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104-feet tall Monumental Flag Mast inaugurated



Gangtok, March 29: The landmark Mahatma Gandhi Marg in the heart of the Capital now has a Monumental Flag Mast. The 104-foot tall Monumental Flag Mast was formally inaugurated today by the Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad in the gracious presence of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang and distinguished dignitaries.

The Governor unveiled the plaque and hoisted the National Flag amidst the tune of National Anthem played by the Sikkim Police band. The Monumental Flag Mast will be a permanent structure here and the National Flag will remain hoisted throughout.

DIG Range, Sikkim Police, Mr. Prawin Gurung, in his welcome address gave a brief introduction of the Indian Flag Code.

A patriotic tune was presented on the Saxophone by the Sikkim Police Band, lending festivity to the event.

This new landmark has been erected by the Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim. It is situated in front of the Tourist Information Centre at the entrance of M.G. Marg.

Assembly Session concludes sine-die

Gangtok, March 26: The Fourth Session (Part II) of the Tenth Assembly of Sikkim Legislative Assembly was held today, presided over by Speaker, SLA, Mr. L.B. Das.

The Session was held for one day due to the prevailing situation of COVID-19 to consider and pass the urgent Government business including Vote on Account for the year 2021-22. The one-day session saw passing of three Amendment Bills, Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2020-21, two Appropriation Bills and Vote on Account for the year 2021-22.

The Session began with the Obituary Reference on the passing away of Late Mr. Phetook Tshering Bhutia, former Member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly. The Obituary Reference was participated by Speaker Mr. L.B. Das, Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, Minister Mr. Sonam Lama and Member Mr. K.S. Lepcha.

Late Mr. Phetook Tshering Bhutia passed away on 20th February, 2021 at his residence in Gumpa Ghurpisey, Namchi, South Sikkim. He was suffering with kidney and liver related illness.

Born on 3rd June, 1944, to parents Mr. Sonam Zigdor Bhutia and Mrs. Chunki Bhutia, Late Mr. Phetook Tshering Bhutia is survived by his wife, three daughters and a son.

Late Mr. Bhutia, started his schooling from Namchi Senior Secondary School, went on to continue his monastic studies at

Ngadak Gumpa, Namchi.

Lt. Mr. Bhutia served the State Government in various capacities. After his retirement from Government service in 2002, he involved himself in active social work and in the year 2009 he was elected from the Sangha seat as Member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly and served as Chairman, Scheduled Tribe Welfare Board till 2014. Late Mr. Bhutia contributed as an active member of the Committee of Monasteries namely Samdruptse and Ngadak Gumpa, and various social organizations.

As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the House observed two minutes silence.

During the Legislative Business, Minister in charge of Education Department Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha introduced The Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical, Technological Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2021, (Bill No. 6 of 2021). The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill is as follows:

The Manipal Pai Foundation (a Trust) has been renamed as Manipal Education Foundation with effect from 27th January, 2011. The President/Chairman of the Foundation is finding it increasingly difficult to perform the functions of Pro-Chancellor of the University in view of various other responsibilities. Therefore, the State Government has deemed it expedient to amend sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical, Technological Sciences Act, 1995

(No. 9 of 1995) Act to enable the President/Chairman of the Manipal Education Foundation to appoint any other person as the Pro-Chancellor. With this object in view, the Bill has been framed.

Minister in Charge of Urban Development Department, Mr. Arun Upreti introduced the Sikkim Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 07 of 2021. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, considering the various factors determining the number of wards, such as, increase in dwelling pattern in the Gangtok Municipal Corporation, the State Government has deemed it necessary and expedient to review and increase the number of wards from the existing 17 (seventeen) to 19 (nineteen) wards. With this object in view, the Bill has been framed.

Minister in charge of the Law Department Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha introduced The Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organizations (Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 08 of 2021. As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, the State Government has deemed it expedient to amend section 3 to insert a proviso to clause (d) of sub-section (2) and insert "Power to Relax" clause in the Sikkim Regulation of Societies, Associations and other Voluntary Organizations Act, 2008 by way of insertion of new section 8A so as to remedy the technical difficulties

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Governor and CM participates in Holi Milan programme

Gangtok, March 29: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang participated in the Holi Milan programme organised by the Gangtok Holi Utsav Samiti 2021 at M.G. Marg, Gangtok, today.

The celebration was also joined by Cabinet Ministers, MLAs and other dignitaries.

During the programme, the Governor and Chief Minister were also felicitated by the Utsav Samiti.

Sikkim among seven states to receive Performance Grant under JJS

Gangtok: The Jal Shakti Ministry has approved ₹465 crore as a performance incentive grant to seven states including Sikkim on March 27. These states have qualified for the incentive grant for 2020-21 under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Har Ghar Jal to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.

and financial progress, the functionality of piped water supply schemes and the capacity to utilize the fund.

The Union Minister for Jal Shakti Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat approved the amount for the performance incentive to these states. The Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang hailed it as a proud moment for the state and urged all to continue with the same spirit and achieve all the goals in the coming days. He also expressed his gratitude to all the individuals who were involved in initiating the Mission in the state.

It is for the first time that five north-east states have qualified for the performance incentive grants. They have been successful in swiftly implementing Jal Jeevan Mission despite several geographical issues. The criteria for the grants included physical

1st Inter School State Junior Olympic Games 2021 inaugurated

Gangtok, March 28: The inaugural ceremony of 1st Inter School State Junior Olympic Games 2021 was held at Paljor Stadium, today. The Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang graced the function as the chief guest.

At the onset, the Chief Minister presented the Olympic Torch to the participating athletes, which was followed by oath taking ceremony and march past by the participants and official declaration of 1st Inter School State Junior Olympic Games 2021 open by the chief guest.

Organised by Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, the programme was also attended by Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Department Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Cabinet Ministers, Political Secretary to Chief Minister Mr. Jacob Khaling, MLAs, Advisors, Chairpersons, Heads of various Departments, athletes, coaches and departmental officials.

The Chief Minister also flagged off the 1st State Level Chief Minister's One Mile Run from Paljor Stadium. The run was held in two category, under 14 boys and under 14 girls, which covered till Tamang Gumpa and later culminated at Paljor Stadium.

The programme commenced with the hoisting of Flag of 1st Inter School State Junior Olympic Games 2021 by the chief guest. The Olympic is being organised in two category, under 14 boys and girls of the State. The Olympic will be held in eight sports disciplines namely, Athletics, Archery, Boxing, Badminton, Football, Karate, Taekwondo and Table Tennis.

The winners of both the boys and girls category were awarded with medals and prize money.

In the boys category, 1st position was bagged by Satish Rai from Gyalshing BAC, 2nd position by Maniraj Lohar from Gyalshing BAC and 3rd position by Rupesh Subba from Chumbung BAC.

In the girls category, Phurba Tamang from Soreng BAC stood 1st position followed by Subana

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District Diary

MP (Rajya Sabha) adopts Rongong Tumlong GPU under SAGY

Mangan, March 26: As a part of Sansaad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) the entry point visit of Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Mr. Hishey Lachungpa was held at Phodong Senior

Secondary School for Rongong Tumlong GPU, today. The guest of honour for the event was Minister for Forest and Wildlife Management Department, Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Hishey Lachungpa expressed his pleasure and gratitude, both on the occasion of Rongong

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Stakeholders' Interaction and Awareness Programme of Mitigation of Mangan Landslide

Mangan, March 26: Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) organized the Stakeholders' Interaction and Awareness Programme of the 'Mitigation of Mangan

Landslide' at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Centre, Mangan, today. Present at the event were the District Collector (North) Mr. Tenzing.T. Kaleon, who is also the Chairman

of the Monitoring Committee along with the Additional Director (SSDMA), Project Coordinator, SDPO (Mangan), Municipal

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra (South) in collaboration with ICAR-NINFET organised awareness programme

Namchi, March 25: Two day awareness programme on "Workshop on Value added products from Angora rabbit and Sheep based fiber towards doubling the farmer's income" was organised by Krishi Vigyan

Kendra (South) in collaboration with ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (NINFET) Kolkata under the NEH programme of ICAR-NINFET for the farmers of South and North Sikkim from

March 24 to 25. The programme was mainly conducted for the progressive sheep and angora farmers of Chuba Perbing village adopted and promoted by KVK

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Training of counting staff held

Namchi, March 25: SDM (HQ) Mr. Chiran Rizal conducted training of the counting staff for the ensuing Municipal Elections,

2021. A total of three teams were trained one of them were postal ballot team and two other teams wherein there were three members

which was headed by counting supervisor for counting of votes recorded in Electronic Voting Machines were also trained.

Walkathon conducted on West District

Gyalshing, March 25: District Administration Centre along with Police Department (West) conducted a walkathon under the theme 'Nasha Mukth Bharat Abhiyaan' from Gyalshing market to Tikjuk, DAC complex, today.

The walkathon was participated by SP (West), Mr. Tashi Wangyal Bhutia, ADC(West), Mr. Agawane Rohan Ramesh, SDM(HQ), Mr. Anant Jain, and staff from Police Department and DAC.

The motive behind the programme was to create awareness regarding importance of physical activity in tackling with the issues related to drugs and substance abuse

Training and Sensitisation Programme on RVS and SDMP

Namchi, March 24: Training and Sensitisation Programme on Rapid Visual Survey (RVS) and School Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) under National School Safety Programme

(NSSP) was held at Namchi Senior Secondary School on March 22 and 23. Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department

organized the training which was focused to enhance the capacities of school children and teachers to disasters. The training

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Randomization of EVMs held

Namchi, March 24: The randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to be used for the ensuing Municipal Elections, 2021 to Namchi Municipal Council and Naya-Bazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat was held in the chamber of DC

(South), today. The randomization was conducted under the supervision of the District Collector in presence of the contesting candidates tier polling agents and departmental officials. It may be noted that the randomization of the EVMs were

done through Randomizing Software created for the purpose.

After the randomization of the EVMs the commissioning was held at the Conference Hall of District Administration,

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World Tuberculosis Day observed

Namchi, March 24: South District Tuberculosis Centre observed the World Tuberculosis Day with the theme TB Harega Desh Jitega - 'The clock is ticking' at the Conference Hall of District Hospital Namchi, today.

the occasion as the chief guest.

The chief guest while addressing the gathering, urged to raise awareness amongst the public to eliminate the disease. Further, she suggested to include panchayats members as stakeholders to intensify awareness activities at grassroot

level towards achieving the goal of becoming a tuberculosis free state before 2022 aimed by the state government.

CMO (South), Dr. D.C. Sharma spoke about the detrimental impacts and its

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Vendor Development Programme for SC/ST Entrepreneurs organised

Gyalshing, March 23: Vendor Development Programme for SC/ST Entrepreneurs, organised by MSME Division of Commerce and Industries Department was held at the Conference Hall of Zilla Bhawan, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, today. The programme aims to inculcate entrepreneurial skills among the students to make them self-reliant and capable of creating jobs which is the main theme of government flagship program 'Aatma Nirbar Bharat'.

Bahadur Chettri briefed that the main objective of the programme was to boost market linkages and to help entrepreneurs and to expand their business. He added that the programme aims to develop linkages between small and large enterprises and provide opportunity to SMEs to showcase their capabilities.

He also apprised and encouraged the general youth on various avenues, scopes and schemes of the government to start their own businesses. He ensured that the Chief Minister of Sikkim and the Government is

all ready to help the needy to establish their businesses.

ADC West in his briefing stated about the start-up scheme loan provided and its aim of the programme is to develop linkages between small and large enterprises. He informed that the objective is to provide an opportunity to SMEs to showcase their capabilities to various wings of organisations establishments, the second objective is to enable large-scale enterprises to identify suitable

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Randomization of polling personnel conducted

Namchi, March 29: The randomization of polling personnel for the ensuing election of Namchi Municipal Council and Nayabazar-Jorethang Nagar Panchayat Wards was successfully conducted in presence of Municipal Returning Officer (South) Mr. M. Bharani Kumar along with candidates and election agents at District

Administrative Centre, Namchi, today.

The randomization of polling personnel was done through the software developed by NIC South.

MRO (South) informed that there are a total of 15 polling teams for South District including 4 reserve teams for the polling

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Virtual Interactive Session on Online Safety and Cybercrimes

Namchi, March 26: A virtual interactive session was conducted for the students of Namchi Senior Secondary School specially for the students of standards VII and VIII, today.

The content of the session was on "Online Safety and Cybercrimes".

The session was chaired by Ms. Perna Sharma and the main session was conducted by Mr. Amit Gupta, from Youth Online Learning Organisation (YOLO).

During the session topics like importance of being safe while using various social networkings sites/apps such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or YouTube; vulnerability to hacking, identity theft, phishing, system blocking, false information, e-mail bulking etc. Through these the user can become the victim of bank fraud, kidnapping, cyber bullying and extortion; staying digitally safe if

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Awareness programme on Nasha Mukth Bharat Abhiyan organized

Namchi, March 26: An awareness programme on Nasha Mukth Bharat Abhiyan was organized at Officers' Club, Namchi South Sikkim in collaboration with District Administration. Sr. SP South, ADC South and other dignitaries graced the occasion. Representatives of NGOs, Local Taxi and Truck Drivers'

Associations, civil society, students, teachers and Health Deptt. participated in the programme. In addition to Police resources concerned counsellor from DHN also put stress on issues related to drug abuse. Collective efforts were made to aware the gathering about getting rid of drug menace and related issues.

Sector Magistrates and Sector Police Officer of NMC and NJNP visit polling booths

Namchi, March 24: Sector Magistrate (Naya-Bazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat, NJNP) Mr. C. B. Sapkota and Sector Police Officer (NJNP) Mr. Roshan Gurung visited the polling booths at NJNP, today.

There are five Polling Stations in NJNP, two Polling Stations are at Jorethang Government Senior Secondary School another two polling stations are at Jorethang New S.N.T. complex. Similarly, one polling station is located at Government Junior High School, Nayabazar.

The visit was done to ensure the basic minimum facilities were provided in all the polling booths which were found to be adequate. Furthermore, all the Booth Level Officers under Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar

Panchayat were briefed regarding their duties and responsibilities about the ensuing Municipal Elections, 2021.

Similarly, Sector Magistrate (Namchi Municipal Council) Mr. Chiran Rizal and Sector Police Officer visited polling stations under Namchi Municipal Council (NMC) March 23. They inspected he assured minimum facilities for the upcoming Municipal Elections 2021. The scheduled date for the polls are on March 31.

The Booth Level Officers were also briefed about their roles and responsibilities prior to poll day which is on March 30 and on the poll day.

There are six polling stations and in all the stations the assured minimum facility were found satisfactory.

DAC West receives EVMs

Gyalshing, March 23: The West District Administration, Rabdentse received 7 sets of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) comprising of Control Unit, Ballot Unit, Presiding Officer Diary, Voting compartment and other Elections materials from State Election Commission, today for the forthcoming Municipal Elections 2021 pertaining to Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat. The EVMs were checked and stored in the strong

room located at District Administration Centre in the presence of Additional District Collector (West) cum Assistant Municipal Returning Officer Mr. Agawane Rohan Ramesh alongwith the officials of Election Department and the contesting candidates/representatives. The strong room is under 24x7 CCTV Surveillance and is sealed and guarded by Police Department, West.

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Assembly Session...

encountered in certain extraordinary situations. With this object in view, the Bill has been framed.

During the Financial Business, the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, also the Minister-in charge of Finance Department presented the Third Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2020-21. The third batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for Financial Year 2020-21 includes eight grants, which includes gross additional expenditure of ₹19988.13 lakh comprising of ₹4000.00 lakh on Revenue Account and ₹15988.13 lakh on Capital Account, involving a net cash outgo aggregate of ₹16299.34 lakh.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants was put to vote and passed by the House.

Likewise, Chief Minister, also the Minister in charge of Finance Department, presented the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2021 (Bill No. 04 of 2021) for the Third Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2020-21.

The Bill is introduced in pursuance of clause (i) of Article 204 read with Article 205 of the Constitution of India to provide for the appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim of the money required to meet the expenditure charged in the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim and Supplementary Grants made by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim for the remaining part of the Financial year 2020-21.

Similarly, Chief Minister, also the Minister in Charge of Finance Department, presented the Vote on Account for the year 2021-22.

The Vote on Account for

three months starting from April to June 2021 is intended for disbursement of salaries, wages etc. and shall not be used for incurring expenditure or new items or new services. The total fund requirement is of the order of ₹232148.06 lakh comprising of ₹186862.97 lakh on Revenue Account and ₹45285.09 lakh on Capital Account.

The Vote on Account was put to vote and passed by the House.

The Chief Minister, also the Minister in Charge of Finance Department, introduced the Sikkim Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2021 (Bill No. 05 of 2021) for the Vote on Account 2021-22.

As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, the Bill is introduced in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 204 of the Constitution of India read with Article 206 thereof, to provide for the appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim, of the moneys required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim and Grants made in advance by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim for the part of the Financial Year 2021-22.

The Appropriation Bill was considered and passed by the House.

During the session, the Speaker took the consensus of the House to continue with the same elected/nominated Members for the Assembly Committees and Panel of Chairmen for the financial year 2021-22 until new Committees are constituted. The consensus was taken under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister, also the Minister in Charge of Finance Department, presented the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance

Audit of Select District Hospitals in Sikkim for the year ended March, 2019 (Report No. 1 of 2021), and half yearly Report 2020-21 on Review of Trends in Receipt and Expenditure in relation to budget 2020-21.

Speaker also informed the House on the presentation of Annual Reports of various Departments.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang in his valedictory remarks thanked the Speaker (SLA) for the smooth conduct of the one-day Assembly Session convened to carry out urgent Government Business. He also extended his thanks and gratitude to the Deputy Speaker and all Members for their participation in the proceedings. He also thanked the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Heads of Departments, Assembly Secretariat, Police, and Members of the Press and Media for their contribution. The Chief Minister appealed to the people of Sikkim to continue to abide by all the prescribed guidelines on COVID-19.

Speaker, Mr. L.B. Das, in his valedictory remarks thanked the Chief Minister and all the Members for their participation in the proceedings of the House. He reiterated that the Session had to be limited to one day as the COVID-19 safety protocols are still in effect. He added that due to the Model Code of Conduct enforced for the Election to the Urban Local Bodies in the State, the Assembly could not meet timely for the regular Budget Session, and hence the one day Session was urgently convened for Vote on Account 2021-22 under Article 206 of the Constitution of India.

Member Mr. D.R. Thapa also participated in the valedictory session.

The one-day Assembly Session came to a conclusion with the Speaker adjourning the House Sine Die.

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Randomization of ...

day. The polling teams along with polling materials shall be dispatched on March 30 to their respective polling station.

Under Namchi Municipal Council, the poll shall be conducted in the following polling stations namely, Gangyap Ward- Namchi Senior Secondary School Room No I and II; Dambudara Ward-Namchi Old Primary School Room No I and

II; Upper Ghurpisey Ward-Namchi New Secondary School Room No I and Upper Boomtar Ward- JNMIH Boomtar Room No II.

Similarly, under NJNP, the polling stations are as follows; Trikaleshwar Ward- Jorethang Senior Secondary School Room No II; Daragaon Ward- Jorethang Senior Secondary School School Room No III; Majhigaon Ward-New SNT Terminus Jorethang Room No I and II; Nayabazar Ward- Nayabazar Junior High school Hall.

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Stakeholders'...

Executive Officer, Divisional Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers of Roads & Bridges Department, Water Resources and River Development Department, Urban Development Department, Geologist from Mines and Geology Department, contractor of the project, stakeholders and the public.

The DC (North) explained that the objective of the meeting was to involve the stakeholders and members of the society in the project. He stated that it is important for them to know the details and hear their feedback and queries before putting the project into action. He succinctly clarified the technical details and asked the contractor and team involved to start the project immediately and to make sure that they lay out quality work with standard equipment and raw

materials. He also took feedback from the stakeholders regarding safety precautions and noise pollution. It was decided that the drilling and heavy work would take place during the day while the night hours would be left for lighter work. Safety measures and convenience for the public for day-to-day work was also assured. The DC (North) asked the team as well as the public to be proactive regarding the project.

The Project Coordinator provided a visual overview of the project and explained important details of the report.

The Additional Director (SSDMA) stated that this project is of priority and he thanked the stakeholders for their participation.

It may be mentioned that the project has been designed and detailed based on the study on recommendation of Expert Committee of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

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Krishi Vigyan...

South Sikkim and Rabum in North Sikkim where the Angora rabbit farming in Sikkim started in the year 2000.

During the inaugural session, Senior Scientist and Head Mr. I.P. Shivakoti welcomed all the dignitaries, officials and farmers present in the programme. Dr. Sanjoy Debnath Principal Scientist Nodal Officer NEH, ICAR-NINFET presented a power-point presentation on "Processing of fibre and spinning of blended yarn of German Angora rabbit and Bonpala sheep".

Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science), Dr. Chewang Norbu Bhutia gave a brief insight of the programme and an overview on the start of Angora farming in the adopted village through a pilot project sanctioned by NABARD in 2018 and the success journey thereafter. The farmers were also given technical guidance on cage making, housing structures, care and management of Angora rabbit to the farmers by Dr Chewang Norbu Bhutia. The programme concluded with the distribution of inputs where in the farmers was benefitted with Angora rabbits, feed, medicines and caging materials.

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Training and...

programme is culmination of a five-year programme to bring effectiveness in disaster preparation and response with special focus on schools.

School Students and teachers from selected schools in Namchi participated in the said programme.

Joint Secretary, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Mrs. Subha Mukhia in her welcome address briefed on achievements of the department and spoke on the importance of school students being disaster management champions.

During the training programme various presentations

were presented namely, on "Basics of Disaster Management" by Disaster Management Specialist, SSDMA, Mr. Keshav Koirala; on "School Disaster Management Plan" by Mr. Dinesh Dhakal, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue and DM Dept; on "Basics of First Aid" by Mr. Kunzang Bhutia, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue and DM Dept.; on "Rapid Visual Survey" by Mr. Subash Tewari, Assistant Engineer, Education Department.

This was followed by Quiz competition and Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr. Roshan Subba, Under Secretary, Land Revenue and DM Dept.

The entire session was moderated by Deputy Secretary, Land Revenue and DM Dept, Ms. Navita Pradhan.

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MP Rajya Sabha...

Tumlong being adopted under SAGY. He stated that 'development' is an ongoing procedure, which means growth and expansion will continue to take place in the years to come for the GPU. He said that unity among the people of the village is of utmost importance and should be the driving force for the people to achieve common goals for the community. He also encouraged people to participate and increase activities that will propel economic development through agriculture, tourism and the history and heritage of the place. He also suggested adding 'traditional entertainment' like theatre that can recreate historical tales that could pass on as a visual tradition for generations to come. Addressing

the students, he advised them to challenge themselves and to try and face obstacles in life so that eventually they can emerge victorious.

Minister Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia spoke on the roles and responsibilities of the Panchayats and the seriousness with which they need to cater to the needs of the people of the GPU. He stated that the objective of SAGY was to bring about developmental activities in a system and manner that is beneficial as well as rewarding for all. He stressed on social duties of individuals and the officers and appealed to everyone to give special attention to the needy and the less privileged. He advised the students to lead a disciplined life and to become model citizens. He urged the gathering to try and maintain an eco-friendly lifestyle and be conscious regarding the

environment.

Deputy Secretary (RMDD) provided details on the origin, vision and guidelines of SAGY while the Village Profile Presentation was provided by Panchayat Development Assistant, who presented the exact number of wards, households, population, education and banking institutions and all details of Rongong Tumlong GPU.

Zilla Panchayat Member appealed for the public's participation as well as suggestions for the development of the GPU.

An interactive session took place where the public placed their grievances, suggestions and feedback. The MP (Rajya Sabha) assured that all their grievances would be dealt with and thanked them for their suggestions.

After commissioning the EVMs were stored and sealed in the strong room located at DAC complex. The strong room is guarded 24x7 by Armed Guards and is under continuous CCTV coverage.

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Randomization of...

Namchi. The strong room was opened at 11 a.m. and the EVMs were shifted to the conference hall for commissioning. The District

Collector cum Municipal Returning Officer, Additional District Collector cum Assistant Municipal Returning Officer, Sector Magistrate along with the contesting candidates and polling agents were present throughout the entire process.

Election Observer for all wards of GMC visits several Polling Stations

Gangtok, March 24: The Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department who is also the Election Observer for all wards of Gangtok Municipal Corporation visited several Polling Stations, today.

The Election Observer was accompanied by SDM East (Hq), Mr. Robin Sewa who is also the Sector Magistrate for 1 to 10 wards of Gangtok Municipal Corporation,

SDPO (Gangtok) Mr. Perakash Subba also the Sector Police Officer for Sector-I and District Planning Officer and also the Liaison Officer to the Election Observer Mr. Sonam G. Bhutia.

The team visited various Polling Stations falling under Sector 1 of Gangtok Municipal Corporation namely, one at Bojoghari Senior Secondary School, four Polling Booths at

Burtuk Junior High School, three Polling Booths at Rognak Secondary School and three Polling Booths at Modern Senior Secondary School.

During the course of the visit, Election Observer enquired various facilities at the Polling Stations and also briefed the Booth Level Officers on roles and responsibilities pertaining to Municipal Elections, 2021.

Training-cum- workshop on Child Protection conducted

Gangtok, March 23: A two day training-cum- workshop on Child Protection, for Chairpersons and Members of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) commenced at the Conference Hall of Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Lumsey, today. The training programme is being organized by the State Child Protection Society under the Child Protection Scheme, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim.

The inaugural session was chaired by Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Mr. Tshewang Gyachho.

In his keynote deliberation, Secretary Mr. Gyachho outlined the importance of the training programme as it concerned the vital issue of protection of children in need of special care and children in conflict with law. He explained that out of 22 posts of Chairpersons and Members, only 7 fulfilled the criteria of the rigorous selection process. He maintained that 65% of the vacancy still needs to be filled to make the CWC and JJB fully equipped. He spoke about the factors which lead to children being subject to numerous abuses, thus needing special care and protection. More often, these children go on to indulge in unscrupulous activities and thus come in conflict with law. In these circumstances, it is vital that the CWC and JJB offer their valuable service to help these children, he stated.

The Secretary appealed to the Chairpersons and Members to

deliver quick justice through regular meetings, instead of waiting for the cases to pile up. He added that the action and decision of the CWC and JJB pave the way for the children to overcome their problems and come out into the mainstream and become successful. He said that the CWC and JJB could come across peculiar cases due to the evolving nature of society. In these circumstances, he suggested that such cases may immediately be reported to the Department to intervene and carry out special case studies.

Secretary Mr. Gyachho also spoke about the need to upgrade the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) to meet all the specifications prescribed by the Government. He added that eminent persons from the civil society are roped in to carry out regular monitoring of the CCIs. He further stated that all CCIs should be registered with the State Government.

Speaking about the importance of training, the Secretary said that they raise issues and concerns and help the stakeholders understand and appreciate child rights. He maintained that learning is a continuous process and it leads to effective implementation of laws and rules, and helps pass on the knowledge further down to the CCI staff at every level. He stated that the ultimate aim of the CWC and JJB is to reunite the children with their parents or guardians or foster parents as the case may be, and to the mainstream. He also stressed

on the need to establish Vocational Education and in-house training in all CCIs so that the children can sustain their livelihood after passing out from school. The Secretary concluded his address by wishing the participants a meaningful and successful training programme.

Earlier, Special Secretary cum Director, Child Protection Scheme, SJ&WD, Mrs. Gloria Namchu in her opening remarks said that this was the first time the Department is organizing a full-fledged training programme to address the issues related to child protection and has been designed to cover all the key topics. She thanked all the Chairpersons and Members of CWC and JJB and all the Resource Persons for their presence and participation.

In the session, Legal-cum- Probation Officer, Ms Pema Wangmu Bhutia threw light on POCSO Act 2012 and latest Amendment Rules.

Joint Labour Commissioner, Labour Department, Mr. K.R. Limboo made a presentation on Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

Likewise, Programme Manager, SARA, Mrs. Laxana Subedi made a deliberation on Adoption Regulation, 2017.

During the interactive session, the resource persons replied to the queries put forth by the participants.

The programme was conducted by Deputy Secretary, CPS, Mrs. Sapna Thapa.

Children Theatre Workshop conducted

Gangtok, March 25: The Culture Department in collaboration with the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dimapur (Nagaland) successfully conducted fifteen days Children Theatre Workshop which commenced from March 10 to March 25 at Rongneck Secondary School.

The main aim of the workshop was to provide a platform to the students and make them capable to perform the

theatre art form.

Advisor of the Culture Department, Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma graced the occasion as the chief guest on the valedictory function of the workshop. The programme was participated by the Headmistress, teachers, and students of Rongneck Secondary School, Rongey, East Sikkim.

Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma while addressing the function said that such programmes provide an exposure to the students in the field of theatre art, and thanked the

Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dimapur and Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, for conducting such activities to promote and showcase their skills in the field.

The participating students performed the skit "KALO KOTHA" which is written and directed by Mr. Dipak Dhakal assisted by Dipika Chettri and music composer Deepak Dahal on the valedictory function of the workshop.

networking sites/apps were covered. It was also informed if a user falls victim of cybercrime then it could be reported to cybercrime helpline number:155260.

Further the speaker urged and reminded the students to not to share any personal information over the social networking sites/apps and not to write comments of hate speech.

Contd. from page 2

Virtual Interactive...

he/she has the knowledge to use safety settings of social

Contd. from front page

1st Inter...

Gurung from Namthang BAC in 2nd

position and Gayatri Chettri from Hee-Martam in 3rd position, respectively.

A vibrant cultural

programmes along with zumba mass drill were also performed on the occasion.

It is also mentioned that

Valedictory function of two day training -cum- workshop organized

Gangtok, March 24: The valedictory function of a two day training -cum- workshop organized by the State Child Protection Society, Child Protection Scheme under Social Justice and Welfare Department for Chairpersons and Members of Child Welfare Committee/Juvenile Justice Board concluded at the Conference Hall of Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, today.

The valedictory function was chaired by Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) Mrs. Roma Tamang.

The Chairperson in her address congratulated all the participants and urged everyone to follow and practice whatever they have learned through the two days training programme. She expressed her happiness to be a part of such informative session organized by the department for the first time to address issues concerning child care and protection.

The Resource Persons for the training programme were Special Secretary cum Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan,

Education Department Mr. Bhim Thatal, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Health Department Dr. Sonam O. Lasopa and Senior Advocate High Court of Sikkim Mr. S.S. Hamal.

In the session, Special Secretary cum Director, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Education Department while explaining on Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 highlighted on compulsory education for every children between six to fourteen years of age group to provide free elementary education.

Dr. Sonam Lasopa, while deliberating on her topic children with abuse (guidelines for interaction/ interview of children) mentioned about the techniques of interview, and methods of handling victim children. She also explained to be very vigilant and careful while tackling such cases.

In the session, Senior Advocate High Court of Sikkim, Mr. S. S. Hamal threw light on Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and Sikkim Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules 2019.

Meeting of STDCC for Sikkim State held

Gangtok, March 22: The first meeting of State Telecom Disaster Coordination Committee (STDCC) for Sikkim State was held today in Gangtok under the Chairmanship of Deputy Director General, Sikkim DoT, WB LSA, Gangtok, Mr. N. Murali Krishna.

In the meeting, he emphasized on role of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as a Lead/Primary agency for Emergency Support function related to provision of telecommunication services.

It was discussed in the meeting that all Telecom Service Providers to be ready in line with

Department of Telecommunication's Standard operating procedure/guidelines, render support and coordination with DOT, SSDMA and NDRF.

All the participants have actively participated in the discussions and exchanged their views and requirements in the event of occurrence of any type of disaster.

Department of Telecommunications, Mr. Rakesh Kumar Meena welcomed all participants.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by ADG DOT Sikkim, Mr. R.K. Gupta.

Culture Deptt. conducts quiz competition

Gangtok, March 23: In a series of programme under "Aazadi ka Amrut Mahotsav", the Culture Department conducted a quiz competition among the students of Ranka Senior Secondary School, Sichey Senior Secondary School, Rumtek Senior Secondary School, Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Luing Senior Secondary School, Pabyuk Senior Secondary School, Namcheybong Senior Secondary School and Assam Lingzey Senior Secondary School at Mini Hall, Manan Bhawan, Gangtok, today.

Advisor of the Culture Department, Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma graced the programme as the chief guest.

The Advisor in her address said that such programme provides additional knowledge to the students and help them to get through various competitive examinations and make their career perspective. She thanked the teachers and students for their participation and urged the students to involve in such activities in future as well. She also extended gratitude to the Department for organizing educative programmes involving the children of Schools.

It may be mentioned that the department has also conducted same type of programme with the students of various other schools in coordination with NIC earlier.

the 1st Inter School State Junior Olympic Games is being held from March 28 to March 30 at Paljor Stadium Complex, Khel Goan Reshithang and Tathangchen Ground in eight sports disciplines.

A total of 1110 athletes including escorts are participating

in these events.

Earlier, the Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department Mr. Raju Basnett presented the welcome address and gave an overview of the programme.

Third and final round of two-day training for Presiding Officers and Polling Officers I held

Gangtok, March 24: The third and final round of two-day training for the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers I commenced at Zilla Bhawan, Gangtok, today.

The first day training was imparted by ADC (East) Mr. Tushar G. Nihare who is also the Assistant Municipal Returning Officer for Singtam and Rangpo Nagar Panchayat.

The basic aim of the training is to make them well informed with various procedures for conducting polls, to build a team rapport and familiarize the polling officers with each other.

The ADC East explained the do's and don'ts about the polling process and briefed on their roles and responsibilities towards ensuring successful polling day. He thoroughly reminded the officials to clear the data of mock polls on the polling day before the actual poll. He informed that polling will start from 8am until 5 pm.

Later, Municipal Returning Officer (East), Mr. Ragul K. informed about the action plan needed to be carried out on the polling day. He urged the trainees to carry out their duties with utmost dedication. He asked them to derive the optimum knowledge from the session for smooth conduct of polling day. He said that in case of any issues regarding polls, the Sector Magistrates and BLOs could be contacted. He reminded all to follow the poll

process like closure of polling, proper sealing of EVMs and depositing back the polled machines safely to the reception centre set up at District Administrative Centre, East.

He informed that there are 43 polling stations in Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC), 5 polling stations in Singtam Nagar Panchayat (SNP) and 6 polling stations in Rangpo Nagar Panchayat (RNP).

During the session, all the queries of assigned officials were clarified and the duties to be followed on the day of polling and close of polls were discussed.

A detailed hands-on training session on EVMs was conducted. The process of conduct of mock polls on the day of polling was emphasized and all the necessary procedures pertaining to the process were demonstrated.

This was followed by distribution of Identity Cards and postal ballots to the polling personnel.

Similarly in Gyalshing, day long final round training for Presiding and Polling Officers team of West District for the forthcoming Municipal Election 2021 under Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat concluded at the Conference Hall of Emergency Operating Centre, Rabdentse on March 24.

The Master Trainer, Deputy Director (Education Department), Mr. Sontosh Kumar

Allay monitored the whole process of the training .

Mr. Allay spoke about the role and responsibilities of the Presiding and Polling officers for conducting the election smoothly. He suggested officers present to take consultations for any clarification or confusion.

A hands on training on Electronic Voting Machine was also conducted to familiarize the trainees with EVM.

Later, SDM, HQ, Mr. Anant Jain along with the election officials visited all the polling stations located at Gyalshing premises to monitor its safety and security.

Likewise, in Mangan the third and final round of training for Presiding Officers and Polling Officers commenced at the Conference Hall, Election Department, Mangan on March 25.

The basic aim of the training is to make sure that the officers are well informed with the various procedures for conducting polls and to build a team support and familiarize the Polling Officers with each other. A detailed hands-on training session on the use of EVMs was conducted.

SDM Chungthang (Master Trainer) Mr. Subash Ghimiray spoke about the roles and responsibilities of Presiding Officers so as to ensure Free and Fair Poll.

State level TOT programme on Bio-Medical Waste organized

Gangtok, March 24: State level Training of Trainers (TOT) programme on Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2016 and Amended Rules 2018 and 2019 was organized by the Sanitation Cell of Health and Family Welfare Department at the Auditorium of STNM Hospital, Gangtok, today.

In his brief address PCC-cum-MS, Dr. K.B. Gurung stressed on prioritisation of cleanliness and proper management of bio-medical waste as a major focus of every hospital. He further highlighted on the need to adopt a responsible biomedical waste management regime.

While welcoming the Resource Persons and extending gratitude to them for sharing their knowledge with the healthcare workers, Dr. Gurung urged the participants to take full advantage

of the opportunity as it will be providing a better understanding of the key aspects of managing bio-medical waste, the legal concerns that govern it, and best practices.

The programme was also addressed by AMS, Dr. Yudok Bhutia, Addl. Director, Dr. Baroon Subba, and Joint Director, Mr. T. Targain.

During the technical session, Resource Persons, Mr. Ranjan Rai and Mr. Ritesh P. Gurung, explained in detail the challenges, enforcement and provision of BMW Rules 2016 and Amended Rules 2018 and 2019, scientific disposal of bio-medical waste and Revision (4) Guidelines of COVID-19 Waste.

The training concluded with an interaction and discussion session.

It may be mentioned that the TOT programme on bio-medical

waste management is an initiative of the Health and Family Welfare Department headed by Joint Director, Mr. T. Targain, and Additional Director, Dr. Baroon Subba.

The training programme was conducted for all the Medical Officer Incharge, Nursing Officers and Paramedical Officer, Dental surgeons in the State level in the STNM Hospital. Similar trainings have also been conducted at the district level in Namchi, Gyalshing, Singtam and Mangan earlier this month, which had the participation of CMOs, DMSs along with more than 50 healthcare workers, as per the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and Ministry of Environment, Government of India.

Pradhan District Hospital Namchi were felicitated for their dedicated service towards the fight against the disease.

Similarly, in Mangan, World TB Day organised by District TB Centre, District Hospital Mangan was observed at Pentok, Mangan.

The theme for this year is "TB Harega Desh Jitega - The clock is ticking". The chief guest for the day was the Chief Medical Officer- District Hospital Mangan Mr. T. T. Kaleon.

District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Doma Bhutia provided a brief introduction of

tuberculosis and also spoke on the present scenario of TB cases and its prevalence in the North District and the State.

Mr. Bikal Gurung (TB Champion) shared his experience as a TB patient for almost 10 years and his journey in overcoming the disease.

TB Warriors and ASHA workers namely, Mrs. Renuka Sharma, ASHA; Mrs. Mon Maya Subba, ASHA; Mrs. Nanna Lepcha, ASHA; Mrs. Nimphuti Lepcha, ASHA; Mrs. Asokmit Lepcha, ASHA; Mrs. Sarita Tamang, ASHA; Mrs. Gabita Rai, ASHA; Mrs. Akit Lepcha,

Border Area Cultural Programme organised

Gangtok, March 28: A two day Border Area Cultural Programme was organised at Sherathang and Kupup on March 27 to 28 by the North East Zonal Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in coordination with Culture Department, Government of Sikkim.

The programme was graced by Advisor Culture Department Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma as the chief guest followed by Army Officers, officials of Culture Department, Programme NEZCC Mr. Oliver T. Pongen, and Army personnel from the border areas.

Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma addressing the gathering thanked the Army for their dedication and commitment in guarding the frontier in such harsh weather

conditions while we remain safe in the comfort of our homes. She also expressed her happiness for being invited to spend a few hours with them and thanked them for their support in making this programme a huge success. She informed that such programmes impart the knowledge of folk dances of other States and helps in spreading awareness about it among the general public and also gives an opportunity to the talented folk artists to showcase their talent.

Cultural troupes from states like Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Hariyana etc. along with the local artists from Sikkim performed colourful and vibrant folk dances and songs which mesmerised the august gathering.

District level plantation drive of medicinal plants carried out

Gangtok, March 26: A district level plantation drive of medicinal plants under POSHAN PAKHWADA (16.3 .21-31.3.21) was organised by District Task Force, East District (Poshan Abhiyaan) Social Justice and Welfare Department at SDM Office premises, Pakyong, today.

Addressing nutritional challenges through food forestry and organizing Poshan Panchayats are the key focus areas

Singtam Rural Project organised Poshan Panchayat

Gangtok, March 25: To observe the ongoing Poshan Pakhwada 2021, Singtam Rural Project (East) organised 'Poshan Panchayat' at Patuk Singbel GPU in East District, today.

During the programme, the objectives of the fortnight was highlighted. The members of the GPU along with the community pledged to make Patuk Singbel GPU a healthy and malnutrition free GPU.

The programme also

Chain Yatra Bharat ko Jano concludes

Gangtok, March 22: The Culture Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with the North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dimapur (Nagaland) successfully conducted three days long Chain Yatra "Bharat ko Jano" from March 22 to 24 at Ranka Senior Secondary School, Syari Secondary School and Sang Martam Secondary School. The main aim of the programme was to exchange and understand the rich cultural diversity of India.

The programme was being participated by the artistes from different states of India like Maharashtra, Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim

Advisor of the Culture

ASHA; Mrs. Arati Tamang, ASHA; Mrs. Nim Sangay Sherpa, Driver; Mrs. Bikal Gurung, TB Champion

And Ms. Sangkit Lepcha, NYK who have provided selfless service towards those battling TB were felicitated.

A quiz competition was

saw demonstrations of making healthy recipe.

Poshan Nanglo ('tray of food') was also displayed prepared out locally available food items like grains, roots and tubers; legumes and nuts; dairy products; meat and fish products; eggs; vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables; other fruits and vegetables. The aim of Poshan Nanglo was to reinforce minimum dietary diversity in line with the standardised IYCF promotion.

Department, Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma graced the occasion as the chief guest on the first and last day. While, Chairman, Cultural Heritage and Communal Harmony Board, Mr. Sonam Sherpa was present as the chief guest on the second day.

Both the chief guests highlighted the importance of culture in Indian society. They also appreciated the participation of students in this national programme and thanked Education Department, Government of Sikkim for providing spaces for the conducting such programmes. They also thanked the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Dimapur and Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, for such a praiseworthy task for the exposure of artistes from different states.

also held among five schools in Mangan namely, North Sikkim Academy; Singhik Secondary School; Ringhim Secondary School; Mangan Senior Secondary School and Little Flower Academy.

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World TB....

stigmas attached with the disease.

At the onset, the chief guest officially launched a jingle on tuberculosis for South District.

During the programme, a total of 7 technical officers of South District namely, Mr. B.M. Kalikotey, DTC Namchi; Mr. CL Chettri, Temi PHC; Mrs. Amrita Chettri, Jorethang CHC; Mr. Deepak Rai, Ravangla PHC; Mr. NB Subba, Namthang PHC; Mr. NB Rai, Melli PHC and Mr. CB,

Governor condoles on passing away of Pemkit Lepcha

Gangtok, March 25: The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad expressed his condolences on the death of 22 year old Pemkit Lepcha.

The Governor visited residence of Late Pemkit Lepcha at Nimitar, 32 Mile under

Namcheybong constituency today and paid tribute to Late Pemkit who died in an road accident at 32 Mile along National Highway on March 22.

The Governor also consoled the bereaved family.

ADG of ITBP, Eastern Command calls on Chief Minister

Gangtok, March 23: Additional Director General of ITBP, Eastern Command, (Guwahati), Mr. A. M. Prasad called on the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang at Mintokgang, today. He was accompanied by DIG, SHQ, Gangtok, Mr. R. P. S. Raghuvanshi and other officers.

It was a courtesy call by the ADG during which several points related to the strengthening of security along the border areas of Sikkim were discussed.

The ADG briefed about various strategies and the prevailing issues related to the border, like setting up new border outposts and a training centre, which promotes adventure sports like mountaineering and others, that eventually may also be

supportive towards tourism in the State. He also informed about his endeavour to establish a battalion in the State.

The Chief Minister stated that National Security should be prioritised and also expressed his desire to work in cooperation and assured all possible support from the State Government. He expressed his gratitude towards the ADG and the team for their visit and the productive discussion.

It is also to mention that the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) had posted its first officer ADG, Mr. A. M. Prasad in the month of August 2020, to head the newly created Guwahati based Eastern Command that oversees the deployment of border battalions in the region.

Awareness programme for farmers on cooperative society organized

Gangtok, March 27: A one day awareness programme for farmers on cooperative society was organized by Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN) Assam Lingzey at the Conference Hall of Yangang BAC, today. The programme was sponsored by APEX Cooperatives of Sikkim.

The programme was graced by the Area MLA, Yangang Mrs. Raj Kumari Thapa as the chief guest.

The chief guest in her address mentioned that the participation of young generation in cooperative movement is crucial as it is also a way to make them self-reliant. She also thanked SICUN for organising the programme in a fruitful manner.

The Chairman SICUN, Mr. L.P. Kafley highlighted on the functions and objectives of SICUN to strengthen the Cooperative Movement in Sikkim. He appealed for active participation of the members to make them more productive.

Board of Director SICUN Mr. D. K. Rai presented the welcome

address wherein he highlighted the aim of the programme to increase awareness regarding cooperative society, its role, importance and its functions.

Cooperative Educators of SICUN briefed on the benefits of the Cooperative Society and its management.

The Assistant Manager SIMFED interpreted on the incentives provided to the farmers by SIMFED.

Field Inspector SMU highlighted on the functioning of the Union and how it is working for the socio-economic development of the farmers and also mentioned about increase in the procurement of milk from 33K liters to 50-55K liters per day.

The programme was conducted by the Executive Officer SICUN Mr. Phadung Bhutia.

The programme also witnessed interactive session between the farmers and the concerned representatives of the Apex Cooperatives.

Seminar on safety and empowerment of women held

New Delhi, March 23: The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India organised a seminar with the National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women on safety and empowerment of women on at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, today. The Union Minister for Women and Child Development Mrs. Smriti Zubin Irani chaired the seminar.

The Minister highlighted the

objective of the seminar and urged for convergence of various stake holders for the implementation of Mission shakti for safety and empowerment of women.

Various issues relating to the implementation of the sexual harassment of women at workplace and one stop centre were discussed. Chairperson Sikkim State Commission for Women Mr. Chungkipu Lepcha, along with the Member Secretary, Ms. Yousa Lachenpa attended the programme.

Awareness-cum-sensitization programme on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 held

Gangtok, March 26: A one day awareness-cum-sensitization programme on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was held at Janta Bhawan, Gangtok, today.

Organized by the Social Justice and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, the programme was chaired by Chairperson SC Commission Mr. Khangendra Mohra as the chief guest.

The programme was attended by Panchayats from all over the State, Resource Persons, representatives of various organizations and associations, students and officials from the Social Justice and Welfare Department.

The programme started with

the welcome address delivered by Deputy Secretary Social Justice and Welfare Department Mr. Sabindra Rai followed by the lighting of the inaugural lamp.

Joint Director/Social Justice and Welfare Department, Ms. Neeta Gazmer gave a brief highlight of the awareness programme where she mentioned the various steps undertaken by the State Government in regards to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The programme was also addressed by Additional Director Social Justice and Welfare Department, Mr. K.S. Bhutia wherein he stressed on the importance of conducting such awareness programmes and asked

the attendees to spread the information for increased awareness.

The one day awareness programme saw lectures and presentations by Resource Persons namely, General Manager SABCCO Mr. Kishore Shrestha, Deputy Director Mr. Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Advocate Mr. Tashi Rapten Barfungpa, and Assistant Director KVIC (GoI) Mr. B.N. Roy.

The programme also saw an open interactions on a variety of topics coming under the ambit of the Act such as offences of atrocities and the punishments, features of the act, relief, rehabilitation and the special officers in all the four districts appointed under the rules of the Act.

Commissioning of EVMs conducted

Gangtok, March 26: The commissioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) including reserved to be used for the upcoming Municipal Elections 2021 for Urban Local Bodies of East District was held at the Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre, East, today.

The commissioning was conducted under the supervision of Municipal Returning Officer (MRO) Mr. Ragul K. in the presence of the Election Observers Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department Mr. Tshewang Gyachho, and Secretary Excise Department Mr. Kuber Bhandari.

Commissioning was done by four teams lead by ADC (East) Mr. Tushar G. Nikhare, ADC (HQ), Mr. Hemant Rai, SDM (Rongli) Mr. Samdup Bhutia and Sr. PS to DC Mrs. Sonam Ongmu Tamang.

The strong room was opened at around 9:00a.m. and the EVMs were shifted to Conference Hall for commissioning process.

A team of engineers from Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) were present to supervise and assist the commissioning process of the EVMs that was carried out by four teams and the entire procedure were video recorded.

It may be mentioned that the randomization of the EVMs was held on March 25 at the Office of MRO East in the presence of Election Observers.

After commissioning process, the EVMs were stored

and sealed in the Strong Room located at District Administrative Centre, East guarded by Sikkim Armed Police and under 24x7 CCTV surveillance. The opening and sealing of Strong Room was done in presence of the Observers, MRO and candidates and their designated agents.

Similarly, the commissioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs was conducted and completed successfully at the Conference Hall of Emergency Operating Centre Rabdentse for the forthcoming Municipal Election pertaining to Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat. The commissioning of EVMs and reserved EVMs was conducted in the supervision of Election Observer, Mr. M.T. Sherpa in presence of District Magistrate - cum- Municipal Returning Officer, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo and Assistant Municipal Returning Officer Mr. Agawane Rohan Ramesh along with Deputy Secretary/Election Officials, Contesting Candidates and authorised representatives of the candidates.

An engineer from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad, Mr. Rambabu Kumar was also present as the technical officer to assist the commissioning process of the EVMs.

Later, Election Observer, Mr. M.T. Sherpa alongwith SDM(HQ)-

Cum-Sector Magistrate, Mr. Anant Jain, Sector Officer-Cum-SDPO, Mr. Santosh Baniya and other officials inspected the boundary areas of all four contesting ward under Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat and also visited the strong room located at District Administration Centre and expressed satisfaction on safety and security of the EVMs. Further, Election Observer also asked the Returning Officer and Sector Magistrate to ensure compliance of COVID protocol; such as provision of sanitizer, face mask and social distancing on poll day.

Likewise, in Mangan, the Commissioning of EVMs was conducted at Zilla Bhawan, Mangan today in the presence of ADM (North) cum Nodal Officer Mr. Sonam Lepcha, SDM (Mangan) cum Sector Magistrate Mr. Karma .T. Bhutia, DPO (Zilla), RO (Mangan) and other officials of the Election Department, North District on March 26. Technical Officer, Mr. Debmalaya Paul demonstrated the EVMs to the candidates of 7 Nagar Panchayat Mangan and checked all the EVMs in the presence of the candidates and the officials. All 10 candidates from 7 Nagar Panchayat Mangan took part in a mock poll as well. The EVMs were then sealed and stored in the strong room. The strong room is under 24x7 CCTV Surveillance and is sealed and guarded by the Armed Police Personnel.

Contd. from page 2

Vendor Development...

vendors in the MSME sector to forge 'vendor-vendee' relationships and the third objective is to inform the educated youth about the opportunities in the MSME sector. This programme therefore aims to develop potential SMEs as vendors. He added the government would offer low subsidy to imperative in the society so that the younger generation of Sikkim make optimum use of it to make

themselves self sufficient that adds to development of the State. He also ensured the house that the Office of District Administration would provide all the information regarding the scheme and will too monitor in the business to make it a successful.

Further, Director/MSME presented PowerPoint presentation on MSME and its roles; importance of MSME sectors in Sikkim; other potential areas for entrepreneurship in Sikkim; Financial Assistance; Skill youth startup scheme; MSME-Cluster development programme; Scheme of fund for

regeneration of traditional industries; PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises scheme (PMFME); support provided by SNA; cold storage with processing and factors of success.

The programme also saw the different kind of display on wood carved, bamboo craft and other hand skill works made by the local entrepreneurs and the students of surrounding schools.

Entrepreneurs from different areas of West District and students of various schools also shared their experience on how to be self reliant.