Governor convenes second review meeting on COVID-19

Gangtok, April 08: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad today convened Second Review Meeting with the State Government on the current status and Sikkim’s plan of action against the spread of global pandemic COVID-19 at Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, Minister for Health Dr. M.K. Sharma, Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta, Director General of Police Mr. A Shankar Rau, Addl. Chief Secretary to Governor Dr. K. Jayakumar, Principal Secretaries of Health and Labour Departments, Secretary of Health Department and other officers were present on the occasion.

The meeting began with the appraisal of latest report and action taken by the State Government in view of the ongoing lockdown and its impact on the lives of common man. Sikkim is among the three states in the country with Zero positive cases as on 8th April 2020, and the meeting deliberated on the possible measures and restrictions to be put in place to keep Sikkim safe.

The Chief Minister apprised that the situation is normal in the State and the government has given utmost priority on equitable distribution of relief material to the intended beneficiaries.

Despite some issues of transportation of some essential ration component and sudden rise in the number of beneficiaries during the process of distribution, government is taking all necessary steps to ease the hardships being faced by the people during lock down period. He also informed that in view of likely extension of lock down period in the country beyond 14th April in the backdrop of sudden rise in cases of COVID 19 over the last one week, State government is taking all necessary steps to ease the hardships being faced by the people.

Secretary to Chief Minister visits Rongli Sub Division

Gangtok, April 09 : After the West Bengal government declared Kalimpong as the Corona Hot Spot on 8th April, Secretary to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Mr. S.D. Bhakal, made a field visit to Rongli Sub Division in East district, today, to oversee the immediate action taken by the Government of Sikkim to distribute relief material to the beneficiaries.

Mr. Bhakal was accompanied by SDM, Rongli and Sub Inspector, Mr. Sun Tshering Lepcha.

At Reshi Check Post, Sub Inspector, Mr. Sun Tshering Lepcha, informed that all check posts are completely sealed with no movement of vehicle and people on foot. He informed that Sikkim Police is on duty 24x7 in all check posts. Further, he informed that all short cut footpaths are sealed with fencing wires and that inspections are being conducted periodically.

Mr. Dhakal visited Agriaggaon, Khamdong, Upper Khamdong 1, Upper Khamdong 2, Thongson and Hatticherry checkpoints.

The temporary check post at Hattichery was also under construction.

The Secretary to the HCM also inspected distribution of relief to the beneficiaries at Rorathang. The quality of relief materials were found to be good and satisfactory. It was also informed that Rorathang Welfare Society was actively participating in providing refreshments to the frontline workers for the distribution of relief materials.

Minister Agriculture attends video conference

Gangtok, April 08 : Minister, Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Government of Sikkim, Mr. Lok Nath Sharma along with the Pr. Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture Department Mr. R. Telang, Secretary Agriculture Mr. Rinting C Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture Mr. M.T. Sherpa, CEO Sikkim Organic Mission Dr S. Anbalagun, attended a meeting through video conference, chaired by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar, today. Union Minister Tomar was also accompanied by the Union Ministers of State (Agriculture) Mr. Parshottam Rupala and Mr. Kailash Choudhary and the Secretary (DAC&FW).

Minister Mr. Lok Nath Sharma, while interacting with the Union Minister, informed that the State of Sikkim has been following all directives and guidelines issued by the Government of India, sincerely and effectively. He said that the state government has been managing to deliver enough of vegetables and essential items through Sikkim State Cooperative Supply & Marketing Federation Ltd. (SIMFED) and collection of production through all twenty eight Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs) in coordination with the concerned department. He also informed about the provision of Farmers Helpline Number notified for each district in Sikkim through which farmers can ask for support required for marketing of farm produce including passes or any kind of queries. Minister Mr. Sharma also drew lights on ongoing delay in supply of materials to be brought to the state of Sikkim under PMKSY scheme.

In his concluding remarks Minister Mr. Sharma informed that there is no single positive case of COVID-19 in the state till date and the state

Chief Minister chairs meeting to take stock of relief materials being distributed

Gangtok, April 6 : The Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang-Golay chaired a high-level meeting at Samman Bhawan to take stock of the relief materials being distributed by the concerned authorities and also check on the law and order situation in the state.

During the meeting, he gave clear instructions to the concerned departments for delivering the relief materials to the beneficiaries, instructing them to make sure that commodities like rice reach them within the next 48 hours. He requested the MLA’s to make sure that there is a swift transfer of relief materials from the godowns to the fair price shops and ordered for the immediate disbursement of relief materials without fail.

The Secretary of Food and Civil Supplies apprised the house regarding the stock of food commodities i.e. rice, dal, and oil available in the state. He also apprised the transport issues which has been a hurdle in the timely receipt and distribution of the relief materials.

The Chief Minister advised the concerned authorities to distribute the relief materials through the tokens issued by the District Collectors and not directly through trucks to avoid overcrowding as this may defeat the purpose of social distancing.

The Director-General of Police assured necessary assistance for the smooth flow of these materials to the state and informed about the steps taken to seal entry points to the state using wired fences to stop the illegal flow of people in the state from neighboring areas.

The Chief Secretary informed the house about the online portal which will be launched soon where one can apply for permit/vehicle passes in case of an emergency. This was done to decrease the gathering of people and provide an efficient way for people to apply for permits.

During the meeting, the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies Department, Mr. Arun Upreti informed the house regarding his visits to the godowns to take stock of the situation and ensure that relief materials reach all the beneficiaries.

In conclusion, he requested the concerned authorities to be more vigilant for the coming few weeks and requested everyone to follow guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government to avoid confusion. He urged the concerned authorities to fulfill the commitment made by our Government and distribute the relief material by Friday at all costs.
During his day long visit, Mr. Samdup Lepcha stopped at various places such as Lachen PHC, Lachen Police Check Post, Lachung PHC, Lachung Police Check Post and distributed hand sanitizers and masks to the police personnel posted there. While interacting, the Hon'ble Minister extended his gratefulness for their selfless services during this pandemic of COVID-19.

Minister lauded the effort of the essential service delivered by the health workers and to the area in the period of lockdown. Mr. L. N. Sharma tours various places in Gyalshing

Minister L. N. Sharma also distributed essential commodities to needy people from his own resource.

Similarly, on April 7, Minister Mr. Samdup Lepcha made a day long surprise visit to various places to take stock of situation of North District and its relief materials and essential commodities.

Relief material distributed to stranded labourers

Nanami, April 06: In view of the needy and stranded labourers affected due to the lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the MEO’s of North District Adminstration under North District engaged in collaboration with Mr. Galay wards under South District maintaining proper protocol of social distancing and hygiene. Mandatory law and order situation was also ensured during the said exercise by the SDPOs of the district and sub-divisions under South to avoid mismanagement and unwarranted congregation of public and authorities alike. It may also be pertinent to add that Government of Sikkim has been taking all measures to keep the novel Coronavirus at bay. The meeting had also focused on the planning and its preventive necessary steps towards fighting the disease.

**In and around Mangan Nabargan seazor**

Mangan, April 10: Under the guidance of the Area MLA-cum- Minister, Mr. Samdup Lepcha, the Area MLA-cum- Minister, Mr. Santosh Bania, distributed the said relief materials in various areas and around Mangan.

The Minister also met with the farmers on the way and advised them to keep the novel Coronavirus at bay. The meeting had also focused on the planning and its preventive necessary steps towards fighting the disease.
Gangtok, April 03: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad today participated in second round of video conference on COVID 19 pandemic in the country. The Prime Minister of India President underlined the need of strict enforcement of lockdown and social distancing norms in order to contain the spread of COVID-19. While meeting the Directors of the unfortunate incidents which have dented our collective efforts in fighting the global pandemic COVID 19 in the country, President underlined that the nationwide lockdown has in fact kept our country in good stead. Referring to the recent incidents of violence and resistance against lockdown workers in some parts of the country, President asked all the Governors and Lt. Governors to advise the States to ensure the safety, security and dignity of our frontline warriors specially the health workers and acknowledge their sacrifices and efforts to fight the pandemic despite odds.

Vice President in his remarks drew the attention of the Governors and sought their intervention and involvement in solving the problems of farmers with regard to the harvest of crops and procurement of agricultural equipment alongside the smooth transition of essential commodities and medicines. He also took up the online learning modules of colleges and Universities across the country to facilitate the learning programme in view of the lockdown in the country and urged the Governors and Lt. Governors to intervene and ensure that students are kept engaged in studies.

Governor placed the detailed report on Sikkim’s preparedness, infrastructure in place, provision of essential commodities and intervention of the State government to ease the difficulties of vulnerable section of population including labourers during the lockdown. He highlighted how the effective preventive mechanism to be in place such as screening of travellers, ban on foreign and Indian tourists from February 29 and March itself has resulted in keeping the State safe from COVID-19 spread as on date. He also mentioned the cash incentives being provided to essential pharma companies workers and frontline warriors to acknowledge their role in the battle against COVID 19. Governor sought continued assistance and logistics from the Union government in view of its landlocked position and strategic location.

Governors of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Lt. Governors of Jammu and Kashmir, Paducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Administrators of Lakshadweep and Daman, Doda and Nabadwip Haveli participated in today’s deliberation. Further a quick update from the worst hit states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi was also placed during the occasion.

The conference ended with the acknowledgment of the people of India for their participation and cooperation government’s efforts to fight with COVID 19 pandemic.

The Prime Minister gave assurance to all the States to tackle the recent outbreak in the country. He advised all the Chief Ministers to observe lockdown in their respective states and make sure that people are following it. Adding to it, he also directed the head of the states to look after the facilities and make sure there is no shortage of essential commodities.

The Chief Minister talked about how the State Government has adopted every precaution measure and once again informed everyone about the availability 3 months’ worth of essential products in the state. He also informed about how the Government is focussing on isolating and quarantining those who have recent travel history outside Sikkim.

Due to the recent casualty in the neighboring areas of Kalimpong and with few more positive cases, he informed about the increased security in major check points and head of the concerned police districts have been directed to ensure the safety, security and dignity of the Police and frontline warriors.

A web portal for online contribution has also been created:-cmdrf.sikkim.gov.in.

The Chief Minister also informed the Governor that various NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Associations, etc. have come forward in contributing relief materials for the cause. They have been requested to do so in coordination with the District Collectors in view of the directions issued during the lockdown period for observing social distancing mechanism.

Governor participates in second round of video conference on COVID 19

Prime Minister of India chairs video conference

Gangtok, April 04: Mr. Prem Singh Tamang-Golay today attended the video Conference called on by the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. The video conference was also attended by the Chief Ministers from all the states of India.

The Prime Minister gave assurance to all the States to tackle the recent outbreak in the country. He advised all the Chief Ministers to observe lockdown in their respective states and make sure that people are following it. Adding to it, he also directed the head of the states to look after the facilities and make sure there is no shortage of essential commodities.

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Governor L.N. Sharma chairs meeting

Minister L.N. Sharma chairs meeting

some necessary measures as under;

1. All educational institutions will continue to remain closed till situation improves.
2. Buffer stock of all essential commodities including health related items is being maintained.
3. Government will continue to extend the 24 hour border check points and restriction of movement will remain in force for the convenience of the neighbouring states lifts the lockdown.
4. The partial relaxation of lockdown norms if any within the State after the 14th of April will be in line with the guidelines issued by Union Government with strict compliance on social distancing.
5. Financial assistance has also been extended to Non-Sikkimese students currently residing in Sikkim and studying in Sikkim University.
6. 55 Sikkimese students who were in quarantine at SCL, Kunia Logyard are being transported to their respective homes after completion of quarantine period.
7. People of Sikkim have extended full cooperation in government’s efforts in the enforcement of lockdown and

Chief Minister calls on Governor

Gangtok, April 04: Mr. Prem Singh Tamang called on the Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad this afternoon at Raj Bhawan and apprised him about the preparedness and the actions taken to tackle the challenges being faced during the global crisis of COVID-19.

The Chief Minister also apprised the Governor that the State Government has adopted every precaution measure and once again informed everyone about the availability 3 months’ worth of essential products in the state. He also informed about how the Government is focussing on isolating and quarantining those who have recent travel history outside Sikkim.

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Chief Secretary launches dedicated State Portal for Covid-19

Gangtok, April 06: Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta launched the dedicated State Portal for Covid-19 here at Tashiling Secretariat today.

The Covid-19 Centralized Information System has been developed by the Department of Information Technology, Government of Sikkim, to function as a single source of credible and authoritative information on services related to Covid-19 mitigation, and to disseminate genuine/credible information on the steps taken by the Government of Sikkim in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with vital interactive features, the portal will also work as a fact-checking platform to deal with any instance of circulation of fake and unverified news and information.

The portal can be accessed at www.covid19sikkim.org.

The system has been developed with the technical support from a local IT firm Mr. S.C. Gupta and the Assistant Director, IT Department, Mr. S. Chakma, having its registered office at Deorali. The portal is a voluntary contribution of Mr. Karma Lhendup Bhuti, Founder, Mr. S.C. Gupta and Mr. Arpan Rai.

A brief presentation on the Online Portal was made by Assistant Director, IT Department, Mr. Prem Asish Premanath.

The portal displays information pertaining to the following:

a) Latest News & Press Releases from the Government of Sikkim, as well as Notifications, Orders, Circulars and other official information issued by competent authorities on a regular basis.

b) Daily updates of number of people who have been quarantined along with the name of the quarantine centre, as well as number of patients admitted in Isolation facilities.

c) Daily updates of Covid-19 test samples sent for screening, and results thereof. The portal will have the daily medical bulletin issued by the Health Department.

d) All the contact details of important persons will be found in the portal as well as important Helpline numbers.

e) The Portal also has a column on Chief Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund, where people can voluntarily contribute through the online mode (emdft@sikkim.gov.in).

f) Citizen Comer, which is an interactive feature, where the citizens can ask questions to the Government officials by registering one time and availing of the following services:

i) View the list of essential stores in their locality and also enlist a store. Vendors/suppliers/Commercial establishments i.e. milk vendors/ grocery/departmental stores/emergency vehicles are requested to register themselves through the portal by clicking the essential button on the portal by visiting sikkimlocalsupply.com.

This data shall be helpful to identify the vendors for essential goods in the localities.

ii) Apply for vehicle passes online. Those who are applying for the Vehicle e-Pass can use the portal to apply for the permit online.

iii) Registered NGOs and voluntary organisations willing to extend their services can apply for the permission to operate within a particular district through the portal. A dedicated column has been designed for this purpose.

iv) It may be mentioned that the application for issue of vehicle passes has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Sikkim.

Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta expressed his satisfaction at the interactive and user-friendly features of the Portal. He said that the Portal will be a credible source of information and updates on Covid-19 in the State, as well as a platform for easily accessible online services to the people of Sikkim during the period of lockdown. He also suggested that the Portal should be a one-stop solution for all IT needs of the people in this time of crisis.

Dr. P. K. Bhunia, Secretary Information Technology, said that the Penal Provisions laid down by the Government of India under the Disaster Management Act have to be clearly laid down in the Portal to make people understand the legal implications of creating/sharing fake news through any form of media. He took the opportunity to appeal to the people of Sikkim not to indulge in circulation of fake and unverified news and information on Covid-19.

The state Power Department has dedicated field staff who have been committed in their work at their respective stations thereby ensuring that the power supply to the state is uninterrupted.

Despite minor outages owing to technical faults and weather conditions, the Power Department has been at the forefront of ensuring the smooth and regular power supply to the state and people.

Minister Power and Energy development of the emergency service which has been working at the forefront to deliver uninterrupted power service to the people and the state during this period of time.

Power and electricity is an essential part of all our lives and it is practically impossible to think of a normal world without it, let alone a global crisis situation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Power Department of Sikkim is one noteworthy emergency service which has been working at the forefront to deliver uninterrupted power service to the people and the state during this period of time.

The Power Department has also made it a point to regularly disseminate information related to power supply in the state through their Facebook page “PowerSikkim” during this Lockdown period.

The Government officials by extending their services can apply for the permission to operate within a particular district through the portal by clicking the essential button on the portal by visiting sikkimlocalsupply.com.

It is requested that citizens should participate in this exercise and submit fake news to ensure that no damage is done by circulation of unsubstantiated news and information regarding Covid-19, thus causing unnecessary panic and confusion.

It may be reminded that publishing and sharing of fake news is a punishable offence under the Disaster Management Act.

During this period of Lockdown in the wake of the global threat brought on by the COVID-19 Virus, essential and emergency services has been the glue that is holding the world community together.

Since the imposition of the nation-wide Lockdown, the essential and emergency services in Sikkim have been functioning and working overtime to ensure that the people are not deprived of the basic services.

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Let us take a moment to appreciate and honour our heroes who are working silently to deliver light to the State in this moment of uncertainty.

Daily report of COVID-19 status in state

Gangtok (Saturday) April 11, 2019

The Engineers, Line men and other field staff of the Power Department are amongst the real frontline heroes who have been at the battlefront since Day 1 of the COVID pandemic.

Minister Agriculture ...

government is putting all possible precautionary measures for its prevention.

During the meeting, Union Minister Tomar took stock of preparedness and various challenges raised in agriculture sector in different states after imposition of nationwide lockdown. Mr. Tomar, in his discussion, reviewed on various steps to facilitate farming activities during lockdown which mainly focused on numerous areas of situational importance like farming operations including harvesting, agriculture marketing and mandi operations, procurement of MSP, Provision of inputs including credit, seeds and fertilizer, issues relating to logistics and movement of Agriculture/ Horticulture produce.

He also directed every state for setting up of control rooms with regular monitoring for smooth running of authorised vehicles carrying Agriculture/ Horticulture produce.

Minister highlighted on the significant contributions of agriculture sector in the nation building and stressed that farming activities should be continuously taken up further with the proper implementation of ongoing schemes, following the issued guidelines. 

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