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Gangtok (Tuesday) June 08, 2021

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

High level meeting on COVID-19 held

Gangtok, June 06 : A high-level meeting was held at Samman Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang to review the COVID-19 management in the State, and to decide the future course of action, today.

The meeting was attended by Cabinet Ministers, Mayor & Deputy Mayor GMC, Advisors, Chief Secretary, DGP, ACS, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, Political Secretary to HCM, senior officers of the Government and officers of the COVID-19 Management Group.

Chief Secretary Mr. S.C Gupta in his opening remarks stated that there has been marked improvement in the COVID-19 situation in the State, considering that the positivity rate has come down, mainly because the number of tests has increased. Cases have not drastically gone up, and the situation is stable. The measures taken by the State in the past two months have been effective to a



great extent. He said that the State should still tread with caution.

DG-cum-Secretary, Health, Dr. Pempa T. Bhutia briefed the house that the positivity rate has reduced remarkably, and recovery rate has improved significantly. He presented the comparative report of COVID cases in the past one month. He also informed about the status of Oxygen and other vital equipment in all the health facilities. He also informed about the availability of medicines.

Director, RCH, cum State Immunization Officer, Dr. Phumzay Denzongpa informed about the status of vaccination and the strategy in place to vaccinate the target age group.

Medical Superintendent, STNM Hospital, Dr. K.B. Gurung briefed about the overall status of COVID-19 management in the Hospital. He informed that the civil work for installation of oxygen

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World Environment Day 2021 celebrated



Gangtok, June 05 : The World Environment Day 2021 was organised by the Forest Department at Raj Bhawan Gangtok, today. The theme for this year's world environment is "Ecosystem Restoration". The day was marked by plantation of saplings by the Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad, and the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, along with Minister for Forest Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia, Chief Secretary, DGP, Additional Chief Secretary Forest, and other dignitaries.

The Governor in his press briefing extended his warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the special occasion. He said that this year the World Environment Day is being celebrated with the theme "Ecosystem Restoration" with focus on aspects of restoration,

rejuvenation and growth. He added that Sikkim is blessed with splendid nature and the people of Sikkim have preserved this natural heritage. He further stated that World Environment Day is important to all of us as it calls for global decadal action to restore ecosystem. He added that we should preserve our natural resources by rationalizing our consumption pattern as the effects of global warming and pressing environmental issues have impacted our State causing environmental hazards.

He concluded by saying that at this unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19, Sikkim is strongly fighting to contain the pandemic. He urged all the fellow citizens to stay at homes with green good deeds and following necessary protocol and guidelines issued by the Government.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang said that Sikkim is a small Himalayan State rich in biodiversity. He added that over the years a negative impact on the environmental resources can be felt due to global warming and with the growing concern over environmental issues particularly climate change that confront us today. He said that World Environment Day is observed every year on 5th June to rededicate ourselves to the cause of nature. The Chief Minister also mentioned that Sikkim is already on the path of restoration process as the State government has initiated measures to address growing concern on environmental degradation. He called on the citizens to pledge to continue with their efforts to keep the environment clean and healthy. He appealed to everyone to plant at least one sapling of their choice in their surroundings and be part of the global action for ecosystem restoration and conservation.

The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang flagged off four numbers of Fire Tender Vehicles provided by the Forest Department for use in each district on the occasion.

It may be mentioned that, the World Environment Day

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**Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat
Sonam Tshering Marg, Gangtok, Sikkim,
737101**

No.252/L&PA

Dated: 02/06/2021

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of the power conferred under Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Shri L.B.Das, Hon'ble Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly has been pleased to reconvene a sitting of the House in the Assembly Hall, Gangtok on 14th June, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Further, in pursuance with the correspondence received from Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim the sitting of the House has been rescheduled, thus this Notification hereby supersedes the Reconvening Notification No. 249/L&PA dated 25/05/2021 issued by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

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

By order

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

Foundation stone of 300 bedded District Hospital Namchi laid



Namchi, June 05: The Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang laid the foundation stone of 300 bedded District Hospital at Singithang Ground, today.

The Chief Minister extended his congratulations to the people of the state for this upcoming healthcare infrastructure. He also spoke about the importance of this 300 bedded hospital and underlined that building of this hospital is extremely necessary in order to aid the people of Sikkim particularly in these times of COVID-19 pandemic. The State Government aims to build a robust public healthcare system in Sikkim wherein expert doctors and other specialists are available to treat the public.

Furthermore, he said that the State Government will adequately provide the best healthcare as the

well being of the Sikkimese population is at the centre of the State Government's policy. He also said that an alternate land for Singithang playground in Boomtar has been sought after by the State Government for the same.

The Chief Minister informed that every resource available in the state are being utilized to upgrade the existing health care centres. He also informed that the COVID-19 testing is being accelerated both in rural as well as urban areas, and with the increase of COVID-19 testing, the number of positive patients will also go up, and these positive patients are being treated by the health care professionals. As for COVID-19 vaccination, he updated that Sikkim has regularly administered vaccination to 45+ individuals and

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Pearls of Wisdom

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

-Nelson Mandela

District Diary

COVID-19 war room set up at Namchi

Namchi, June 07: The South District Administration in order to track and monitor the spread of COVID-19 has set up a COVID-19 war room with dashboard at Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) which is constructed under the Namchi Smart City Projects and located above the Multi Level Car Plaza Building.

The aim of the COVID 19 war room is to have real time information about the status of the incidence of COVID-19 infection within South-Sikkim. Information about the various COVID Care Centres, containment zones and details of ambulances, etc. are available which shall ensure effective management while making an informed decision for responding

to the pandemic. The integrated Covid 19 dashboard provides the status which includes availability of beds at various COVID Care Centres within the South District, the information on accessibility of the Government as well as taxi ambulances are also given.

The dedicated team working at the COVID-19 war room cell functions as the Control Room and provides emergency assistance related to medicine and other drugs, ambulances, and admission to the COVID Care Centres based on the health care report and the request of patient and their relatives. The additional services include contact details of doctors of the respective areas, and other allied health needs.

In addition to this, the District Administration has also set up a dedicated 24x7 Covid 19

Helpline desk through the existing Contact Center Management Solution. For any emergency enquiries, the helpline number is 03595-264100. The centre also assists the South Police Department in executing their work by means of monitoring video CCTVs feeds.

The war room is managed by the officials of the District Administration along with other officials from Namchi Smart City Limited, NIC (Namchi) and Health Department. To assist in this endeavour, an NGO the Blood Army of Sikkim is also volunteering in managing the helpline numbers for grievances and feedback from the public via helpline numbers which are- 95642-26981, 93396-24796 and 86534-56458.

Mass COVID-19 test in Namchi

Namchi, June 06: Mass random testing drive of COVID-19 began on June 03 at Dambudara Municipal Ward followed by areas under South District. Shopkeepers and vendors associated with the business of liquor, fruits, vegetables and

other essential items were tested for COVID-19. It may be mentioned that a Covid negative report is mandatory for any shopkeepers to run the shop so as to contain the disease. Areas and villages around Kewzing, Hingdam, Namthang, Namchi,

Ravangla, Nagi-Karek, Gangyap have been covered so far. The COVID tests are conducted by officials and team from the district hospital with supervision and assistance by the Councillor and Municipal Officers and staff.

Meeting to expedite work under SGAY held

Mangan, June 03: Under the instructions of the Chief Minister, Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, a series of meeting for three GPUs under Mangan Block - Toong Naga GPU, Singhik Sentam GPU and Ringhim Nampatam GPU to expedite the work under Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana was held at their respective Gram Prashasan Kendras, today.

Additional Political Secretary to Chief Minister (North District) Mr. Tshering Wangyal Bhutia chaired the meetings in the presence of the respective Panchayat Presidents, Zilla Panchayats and Ward Panchayats, along with the beneficiaries of SGAY of the respective GPUs.

ADC (Dev) Mangan, BDO/ Mangan, AE (RDD SGAY), AE (BAC), concerned Junior Engineers, representative from MTL Pvt. Ltd. along with Project Manager and Site Engineers of MTL were also present at the meetings.

Various aspects of the

construction of SGAY houses were discussed with the beneficiaries during the meeting. So far, the process of geotagging and survey of the houses have been completed. Instruction to complete the houses under the GPUs by March 2022 was directed. Mr. Tshering Wangyal Bhutia (North) directed all the parties concerned along with government officials to work hand in hand so as to achieve the required target set by the Government. He also added that he will personally be monitoring the progress of SGAY houses on a regular basis.

After completion of the meeting at the three GPUs, the team visited ongoing works for SGAY for the houses under Mangshilla Tibuk GPU and found that they were under steady progress.

Meetings regarding the same will be conducted in the remaining GPUs in the coming days. SOPs pertaining to COVID 19 were followed during the

meetings.

Similarly, in Mangan, The Mop-up of COVID 19 for the residents of Mangan bazar and surrounding areas of Pentok and Lal bazar, took place on June 03. The total of RTPCR tests conducted were 536 while there were 257 RAT tests conducted. Out of these people who were tested, five were reported positive. Four of the positive individuals have been put under home isolation while one has been admitted in the District Hospital.

Municipal Executive Officer, S.I Mangan, staff of Mangan Nagar Panchayat, police team and youth from the areas provided help and logistical support for the testing process.

The mop-up tests in the North District began on May 26th and it has been the initiative of the Health Department, District Hospital Mangan with assistance from the administrative section as well as the police.

guidelines and advisory issued by Home and Labour Department respectively. The directions for in House accommodation of workers for running the Plants were given. Further, the plant heads were directed to establish a COVID Care Centre as per the advisory issued by Labour Department.

PC Vaccine Launched

Namchi, June 02: The launch of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in South District commenced at District Hospital Namchi, today.

The programme was attended by the Chairman, Namchi Municipal Council Mr. Ganesh Rai as the chief guest in the presence of DC (South, CMO (South, DMS, DRCHO, CDPO (Namchi), NMC Councillor along with Paediatrician-Doctors, staff of the hospital, ASHA and Aganwandai Workers.

Mr. Ganesh Rai expressed his gratitude to the health care workers for their selfless dedication towards wellbeing of people amid the pandemic. He also said that the vaccine that provides immunity against life threatening disease will not only improve the health of children but also reduce unnecessary hospitalisation and other conditions associated with pneumonia disease, hence he urged that the vaccination must be achieved at community levels to attain optimum benefit.

Further, he requested the administration to highlight the vaccination drive of COVID-19 on the physically challenged persons and other daily workers under the Namchi Municipal Council in order to achieve 100 percent vaccination target.

DC (South) Mr. M. Bharani Kumar encouraged to raise awareness amongst the public especially to the parents of newly born babies so that the young children get timely vaccinated and reduce mortality associated with the disease. He stressed on intensifying awareness with constant and active participation at grassroot level with the help of ASHA and Aganwandai Workers.

He also informed that the District Administration would provide a necessary logistical support for successful campaign of the vaccination drive.

DRCHO Dr. Junita Yonzon spoke on the importance of PCV which provides an effective and long-lasting protection for children against pneumococcal diseases caused by pneumococcal bacteria such as pneumonia, sepsis, meningitis and many others.

It may be mentioned here that as part of this vaccination process, the vaccines will be provided free of cost at various government healthcare centers such as Community Health Centre, Primary Health Centres, Primary Health Sub-Centres in the district. Three doses of PVC is administered at the age of 6 weeks, 10 weeks and 9 months gaps.

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High level ...

plant is on the verge of completion.

Member of COVID-19 Management Group and General Manager, Transport, Mr. Karma Namgyal Bhutia presented the current status of availability of oxygen in the State, and the progress report of the installation of the oxygen plants.

Principal Secretary, RDD, Mr. C.S. Rao presented a brief status report of Covid Care Centres and the distribution of Covid Care Kit and essential items to people under home isolation in rural parts of the State. He informed that the people are being made aware through continuous miking.

District Collector (East), Mr. Ragul K. suggested for setting up of paediatric ICU facilities to cater to children who are contracting COVID-19. He informed that, at present, most of the children are found to be asymptomatic and under home isolation. He also gave a brief report of the Covid Care Centres.

Special DGP, Law and Order, Mr. Akshay Sachdeva informed about law enforcement throughout the State.

DGP, Mr. S.D. Negi suggested for intensifying institutional care to ensure that the virus is contained, especially for people who live in crowded settlements.

Secretary, Labour Department, Ms. Namrata Thapa

informed that a good progress has been made regarding registration of individual labourers living within the urban areas. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor (GMC) are closely monitoring the progress, it was informed. The Secretary also presented a brief report on the Advisory and other instructions issued by the Labour Department and the status of compliance by the pharmaceutical companies.

Secretary, UDD Ms. Sarala Rai gave a brief status report of distribution of essentials to the urban poor.

After taking detailed stock of COVID-19 management in the State, Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang announced the following broad decisions taken in the meeting:

1. 65,000 people in the age group of 18 to 44 years will be vaccinated in the month of June, 2021. The vaccination process will commence at the earliest at designated health facilities throughout the State.

2. The State-wide lockdown will be extended till 5am of June 14, 2021, with certain relaxations.

3. All heads of Departments should devise a mechanism of functioning with 30% attendance in all Government offices.

4. The timing of opening of ration shops and vegetable shops will now be from 7am to 2pm.

5. Hardware shops will be permitted to open from 7am to 2pm.

6. A core team to be made ready for prevention and treatment of Mucormycosis or Black Fungus.

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Refrigerated Transport Vehicles flagged off

Gangtok, June 02: The Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. L. N. Sharma flagged off the Refrigerated Transport Vehicles and handed over the vehicle keys and documents to four Farmers Producers Organization (FPOs) and Progressive Farmers in a programme organised at Horticulture Farm, Majhitar, East Sikkim, today.

The recipients of refrigerated transportation vehicles were Khamdong Singtam Organic Farmers Producers Cooperative Society Ltd, East District, Alleydara Sanjivani SHG, South District, Lily Self Help Group from Tikpur and M/s Sikkim Vegetable Growers Association, Berthang, Hee Bermiok, West Sikkim. The cost of each vehicle is ₹ 18,19,995.

He highlighted the objectives of providing transportation vehicles to FPOs and SHGs stating that the transportation vehicles will make it convenient to ensure marketing of the vegetables produced in rural areas of Sikkim. He urged every beneficiary to wisely utilise the transportation vehicles with proper maintenance. He also informed that the vegetables can be stored in vehicles which has

temperature control system with single phase AC provision that has storing capacity of fifteen quintals.

He appealed to the farmers of Sikkim to continue the lucrative and life-saving profession of farming, extensively. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for making it possible to provide the much-needed transportation vehicles to the farmers.

The Minister also launched the "White Marvel" Button Mushroom, produced and promoted by Integrated Mushroom Development Unit, Majhitar, Horticulture Department, Government of Sikkim.

The Minister also mentioned that systematic training will be provided to the farmers of Sikkim to produce White Marvel Button Mushroom. The Unit will produce and supply newly launched mushroom to various parts of Sikkim and the collected revenue will be deposited in the Government's account, he added.

Secretary Horticulture Mr. M.T. Sherpa in his opening remarks highlighted on the purpose of providing Transportation Vehicles and launching of White Marvel mushrooms. He also informed that the White Marvel Button Mushrooms is organically produced by the Mushroom

Production Unit.

The programme was also attended by the officials of Horticulture Department from all districts. The programme was organized with due adherence to the COVID-19 safety protocol.

The Minister also visited Sirwani Gram Panchayat Unit, East Sikkim and interacted with the farmers at Pekulakha and Dochum village, today.

The Minister carried out field inspection of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) cluster belt wherein he was professed with the farming practice of the local farmers. The farmers in the area have prominently developed integrated vegetable farms of pumpkin, bottle gourd, banana, ginger, cucumber, bitter gourd, beans etc. He went to the interior field of cultivated lands in various pockets and acquired feedback from the vegetable growers.

He applauded the services rendered by the field functionaries and urged them to work continuously for the betterment in the farming sector.

He was accompanied by Secretary Horticulture and officials of the Department along with MD SIMFED.

RDD Minister inspects ecological park at Sang Khola

Gangtok, June 01: Minister for Rural Development Department Mr. Sonam Lama inspected the site for development of Ecological Park located at Sang Khola under Beng Phegyong GPU. The Minister assessed the progress of the work and examined the plan prepared by the Forest Department. He instructed the

Forest Officials to execute the work efficiently. He also asked them to ensure the quality. The Minister was accompanied by the Pr. Secy, RDD, Chief Engineer, RDD, Director Panchayat, ADC(Dev) BDO Martam, DFO(T) and Panchayats of Beng Phegyong, GPU.

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World ...

(WED) is celebrated every year on 5th June since 1974, engaging governments, businesses and citizens in an effort to address the pressing environmental issues. It is the United Nations Day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

To engage students from schools and colleges and the general public, the department launched online competitive events such as quiz, painting and drawing, slogan writing, open photography and short video contest with cash prizes up to ₹20,000. The online event is hosted in Sikkim ENVIS website www.siknvis.nic.in.

The Forest and Environment Department has taken up various measures and included activities in its various schemes and annual plan of operations for sensitization,

generating awareness among masses and restoring the ecosystem through plantations, other engineering measures concomitantly generating livelihood opportunities. Also, in the past three years, cocoon production in the state has increased by three times and through construction of 1000 silk rearing houses, it has greatly benefitted 1000 women silkworm farmers supported under intensive sericulture development in the State. Sikkim is one of the most progressive states in the country for forest and environmental conservation and has won many laurels and national awards

On the occasion of WED, the department has appealed to one and all to celebrate this day at individual level, at their homes by taking up plantation, gardening, cleaning and any green good deeds that contribute towards restoration of the ecosystem.

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Foundation...

added that vaccination is crucial to manage and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chief Minister said that the vaccination for 18+ will also resume at the earliest. He also updated that 18+ vaccination will start from rural areas health care centre and said that an oxygen plant will soon be installed at Rangpo. The Chief Minister also said that Mobile Village Clinic will commence soon and emphasized that the State Government has given ambulances especially at rural areas in order to transfer COVID positive patients.

Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary Buildings and Housings Department Mr. Rajen Sharma provided a brief note about the construction of 300 bedded District Hospital. The work has been awarded to the Government Contractor on turnkey basis duly entrusting for Conceptualization, Drawings, Design and Construction work along with Medical Equipments entitled for District Hospital as per Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norms. Mr. Sharma said that the completion time for the project is for three years and the proposed building is a eight storied with parking facility and other amenities.

Meeting on Registration of workers held

Gangtok, June 01: A coordination meeting with line departments regarding registration of workers under Sikkim Labour Protection Act, 2005, was convened at the conference hall of Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC), Deorali, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mayor GMC, Mr. Nell Bahadur Chettri, in the presence of Deputy Mayor GMC, Mrs. Tshering Palden Bhutia, Councillors of various wards under GMC, Secretary Labour Department, Ms Namrata Thapa, Commissioner GMC Mr. H.K. Chettri, Additional

Commissioner Labour Department, and officials from Labour Department, Rural Development Department and UPHC Health.

The agenda of the meeting was to deliberate on the need to formalize authentic data of labourers under unorganised sector in Sikkim.

Immediate action for collection of data of individual workers under unorganised sector, registration of workers with Labour Department under Sikkim Labour Protection Act 2005 and identification of areas for registration, vaccination of

individual worker and sensitisation of workers on COVID-19 protocols were necessitated.

It is to be mentioned that individual labourers under Sikkim Labour Protection Act 2005 include bazar porters, carpenters, masons, rag pickers, quilt makers, plumbers, fitters, cooks, waiters, chanawalas, electricians, drivers (other than government drivers), cattle rearers (gothals), domestic servants, mechanics, barbers, cobblers, hawkers, umbrella repairers, scrap paper and bottle collector, etc.

Government of Sikkim Rural Development Department Tashiling, Gangtok-737103, Sikkim. E-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No: - SKPMGSY(LSB)BATCHI Online20-21

Memo No:- 19(A)RDD/PMGSY

Dated:- 02/06/2021

POSTPONEMENT OF E-TENDER

Tender bearing the above Tender Reference Number with Tender ID 2021 CESDA_109179_1 to 16 which was uploaded on www.pmgstenderssikkim.gov.in dated 05.05.2021 for "Construction of long Span Steel Bridges in the State of Sikkim under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" whose last date of submission was on 05/06/2021 is postponed due to the complete lockdown as per guidelines laid down by Covid19. The new dates for the same is given under.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date of time for seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender
		From	To		
Pr.Chief Engineer. RDD	Sk-PMGSY II Batch I Online (2020-21)	05/05/2021 from 4.00PM	25/06/2021 upto 10.00 AM	14/06/2021 upto 2.00 PM	25/06/2021 at 10.30AM

The demand draft in the form of hard copy for tender fee is to be submitted to the Finance Controller SRRDA Sikkim Latest by 22/06/2021 by 4:30 PM. Those bids even if submitted online but whose hard copy is not received by Finance Controller during the time given, will not be considered for bidding.

Pr.Chief Engineer cum Empowered Officer
Rural Development Department
R.O. NO.54/IPR/PUB/CLassI/21-22(III), Dated 3/06/21



Oxygen concentrators donated to Sikkim Government

Gangtok, June 06: A total number of 93 oxygen concentrators were donated to the Government of Sikkim by ACT which is a non-profit coalition created by the Indian startup ecosystem to fight the pandemic and drive change and Swasth Alliance which is a non-profit alliance of over 150+ healthcare organisations in India.

Mr. Karma Bhutia and his wife Mrs. Ira Bhutia coordinated the delivery of the aforementioned

oxygen concentrators to the state and formally handed over it to the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang who expressed his heartfelt gratitude to them and everyone, including Delhivery (logistics partner). He also conveyed his thanks to Mr Prashanth Prakash (Advisor to Chief Minister, Karnataka). The oxygen concentrators are currently at STNM, Sochyangang.

It is to be noted that ACT,

Swasth Alliance (a not-for-profit alliance of over 150+ healthcare organizations) and Feeding India (a not-for-profit run by Zomato) are working towards the goal of sourcing and distributing 50,000 oxygen concentrators with Delhivery as the logistic partner. Temasek Foundation (Sourcing and Funding partner), Paytm (Sourcing partner) and several others from the ecosystem as support for the fight against COVID.

National Level of Citizens Charter launched

Gangtok, June 04: The National Level launch of Citizens Charter for Gram Panchayats was held virtually by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar, today.

The programme had the presence of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Mr. Ashok Gehlot, Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana and Ministers for Panchayati Raj representing other states.

Minister for Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Mr. Sonam Lama attended the virtual programme from NIC, Tashiling Secretariat, along with Principal Secretary, RDD Mr. C.S.Rao and Director Panchayat, Prabhakar Rai.

The need for Citizens Charter at the Gram Panchayat level in coherence with the 29 subjects enshrined under the 11th schedule of the Constitution was explained through a presentation by Jt. Secretary, MoPR Mr. Alok Nagar.

The virtual launch was initiated by the the Union Minister and emphasised on proper planning and implementation of activities at the village level in accordance to the plan passed by the Gram Sabha as listed in the GPDP. He also highlighted on the priority sector to be identified by the Panchayats to activate the works.

The Union Minister apprised the gathering about the SVAMITVA project launched

and implemented in all the states, wherein the villagers are being handed over land documents of Abadi areas.

In his address, the Minister for RDD, Government of Sikkim lauded the initiative of Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar in spearheading grievance redressal at the Gram Panchayat level through the launch of Citizens Charter. He also informed that adhering to COVID-19 protocols, the holding of Gram Sabha on the 15th August 2021 to approve the Citizens Charter at Gram Panchayat level may not be feasible but the Panchayat Committee shall look into the matter as per prescribed guidelines issued by MoPR and obtain appropriate approval from the Gram Sabha on a later date.

SJ&WD holds press conference for post-metric and pre-metric scholarship

Gangtok, June 03 : Secretary, Social Justice & Welfare Department, Mr. Tshewang Gyachho held a press conference to clarify issues concerning the post-metric and pre-metric scholarship schemes of the Government, today.

The Secretary informed that the Department has been consistently receiving enquiries from Sikkimese students studying within and outside the State on various stipulated Scholarship Schemes of the Government. The enquiries relate to the non-receipt of the scholarship amounts for the financial year 2020-21.

He said that the press conference was organized with the objective to clear the doubt and confusion from the minds of the students and their parents. He explained that the Department has disbursed 100% Scholarship amount totalling Rs. 13,37,48,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Crore, Thirty-Seven Lakh and Forty-Eight Thousand only) earmarked for the students under Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Class and Economically Backward Class. However, for the Scheduled Tribe category, only 66% of the Scholarship fund was received from the Government of India, which was then disbursed to the beneficiaries, he informed. He added that the remaining 34% of

the fund would be disbursed immediately after it is received from the Government of India.

The Secretary explained that the instances of non-receipt of the stipulated scholarship amount by some students is due to certain technical issues concerning the banks and at the same time due to technical error from the students' side while processing the registrations. He said that in due course of time, the country witnessed the phenomena of merger of different banks. In the process, the clients had to face certain hardships as it involved updation of accounts and other such formalities. In this context, the Secretary explained that funds transferred to such individuals through Direct Benefit Transfer are reflected as failed transactions, as the IFSC Code and Account Number do not match. He said that this was due to the delay from the students' side to update their bank details to be compatible with the new bank. This has resulted in failed transactions, he stressed.

The Secretary further said that in some instances, the beneficiaries may have changed details such as the email address, contact numbers etc and have failed to update the same during the process of registration/

renewal of the Scholarship. In some cases, incorrect or incomplete details have been fed into the registration portal, resulting in anomalies. Using other people's bank accounts and incomplete KYC seeding is also one of the reasons, he said. The Secretary reiterated that the registration process has to be completed every year in the form of renewal to ensure continuation of the Scholarship Scheme. He stressed that it is not a one-time process. He also highlighted the eligibility criteria for such Scholarships, that is, minimum 75% attendance in the academic session and promotion to the next class/standard. A student who is detained in a class will not be eligible for the Scholarship.

The Secretary also elaborated on the detailed breakup of the fee and allowance structure and the allocation for each of the categories of students covered by the Scholarship Scheme.

He appealed to the students and their parents to ensure that all of the above-mentioned criteria are fulfilled to avail of the Scholarship Scheme of the Government. He urged them to be vigilant of the norms and guidelines laid down and strictly comply with them.

The Secretary was joined in the press conference by senior officers of the Department.

DC East chairs monsoon preparedness meeting

Gangtok, June 03: District Collector cum Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority, East, Mr. Ragul K. chaired a monsoon preparedness meeting through virtual mode, today.

The meeting was attended by officers of all the line Departments and concerned agencies such as GREF, NHIDCL, NHPC, and officials of Private Hydel Power Projects.

The meeting deliberated in detail the steps being taken by each line department to take immediate measures wherever necessary, before the onset of the monsoons.

After taking detailed stock of the preparedness, the District Collector cum Chairman DDMA appealed to all the line departments and concerned agencies to lend support to the DDMA to address issues that may arise. He said that the Police force and the BDOs are the first responders in case of any disaster

situation, and urged them to be vigilant. He directed the BDOs to submit the post-monsoon assessment report to the DDMA immediately after the retreat of the monsoons.

He expressed concern about the traffic issue that might arise due to the ongoing restoration work at Sisa Golai Gangtok. He called for a systematic plan to divert the traffic at specific points, thereby reducing public inconvenience. He urged the Roads & Bridges Department to engage maximum manpower and complete the restoration work at the earliest. He also urged the GMC to coordinate with SDM Gangtok to clear all the drains in and around Gangtok before the onset of the monsoons. Likewise, line departments and hydel power projects were directed to check flooding in low lying areas and ensure that the early warning systems are in place.

9 vehicles under PKVY flagged off

Gangtok, June 04: A total of nine Vehicles for the transportation of certified organic local farm produce under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) was flagged off by the Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Mr. L. N. Sharma, at Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, today.

The programme was organized by the Agriculture Department and had the presence of Secretary Agriculture Department, Mr. Rinzing Chewang Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture Department, Mr. M. T Sherpa, officials of Agriculture Department, District Agriculture in-charges from all the four districts of Sikkim and media personnel.

Mr. L. N. Sharma, mentioned that nine number of ISUZU pick-up trucks have been acquired by the State government to make it convenient for the farmers to market their produce. Under PKVY scheme, the Agriculture Department, Government of Sikkim, has created 84 clusters across 4 districts in Sikkim, after an extensive survey by the department officials. The vehicles will be placed under the disposal of district officers- Joint Director at the headquarter and Deputy Directors and ADOs in the subdivisions. The vehicle can be

availed by the farmers of these clusters whenever their organic produce is ready to be marketed, by paying a nominal charge that has been fixed by the department. The vehicle will be under the aegis of the Agriculture Department, but is to be only made available for the farmers.

The Minister also mentioned that the farmers of Sikkim have been provided with Rs.6000/year in three instalments under the Prime Ministers Saman Nidhi Karyakram. 9997 beneficiaries have availed a total of Rs. 8cr 86 lac 59 thousand since the formation of the present government until now.

He concluded his address by urging the district in-charges to be prompt in providing the vehicles to the farmers if and when required for efficient result. He expressed his gratitude and congratulations to all the officials of the department for the success in acquiring these vehicles for the farmers. He extended his gratitude to the Chief Minister for making this feat possible.

It is to be mentioned that, the Agriculture Department, Government of Sikkim, has created 84 organic village clusters across the State, of which 9 clusters are in North District and about 24 each in other districts of Sikkim.

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