



# SIKKIM HERALD

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Gangtok (Tuesday) May 24, 2022

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

## National Workshop on Sowa-Rigpa inaugurated



**Gangtok, May 21:** The two-day National Workshop on Sowa-Rigpa for the Sowa-Rigpa practitioners from North Eastern States was formally inaugurated at Manan Kendra in Gangtok.

The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad who is also the President of Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim was present as the chief guest accompanied by Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping and Waterways,

Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, as special guest and Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang and MoS for Ayush and Women & Child Development, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, as guests of honour.

Organised by the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India in collaboration with Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim, the workshop had the

presence of Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Secretary, NIT-Gangtok, Advisor, Ayurveda and Director, NISR-Leh, along with State Cabinet Ministers, guests and officials as well as doctors, practitioners and students of Sowa Rigpa from different institutions of the country.

The programme started with the virtual inauguration of the Sowa Rigpa College building at NIT, Gangtok through guest of honour, Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal.

Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad, congratulated the NISR-Leh and NIT, Sikkim for successfully holding the workshop, which provides a platform to scholars, practitioners, researchers, and students from various institutions to delve into the most ancient yet living traditions of Sowa Rigpa. He touched upon the potential of the State in offering a scope for the development of the sector as

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## Yogutsav organised at Enchey Monastery



**Gangtok, May 21:** A Yogutsav programme was held at Enchey Monastery in Gangtok, today. The programme was attended by the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister of State for Ayush & Women and Child Development, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai.

The event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush, National Ayush Mission, and the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim. The

programme was also attended by Cabinet Ministers, MLAs and officers of the Government of Sikkim along with students and the locals.

Health Minister Dr. M.K. Sharma highlighted the importance of yoga and added that yoga and meditation is practiced in Sikkim in different monasteries and other institutes.

The dignitaries performed yoga on the occasion. They participated in various Yoga Asanas with the supervision of an

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## 47<sup>th</sup> State Day celebration culminates in New Delhi



**New Delhi, May 19:** The celebration of the 47<sup>th</sup> State Day of Sikkim which began on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022 in the State capital, culminated in a grand function in New Delhi, today.

A special evening dedicated to Sikkim, with the theme 'Celebration of Sikkim' was organised at the New Moti Bagh Amphitheatre in South Delhi. This is the first ever function of the Government of Sikkim celebrated at the national level.

The function was attended

by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER), Government of India, Mr. G. Kishan Reddy as the chief guest in the presence of Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang. The function had the presence of Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary and senior officers of concerned departments of the Government of Sikkim, and the Resident Commissioner and officers of Sikkim House, New

Delhi.

Also present on the occasion was Secretary, Textiles, Government of India and President of New Moti Bagh, Mr. U.P. Singh, as a special guest and senior officers of the Government of India as special invitees.

The programme was an initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Government of Sikkim and facilitated by the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim, and the office of the Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, New Delhi.

Union Minister Mr. G. Kishan Reddy said that Sikkim is one of the most progressive States in the country and has created a unique benchmark in multiple sectors. He added that Sikkim stands at the top in achieving most of the Sustainable Development Goals. He lauded the State of Sikkim for being an exemplary State. He said that the vision of the Prime Minister of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' has translated in

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### Photo News



Union Minister (AYUSH) Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister of State (AYUSH) Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence in Mintokgang on May 20.



The Ambassador of France to India- Mr. Emmanuel Lenain and the first Counsellor at the Embassy- Mr. Laurent Triponey meets Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence at Mintokgang on May 17.



### DC Soreng adopts and visits Government JHS Singling

**Soreng, May 22:** The District Collector, Soreng Mr. Bhim Thatal visited Government Junior High School Singling, Soreng on May 21. During his visit he inspected the school hall, ICT lab, nursery class and kitchen garden. He interacted with the teachers of primary section and highlighted on importance of play-way method and support provided by the Government.

He also held an interaction with teaching, non-teaching faculty members and SMC members of the school regarding overall development. The DC has adopted Singling JHS and assured support for the betterment and development of the school. He advised that school has facilities, and the onus is on the teachers to make better use of available facilities/infrastructure to impart quality education. He urged the

SMCs and school faculty members to ensure better facilities to students to make government school their preferred choice.

During the discussion, HM-in-Charge shared brief report on school performance and achievement. He also shared the need and requirement of the school with the DM. The DC appreciated the efforts of SMC collecting ₹1.5 lakh which has been invested in fence wall construction. During his visit, he also sanctioned renovation of MDM kitchen and repair of school hall.

The District of Soreng has conceptualised and initiated Aanganma Prashaasan, an approachable format of reaching out to the public under the doorstep governance initiative of the Government. Adopting schools by the officers is one of

the components of the initiative. The initiative of adopting schools by the officers of Soreng District aims at involving in all-round development of the schools in academic and school environmental sectors. All the Magistrates and BDOs of Soreng districts have adopted schools and, in this context, the BDOs and SDMs are conducting visits to the schools adopted by them.

DC Soreng will soon notify the guidelines for adoption of schools by the officers of the district. DC also directed the heads of all Departments to visit schools and spend at least one day at a school so that the students and teachers are informed about the functioning, programmes and schemes of public benefits of their departments.

### Social Forestry Division celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

**Namchi, May 21:** As a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an awareness programme on water conservation, bio diversity and watershed/spring shed management was organised at C.M. Rai Secondary School, Omchu, Namchi District, today.

The programme was organised under Watershed Development Component-Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 by DFO-cum-PIA, SLNA, Social Forestry, Forest & Environment Department, Namchi District.

The programme had the presence of Omchu ward

Panchayat, DFO-cum-PIA and, Head Master, C.M. Rai Secondary School, Omchu and was attended by State Dhara Vikas Co-ordinator (Resource person), ACF-cum-Project Leader, Programme Co-ordinator, Range & Block Officers, Social Forestry, Namchi, members of SMC, teachers, students and locals.

DFO-cum-PIA highlighted the importance of forest, biodiversity and water resources for livelihood and sustainable development of mankind. Students and other members participated in an interactive session. The event also included

activities such as plantation drive in the school premises, drawing/painting competition and discourse by students on environment, biodiversity and water.

During the technical session, detailed presentation on Dhara Vikas, watershed and spring shed management were given by resource person from the Rural Development Department.

The programme concluded with distribution of prizes/certificates to winners/participants.

### DAC Gyalshing conducted District level competitions

**Gyalshing, May 20:** Under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' the District Administration, Gyalshing conducted a District level competitions ranging from essay writing, debates, painting and innovation at the block level, out of which 20 top schools were chosen for the final round competition held at the Zilla Parishad Bhawan, today.

The award ceremony was attended by DC Gyalshing, Mrs. Yishey D. Yongda, ADC Gyalshing, Chief Education Officer, Sub Divisional

Magistrate and Heads of Departments and district officials.

The top three winners under each category were awarded cash prizes along with certificates. The top 5 GPUs with the most innovative practices were selected for final round and the award for the most innovative GPU was won by Arithang Chongrong GPU. Progressive farmers from the district were also felicitated in the programme along with Mr. Saurav Chhetri, Gym instructor in recognition of his efforts

towards helping drug addicts improve their physical fitness and finally de-addict themselves.

DC Gyalshing, lauded the efforts of the teachers who groomed the students to perform well and also mentioned that she will work in close coordination for student centric programmes under the district. She also appreciated the hard work of best performing farmers for developing good farming practices thereby setting an example in the farming sector.

### Co-ordination Meeting for Ravangla Division held

**Namchi, May 20:** Review cum Co-ordination Meeting for Ravangla Division, Rural Development Department was held at the Conference Hall of Ravangla Subdivision office, today.

ADC (Dev) Ravangla, Mr Sunil Mothey chaired the meeting and was also attended by BDO, Assistant Engineers, ADPC, field functionaries from Sikkim, Temi, Yangang and official from Ravangla BAC.

During the meeting, review

on progress of the schemes like MGNREGAs, SBM-G Phase II, Rural Housing, Amrit Sarovar was highlighted in detail. The field functionaries were trained to report the scheme wise progress in the MPR format and were asked to show progress report on the backlogs by the end of this month for the monitoring by the office of ADC Dev Ravangla.

ADC Dev Ravangla urged the field functionaries to work with responsibility and accountability

and advised the BDOs to make arrangement for support system for the field functionaries. The matter which cannot be resolved at the Blocks should immediately brought to his notice, he added. He also informed that points would be allotted to each Block as per the progress reflected in MPRs and added that the MIS and the best performing Block under Ravangla Division will be acknowledged.

### Awareness programme on Child Rights organised

**Mangan, May 18:** An awareness programme on Child Rights was organised at Chungthang Senior Secondary School by the District Child Protection Unit (Mangan), Child Protection Scheme, Women and Child Development

Department in coordination with the Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) of Chungthang GPU, today.

The objective of the programme was to form 'Village Level Children's Parliament' of the

GPU, which would serve as a platform for children to address their issues to the relevant authorities and empowering the children by making them aware about their rights and various child related legislations.

### DC Mangan conducts File to the Field at Lachen

**Mangan May 20:** File to the Field initiative-cum-Departmental inspection for assessing, managing and mitigating disaster during the monsoon was conducted at Lachen, today.

The field visit cum inspection was headed by DC Mangan, Dr A.B. Karki. Also present were Pipon, Dzumsa members, Officers from Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Departments of Education, SPWD, Forest, Power, Roads and Bridges, Tourism, PMGSY, Horticulture, Irrigation, AH&VS, RDD, Social Justice and Welfare, LRDM, DCSO and representatives from GREF.

The team visited Lt. Lopen

### Cleanliness drive-cum-awareness programme organised

**Pakyong, May 20:** In line with celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a mass cleanliness drive cum awareness programme was organised by Sub-Division Rongli and BAC Regu at Rongli Bazar, today.

The programme was attended by Chairman OBC Welfare Board Mr. Nirpath Gurung as the chief guest in the presence of SDM Rongli Mr. D.S. Subba, BDO Regu, Deputy Directors Education Department Rongli Sub-Division and Regu BAC, officials from Forest Deptt. Rongli, GREF, Army, Panchayats, line Department officers, MO IC PHC Rongli, Teachers and students from KPT SS Rongli and locals.

The objective of the programme was to bring awareness among the citizen of Rongli bazar and adjoining areas on proper waste management.

SDM Rongli requested the citizen of Rongli bazar to keep Rongli neat and clean and informed the gathering about the different initiatives of State government in regard to

### Introductory meeting held

**Gyalshing, May 19:** An introductory meeting was held in the Conference Hall of Gyalshing District Administration Center with the DC and ADC, Gyalshing with various NGOs, Piramal team and Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow, today.

Among the attendees were (SCS), DC Gyalshing, ADC Gyalshing, representatives of the Piramal Foundation, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow, Himali Vikash and various other NGOs and Clubs.

District lead, Piramal foundation in a Power Point Presentation shared about Aspirational District and how all NGOs can come on one platform and work together with Sewa Bhav. He also introduced Mera Yogdan App to all the NGOs.

ADC briefed about the

Thisung Tshering Lachenpa Government Secondary School and the District PHC (NPCDCS Cell) and ICDS, where issues regarding infrastructural repairs, water shortage and drainage systems were put forward by the Pipon. The team also visited the Government Primary School, Munshithang and a godown in Lachen.

Thereafter, they headed to Dzumsa Hall where DC Mangan, in context of the demands placed before his entourage said that the team will do the needful. He said that the identification of area for road and dumping ground would also be looked into.

cleanliness and environment protection. The issues related to monitoring of dumping of waste in riverside, bi-weekly movement of UDD garbage vehicle, construction of Resource Recovery Centre(RRC) for waste management were also discussed.

Resource Person, OSD RDD briefed about the environmental effect of single use plastic and highlighted on the need to segregate wet waste, dry waste and e-wastes. He also informed the gathering about the Government notification regarding environmental protection and ban of single use plastic.

A rally covering Rongli Bazar and Shiva Mandir Upper Rongli was carried out followed by a cleanliness drive. The Fire and Emergency Service Rhenock, TTC Infra. Ltd. and RCC GREF provided water tank for cleaning the Rongli Bazar during the drive. The programme was supported by Bazar Bikash Samiti, Sai Samiti Rongli, Driver Association and other local committees.

ongoing initiatives in the district to the newly appointed DC and highlighted programmes like Entrepreneurial Leadership Programme and initiatives taken in order to improve Quality of Education.

DC interacted with NGOs and shared her views and area of interest and suggested everyone to work beyond NITI Aayog's parameters of Aspirational district.

Natiza, Gandhi fellow introduced Village Knowledge Register Programme to all the attendees which will help the communities learn from each other, conserve the knowledge of the elders and associated biodiversity and other resources, ensure inter-generational knowledge transfer and explore possibility of setting up enterprises based on local knowledge and resources.

### 24 houses under SGAY inaugurated

**Pakyong, May 20:** 24 SGAY houses was inaugurated and handed over to respective beneficiaries of West Pendam Constituency by the Speaker SLA cum Area MLA West Pendam Constituency in a joint inauguration programme at Duga BAC hall, today.

He was accompanied by Chairman RDD, Panchayat and Zilla members, BDO Duga.

Speaker SLA congratulated the beneficiaries and also directed the concerned authorities to complete the construction of remaining houses at the earliest.

**Office of the Sarpanch  
Village Administrative Centre, 41 Beng Phegyong  
East Sikkim**

JIM/BP/GP/E/2022-23

Date:17/05/2022

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

41-Beng Phegyong Gram Panchayat Unit, invites sealed tenders from the eligible contractors of appropriate class within the concerned ward of the Gram Panchayat Unit for the work (s) listed under:-

Sl. no.	Name of the work	Work value put to tender	Completion time in months	Bank receipt towards cost of tender documents	Earnest money @2.5% for issue of tender form
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY TO AMRIT MAHOTSAV GREEN PARK.TOPAKHANI FROM SANCHU KHOLA, SANG KHOLA WARD UNDER BENG PHEGYONG G.P.U.	₹8,13,415/-	12 months	₹1000/-	₹20,350/-

**A. TIME SCHEDULE:**

- (i) Date of submission of application with the cost of tender form: 30/05/2022 up to 12:00 hrs
- (ii) Date of issue of tender form: 30/05/2022 up to 15:00 hrs.
- (iii) Date and time for submission of tender: 31/05/2022 up to 12:00 hrs
- (iv) Date and time of opening of tender: 31/05/2022 at 13:00 hrs.

**B. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT**

1. The intending tenderers/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application should invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender documents will not be issued to the person other than the INTENDING TENDERS/CONTRACTORS. The application shall be submitted for the work listed above with all required documents enclosed.

2. Tender is **open only** to the eligible Contractors of the appropriate Class within the **Gram Panchayat Ward**.

3. The intending tenderers/contractors are requisite to obtain the "deposit receipt" from the State Bank of Sikkim in favour of account no 2811103040200167, 41 Beng Phegyong GPU towards the cost of tender documents (non refundable), as indicated in the table above (column 4).

4. The applications for issue of tender documents shall be enclosed with deposit receipt towards cost of tender documents as specified above and attested copy of Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. It is mandatory to produce original Validated/Updated Certificates mentioned above during sale issue of the Tender documents for verification.

5. The Prescribed non-transferable Tender Documents can be obtained during the period specified above from the Village Administrative Centre, Sang bazaar on production of requisite deposit receipt duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim towards the Cost of Tender Document (non refundable).

6. Earnest Money (EM) 2.5 % duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of T.D.R. in favour of Assistant Engineer, B.A.C Martam. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the T.D.R, as prescribed to those contractors who have obtained the Tender Documents. Women Contractors are exempted from depositing 2.5% TDR as per notification no. 104/R&B, dated: 08/10/2020.

7. The Tender Documents including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderer and the name of the work superscribed on it. Supporting document listed at Sl. No.4 above should be enclosed with the offer.

8. Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the Village Administrative Centre, Sang bazaar on the date and within the time indicated above.

9. Tenders will be opened by the Tender Opening Committee in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.

10. The Tenderers should sign on every page of the tender document as acceptance of the General Directions and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of sale tax and all other Taxes. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if it occurs, should be authenticated with initial/signature of the Tenderer. Incomplete/ Conditional tender shall be rejected forthwith

11. The work value put up to tender inclusive of the goods and service tax

12. This NIT shall form part of the agreement.

13. The office reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-

Panchayat President

41-Beng Phegyong Gram Panchayat Unit, East Sikkim  
(Sl.No.1110)

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

No. 59/IPR/22-23

Dated: 09/05/2022

**NOTICE**

Shri Pokhraj Rai, Photographer Assistant, IPR Department has been absenting himself from duty continuously since December, 2021. A Show Cause Notice was issued vide letter No.467/IPR/21-22 dated 24/2/2022 and posted to his home address mentioned in the initial appointment order through registered A/D bearing No.R W958460288IN dated 28/2/2022. However, he did not respond to this nor did the Office received back its acknowledgment slip till date.

In view of above, the same notice was delivered to him through WhatsApp on 01/04/2022 which was received and seen by him as per the blue tick appended with the post. But he has not responded to the notice till date even though he was given a week's time to respond to the notice. He is not taking any calls from the Office nor responding to any WhatsApp messages leading to serious questions on his whereabouts.

Therefore, this notice is published calling him to report to duty within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of this notice failing which procedures for termination of temporary service will be initiated without any further notice.

All his family members, relatives and well wishers are requested to convey the contents of this notice to him and advise him to report to duty immediately.

Deputy Secretary  
IPR Department

R.O. No.26/IPR/PUB/Classi/22-23(ii), Dt:09/05/22 (1104)

**Office of the Commandant  
2<sup>nd</sup> India Reserve Battalion  
Pipalay, Soreng District, Pin-737121  
Email: coirb2sikkimpolice.nic.in  
coirb2sikkimpolice@gmail.com**

No. 1001 /CO/2<sup>nd</sup> IRBn/2022

Dated:/9/05/2022



**FW/BRB 13 MANI KUMAR RAI  
2<sup>ND</sup> INDIA RESERVE BATTALION  
PIPALAY, SORENG DISTRICT-737121**

FW/BRB 13 Mani Kumar Rai, Followers of 2<sup>nd</sup> India Reserve Battalion who was under suspension has been absent since 24/01/2022 and his whereabouts is unknown.

He is directed to report to BHQ, Pipalay within 10 (Ten) days of publication of this notice failing which disciplinary action shall be initiated against him in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Sikkim Police Force (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1989.

All his friends, relative and well wisher are requested to convey the contents of this notice to him and advice him to report to duty immediately.

**Commandant  
2<sup>nd</sup> India Reserve Battalion  
Pipalay, Soreng District, Sikkim  
(Sl.No.1111)**

## Health Tips

\* **Eat a healthy diet:** Eat a combination of different foods, including fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole grains. Adults should eat at least five portions (400g) of fruit and vegetables per day. By eating healthy, you will reduce your risk of malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

\* **Cosume less salt and sugar:** Reduce your salt intake to 5g per day, equivalent to about one teaspoon. On the other hand, consuming excessive amounts of sugars increases the risk of tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain.

\* **Reduce intake of harmful fats:** Fats consumed should be less than 30% of your total energy intake. This will help prevent unhealthy weight gain and NCDs. There are different types of fats, but unsaturated fats are preferable over saturated fats and trans-fats.

\* **Avoid harmful use of alcohol:** There is no safe level for drinking alcohol. Consuming alcohol can lead to health problems such as mental and behavioural disorders.

\* **Don't smoke:** Smoking tobacco causes NCDs such as lung disease, heart disease and stroke.

\* **Be active:** Physical activity is defined as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure. This includes exercise and activities undertaken while working, playing, carrying out household chores, travelling, and engaging in recreational pursuits.

\* **Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing:** Diseases such as influenza, pneumonia and tuberculosis are transmitted through the air. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, infectious agents may be passed on to others through airborne droplets. When you feel a cough or sneeze coming on, make sure you have covered your mouth with a face mask or use a tissue then dispose it carefully.

\* **Drink only safe water:** Drinking unsafe water can lead to water-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Globally, at least 2 billion people use a drinking water source contaminated with faeces

\* **Clean your hands properly:** Hand hygiene is critical not only for health workers but for everyone. Clean hands can prevent the spread of infectious illnesses. You should handwash using soap and water when your hands are visibly soiled or handrub using an alcohol-based product.

Team led by DC Pakyong inspects Latuk Barapathing GPU

**Pakyong, May 19:** Under the admin at the doorstep initiative, District Collector Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chophel, along with ADC Pakyong, ADC (Dev) Pakyong, DFO Territorial Gangtok/Pakyong, JD Education Pakyong, BDO Parakha and officials from various line department inspected several places under Latuk Barapathing GPU, Pakyong, today.

The basic idea of the inspection was to monitor the Governmental activities in the GPU and ensure that the activities are functioning smoothly.

The DC interacted with

Gram Panchayats and the public of Latuk Barapathing, Gram Prasashan Kendra and instructed government officials accordingly. During the meeting, Panchayat President Mr. K.B. Chettri apprised about various issues such as maintenance of school infrastructure, creation of village community centre, frequent power outage, carpeting of roads, compensation issue, construction of pakka roads and renovation of Cochenpheri Lake.

The DC and ADC Pakyong discussed issues such as repairing and maintenance of school

infrastructure with school heads and the teachers.

The DC also took note of issues shared by panchayats, teachers, school administrators, medical team and the general public.

The places inspected were ICDS Centre, Chocen Ward, Chochenpheri, Chochenpheri Artificial Lake, Latuk Government Primary School, Thek ICDS Centre, Latuk Barapathing Secondary School, Barapathing Health Sub-Centre and Pheri Primary School.

*Contd. from front page*

National Workshop...

the State is blessed with a wealth of medicinal plants and traditional medicinal knowledge. He added that herbal medicines are now in great demand for primary healthcare because of their cost-effectiveness and also better compatibility with the human body and minimal side effects. He applauded the Prime Minister’s revolutionary vision of transforming India into a home for traditional medicine and extended gratitude for supporting Sikkim and all the North Eastern States in reaching the ancient healing traditions to the people of the country.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang outlined the State government’s efforts towards the preservation and promotion of the Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine. He said that the traditional medicine system is engraved in the culture of Sikkim. The age-old system, however, had been facing constraints due to a lack of a scientific and systematic approach and with the establishment of the Sowa Rigpa institution, Sikkim will have the opportunity of standardising the traditional medicine practices while creating a synergy between traditional and modern medicine practices for the holistic development of the healthcare structure in the State and the country. He informed that the Faculty of Sowa-Rigpa at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology is affiliated with Sikkim University (SU) and has a Herbal Garden, Clinic, Pharmacy and a Library. The Namgyal Sorig Herbal Garden has collected more than 200 medicinal herbs, shrubs, and medicinal plants and aims at encouraging active individual participation of people in cultivating herbal plants at their homes and farms, he added.

The Chief Minister further informed that 80% of the construction work of the infrastructure has been completed and it is expected to complete by next month. The clinic is also increasingly gaining momentum and the number of patients has been growing significantly, he added. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Ayush for acknowledging and boosting the traditional medicine system in the

country and for extending support in transforming NIT, Gangtok into an educational infrastructure for Sowa Rigpa. He further urged for the Ministry’s assistance in mobilising resources that can aid in compounding medicines at a larger scale to meet the increasing demand.

Addressing the gathering, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ayush said that the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India has not only officially accepted and recognised Sowa Rigpa as an ‘Indian system of medicine’ in 2010 but also streamlined its education and practices through the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 which is now called the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020. He stated that the Ministry has been dedicated in promotion of Sowa Rigpa across the globe and has also launched a Tribal Healthcare Project in Ladakh, which covers a full-time Sowa-Rigpa Health Care Clinic at Zaskar Valley, Kargil and Sowa Rigpa Tribal Healthcare Research programme in Leh. He hoped that the workshop would act as a platform to generate significant deliberations which will further benefit a large number of Sowa Rigpa practitioners.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Dr. M.K. Sharma, said that the inauguration of the Sowa Rigpa institution marks a historic milestone in the State’s journey towards developing and strengthening Sowa Rigpa practice for public health. The establishment of the Sowa Rigpa College in Gangtok will help nurture areas of research and manpower, both of which are essential in providing Sowa Rigpa services to the common people. He extended gratitude to the Union Minister and the Government of India for their support in building the thrust on the traditional medicine system of Sowa Rigpa and requested for provision of a dedicated Sowa Rigpa Hospital in the State.

MoS for AYUSH and WCD, Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, said that there is a need to focus on capitalising on strengths in the traditional system of medicine as a potential reservoir of solutions for emerging health problems. He highlighted the initiatives of the Central Government in bringing about a revolution in the healthcare system and added that

the UGC recognition of Bachelor of Sowa Rigpa Medicine & Surgery (BSRMS) previous year as a new degree under Medicine & Surgery, Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy, and Health & Allied Sciences, Pharmacy, Paramedical, and Nursing is a stepping stone in achieving its goal. He added that the workshop will provide a platform for scholars, practitioners, researchers, and students.

Union Minister for AYUSH and Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, announced that an International Yoga and Naturopathy College will be set up in Sikkim which will boost the medical tourism sector in Northeast India. Underlying the importance of Sowa Rigpa and its exposure among people for enriching their quality of life, a 30 bedded Sowa Rigpa Hospital will be set up in Sikkim. The Union Minister also announced the setting up of Yoga & Wellness centre at every Gram Panchayat level in the State along with an Ayurveda Medical College under the Satellite Institute programme in Sikkim.

Highlighting the importance of Ayush-based growth in the region, he also said that the Ministry is exploring the possibility to set up a Research Council for Sowa Rigpa and said that the traditional Indian medicinal practices will offer tremendous modern medicinal practices to enrich human lives and improve the quality of lives of people. He reiterated the Prime Minister’s futuristic vision of collaborating both traditional and modern medicine systems to work towards building a healthy and happy nation.

Speaking on the role of Ayush in the North East, the Union Minister said that the Northeast is the new engine of growth for India and that the government has been taking steps to create a platform for the potential of Ayush in Northeast India owing to its rich flora. He hoped that the people of the region and the rest of the country would benefit from these steps being taken by the Ministry of Ayush under the leadership of Prime Minister to boost the traditional medicinal practice including Sowa Rigpa, Ayurveda and Naturopathy.

Awareness programme for prevention of dengue and vector borne diseases conducted

**Rangpo, May 17:** An awareness programme for prevention of dengue and vector borne diseases was conducted at the Conference Hall of Rangpo Nagar Panchayat in the presence of Municipal President Mr. Sanjeev Kr. Khati, Vice President, Councillors, MEO Rangpo, State Programme Officer, Department of Health, District

State- Level Free Seven Days Healing Camp organised

**Gyalshing, May 17:** Minister for Public Health Engineering and Water Resources Department Mr. Bhim Hang Subba visited the ‘State- Level Free Seven Days Healing Camp’ organised by Heavenly Nirvana Path, Sikkim at Kyongsha Ground premises, today.

The Minister was accompanied by Chairman PHE, DPO (District Zilla Panchayat), officials and other dignitaries.

Minister interacted with the devotees and executive members of the organisation and

Surveillance Officer Singtam DHC and other officials.

The meeting decided upon starting an intensive IEC activities from Schools for which, the team was reconstituted to check all possible areas of mosquito breeding and cleaning of drains and other areas.

offered prayers at Swargik Neehing (Prayer Mandap) for the well-being of the people of Sikkim. He also visited and interacted with the patients receiving treatments and care at the healing centre. He also took stock of the grievances and requirements of the patients.

The seven days healing camp commenced with the blessings of His Holiness Master Godangel (Guru Hajur) under the supervision of Shrdya Seming Guru Bharat.

*Contd. from front page*

Yogutsav organised...

expert in Yoga Asanas, Dr.S.Vinudha, Medical Officer for Yoga and Naturopathy, AYUSH, STNM Hospital.

Union Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal stated that Yoga helps enrich lives and helps in physical rejuvenation and also improves spiritual health. He expressed happiness on being a part of Yoga at Enchey Monastery. He stated that Yoga has given a tremendous

*Contd. from front page*

47<sup>th</sup> State...

true sense in the development in the North East region and stressed that the Government of India has given the highest priority to the development of the North East Region. He said that the upcoming Railway project and other projects related to connectivity are being taken up on highest priority. The Union Minister also assured support in the field of tourism development and welcomed the proposal of Sikkim to establish a film city/film studio in the State. He also reiterated that the North East States have the potential to drive the growth engine of the nation in near future.

Governor, Mr. Ganga Prasad expressed his gratitude to all the guests and dignitaries for their presence in the celebration of State Day of Sikkim in the national capital. He touched upon the key initiatives of the Government of Sikkim in various sectors.

Chief Minister in his address highlighted the journey of Sikkim since its merger with the Indian Union. He paid his tribute to the first Chief Minister of Sikkim Late Mr. L.D. Kazi for his role in the merger of Sikkim and subsequent Chief Ministers for giving continuity to the developmental endeavours. He thanked the Government of India for laying high priority on the development

fillip to the stature of India on the global stage and under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modiji, a country wide countdown Yogutsavs in the run-up to International Day of Yoga is being conducted. It was through his efforts that Yoga is celebrated across the world on June 21 every year, he added. He also expressed happiness on Sikkim partaking the countdown through the Yogutsav. The guests also visited the Monastery to seek blessings.

of the North East region, including Sikkim and expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister and his Government for the support extended to Sikkim in every sphere.

Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta in his address gave a brief background of the 47th State Day celebrations which stretched over four days showcasing the rich culture of Sikkim. He briefly highlighted the activities held from the May 16-18 at different venues in Gangtok to mark the State Day celebrations.

Secretary, Textiles, Government of India, Mr. U.P. Singh thanked the Government of Sikkim for hosting the event at New Moti Bagh and extended his best wishes to on the special occasion.

Artistes of the Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, showcased various cultural presentations including folk dances of various communities, ethnic dance of the three main communities and theme based rendition and patriotic songs. The celebrated ‘Singhi Chham’ or Snow Lion Dance and the ‘Yak Chham’ of Sikkim added flavor to the celebrations. The cultural presentations were followed by a dinner hosted by the Government of Sikkim, where exclusive delicacies of Sikkim were served.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim, Mr. G.P. Upadhyaya.



## National Level GPD plan award and NRG Gram Sabha Puraskar 2020-21

**Mangan, May 23:** The National Level Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award and Nanaji Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar 2020-21 were conferred to Lum Gor Sangtok GPU and Lingdong Barfok GPU, today. The programme was organised by RDD in collaboration with DAC at Zilla Panchayat Bhawan.

The programme had the presence of Area MLA Power Department (Dzongu), Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, Chairperson, Women Commission, Mrs. Chung Kipu Lepcha, DC

Mangan, Dr. A.B. Karki, Director, PRI, RDD, Mr. B. K. Lama, ADCs, SDMs, BDOs and the awardees.

Area MLA cum Advisor lauded the efforts of the awardees and expressed the need to continue working diligently to acquire more achievements in district level. He also lauded the efforts made by DC Mangan and DAC team for their file to field initiative and urged the people to co-operate and make a unified effort for the upliftment of the district.

Chairman commended the

hard work and efforts of the awardees and highlighted the role of Panchayats in the upliftment of the society.

DC Mangan congratulating the awardees said that they will be felicitated for their achievements in the near future.

Director, PRI, RDD talked about the importance of systematic entry of data and urged the GPUs to keep their data updated.

Earlier, Panchayat Presidents of the two GPUs also shared their experiences.

## Minister L.N. Sharma inspects various areas under Gyalshing Bernyak Constituency

**Gyalshing, May 23:** Minister cum Area MLA Gyalshing Bernyak Constituency Mr. L. N. Sharma led a joint inspection at Kaanstaar and Chandabong along the Kalej Khola, in his constituency, today.

He was accompanied by Advisor, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department Mr. Durga Prasad Pradhan, President Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat, District Collector, Gyalshing, Divisional Forest Officer (T) Gyalshing, ACF(T) Gyalshing, officials of UDD, SDM Dentam, BDOs Hee Martam, Gyalshing, MEO Gyalshing, and officials.

Minister shared the detailed planning of

accommodation for various tourism components including a bridge with unique features, fish tank, fishing pool, swimming pool, sandy beach for sports events, jungle safari, pedestrian path, cafeteria, picnic spots and many other attractions for tourists. He also advised forest officials to expedite the process of acquiring clearance from the concerned department at the earliest.

The team had thorough discussion and series of actions will be undertaken in accomplishing the goal.

Thereafter, the Minister chaired a meeting with the Panchayats, local public and officials with regard to the

development of market at Chandabong, Valley of Kalej Khola. He threw light on tourism potential of the area and highlighted the features of proposed market and persuaded local public to opt for development of planned market that would benefit the land owners. He also directed the concerned department to submit detailed project report within ten days.

The joint inspection was carried out to undertake onward action for developing a tourist destination at the proposed site of Kaanstaar, Gyalshing Omchung GPU.

## Four-day Training of Trainers on establishing One Health Work

**Gyalshing, May 23:** A four-day Training of Trainers on establishing One Health Work Force to prevent, detect and respond to emerging health threats started at KVK, Gyalshing, today.

The training is being held from May 23- 26, involving frontline officials of Animal Husbandry, Health and Family Welfare, and Forest and Environment Departments in collaboration with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gyalshing. The training was inaugurated today at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gyalshing by Additional Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Dr. N. M. Cintury, Chief Medical Officer, Gyalshing Dr. Bikash Pradhan and Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Dr. Dinesh Basnett.

UNDP representative Ms. Tashi Choden Shenga gave a brief background on the Green

Recovery Project, which is in convergence with UNDP's ongoing SECURE Himalaya project. Officer-In-Charge, COHEART Dr. Prejit, also spoke on the occasion.

The training will introduce the participants on the basic concepts of One Health with relevance to control of Zoonoses, anti-microbial resistance, occupational health hazards and will also enlighten on the methods of epidemiology in a practical way that will be used by the frontline workers.

A total of 40 frontline workers from Animal Husbandry, Health and Forest Department joined the programme for initiating, monitoring, and coordinating One Health programmes in the district. The frontline workers will be trained to undertake training programme to sub ordinate officers working under each department. The training will strengthen the

capacity of frontline workers to prevent, detect and respond infectious disease threats using a One Health approach.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted humanity in a global scale, the "One Health (OH)" approach has been recognised as the best approach to manage and prevent such threats by recognising the interconnectedness of health of humans, animals, and the environment. UNDP India has been implementing a project on 'Green Recovery Pathway for India: transitioning towards a green and resilient COVID-19 recovery' in West Sikkim, one of the pillars of which, is to strengthen the district administration to implement the One Health approach, with COHEART KVASU as the implementation partner.

## Delegates from Spanish city of Albacete meets GMC officials

**Gangtok, May 20:** A delegates from the Spanish city of Albacete consisting of Mr. Angel Manuel Prieto Sotos, Mr. Carlos Manuel Rubio Caravaca and Mr. Juan Carlos Sanchez Teban from Spain was led by Urban Development Expert, IURC (International Urban and Regional Cooperation) India Mr. Ashish Verma visited Gangtok on May 18-19. During the visit, the team met Mayor, Councillors and the Officers from the Gangtok Municipal Corporation.

Under the IURC programme (2021-23) the Gangtok City has been paired up with the Spanish city of Albacete. The cities of Albacete and Gangtok have signed a Letter of Intent to promote the establishment of a long-term collaboration approach as well as the mutual exchange of know-how and information. The focus area of

cooperation and exchange will be on 'Solid Waste Management'.

IURC is a programme supported by European Union which helps the local government worldwide to achieve Low Carbon Sustainable Development in the cities. The IURC has been pairing European with cities from other part of the world for sharing common problems and ideas for sustainable growth.

The team of delegates visited various parts of the city to access the Solid Waste Management system being adopted by the Gangtok city. During the discussion it was decided to develop action plans, pilot projects or concepts to address the issues related with Solid Waste Management of Gangtok City.

## State Level Yoga Olympiad 2022 held

**Gangtok, May 17:** The State Level Competition of Yoga Olympiad 2022 was organised by Education Department, under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha in the Conference Hall of Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board, Syari, today. The inaugural event was graced by State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Education Department, Mr. Milan Subba as the chief guest.

The programme also had the presence of Joint Director, Samagra Shiksha, Mr. A D Chettri, Joint Controller SSTRB, State Yoga Coordinator Mr. Laxuman Adhikari, all Yoga Coordinators, AEOs, Escort Teachers and participating students. The competition was judged by the four experts in the field of Yoga as jury members. The programme started with a brief overview of Yoga Olympiad by Joint Director, Samagra Shiksha.

The State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Mr. Milan Subba highlighted the importance of following the Covid appropriate behavior while performing day to day activities. He advised the students to work hard in their respective categories in the National Level and wished them luck. Further, he insisted to popularize all such competitions right upto the school level to get the hidden talents from all corners of the state.

Mr. Laxuman Adhikari who is the Nodal Officer for Yoga activities in the state highlighted the importance of Yoga in education and provided brief details of the selection process for Yoga Olympiad 2022 at State level competition. He presented the detail report of the Yoga Olympiad 2022 right from the district level. This year, more than 450 students participated in the district level competition out of which, 64 participants were declared qualified for participation at State level as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Yoga Olympiad is an initiative of the Ministry of Education Department, Government of India in collaboration with NCERT, New Delhi to promote Yoga in education. The National Education Policy 2020 has focused on Yoga as an important contribution of the rich heritage. Ministry of Education, Government of India through National Council of Education Research and Training is taking multi-dimensional initiative to promote Yoga as Curriculum and transaction in schools. Yoga is an essential component which contribute to the physical, social, emotional and mental development of a child. Yoga has been integrated as an essential component of Health and Physical Education. Based on the theme Yoga for peace and harmony, this year Yoga Olympiad 2022 has been planned to empower oneself with increased concentration, calm, peace and contentment at mental level leading to inner and outer harmony.

The focus of Yoga Olympiad 2022 is to popularize the various forms of Asanas, Pranayamas, kriya and Bandh to all the students and the community at large.

Children with special needs (CWSN) were also encouraged to participate and to express their talents. District Level competitions were conducted in all the six districts as per the guidelines and time framed by NCERT. The best sixteen participants, four boys and four girls in Upper Primary category and four boys and four girls from Secondary category selected out of State Level Competition will represent the State for National Level Competition slated to be held from June 18 to June 20 at NCERT Complex, New Delhi.

The selected participants shall be given in house training from June 01 to June 07 at Janta Bhawan, DPH, Gangtok for participation at National level.

## Mock Election at Ben Senior Secondary School

**Namchi, May 19:** Ben Senior Secondary School, Namchi District conducted a mock election on May 17, 2022. At the onset of programme, Mr. Sancha Man Limboo (GT Limboo) newly appointed Nodal teacher of ELC briefed the students regarding the programme and also about the Election and its role.

The programme was conducted in presence of school head and all the working members of the institution. During the programme, students were involved in different role in Election process. The programme was mainly conducted to broaden the wide features and functions of Election in India. The students

were given adequate ideas of how the Election system in India works and were made to compete for different council of Electoral Literacy club. The Mock Drill concluded with the declaration of Election results and vote of thanks.

## National

## Year long celebrations to commemorate 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy begins

**Kolkata, May 22 (PIB):** Under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), the Ministry of Culture held inaugural ceremony to commemorate the year long celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy from today in Kolkata. It will continue till next year May 22. The inaugural ceremony took place at Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Salt Lake, Kolkata, and at Science City Auditorium, Kolkata. The programme was organized by Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Union Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Mr. G. Kishan Reddy joined the ceremony virtually. The Governor of West Bengal, Mr. Jagdeep Dhankhar was also present on the occasion. Today is the 50<sup>th</sup> foundation day of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation also.

Mr. Reddy unveiled an iconic statue of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in virtual mode at Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata.

The Governor of West Bengal said that future generations must continue to follow the ideas of Ram Mohan Roy.

During his address the Union Minister said, “Today, on the 250<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy ji, on behalf of the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and the Central Government, I would thank and pay my regards for his great contribution for the

emancipation of our Indian society. It is a wonderful coincidence that today is the 250th birth anniversary of the great social reformer and the Historical 50 Years of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation is also being completed”. He added, “As we all know that “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” is an occasion to pay respect and remember our great men and heroes who sacrificed their lives for the independence of our country. The installation of the idol of Raja Ram Mohan Roy is our way of paying a true tribute to him. I congratulate the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation for this important step. The statue of this great man will inspire us and our younger generation. It will remind all of us about the great deeds, high ideals and the philosophy of his life”.

While remembering the contribution of Raja Ram Mohan Roy the Union Minister said, “On taking his name the image of an independent and visionary thinker who was not only a great social reformer but he was also a great philosopher, an educationist and a great journalist. His scholarly mind can be gauged from the fact that he learned Bengali, Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit languages ??at the age of 15. Later he also learned Hindi and English. The work he did for education and the improvement of conditions of women is incomparable. On child marriage, he clearly believed that the age of marriage for women should be increased and women should get

the right of remarriage. In true sense he was the architect of Modern India and the father of Bengal Renaissance”.

The Union Minister Mr. G Kishan Reddy hailed the efforts of the Ministry of Culture for promoting and upgrading the libraries across the country. He said, “The Ministry of Culture provides assistance for one State Central Library and one District Library under the National Library Mission. They have also provided more than 54 crores to 50 libraries across the country. We are continuously trying to expand and modernize the libraries across the country”.

He added, “Today I appeal to the Authorities of the States and the Union Territories, that the Public Library System should be strengthened more in the “Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav”. Active participation in the programs of National Model Library should be ensured and we should also move in the direction of E-Book and digital library. I think only knowledge and skills will make India a strong and a self-reliant nation. We all need to make new resolutions and move in the direction of making this great nation a Vishwaguru once again”.

Several other events were arranged at Science City Auditorium, Kolkata. A seminar and quiz programme for children were organized. A multimedia presentation on various facets of the life of Shri Raja Ram Mohan Roy was presented too.

Mr. Bhupender Yadav also said the Lake Sembakkam, one of the most critical and fragile marshlands of the state is undergoing science-based lake restoration through the efforts of government and civil society organizations. He expressed confidence that this ecological restoration would serve as a role model for other cities in the country.

He informed that as a part of access and benefit-sharing (ABS), National Biodiversity Authority and the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) are working with the Irula Snake Catchers Industrial Cooperative Society (ISCICS) to provide access to snake venom to a company namely, iSERA Biological Pvt. Ltd which has signed the ABS agreement. According to this, 5% of the total purchase price of snake venom on an annual basis is being deposited in the ISCICS account for benefit of the community. Such partnerships are needed to strengthen and incentivise conservation, he added.

issues of conservation. “Biodiversity offers us goods and services that provide the world’s natural living infrastructure and are essential for a well-functioning global economy. It is estimated that approximately 40% of the world’s economy is based on biological products or processes. Any effort at conserving and enhancing biodiversity can only succeed if we tackle the challenge of global warming. Global warming has to be urgently brought under control”, he reiterated.

The Minister stated that the country is on track to achieve the biodiversity targets at the national level and is also contributing significantly towards the achievement of the global biodiversity targets. Further, India has established a unique 3-tier model of participatory biodiversity resource governance at the national, state, and local-body levels, thus ensuring that the entire country gets the representation in our governance system.

## Day-long Sikkim Organic Food Summit held

**Gangtok, May 19:** Commerce and Industries Department in association with the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency – Invest India and the Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER) organised a day-long Sikkim Organic Food Summit at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

The summit was sponsored by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India. Minister for Labour and Power Departments Mr. M.N. Sherpa attended the programme as the chief guest in the presence of Economic Advisor, MoFPI, Mr. Kuntal Sensarma, ACS, State Commerce and Industries, Mr. A.K. Yadav, Secretary, Mr. H.K. Sharma, and Director, MSME, Mr. M. Ravikumar. The summit was attended by representatives from SBI, NABARD, and Agriculture and Horticulture Department (GoS) along with various SHGs, NGOs, and entrepreneurs from Sikkim.

Economic Advisor, MoFPI, Mr. Kuntal Sensarma briefed the gathering on the status of the food processing sector in the country. He said that the food processing sector has contributed tremendously to the Indian economy from around ₹1.3 lakh crore in 2014-15 to ₹2.37 lakh crore in 2020-21. The food processing sector is the largest employment provider in organised manufacturing consisting of 12.3% of the total employment share, he added. Despite the COVID-19 disruptions, India’s agri-food exports experienced a boom and reached around 41 billion with the growth in organic food exports crossing over 1 billion in the financial year 2021, he stated. He emphasised on the potential of Sikkim, India’s first fully organic State in transforming the food processing sector in the State and also tapped on various schemes of MoFPI like the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), PM-Formalisation of Micro

Enterprises Scheme (PM-FME), and Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLIS) and highlighted on several reforms and initiatives undertaken post-2014.

Minister Mr. M.N. Sherpa commended the initiative of the Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim and its associating partners for hosting the organic food summit aimed at strengthening the food processing sector and the organic mission in the State. He said that the growth and transformation in the agri-food systems have been driven by the State and Central Government’s policy-level interventions. Stressing the need of right market channel for Organic produce of Sikkim, he suggested bringing about reforms in the agri-marketing system in the State while formulating competitive marketing strategies to boost the exports from the State. He further encouraged the youth to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset as he reiterated the State government’s commitment for supporting and promoting the growth of innovative start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures in the State.

One of the key highlights of the Sikkim Organic Food Summit 2022 was the launch of ‘Sikkim Gold Packaged Spices’, an entrepreneurial venture owned by Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Agarwal. It may be mentioned that Mr. Agarwal is the first entrepreneur from Sikkim registered with the Spices Board of India to export spices under the brand ‘Sikkim Gold Packaged Spices’.

The summit also included a technical session which was followed by business-business (B2B) and business-government (B2G) interactions and a Buyers Sellers Meet.

At the onset of the event, the chief guest along with the dignitaries inaugurated the Food Fair and Exhibition set up at the venue.

## Three-day-long celebration of 47<sup>th</sup> State Day concludes

**Gangtok, May 18:** The three-day-long celebration of the 47<sup>th</sup> State Day under ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ concluded at MG Marg, today. The celebration offered a cultural extravaganza organised by the Culture Department in collaboration with Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The programme had the participation of different ethnic communities from Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Highlighting on the unique potential of rural entrepreneurship in the State, the event featured stalls that exhibited Quinoa by Sikkim Seasoning, promoted by KVK Mangan and Produce of Vandhan Sikkim such as Sorong

tea (Nettle tea) by Naga Namgore VDVK (North) and Lenchee (large cardamom) by Mayel VDK (Mangan). Displays of power weeder machine, power tiller machine and a variety of exotic crops and vegetables by the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, Government of Sikkim along with other stalls showcasing handicrafts, arts, local cuisine, adventure equipment, organic produce, wellness products, book displays, etc., were some of the highlights.

The three-day-long celebration was visited by a host of dignitaries including the Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors, Advisors, Chairpersons and officials along with the locals and tourists.

## The convergence of people, culture, and rich tradition of Tamilnadu has preserved the unique biodiversity of the region: Union Minister for Environment Mr. Bhupender Yadav

**New Delhi, May 22 (PIB):** Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav has said, “The convergence of people, culture, and rich tradition of the beautiful state of Tamilnadu has preserved the unique biodiversity of the region.” This was stated by the Minister in Chennai today during the inauguration of a special exhibition on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity. Along with Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Minister for Environment, Government of Tamilnadu Shri Siva. V. Meyyanathan, Shri Bhupender Yadav released a special commemorative postal cover and a book titled ‘India Natural’ and also conferred the India Biodiversity Awards-2021.

While delivering his speech, the Union Minister appealed to the people to take a pledge to work towards conserving biodiversity and sensitising the youth on the

## Three mile marathon organised

**Gangtok, May 18:** A three mile long marathon was organised by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department as part of the State Day Celebrations, today. A total of 260 participants took part in the open category marathon.

The marathon that commenced from MG Marg ended at Old Guards Ground, Tathangchen. It was flagged off by Special Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department Sumita Pradhan.

In the men's category, Rinchen Lepcha attained the first

position while Som Bahadur Gurung secured the second position followed by Suraj Sharma and Dhananjay Thakur clinching the third and fourth positions, respectively.

Likewise, from the women's category Phurba Tamang secured the first position followed by Yudemit Lepcha in the second position. Srijana Chettri and Phur Diki Sherpa secured third and fourth positions, respectively.

After the marathon, a Traditional Archery match was held between Tathangchen VII and

Denzong VII clubs. Five participants represented each club. The friendly match was won by Denzong VII.

Sikkim Olympic Association General Secretary, Arjuna Awardee Mr. Jaslal Pradhan attended the event as the chief guest and Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Mr. Raju Basnet as the guest of honour.

Other attendees in the programme included officials from the Sports Department, sports enthusiasts, and the public.

## Culture Department organises programme with NEZCC Dimapur

**Gangtok, May 17:** As part of the ongoing 47<sup>th</sup> State Day Celebration, under the banner 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Culture Department organised a cultural programme collaborating with North East Zone Cultural Centre Dimapur at MG Marg Gangtok, today.

The programme had artists from Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh. The cultural troupe from Assam presented Bihu & Bhortal folk dance, one of the most popular dances to reflect the rich cultural

heritage of the Indian state of Assam.

Artists from Manipur presented the Laiharaoba & Thang-Ta folk dances. The dance is associated with an ethnic group of Manipur known as Meitei, and Laiharaoba is a festival celebrated to honor their traditional deity. Thang-Ta folk dance has a connection to war and the dancers in use swords to either symbolize protection or to ward off evil spirits.

The cultural group from Meghalaya performed Ka Shad Mastieh and Ka Shad ah kynrthei

folk dances, a traditional dance performed by men and women of the Khasi tribe. Similarly, the representatives from Nagaland performed the cock fight dance and the Warrior Dance and enacted a scene showing a cock fight on the stage. The cock fight dance represents the age-old tradition of hosting cock fights to entertain the audience. The cultural troupe from Arunachal Pradesh shared the Rikhampada dance, performed to honour Gods.

## Minister L.N. Sharma visits modern abattoir of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services at Majhitar

**Gangtok, May 20:** Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Departments Mr. L.N. Sharma visited the ongoing construction of a modern abattoir of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and Horticulture farm at Majhitar, today.

The visit was joined by the Secretary Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department Dr. P. Senthil Kumar, Additional Director, Feed and Fodder / Marketing and Quality Control (M&QC) Dr. Karma T Bhutia, Joint Director (M&QC) cum Manazing Director SLP&DC, Veterinary Officer, Livestock Inspector, Site

engineer from Micro Transmission and others.

The Minister inspected the ongoing infrastructure comprising of the Pork abattoir, Pork lairage, Rendering Plant / Blood Processing Unit, Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), Electrical Room and existing old plant. He also inspected the infrastructures and took stock of the work progress in detail. He discussed various technical aspects and key factors to expedite the construction work at the earliest and advised working on the sapling plantation and fodder to beautify the abattoir premises.

Thereafter, he visited the Central Store of Agriculture

Department at Majhitar and enquired the process of stock maintenance. He gave strict instructions to the store in-charge to keep a proper record of the remaining stock. He also handed over a power tiller to a beneficiary from Ralong / Namchi District.

Later, he also carried out a field visit of Horticulture farm at Majhitar where they thoroughly inspected the farm filled with guava plantation, banana plants, dragon fruit, bamboo seedling and vegetables. He advised Horticulture Development Officer Incharge and field functionaries to continue their efforts in producing new varieties and benefit the farmers.

## Regional Conference of Ministry of Rural Development with North Eastern States

**Guwahati, May 17:** Regional Conference of the Ministry of Rural Development with the North Eastern States under the Chairmanship of Union Minister Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India Mr. Giriraj Singh was held in Guwahati, today.

He was accompanied by Minister of State Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti and Mr. Fagga Singh Kulaste, Secretary MoRD, Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha and other senior officials of the Ministry.

All the Ministers from the North Eastern States along with their officials attended the programme. The issues related to Prime Minister Awaas Yojna - Grameen (PMAY-G), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY) and Rural Self

Employment Training Institute (RSETI) were discussed. The States were asked to implement the schemes with dedication and complete the assigned tasks within the time frame for holistic development of the rural areas.

Union Minister informed all the States that the officers from the Ministry have been visiting the Northeast states to review and understand the problems faced by them. He requested all the State Ministers to regularly monitor and guide their states to achieve the tasks assigned to them.

The Minister of State in her address stressed the importance of the scheme implemented by the Ministry and requested to maintain quality while executing different schemes.

The State delegation from Sikkim was led by Minister Mr. Sonam Lama along with Principal Secretary Mr. C.S. Rao and other officials. Appreciating the initiatives and support of the GOI,

Minister Mr. Lama apprised the status of different schemes implemented by the Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim. He requested the Ministry to provide additional six months time to complete PMGSY Phase I and II works beyond September 30, 2022. He also requested the Union Minister to increase the PMGSY road thickness from 20mm to 60mm because the PMGSY roads are the only lifeline for rural villages. For 100% compliance of PFMS and effective implementation of all schemes by appreciating the efforts made by the State, he requested the Government of India to provide reliable internet connectivity up to the Gram Panchayat/Ward level.

While reviewing the individual schemes, Principal Secretary, Mr. C.S. Rao deliberated the status of each scheme and their strategies to maintain quality and timely execution.

## Minister L. N. Sharma holds press conference

**Gangtok, May 18:** Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Departments Mr. L. N. Sharma addressed the media about his recent visit to the United States of America at Manan Kendra, today.

Calling the US visit fruitful for the State, Minister Mr. Sharma said that the tour will open numerous opportunities for Sikkimese farmers to sell their organic products in the US market. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for providing an opportunity to visit the Agriculture & Food Processing sector of the United States of America. He shared that it was a great experience to learn various essential factors for strengthening the farming sector and to make the farmers self-reliant and prosperous, economically. He mentioned that the delegation visited the states which are agriculturally potential and met investors, business partners, officials, progressive farmers, and others.

He stated that the delegation also received assurance from the potential partners in dealing marketing of organic products in the United States. While on the flip side, the state should be able to beat a major challenge of producing surplus

production for self-sufficiency and export, he added. The state government with the concerned department and Sikkim Organic Farming Development Agency (SOFDA)/ Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA) have been providing the necessary support and guiding the progressive farmers, FPOs, entrepreneurs of agriculture, and allied sectors to export their produce. He also advised farmers to work hard with absolute determination to enhance production through cluster farming, so that the increasing demand in the global market can be addressed successfully.

He shared his experience of addressing the Association of Food Industries convention in Florida and mentioned that the international delegates from various countries were well informed about the potential and the future scope of investing here in Sikkim. Organic products of Sikkim that were displayed also received appreciation from foreign agencies and participants, he added. He also mentioned that the required official formalities have been accomplished to acquire the NOP certificate and also touched upon farming-friendly policies implemented in the state under the leadership of the Chief Minister.

## Minister L.N. Sharma calls on Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee

**Gangtok, May 20:** Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture Departments Mr. L.N. Sharma called on the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing Mr. P.C. Gaddigaudar (MP Lok Sabha) in the capital, today.

The meeting had the presence of the Additional Secretary Lok Sabha Secretariat Mr. Shiv Kumar, Joint Secretary - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture Govt. of India Geetha Meetina, Secretary Horticulture Department, Mr. B.B. Subba, Additional Director Horticulture Mr. B.L. Dahal, officials and others.

Minister Mr. Sharma briefed on the existing scenario of agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors in the State and threw light on difficult topographical features of Himalayan State. He appealed the Chairman to consider such

notable factors in allocation of fund under centrally sponsored schemes. He also urged for early release of fund so that the schemes could be implemented on stipulated time frame to benefit the farmers in Sikkim and stressed upon the need to conduct empirical studies and research work with the prime objective of reviving the declining crop of few varieties. He also touched upon several initiatives undertaken by the State Government under the leadership of the Chief Minister to enhance the organic production and benefit the farmers at large.

Chairman has been leading the thirteen member's delegation of Parliamentary Standing Committee on a four-day visit to Sikkim on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing with the focus on Mission Integrated Development on Horticulture (MIDH) and Organic Farming Sikkim.

## ELCs of schools under Pakyong District begins

**Pakyong, May 19:** Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) of the schools under Pakyong District began its SVEEP activity for the year 2022-23, today. The drive to conduct Mock Election in all ELC's has been initiated by the O/o the CEO, Election Department, Government of Sikkim, in order to generate awareness among the future voters of their electoral rights and to familiarise them about the electoral processes.

The Electoral Literacy Club of the following schools under Pakyong District conducted Mock Election to elect their ELC council were Dalapchand Secondary School on May 11, Amba Secondary School May 17 and Sumin Lingchey Secondary School May 18.

Students from various classes participated in the Mock Election to vote for their respective candidates.

## Ambassador of France to India holds meeting with CS

**Gangtok, May 17:** The Ambassador of France to India, Mr. Emmanuel Lenain held a round table meeting with the Chief Secretary and senior officers of the Government of Sikkim at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The French Ambassador was accompanied by the First Counsellor at the Embassy, Mr. Laurent Triponey, Consul General of France in Kolkata, Mr. Didier Talpain, and the Press and Diplomatic Liaison Officer, Ms. Anjita Roy Chaudhury.

From the State Government, Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary cum PCCF, Forest Department, Principal Secretary, Home and Education

Departments, Commissioner cum Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, and Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department were in attendance.

The meeting deliberated on the possibility of cooperation and collaboration in areas of higher education, eco-tourism, biodiversity, conservation of Red Panda, tourism and hospitality, and food processing and marketing. The French Ambassador is on a three-day official visit to Sikkim.

Earlier, on his arrival, the Ambassador met the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Mr. Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence at Mintokgang.

## Three-day North East Conclave held

**Guwahati, May 20:** Minister for Forest and Environment, Department Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia along with the senior officers of various line Departments attended the 3-day North East Conclave from May 20 to 22 at IIT Guwahati.

The conclave was organised under the Chief patronship of Union Minister, Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan and the Co-Chief patron-ship of Chief Minister of Assam Mr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. The objective of the conclave was to create a common interface to collaborate and showcase the best R&D activities, through exhibition from all the education/research institutions and industries across the states of the North-East India. The aim was to create and lay down the foundation for creating an environment conducive to the development of local indigenous technologies and innovations. It also laid the foundation for the promotion of translational

research and entrepreneurship and to help the country achieve the deliverables of Sustainable Development Goals.

During the inaugural session, Minister Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia highlighted the rich natural resources of Sikkim and the commitment of the State Government to conserve and protect these resources. He spoke on the effects of climate change being observed on the glaciers and water bodies. He highlighted the study conducted on Lhonak Lake of Mangan District, which had seen a significant increase in the area of the lake thereby increasing the threat of Global Lake Outburst Flooding downstream. He informed the house on the ban imposed by the Sikkim Government on the use of plastic bottles. In the education sector, he spoke about the priority being given by the State Government to improve the quality of education. He encouraged young minds and the IITians to focus on their research and development activities.

## Seminar on Sikkim's contribution towards Indian National Movement held

**Gangtok, May 17:** A seminar on 'Sikkim's contribution towards Indian National Movement as a part of the State Day Celebration was held at a local hotel, today.

The event had the presence of Chairperson (Centre for Historical Studies) CHS-JNU, New Delhi Prof. Heeraman Tiwari, as the chief guest along with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Avinash Khare, Registrar, Deans, HoDs and Senior Professor, Controllers of Examination, Statutory Officers, Faculties of various departments, Scholars and students of Sikkim University.

Prof. Heeraman Tiwari said that it was an opportunity for him to share his views about the history of India and emphasised

on its importance. He said that Sikkim has its regional history, which every individual should cherish and at the same time learn from past experiences related to different societies, systems, ideologies, and cultures and how they coexisted and changed the identities to establish citizenship.

He cited examples of various historians who researched and shared their knowledge about the historical facts.

The event was followed by a series of lectures and interactive sessions. The one-day seminar was organised by the Sikkim University in association with the Government of Sikkim and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

## CM flags off team of progressive fish farmers and fisheries officials on trout farming for an exposure visit

**Gangtok, May 18:** Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang flagged off the team of progressive fish farmers and fisheries officials on trout farming (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) for an exposure visit to Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh from Manan Kendra, today.

The programme also had the presence of Minister Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. L.N. Sharma, Chief Secretary, Secretary Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, officials, and others.

The exposure trip is funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad. The group of eight officials and twenty-five fish farmers will be led by Director, Mr. N. Jaswant while another group of eight officials and twenty-five fish farmers proceeding to Himachal Pradesh will be led by Additional Director Mr. C.S. Rai.

The team will stay in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh

for five days and will visit various government and private trout farms and hatcheries. They will also visit fish feed mills and integrated fish farms, which are being successfully operated in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Minister interacted with the fish farmers and expressed happiness about the development of the fisheries sector in the State. He remarked that with such exposure to the state and Union Territories, which have excelled in trout fish farming, the State farmers would broaden their capacity to culture fish and increase the local fish production. He also expressed his happiness over the success of the State fisheries scheme, also known as Mukhya Mantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana, which has benefitted fish farmers and fishermen in the stocking of fish seeds and procuring fishing gears. He urged the local youths to take the opportunity of the abundant clean water available and the suitable

climate to farm fish and fill the gap of 5500 MT to increase the per capita fish consumption of the state from 1 kg to 10 kgs, which is the national average.

Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services informed that the state government is emphasising the development of fisheries in the State to lead the country in cold water fisheries production. He said that the Directorate is looking forward to organic fish production in Sikkim. He anticipated that the farmers would also learn and benefit from visiting agriculture and allied sectors besides fisheries farms.

Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department thanked the Chief Minister for encouraging the local fish farmers. He also informed that the Directorate is trying all possible means to produce in-house fish seeds and revive the nonfunctional fish feed mills for local fish feed production.

## Chief Secretary administers Anti Terrorism Day pledge

**Gangtok, May 23:** Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta administered the Anti Terrorism Day pledge to the officers and staff of all the Departments located within the Tashiling Secretariat, today.

Anti Terrorism Day is observed each year on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Lt. Rajiv Gandhi. Since 21st May was a Government

holiday, the pledge taking ceremony was held today. The Anti Terrorism Day pledge was also administered in all Government Departments, PSUs and District Collectorates.

## Chief Secretary chairs meeting

**Gangtok, May 23:** Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta chaired a meeting of the heads of all departments today to discuss the celebration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the State Government led by Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang on May 27.

The meeting also had the presence of Press Advisor to CM

Mr. C.P. Sharma, Political Secretary to CM, Mr. Jacob Khaling and Press Secretary to CM, Mr. Bikash Basnett.

The meeting discussed in detail the programmes to be incorporated in the State level event to be held at Manan Kendra, Gangtok. Thereafter, the Chief Secretary chaired a meeting with the Heads of Departments on a few

more agendas, which included the Celebration of International Day of Yoga on June 21<sup>st</sup>, Prime Minister's interaction with beneficiaries on May 31<sup>st</sup> Vision 2047 document, and Chief Secretaries' Conference to be addressed by the Prime Minister at Dharamshala on June 13, 2022.

## Legal Awareness and Outreach Programme held

**Gangtok, May 22:** As per the directions of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge, High Court of Sikkim & Executive Chairperson, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, the Sikkim SLSA working under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), conducted a Legal Awareness and Outreach Programme for the labourers and public of Kupup and surrounding villages about the NALSA (Legal Services to the Workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme, 2015 in coordination with Labour Department, Government of Sikkim at the Kupup Community Hall, East Sikkim, today.

Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA Mr. Sonam Palden Bhutia, sensitised on the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, Sikkim Labour Protection Act, 2005, the institution of financial management for the unorganised sector under

Pradhan Mantri Bima Suraksha Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Pension Yojna available under various Nationalized Banks, Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and free legal aid and services and how it can be availed.

Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA Mr. Praveen Pradhan also apprised on the NALSA Mobile App, which facilitated the availability of free legal aid and assistance, legal advice, redressal of other grievances, tracking of their application for the same and availing compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme and Mediation.

Labour Inspector, Labour Department Mr. Navin Sharma, deliberated on various issues with regard to the Sikkim Labour (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2021, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, benefits provided under e-Shram Card, benefit to labourers such as accidental benefits and maternity

benefits and the Central and State Schemes pertaining to labourers and persons working in unorganised sectors. He also provided information about the digitisation of online mode for registration of individual workers/labourers which is available under the website of the Labour Department (<https://labour.sikkim.gov.in>) and also provided the toll free number 18003451474 for any enquiries.

An interactive session was held between the participants and the Resource Persons followed by free medical check-up by a Medical Team from the Health and Family Welfare Department and distribution of free medicines to those present.

The programme had the participation of Panchayats, Para-Legal Volunteers, various labourers working under organised and un-organised sectors in Kupup, public of Kupup, Tanzey, Yakla, Gnathang, Tsomgo and Sherathang areas, Consultant, Sikkim SLSA, Press and Media and the staff of Sikkim SLSA.

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