



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 64 No. 19 visit us at www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in

Gangtok (Friday) March 20, 2020

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2017-19

Chief Minister interacts with students of Gyalshing Government College and SRC members

Gangtok, March 19: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang interacted with the students of Gyalshing Government College and its Student Representative Council (SRC) members at Samman Bhawan, today.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by MP (Lok Sabha), Mr. Indra Hang Subba, by Minister of Education, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Minister of PHE, Mr. Bhim Hang Subba, Rhenock MLA, Mr. Bishnu Khatiwada, Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mr. Jacob Khaling, Additional Chief Secretary, Education, Mr. G.P. Upadhyaya, Director, Higher Education, Mr. Kapil Meena along with other officials from the Education Department and the Chief Minister's Office.

Gyalshing College SRC president, Mr. Sanjay Hang Limboo, and member Mr. Pravin Sharma, laid out their grievances owing to the delay in the completion of the college construction work. They also placed forward the demand of a fully established college with availability of all basic amenities.

Addressing the gathering of students and SRC members, the Chief Minister reiterated that



Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang addressing the students of Gyalshing Government College and its SRC members at Samman Bhawan.

education and health sectors have been the top priority of the State government and that the government will do everything in its power to resolve the issues of the college at the earliest. He added that developmental process takes time and students need to be patient while the State government

works towards expediting the completion of the college infrastructure.

Extending his full support, the Chief Minister assured that the academic building of the college and a boys' hostel for students will

Contd. on page 2

CS holds preparatory meeting for prevention of COVID-19

Gangtok, March 19: Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta took stock of the level of preparedness for prevention of Covid 19 in the State in the first meeting of the State Task Force, today.

The meeting was attended by officers of the State Task Force, and was joined by the District Collectors and officials of all four districts over video conferencing.

The meeting laid emphasis on the preventive measures in place by the Government, and areas which needed urgent intervention. It was decided that all non-essential work in Government offices needed to be suspended for the time being to avoid movement and gathering of people at work place. All heads of departments and District Collectors were directed to issue necessary orders to this effect.

It was informed that a substantial amount of fund has been transferred to the Health

Department from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, for the purchase of new equipment and necessary essentials for quarantine wards and health facilities. The Chief Secretary directed the District Collectors to requisition for additional fund, if necessary, from the Health Department, especially for the up-gradation of quarantine facilities in the district headquarters and subdivisions.

The need for restricting the movement of labour force, especially along Rangpo-Mamring was discussed and necessary directions issued. In order to make tourists and visitors aware of the restrictions on travel to Sikkim, the Transport Department would be sticking posters with travel advisory on taxis plying from Siliguri. Likewise, the Chief Secretary suggested for a medical team to be stationed at SNT complex, Siliguri, and all

passengers travelling by SNT buses to be thoroughly screened, to avoid overcrowding at Rangpo and Melli check posts.

Regarding movement of students studying in other States and cities following the outbreak of Corona Virus, it was decided that those who have already started or have reached the State will invariably have to report to the authorities and need to be home quarantined. However, those students who are still in the cities should be advised to stay put wherever they are, and avoid travelling to Sikkim. The Chief Secretary directed for an advisory to be issued especially to the parents to adhere to the travel restrictions.

The Chief Secretary advised all the Heads of Departments and the District Collectors to exercise

Contd. on page 2

**Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat
Namnang, Gangtok**

No.01/L&PA

Dated:07/02/2020

NOTIFICATION

The following Order No.SH/4(1)/RB/2068 dated: 07. 03. 2020 made by Hon'ble Governor is hereby circulated for general information:

ORDER

"In exercise of the powers conferred on me by clause (1) of Article 174 of the Constitutional. I, Ganga Prasad, Governor of Sikkim, hereby summon the Sikkim Legislative Assembly to meet on 23rd March, 2020 at 11.00 am in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

I, further, direct that the Secretary, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, shall notify the members accordingly.

Sd/-
(Ganga Prasad)
Governor of Sikkim

By order,

Dr. (Gopal Pd. Dahal), SLASS
Secretary

CM launches CSR initiative under INDUSIND bank



Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang launching CSR initiative under INDUSIND bank at Samman Bhawan.

Gangtok, March 19: The Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang launched Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative under INDUSIND bank at Samman Bhawan, today.

The Chief Minister during the launch congratulated the bank and also welcomed their initiative and hoped that more corporate

sector in Sikkim will take CSR initiative which would benefit the people of Sikkim.

On the occasion MLA Mr. G.T. Dhungel along with INDUSIND Manager Mr. Paramdip Basnet was also present.

The IndusInd bank will be distributing solar street lights as a CSR initiative this year.

Sikkim Denzong Sherpa Association hands over fund to fight COVID-19

Gangtok, March 18: Sikkim Denzong Sherpa Association led by the President Mr. Pema Wangchuk Sherpa called on the Secretary to the Chief Minister Mr. S.D. Dhakal at Tashiling Secretariat and handed over a cheque for Chief Minister's relief fund to fight the COVID-19.

Mr. S.D. Dhakal expressed his

heart felt gratitude towards the association for their kind gesture.

Mr. Mingma Sherpa of Global Sherpa Association, Chief Patron of Sikkim Denzong Sherpa Association along with the executive members were also present on the occasion.

Pearls of Wisdom

"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

--Walt Disney

District Diary

Member National Commission for Safai Karmachari, GoI holds meeting with DC (North)

Mangan, March 18: Member National Commission for Safai Karmachari, Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Mr. Mahamandleshwar Swami Sadanand Maharaj, who was on three day tour to North Sikkim from March 15 to March 18, 2020 held a meeting with the District Magistrate (North) Mr. Tenzing T. Kaleon alongside other

officials from various department of the district.

During the meeting, DC (North), Mr. Kaleon said that the main objective of the meeting was to appraise the present status of the Safai Karmachari of the district, their working facilities, social & welfare upliftment.

After discussion on various issues of safai karmachari with district officials was

suggested to ensure that the benefits and facilities provided by the state and central government should reach the safai karmacharis. He also asked to the MEO/Mangan Nagar Panchayat to submit all the achievements of the Mangar Nagar Panchayat to the Ministry of Justice & Empowerment, GoI at the earliest.

District Task Force for NCOVID-19 set up in West Sikkim

Gyalshing, March 18: Keeping in mind the global situation and the NCOVID 19 infections, the West District Administration held a preparatory meeting for setting up of District Task Force to tackle the pandemic NCOVID19 at the Conference Hall, Rabdentse, today. The meeting was chaired by DC (West) Mr. Karma R. Bonpo along with ASP (West) Mr. PVG Satish and ADC (West) Mr. Karma L. Lepcha to tackle and limit the outbreak of the COVID19 in the district with all possible measures and to chalk out the possible preventive measures.

The District Collector (West) informed that the situation in the world has worsened and hence it is the duty of every individual to treat this as a personal responsibility and try their best to follow instructions laid down by WHO and the Indian Government. He mentioned that the containment of the outbreak is nearly impossible however, with following up of proper instructions the number of infections and cases can be minimized. He urged every officials to take the matter seriously and with utmost sincerity in dealing with the following of instructions. He appealed during the meeting that the participation of the public is the main foundation in minimizing the outbreak.

He informed that inter-district and intra-district travels need to be minimized, social gathering and departmental meeting need to be averted and postponed, all

tourists' spots need to be closed for tourists, gathering of more than 25 people needs to be averted and monitoring of citizens travelling from other states needs to be done. The Transport Department need to sensitize the taxi drivers about taking preventive steps and sanitize their vehicles frequently. Similarly, other departments need to work in close coordination amongst themselves as this is a situation which concerns all.

He also informed that non-essential services like Voter IDs; Aadhar Cards; Ration cards would be stopped in order to reduce public gathering as a preventive measures. He also mentioned that public needs to maintain social distancing and isolation in order to keep themselves safe. He urged them to follow the directives chalked by the District Administration in order to save themselves and others from the COVID19 virus. He also asked all to retrospect the case studies of other countries and learn from their mistakes and follow Health Advisories issued for public interest.

He informed that the District Level Task Force would have two isolation facilities, one at the Aayush Hospital, Kyongsa, Gyalshing for the Gyalshing-Yuksom areas and the other at SICB for Soreng Subdivision and would be equipped with adequate required facilities. Similarly, the Government Guest Houses and other infrastructures located at various positions would be used as quarantine

zones in the district. He also informed that manpower required to tackle any grave situations would be trained and deputed as per requirement. He also informed that since the problem is concerning the public's safety the role of an individual is vital and all should participate actively by maintaining social distancing and practicing good hygiene.

Further, the DC (West) asserted that no Government vehicles are to leave the district without informing the DC and after prior permission. He also informed that Officers should be stationed at the district to tackle the outbreak. He also mentioned that since the pandemic is alarming, the district needs to be ready for the worst case scenario and be prepared to tackle it.

The District Control Room would soon be operational and all citizens who are travelling from other states and coming to West Sikkim will have to fill out Self Declaration Forms for contact tracing and surveillance of disease. He also urged the Police Department West Sikkim to maintain database for those people coming from outside Sikkim.

The Health Department has been directed to work on the procurement plan for medicines, masks, ventilators and set up a 10 bedded ICU in the district for the Corona Victims.

He also informed that illegal hoarding and selling of essential commodities at higher prices would be strictly dealt by the District Administration.

South District steps up preparedness for COVID-19

Namchi, March 17: Along with the rest of the world, South District also has equipped themselves to combat the coronavirus crises. Officials and grassroot level workers of the South Health Department along with all concerned line departments are working in a co-ordinated manner to contain the spread of coronavirus in the district as well as in the state.

A Rapid Response Team under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) has been formed at District Hospital. This team consists of Specialists, responsible for investigating and management of outbreaks within the district.

Screening activity has already started at Melli Check post, since January 29 conducted by Health department for which Staffs from various Health Sub-Centres is posted to Melli Check post. Daily report of Screening is continuously being updated to State IDSP Cell and to the District Collector (South). SDRF and IRB's has been posted at Melli Check post from March 10 onwards to assist in screening process.

Additionally, a screening centre has also been established at Tourism building at the said Check post and most importantly the officials are tracking the movement of tourist who has already arrived from affected

areas of various states to Sikkim.

Likewise, a District level Inter-departmental Coordination meeting was held under chairmanship of South District Collector and all Heads of department were briefly sensitized regarding this disease.

A detailed co-ordination convention was also held with all the Medical Officer Incharge of 6 Primary Health Centre & 1 Community Health Centre wherein they were guided with regards to the treatment protocols. The health officials are also regularly holding massive awareness activities at all levels including during the occasion of special Gram Sabha.

South Health Department has also put up ambulance for transport of suspected cases which is placed at Namchi and Melli Check post. Single bed Isolation facility is also available at Namchi Hospital.

Mandatory filling up of Self Declaration form by Tourist who had entered Sikkim before March 17 is being followed at Melli Check Post in co-ordination with Tourism department. Compulsory home based quarantine of persons returning from COVID-19 affected countries as per guidelines issued by Government of India is being tracked along with daily monitoring by the health staffs of the concerned area.

Contd. from front page

Chief Minister...

be completed in one year. He further informed that the construction of the approach road will be completed within three months' time and added that other facilities will be provided phase-wise through a fresh DPR for a well equipped campus for Gyalshing College.

He also informed that the concerned authority has already been directed to appoint a Regular Principal for Gyalshing College, the official order of which will be issued today. He urged for support and cooperation from the students and directed the Education Department to provide required number of chairs and tables for the

college as early as possible through Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Minister Mr. Kunga Nima also addressed the gathering wherein he expressed happiness over meeting with the students. He stated that the demands placed forward by the college students are their basic educational rights and that the State government will extend its full support to fulfill them at the earliest for a better future of the students. He further added that students are the major stakeholders in the education sector and therefore it is their duty to be vigilant of their rights.

At the onset of the programme, Chief Engineer, Mr. A.B. Subba, gave a report on the establishment of Gyalshing College.

Contd. from front page

CS...

their authority and issue relevant Orders whenever necessary. He

urged all the officers to put their best foot forward to follow the common protocol being advocated country-wide for prevention of Covid-19. He said that the State Task Force will meet regularly to take stock of the situation.

Government of Sikkim Ecclesiastical Department Gangtok

No.32/ED

Date.17/03/2020

CIRCULAR

In view of the recent outbreak of COVID -19 in India and in some countries of the World, the Ecclesiastical Department has deemed to take some preventive measures against spread of the disease in the State of Sikkim. Therefore, it has been decided to take the following steps to prohibit entry of foreign as well as national tourist in the religious institutions of the State of Sikkim -

1. The entry of foreign tourists into all the religious institutions of Sikkim is temporarily prohibited till further orders.

2. The entry of Indian visitors/tourists into the religious institutions is to be discouraged.

Hence, all the Duchi/Committee of religious institutions of Sikkim are requested to take necessary actions as indicated above to ensure prevention of Corona Virus within their respective areas.

(S.T.Tamang)

Secretary/Ecclesiastical Department

R.O. No. 399/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20, Dt:18/03/2020

**GOOD HYGIENE
IS
IN YOUR HANDS**

**Government of Sikkim
Social Justice and Welfare Department
Child Protection Scheme
Gangtok**

No: 971/SJ&WD/CPS/2020

Dated:06/03/2020

NOTICE

Reference Employment Notice No. 248/SJ&WD/CPS/2020, dated 03/02/2020, it is hereby informed to all eligible applicants that the date for the written examination have been fixed as below:

Sl.No.	Post	Date of Exam	Morning/ Afternoon
1	Protection Officer	28/03/2020	Morning
2	Programme Officer	28/03/2020	Afternoon
3	Legal cum Probation Officer	29/03/2020	Morning
4	Accountant	29/03/2020	Morning

Timing: Morning paper: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Afternoon paper: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Venue: Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

The subjects/ syllabus for the written examination is as follows:

Sl. No.	Post	Subjects
1	Programme Officer	General Knowledge, English, Sociology, Social Work & Law.
2	Protection Officer	General Knowledge, English, Sociology, Social Work & Law.
3	Legal cum Probation Officer	General Knowledge, English, Sociology & Law.
4	Accountant	General Knowledge, English, Accountancy.

Sl.No.	Subject	Syllabus
1	General Knowledge	International/ National/ State, Current Affairs
2	English	General English
3	Sociology	Basics of Sociology
4	Law	Constitutional Law, Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, human rights laws, laws related to protection/welfare of women and children.
5	Accountancy	Financial accounting, elementary mathematics, taxation, business Law

Besides the above subjects, the applicants should have basic knowledge of the Child Protection Scheme.

There will be one question paper for each post, pconsisting of questions on the subjects indicated in the table above and knowledge about Child Protection Scheme. The question paper will be of 100 marks and will be multiple choice questions only.

Duration: 2 hours.

-Sd-

Additional Secretary cum Director, CPS
R.O. No. 390/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20, Dt:06/03/2020

**Government of Sikkim
Water Security & Public Health Engineering
Department**

No.1111/SEW/PHED/916

Dated: 12/03/2020

PUBLIC APPEAL

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL ITS VALID CONSUMERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO KINDLY OBSERVE FEW PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF SEWAGE AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

1. DO NOT FLUSH CLOGGING MATERIALS DOWN THE FLUSH LIKE TOWELS, RAGS, LATEX ITEMS, CROCKERIES, DISCARDED ITEMS, BABY NAPKINS, SANITARY NAPKINS, DEBRIS, HAZARDIOUS WASTE, PLASTIC ITEMS.

2. CONNECTION AND DISCHARGE OF STROM WATER AND ROOF WATER OUTLET TO GOVERNMENT SEWER LINE ARE NOT PERMITTED.

3. SEWER, CONNECTION FROM INDIVIDUAL HOUSE TO GOVERNMENT SEWER LINE SHOULD BE DONE ONLY AFTER OBTAINING NECESSARY CONNECTION ORDER FORM THE OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL ENGINEER, SEWERAGE, PHED, GANGTOK. ILLEGAL CONNECTION IS NOT ALLOWED AND IS PUNISHABLE UNDER THE LAW.

4. HOUSE SEWER CONNECTIONS ARE TO BE DONE BY THE CONSUMERS AT THEIR OWN RISK AND COST AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE SAME.

5. REPAIR OF SEWAGE LEAKAGES FROM PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND SEWER PIPE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER. SUCH REPAIR, SHOULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DETECTION BY THE HOUSE OWNER AT THEIR OWN COST.

6. NOTICES SERVED FORM THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER REGARDING SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL BE COMPLIED IMMEDIATELY.

7. CONSUMERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE THE PAYMENT OF BILL AND CLEAR UP THE ARREARS ON TIME.

8. SEWAGE OF HOUSES IN AREAS WITH NO GOVERNMENT SEWER LINE FACILITY SHALL BE TREATED AND DISPOSED THROUGH PROPER METHOD LIKE SEPTIC TANK AND SOAK PIT. DISCHARGING RAW SEWERAGE INTO JHORAS IS ILLEGAL AND PUNISHABLE.

9. ANY COMPLAIN REGARDING SEWERAGE SYSTEM CAN BE PLACED AT THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER (SEWERAGE), PHE DEPARTMENT, INDIRA BYE PASS, TO TIMELY RESOLVE AND TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

DIVISIONAL ENGINEER,
PHED, SEWERAGE, GANGTOK
R.O.NO.396/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20(ii), Dt:16/03/2020

**Directorate of Sikkim State Lotteries
Finance Department, Government of Sikkim
Deorali, Gangtok-737102**

No.FIN/DSSL/656/2017-18/495

Dated:13/03/2020

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor, the Directorate of Sikkim State Lotteries, Finance Department Government of Sikkim hereby invites sealed tender/bids from the eligible Proprietorship firm/ Partnership Firm/Company registered under the law for selection and appointment as Distributor/Marketing Agent for marketing and sale of 16 (sixteen) Online Weekly Lottery draws per day, in the ratio of 8:8.

The intending bidders may visit the website of the Government of Sikkim (www.sikkim.qv.in, www.sikkimlotteries.com) for details.

Sd/-
Director,
Sikkim State Lotteries, Government of Sikkim
CONTACT NO. 03592-280227
R.O.NO.398/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20(i), Dt:17/03/2020

**Department of Information and Public
Relations
Government of Sikkim, Tadong, Gangtok
ATTENTION**

Instances of non-receipt of Sikkim Herald in various Departments have been reported even though the same are being delivered by the Department regularly.

In view of above, it is proposed to deliver the Sikkim Herald to a designated delivery point in different Departments through a designated contact person (Nodal Officers) which will facilitate in keeping track of regular delivery of Sikkim Herald to them.

Although some Departments have already complied, there are still few Departments who have still not designated a Nodal Officer for the same. Kindly intimate the name, designation and contact number (both landline & mobile) of the Nodal Officer who will be responsible for receipt of Sikkim Herald in their respective Departments at the earliest to the undersigned.

Assistant Director (Pub.)
sikkimherald_ipr@yahoo.com
Mob.No. 7908097115

Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection:



Clean hands with soap and water
or alcohol-based hand rub

Cover nose and mouth when coughing and
sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow



Avoid close contact with anyone with
cold or flu-like symptoms

Thoroughly cook meat and eggs



No unprotected contact with live wild
or farm animals

If you seek help, you may call :
Toll free no. 104

District surveillance Officer

EAST : 7029372100 | WEST : 9593297809 | NORTH : 9641957468 | SOUTH : 7407691463

New STNM

AMS : 9434711402

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

Cabinet approves various proposals

Gangtok, March 16: During the the Cabinet meeting which was held at Samman Bhawan approved and sanctioned the following proposals:

1. Development of Eco-Friendly Tourist Complex at Thangu near Chopta Valley, Lachen, North Sikkim at ₹910.00 lakhs
2. Land compensation of ₹37,61,582/- for construction of approach road at Menglee, South Sikkim.
3. Land compensation of ₹32,35,227/- for the development of Tourist Infrastructure at Sunfu Waterfall at Daramdin in West Sikkim.
4. Forest compensation for construction of tourist infrastructure at Sapta Kanya Waterfall at Tuming Lingee in South Sikkim at ₹20,42,758.00.
5. Flood Damage Repair along NH310 from Tashi View Point to Mangan in North Sikkim at ₹94.98 lakhs.
6. Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of Sikkim at ₹440.305 lakhs
7. Grants of ₹30.00 lakhs to Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA).
8. Implementation of National E-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A) phase II in Sikkim at ₹55.55 lakhs .
9. Implementation of Pilot Project "Development of Model Villages" under Soil Health Card Scheme at ₹53.32 lakhs
10. Implementation of Seed Village scheme under Sub Mission on Seeds and Planting Materials (SMSP) at ₹47.00 lakhs.
11. Implementation of CSS Scheme-National Bamboo Mission 2019-20 at ₹30.59 lakhs
12. Grants-in-aid of ₹100.00 lakhs to various Religious Institutions.
13. Secure Himalaya Project at ₹161.08 lakhs.
14. ₹1139.01 lakhs for Strengthening, Modernization and

Improvement of Transmission and distribution system of Raj Bhawan, Mintogang, High Court, VIP Area and surrounding areas in Gangtok, East Sikkim.

15. Construction of 45 m Span SFB over Khaling Khola under Ben Namrik GPU at ₹52.85 lakhs.
16. Improvement of Pavement and Drainage System along road from Ranipool to Lower Syari in East Sikkim at ₹378.48 lakhs.
17. Improvement of Pavement and Drainage System along Dhajay to Barbing Road in East Sikkim at ₹288.29 lakhs.
18. Implementation of various Roads under PMGSY II (Batch I) at ₹104.68 crores .
19. Construction of 3050 houses under SGAY at ₹489.22 crores and ₹45.05 crores for providing Television and furniture to 3050 numbers of houses under SGAY.
20. Under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)-i. Central Share of ₹508.00 lakhs and State Share of ₹5.00 lakhs for year 2018-19. ii. ₹51.44 lakhs as State Share for 2019-20. iii. ₹125.60 lakhs as total RGSA allocation for 2019-20
21. Construction of 30 mtr span Steel bridge over Naray Khola along Tshalumthang to Tareything Road in East Sikkim at ₹2,01,75,318.00 lakhs.
22. Construction of 30 mtr span Steel bridge over Duray Khola along Tshalumthang to Tareything Road in East Sikkim at ₹1,98,11,628.00 lakhs.
23. Construction of Block Administrative Centre at Chumbong in West Sikkim at ₹50.00 lakhs .
24. Up-gradation of existing roads in the State of Sikkim at ₹14988.40 lakhs and de-sanctioned ₹24051.71 lakhs.
25. Up-gradation of existing roads in the State of Sikkim at ₹9277.56 lakhs and de-sanctioned of ₹11797.13 lakhs.

26. Payment for construction of VIP Pavilion and Public gallery of Football Stadium at Jorethang in South Sikkim at ₹91,19,780.00.

27. ₹32.90 lakhs as grants-in-aid to Sports Association and Sports Academies.
 28. Carpeting and Surface Improvement of various Bazaars in Sikkim at ₹99.74 lakhs.
 29. Repairs of Potholes in and around Gangtok in East Sikkim at ₹50.00 lakhs.
 30. Implementation of Child Protection Schemes (CPS) for the financial year 2019-20 at ₹60.00 lakhs.
 31. ₹40.40 lakhs as grant-in-aid to Sikkim Institute of Science and Technology (SIST).
 32. Procurement of Regional Language Textbooks for school students for the academic session 2019-20 at ₹1,22,71,225/-
 33. Grants -in-aid of ₹70.45 lakhs to Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Gyalshing Municipal Council and Mangan Nagar Panchayat .
 34. Implementation of Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FPMS) at ₹218.33 lakhs.
 35. Construction of Limboo Bhawan at Assam Lingzey at ₹4,96,58,778/- .
- Further, the following proposals were approved by the Cabinet:
1. Renaming of Namthang Senior Secondary School, South as Bal Krishna Senior Secondary School and Bermiok Senior Secondary School, West as Mahatma Srijunga Senior Secondary School.
 2. Creation of Regulatory Authority under Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and Appellate Authority.
 3. Creation of 143 posts to regularize the temporary staff employed under MGNREGA, who have completed 8 years of continuous service.
 4. Creation of 10 posts of Special Educators.

Precautionary meeting on COVID-19 held

Gangtok, March 18: In the alarming situation of the spreading of COVID-19 globally, a precautionary awareness meeting was organized for the pharmaceutical and other companies and line Departments at the Conference Hall of the Labour Department, Lingding chaired by Pr. Secretary Labour Department, Mr. H.D. Negi. The meeting was organized jointly with the Commerce and Industries Department wherein Secretary, Mr. H.K Sharma and Director MSME, Mr. N. Jaswant attended the programme.

Director, Mr. N. Jaswant shared some of the precautionary measures to be taken up in the working areas of the companies immediately for prevention of the potential spread of COVID-19. He requested the companies to arrange for thermal scanner at the unit's gate for screening the temperature of employees/workers before entering the unit's premises and before boarding the transportation bus. He also requested for putting up visual alert icons with instruction in appropriate languages about hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Alcohol base hand sanitizer with tissues may be

placed at entrance, waiting room, cafeterias, store room and buses and the companies may identify in the unit area for creating temporary quarantine space for any suspected cases. Transport buses to be routinely sanitized and cleaned and he requested the companies to provide surgical masks to the workers and make arrangement for maintaining distance between them while working.

Secretary, Mr. H.K Sharma, urged the companies to co-operate in this pandemic situation and requested them to discourage visit of the external visitors and employees from outside the State unless it is extremely important for carrying of business until further advice. He requested the companies to abide the principle of safety and prevention of infection in the units considering the potential threat for infection where there is mass gathering of workers from different parts of Sikkim.

Principal Secretary Mr. H.D. Negi extended support to the companies for using the high end stitching machine which was installed at Labour Department for making face mask.

IPR Deptt. holds meeting with media fraternity- calls for Intensifying awareness campaign on prevention of COVID-19

Gangtok, March 17: The Department of Information & Public Relations organized a meeting with media persons to discuss the ways to intensify the campaign against Corona Virus, today.

The meeting was chaired by Secretary, IPR Department, Ms. Namrata Thapa and was attended by media representatives from most of the local daily newspapers, All India Radio, Doordarshan, Samvaad Television, Red FM and Radio Misty, and Digital/Social Media houses, and representative from Sikkim Film Cooperative Society (SFCS). The programme also had the presence of State IEC Officer, IEC Bureau, Health Department, Mr. Sonam G. Bhutia, who was specifically invited to sensitize the media fraternity on COVID-19.

Secretary, Ms. Namrata Thapa in her opening remarks drew the attention of the media persons on the latest decisions made by the State Government as preventive measures. She called for intensifying the awareness on COVID-19, and appealed for proactive support from the media fraternity to reach out to the people of Sikkim. She informed that the IPR Department is working in close co-ordination with the State Health Department to prepare print and audio-visual awareness material on various aspects of Corona Virus. She said that these materials would be shared with the media houses for extensive coverage. The Secretary also shared the communication strategies prepared

by the IPR Department in consultation with the State Health Department.

Representatives of the media houses, in turn, shared about the initiatives being taken from their end to spread correct information on Corona Virus and the prevailing situation. They also cleared a few myths and misconceptions about the Virus from the resource person from Health Department. Some of the media persons also expressed their willingness to lend assistance to the health staff and officials as volunteers, and requested for necessary training. Likewise, representative from SFCS also shared the organization's commitment to volunteer for the cause.

State IEC Officer Mr. Sonam G. Bhutia made a power point presentation and shared some basic information about COVID-19. He also demonstrated the correct method of hand-washing and use of hand sanitizers and face masks. He also highlighted on the prevailing myths and misconceptions regarding the virus and the common practices.

Secretary Ms. Namrata Thapa summed up the meeting by thanking all the media persons for their presence and participation in the discussions and for their continued support. She categorically stated that any misreporting should be avoided, and in case of any doubt, facts should be checked with the concerned departments before they are made public.

FAQs on COVID 19

1) Can i leave my house?

Absolutely! The point is not to remain indoors but to avoid being in close contact with people. Disinfect your hands with an alcohol based sanitizer, frequently wash your hands and avoid touching your face.

2) Can i go to the market?

Yes! But minimize the number of trips and pick a time when markets are least crowded. Carry hand sanitizer and disinfect your hands in between. Wash your hands right away when you get home. Pick what is absolutely necessary. Avoid panic buying and leave some essentials for others in need too.

3) Can i visit restaurants?

In general avoid going to restaurants, esp. smaller ones as it still means you are close to other diners. But if you're going to go out, pick a place that is clean and hygienic. Choose spacious restaurants.

4) Can i visit friends and family and can they come to visit me?

That depends on how healthy they are or how healthy you are. If you have vulnerable people in your family, or those who are very old, then limit in-person contact. Some careful intervention in small groups is ok. At the same time, do not isolate yourself or others. Check in with your friends and family over the phone frequently.

5) Can kids visit playgrounds and the outdoors ?

If children have any illness, even if it's not related to COVID19, keep them at home. Kids tend to touch their mouths, noses and faces constantly, so outdoors with few kids and fewer contaminated surfaces are ideal. Carry hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes and make children wash their hands whenever possible.