

SIKKIM HERALD

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Gangtok (Tuesday) March 28, 2023

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2020-2022

Governor attends first convocation ceremony of KSU



Gangtok, March 25: Governor Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who is also the Chancellor of Khangchendzonga State University (KSU) attended the first convocation ceremony of KSU at Chintan Bhawan, today. Speaker SLA, Mr. Arun Upreti, Minister for Education Department Mr. K.N. Lepcha, Press Advisor to CM, Mr. C.P. Sharma, Advisor Education Department, Mr. M.P. Subba, ACS Education Department, Mr. R. Telang,

Secretary Education, Ms. Sumita Pradhan, Director School Education and Higher Education, OSD Education Department, SDM Gangtok, SDPO Gangtok, Government officials, professors and students also attended the ceremony.

Governor in his address talked about Sanskrit being the ancient language of the country and its representation as the identity of India and hoped that the youths will continue to take

interest in regional languages. He expressed joy in seeing huge number of female students involved in academic programmes. He congratulated the new graduates and conveyed his best wishes to them in the coming days.

Speaker SLA stressed on the importance of higher education and congratulated the new graduates. He asked the students to be confident, and to rise above new challenges.

Vice Chancellor, KSU Sikkim, Dr. Ashis Sharma apprised about the new infrastructures of KSU campus coming up in Temi Tarku, Namchi district.

University journal containing discourse on language and cultures of Sikkim in Sanskrit and Nepali was released by the Governor and other dignitaries.

A total of sixty eight graduates from KSU pursuing Master's Degree in Nepali and Sanskrit were handed over degrees including felicitation to Gold medal and Silver medal winners in Masters of Arts (MA) in Nepali and Masters of Arts (MA) in Sanskrit from the batch of 2020 to 2022.

CM inaugurates Remodelled Saraswati Dolma Mandir

Gangtok, March 26: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the 'Remodelled Saraswati-Dolma Mandir' at 5th Mile, Tadong, today.

Also present were Minister for Urban Development Department Mr. L.B. Das, Area MLA Tadong, Mr. G.T. Dhungel, Deputy Mayor GMC, Councillors, Secretary Urban Development Department, Mr. M.T. Sherpa, Secretary to CM, Mr. S.D. Dhakal, former Minister, Mr. G.M. Gurung, former Minister cum President, Mandir Committee, Mr. C.B. Karki, Special Secretary Urban Development Department, ADC Gangtok, and officials of line departments, mandir committee members, officers and staff of Urban Development Department.

Chief Minister said that the State government has always worked for the welfare of society. He reflected on his experiences and stated that the level of affection he receives from the people is unparalleled in his journey of public life. This gives him strength and motivates him to devote his



time to the State's development, he added.

Citing his pleasure on the remodelling of the Mandir, he informed that the former Chief Minister, late Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari, laid the foundation stone of Saraswati-Dolma Mandir

on October 5, 1985 and was inaugurated on February 1, 1987. He also spoke about the various schemes like Aama and the Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana that have benefited the society at large and

Contd. on page 04

Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat
Sonam Tshering Marg, Nam-Nang, Gangtok,
737101

No: 772/L&PA/SLAS

Dated: 23/3/2023

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the power conferred under Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Shri Arun Kr. Upreti, Hon'ble Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly has been pleased to reconvene the sitting of the House in the Assembly Hall, Gangtok on 29th March, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

The Hon'ble Members of Sikkim Legislative Assembly are notified accordingly.

By Order.

Sd/-
Dr. (Gopal Pd. Dahal)
Secretary

Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Chief Minister calls on Governor



Gangtok, March 26: The Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang called on the Governor Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Raj Bhawan, today.

During the meeting, the Governor congratulated the Chief Minister on the successful

hosting of G20 meetings in Gangtok. They further discussed the various developmental programmes, progress of ongoing projects and other important matters related to the affairs of the state's administration.

Exhibition-cum-Charity Cricket match organised

Pakyong, March 25: An Exhibition-cum-Charity Cricket match was organised by Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim, at the Sikkim Cricket Ground, Rangpo, today. The charity match was dedicated to Child Care Institute Bojoghari Children's Home.

The day witnessed two matches played between SICA XI vrs CS XI and SICA XI vrs MLA XI.

The first match was between SICA XI and CS XI, with the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, leading SICA XI and the Chief Secretary Mr. V.B. Pathak leading CS XI, wherein the former team stood victorious.

Later, the second match was played between SICA XI and MLA XI, led by Minister Mr. L. B. Das wherein, the former team won the match.

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

- Albert Einstein

DC Gyalshing attends valedictory training programme

Gyalshing, March 20: DC Gyalshing Mrs. Yishey D. Yongda attended the valedictory function of the 15 days training as the chief guest at ITI Gyalshing, today.

The programme was organised by 36th Battalion SSB in coordination with ITI, Gyalshing under Civic Action Programme-NE for border population on three courses, namely, beautification, mechanic motor vehicle and bakery courses.

The function also had the presence of the Deputy Commandant, 36th Battalion SSB Mr. Nirupesh Kumar, Deputy Commandant, 36th Battalion SSB Mr. Vipin Sharma, ITI Principal Mr. Bhim Bdr. Chauhan, ITI instructors, SSB Jawans and aspirants.

DC expressed her

appreciation to the Deputy Commandant of 36th Battalion SSB and the entire team for the arrangement. She urged the participants to inculcate the skills to sustain their livelihood. She also informed that to start any business some working capital is needed for which, the State Government through its various schemes is providing financial assistance for the Startups. She highlighted on entrepreneurship programmes under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Sikkim Khadi and Village Industries Board through which, applicants could avail of loan subsidies at 35-40%. She also apprised on support provided by the Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) Cell, which aids and coordinates with the youth in Startup initiatives.

She informed the trainees to visit District Administrative Centre for guidance and clarification regarding the preparation of projects, DPR and assistance to avail loans. She also shared her WhatsApp number among the participants to reach out for guidance at any time.

She encouraged the trainees under Bakery Wing to come up with baked millet products, especially to target modern tastebuds such as cupcakes, millet pizza, cookies etc., for which, marketing support would be extended by District Administration, highlighting the year 2023 as the Year of Millets by the UN. She further encouraged participants of the mechanic course to remain in touch with the concerned engineers at the government mechanical wings.

Police Picket Post-cum-Village Library inaugurated

Gyalshing, March 23: A Police Picket Post-cum-Village Library was inaugurated by Minister for PHED cum Area MLA Mr. Bhim Hang Limboo at 7th Mile Toyang Junction, today.

The inaugural event had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha Gyalshing Mr. D.S. Limboo, Chairman PHE Mr. Hari Narayan Subedi, Zilla Panchayats, Gram Panchayats, DC Gyalshing, Mrs. Yishey D. Yongda, SP Gyalshing Mr. A.K. Tamang, ADC Mr. Khemraj Bhattarai, CMO, CEO, Joint Registrar Cooperation, SDM Hq. DE Buildings and Housing Department, SE R&B, locals, district officials, ITI

Gyalshing and Teachers and Students of Middle Gyalshing Secondary School.

DC Gyalshing in her address said that the village library is being included at the picket post for encouragement of reading habits where people could donate, exchange and borrow books. The DC further informed that the structure was built from a technology called Earth Building, which is eco-friendly. While congratulating SP Gyalshing and his team on the new addition of a post, the DC lauded the efforts of DE, B&H Deptt. who oversaw the pilot project, as he and his team had

been nominated by the Distt administration to undergo the earth building workshop at Ladakh in September 2022.

Minister Mr. Bhim Hang Limboo placed his appreciation for District Collector Gyalshing for the thoughtful initiative in inculcating reading habits in public through the integrated Village Library and execution of vigilance on part of the Police. He stressed on the uniqueness of the initiative and called upon the Panchayats and locals to take ownership of the asset being setup.

KVK Gyalshing conducts training programme

Gyalshing, March 21: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gyalshing conducted a training programme for the officials of Agriculture and Horticulture Departments and progressive farmers from Mabong and Tashiding at its premises, today.

The training was conducted in collaboration with CPGSASCAU (I), Umiam Meghalaya, TRA- NBRR&DC Nagarkata and ICAR- NBAIR, Bengaluru on identification of common pests and diseases of

certain crops and their biological management.

Sr. Scientist & Head KVK Gyalshing highlighted about the ongoing activities of KVK and requested all the participants to take full advantage of the training.

CPGSASCAU (I), Umiam Meghalaya Dr. P. Dutta gave a detailed presentation on disease diagnosis in maize, turmeric, potato and their integrated management.

Dr. A.K Pandey from TRA

NBRR&DC Nagarkata, West Bengal apprised about the diseases of tomato crop and their management. He also gave hands on training on mass production of Trichoderma spp and methods of field application and seed treatment.

ICAR- NBAIR Bengaluru Dr. Richa Varshney presented on Identification of pests of crops and their biological management and mass production of natural enemies to manage the pests.

SIRDPR celebrates World Water Day

Namchi, March 22: State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRDPR), Rural Development Department celebrated World Water Day at Karfectar, Jorethang, today.

The event was held under the aegis of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Minister for Education Department Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha attended the programme along with Chairman IT Department Mr. Navraj Gurung, Chairman Farmers Board Mr. Phurden Lepcha, Director Panchayat Mr. Tenzing D. Denzongpa, Officials, teachers and students.

Minister Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha emphasised on the need to conserve water and spread

awareness about its importance and stressed on judicious use of it. He urged everyone to be proactive in this regard and work towards achieving a sustainable future for all.

Joint Director Mrs. Yangchen D. Lepcha, presented a detailed overview of the role of SIRDPR, World Water Day, and various campaigns related to water management initiated by the department. She emphasised on the need to work together to conserve water and protect the natural resources.

Song, poetry, slogan and painting competitions were organised among 6 schools from different districts highlighting the importance of water conservation.

Awards and prizes were

distributed to the three Gram Panchayat Units for their efforts to improve water conservation, wherein; Yangthang Gram Panchayat under Gyalshing district stood first with prize money of ₹1lakh followed by Suldung Kamling under Soreng district in the second position with ₹50 thousand and Lindong Gram Panchayat Unit under Mangan district in third position with ₹20 thousand.

Other categories for prize and award distribution, included best performing Junior Engineer (₹5000 each), barefoot Engineer (₹5000 each), and school students' song, poem, painting, and slogan competitions were given ₹5000/-, ₹3000/- and ₹2000/- for first, second and third place, respectively.

DC Soreng chairs meeting

Soreng, March 24: DC Soreng Mr. Bhim Thatal chaired a meeting with the public of Chumbong and Zoom under Soreng district at Hinguatar, Chakung, today.

Also present were Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, BDO Chumbong, officials and staff from Chumbong and Baiguney BACs.

The meeting highlighted many issues and problems faced by the public of Chumbong and Zoom. The public representatives put forth their grievance of water shortages.

DC enquired inquired about the status of Jal Jeevan Mission in each ward. He was

made aware about the factors that causes water crises including illegal water tapping for which, he advised to keep proper tracking of the water supply including mapping of water sources for equal distribution of water, especially in drought prone areas.

He instructed to actively monitor JJM and to ensure that the community is made aware about the scheme and its benefits. He also advised for the technical orientation of Barefoot engineers in frequent intervals. He advised to consciously deal with issues related to illegal water tapping. He also inspected the water reservoirs in Hinguatar.

Monsoon preparedness meeting organised

Mangan, March 23: A monsoon preparedness meeting was organised by District Disaster Management Authority, at DAC election hall today.

The meeting was chaired by DC Mangan Mr. Hem Kumar Chettri in the presence of SP Mangan, Heads Of Offices of the district, SDMs, BDOs, representatives from Teesta Urja, GREF and NHPC.

The meeting was held to discuss the method and approach to combat natural calamities and disaster that may occur in the upcoming monsoon in the district. The meeting also discussed the need for better coordination between the line departments. Matters regarding the issues of road connectivity

were also put forth.

DC Mangan interacted with Heads of Offices of the line department, wherein, he reviewed various functions roles and responsibilities. Additionally, he enquired about the course of action post disasters.

He also advised the concerned officers to instruct the GPU level Officers and staff to remain vigilant and coordinate accordingly for the upcoming monsoon season.

Further the line departments of the district submitted list of Nodal Officer and alternative supporting staff with WhatsApp contact details for efficient communication in case of any calamity.

Orientation programme for Zilla and Gram Panchayats held

Gyalshing, March 21: An orientation programme for Zilla and Gram Panchayat members of Dentam Block on various Centrally sponsored schemes and mission mode programmes of the State Government under implementation by various departments in the district was held at BAC Dentam, today.

The programme organised in coordination with RDD was chaired by DC Gyalshing Mrs. Yishey D. Yongda in the presence of ADC (Dev.), SDM (Dentam), Addl. Director (AH&VS), JD Horticulture, JD (Education), BDO (Dentam), DPO (Disaster Management), MEO (Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat), ADO Agriculture, DPM(Health) and NGOs of Dentam Block.

It was informed that the programme will be conducted by district Heads of Offices in the remaining four blocks in coming weeks. The objective of the orientation programme was to make the elected PRIs aware of all ongoing schemes, projects and programmes of the government, to strengthen public participation and equip the stakeholders in the planning process.

The Officers representing various departments made detailed presentation and briefed

the PRIs on sector wise schemes.

DC Gyalshing oriented them on zero waste and Swachh Bharat Mission, which is a priority flagship programme of the Centre and State Governments. She requested the PRIs to give utmost priority to sanitation and waste management.

Earlier, the DC along with Panchayats took part in the Kalash Yatra dedicated to 'Shreemadh Devi Bhagwad Mahapuran Gyan Mahayagya' and offered prayers at Maa Jalapa Devi Mandir. She also inspected the preparation and management of the nine-day long Mahapuran.

Thereafter, the team paid a visit to Aashirwad Children's Home for Girls at Begha, where she enquired about the sanitation and hygiene facilities, water supply, kitchen and dining spaces, play rooms and dormitories and directed the in-charge to cater to the basic needs. She directed the DCPO to submit the inspection report on timely basis.

The DC also visited Gyaten Karmatar GPU below Jhakridunga with the concerned Panchayats to identify the sites set up for foot bridges as per the demands placed by the public.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

**State Election Commission, Sikkim, Assampa Villa, Amdo Golai
Tadong, Gangtok-737102**

No.55/SEC/2023

Dated: 20.03.2023

PRESS NOTE

Whereas, there are a number of vacant seats in the Panchayat wards of Gram Panchayats and the Territorial Constituency of Zilla Panchayat, therefore to fill up the vacancy, the State Election Commission, Sikkim hereby calls upon the following Panchayat wards of Gram Panchayats and the Territorial Constituency of Zilla Panchayat as indicated below in the state to elect members for the purpose of constitution of new Gram Panchayats and Zilla Panchayat in accordance with the relevant provision contained in the Sikkim Panchayat (Conduct of Election) Rules, 1997

SN	District	No./ & Name of GPU	No./ & Name of Panchayat Ward	Reservation	Reason
01	Gyalshing	18 Lingchom Tikija	4 Lower Tikija	OBC(C) W	Technical
02	Namchi	05 Sripatam Gagyong	2 Lower Gagyong	ST	Countermanded- death of contesting candidate
03	Namchi	12 Namphing	8 Upper Tshalamthang	SC	Death of elected Panchayat member
04	Namchi	32 Maniram Phalidara	1 Upper Phalidara	OBC(C) W	Death of elected Panchayat member
05	Pakyong	21 Linkey Parakha	6 Linkey	OBC (S) W	Technical
06	Mangan	02 Lingchom Tingda	5 Gairee	BL-ST(W)	Technical

SN	District	No & Name of Territorial Constituency	Reservation	Reason
01	Mangan	09 Namok Swayem	ST (W)	Technical

The duty of conducting free, fair and orderly elections to the Panchayats is vested in the State Election Commission under Article 243K of the Constitution of India. Thus, the State Election Commissioner, Sikkim hereby announces that the By-Elections to fill up the vacant seats shall be held as per schedule given below, so as to enable the newly elected members to immediately assume office.

The By-Election shall be conducted in a party-less manner and not on the basis of political party symbols. This change has been brought about by the Sikkim Panchayat (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The State Election Commission has adopted the Electoral Roll with reference to 01.01.2023 as the qualifying date, on basis of which the electoral rolls were segregated and prepared for the By-Elections. Printing of final electoral roll has been completed and the same can be downloaded and viewed in the State Election Commission website sec.sikkim.gov.in

1. The Schedule for the election (subject to notification) shall be as under:

(1)	Date on which notice shall be published by the Returning Officer for inviting nominations under Rule 15 of the Sikkim Panchayat (Conduct of Election Rules, 1997)	20.03.2023 (Monday)
(2)	Dates on which Nomination papers shall be presented and posted under Rule 14(a) of the Sikkim Panchayat (Conduct of Election Rules, 1997)	From 21.03.2023 (Tuesday) to Last date 27.03.2023 (Monday) 11.AM to 3 PM
(3)	Date on which the nomination papers shall be scrutinized under Rule 14(b) of the Sikkim Panchayat (Conduct of Election Rules, 1997)	28.03.2023 (Tuesday) 11.AM onwards
(4)	Last date for withdrawal of candidature under Rule 14 (c) the Sikkim Panchayat (Conduct of Election Rules, 1997)	31.03.2023 (Friday) Between 11.AM to 3 PM
(5)	Date on which the poll shall if necessary be held under Rule 14 (d) of the Sikkim Panchayat (Conduct of Election Rules, 1997)	20.04.2023 (Thursday)
(6)	Date, time and place on which the votes polled shall be counted	On 21.04.2023 (Friday) from 8 AM onwards at the place(s) specified by the respective District Collectors.
(7)	Date on which the election result would be declared and completion of election process	Immediately after the completion of counting on 21.04.2023 (Friday)

Reservation of seats has been notified as per the provisions laid down in the Panchayat Act/Rules and its amendments. Election Observers have been appointed by the Commission to oversee the election process. Funds to conduct the election has been arranged and released by the Government.

2. Hours of Poll - 08 AM to 5 P.M

3. Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will be used for the above elections.

4. Identification of Voters

Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. However, those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC can show any one of the following alternative identification documents having validity for establishing their identity at the polling station provided his/her name is in the Panchayat Electoral Roll and thereby exercise their franchise.

- 1) Passport.
- 2) Driving License.
- 3) Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to its employees by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings/Public Limited Companies.
- 4) Passbooks with photograph issued by the Bank /Post offices.
- 5) PAN Card.
- 6) Aadhar Card.
- 7) MNREGA Job Card.
- 8) Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour, Gol.
- 9) SC/ST/OBC certificate having photograph, issued by competent authority.
- 10) Pension Documents with photographs.
- 11) Arms Licenses with photograph issued by the Competent Authority.
- 12) Certificate with Physical disability with photograph issued by the Competent Authority.
- 13) Authenticated photo voter slip issued by the Panchayat Returning Officers.

5. Model Code of Conduct

Model Code of Conduct will come into force with effect from the date of notification.

The restrictions contained in the Model Code of Conduct [MCC] will be applicable in the aforementioned Gram Panchayat areas under elections excluding the Municipal areas. During the period of enforcement of MCC there shall be no declaration or starting of new schemes in such areas.

6. Nominations

The filing of nominations shall be taken up by the Panchayat Returning Officers (PRO) of the concerned districts.

7. Eco-friendly Election

This time, the Commission would encourage all concerned to make the entire election process eco-friendly and discourage the use of single use plastic during meetings and use only eco-friendly banners and posters during campaigning.

The State Election Commission, Sikkim further appeal to all concerned voters for maximum participation in electing their best representative and all citizens for their support towards conducting the election in a free, fair, impartial and peaceful manner.

State Election Commissioner, Sikkim

**Chief Minister's Office
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok**

PRESS RELEASE

Miss Selvi V. Angeline Midhuna d/o Dr. V.M. Vijayasaravanan, a 3rd standard student of Vedic Vidhyashram School at Madurai, Tamil Nadu has contributed ₹555/- (Rupees five hundred and fifty five) only, through cheque to Chief Minister's Relief Fund on the occasion of International Women's Day.

She has congratulated the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim for his excellent leadership for the upliftment of women in the state by providing various opportunities through different schemes.

**S.D. Dhakal
Secretary to Chief Minister**

**Sikkim Public Service Commission
Old Tourism Complex, M.G. Marg, Gangtok,
Sikkim - 737101**

Fax:03592-207572

Email:spsc-skm@nic.in Website:spsc.sikkim.gov.in

No:73/SPSC/EXAM/2022

Date:18/03/2023

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Online Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up of **06 (six) posts of Tutor/Clinical Instructor** in the **Junior Grade-II** on temporary regular basis in Level - 15 of the Pay Matrix of the Sikkim Government College of nursing (Recruitment and Regulation of Promotion) Rules, 2018, by **Direct Recruitment**. All the applications are invited through online mode only at <https://spsc.gov.in/ApplyOnline.html>

The candidates are advised to visit the Sikkim Public Service Commission website for detail Advertisement, eligibility conditions, and Scheme of Examination etc. at www.spsc.sikkim.gov.in. Any further Instructions/Corrigendum/Addendum/Rejection List would be uploaded only on the Sikkim Public Service Commission website.

**Additional Secretary (Exam)
Sikkim Public Service Commission
(87, i)**

**Sikkim Public Service Commission
Old Tourism Complex, M.G. Marg, Gangtok,
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No:74/SPSC/EXAM/2022

Date:18/03/2023

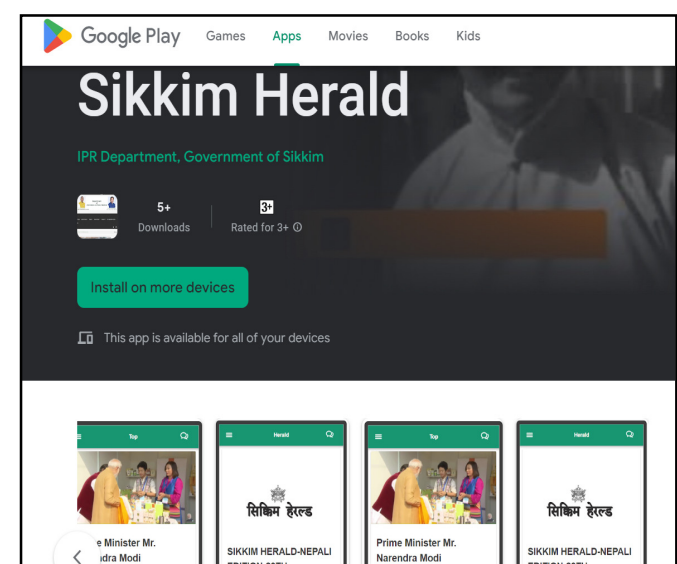
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Online Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up **01 (one) posts of Consultant** in the **Selection Grade-II** on temporary regular basis in Level - 19 of the Pay Matrix plus Super Specialty & Performance Allowance as per Notification No.158/GEN/DOP dated:19/12/2018 under Sikkim State Specialist Wing of Sikkim State Health Service, Government of Sikkim through **Direct Recruitment**. All the applications are invited through online mode only at <https://spsc.gov.in/ApplyOnline.html>

The candidates are advised to visit the Sikkim Public Service Commission website for detail Advertisement, eligibility conditions, and Scheme of Examination etc. at www.spsc.sikkim.gov.in. Any further Instructions/Corrigendum/Addendum/Rejection List would be uploaded only on the Sikkim Public Service Commission website.

**Additional Secretary (Exam)
Sikkim Public Service Commission
(88, i)**

*Sikkim Herald and Sikkim Today can also be viewed
on the Sikkim Herald App available on the Google
Play Store*



District-Level Poshan Pakhwada-cum-signature campaign

Pakyong, March 22: Women and Child Development Department and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Pakyong organised a District-Level Poshan Pakhwada-cum-signature campaign was inaugurated at DAC, Pakyong, today.

The theme for 5th Poshan Pakhwada is ‘Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India’. Poshan Pakhwada which started from March 20-April 03, focuses on promotion and popularisation of Shree Anna, Celebration of Swasth Balak Spardha and popularising

Saksham Anganwadis.

The event was attended by DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chophel along with SP Pakyong Mr. Karma Gyamtso, SDMs, DPO, CDPO, SWO, W&CDD, WO, ICDS, Aganwadi workers (AWW) and staff.

The campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote the use of locally-grown nutritious food.

DC administered a pledge to promote and practice good nutrition habits in their daily lives. The pledge highlighted the need to ensure that every child and

mother receives adequate nutrition.

The ICDS team demonstrated a variety of millet recipes during the event. The demonstration aimed to encourage the use of millet and promote the benefits of it.

Ministry of Women and Child Development aims to raise awareness about importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits through Jan Andolan and Jan Bhagidari during Poshan Pakhwada

14th Board Meeting of Managing Committee of IHCAE Chemchey held

Gangtok, March 22: 14th Board Meeting of the Managing Committee of Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure & Eco-Tourism (IHCAE), Chemchey was held at Paryatan Bhawan, today.

The meeting was chaired by Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department also the Chairman, IHCAE Managing Committee Mr. B.S. Panth and was attended by the ACS, T&CAV Department Mr. M.L. Srivastava, PCE-cum-Secretary, T&CAV Department Mr. Prakash Chettri, Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs

Department Mr. Raju Basnett, Director, Finance Department Mrs. P.G. Lucksom, Special Secretary, Planning Department Ms. Suchitra Thapa, Administrator, IHCAE-Mr. Rajiv Rai, President TAAS Mr. Norgay Lachungpa, President SAATO Mr. D.N. Pradhan, Joint Director (Adventure), T&CAV Mr. Kazi Sherpa and other concerned officers from T&CAV Department and IHCAE.

Various issues pertaining to the functioning of IHCAE such as recognition of IHCAE by Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF),

administrative requirements, camps and courses, revenue and financial implications, maintenance issues, future prospects and proposals were discussed.

Post facto approval of various activity conducted by IHCAE since last board meeting was also accorded by the Committee.

The Chairman assured necessary guidance in making IHCAE a world class adventure and eco-tourism institute.

Soreng District participates 3rd Review-cum-Technical Support workshop on Aspirational Districts

Soreng, March 22: Soreng District participated in the 3rd Review-cum-Technical Support workshop on Aspirational Districts of NE Region at a local hotel in Imphal on March 21 and 22, 2023.

During the meeting, scopes for improving the health and nutrition sector was discussed. Soreng, being the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) of NITI Aayog, is executing several programmes in five main sectors of health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and basic infrastructure development under the ADP.

Sikkim team was led by DC Mr. Bhim Thatal included ADC Mr. Gaayas Pega, Sr. AO Bishnu Sharma, CDPO Ms. Gouri Tamang,

DNO Dr. Udit Pradhan and AE, Education Department Mr. Prajwal Thapa.

The team presented overall updates on ADP and specific presentation on low institutional delivery despite sufficient infrastructure in the district.

DC mentioned about the initiatives of the State Government like incentives for couples begetting two or more children to curtail the low total fertility rate (TFR). He also mentioned about Mero Rukh Mero Santati initiative, which envisages plantation of 100 saplings per birth. For this, it has to be ensured that every delivery is in the institution, for which departments like Women and Child Development, Forest and Health are working in coordination.

Apart from this, initiatives like Mobile Medical Van Clinic provided by the Chief Minister to cater to the medical needs of far-flung areas were highlighted. He also suggested that the fund being provided to the Panchayats for local area may be utilised to provide support to the District Health Society. He also suggested involving the SHGs in the awareness activities related to health and nutrition.

A convergent activity needs to be planned among the RDD, PHE, Health, Education, Agriculture and the Panchayati Raj Institutions so that collective approach could be developed for health and nutrition sector, he added.

Contd from front page

Exhibition-cum...

Thereafter, Chief Minister also presented LED TVs to Bojoghari Children Home, Special School for Children with Disabilities Syari, Mayalmu Sangh, Half Way Home, DPH and Old Age Home, Ranipool.

A sum of ₹20,000/- each was given to 28 Sikkim Care Associations from the team’s cash reward.

The programme also saw the felicitation to Everester Manila Pradhan, Miss Indu Subedi, Social Worker, President of Inspire Humanity Foundation Sikkim, Pema Sherpa, Sikkim Police, Sandhya Gurung, Dronacharya

Awardee, National Women’s Coach, Boxing and Mrs Anuradha Chettri, State Assistant Coach in the field of football for Women with awards and mementoes.

A charitable donation of ₹1 lakh from the exhibition match was given to DC Pakyong to support any Association in need.

Contd from front page

CM inaugurates...

stated that people’s participation has led to the success of several government initiatives.

He acknowledged the work of the Area MLA and stated that the demand put forth by the committee would be considered after due consultation. He added

that the joint efforts of the State and the Central Governments is contributing to the prosperity and development of the State. Furthermore, he said that the government will integrate more developmental projects in the next budget session.

Area MLA, Mr. GT. Dhungel expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his support for the project. He also thanked the

committee for their participation and assured for possible support.

Chief Minister was also felicitated by the Mandir Committee during the programme.

Chief Engineer, Urban Development, Mr. Shailendra Sharma, presented a brief technical report on the remodelled Saraswati-Dolma Mandir.

Felicitat i o n - c u m - i n c e n t i v e distribution programme conducted

Gangtok, March 22: Felicitat i o n - c u m - i n c e n t i v e distribution programme for Safaimitras was conducted by Gangtok Municipal corporation at GMC Conference Hall Gangtok, today.

The programme was attended by Mayor GMC Mr. Nell Bahadur Chettri as the chief guest, accompanied by Deputy Mayor Mrs. Tshering Palden Bhutia, Municipal Commissioner Mr. R. B.

Bhandari, Deputy Commissioner, Councillors, Bazar officer, Municipal Finance Officer, Supervisors, GMC staff and Safai karmacharis.

Mayor extended his gratitude to the Safaimitras and incentives were distributed for their hard work. He also acknowledged the work done by Safai Karmacharies during the G20 events held in Gangtok.

Classical dance workshop in Kathak organised

Gangtok, March 22: The 15-day classical dance workshop in Kathak organised by North East Zone Cultural Centre Dimapur, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India concluded, today.

The workshop organised in collaboration with Culture Department, Government of Sikkim was conducted at the Mini Hall of Manan Bhawan, Gangtok.

Kathak is one of the main forms of classical dance-drama of India, other major ones being Bharatanatyam, Kathakali, Manipuri, Kuchipudi, and Odissi. Kathak is mostly indigenous to northern India.

The valedictory programme was attended by Secretary Culture Department Mr. Basant Kumar Lama, officials, and artists from Culture Department.

Bike rally campaign flagged off

Pakyong, March 22: DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chophel and SP Pakyong Mr. Karma Gyamtso flagged off a bike rally campaign against drugs and substance abuse from DAC Pakyong, today.

The campaign was organised by Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society in collaboration with District Police Pakyong, Hulaki News and Brotherhood Bulleteer.

The campaign aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse.

The participants will rode motorcycles through different areas of Pakyong, carrying banners and placards with messages against drug and substance abuse.

DC Pakyong emphasised the importance of community participation in such initiatives to tackle the issue of drug menace.

SP Pakyong encouraged everyone to spread awareness and educate about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse.

DLAMC meeting held

Pakyong, March 21: District-level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) meeting was held under the chairmanship of DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chophel, today.

The meeting was attended by SP Pakyong Mr. Karma Gyamtso, Director UIDAI Mr. Akshay Bahl, Project Manager UIDAI, DCSCO Food and Civil Supplies Department, CNO and Deputy Director DESMSE along with officials from various departments.

The meeting discussed various issues related to Aadhaar enrolment and its update. The committee addressed several problems faced by the public in

enrolling and updating their Aadhaar.

DC asked the concerned to ensure that Aadhaar enrolment and updating need to be done efficiently.

The committee emphasised on the importance of enrolling the students and children of the age group of 0-6 years. It was informed that Aadhaar is mandatory for availing of any welfare schemes.

Additionally, the Education Department would be in charge of making sure that all students are enrolled, and in the similar manner, other departments were also assigned their duties.

Power-tillers distributed

Gangtok, March 16: Secretary, Social Welfare Department Dr. A.B. Karki distributed power-tillers to 14 progressive farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste community of Gangtok and Pakyong Districts, in a programme held in the premises of Social Welfare Department, Lumsey, Gangtok, today.

Secretary Dr. A.B. Karki informed that the distribution of power-tillers have been carried out under the centrally sponsored scheme, Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati

Abhyuday Yojana, which aims at economic empowerment of Scheduled Caste communities through a multi-pronged approach. He urged farmers to make best utilisation of power-tillers by bringing more land under organic farming, to boost their economy.

A hands on training of power-tiller was also given to the beneficiaries.

Also present in the event were Additional Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Sr Welfare Officer and staff.

Orientation Programme for Librarians held

Gangtok, March 23: Three-day Orientation Programme for Librarians of Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools of Sikkim was organised by SCERT Sikkim from March 20-22, 2023.

The orientation programme was organised for School Librarians of the State. 46 Librarians from Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools of six districts of Sikkim and DIETs (DIET Gangtok, DIET Namchi and DIET Gyalshing) participated in the programme.

The programme had the presence of Director, SCERT along with Joint Directors, SCERT, resource persons, faculty members of SCERT and participants.

Resource persons for the

programme were Librarian, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong, Mrs. Sangay Lhamu Bhutia, Librarian, Sikkim University Dr. Shri Ram and Assistant Librarian, Sikkim University Dr. Sarbada Pradhan.

The participants were oriented on topics like five laws library, classification of books, maintenance of library register, development of reading habits, professional development of school librarian and career counselling of students.

Advisor, Education Department Mr. M.P. Subba urged the participants to work with zeal and share the expertise gained during the training for the benefits of schools and students.

Director SCERT Dr. Rabin Chhetri appreciated the efforts made by the organising team and also suggested the Research Division of SCERT to conduct a field study on the status of library in the State.

Librarian of Dikling Senior Secondary School Mr. Jagdeep Subba expressed his gratitude to SCERT for organising the training for capacity building of school Librarians.

The programme was conceptualised and designed by Joint Director SCERT Dr. Shanti Ram Adhikari and coordinated by Assistant Professor, SCERT Mr. Parijit Sutradhar and faculty, SCERT Mrs. Nikita Gurung.

Secretary AHVS reviews implementation of Fisheries sector schemes

Gangtok, March 23: The Government of Sikkim is giving significant importance to the Fisheries sector in the State. In order to review the progress and to provide required direction and decisions on the implementation of various Fisheries schemes in the State, a co-ordination-cum-review meeting was held at Directorate of Fisheries, Gangtok under the chairmanship of Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department Dr. P. Senthil Kumar, today. The meeting was attended by Director (Fisheries), Addl. Director, Joint Directors, Asst. Directors, District officials and Accounts officers and other field staff of the Fisheries.

In the meeting, Assistant Directors of various sections made presentations on the status and progress of various

Centrally sponsored schemes like the Blue Revolution and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and state sector scheme, Mukhya Mantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana (MMMUY) and Power Project sponsored schemes of Environment Management Plan.

Secretary highlighted on the effective implementation of various schemes and stressed on the need for systematic mechanism in the department.

He also directed them to release the instalment of subsidies to the beneficiaries without any delay as per their work progress. The Secretary assured for support to the fish farming community and emphasised on the production of fish seed production from government farms.

Further, Secretary directed

all the officers to work for early completion of pending schemes/programmes like the Blue Revolution and submit the UCs to the GoI, so that focus can be made on preparation and implementation of new fisheries developmental proposals in the State.

He further directed the officers to conduct awareness programmes in consultation with the District Collectors on regular basis in collaboration with other sectors like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry etc. so that the information regarding the fisheries schemes could reach to the people. The meeting also resolved to use the Sikkim Fisheries Development Board for achieving objective of fisheries development in the State.

Job Mela-cum-Alumni meet organised

Mangan, March 23: Job Mela-cum-Alumni meet under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY) was organised by the State Institute of Capacity Building, Skill Development Department in collaboration with the District Skill Committee, Mangan at the Mangar Nagar Panchayat premises, today.

The programme had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha Mangan Mr. Kado Lepcha, Zilla and Gram Panchayats, DC Mangan Mr. Hem Kumar Chettri, Chief Administrator, SICB, ADM Mangan, Director DCTSE, SDD, Dr IBS Yadav, Deputy Director, SDD, Job and Training seekers and representatives of various companies.

Zilla Adhyaksha highlighted the importance of the skill development training in order to inculcate values of self-sufficiency amongst the youth, for the upliftment and development of the State.

Chief Administrator, SICB,

Mr. Bishal Rai gave an overview of the DDUGKY, Job Mela and Alumni meet. He stated that the Skill Development Department has been conducting placement-based skill trainings for the youths of the State. He further ensured that all the youth who attended trainings conducted by the Department will be provided placement. He expressed his gratitude towards the Mangan administration and District Skill Committee for extending all necessary cooperation. He also thanked Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow of the District, Miss Dilu Sharma for her co-operation.

A total of 14 private companies and organisations including pharmaceutical, hospitality, banking, insurance and various other sectors participated in the Mela.

Earlier, few alumni of the programme shared their experiences and urged everyone present to make the most of training.

Sikkim Government Committee on ILP holds meeting at Aizawl

Gangtok, March 20: Four members of Sikkim Government Committee on ILP held meeting at Aizawl, Mizoram, today.

The meeting was chaired by Commissioner cum Secretary, Home Department, Government of Mizoram Mr. H. Lalengmawia.

Integrating Climate Considerations in Budgeting event held

Udaipur, March 21: As a part of the G20 Presidency, the Sustainable Finance Working Group led by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India organised 'Integrating Climate Considerations in Budgeting' event in association with the UNDP's Climate Finance Network at Udaipur, Rajasthan on March 20.

Sikkim was represented by Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Mr. Bhuwan Pradhan, Principal Director Science and Technology Department, Mr. Dhiren Shrestha and Principal Director, Finance Department, Mr. Rajendra Sharma.

The event discussed about the Climate Budget Tagging in public finances for climate responsiveness. Climate Budget

Tagging (CBT) is a growing government-led process of identifying, measuring and monitoring climate relevant public expenditures, with 26 countries having introduced or piloted CBT at the national level.

The event had leading figures speak about the global experience with climate budget, including its implementation in different contexts. The gathering reflected on convergences and divergences in approach while considering diverse economic conditions. They also discussed about the support required for interested states to implement Climate Budget Tagging. The role of the government in identifying financing gaps and improving investment effectiveness for a climate resilient economy were also discussed in the event.

Exposure visit of urban Self-Help Groups to Odisha

Gangtok, March 23: On the direction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) in convergence with Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Swachhata Yatra 'Women Led Sanitation Campaign' is being launched from March 23-29, 2023.

As part of the programme, a team of 10 members from

different Urban Self-Help Group was sent from Gangtok to Bhubaneswar, Odisha by Senior Officers of Urban Development Department.

The Swachhata Yatra covers an exposure visit of SHG members from Sikkim to the host State, Odisha. The members will be known as Swachhata Doots (Ambassadors) and will actively participate in peer learning and good practices with the host State, Odisha.

The Swachhata Yatra

would enable exposure of women SHGs in decentralised model of waste management. The Swachhata Doots will call on the women MP/MLA/Mayor/Corporators/DM/SP of the Host City to spread the message of sanitation in general and importance of garbage free cities in particular.

The Swachhata Yatra teams of Government of India, will visit the host cities from both the Missions.

Orientation on LSDG Theme 2-Healthy Village

Namchi, March 24: An orientation on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG) Theme 2-Healthy Village was conducted at different schools by State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Rural Development Department, in convergence with Health and Family Welfare and Education Departments, today.

22 Senior Secondary Schools of Namchi District participated in the programme. The sessions were handled by

health ambassadors of schools who were trained online on overall health issues focusing mainly on adolescent health, mental health, substance abuse, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, COVID-19 and other virus by State IEC Officer Health, Mr. Sonam G. Bhutia.

The online programme also had the presence of Director SIRD&PR Mr. Bishal Mukhia, Course Director Mr. Varun Chettri, CEO Namchi Mr. K. Imba Raj, Joint Director Education Mr. G.P. Sharma alongwith the

Principals of Schools.

Director SIRD&PR Mr. Bishal Mukhia laid down the mandate of LSDG and highlighted healthy village, which aims at the social and psychological welfare. He apprised that students are the medium to disseminate the information to the general mass.

Course Director Mr. Varun Chettri laid down the guidelines and SOP of the orientation programme.

Sports and Youth Affairs Deptt. organises series of sporting events

Namchi, March 24: Sports and Youth Affairs Department organised a series of sporting events in Namchi District, as a part of celebrating the International Women Day, 2023 from March 10, 2023.

Themed 'empowering women through Sports' under

'Khelo India Dus ka Dum', the event aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage everyone to undertake some form of exercise or sports every day. List of competitions including badminton, table tennis, karate, taekwondo, yoga, boxing, volleyball, archery and football was played.

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Minister K.N. Lepcha inaugurates Govt. SS Linkey school building

Pakyong, March 24: Minister for Education Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha inaugurated School building of Government Secondary School, Linkey, today.

Minister Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha highlighted on the number of government initiatives under the Education Department and emphasised on the importance of implementing all government

programmes, including Vidhya Pravesh and Nipun Bharat. He also stressed on taking advantage of government incentives and grants and emphasised on value of learning.

He directed the Engineering Cell, Education Department to take note of the required infrastructure in the school.

Earlier, SMC Advisor Mr.

Kamal Kafley (retd. Special Secretary) emphasised on the need and requirement of new school building.

The programme was also attended by SDM (Hq.) Pakyong, BDO Parakha, retired DIG, JD Pakyong, and officials from Engineering Cell, Education Department.

Rainbow Trout seeds distributed

Soreng, March 24: DC Soreng Mr. Bhim Thatal and Directorate of Fisheries distributed 'Rainbow Trout seeds' to the beneficiaries of Soreng District under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme for the year 2020-21 at Upper Sribadam, today.

The programme had the presence of the Joint Director, Directorate of Fisheries Mr. Lobzang Lama, Assistant Director Directorate of Fisheries Mr. Yowa

Raj Sharma, Field Officers and staff, Trout Rearing Cooperative Society Upper Sribadam President and Vice President, Manager, Fish Farmers Producers Organisation (Fins Club) CEO and fish farmers of Upper Sribadam.

DC also visited the Live Fish Vending Centre, Sribadam and Trout Hatchery House of Mr. Kal Bdr. Gurung. He said that Soreng as an Aspirational District is focused in five elements including health and nutrition, education,

financial inclusion and skill development, infrastructure, and agricultural and water resources. He directed the Directorate of Fisheries to provide details about the schemes, programmes and activities to the students, especially upto standard 9 to 12 and teachers, staff along with SMC members so that the activities of the Directorate disseminate in the villages expeditiously.

Mission Director SBM Benu Gurung inspects infrastructure under RURBAN

Soreng, March 24: Special Secretary cum Mission Director, SBM, RDD-cum-Project Director, MGNREGA, Mrs. Benu Gurung made an official visit and took stock of the completed and on-going infrastructure construction under RURBAN Mission at Soreng district, today.

She was accompanied by Panchayat members, ADC (Dev.), BDO Soreng, ADPC Soreng, Technical Officers and staff of BAC Soreng.

The team visited recently established Village Administrative Centre situated at Budang GPU under the SPMRM. Thereafter, she took stock of the progress of RURBAN Community Centre (RCC) constructed at Pega Gaon and directed for the timely completion. They also visited Fly-over Bridge constructed near Soreng Senior Secondary School.

A coordination meeting was also held at the ADC (Dev.) chamber after the site inspection.

Many issues including MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission and social audit of issues related to MGNREGA were discussed.

She was also apprised about the issues related to MIS. She directed the BDOs Chumbong and Soreng to clear all pending bills of suppliers at the earliest. She further informed that a training programme of SBM-G Swachh Survekshan, 2023 will be held in the month of April for Soreng district.

World Tuberculosis Day organised

Namchi, March 24: District Tuberculosis Centre organised World Tuberculosis Day, 2023 themed 'Yes! We can end TB!' at the conference hall of District Hospital Namchi, today.

Present during the occasion were Chairman NMC Mr. Ganesh Rai, CMO Namchi Dr. D. C. Sharma, District Medical Superintendent Namchi Dr. S. N. Adhikari, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Anju Rai, DRCHO Namchi Dr. Junita Yonzon, staff and students from Namchi Senior Secondary School.

Chairman NMC elucidated on TB as a disease that requires comprehensive response in terms of medical, social and economic features. Immediate response in diagnosis of TB is pertinent and with efficient treatment, TB can be mitigated, he added. He also underlined that people suffering from TB faces both stigma and discrimination and urged the attendees to understand the concept of TB and advocate proper

medical supervision to enable a supportive environment. He further stated that the State Government is committed in providing quality healthcare facilities in the State and highlighted that Sikkim will put efforts in tackling Tuberculosis in the coming years and for this, he updated that collective endeavour of medical fraternity, community and other stakeholders is being sought.

CMO Namchi informed about various aspects of Tuberculosis, its symptoms and different ways to treat it. He congratulated the team of TB Centre as there has been a 20% reduction in the cases. He further articulated that Namchi District Hospital includes a TB Centre, which has the capacity to provide quality TB cure services.

Medical Officer TB Centre spoke about the causes, symptoms and prevention of tuberculosis. He emphasised how

the TB Centre of Namchi is working consistently in combating TB and said that through schemes laid by the Centre and the State Governments, medical, food baskets and other amenities are being provided to TB patients for their effective recovery. He also spoke about Ni-kshay Mitra Initiative, which includes a three-pronged support that is nutritional, additional diagnostic, and vocational and urged one and all to take advantage of it.

District Tuberculosis Officer felicitated the Tuberculosis Centre staff, Non-Governmental Organisations, namely, Amardeep Club from Karek Namthang, RRC, EPCS Church, TB Champion and Survivors and other volunteers, who have played an active part in combating Tuberculosis in the district. Also, certificates were handed to winners of Tuberculosis slogan writing competition.

current drain on the eastern side of Runway 20, dewatering pump to be installed, a concrete water drainage system to be constructed to channel the overflowed water and sludge towards Bhanu turning jhora at the base of the Airport wall, were discussed.

State Advisory Committee meeting chaired

Gangtok, March 24: Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department Mr. Tshewang Gyachho chaired a State Advisory Committee meeting regarding Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act 1994 at the Conference Hall, Health Department, today.

Also present were HoD, Paediatrics, STNM, ADHS/ME Hq., Chief Consultant, OBG, HoD Radiology, STNM, DLO Law, officials and staff of the department.

ADHS/RCH Dr. Anita Bhutia presented a PowerPoint on the understanding of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques, PC&PNDT Act. She informed that the Supreme Court takes a serious view of the onslaught of sex-selective discriminatory practices by the medical fraternity and had directed the Centre to implement the PC & PNDT Act in all aspects. She briefed about the salient provisions of the PC&PNDT Act.

The main objective of the PC&PNDT Act is to bring under the purview of this Act, all USG

Centres, Genetic Laboratories and Counselling Centres that can carry out sex determination tests, to keep a close watch on these Centres by building a system for scrutiny and suspending/cancelling the registration of those Centres, which violate the provisions of the Act and to register criminal cases against those who advertise or carry out sex determination and sex selection tests and thus violate the provisions of the Act.

During the presentation, Secretary noted the details of the USG clinics and machines in the State and urged the Board Members to go for routine inspection and directed the monitoring mechanisms to be stringent.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the rules. It was a mandatory Advisory Committee meeting, which is held every two months under State Appropriate Authority. Further, it also discussed the measures taken to create public awareness about the PC-PNDT in the State.

Border Area programme organised

Gangtok, March 24: A two-day 'Border Area programme' is being organised by North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) Dimapur under Ministry of Culture, Government of India from March 23-24, 2023 at Sikkim Armed Police Camp Pangthang and Indo Tibetan Border Police camp at Lingdum, Ranka, today.

On the first day, Secretary Culture Department, Mr. Basant Kumar Lama graced the programme as the chief guest, organised in collaboration with the Department of Culture at SAP Camp, Pangthang.

The chief guest lauded the performance of the artistes in presenting the beautiful folk dances of various states and thanked NEZCC for the wonderful opportunity provided for the cultural exchange and exposure to the artistes.

The programme at Lingdum Ranka was graced by Deputy Commandant Mr. Ammulya Roy from ITBP Ranka,

Additional Director Culture Department, Mrs. Sonam Wangmu Shenga, OSD Culture, locals and families of ITBP personnel.

It was informed that 110 artistes from Jammu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Assam and local troupes from Sikkim participated in the cultural programme. The cultural troupe presented Koli folk dance of Maharashtra, Jagarn dance from Jammu, Aphilo kuwo folk dance from Nagaland, Domahi kikon from Assam and Badhai from Maharashtra. The local cultural troupes from Sikkim also presented their rich and vibrant folk song and dances of Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepali communities.

Border Area Programme is mostly organised for the people living along international border areas and giving them a chance to participate in the cultural activities.

Awareness programme on source segregation

Gangtok, March 24: Gangtok Municipal Corporation organised an awareness programme on source segregation at Government Junior High School, Burtuk, today.

The programme was attended by Mayor GMC, Mr. Nell Bahadur Chhetri, Municipal Commissioner Mr. R.B. Bhandari, Bazar Officers, School Management Committee members, headmaster, teachers, and students.

Mayor GMC called for a collective effort in maintaining the cleanliness of public areas. He said that the main focus behind the source segregation is to attain

proper management and disposal of waste generated. He also apprised on the waste processing plant setup at 32 Number Martam.

GMC Commissioner said that it is the duty of the waste generator to segregate their waste at the source and dispose it to the garbage collecting vehicles. He added that GMC has a manure composting plant wherein, wet waste compost is recycled into energy or manure for which, the waste needs to be segregated. With regard to dry waste, hazardous waste and e-waste, there are other facilities available, he added.

Joint inspection at Green Field Airport Pakyong

Pakyong, March 25: Under the direction of DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chopel, a joint inspection was carried out at Green Field Airport Pakyong headed by SDM Hq. Pakyong, Panchayat Zoomthang Ward, DPO (DDMA) Pakyong, RO (AD) Pakyong, AGM Engg. (Civil & Elect.) and locals, today.

The inspection was made to assess the damages brought heavy rainfall occurred on March 24.

During the inspection, various directives issued by the Airport Authority to prevent further damages, such as, the installation of a parallel water drainage system close to the

Two Filmmakers from Sikkim wins Award at NorthEast Film Festival 2023

Mumbai, March 25:Two Filmmakers from Sikkim won the Award at the NorthEast Film Festival 2023, Mumbai. Mr. Amir Gurung bagged the best Director silver award for film 'Myth' and Mr. Abhishek Chettri conferred the best director jury selection for 'This side of Town'.

Under the direction of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, a filmmakers team led by Chairperson Sikkim Film Promotion Board Mrs. Pooja Sharma attended

the North East Film Festival 2023 in Mumbai from March 25 and 26.

From Sikkim, 5 short films and 1 documentary were selected to be screened at the festival.

Six films which were shortlisted are Sukhim-Raju Kafley (Short film), Myth-Amir Gurung (Short Film), This side of town-Abhishek Chettri (Short Film), Mohan Ra Madan- Binesh K. Rai (Short Film), Saga Dawa- Sujal Pradhan (Documentary) and Chotu- Nirmal Bhattarai and Arjun

Chapagai (Short film).

The festival had Mr. Samten Bhutia as one of their official juries and 4 Sikkimese senior artists and filmmakers were felicitated at the event.

Chairperson SFPB Mrs. Pooja Sharma extended gratitude to the Chief Minister and Minister for IPR Department for their encouragement and support.

A total of 50 movies from Northeast India were screened at Northeast Film Festival 2023.

District Level Narcotics Coordination Committee meeting held

Soreng, March 27: DC Soreng Mr. Bhim Thatal chaired a meeting with District Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) at his office, today.

Also present were SP (Gyalshing/Soreng) Mr. Arjun Tamang, ADC Soreng Mr. Dhiraj Subedi, SDMs, CMO (Gyalshing/Soreng), Dy. Commandant (SSB), JD (Agriculture), JD/Dental (Health), SDPO Soreng, Dy. Director (Education) and other line departments.

The DC reviewed the agendas that were discussed in the previous meeting. Appropriate method of drugs disposal and destruction of illegally cultivated

poppy or cannabis crop in the district by the concerned authorities was also among the discussion. He suggested the Education department officials to elaborately converse with other organisations, such as SARATHI in bringing about more awareness in schools, colleges and educational institutes about the harmful effects of drug or substance abuses. He also highlighted the roles and responsibilities of appointed Health Ambassadors along with Health Officials in giving health related counselling to the vulnerable age groups through District's initiative of 'One Day at

a School'.

He further enquired about the initiatives taken by SSB in generating awareness against drug abuse and trafficking at social institutions. He encouraged for required involvement in the current IEC mechanism and advised for conscious efforts to be taken in destigmatising those recovering from addiction.

SP informed about the appropriate method in disposing the confiscated drugs, legally. He encouraged practical involvement and prompt action from the concerned department for positive changes.

Filing of nominations for Panchayat By- Elections 2023

Namchi, March 27: On the last and the final day of filing of nominations for Panchayat By-Elections, 2023, a total of 08 nominations under Namchi

District were received at DAC Namchi, today.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on March 28 from 11 a.m. at DAC. Namchi.

The last date of withdrawal of candidature is on March 31, untill 3 pm.

Surgical Camp for patients of cleft lip and cleft palate conducted

Gangtok, March 24: Under the Rastriya Bal Suraksha Karyakram (RBSK), of NHM, Health and Family Welfare Department, the Department of Plastic Surgery, STNM Multispecialty Hospital, Gangtok, in association with Mission Smile, sponsored by Colgate, conducted an inaugural programme of the Surgical Camp for patients of cleft lip and cleft palate, at the STNM hospital, Sochaygang, today.

Secretary Health and Family Welfare Department Mr. Tshewang Gyachho attended the programme along with Medical Superintendent STNM Hospital Dr. K. B. Gurung, Principal Director Dr. Yalley D. Chankapa, Principal Director Dr. Tekendra Rai, Principal Director Dr. Pema Seden Lepcha of Health and Family Welfare Department, CEO Mission Smile Mr. Conrad Godfrey Dennis, Field Medical Director and Surgical Team Leader Mission Smile Col. Dr. Vijay Langer, Anaesthesia Team Leader Mission Smile Dr. Kuljeet Singh Virk and HoD Paediatrics Department Dr. Ruth D. Yonzon.

Secretary lauded the Chief Minister for his support and vision for the health sector and congratulated the team for the first surgical camp conducted last year. He mentioned that the impact that they have made in the lives of the

patients is really commendable and have played a tremendous role in the betterment of their future.

He urged the beneficiaries to take full advantage of the camp and also talked about the importance of the reviews that will be conducted in the future. He urged them to be aware of the camps being organised in the coming days.

HOD, Department of Plastic Surgery introduced two patients who had undergone reconstructive surgery last year and thanked the Chief Minister for giving priority to the health sector. She welcomed the team of doctors from national and international platforms for their efforts in making the camp a success. She mentioned that fifty patients will undergo surgery this year.

CEO Mission Smile mentioned that the Mission Smile has been working since 2002 and have conducted 131 missions spreading 43,000 smiles all across the nation. He also thanked the staff of the hospital for their support.

Prior to this, Mr. Gyanden Lachungpa was felicitated for helping the patients financially and making the camp a success.

After the inaugural session, the Secretary and the team visited

the in-patients at STNM and interacted with them and briefed about the provisions being provided.

It may be mentioned that the Camp will continue until March 28, 2023, where the patients will be screened and operated. The surgery has two phases: in the first phase, the patients will be operated on for their cleft lip, and in the second phase, they will be operated on for their cleft palate.

The ongoing camp is the second one being organised at STNM hospital, where more than thirty patients to be operated in the camp. The first Cleft Camp was successfully conducted last year in the month of March, where fifty-two patients had been screened, and out of those, thirty-two had undergone the surgery. Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery comprises multiple stages, and the patients who benefited from the surgery last year have come again for the next stage of the procedure.

The team comprised of Surgeons Anaesthesiologists, Paediatricians, OR Technicians, OR Nurses, Recovery Nurses, Ward Nurses from Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Delhi, Philippines and Singapore and the staff of STNM hospital.

Team led by DC Gangtok inspects land slide in Rakdong Tintek

Gangtok, March 26: The Disaster Management Authority Team headed by District Collector, Gangtok Mr. Tushar Nikhare visited land slide affected area at Rakdong Tintek, today.

Zilla Adhyaksha, Gangtok, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE), Roads and Bridges Department, BDO, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Revenue Surveyor along with officials from concerned departments were present during the inspection.

As per information received from DC Office, Gangtok, the landslide took place around 3am on March 26 reported no casualty, however, the slide has damaged few households, loss of livestock around Dikchu and Rakdong Tintek.

The victims, namely, Mr. Phurba Tshering Lepcha, Mr. Dawa Tshering Lepcha, Mr. Pushpa Lal Sharma and Mr. Sugam Prasad Neopaney were provided ex-gratia as per the SDRF norms and the cheques were handed to

the beneficiaries by the Zilla Adhyaksha as an immediate relief.

Further, there were 18 families whose households were at the close proximity of the slide. They were required to be shifted to a safer location incase of further slide.

The administration in co-ordination with Hydro Power Companies, have arranged temporary relief shelter at NHPC Guest house located at Samdong and SKPPL Guest house located at Dikchu for accommodating the families.

The Ward Panchayat has been assigned for assisting the families incase of temporary shelter requirement in co-ordination with the concerned Guest house Incharge.

Further, District Collector informed that a detail damaged assessment will be conducted through concerned respective field officials for onward necessary action and assured all possible help to restore normalcy at the earliest.

DC Soreng chairs first District level committee meeting

Soreng, March 27: DC Soreng, Mr. Bhim Thatal chaired the first meeting of District Level Committee to implement the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme at his office, today.

The DC informed that the identified schools under the PM SHRI scheme will be provided with dedicated, targeted and all-inclusive interventions to ensure holistic transformations at all levels, including access, quality, equity and inclusion. He said that Education being one of the important components of an

Aspirational District, it has been recognised as the priority sector along with health not just by the State but also by the Central Government. He also informed about the new education policy, which focuses primarily in establishing age-appropriate education system for the children. He advocated for the proper execution of the objectives of the scheme for the benefit of the students and apprised active and specific involvement from all line-department for successful implementation of the scheme.

Minister L. N. Sharma chairs meeting for organising Kisan Mela

Gangtok, March 24: Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Departments, Mr. L. N. Sharma chaired a meeting for organising Kisan Mela in the State, today. Secretaries of the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments Mr. J.D. Bhutia, Mr. S.K. Tamang and Dr. P. Senthil Kumar along with the officials of their respective Departments attended the meeting.

Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma said that agriculture and allied sectors are the key areas for the State's development and progress and it is an opportunity to showcase the strength of these sectors.

DC Pakyong inspects BPHU and Viaduct at Rangpo

Pakyong, March 27: DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chopel inspected the Block Public Health Unit and Viaduct at Rangpo, today.

The DC met with the representatives from concerned department, and instructed them to complete the outstanding work by the first week of May. He also visited the infirmary and

assessed the premises, where he was accompanied by Incharge Rangpo H&W PHC, Dr. Nikhel Topden.

SDM Rangpo, Mrs. Sujata Subba and officials from the Buildings and Housing Department also were present during the inspection.

Governor adopts and hands over cheque to TB patients

Gangtok, March 24: Governor Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya adopted 10 TB patients and handed over a cheque of ₹1 lakh 20 thousand to the District Head of TB Cell on the occasion of World TB Day, as a part of Nikshay Mitra to support the TB patients of the state, followed by a pledge at Raj Bhavan, today.

The Governor also took part in the online broadcast of One World TB Day, 'TB Mukh Bharat' held at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of World TB Day. The programme held at Varanasi was attended by the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi along with Governor UP Mr. Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister UP Mr. Yogi Adityanath, Union Health Minister Mr. Manasukh Mandaviya, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sandeep Chaudhary and other dignitaries.

The programme was organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Committee of India and stop TB partnership of United Nations hosted organisation that amplifies the voices of the people,



communities and countries affected by TB. From Gangtok, Secretary Raj Bhavan, District TB Officer, Government officials virtually participated in the programme.

Governor Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya said that India has set an aspirational target to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target set by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan is centred around four

strategic pillars, detection, treatment, prevention and building.

He said that, as part of his efforts to make India a role model nation, the Prime Minister has been working to eradicate TB from its origins.

He stated that one should take a firm stand and shoulder the responsibility with the country and be a part of such schemes.

A Division Men's Tournament 2023 concludes

Pakyong, March 24: 'A' Division Men's Tournament 2023 organised by the Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA), concluded at Sikkim Cricket Ground, Rangpo, today.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang attended the event as the chief guest. Also present were Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Department Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Minister for IPR Department Mr. B.S. Panth, Minister for Women and Child Development Department Mr.

Sanjeet Kharel, Minister for UDD Mr. L.B. Das, Minister for Road and Bridges Department Mr. Samdup Lepcha, Sports & Youth Affairs, Secretary Mr. Raju Basnet, DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chopel, SP Pakyong Mr. Karma Gyamtso, President Sikkim Football Association Mr. Menla Ethenpa, SDM Rangpo Ms. Sujata Subba and officials from various departments.

Eight teams competed in the tournament, which got underway

on March 05, 2023. Alpine Sporting Club won the game against Pakyong Eleven XI.

It is to be mentioned that Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) was formed on May 05, 1987 under the Leadership of Mr. Jasbir Singh and Mr N. K. Pradhan, with the objective of promoting, encouraging and improving the standard of cricket in Sikkim. Presently, there are around 30 Cricket clubs in Sikkim.

Awareness programme on HIV/AIDS

Pakyong, March 26: An awareness programme on HIV/AIDS with the collaboration of Mahila Patrakar Sangh Sikkim and the Sikkim State AIDS Control Society was held at the Community Hall in Pakyong, today. The programme aimed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, its causes, prevention, and treatment.

The event was attended by President Nari Shakti Sikkim, Mrs. Kala Rai as the chief guest, along with Zilla Adhyaksha Mrs. Laden Bhutia as the guest of honour. Also present were Advisor Culture Department, Zilla Upadhyaksha, ADC (Dev.) Pakyong and other officials.

President Nari Shakti Sikkim Mrs. Kala Rai commended the Mahila Patrakar Sangh Sikkim, the Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, and the Government of Sikkim for their

efforts in organising awareness programme. She urged the students to be aware about AIDS and protect themselves, their families, and others from it.

Zilla Upadhyaksha urged for more awareness programmes to be organised in the educational institutions and other sections of society.

ADC (Dev.) Pakyong, Mr. Robin Sewa said that the primary goal was to inform and create awareness among the younger generation about HIV/AIDS prevention and management.

PHC Pakyong, Dr. Sidhant Basnett, stressed on the necessity of raising awareness and the early detection and its treatment. He focused on a variety of topics related to HIV/AIDS awareness on transmission mechanisms.

Assistant Director Health Department spoke about the

significance of education on HIV/AIDS, particularly for students and the awareness programmes to help reduce the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and prevent its spread.

The winners of the poetry challenge were Rohini Bastola from Tareythang Secondary School, Malika Kafley from Mamring Secondary School, and Lila Khatiwada from Dikling Secondary School.

Dipika Dangal from Amba Secondary School stood first position in the extempore speech competition, followed by Dewash Kafley from Mamring Secondary School in second position.

Also present were government officials, principals, and teachers from different schools.

Chief Minister inaugurates meeting of 49th TCC and ERPC

Gangtok, March 23: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the two-day meeting of the 49th Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) and Eastern Regional Power Committee (ERPC) under the aegis of Power Department and Sikkim Urja

Limited at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Also present were Minister for Power Department, Mr. M.N. Sherpa, Chairman Sikkim Urja Limited (SUL) Mr. Sunil Saraogi, Secretary for Power Department, Mr. Ganesh Chettri and concerned officials.

State Credit Seminar 2023 held

Gangtok, March 22: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang attended the State Credit Seminar 2023 at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

The Seminar had the presence of Chief Secretary Mr. V.B. Pathak, Vice Chancellor Sikkim University, Dr. Avinash Khare, Chief General Manager and OIC, Reserve Bank of India, Mr. Kishore Pariyar, General Manager and OIC NABARD Sikkim RO, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Convenor SLBC SBI, Virendra Singh, Secretaries from various line departments, DC Gangtok Mr. Tushar Nikhare, Officers from line departments, SHGs, FPOs, NGOs, and beneficiaries.

The Seminar was organised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with various line departments and Regional Banks.

During the programme, a PowerPoint presentation was shared to highlight the significant development initiatives of NABARD 2022-23 and plans, priorities for 2023-24, and State Focus Paper 2023-24. Many different issues, such as NABARD's initiatives in 2022-23, grant support during the programme calendar year, priorities for aspirational districts, convergence with stakeholders, economic segments related to Sikkim, Sikkim Agricultural and Banking design, sectoral trends in credit flow and agricultural/credit plan projects for 2023-24 in six districts, were elaborately explained. The Seminar also included handing over sanction letters for various developmental projects.

Nine beneficiaries were given sanction letters for various development projects by the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister also acknowledged NABARD for their work towards the development of the State. Citing examples of industrialists like Anil Ambani and Ratan Tata, who have also utilised bank loans to fund their endeavours, he asked the upcoming entrepreneurs to develop a sense of ownership towards banks and repay their loans timely. He directed the banks and the concerned departments to reach out to the rural population.

He appreciated the Government officials and the

public for their participation during the G20 meetings. He stated that same spirit of teamwork is needed to achieve Aatma Nirbhar Sikkim.

Chief Secretary Mr. V.B. Pathak said that NABARD plays a crucial role in the development of the State, by providing individuals with numerous opportunities to start their business of choice. He directed the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry departments to sensitise on various schemes to the rural population.

General Manager NABARD, Sikkim RO, Mr. Sanjay Gupta, expressed happiness on the opportunity to conduct the seminar and said that recent international events, like G20 meetings held in the State, have opened numerous opportunities in the investment sector and economic growth. He added that it is now a pivotal moment for Sikkim to lead and demonstrate. He described activities concerning NABARD and its functions in the State and also apprised about objectives to invest in the aspirational districts of the State.

He said that NABARD is open to coordinate with the Government and other banks to provide necessary resources for the development of the State. He added that the SHGs must be developed as micro-enterprises, and FPOs should be funded without collateral damage.

Convenor SLBC, SBI Mr. Virendra Singh congratulated NABARD on the release of State Focus Paper through the Chief Minister. He spoke on recent visit of the Union Finance Minister and said that her visit has opened the prospect for progress at places like Lachen, where NABARD and other regional banks have put efforts for financial inclusion delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.

Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Mr. Kishore Pariyar, briefed on targets achieved by NABARD, which is at par with the national average. He appealed to the regional banks to conduct regular meetings to sensitise the rural population about various Government schemes.

Vice Chancellor Sikkim University, Mr. Avinash Nikhare, appreciated NABARD as the apex development bank for Sikkim.

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