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81st Nar Bahadur Bhandari Jayanti Celebration concludes



Gyalshing, October 05: A five-day grandeur celebration of the 81st Nar Bahadur Bhandari Jayanti Celebration concluded at Soreng playground, today. The Governor, Mr. Ganga Prasad graced the occasion as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, M.P (Lok Sabha), Advisors, Chairpersons, Chief Secretary and other officials.

The programme also had Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, renowned dramatist Mr. C.K. Shrestha, along with all the Head of Departments

and senior officers.

The Governor in his address spoke about the contribution made by the former Chief Minister. He said that the people of Sikkim are fortunate enough to be guided by such a heroic figure, who had dedicated his entire life for the betterment of his people. He reminded everyone that late Bhandari strived for the upliftment of his State and that he still resides in the hearts of all his fellow-citizen even after his death. The Governor highlighted about the development schemes that are being carried out by the Government and added that

Sikkim can become an exemplary State in the field of health, education and tourism for others. With the construction of the upcoming Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Centre of Excellence at Chakhung under the New District plan, Soreng will become the new educational hub for students. He said that Sikkim being a tourist-friendly State has a huge opportunity for everyone to benefit from.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang in his address spoke about the celebration being the third time since its inception in 2019 and that this year's celebration is being done in a grandeur manner to commemorate late Mr. Bhandari's contributions. He further recounted Late N.B. Bhandari's relentless efforts towards the fight for Nepali language to be included in the Constitution of India. He added that Late Mr. Bhandari was the first leader of Nepali origin to become the Chief Minister of an Indian State. The Chief Minister also enumerated various responsibilities and policies that

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District level Livestock Show organised

Gangtok, October 07: The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Agriculture and Horticulture in collaboration with State Bank of India organised District level Livestock Show under Implementation of Sub-Mission on Skill Development, Technical Transfer and Extension under NLM 2019-20 at Adampool, today.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Mr. Kailash Choudhary was the chief guest and was accompanied by Minister of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Mr. L.N. Sharma, MP Lok Sabha, Mr. Indra Hang Subba, MLAs, Panchayats, along with the HoDs and staff of the Agriculture, Horticulture and AH&VS departments.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Kailash Choudhary, commended the efforts of the State government in the agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry sectors defined for the welfare of farmers and agripreneurs. He stressed on the need to improve the economic

stability of the farmers and assured that the Central government will extend its full support to the State to help optimise the potential of these sectors to support the economic growth of farmers and stakeholders. He briefed about the various schemes and incentives being provided for farmers and encouraged all to tap into integrated farming systems in order to increase farmers' income through sustainable agriculture activities.

Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma, in his address, reiterated the State government's commitment towards prioritising and adopting unique farming policies and schemes to strengthen agricultural support services for farmers and stakeholders in the State. He congratulated the concerned departments for organising the livestock show that has successfully brought together all the stakeholders including farmers, agripreneurs, rural youth and policymakers in one platform enabling them to share and access innovative

ideas available in the field of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and other allied sectors. He urged the farmers and the youth to avail full benefit of the various schemes, insurances and incentives being provided by the Central and State governments.

MP (Lok Sabha), Mr. Indra Hang Subba, extended gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India and the State government for spearheading innovative ways to transform agriculture and allied sectors thus, improving income of farmers through sustainable as well as inclusive growth.

The programme was also addressed by Area MLA, Martam Rumtek, Mr. Venchungpa, wherein he exhorted the concerned departments to take all the government schemes to the grassroots level. During the event, farm loans through the lead bank SBI and tokens including agricultural machinery tools were

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CM inaugurates BAC at Baiguney



Gyalshing, October 04: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated Block Administrative Centre (BAC) at Baiguney and rolled out People's Plan Campaign (Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas) under Rural Development Department, today.

Present amongst others were Minister for Power Department Mr. M.N. Sherpa, Area MLA-cum-Chairperson SIMFED Mrs. Sunita Gajmer, Political Secretary to CM Mr. Jacob Khaling, Secretary to CM Mr. S.D. Dhakal, Principal Secretary Rural Development Department Mr. C.S. Rao, officials, Panchayats and public at large.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister congratulated the public of Zoom-Salgari Constituency for a new Block Administrative Centre, which has been established in the locality to assist the public in conducting their day-to-day activities. The BAC has been set up by the State Government with the aim of providing convenience to the public and to support and strengthen the Panchayats of the locality.

He added that Rural Development Department has been making tremendous progress in implementing various schemes and also cited examples of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swatchh Bharat 2.0. The Chief Minister commended the work being conducted under Jal Jeevan Mission as the Department has managed to increase functional tap connection for drinking water in most GPUs of the State. He also praised the Department for

carrying out work in Swatchh Bharat Mission and added that the Rural Development Department with combined efforts of officials, public and community has resourcefully generated awareness regarding this mission to bring about a behavioural change at grassroots level as embedded in this mission. Keeping in mind Swatchh Bharat Mission, the Chief Minister informed that a Women's College will be established in the cleanest district of the State. Further, he also encouraged the Department to suitably enforce the schemes and transform Sikkim into a model state.

The Chief Minister also announced that the State Government will soon start a Women's Welfare initiative named 'Aama Yojna'. He also spoke on various developmental works that the State Government has undertaken in Jorethang and its surrounding areas, namely constructing of Nepali Sanskrit Bhawan, Auditorium Hall at Jorethang Senior Secondary School, Cancer Hospital at Karfector and many more other expansions. Moreover, he updated that foundation of Gymnasium at Jorethang will be virtually laid on October 20 from Bhaichung Stadium.

Speaking during the programme, Principal Secretary RDD Mr. C.S. Rao briefed about the Block Administrative Centre (BAC) at Baiguney, which will cater to four different territorial jurisdictions, namely, 39 Gelling Baiguney GPU, 40 Samsing Pipalay

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Pearls of Wisdom

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.

- Jimmy Dean

District Diary

Mental Health Day observed at Namchi

Namchi, October 10: The District Legal Services Authority & Taluk Legal Services Committee, South at Namchi jointly conducted an awareness programme on the occasion of "Mental Health Day" October 10, 2021 maintaining social distancing norms of Covid-19 protocol at District Hospital, Namchi, South Sikkim.

The Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ex-Officio Chairperson, Taluk Legal Services Committee, South at Namchi, Learned Panel Advocate, Mr. Anjan Sharma, Health Department Chief Medical Officer Dr. D.C. Sharma, District Nodal Officer-cum-District Surveillance Dr. Ugen Sherpa, Senior

Psychiatrist Dr. Bishnu Sharma, along with the staff of District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee, South at Namchi, participated in the programme.

The resource person Mr. Jiwan Kumar Kharka, Chairman,

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"NALSA-Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav" organised

Namchi, October 10: The Taluk Legal Services Committee, Jorethang Sub Division, South Sikkim as part of the Pan India Awareness and Outreach Campaign from 02.10.2021 to 14.11.2021 on the occasion of "NALSA-Azadi Ka Amrit

Mohotsav", the Taluk Legal Services Committee, Jorethang Sub Division, South Sikkim in coordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a Legal Awareness Programme including Legal Aid Clinic and Health Camp at CHC,

Jorethang, South Sikkim and Jorethang Haat Bazar on October 10 at 11:30 AM.

The purpose of the programme conducted today was to generate information and

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SGAY houses inaugurated at Asangthang

Namchi, October 09: ADC(Namchi) Mr. Satyan Pradhan inaugurated two houses constructed under SGAY scheme at Asangthang GPU under Poklok Kamrang Constituency, today.

Advisor Skill & Development, Mr. Satish Rai, Chairman, Mr. Simon Rai, AE, JE, PI of BAC as well as Incharge & JEs of Company.

BDO(Namchi) said that this SGAY house is a major milestone crossed by the government under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang added that the houses are fully furnished

with furniture and essential amenities.

BDO (Namchi) and her BAC team were acknowledge for their support the beneficiaries, Mr. Ram Sharan Chettri and Mr. Passang Tamang expressed their gratitude towards Chief Minister, and Minister Rural Development Department Mr. Sonam Lama.

He was accompanied by BDO (Namchi) Mrs Babita Rai, Chairman, Urban Development Department, Mr. K.B. Rai,

Mini Haat shed and Community Sanitary Complex inaugurated

Namchi, October 09: Minister Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS) Mr. L. N. Sharma in presence of Chairman Farmers Welfare Mr. Phurden Lepcha, Advisor Land Use and Environment Mr. Bhagirath Rai, Chairman Roads and Bridges Mr. Sukraj Rai,

Chairman Urban Development Department Mr. K.B. Rai, Zilla Adhyakshya (South) Ms. Tshering Dem Bhutia, ADC(Dev, Namchi) Dr. C.P. Rai, B.D.O (Nandugaon) Mr. Tenzing Bhutia, A.P.O Nandugaon Mrs Sangita Sharma, Panchayats of three GPK's and concerned staffs

officially inaugurated 'Mini Haat' shed and 'Community Sanitary Complex' having 'Twin Pit' situated at Upper Dorop under Salghari G.P.U. It is reiterated that both the facilities were funded by Rural Development Department

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Awareness cum Distribution Programme and Comprehensive Credit Camp held

Namchi, October 09: An Awareness cum Distribution Programme and Comprehensive Credit Camp was held at newly inaugurated Community Recreation Centre, Salghari for the farmers of Poklok Kamrang Constituency, today.

Nath Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in special presence of Advisor, Land Use and Environment Board Mr. Bhagirath Rai, Chairman, Farmers Welfare Board Mr. Phurden Lepcha, Chairman, Urban Development Department Shri KB Rai, Chairman, Roads and Bridges Mr. Suk Raj Rai, Zilla Adhakshya, (South) Mrs

Tshering Dem Bhutia, and officials of the concerned department.

Mr. Sharma congratulated the people of the locality for newly inaugurated three infrastructures, namely, Mushroom Spawn Production Unit, Mini Haat Shed and

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The Minister, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. Lok

Clean India Calendar Activities Conducted by Namchi SSS

Namchi, October 09: Eco-Club along with National Service Scheme Unit of Namchi Senior Secondary School conducted a cleanliness drive as part of Clean India Calendar Activities 2021 at Tinzir and the surrounding areas of Namchi Senior Secondary School, yesterday

the plastic wastes from the activity location and also to involve and bring awareness about the plastic pollution among the stakeholders of the community viz. students, teachers and members of the school managing committees.

Around 8 kilograms of plastic wastes were collected during this activity. The plastic

wastes consisted mainly of plastic bottles, wrappers and single use plastic bags. These wastes were stuffed into sacks and tagged with label "Swaccha Bharat- Clean India". These wastes shall be taken to Resource Recovery Centre for further actions by the concerned governmental department.

The main objective of the activity was to collect and weigh

L. N. Sharma inaugurates infrastructures at South Sikkim

Namchi October 09: The Minister, Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. Lok Nath Sharma officially inaugurated three newly established infrastructures at Salghari under Poklok Kamrang Constituency, today.

Salghari, established under Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA). The four roomed unit is well equipped with incubation room, inoculation room and other required facilities.

Thereafter, he inaugurated a newly established Mini Haat Shed at Dorop Salghari and interacted with the farmers.

Later, he inaugurated,

newly established Community Recreation Centre at Dorop Salghari and graced the Awareness cum Distribution Programme & Community Credit Camp as the Chief Guest at the newly inaugurated Centre. He is scheduled to distribute agricultural tools/ equipments, and address the farmers, today.

Orientation programme on disabilities conducted at Mangan

Mangan, October 8: The Orientation programme on 21 types of disabilities, evaluation and procedure for certification of various disabilities was organised by the Social Welfare Division, Social Justice and Welfare Department at Mangan, today.

The programme was attended by Joint Secretary cum Nodal officer for Disabilities (SJ&WD) Mr. Abinash Rai and he was accompanied by Joint Commissioner for persons with disabilities Dr. M.B.Chettri, CMO(North) Dr. Tempo TKaleon, DMS(North) Dr. Rinzing Doma Bhutia, UDID State Coordinator Shri Sameer Pradhan and Doctors, nurses and staffs from District hospital and PHCs of North District.

The Joint Secretary sensitized the participants about: The Rights of persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Take measures for pre- natal, perinatal, post- natal care of mother and child, the appropriate government and the local authorities shall take necessary measures for the persons with disabilities, all the government institutions of higher education and other higher education institutions receiving aid from the government shall reserve not less than five percent seats for persons with benchmark

disabilities, every appropriate government shall appoint in every government establishment, not less than four percent of the total number of vacancies in the cadre strength in each group of post meant to be filled with persons with benchmark disabilities. He also highlighted that the infrastructure development should be there for all persons with disabilities in all government buildings and public places such as hospitals and commercial establishment.

Dr M.B. Chettri presented an overview of the 21 types of disabilities and evaluation of procedure for certification of various disabilities such as:

1. Blindness
2. Low vision
3. Leprosy cured person
4. Hearing impairment(Deaf and Hard of hearing)
5. Loco-motor disability
6. Dwarfism
7. Intellectual disability
8. Mental illness
9. Autism spectrum disorders
10. Cerebral palsy
11. Muscular Dystrophy
12. Chronic Neurological conditions
13. Specific learning disabilities
14. Multiple Sclerosis
15. Speech and language disability
16. Thalassemia
17. Hemophilia
18. Sickle cell disease
19. Multiple disabilities
20. Acid attack victim
21. Parkinson's disease.

Cleanliness drive at Namchi

Namchi, October 07: To celebrate "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava" and as a part of Clean India programme, a cleanliness drive was conducted by the department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Namchi in coordination with Sports Association in the premises of Indoor Stadium, Namchi, today.

On the same day, cleanliness drive was also conducted by BAC, Namthang in

coordination with NYK, Namchi and Tek Youth Club, at Kirtipur, under Turung Mamring GPU with the aim of creating awareness among people about the single use plastic and ensuring their involvement in Clean India Campaign. The programme aims at creating awareness among people ensuring their involvement in Clean India Campaign.

Secretary H.K. Sharma visits DIC South/West

Namchi, October 06: Secretary Commerce and Industries, Mr. H.K. Sharma paid a surprise visit to District Industries Centre (DIC) South/West Jorethang office, today. He took stock of the programmes and schemes of the department such as Skilled Youth Start-up Scheme (SYSS), PMPEGP, PMFME, North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIP) among others.

Mr. H.K. Sharma stressed upon the need to accelerate the implementation of Government schemes after identifying the

bottlenecks through monitoring, thereby taking due action by the staff and officers of DIC. He also addressed the importance of integrity and punctuality at the workplace in order to enhance promptness in carrying out public related schemes, effectively.

During the course of his inspection, he gave a patient hearing to the grievances and issues faced by the employees and staff of DIC. Additionally, he also inspected the Office premises and advocated the staff to maintain cleanliness of the surroundings.

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No.928/SJ&WD/WD

Dated:08/10/2021

NOTICE

Online applications are invited from students fulfilling the requisite criterion under the Post-Matric scholarship schemes for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Economically Backward Classes (State OBC), Other Backward Classes (Central OBC) and Pre-Matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes (Central OBC) and Pre Matric scholarship to children of those engaged in occupation involving cleaning and prone to health hazards for the Academic Year 2021-22, at www.socialwelfare-scholarships.sikkim.gov.in. The online portal opens from 08.10.2021 and the last date of submission of the online application for the aforementioned scholarships is 30.11.2021. The extension in the last date of submission of application, if any, will be mentioned in the scholarship portal. For further queries/clarification the applicants may contact the following numbers during working hours.

1. For East district: (i) 9641099729 (ii)7602988625
2. For West district: 8768459822
3. For South district: 7679756920
4. For North district: 9609876305

**Director
Social Justice and Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
R.O. No.235/IPR/Pub/Classi/21-22, Dt:11/10/2021**

*Contd. from page 2***Mental Health...**

District Legal Services Authority, (South) informed the public about the Legal Rights under the Mental Health Care Act, 2017, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Sikkim Anti Drugs Act (SADA) Act, 2016 and NALSA (Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and the Eradication of Drug Menace) 2015 and NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection) Scheme, 2015. Further, the public were also told that if they have any further queries or problems they are free to contact the District Legal Services Authority or the Taluk Legal Services Committee, South District and they were also informed about the help line (Toll Free) number 18003453362 of DLSA/TLSC.

Ms. Jwala D. Thapa, Ex-Officio Chairperson, Taluk Legal Services Committee, South Sikkim at Namchi, informed the public in brief about the NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Person) Scheme, 2015. The gathering was also informed about the intervention scheme under National Legal Services

Authority. She also spoke of how the DLSA and the District Hospital works together in providing medical facilities and mental health services to inmates in the Jail and Juvenile Observation Homes and in villages through Health Camps. They were also apprised about the Free Legal Aid Services provided by the SSLSA, DLSA and TLSC.

Ld. Panel Advocate Mr. Anjan Sharma explained to the people about the Amendment of Mental Health Act, Lok Adalat, Mediation and free legal services u/s 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. He also spoke in brief about the misuse of the social media which impact the mental health.

Dr. Ugen Sherpa, District Nodal Officer-cum-District Surveillance, spoke about the Ayushman Bharat Scheme which is a National Health Policy Scheme started by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India which has also made Mental Health a major focus. Under this programme, health workers including doctors, nurses and counsellors have been trained in mental health issues. They have also been given a smart phone with a dedicated SIM to facilitate the aid

of mental health patients at the level of community health sub-centres. He also informed that as of now, 100% targets for appointment of trained personnel has been achieved in Sikkim and the focus has been solely on infrastructure development to fully implement the spirit of the Scheme by 2025.

Dr. Bishnu Sharma, Senior Psychiatrist, spoke about this year's theme i.e. "Mental Health in an unequal world" which was inspired by the COVID-19 Pandemic and its effect on not only the physical health of the general populace but also the mental health. He pointed out that the uncertainties and the economic crises brought about by the Pandemic resulted in an increase in mental health cases, especially depression, anxiety and feelings of resignation from life. He also spoke of the effects on mental health of school going children due to the shut downs of schools and the mental pressure on parents, especially mothers and the general effect on family life. He also spoke of how the Indian Psychiatric Association is looking into the post COVID period which could be a period of a mental health pandemic.

Sikkim. The programme was successful in spreading awareness to common citizens about various Legal Aid programmes, services, schemes and information about the Legal rights under the Mental Health Care Act, 2017 and NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Mentally Disabled Persons) Scheme 2015 and that Mental Illness is curable. Thereafter, stalls including Legal Aid Clinic and Health Camp were set up at Jorethang Haat Bazar.

The programme was held in the presence of the Ex-Officio Chairperson, Taluk Legal Services Committee, Jorethang Sub-Division, South Sikkim, Resource Persons, Ld. Panel Advocates, Mr. Vivek C. Rai and Ms. Prasuna Sharma, MO (i/c) Dr. Kanu Priya Rai, Dr. Sajna Poudyal, MO (Resource Person), and attendees SI Samir Subba, ASI B. B. Lohar from the Police Department, IRBN Ms. Sumitra Tamang, Para Legal Volunteer, staff members of DLSA, Namchi, South Sikkim and Staff members of the Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Jorethang Sub-Division, South Sikkim and Local people of Jorethang, South

Sikkim.

The Legal Aid Clinic was manned by Para Legal Volunteer, Ms. Sumitra Tamang who distributed pamphlets to the people relating to topics on general Legal Awareness and information regarding emergence contact numbers for women in distress and mechanism of Alternate Dispute Redressal Resolution. The Health Camp was manned by MO (I/C) Dr. Kanu Priya Rai and Ms. Hari Maya Tamang (FWA) who informed the public of the importance of regular medical check-ups, checked their blood pressures, prescribed medicines and gave them appropriate medical advice.

There were around 43 people who visited the Legal Aid Clinic and 32 people who visited the Health Camp. They interacted with the representatives of the Departments present, to address their problems and to procure appropriate advice and guidance and thus benefited from today's program

*Contd. from page 2***Awareness cum...**

Community Recreation Centre at Dorop/Salghari. He also expressed gratitude to the concerned department for accomplishing construction of needy and useful infrastructures under respective heads.

He rhetorically articulated vision of the state government under the able leadership of the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang and his consistent support towards the farming community through conceptualizing and implementing exemplary programmes with a prime objective to make them self reliant.

He recalled adoption of some of the rural area as Agriculture Model Village (Mamley Kamrang Model Village) and urged farmers to enhance production so as to obtain sustainable income for livelihood.

He also expressed gratitude to the people of Poklok Kamrang constituency for their contributions and support in the formation of new government.

He threw light on newly announced "Aama Yojana" dedicated to the non working mother of the state.

He expressed his gratefulness to the banking sector for their consistent support to the farmers under Development Through Credit.

He then directed officials and field functionaries to work with renewed vigour and utmost sincerity for the benefit of farmers.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Horticulture Department, Mrs. Yashoda Bhandari underlined departmental activities being taken up in all districts. Department has been working to promote particular type of vegetable cultivation and fruits

as per favourable climatic conditions She also spoke on financial incentives under Mukhya Mantri Krishi Atmanirbhar Yojana.

Secretary Animal Husbandry, Dr Sangey D Bhutia also highlighted departmental programmes and schemes and encouraged the unemployed youths to come forward and proudly work in livestock Farming.

Dr. Tilak Gazmer, Director Agriculture also briefed at ongoing programmes and activities of the department. He spoke about various schemes provided by the government for the welfare and development of the farmers.

Lead Bank Manager, SBI, Mr. Gopal Lama informed about the role of banking sector in development of a society or a nation. He added that the farming centric scheme of Credit Through Development has become a notable medium to generate income for the farmers and that the bank has released around ten crore rupees under the scheme, till date.

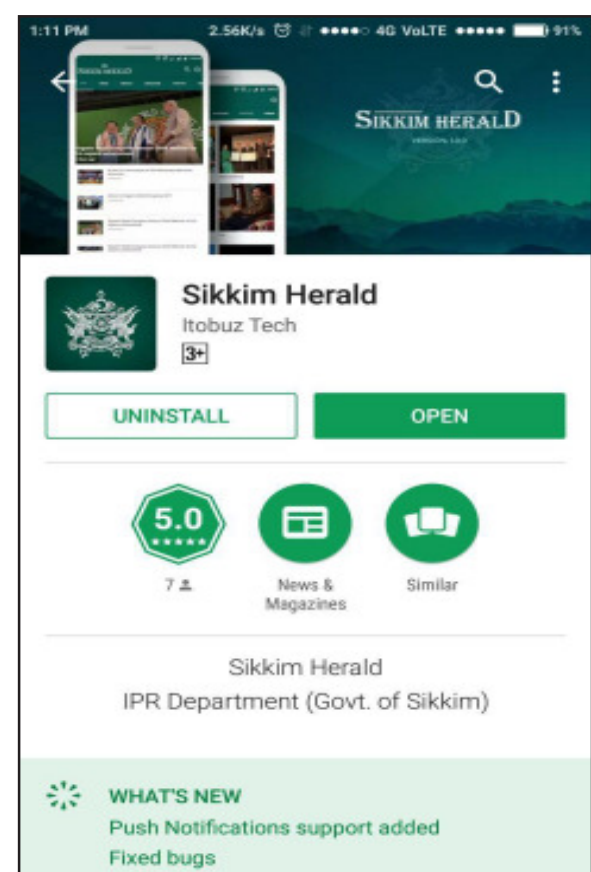
The programme also saw felicitation of departmental official for their outstanding performance and lasting contributions.

The farmers of the constituency received various agricultural tools/equipments and token including Power Tiller, On Farm Collection Unit, Chaff Cutter, Spices Grinder, Power Sprayer, Green House Iron structure, Green House UV film, Genap Tank, Carnation flower, mulching plastic, micro irrigation, pulverizer, grinder, machine, sheep farming etc.

Mr. Sharma also handedover cheques of around 40 lakh to the farmers under Development Through Credit.

The farmers of the constituency also received the credit loan mainly for KCC, poultry farming, piggery, and dairy.

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a wareness regarding the important provisions of Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987 and various Government welfare schemes/programmes and for providing Legal Assistance to the marginalized people.

The programme in CHC, Jorethang South Sikkim was held in the presence of the Ex-Officio Chairperson, Taluk Legal Services Committee, Jorethang Sub-Division, South Sikkim, Resource Persons, Ld. Panel Advocates, Mr. Vivek C. Rai and Ms. Prasuna Sharma, MO (i/c) Dr. Kanu Priya Rai, Dr. Sajna Poudyal, MO (Resource Person), and attendees SI Samir Subba, ASI B. B. Lohar from the Police Department, IRBN Ms. Sumitra Tamang, Para Legal Volunteer, staff members of DLSA, Namchi, South Sikkim and Staff members of the Court of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Jorethang Sub-Division, South Sikkim and Local people of Jorethang, South

SBB organises Awareness Programme on Biological Diversity Act 2002

Gangtok, October 8: Sikkim Biodiversity Board organized an awareness programme on Biological Diversity Act 2002 in various Gram Panchayat Units in the State. The GPU level programme was held in Lingdok Namphong on September 22, Tarpin on September 24, East Pendam on September 28, Namcheybong on September 30 and Bering-Tareything on October 02. The programme was mainly organised for raising awareness on the importance of biodiversity and the associated Act amongst the general public.

The programme was attended by the Panchayats, officials from RDD, Horticulture Department, Forest Department, Biodiversity Management

Committees (BMCs), JFMC members, and the general public including the senior citizens. The SBB officials were accompanied by PBR Coordinator Mr. Thalaram Sapkota and Shri Dharmendra Lamsal.

DFO (SBB) Mrs. Bhumika Rai spoke origin of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. She focussed on the process of BMC constitution, funding provisions, their roles and responsibilities and their powers and functions. She also highlighted the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), documentation of which is the primary function of the BMCs.

Scientific/Technical Associate (SBB) Dr Bharat Kumar Pradhan specifically stressed the biodiversity and its conservation

issues in Sikkim, highlighting the fast disappearing biodiversity associated with traditional knowledge.

The SBB officials informed the general public about the various initiatives of the SBB, such as organizing exposure trips for the best performing BMCs, the nomination of traditional animal breed savers from Lachen for the India Biodiversity Award, facilitating the BMCs in setting up the Seed Banks for traditional crop varieties and local land races and the future course of action.

They further requested the participants to put up a proposal to SBB for declaration of BHS of such sites in their respective GPU's, which are of biodiversity, cultural and historical significance.

Sikkim ENVIS Hub observes Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Gangtok, October 10: Celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of Independence, Sikkim ENVIS Hub at Forest and Environment Department observed an iconic week from October 4 to 10 in coordination with School Eco-clubs focusing on awareness to curb single use plastics. The weeklong event was launched at Forest Secretariat premise on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti with signature campaign on green pledges followed by clean up drive.

A special online session for capacity building of 100 green teachers and eco-club in-charges was organized on October 5 in collaboration with Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. The webinar intended to provide the green teachers with completely updated information on all aspects of plastics as an environmental bug-bear, with a special focus on single-use plastics. It also facilitated an

understanding of the scale of the problem of plastic wastes, especially single-use plastics and helped teachers take these learnings to their classrooms.

Teachers were provided with presentations and tool kits. An interactive online quiz amongst school eco-clubs was also held in which Namcheybong SS, Kaluk SSS and Pelling SSS secured first, second and third position respectively.

The Green teachers then conducted awareness drives for students and staff on the ill effects of single use plastics and undertook various activities on its alternative measures. The school eco-clubs further extended the campaign at homes and neighborhood through propagation of Green Good Deeds focusing on waste management, water conservation, wildlife conservation and practice of 3 'R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The eco-clubs across the state conducted clean up drives and

pick up drives of plastic litters. Lectures, poster making, essay writing, drawings and painting competitive events were organized by several school eco-clubs.

An online green pledge campaign was conducted weeklong in which over 50,000 responses from students and teachers from the state were recorded. Several schools also administered green pledges in physical presence of students and staff. The iconic week celebration culminated on Sunday with clean up drives by Eco-Club volunteers at school's neighborhood.

The iconic week (Oct 4-10) was celebrated on direction of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). MoEFCC's ENVIS Hub at Sikkim Forest and Environment Department has been coordinating the 75 weeks celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav w.e.f 12 March 2021 to 15 August 2022.

District Legal Services Authority East organises Cyclothon

Gangtok, October 10: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) East Sikkim organized a Cyclothon from Bojoghari Zero Point to District Court Complex, Sichey, today. It was followed by a Walkathon on mental health awareness at M.G.Marg, Gangtok in observance of the World Mental Health Day-2021 and also as a part of the ongoing Pan India Awareness and Outreach campaign of NALSA and Sikkim SLSA.

The cyclothon was flagged off by special guest Dr. (Mrs.) Yudok Bhutia and was held in collaboration with the Bar Association of Sikkim (High Court

and Subordinate Courts) and is a part of the various activities of DLSA, East in observance of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

The participants of cyclothon also included President (BAS) Jorgay Namka and law students from Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk. It also follows a series of activities of the DLSA(E), such as door-to-door campaign on legal rights, online webinars, legal awareness camps etc.

In the cyclothon, the winner was Law Student Mr. Dipendra Chettri (4th year) while, the runners up were Advocate Abhinav Kant Jha and Dipesh Sharma. The prizes

were distributed by Chairman, DLSA Prajwal Khatiwada and Secretary, DLSA Ms. Zamyang Choden Bhutia. The DLSA would also be organizing similar activities and awareness programmes in the coming days.

Earlier, a table tennis tournament was also conducted by DLSA(E) on 06.10.2021 as a part of the above campaign at ADR hall, Sichey Court. The winner in the table tennis tournament was Special Public Prosecutor (Vigilance) Mr. William Tamang and the runner up was Advocate Mr. Tsewang Namgyal.

14 FC ₹2,00,000/-) and Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) having Twin Pit which was funded by SBM to the tune of ₹1,80,000/-. This CSC is constructed in view of heavy tourist visit owing to

tourist spots in and around. The operation and maintenance is being looked after by the Mini Haat Shed Stakeholders. Both the assets are fully functional from today itself.

Awareness cum Token Distribution programme for Syari farmers

Gangtok, October 8: An Awareness cum Token Distribution Programme for the farmers of Syari Constituency, East District was held at Pabyuik Community Centre under Bhusuk Naitam Gram Panchayat Unit, today.

The Minister for Education Department cum Area MLA, Syari constituency, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while the Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Departments Mr. Lok Nath Sharma was present as the Guest of Honour.

Above 100 farmers of the Syari Constituency received various farming machinery equipment and tools including, power tiller, chaff cutter, power weeder, brush cutter, spices grinder, garden hand tools, farm machinery, under Agriculture Department. Similarly, the farmers were handed over tokens of Tubular Structure Green House and Functional Pack House under the Horticulture Department. Tokens of the silage bag, chaff cutter, sheep farming, goat farming and construction of Raceway Fisheries Tank to the beneficiaries under the Animal Husbandry Department were also handed out and, a token of a Custom Hiring Centre of ₹10 lakh was also presented to the farmers of the constituency.

Kunga Nima expressed gratitude to the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Departments for making a commendable effort to benefit the farmers of Syari Constituency. He stated that the programme is dedicated to making people aware of the opportunities availed by the State Government and added that they need to utilise availed benefits with utmost care for a sustainable source of livelihood.

He informed that the State Government has started the construction of a playground in every village and also apprised on the notable construction work of one hundred school buildings, which will be completed in one phase in near future.

He also threw light on developmental works like new road connectivity, house upgradation and upcoming infrastructural development in the constituency.

Mr. Sharma said that the State Government has come forward with farming friendly

policies and facilities with a prime motive to make them self reliant and economically sound.

He urged the beneficiaries for optimum utilisation of the equipments and tokens. He also articulated several exemplary sources of livelihood by the farmers within two years of duration through the same kind of token and equipment provided by the department.

He underlined Mukhya Mantri Krishi Atmanirbhar Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Samridhi Yojana, Macha Utpadan Yojana and highlighted the financial benefits and purpose of initiating such visionary schemes.

He informed that the department has received a newly allocated fund of dairy incentives recently, thus, the financial incentives of Rs 8/per litre of milk will be deposited in the bank account of farmers, at the earliest.

The Minister also announced to provide a Community Water Tank of 30 thousand litres at Naitam and directed the concerned officials to constitute Water User Committee.

Secretary Agriculture Mr. Rinzing C. Bhutia, informed that the department has conducted a field survey in recent days and underlined the future scope and potential of farming in the constituency. He also advised the Farmer Producers Organization of the locality to be more proactive at the community level.

He highlighted the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN) in the state and also urged left out farmers to get enrolled to the benefit of ₹6000/- per annum.

Approximately ten thousand farmers have been benefited under the scheme in the state within two years, he added.

Secretary, AH&VS, Dr Sangey D Bhutia highlighted the criteria of Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Samridhi Yojana and mentioned that the scheme would encourage piggery farming particularly breeding. He also shared about the status of fund allocation by the State Government under various schemes.

Principal Director, Horticulture Mr. Sadan Tamang elaborated on the detailed provision of Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan State, Restructured National Bamboo Mission and various other schemes implemented to benefit the farmers.

Contd. from page 2

Mini Haat...

under MGNREGA in convergence with 14 FC to the tune of (MGNREGA ₹3,21,000/-,

Log on to www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in

Government of Sikkim Health and Family Welfare Department Gangtok

Memo No:92/MECH/H&FW/21-22

Dated:28/09/2021

RE-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, invites Online e-Tenders (Technical & Financial Bid) from the registered firms for "HIRING OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR MAINTENANCE OF BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT STNM HOSPITAL, SOCHAKGANG, GANGTOK".

The tender details can be viewed and downloaded from the website <https://www.sikkimtender.gov.in> for which, the bidders should have the necessary portal enrolment with his/her own Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Additional Chief Engineer (Mech.)
Health & Family Welfare Deptt.

R.O. No.226/IPR/Pub/Classi/21-22(i), Dt:29/09/2021

CHO Induction Training for Mid Level Health Providers from East and South districts conclude

Gangtok, October 06: The fifteen days residential CHO Induction Training for the Mid Level Health Providers from the East and South districts of Health and Family Welfare Department concluded at SICUN Assam Linzey, today.

The closing day function was chaired by PDHS-cum-MD NHM Dr T. Yamphel Bhutia as chief guest along with DHS-cum-SLO Dr T. Doma, DHS-cum-SNONHMDr Raj Prabha Moktan and senior doctors and officials from Quality Assurance, Food and Drugs, NPCDCS, Human Resource, IT, IEC and Programme Management unit of the department.

As part of Ayushman Bharat, Community Health Officers are a new cadre of non-physician health workers. They are appointed with a vision to improve access to

healthcare in the rural and remote areas for the marginalized and vulnerable families, reduce out of pocket expenditure, increase utilization of public health services at the primary care level and reduce work load at the secondary and tertiary care facilities. CHOs will play a critical role in provision of expanded range of essential package of services as part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. They are expected to lead the primary care team at the Sub Centre – Health and Wellness Centre, provide clinical management and ambulatory care to the community and serve as an important coordination link to ensure the continuum of care. The CHOs in Sikkim are all from the nursing background with most of them with BSc Nursing degree. They had to

undergo six months training and pass in the Certificate Course in Community Health before being posted as Mid Level Health Providers. All the sub-centres in Sikkim are provided with an MLHP

CHO Induction training was scheduled from September 22 to October 06 and was inaugurated by DG-cum-Secretary Dr. Pempa Bhutia and PDHS-cum-MD NHM Dr. T Yamphel. There were trained and certified resource persons for the Induction Training from the department. Seven service packages out of the twelve under Comprehensive Primary Health Care were covered during this fifteen days training along with the roles and responsibilities of CHO. Certificates were distributed to MLHPs for completing the Induction training.

3rd District Level Advisory Committee meeting held

Gangtok, October 04: The 3rd District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) meeting under the Health and Family Welfare Department was held at the Chamber of the District Collector East, District Administrative Centre, Sichey, today.

The meeting was chaired by District Collector East and also the Chairman of District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC), Mr. Ragul K. under the banner of Eat Right campaign. The officials discussed the progress of action taken till now, and put forward their agendas to work for further improvements.

In the meeting a brief report on the progress of Eat Right Challenge Campaign was shared by Food Safety Officer, Ms Pratima Ghimirey. Activities like Registration and licensing, Inspection using phosphorous, Surveillance Sample Collection, Special Camps, Digital Media Outreach, Providing Eat Right in public places, Food Safety

Training and Certification, (FoSTaC), Eat Right Campus, Eat Right Schools, Repurposed Oils for cooking initiatives which is being started recently etc. was discussed by the representatives of all the concerned departments.

She also informed that the Committee recently started the hygiene ratings for, which they require a third-party auditor from the Central Government Agency and till now they had conducted fifty audits of food business operator in GMC area and Gangtok comprising of twenty-five meat shops and twenty-five sweets shops.

DC East took stock of various programmes implemented by the DLAC and suggested areas for improvement for food safety. During the briefing session, He stressed on the need to raise awareness regularly about these initiatives of the Government of India and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to make individuals, food

producers and marketers aware about the basic thing that eating and serving healthy foods. He highlighted that the awareness campaign should reach out through social media platforms and asked officials to create a pool of information under 'Eat Right Campaign' in the form of an online site where every information and guidelines can be laid out.

He further asked the officials to prepare an action plan to cover all the GMC areas in cooperation with the other departments in the coming few months to achieve the target.

The meeting was attended by Additional Director cum Nodal Officer for Food Safety Standard Cell, Dr. Yudok Bhutia, officials from Agriculture Department, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Education Department, and Eat Right Campaign Cell.

challenge of connectivity has been addressed to a good extent, and efforts are being made to transfer all the developmental schemes and technological support to the region. He further said that schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana are being successfully implemented in the region. The Minister added that the Government of India is further encouraging the States to facilitate the formation of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) in each Block.

Likewise, the Government of India has been providing financial support to the States in areas like processing, packaging,

marketing and value addition of agricultural produce.

He also spoke about the focus being laid by the Government of India on the North East Region for the cultivation of Oil Palm. He said that this is being taken up on Mission mode because of the suitability of North Eastern States for Oil Palm Cultivation, to meet the high demand of oil in the country. He added that the Mission will also be implemented in Sikkim, along with all the other North Eastern States. He said that this will be a huge step towards self-sustainability and realizing the vision of doubling the income of farmers by 2022.

highlighted on various schemes under Rural Development Department and explained about People's Plan Campaign (PPC), which is an effective strategy for ensuring the preparation of plans in campaign mode.

During the campaign, structured Gram Sabha/Ward Sabha/Block Sabha/District Sabha meetings will be held for preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan, Block Panchayat

Development Plan and District Panchayat Development Plan. He further reiterated the recent announcement made by the Chief Minister, wherein the cleanest Gram Panchayat will receive a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, along with for second and third cleanest Gram Panchayat, ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh, respectively, and added that there are 185 Gram Panchayat in Sikkim, which can vie for the cleanest award.

SJ&WD launches online scholarship portal

Gangtok, October 80: Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department (SJ&WD), Mr. Tshewang Gyachho launched an online scholarship portal for the students at his office in Lumsey, today.

The Secretary informed that the online portal can be visited by the students through socialwelfarescholarships.sikkim.gov.in. A tutorial video will play automatically when a person enters the website. It is meant for post-matric and pre-matric students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Economically Backward Classes and Central OBC. The students belonging to parents with cleaning and prone to health hazards are eligible for the pre-matric scholarships, he added.

He further informed that the

students who fall under the Minority Affair Scholarship scheme have to visit the separate portal i.e. scholarships.gov.in. The eligibility of students is also done through family income, which must not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakh, annually. The last date for admission is November 30, 2021.

Secretary requested the eligible students to take full advantage of the scheme provided by the Government of Sikkim. He further asked the students to utilise this opportunity and avoid errors when inserting details as the new portal is dynamic and user-friendly.

The Secretary was accompanied by Director, SJ & WD, Mrs. Karma Sonam Bhutia, Additional Director Shri Suman Gurung and AD, IT Cell, SJ & WD, Mr. Vaishnav Gajmer and concerned officials.

Skill Development Department organises State Apprenticeship Mela

Gangtok, October 04: State Apprenticeship Mela was organised by the Skill Development Department at Government ITI, Rangpo, today. SDM, Rangpo, Mr. Milan Rai attended the programme as the chief guest.

The programme was also attended by Ward Councillors, State Apprenticeship Advisor, Principal, ITI, Rangpo, Principal, ITI, Namchi, HR Managers of local industries, Government Officials, ITI staff, faculty, trainees and

others.

It is to be noted that the Apprenticeship Act, 1961 is extended and enforced in Sikkim on 27/2/2009. The ITI graduates, diploma/degree holders can undergo the apprenticeship training in these local industries, where they can be absorbed with stipend for a period of one year and, subsequently employed after training and passing the apprenticeship, or the apprentices can move out for better job.

Minister L.N. Sharma attends National Mission Summit

Guwahati, October 05: Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, Mr. L.N. Sharma attended a day long National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm Business Summit for North Eastern States organised by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India at Guwahati, today.

The programme had the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar, along with Minister of DoNER Mr. G.Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Mr. Kailash Choudhary,

Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Miss Shobha Karandlaje, Director, Agriculture Department, Sikkim Mr. Tilak Gazmer and Additional Director Mr. Rajendra Thapa.

During the Summit, the Union Minister along with Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma and other Ministers participated in watering edible oils plants and presented certificates to the FPOs of Assam. The Minister expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for choosing the North-East region for the Summit.

Contd. from front page

81st Nar...

the State Government will be implementing. He announced that each year any student who secures admission for Ph.D. or Doctorate in one of the top 20 universities anywhere around the world, the Government will be providing them financial aid up to ₹ 50 lakhs under the Nar Bahadur Bhandari Fellowship Programme. Adding on this, he said that after the successful completion of their studies, the student will be given an opportunity of three years of voluntary service under the Government of Sikkim. He also informed that all the works and writings of Late Bhandari will be documented and published by the Government.

Henceforth every year

August 20, will be a public holiday in the honour of all those fighters who fought for the recognition of Nepali Language in the Constitution.

MLA-cum-Patron of the organizing committee, Mr. Aditya Golay briefly spoke on the importance of the day while highlighting the contributions made by Late Mr. Bhandari. He conveyed his gratitude to the State Government for the decision to upgrade Soreng as a District. At the onset of the programme, the chief guest and all the invitees were felicitated.

While continuing the felicitation ceremony, the Department of Labour honoured those COVID-19 warriors, who sincerely performed their assigned responsibilities, especially during the pandemic, with a cash prize of ₹5000/- each.

Contd. from front page

District level...

distributed to the beneficiaries of East district.

Earlier, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Mr. Kailash Choudhary addressed a press conference at Adampool.

Addressing the media, Minister Mr. Choudhary said that the Government of India has laid great emphasis on the overall development of the North Eastern region of India. He said that the Government led by Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi, has ensured that the biggest

Contd. from front page

CM inaugurates...

GPU, 44 Zoom GPU and 36 Mabong Segeng GPU. He stated that the proposal for establishing of BAC at Baiguney was approached in the year 2019 during a Self Help Group convention for South and West District but due to the pandemic, setting up of Baiguney BAC took longer than usual. Moreover, he also

Photo News



Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang paying a tribute to the former Chief Minister Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari on his 81st birth anniversary at his birth place in Malbaisey, West Sikkim on October 05.

SJ&WD organises Orientation programme on Disabilities

Gangtok, October 07: The Social Justice and Welfare Department organised an "Orientation Programme on 21 types of Disabilities, Evaluation and Procedure for Certification of Various Disabilities" at District Hospital Singtam, today.

Joint Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare Division, Mr. Abinash Rai, Joint Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Technical), Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Dr M.B. Chettri, Unique Disability Identity (UDID) State Coordinator Mr. Sameer Pradhan, were the representatives for the programme from the Social Justice and Welfare Department.

The participants for the programme included the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), District Medical Superintendent (DMS), ENT Specialist, Sr. ENT Specialist, Medical Specialist (Ortho), Physiotherapist, Pediatrician, Gynecologist, Medical Officers from PHCs, Dental Surgeons, Dental Consultant and Assistant Nursing Superintendents.

Joint Secretary in his address briefed about "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) ACT", 2016 and spoke about the inclusion of 21 types of disabilities in the ACT and also highlighted the penalties one has to face if a person with disability is denied basic rights as mentioned in the RPwD ACT 2016. He stated that a person with Benchmark Disabilities is the one who has forty per cent of the specified disability as certified by the certifying authority and also highlighted that no person having a disability less than forty per cent should be denied a disability certificate by the Medical Authority. He emphasized on the importance of being empathetic towards people with disabilities by the people and priority should be given by the hospitals regarding treatment of Persons with Disabilities and senior citizens.

Similarly, Social Justice and Welfare Department also organised an orientation programme at Namchi District Hospital on October 6.

Likewise, on October 04 a one day orientation programme for the same was held at the Conference Hall of District Hospital Gyalshing by Social Welfare Division, Social Justice and Welfare Department.

The Resource Persons for the programme were Joint Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare Division, Mr. Abinash Rai, Joint Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Technical), Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Dr. M.B. Chettri and Unique Disability Identity (UDID), State Coordinator, Mr. Sameer Pradhan.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Abinash Rai briefed on "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) ACT, 2016" and also highlighted the few challenges faced by the differently abled persons. He informed on the development of infrastructure for the Persons with Disabilities in the government offices, buildings and public places.

Dr. M.B. Chettri in his address list out all the 21 types of disabilities that have been identified under the RPwD Act 2016 of India to make people familiar with the help of Powerpoint presentation. The 21 types of disabilities are, Blindness, Low-vision, Leprosy Cured persons, Hearing Impairment, Locomotor Disability, Dwarfism, Intellectual Disability, Mental Illness, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Chronic Neurological conditions, Specific Learning Disabilities, Multiple Sclerosis, Speech and Language disability, Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Sickle cell disease, Multiple Disabilities including deaf-blindness, Acid Attack victims and Parkinson's disease.

The RPwD ACT 2016, Guidelines for Assessment of disabilities and Pamphlets on 21 types of disabilities were handed out to all the participants followed by a feedback session from the participants.

E-Daakhil portal launched

Gangtok, October 07: Minister for Urban Development Department and Food and Civil Supplies Department, Mr. Arun Upreti launched the E-Daakhil portal at NIC, Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok, today.

It is to be noted that E-Daakhil portal is a Consumer Grievance Redressal portal, which has been developed under Consumer Protection Act 2019, which came into force in July 2020. It has a provision of e-filing of consumer complaints in the Consumer Commissions and online payment of fees for filing a complaint. This digital software for filing consumer complaints has many features like e-Notice, case document download link & VC hearing link, filing written response by opposite party, fling rejoinder by complainant and alerts via SMS/Email. The E-Daakhil portal empowers the consumer and their advocates to file the consumer complaints along with payment of requisite fees online from anywhere for the redressal of their complaints. It also facilitates the consumer commissions to scrutinize the complaints online to accept, reject or forward the complaint to the concerned commission for further processing.

The programme had the presence of Advisor IT Department, Mr. T. N. Lamtha, Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies Department, Mrs. Deepa Rani Thapa, DDG NIC New Delhi, Mr. D. C. Misra via Video Conference, Member State Commission, Mr. D. P. Sharma, officials of NIC HQ Delhi, NIC Gangtok and Food & Civil Supplies Department.

Addressing the function, Minister Mr. Arun Upreti said that India is matching its shoulders with the rest of the world when it comes to use of technology in

Governance. Many National Digital Missions are rolled out by the Prime Minister, out of which E-Daakhil is setting an exemplary footprint and is counted among one of the successful missions. He further said that E-Daakhil is one of a kind portal. Earlier, the complainant had to visit the District Commission and State Commission for filing of the complaint. They had to manually go to the bank to make a draft to be submitted as court fees and the paperwork was cumbersome. With the enactment of Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which has stated specific provisions for filing of complaint online, E-Daakhil portal will prove to be a boon to the aggrieved consumers. Now, the court will reach the houses of the complainant in India, where the complainants can avail the portal to pay their fees online through UPI, Internet Banking, Debit Card, etc. The benevolent nature of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 shall be appreciated by all in the coming future.

He further stated that it will also be the duty of the Department to organise outreach programs so that every consumer in Sikkim is aware about the E-Daakhil portal. With Online Case Monitoring System under CONFONET project already in place, E-Daakhil is an additional boon for the customers. Sikkim is the 23rd Commission amongst all the States and Union Territories to launch the E-Daakhil portal. It proves that we are not lagging behind in the implementation of projects and missions introduced by the Central Government and will try and be amongst the first ones in the future. He congratulated the Department, State Commission and District Commission for achieving this milestone and expressed hope that

they will in co-ordination with NIC make this mission a successful one.

DDG, NIC, New Delhi, Mr. D. C. Misra in his address mentioned that in Sikkim, NIC was established in 1991 with a signing of MoU by the State Heads and officials of NIC HQ. In the present day, all the districts of Sikkim have established NIC offices, and with diligent effort and work of NIC officers, facility of e-governance is successfully implemented in the State. The employees of NIC have been facilitating softwares according to the needs of the State Government. Standard softwares that have been developed by the Central Government have also been successfully implemented in Sikkim due to the vision and support of the State Government.

Sikkim is the 2nd State in the North East Region to launch the E-Daakhil portal. The main aspect of this portal is that even minute grievances of consumers, regardless of the amount, can be registered and processed within an efficient frame of time. He also congratulated and thanked the State Government for the successful launch of the portal and mentioned that the support and guidance of the State Government will be a huge encouragement for future implementation of various e-governance portals for ease and efficiency of the Government.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Deputy Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies Department, Ms. Tripti Hangma Subba. Presentation of E-Daakhil portal was delivered by Sr. Technical Director, NIC Sikkim, Dr. L. P. Sharma, and Vote of Thanks was proposed by State Informatics Officer, NIC Sikkim, Mr. Birendra Chettri.

MoS Kailash Choudhary interacts with Pakyong farmers

Gangtok, October 06: Minister of State Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Mr. Kailash Choudhary, interacted with farmers at ICAR Centres of Pakyong and Tadong, today.

A mobile app named Orchid-MAN and Orchid Pest Management developed by NRCO was also launched. During the programme, two progressive farmers, Mr. Phillip Raj Subba and Mr. Jiwan Subba were felicitated for their contribution to the farming sector.

Mr. Kailash Choudhary, in his speech, stressed upon the importance of coordination of Government and farmers to make them self-reliant. He pointed out that the budgets of farmers have been raised through various schemes under the vision of Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi. He also talked about the benefits of Farmers' Producer Organizations, which brings profits to farmers without a middle man and helping them become self-reliant which eventually leading to self-reliant India.

He also visited the ICAR facility in Tadong, where he inspected the Hatchery Unit, Dairy Unit and Pig Research Farm. He



also distributed farm animals to beneficiaries belonging to various schemes- PSP (Poultry Seed Project), TSP (Tribal Sub-Plan) and DBT (Department of Bio-Technology) Project NPOF (National Project Organic Farming).

Minister for Agriculture Department, Mr. L.N. Sharma, in his address, talked about various schemes introduced by the State Government to help raise the income of the farmers through agriculture, farming, fisheries and dairy. He said that these are steps

to make the farming and dairy sector in Sikkim self-reliant by 2022. To reach this feat, one need to have proper coordination between National Institutes and the Government of Sikkim, he added.

MP (Lok Sabha), Mr. Indra Hang Subba, extended a warm welcome to Minister of State Mr. Choudhary and expressed pleasure on being part of the programme and knowing more about the activities of NRCO in the State.