastructure connectivity to economic nodes and social infrastructure, thereby improving logistics efficiency. PM Gati Shakti principles bring socio-economic area-based development as part of regional connectivity. She mentioned the Government of India's (GoI) targeted interventions and huge capex push to infrastructure investments and adoption of geospatial and other cutting-edge technologies towards transforming the entire logistics and infrastructure ecosystem.

She showcased PM GatiShakti, the GIS data-based, 'whole of Government' approach to integrated infrastructure master planning. While global pioneers were brought together by ADB to brainstorm over broadening the scope of its ECD framework for regional cooperation. Special Secretary highlighted that India has already operationalised and is successfully implementing the PM GatiShakti, transformative approach to area-based infrastructure development. So it is not just building infrastructure connectivity, but also bringing with it both economic and social development leading to both Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living.

PM GatiShakti NMP a GIS data-based digital platform with more than 1400 data layers and 50+ tools, provides visual depiction of trunk and utility infrastructure, land use, existing structures (e.g., bridge, railway crossing, a culvert), soil quality, habitation sprawl, tourism sites, forest-sensitive areas, etc., and functionalities for data based decision making such as site suitability, among others. Its institutional mechanism is fully operational at Central and State levels, thereby facilitating adoption of PMGatiShakti principles in planning and decision making.

She said that under PM GatiShakti a spatial / area based holistic development approach is being adopted to saturate influence areas around critical project locations / industrial clusters / tourist sites / social sector assets. Assessment of connectivity infrastructure requirements to integrate

manufacturing value chain; logistics facilities, social sector institutions such as schools and hospitals; skilling centres is done at the planning stage and spatial plans are developed accordingly.

PM GatiShakti approach is facilitating the natural extension of the country's hinterland multimodal corridors such as the industrial road corridors, dedicated rail freight corridors and waterway networks, towards strengthening regional connectivity and seamless trade between neighbouring countries. Since the launch of this program, 100 projects worth USD 71.26 billion have been evaluated during 54 meetings of the Network Planning Group, a critical institutional body established for ensuring adoption of GatiShakti principles in infrastructure planning. It is an effective mechanism for fast tracking and optimising infrastructure development and de-risking investments.

Highlighting examples of the Indo-Nepal Haldia Access Controlled Corridor project, for seamless connectivity and trade movement between Nepal and eastern Indian States, and the Regional Waterways Grid (RWG) project for multimodal connectivity to growth centres and border points, she showcased the PM GatiShakti adoption in enhancing connectivity with regional partners.

At the same time she suggested that ADB and partner countries can draw lessons for broadening the scope of their regional cooperation programmes like South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), by integrating area-centric growth models on the lines of Gati Shakti approach, which has evidenced benefits of bringing time and cost savings to project planning, as well as reducing carbon footprint of infra projects.

During further discussions among the stakeholders Special Secretary (Logistics) also presented Gol's other digital initiatives in the logistics sector namely, the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and Logistics Data Bank (LDB), as effective measures for trade facilitation and ease of logistics through its various functionalities such as track and trace of cargo; authentication of service providers; digital document generation and exchange. Thereby enabling ease of doing business and attracting Private sector investments. Gol's ongoing efforts towards development of industrial corridors, and activation zones and individual nodes / clusters along them; adequate trunk and utility network and streamlining clearances through inter-Ministerial coordination, is de-risking investments for the private sector.

The PM GatiShakti approach for spatial transformation / area-based comprehensive planning of logistics and infrastructure development is building Next Generation Infrastructure and promoting Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business in the country. India's indigenously developed GIS-based technology was offered through knowledge sharing to ADB and SASEC countries, for enhancing socio-economic planning, and regional cooperation.

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G20 LEADERS ENDORSES GOA ROADMAP AND 'TRAVEL FOR LIFE' PROGRAM TO PROVIDE BIG BOOST TO TOURISM SECTOR

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: International Treaties & Agreements, and other important organizations

The G20 Leaders' Summit in Delhi stands as a testament to India's leadership in fostering global unity and collaboration. The summit witnessed the convergence of the world's most influential leaders, united by a shared vision for the future. Their collective commitment to addressing global challenges reaffirms the spirit of global cooperation.

A significant milestone achieved during the G20 Leaders' Summit in Delhi was the unanimous endorsement of tourism and culture's pivotal role in sustainable socio-economic development and prosperity. **The 'G20 Leaders Declaration' adopted during the summit underlined the significance of the 'Goa Roadmap for Tourism as a vehicle for achieving SDGs.**

Delhi Declaration provides a new direction for tourism sector with G20 Goa Roadmap outlining the challenges, objectives, opportunities and recommendations for tourism sector to achieve sustainable development goals.

'GOA Roadmap', the key deliverable of India's G20 Tourism Track, is a pioneering initiative that provides a blueprint for sustainable global tourism. Goa roadmap, aligned with the theme of India's G20 Presidency, underscores the role of tourism in society, the economy, and environmental stewardship.

By focusing on the five interconnected priorities identified and endorsed by the G20 Tourism Working Group - Green Tourism, Digitalization, Skills, Tourism MSMEs, and Destination Management - the roadmap offers a comprehensive strategy for nations to align their tourism policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

In furtherance of our commitment, the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), has launched the G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard. This pioneering initiative will serve as a global repository, showcasing the best practices and case studies of sustainable tourism practices and policies from G20 nations. It aims to be a comprehensive resource, aiding nations and industry stakeholders in their journey towards achieving the SDGs through tourism.

As we move forward, the Ministry of Tourism aims to facilitate the implementation of the GOA Roadmap through education and awareness campaigns to sensitize the State/UT Governments and private stakeholders about incorporating key recommended actions in their operations for the creation of more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism is also launching a national competition on 'Tourism for Tomorrow' to identify best practices and case studies aligned with five priorities of G20 Goa roadmap, which have successfully been implemented by States, Destinations and Industry Stakeholders, which can be replicated and scaled up across the country. The competition will be launched on World Tourism Day on September 27.

In another significant development, the G20 leaders' declaration has further noted the launch of the "Travel for LiFE" initiative, emphasizing its transformative potential in promoting responsible

and sustainable tourism.

Travel for LiFE program has been inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which is extremely relevant for tourism sector. Travel for LiFE nudges all tourists and tourist businesses to take simple actions, which have tremendous signification for environment protection and climate action.

Ministry of Tourism has aligned its programs and initiatives for promoting sustainable tourism under 'Travel for LiFE' program and the campaign will cover the entire tourism ecosystem, motivating and inspiring all actors to contribute in making tourism sector sustainable and responsible. While recognizing the LiFE actions by tourists, the Ministry will also recognize the tourism businesses as TFL certified based on STCI criteria of the Ministry. It will also encourage the tourists and tourism businesses to take a "Travel for LiFE' pledge, which will reflect their commitment for sustainable practices.

Ministry of Tourism is championing a future that is greener, cleaner, and harmonious. It is our mission to ensure that growth is not just robust but also just, equitable, and sustainable for every individual.

The Ministry of Tourism also envisions transforming and promoting the host cities of the G20 Meetings in India into global MICE destinations for national and international meetings. Our commitment is unwavering, and our resolve is strong. We are poised to lead the way in fostering sustainable tourism practices that will echo across the world for years to come.

Sushil Kumar

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In another significant development, the G20 leaders' declaration has further noted the launch of the "Travel for LiFE" initiative, emphasizing its transformative potential in promoting responsible and sustainable tourism.

Travel for LiFE program has been inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), which is extremely relevant for tourism sector. Travel for LiFE nudges all tourists and tourist businesses to take simple actions, which have tremendous signification for environment protection and climate action.

Ministry of Tourism has aligned its programs and initiatives for promoting sustainable tourism under 'Travel for LiFE' program and the campaign will cover the entire tourism ecosystem, motivating and inspiring all actors to contribute in making tourism sector sustainable and responsible. While recognizing the LiFE actions by tourists, the Ministry will also recognize the tourism businesses as TFL certified based on STCI criteria of the Ministry. It will also encourage the tourists and tourism businesses to take a "Travel for LiFE' pledge, which will reflect their commitment for sustainable practices.

Ministry of Tourism is championing a future that is greener, cleaner, and harmonious. It is our mission to ensure that growth is not just robust but also just, equitable, and sustainable for every individual.

The Ministry of Tourism also envisions transforming and promoting the host cities of the G20 Meetings in India into global MICE destinations for national and international meetings. Our commitment is unwavering, and our resolve is strong. We are poised to lead the way in fostering sustainable tourism practices that will echo across the world for years to come.

Sushil Kumar

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DEPWD LAUNCHES TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMS TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Today, Km. Pratima Bhoumik, Minister of State, Ministry of social Justice and Empowerment, unveiled five transformative initiatives at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC). This momentous event introduced groundbreaking initiatives aimed at shaping the lives of Divyangjan, serving as a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to their holistic development and empowerment.



The initiatives launched by Km. Pratima Bhoumik encompass a wide range of transformative actions, reflecting the government's relentless pursuit of a more inclusive society. These initiatives promise to bring about lasting change and enhance the lives of persons with disabilities in India. Collectively, they reflect DEPWD's unwavering dedication to advancing disability rights and harnessing technology to improve the lives of persons with disabilities across the nation.



On this occasion, MoS Km. Pratima Bhoumik appreciated the effort and stressed that the PM DAKSH DEPwD portal shall act as a comprehensive digital platform for Persons with Disabilities seeking skill training and employment opportunities. It offers seamless registration via UDID, location-based skill training options, job listings from across India, and streamlined administrative processes. The platform is a one-stop destination wherein PwDs from across the country shall have access to jobs from various companies. This initiative aligns with the vision of PM Modi, i.e., "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas."



Aggregated data of Unique Disability Identity Cards has been released in the public domain. The data indicates UDID card issuance analysis - disability-wise, age group-wise, disability type-

wise, and location-wise. The data is now available on the data.gov.in portal and UDID Portal. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary DEPwD, emphasized that the aggregated data will be of enormous help to researchers, policymakers, analysts, rehabilitation professionals, State Government officials, NGOs, civil societies, educationists, and many more. The data is presently granulated up to the district level, and in the near future, block-level granularity will be introduced. Many NGOs, research organizations, and State governments have requested from time to time to provide an overall perspective on disability in India. The data will provide insights into all such queries from various ends.



Here is an overview of DEPwD's five pioneering initiatives:

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These initiatives underscore DEPwD's unwavering commitment to fostering inclusivity, advancing disability rights, and driving meaningful change in the lives of persons with disabilities throughout India. All officials were present at the Nalanda Hall of Dr. Ambedkar International Centre on this occasion.

MG/PD/Media Cell (DEPwD)

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BIS COMMITS TO THE MISSION OF QUALITY CONSCIOUS INDIA THROUGH GRAM PANCHAYATS

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has embarked on a mission to create awareness and promote compliance with Indian standards at the grassroots level. In an endeavour to ensure the effective implementation of government programs and schemes in villages, BIS has undertaken a comprehensive initiative to sensitize Gram Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries across the country.

BIS, the National Standards Body of India, plays a pivotal role in formulating standards and conducting conformity assessments of products and services. Recognizing the critical importance of adhering to Indian standards for the well-being of citizens, the environment, and the overall quality of products and services, BIS has initiated this outreach program.

The primary objective of this initiative is to instill an understanding of the significance of adhering to Indian Standards among Gram Panchayats and ensuring compliance to these standards while implementing government programs and schemes at the village level. It aims to promote the culture of standardization and benefits of using products conforming to Indian Standards among Gram Panchayats, who play a crucial role in the execution of various government initiatives at the grassroots level.

The Key Highlights of the Initiative are

1. 2.4 Lakh Gram Panchayats reached out: BIS has communicated to all Gram Panchayats across the country. The Gram Panchayats are provided with booklet of important and useful Indian Standards relevant to different sectors, underlining the importance of adhering to these standards while executing various state/central government programs and schemes by the panchayats.

2. Sensitization Workshops: BIS has also initiated training of Gram Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries in collaboration with state and district authorities across the country. These training programs for Presidents and Secretaries of Gram Panchayats are planned to be held at block and district levels through the nation-wide network of 38 BIS Branch Offices.

The benefits of the Initiative are:

- **Enhanced Quality and Safety:** By fostering compliance to Indian standards, the initiative aims to enhance the overall quality and safety of government programs and schemes implemented at the village level.
- **Consumer Protection:** Compliance with standards ensures that products and services meet specified quality and safety criteria, protecting consumers from substandard or unsafe offerings.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Adherence to standards can contribute to environmental protection by regulating processes that may have adverse ecological impacts.
- **Capacity Building:** The Sensitization Workshops are designed to empower Gram Panchayat officials with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement standards effectively.

- **National Progress:** The initiative aligns with the vision of a prosperous and progressive India by fostering a culture of quality and safety in all sectors.
- **Awareness on BIS Care App:** For empowering the consumers, BIS has also developed BIS Care App available for both Android and iOS Platforms. Consumers can use the app to access the information on Indian Standards, products covered under compulsory certification, list of BIS certified manufacturers, verifying authenticity of certified goods and materials, and mechanism to lodge the complaints in case of dissatisfaction, if any.

BIS has also appealed all concerned departments at the state and district levels to provide their support in facilitating these workshops, which will go a long way in strengthening the implementation of standards at the grassroots level and ensuring the development of quality infrastructure. BIS has also appealed that with collective efforts the effective implementation of standards in rural areas, safeguarding the interests of citizens and promoting the growth of our nation can be achieved.

AD/NS

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AD/NS

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THE NEW DELHI LEADERS' DECLARATION REAFFIRMS THE WORLD'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION - SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

The Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has expressed his deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership of the G20, in keeping with India's timeless spirit of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam' and bringing in a human-centric approach to ensure One Future for this One Family living together on this One Earth. This inclusive vision has been realized through India's leadership in the successful inclusion of the African Union (AU) into this coveted group, truly democratizing the G20 and lending strength to the voice of the Global South. In a statement to the media, Shri Pradhan said India's presidency is rightly being applauded for changing the global order based on consensus, collaboration and cooperation.

Speaking about educational priorities under G20, Shri Pradhan said that the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, by prioritizing deliberations on critical areas like **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)**, **Tech-enabled learning**, **Building Capacities for Lifelong learning and the Future of Work** and **Strengthening Research and innovation through Collaboration**, has renewed the global resolve to work for an equitable and sustainable future through education and has provided a roadmap for the same. Shri Pradhan lauded the visionary leadership and clear narrative provided by our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to take forward the global education agenda under the G20 architecture. He said this has resulted in world recognition for India's education and skill ecosystem and endorsement for the major principles and priorities of our National Education Policy 2020.

The Minister further added that the Leaders' Declaration resonates with the education working group priorities on the three identified accelerators of Digital Transformation, Just Green Transition, and Women-led Development. This is reflected in the commitment to enhancing women's meaningful participation as decision makers, including in quality education; focus on developing Digital Public Infrastructure including in education, and promoting LiFE. Shri Pradhan also thanked Prime Minister for emphasizing in the Leaders' Declaration, the need to support accessible, affordable, safe and nutritious food and healthy diets in school meal programmes, which is the objective of our PM POSHAN programme.

The Education Minister further highlighted the following points on education that have been included in the Leaders Declaration :

Speaking on the follow up action being taken further to the G20 Education Working Group meetings, Shri Pradhan informed that research collaborations are being actively done with several countries. This is being reflected through our joint initiatives such as the signing of MoUs between Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT Council), and the Association of American Universities (AAU) to establish the India-U.S. Global Challenges Institute, that will bring together leading research and higher-education institutions from across our two nations, to advance new frontiers in science and technology, spanning collaboration in sustainable energy and agriculture, health and pandemic preparedness, semiconductor technology and manufacturing, advanced materials, telecommunications, artificial

intelligence, and quantum science. We are also witnessing a many new emerging multi-institutional collaborative education partnerships, such as those between New York University-Tandon and IIT Kanpur Advanced Research Center, the Joint Research Centers of the State University of New York at Buffalo and IIT Delhi, Kanpur, Jodhpur, and BHU, in the areas of critical and emerging technologies, IIT Bombay joining the Chicago Quantum Exchange and the start of the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Similarly we are exploring university level collaborations with other countries like Australia, UAE, Taiwan, UK and others in many critical areas.

In the skill sector one of the key focus areas is the sanitization of transnational standards with member countries by creating an *International Reference Classification* of occupations based on skill and qualification requirements, leading to better cross-country comparability and mutual recognition of qualifications. This commitment included a pledge to establish well-managed, regular, and skills-based migration pathways that mutually benefit origin and destination countries. To support these efforts, they focused on identifying global skill gaps and prioritizing policies aimed at addressing them, which involved strengthening national statistical data and expanding the International Labor Organization (ILO) and OECD Skills for Jobs Databases to encompass G20 nations.

ILO and OECD proposed 12 basic and 14 extended indicators for monitoring and measuring global skill gaps. These indicators have been agreed to by the G20 countries. Going forward, ILO & OECD would be responsible for implementing the intervention to monitor and measure global skill gaps in G20 countries basis the agreed indicators.

Shri Pradhan shed light on how India's G20 presidency gave our education priorities, contextual realities and national initiatives, an acceleration and a platform for demonstrating long term systemic policy vision. By fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovative approaches, India and its G20 partners created impetus for furthering coordinated action on futuristic education and training systems, he added.

SS/AK

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SS/AK

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CABINET APPROVES EXPANSION OF UJJWALA YOJANA

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26. Provisioning of 75 lakh additional Ujjwala connections will take total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crore.

Key LPG details in 2014 vs 2023

(Unit)

01.04.2014

01.04.2016

01.04.2023

National LPG coverage

%

55.90%

61.9%

Near saturation

No. of Bottling Plants of OMCs

in Nos.

186

188

208

No. of LPG distributors in India

in Nos.

13896

17916

25386

Domestic Active LPG Customers in India

in Lakh

1451.76

1662.5

3140.33

As per the existing modalities of Ujjawala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries.

A targeted subsidy of Rs.200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for upto 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers. Without continuation of PMUY, eligible poor households may not be able to get their due benefit under the scheme.

Women's ease of living through clean cooking

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 2.4 billion people worldwide (which is around one-third of the global population), rely on open fires or inefficient stoves fuelled by kerosene, biomass (such as wood, animal dung, and crop waste), and coal for cooking. This leads to harmful household air pollution, contributing to an estimated 3.2 million deaths annually in 2020, with over 237,000 deaths being children under the age of 5. Achieving a sustainable and pollution-free future requires addressing the issue of household air pollution, especially to prevent suffering among women and children.

In the past, impoverished communities in India, particularly in rural areas, used traditional fuels like firewood, coal and dung cakes without being aware of the adverse health effects caused by them. Consequently, they faced health problems without knowing the underlying cause. A heightened mortality risk due to illnesses such as pneumonia, lung cancer, ischaemic heart, and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases is extensively reported. Non-renewable wood fuels for cooking cause a gigaton of CO₂ emissions, and burning residential solid fuels comprise 58 percent of black carbon emissions. They are also a significant contributor to household air pollution (HAP) due to incomplete combustion of solid biomass.

Research also indicates that this is a gender problem: girls and women face increased exposure to solid fuels. Cooking with solid fuels delays progress towards five of the UN Sustainable

The PMUY scheme has empowered women economically and socially. With easier access to LPG, women are no longer burdened with the task of collecting firewood or other traditional fuels, which often required long and laborious journeys. This newfound convenience allows them to participate more actively in community life and take up other income-generating opportunities.

Furthermore, the Ujjwala scheme has contributed to enhancing the safety and security of women, as they no longer need to venture into isolated and potentially unsafe areas to collect firewood or fuel.

Initiatives to expand LPG coverage

PAHAL (Pratyaksh Hastantarit Labh): Instead of providing LPG cylinders at subsidized

price, those were sold at market price, and applicable subsidy was directly transferred to individual's bank account electronically. This reduced "ghost" accounts and illegal use of household cylinders for commercial purposes, ensuring that only the intended beneficiaries receive the benefits.

GIVE IT UP: Instead of removing subsidies forcefully, people were encouraged to voluntarily surrender their subsidies. Through extensive promotion, millions of people willingly gave up the subsidies, which helped redirect the funds to those who genuinely needed assistance in acquiring LPG cylinders.

During Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in 2020, free refill scheme under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana** was implemented. Under this scheme, assistance of Rs. 9670.41 Crore was given to PMUY beneficiaries in support of 14.17 Crore LPG refills.

Per capita consumption of PMUY beneficiaries which was 3.01 in 2018-19 has increased to 3.71 in 2022-23. PMUY beneficiaries took more than 35 Cr LPG refills a year now (2022-23).

RKJ/M

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RKJ/M

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DIVYA KALA MELA BEGINS AT TOWN HALL, MAIDAGIN, VARANASI

Relevant for: null | Topic: Miscellaneous Facts

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri A Narayan Swamy, while assuring all possible assistance to the disabled, said that the role of the disabled is very important in building a self-reliant India. CMD NDFDC Naveen Shah ji said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji changed the thinking of people in the society by giving the word 'Divyang' to these people for the first time.



Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri A. Narayan Swami ji said that the Central Government has prepared several schemes to promote entrepreneurship and craftsmanship especially among the disabled. He said that these schemes are implemented to provide training, skills and finance to the disabled brothers and sisters. The Central Government has increased the categories of disabled people from 7 to 21. Along with this, he said that reservation for disabled people in government jobs has been increased from 3% to 4% and reservation for disabled people in government educational institutions has been increased from 3% to 5%.



The government is providing financial assistance to disabled people through various schemes at low interest rates to make them self-reliant. On this occasion, DDG Disabled Empowerment Department Shri Kishore Babu Rao Surwade ji said that we are organizing divine art fairs in every major city of the country. Till now, a total of six fairs have been successfully completed. This fair is the seventh fair. On this occasion, loan approval letters were distributed to the disabled beneficiaries by Gramin Bank. To encourage the disabled people, assistive devices were distributed in the form of tokens by ALIMCO, an organization of the Government of India, in the Divya Kala Mela.

Baroda UP Gramin Bank has sanctioned Rs 25.75 lakh for 29 disabled persons. During the program, loan sanction letters were distributed as tokens to 5 disabled people. 'Divya Kala Mela' has been organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Town Hall, Maidagin, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from 15 September to 24 September 2023 to showcase the products and craftsmanship of entrepreneurs/artisans with disabilities. In this fair, artisans from different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States will showcase their wonderful and attractive

products like handicrafts, handlooms, embroidery works and packaged foods etc. which will also be available for sale.



This is a unique initiative towards the economic empowerment of disabled people. The Divya Kala Mela presents a great platform for marketing and showcasing the products and skills of persons with disabilities. Divya Kala Mela, Varanasi is the seventh fair in the series starting from 2022. Earlier this fair was organized in Delhi, Mumbai, Bhopal, Indore, Guwahati and Jaipur. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has selected National Disabled Finance and Development Corporation as the nodal agency for organizing this fair.

Around 100 disabled artisans/artists and entrepreneurs from around 20 States/Union Territories are showcasing their products and skills in the Divya Kala Mela. This fair is proving to be a powerful medium to spread the concept of 'Vocal for Local' to the masses in which the display and sale of products made by disabled artisans is encouraged by providing a suitable platform across the country.

This ten-day divine art fair can be enjoyed from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm. Apart from this, cultural programs by well-known artists of the country and famous food stalls from different states of the country are the special attractions of this fair. Many attractive selfie points have been made for the people at the fair.

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Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri A Narayan Swamy, while assuring all possible assistance to the disabled, said that the role of the disabled is very important in building a self-reliant India. CMD NDFDC Naveen Shah ji said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji changed the thinking of people in the society by giving the word 'Divyang' to these people for the first time.



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COASTAL SECURITY DRILL 'OPERATION SAJAG' CONDUCTED BY INDIAN COAST GUARD ALONG THE WEST COAST

Relevant for: null | Topic: Miscellaneous Facts

'Operation Sajag', a drill involving all stakeholders of the coastal security construct, was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast on September 18, 2023. The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and bring awareness among the fishermen at sea.

During the drill, extensive checking and verification of documents and crew passes of all fishing boats, barges and craft at sea was undertaken. A total of 118 ships including those from Customs, Marine Police, Ports & Indian Navy participated in the drill.

In order to strengthen the coastal security construct, a slew of measures have been incorporated ranging from Issuance of Biometric cards for the fishermen, colour coding of fishing boats as per each state, manning of fish landing centres and access control at entry/exit check points, coastal mapping, designating specific marine band frequency for security agencies, training of marine police personnel by Indian Coast Guard amongst others.

Biometric card readers have also been issued to security agencies. Besides monitoring of dhows, island security and community interaction programmes have been institutionalised under the coastal security construct.

The day-long drill is conducted every month and the outcomes are further progressed for improvement in the coastal security construct. The drill enables to verify implementation of various coastal security measures besides bringing out important lessons and highlight trends in coastal security.

ABB/Savvy

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SHRI MANOJ AHUJA LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE MOBILE APPLICATION AND WEB PORTAL FOR GENERAL CROP ESTIMATION SURVEY (GCES) TO REVOLUTIONIZE FARMING PRACTICES

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

In-line with the Prime Minister's vision towards maximizing digital technology for social benefit, Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) launched the mobile application and the web portal for GCES (General Crop Estimation Survey) here today. This revolutionary portal and mobile application have been designed to transform agricultural practices across the nation. Shri Ahuja emphasized on the need of real time estimates and technology in agriculture. He mentioned that the accuracy of the data is a very important component for truthful and reliable outcome generation and the responsibility of ensuring accuracy of the data lies with the data providers as well. Hence, he requested all the states to adopt GCES portal and application to ensure creditability.



Shri. Pramod Kumar Meherda, Additional Secretary, DA&FW stated the successful adaptation of advanced technologies in different sector of agriculture and requested states to adopt the GCES web portal and mobile application completely for better outcome and reliable estimation.



Shri Arun Kumar, Sr Economic and Statistical Adviser extended warm welcome to Secretary, DA&FW and apprised the audience of the major initiatives currently being undertaken at DA&FW to enhance data accuracy and improve digital data governance in agriculture. He added that this momentous initiatives set to herald a new era in the agricultural sector by providing more accurate and real time monitoring of crop yields.



Ms. Ruchika Gupta, Adviser DA&FW shared the salient features of the portal and the mobile application of GCES. It has been developed by Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare for leveraging technology to enhance the reach, scope, and outcome of government actions in

the course of development. She added that the automation of the GCES process will ensure on time reporting of crop statistics and accuracy of the data. Adviser also mentioned about the agencies involved in conducting CCE in different states are Revenue Department, Agriculture Department and Directorate of Economics & Statistics.

Ms. Sonia Sharma, Additional Statistical Adviser DA&FW presented the revamped process flow of GCES using the web portal and the mobile application, which are currently at pilot stage. The Piloting of these two has been planned in 12 States and will be rollout by 3rd week of October 2023.

Key Challenges Addressed by GCES Web Portal and Mobile Application:

1. Delay in Reporting- Till date data collection, compilation and yield estimation is completely manual process which cause delay in reporting by states. In the new process, the field data will be collected using GPS enabled mobile application and will be stored in the server which ensures on time reporting of crop statistics.
2. Transparency- GPS enabled devices provide precise latitude and longitude coordinates for data collection points. This information ensures that data is linked to specific geographic locations, leaving no room for ambiguity or manipulation of data regarding where it was collected.

Key Features of the GCES Web Portal and Mobile Application:

1. Comprehensive Information- The portal and the app provide a comprehensive repository of yield estimation including village wise GCES plan and plot details where the crop cutting experiments are conducted, post harvesting crop weight and drilage weight of the crop.
2. Geo-referencing- Geo-referencing is one of the key features of the mobile application, which enables the primary worker to draw the boundary of the experimental plot and upload photos of the plot as well as of the crops through it. This feature will ensure transparency and accuracy of the data as well.

SK/SS/SM

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WORLD SIGN LANGUAGE DAY IS CELEBRATED TODAY

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Sign Language Day' with the theme "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!" was celebrated by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi under the aegis of DEPwD (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Bhim Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre Janpath, New Delhi today.

Ever since the United Nations declared 23rd September as the International Day of Sign Languages, the ISLRTC celebrates it every year on 23rd September. DEPwD and ISLRTC had brought more citizens, stakeholders, service-providing agencies, Deaf schools, NGOs, activists, Deaf leaders, educators, researchers etc. together on this Sign Language Day celebration to create positive awareness about Indian Sign Language among all sections of our society.



Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment, Km. Pratima Bhoumik was the Chief Guest and Shri Rajesh Aggrawal, Secretary; DEPwD was the Guest of Honour on this occasion. Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary, DEPwD and Shri Mrityunjay Jha, Director, DEPwD & ISLRTC, and Representatives from National Association of Deaf, All India Federation of Deaf, All India Federation of Deaf for Women also graced the occasion.

The Minister of State, Social Justice and Empowerment, Km. Pratima Bhoumik mentioned that Mann Ki Baat should be started in ISL. She highlighted the efforts taken by the Government to promote job employment of youth with disabilities.



Sh. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD informed about the initiative taken by DEPwD to employ persons with disabilities, and the department is planning to provide tablets to deaf students to enable them to access educational videos in sign languages.

Shri Rajesh Yadav, Joint Secretary, DEPwD welcomed all the dignitaries and participants. He said that ISLRTC will take the initiative to develop a platform where deaf can easily communicate with the hearing and that ISLRTC will work on the translation of NCERT textbooks for class VII and onwards.

Shri Sunil Sahasrabudhe, President, All India Federation of Deaf appreciated the significant growth of ISLRTC over the last 8 years.

Smt. Uma Kapoor, President, All India Federation of the Deaf Women said that all parents should learn the online self-learning ISL course so that they can communicate with their deaf children.

Shri A.S. Narayan, President, National Association of Deaf said that on the significant occasion of Sign Language Day, the government is recognizing the occasion by displaying blue light central locations like India Gate.



During the programme, the following programs and materials were also launched.

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