



MONTHLY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE 2

Minister Agriculture L. N.Sharma on a study tour to South India



Chennai, February 1: Minister, Agriculture Horticulture Department, Mr. L. N.Sharma called on the Minister, Milk and Dairy Development, Government of Tamil Nadu Mr. Thiru K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji at his residence in Chennai on February 1, 2020. He was on a study tour to South India and was accompanied by the CEO Sikkim Organic Mission Dr. S. Anbalagan.

During the meeting, both the Ministers shared existing scenario of dairy farming in their state and contemplated to explore in the field of Animal Husbandry through mutual support and

cooperation. It was reported that Shrimp Balaji assured to provide High Yielding Variety of cow which would be suitable in the climate of Sikkim. On the second day of his tour, the Minister visited farms of Fisheries, Dairy Farm and Industrial plants in Kerala. The visit co-incides with the view to improve fish production in Sikkim they perceive the practices and the technical aspects of artificial breeding, hatching and rearing, water saving practices, feeding and other components which can be adopted for further strengthening of Fisheries farming in the State.



Sonam Lochhar Celebrated

Namchi, February 2: The Chief Minister Mr. P. S. Golay attended the state level Sonam Lhochar celebration at Kateng Public ground, Namthang on February 2, 2020.

At the onset of the programme the Chief Minister alongwith dignitaries inaugurated the newly constructed Block Administrative Centre at Namthang which is equipped with canteen, gym provision, offices for staff and many other amenities. He also unveiled Tamang Community Bhawan with an aim to promote the cultural heritage of Tamang community at Kateng which will be funded by Social Justice and Welfare Department and the executing department is Rural Development Department.

The Chief Minister in his address said that the inauguration of new Block Administrative centre

will assist the masses in completion of various office works at their door steps. He also underlined how the maiden Tamang Community Bhawan can aid in maintaining the cultural artifacts of the community and urged the locals to use this bhawan diligently. He also assured that demands placed by the area MLA will be looked into and informed that the proposal to make Namthang a sub-division would be put into the next budget session.

During the programme, the Chief Minister released a book titled 'The Tamang Community in Sikkim- a historical study. The book is written by Ms. Anjana Tamang.

While, releasing the book, the Chief Minister said that book of this kind should be translated in vernacular language as well and the students should be encouraged to read these books to acquire the knowledge of the local history.



Governor visits Raigoan



Gangtok, February 02: Governor, Mr. Ganga Prasad visited Raigaon under Namcheybong Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) on February 2, 2020. He visited a organic farm of Mr. Saroj Rai and also visited organic stalls put up by the local public and Self Help Group showcasing various organic agro-products including leafy vegetables, spices etc.

Pemkit Lepcha elected as Prime Minister of Village Level Child Parliament

Mangan, February 02: Ms. Pemkit Lepcha, a class XI student from Hee Gyathang GPU who had represented Sikkim in “National Inclusive Children Parliament” in New Delhi has been elected as Prime Minister of National Inclusive Children Parliament on February 3, 2020. She has also been given the additional charge as Minister of Industry, innovation and infrastructure, one of the Sustainable development goals.

The oath taking ceremony was conducted today in the presence of former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Mrs. Meira Kumar.





Governor hands over grant in aid to various organisations and SHGs



Gangtok, February 04: The organisations namely Namcheybong Gram Panchayat Unit, Ranikhola Farmers Co-operative Society, Sunakhari Self Help Group and progressive farmer Mr. Saroj Rai were handed over the grant in aid by the Governor on February 4, 2020.

The Governor stated that the grant in aid were token of encouragement towards good work done by them so far and they should make an effort to expand their scope and scale of activities in future for the benefit of larger community.

High level delegation from National Defence College visits North Sikkim



Mangan, February 4: A high level delegation from the National Defence College under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India visited North Sikkim to study about the Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Law and order, Empowerment of Women, Health, Agriculture, Education and Power Development. The visiting team consisted of IFS Officers, Brigadiers from Sri Lankan Army, UK Navy and the Oman Navy. The team visited District Magistrate's Office, Teesta Urja power station, Ringdang, Singhik and Mangan Senior Secondary School.



President, Vice President and HH wish Chief Minister P.S.Golay on his birthday

February 5 : The President of India Mr. Ram Nath Kovind conveyed his best wishes and regards to the Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang on his birthday on February 5, 2020.

The President wished him for good health, happiness and many more years of continued and dedicated service to the nation.

Along with the President, the Vice-President of India Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has also extended their warm wishes to the Chief Minister on his birthday.

His Holiness wished him for good health, happiness and many more years of continued and dedicated service to the state and nation.





Chief Minister visits Rolu Mandir and Sribadam



Gyalshing, Febrauy 05: The Chief Minister of Sikkim, Mr. P. S. Tamang visited the Rolu Mandir in South Sikkim on February 5, 2020. He offered prayers and interacted with the local people. Later the Chief Minister Visited the Phuntshong Ngaybling Choling Monastery located at Lower Sribadam, West Sikkim, where he met the Rinpoche and assured to render all possible support for all possible support for the progress and development of the monastery.

Emergency meeting on state preparedness on Coronavirus

Gangtok, February 05: Director General-cum-Principal Director, Health, Dr. P.T. Bhutia, called on an emergency meeting with the press and media fraternity on February 5, 2020 at the Conference Room of Health and Family Welfare Department in Gangtok to provide a quick update on the State's preparedness on any possible Coronavirus outbreak.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Bhutia stated that the screening process is being undertaken at border check-posts on a daily basis as a preventive measure since 29th January, 2020.

Dr. Bhutia added that the Health Department has been making robust efforts to spread awareness on Coronavirus through media platforms like Doordarshan and Radio FM channels, pamphlets, posters and standees exhibiting preventive measures in both English and Nepali and through regular updates on its Facebook page – Health of Sikkim and also touched the subject on health infrastructure development in the State.





IPR Minister visits ITI at Gyalshing

Gyalshing, February 06: The 30 days long Beautician Training Programme under Civic Action Programme in North East region was concluded at the premises of Industrial Training Institute, ITI, Gyalshing organised by 36th Bn. SSB, Gyalshing.

The Minister for Information and Public Relations Department, Mr. L.N. Sharma graced the occasion on the concluding day of a month long Beautician Training Programme as the chief guest.

The Minister in his address urged the participants to grab each and every opportunity available and encouraged them to gather experience. He thanked the Officials of SSB and all indulged in the programme for providing the unique prospective of training for the people of the area.



Workshop on Women Skill development - pottery making

Gangtok, February 06: The North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Culture Department, Government of Sikkim organized and inaugurated a 5 day long workshop on Women Skill development on pottery making at Namcheong,

East Sikkim on February 06, 2020.

The workshop was set up at Studio Maato, in Namcheong. There were 30 individuals from local SHGs participating in the workshop which aims at empowering rural unemployed women of the area for generating a livelihood for themselves.



15 member delegation of National Defence College call on Governor

Gangtok, February 06: 15 members delegation of National Defence College, New Delhi including 3 foreign officers from Sri Lanka, Oman and United Kingdom to called on Governor, Mr. Ganga Prasad on February 6, 2020 at Raj Bhawan. The delegates were in Sikkim for Socio- Political study tour from February 2, 2020.

During the interaction with delegates, the Governor mentioned that the army has great role to play and appreciated their efforts in Sikkim while evacuating tourists in Nathula during heavy snow fall and road cut off. The Governor said that Sikkim being small state hold lots of potential. The delegates appreciated and expressed their gratitude towards people of Sikkim for civil administration efforts to run state functioning in smooth manner.



Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha chairs coordination meeting

Gangtok, February 06: A co-ordination meeting of Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim was convened on February 6, 2020 at Paljor Stadium under the chairmanship of Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha.

The Minister congratulated all concerned participants for successfully conducting Inter Constituency Football Tournament, Annual School Sports Competitions and Winter Coaching Camp and further commended the active participation of more than 200 players at the 65th School National Games 2019-20 and 23rd National Youth Festival in Lucknow.





Governor meets representatives of Sikkim Harvest

Gangtok, February 06: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad met the representative of Sikkim Harvest, a Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society and Pragati Self Help Group (SHG) from Denchung, South Sikkim at Raj Bhawan on February 06, 2020.

In a brief interaction with the Governor, the representative apprised him about the various

institutions and products being produced and marketed by SHGs and brand Sikkim Harvest. The Governor expressed his happiness over the entrepreneurial skills being displayed by the members of SHGs in the form of various marketable products and urged the members to upscale the production.

Governor attends Senior Citizen's Day at Mellidara Paiyong GPU



Namchi, February 06: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad attended the 9th Senior Citizen's Day at Mahatma Gandhi Park, Village Administrative Centre at Mellidara Paiyong GPU on February 7, 2020.

Addressing the gathering, Governor extended his warm wishes on the occasion of Senior Citizen's Day. He commended the Gram Panchayat Unit of Mellidara Paiyong in successfully organizing this day and urged other GPU's to also emulate the same. Citing the example of a 99 year old elder person, who was present during the celebration, the Governor advocated to take

inspiration from him through his valuable life experiences and inculcate these experiences in our day to day life.

Speaking, about the work of the Panchayats, he emphasized that the labour done at the grassroot level is of paramount importance. He also highlighted that Sikkim is renowned as an Organic State and said that focus should be laid on farming and added that for farming, water is absolutely necessary. It may also be mentioned that the Governor also provided monetary provision for the upliftment of the VAC, Mellidara Paiyong.



Quality Control Office inaugurated



Siliguri, February 07: Minister for Urban Development and Housing Department, Mr. Arun Kumar Upreti inaugurated the Quality Control

Office (Legal Metrology & Consumer Protection Cell) at SNT Goods Office Complex, Pariwahan Nagar, Matigara, Siliguri on February 7th, 2020.



Minister L.N.Sharma attends LIVE Phone-in Grameen Karyakram

Gangtok, February 7: Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Mr. L.N. Sharma attended the “LIVE Phone-in Grameen Karyakram” a special broadcast dedicated to the farmers at All India Radio, Gangtok on February 7, 2020.

Minister highlighted various schemes and programmes of the state government implemented under the department of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Government of Sikkim and also interacted with the farmers during the LIVE programme which was broadcasted

from 6:05 PM to 6:35 PM in All India Radio/Aakashwani Gangtok. He also informed about the encouraging policy of financial incentives to be availed for Milk Producers of the state for delivering more than five litres of milk at the collection centre on daily basis, from financial year 2020-21.

While interacting with the farmers, Minister Mr. Sharma answered the queries of the farmers and elaborated on the provision of subsidised loan for the farmers, compensation for damaged cultivation against wildlife interference and natural calamities, marketing perspectives, etc.



Governor attends North Bengal Icon Award 2020

Siliguri, February 09: Mr. Governor Ganga Prasad attended North Bengal Icon Award 2020 held at Club Montana Vista, Matigara Siliguri on February 09, 2020.

During the function, the Governor handed over the awards to various social organizations, entrepreneurs and other eminent personalities of North Bengal. He applauded the initiative of Dainik Jagran to facilitate the icons of North Bengal and said that through this programme it will inspire others to work for the upliftment of society.



Governor attends 8th Samellan, Parichay Samaroh and Samuhik Vivah

Varanasi, February 9: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad attended 8th Samellan, Parichay Samaroh and Samuhik Vivah held at Chaukaghat, Varanasi on February 9, 2020. The programme was organized by Banaras Chaurasia Samaj.

The Governor pitched for unity and team work for the development of society. He also remembered the leaders of India and mentioned about their struggles and dedication in bringing progress and development of the country.



15-day Classical dance workshop in Kathak

Gangtok, February 09: The North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) in collaboration with Culture Department, Government of Sikkim organised a 15-day Classical dance workshop in Kathak at Natraj Kala Kendra Society institution Singtam, East Sikkim from February 9, 2020. A total of around 40 students participated in the workshop.



IPR Minister flags off Bermiok-Jorethang Bus Service.

Gyalshing, February 10: Minister for IPR Mr. L.N. Sharma Sharma flagged off the Bus Service from Gyalshing to Jorethang on February 10, 2020.

Minister Mr. Sharma in his address said that this newly launched bus service is for the service to the people of Gyalshing. He also expressed his happiness on addressing the long pending demands of the people of Gyalshing.



Aadhar enrollment centre inaugurated at West Sikkim

Gyalshing, February 10: With an aim to provide Aadhaar related services like new Aadhaar enrollment, child enrollment, enrollment of students and Aadhaar updation services to the public of Soreng Sub-division, permanent Aadhaar enrollment center was established by DESM&E at Soreng Sub-Divisional Magistrate office complex, today.

The Aadhaar enrollment center was inaugurated by Minister Power & Labour Department, Mr. Mingma Norbu Sherpa alongwith MLA, Soreng Chakung, Mr. Aditya Golay.

With the establishment of the Aadhaar center, the public of Daramdin, Soreng-Chakung and Rinchenpong Constituencies can now easily avail Aadhaar services for which they had to earlier go to DESM&E office Gyalshing.



Minister Mr. Sherpa in his address thanked DESM&E- the UID Nodal Department-cum-Registrar for establishment of the center. He said that public of Soreng and adjoining areas will benefit from this initiative of the Government as Aadhaar has now become an integral part of governance and for availing schemes and services. Mr. Aditya Golay emphasized that it is a policy of the present Government to make vital services easily accessible to the rural people.

He also stressed on the need to boost the child enrollment below the age of fifteen years and directed the local administration to undertake special drive to enroll students.

The enrollment center was established by DESM&E in collaboration with Education Department, Soreng and Soreng Sub-Divisional Magistrate office.



Meeting on KCC and PM-KISAN beneficiaries

Namchi, February 10: A meeting in connection with Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PM-KISAN beneficiaries was held at DAC Namchi on February 10, 2020.

The meeting was chaired by District Collector Mr. Ragul K. The objective of KCC is to facilitate universal access to concessional institutional credit for all PM-KISAN beneficiaries. The farmers can avail the benefits of PM-KISAN under KCC once they submit documents pertinent to land parcha, detail of crop sown and filled up form for the issue of Kisan Credit Card.

It was reported that bank branches have been advised to prepare list of PM-KISAN beneficiaries who do not have KCC and share the same with Government functionaries of Line Departments so that they can be approached for availing the KCC benefit.



Meeting on Rogi Kalyan Samiti

Namchi, February 10: A meeting on Rogi Kalyan Samiti was held at Namchi District Hospital on February 10, 2020.

The main theme of the meeting was to review the pilot health programmes of Central and State Government which has already been launched in the district. Various issues and challenges faced by the District Hospital was deliberated in order for its smooth functioning.





Governor calls on Prime Minister of India

New Delhi, February 10: The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad called on Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi at his office at Parliament House, New Delhi on February 10, 2020.

It was a courtesy call by the Governor wherein he apprised the Prime Minister about various issues concerning the development of Sikkim. He further sought Prime Minister and Union Government's continuous patronage and support towards Sikkim's specific developmental needs.

Training and Orientation Programme for Monastic and Sanskrit Pathshala Teachers



Gangtok, February 10: A three day Monastic and Sanskrit Pathshala Teachers Training and Orientation Programme organised by Ecclesiastical Department was held at Janta Bhawan on February 10, 2020.

Minister for Education Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha graced the inaugural programme as the chief guest.

Minister, Mr. Lepcha address said that Sikkim is known for its uniqueness in terms of being the most Peaceful State in India and it has its roots deeply connected with the Dharmic teachings. He stressed that our culture, it's survival is under threat consequent to the busy life pattern and overwhelming social obligation of the present day where the protection of Dharmic and Sanskrit teachings needs to be protected so that the coming generation will be able to understand and live accordingly to the standards perceived by our forefathers.

Mr. S.T. Tamang, Secretary Ecclesiastical Department said that since Sikkim is the spiritual land of India it has its own Dharmic and Sanskrit Schools with the presence of charismatic teachers who take the responsibility of preserving the present teachings firmly so that they can pass on to the coming generations.



Road Safety Awareness cum Workshop held in Gyalshing



Gyalshing, February 10: The Road Safety Awareness Week and workshop on theme “Sadak Suraksha Jeewan Raksha” was held at Gyalshing Community Hall, on February 10, 2020. The programme was conducted by Road Safety Cell, Motor Vehicle Division Gangtok in co-ordination with District Office under the guidance of State Nodal officer, Mr. K.S Gurung. The programme was held to create awareness on Road Safety, Motor Vehicle Acts and Rules and Good Samaritan as per the latest direction of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. In his address Gyalshing Municipal Council Chairman, Mr. I.K. Neopaney asserted on the theme and how there is a need for strengthening and effective implementation of Road Safety. The ASP(west) highlighted few major points where one can prevent road accidents.

RTO Mr. K.S. Gurung informed the house about the mandatory fitment of speed governors/speed limiting device in goods carrier vehicle and transport vehicles to overcome the over speeding menace keeping in view the provision and guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The nodal officer briefed about the Good Samaritans guidelines on behalf of the Supreme Court of India wherein Accidental Victims shall be immediately taken to the nearest hospital by any public without any fear of harassment in police stations and courts. The Medical Expert from Gyalshing Hospital briefed about the golden hour and first aid to the house. The programme also included the legal opinion on insurance and its relevance in connection to road traffic accidents and claims.



Chief Secretary chairs coordination meeting on Global Cinema Festival Sikkim 2020

Gangtok , February 10: Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta chaired a coordination meeting on February 10, 2020 at Tashiling Secretariat with regard to the upcoming Global Cinema Festival 2020 Sikkim scheduled to be held in Gangtok from February 28, 2020 to March 1, 2020.

The Global Cinema Festival 2020 Sikkim is an initiative of the Film Federation of India in collaboration with Sikkim Film Co-operative Society Limited and Government of Sikkim to create an atmosphere of international film festivals in the State and to promote Sikkim as film locations and shooting destinations. It is also to be informed that Sikkim is the first North East State to host a film festival of such grandeur. Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta said that the three-daylong Global Cinema Festival is a step towards creating a skill development eco-system in the field of film making in the State that offers a great opportunity for the people of Gangtok to appreciate cinema with an elevated experience. He directed all the stakeholder departments to co-ordinate with the organizers to successfully conduct the fest and urged for active participation from all concerned. Expressing films as a strong medium and

influence, the CS put forward his suggestion of collaboration of the Global Film Festival with the other major festivals of Maghey Mela and Winter Carnival and added that the future prospects of the same will be discussed in the days to come. Special Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Ms. Mrinalini Shrivastava, who is also the Festival Director, gave a detailed presentation on the itinerary of the Global Cinema Festival.

She stated that the inaugural day of the festival will be held at Manan Kendra in Gangtok on February 28, 2020 and requested the Culture Department for the arrangement of proper sound system at the location. The delegates visiting the State for the festival will also be visiting Tsomgo Lake for which she asked for assistance of the Tourism Department for pass and permits.

Ms. Shrivastava apprised the gathering about the shooting for a corporate film scheduled to be held from 11-17 February in the capital town of Gangtok for which she urged for traffic assistance from SP East.

The Chief Secretary gave suggestions on various issues related to the event and extended full support of the State government for the success of the Global Cinema Festival.



Governor meets Vice President of India and Union Home Minister

New Delhi, February 11: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad called on Vice President of India Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu at his office and extended invitation to him to visit Sikkim on February 11, 2020.

The Vice President expressed his pleasure to receive the invitation and conveyed his desire to visit the State at the earliest possible date.

Later in the evening, the Governor met Union Minister of Defence, Mr. Rajnath Singh at his office in South Block, New Delhi. Several security and border related issues were discussed during a brief meeting.



IPR Minister visits Rangsang Dobaan areas of West Sikkim

Gyalshing, February 11: IPR Minister, Mr. L.N. Sharma along with the officials of lines department and public jointly visited the Rangsang Dobaan area of Lower Bermiok, West Sikkim to examine and address the greivences and issues partaining to the construction of bridge that connects Bermiok with Gyalshing on February 11, 2020.

Minister Mr. Sharma inspected the ongoing construction of bridge minutely and the new road connectivity. He urged the concerned officials to sort out the issues related to work progress and resolve it at the earliest to ensure smooth progress of ongoing developmental work. He also asked the public to cooperate for the completion of ongoing construction work and directed the officials to address public grievances after technical assessment.



48th Board meeting of Sikkim State Cooperative Union held



Gangtok, February 11: The 48th Board meeting of Sikkim State Co-operative Union (SICUN) was held at the Conference Hall of Union Building, Assam Lingzey with the objective to stimulate co-operative movement in the state.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman, SICUN Mr. L.P. Kafley and was also attended by the Board of Directors, CEO Mr. Karma G. Bhutia, Executive Officer, Mr. Phadung Bhutia, representatives from concerned Departments and Members of SICUN.

The main agenda of the meeting was to strengthen co-operative movement by discussing core issues. The meeting discussed in length on the agenda of creating a congenial environment to encourage co-operative movement in the State.

Chairman Mr. L.P. Kafley briefed about the funding position of SICUN. He announced that SICUN will soon be coming up with awareness programme in all the four districts so that people will be aware about fundamentals of co-operative and business development.

Further, he emphasized on taking co-operative movement very seriously in the state.



State level orientation and sensitisation programme on “Pariksha Parva” 2020

Gangtok February 12: The state level orientation and sensitization programme on “Pariksha Parva” 2020 for school heads, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Principals was held at the Conference hall of Social Justice and Welfare Department on February 12, 2020.

“Pariksha Parva” is a month-long campaign during the exam period from February to March 2020. The aim of the programme is to create sensitisation on the issue of stress among students due to exams and also an initiative to help in removing the stigma attached to counseling and promote positive perception.

At the onset of the programme, Chairperson, SCPCR, Mrs. Dikila Bhutia highlighted on the decreasing trend of enrolment of the students in schools. She urged the gathering to encourage enrolment and also to be accountable of the children especially falling in the age category of 6-14 years. She further mentioned that the children living with their relatives should be given special care and attention to curb the threat of suicides due to exam anxiety.

Secretary, Social Justice and Welfare Department, Mr. H.K. Chettri stated that the campaign is initiated by the Prime Minister of India towards changing the outlook of children towards exams and making it a joyful activity. He also highlighted that the campaign will entail Live Streaming of Q & A Session with renowned experts, psychologists; Counselors through Facebook/Twitter/Youtube to enable students to interact with experts and to reduce their exam stress.

Senior Technical Expert, Mr. Paresh Shah highlighted on the objective of Pariksha Parva. He presented a background on the activities undertaken under Pariksha Parva and briefly spoke on the functions of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and SCPCR at length.

Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Sonam Ongmu Lassopa spoke on understanding and helping students deal with exam stress. Joint Commissioner, (Technical- Disability), Dr. M. Chettri briefed on understanding of child psychology and support.



Minister L.N. Sharma visits Government Secondary School Lower Bermiok and Stockman Centre AH&VS at Berthang



Gyalshing, February 12: IPR Minister L.N. Sharma visited the Government Secondary School Lower Bermiok at Raatomatey and a Stockman Centre of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services at Berthang, West Sikkim on February 12, 2020.

During the visit, Minister Mr. Sharma took stock on the progress of ongoing construction of additional infrastructure of the Lower Bermiok school.

While addressing the students, Minister articulated on importance of acquiring education to achieve a targeted goal in life and encouraged them to be more determined and competitive.

Border Area Programme organised at Kupup and Gnathang

Gangtok, February 12: The North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with Culture Department, Government of Sikkim organized a two day Border Area Programme (Indo -China Border) - Sikkim 2020 i.e. February 12-13 at Kupup and Gnathang East Sikkim. Garrison liaison Officer, Mr. T.J. Singh was present as the chief guest.

The programme was an initiative by NEZCC. Cultural troops from five states like Sikkim, Odisha, Nagaland, Punjab and Manipur participated in the programme at the Community Hall Kupup. The chief guest Mr. T.J. Singh presented token of appreciation to all the participating Troupes from the North East States.





ICAR- National Organic Farming Research Institute Gangtok organises awareness cum training programme

Gangtok, February 13: A daylong Awareness cum Training Programme followed by field inspection was held with the theme of Adaption and Mitigation through Soil, Water, Nutrient Management and Agro-Forestry (Soil Carbon Sequestration/Conservation Agriculture) Under NICRA Project at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Gangtok, on February 13, 2020.

The programme was organised by the ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Gangtok.

IPR Minister L.N. Sharma graced the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest.

Addressing the farmers, Minister Mr. Sharma drew lights on existing scenario of agriculture in the state and encouraged farmers to adopt agricultural practices with new spirit to witness paradigm shift in the next five years. He urged farmers to remain informed about the existing programmes of the state government for its proper implementations in the field.

Minister Mr. Sharma applauded the activities carried out by ICAR and urged to adopt two GPU and to form a cluster in each district and to apply newly introduced technology to set an example for the encouragement of the farmers.



Minister Roads and Bridges deptt. chairs district level coordination meeting

Mangan, February 13: Minister for Roads & Bridges and Culture Department, Mr. Samdup Lepcha chaired a district level coordination meeting with all Head of offices of the district, Government Officers, Employees, officers of other organizations including GREF and Hydro Power Companies at the Conference hall of North District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan on February 13, 2020.

Minister Mr. Lepcha in his address directed all government officers and employees to maintain punctuality in the office. He shall conduct surprise visit to government offices and strict action will be initiated to those

who found to be absent, he added.

Power Department was asked to maintain proper office records, keeping proper blueprint and work details of all contractual works which falls under their jurisdiction.

GREF officials were asked to focus on maintenance of Singtam to Rangrang road condition. Necessary direction was also given to take up immediate maintenance work in all trouble spots.

He asked all the officers and staffs to work in close coordination and come forward with innovative ideas for development of district and state as a whole in order take Sikkim into new height.



CRH launches manuals on antibiotic and Hospital Infection control policies

Gangtok, February 14: Central Referral Hospital (CRH) launched two hospital manuals- ANTIBIOTIC POLICY AND HOSPITAL INFECTION CONTROL POLICY on February 14, 2020.

The manuals were released by Vice Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University, Lt Gen Dr. MD Venkatesh.

The Antibiotic policy is a safe and effective strategy for antibiotic use which involves prescribing an antibiotic only when it is needed and selecting an appropriate and effective agent at the recommended dose, with the narrowest spectrum of antimicrobial activity, fewer adverse effects and low cost.

The manual of Hospital Infection Control (HIC) is a reference guide containing policies as well as procedures to prevent nosocomial infection among patients and staff. The overall aim of HIC manual is to provide evidence –based information on the prevention and control of infection. The manual brought out by the Infection Control Committee of the Central referral Hospital is an effort towards better infection –free health care practices by the management of the hospital.



Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela 2020 held at CAEPHT



Gangtok, February 14: A daylong Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela 2020 was held at the College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvesting Technology (CAEPHT), Ranipool, on February 14, 2020.

IPR Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma graced the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest.

Minister Mr. Sharma, in his address, congratulated the Agriculture University and faculty members for developing farm friendly machineries and improved technological equipments for enhancing productivity with ensuring convenience and safety of farmers. He also claimed that the farmers will have sustainable income in future and motivated them to feel honoured for producing crops and vegetables for the consumers.

He also informed about the financial incentives to be dedicated to milk producers and vegetable growers from next financial year 2020-21 and encouraged them to increase production with proper utilization of unproductive barren land as well. He also added that the economy of the state will be strengthened through agriculture sector in future period and drew lights on provision of subsidised loan for the farmers.



Newly elected executive committee of Press Club of Sikkim call on Governor



Gangtok, February 14: Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad met 12 member delegation of newly elected executive committee of Press Club of Sikkim on February 14, 2020. It was a courtesy call by the PCS team following their election held recently and was led by its President Mr. Joseph Lepcha.

Governor extended good wishes to the members and wished them a memorable term in their respective offices. He also underlined the role of media, considered the fourth pillar of democracy, in the modern progressive society. He further stated that media, may it be print, electronic or digital, can make remarkable contribution to the society and the nation if made responsible and sensible. The Governor urged the media

fraternity to promote Sikkim with positive stories and achievements and contribute towards building a right perspective and opinion among the masses. He asked the members representing different media groups, to make an impact in the society with their pen and remain committed towards positive journalism.

Mr. Joseph Lepcha, apprised the Governor about various issues confronting the organisation and sought his continuous patronage and blessings for the well being of the press fraternity. The Governor also assured all support towards the PCS in their quest of responsible journalism and development of media in Sikkim.



Atal Incubation Centre -SMUTBI inaugurated

Gangtok, February 15: The inaugural ceremony of Atal Incubation Centre(AIC)-Sikkim Manipal University(SMU) Technology Business Incubation Foundation (AIC-SMUTBI) was held at the campus of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Majitar, Rangpo on February 15, 2020.

AIC-SMU Technology Business Incubation Foundation(AIC-SMUTBI) is one the 100 world class incubators of Government of India and the first Atal Incubation Centre(AIC) in North-East India which has been envisioned and fully supported by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and Government of India.

The Center nurture and support early stage entrepreneurs of under served region based in North East India on Technology and Innovation by providing infrastructure, consultancy and seed grants to promising young entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams of starting their own ventures.

The Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad was the chief guest for the event.

A short introduction to the First Cohort of Acceleration in Sikkim was summarized by Mr. Prajakt Raut which was preceded by the launch of the First Cohort of Acceleration in Sikkim by the Governor.

In his address, the Governor expressed his happiness and thanked the Government of

India and NITI AAYOG for facilitating the establishment of the world class incubator centre in the state and said that this a valuable gift for the students and budding entrepreneurs in the state.

Urging the students and entrepreneurs to make the best use of the world class facilities provided in the centre, he encouraged them to be more innovative and work hard for the cause of the society and realize their potential to the fullest.

Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha expressed his gratitude to NITI AAYOG on behalf of the Government of Sikkim and added that the launch of AIC would help equip Sikkim in the field of Science and Technology. He said that it was a proud moment for Sikkim as AIC-SMU Technology Business Incubation Foundation (AIC-SMUTBI) is one the 100 world class incubators of Government of India and the first Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) in North-East India is in Sikkim. He further added that 51 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in Sikkim under NITI AAYOG.

He also pointed out the rising unemployment issue in the state and added that this would open up various avenues to curtail the unemployment issue in the state. He urged the students and aspiring entrepreneurs to make the very best use of the facilities and congratulated all the 14 startups present on the occasion for their participation.





Minister IPR visits Old Age Centre at Jalipool



Gangtok, February 15: IPR Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma visited at Old Age Centre at Jalipool on February 15, 2020.

Minister Mr. Sharma assured to extend all possible support and also applauded noble services voluntarily extended to the elderly inmates who are in the twilight of their lives and in need of love, care and support to compensate pangs of pain and separation from their family.

Chief Minister calls on Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Science and Technology

New Delhi, February 16: The Chief Minister, Mr. P.S Tamang called on the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in Delhi on February 16, 2020. The Chief Minister placed various issues of the State to the Union Minister and also apprised him about the State Government's plan to collaborate with the Government of India, to upgrade the multi specialty hospital at Sochayagang to the level of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The Union Minister assured full cooperation from his side and added that he would send a team of experts to Sikkim to study the proposal.



Sikkim Bikers to represent the State at the 16th National Bike Championship 2020



Gangtok, February 17: Two bikers from Sikkim represented the State at the 16th National Bike Championship at Haldwani, Uttarakhand that took place from February 20th to February 22nd 2020. Mr. Asim Sharma and Mr. Aniket Sharma participated in the cross-country event in the senior and junior categories, respectively. Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Mr. Kuber Bhandari offered them khadas and wished them luck before they left the capital.



Governor's engagements with Zydus and Jain Muni



Gangtok, February 17: The Governor, Mr. Ganga Prasad felicitated Senior GM, DGM and HR of Zydus Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bhageykhola, Majhitar on February 17, 2020. It may be mentioned that Zydus had also been felicitated with Dainik Jagran North Bengal Icon Award 2020 at Siliguri. The Governor extended his best wishes to the pharma giant and urged the unit to work for better social causes beside their commercial ventures. On the same day, the Governor granted audience to Jain Muni, who arrived in the State on Sikkim Padyatra for a fortnight, at Raj Bhawan.

Five-Day Training for 2021 Census at Karfector

Namchi, February 17: A five-day training for Field Trainers (FTs) of the South and West District for Census 2021 began at the State Institute of Rural Development, Karfector February 17, 2020. It has been informed that 15 trainees will undergo the programme, which will conclude on February 21st 2020. Once the FTs complete the training programme, they are to train the enumerators and supervisors of the districts and assist their respective Charge Officers. Census 2021 will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will begin in April 2020. The house enumeration will be conducted from April to September 2020 and the population enumeration will be collected in February 2021 and the revision round will take place in March 2021.



IGNOU conducts 33rd Convocation Programme

Gangtok, February 17: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Gangtok conducted their 33rd Convocation Programme at RaapJyor Caveri Hall, 5th mile, Tadong on February 17, 2020. The programme was held simultaneously in 39 selected regional centres through the country. In Sikkim, 402 students received Master's Degree; 461 received Bachelor's Degree; 95 students received Diplomas and 75 students received Certificates.



Senior Citizens of 25 Martam Gram Panchayat felicitated



Gyalshing, February 18: In a special programme organized by Martam Gram Panchayat Unit, senior citizens and retired officials of the area were felicitated on February 18, 2020. Minister- IPR, Mr. L.N Shrama was the chief guest at the event. Former secretaries and officials like Mr. K.B Kunwar, Mr. T.R Poudyal as well as former headmasters; teachers and police officials were felicitated in the programme. Mr. L.N Shrama acknowledged the work of the retired officials and praised them for their contribution towards the development of the society.

Review Meeting on Global Cinema Festival 2020

Gangtok, February 18: A review meeting on the Global Cinema Festival Sikkim 2020, which is scheduled to take place from February 28th to March 1st 2020, was organized in the Conference Hall of the Information and Public Relations Department. The Film Federation of India, in collaboration with Sikkim Film Cooperative Society (SFSC), with assistance from the Government of Sikkim and Government of India will organize this festival. Discussions on necessary actions to meet the objective of the film festival, which is to create a friendly film making atmosphere in the state for the ease of making films and invite people from the film fraternity for discussions and workshops were addressed.





Roads and Bridges raises fund for landslide victims



Gangtok, February 20: The Roads and Bridges Department, contributed a sum of ₹ 13,47,908 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, to support and help the landslide victims of Chong village, Yuksom, West Sikkim. The amount was formally handed over to the Secretary-Chief Minister's Office, Mr. S.D Dhakal by the Additional Director- Accounts, Mr. Bhola Sharma.

Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs inaugurates Inter Institution Camp



Gangtok, February 20: Mr. Kunga Nima, Minister- Sports and Youth Affairs, inaugurated the five-day Inter Institution Camp at the Indoor Hall of Paljor Stadium, today. NSS Cell and the S&YA Department organized the camp. The camp included various fitness activities as well as social work, like blood donation, yoga and zumba, mental health and disaster management awareness session and the Swachha Bharat Abhiyan. The minister administered the pledge of the Preamble and the volunteers were made aware of the Flag Code 2002 of India, which is an attempt to bring together all laws, conventions, practices and instructions, which govern the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention and Proper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.



State Level Special Children's Olympics 2020



Gangtok, February 20: A state level Special Olympics for differently abled children under inclusive education for children was held at West Point School ground, on February 20, 2020. The event was organized by Samagra Shiksha Education Department under the Education Department. Education Minister, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha was the chief guest of the programme. The main objective of the programme was to provide equitable platform and opportunities to the children in order to hone their talents and passion so that they can become a part of the mainstream and generate awareness, overall. Blind cricket, boccia, football, assistance walk for the blind, etc. were some of the activities of the programme.



MP (Lok Sabha) chairs DISHA meeting at East District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Gangtok



Gangtok, February 21: A meeting on the District Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was held at the Conference Hall of East District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Gangtok, on February 21, 2020. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Mr. Indra Hang Subba, who is also the Chairman of the DISHA Committee, chaired the meeting. The MP said that DISHA meetings are important platforms for stakeholders and concerned representatives to come together and discuss

solutions to resolve issues, pertaining to their respective areas. He also stated that such meetings are effective forums to cater to the rural population. He thanked the Zilla members and Panchayats of East District and also accepted the Swachhata Darpan Award that the East District received during the Open Defecation Free sustainability workshop, in New Delhi on 12th January, 2020. The workshop was organized by Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Valedictory Programme for Field Trainers of South and West District

Namchi, February 21: A valedictory programme of Field Trainers (FTs) of the South and West District, for Census 2021, who underwent a five-day training was held at the State Institute of Rural Development, Karfactor, on February 21, 2020. The 15 trainees were felicitated with the course completion certificate. They will go on to train other enumerators and supervisors at the sub-district level. A quiz and a feedback session from the participants were also held at the programme.





Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals held in Gujarat

Gandhinagar, February 22: The 13th Session of the Conference of the parties to the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from January 15th to January 22nd 2020. 126 countries took part in the event. Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of Sikkim, Mr. Karma Loday along with Principal Secretary cum PCFF, Mr. M. L. Srivastava and other senior officials from the department attended the event. The Union Minister for Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr. Prakash Javadekar, Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of Sikkim, Ministers and delegates of Norway, Bangladesh,

Sri Lanka, Saudai Arabia, Republic of Croatia, France and other countries attended a High-Level Segment as well. The Convention overall, had discussions on the framework for migratory species, post 2020 Global Biodiversity network. The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi also addressed the COP opening ceremony on the February 17th 2020. Stakeholders and NGOs of Sikkim were also selected to participate in the conference. The Forests and Environment Department of Sikkim put up exhibition of migratory animals in the state and the efforts taken to conserve and protect the biodiversity.



Roads & Bridges Minister inspects ongoing project

Mangan, February 22: Minister for Roads & Bridges Department, Mr. Samdup Lepcha inspected the ongoing construction of the, 255 meters long, Kayum Arch Steel Bridge situated in upper Dzongu on February 22, 2020.

He inspected either site of the bridge where foundation work is in progress, which is being built by Mohindra Tube Private Limited (MTPL) at a total cost budget of ₹ 88.54 crores.

The Minister was accompanied by the Incharge of Dzongu constituency, Mrs. Chingkipu Lepcha, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges, Mr. Deepak Pradhan, Site Engineer, Mr. Rakesh Burma and Mr. Akhil Pandey.

Mr. Rakesh Burma explained in detail about the technical aspects pertaining to the bridge and informed that the work is going on war footing and construction of bridge will be completed before the month of March 2021. He also brought under notice that from

couple of weeks the land owner had set their objection from doing the work due to delay in land compensation.

In this context, Minister Mr. Lepcha met the land owners and assured them that once the surveyor completes the report regarding land compensation bill, the total amount of land compensation will be released to the land owners within twenty days.

Further, he directed that the MTPL shall be held responsible to the land owners for all the damages of any movable or immovable properties caused during the course of the bridge construction.

Apart from this, the Minister also inspected the condition of the Mantam to Bay road, it was found that road is in poor condition, therefore necessary direction was given to AE, Roads & Bridges to prepare a new estimate for its up-gradation.

It was learned that an alternative steel bridge at Leven-Linzya and Foot Suspension Bridge for Tingvong and Sakyong will also be built in near future.



Chief Secretary Chairs Meeting on Sikkim Film Policy 2020

Gangtok, February 22: A coordination meeting on Sikkim Film Policy was held at Tashiling Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat. The meeting was organised by Information and Public Relations where they presented the Sikkim Film Policy, drafted by them. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the draft of the film policy and take feedback and suggestions from the Chief Secretary and the related departments so as to promote Sikkim as a leading destination for shooting and production of feature and non-feature films as well as for television content.

Secretary, IPR Department, Ms. Namrata Thapa made a brief presentation highlighting the objectives of the Policy, Film Development Council, film facilitation office and salient features of the policy. Development of the infrastructure, setting up of miniplexes, film and television Institutes were also brought before the meeting.

Chief Secretary, Mr. Gupta appreciated the initiative made by the department and assured to extend all possible support to implement the policy at the earliest. He stated that the Film Policy would encourage locals to choose the film sector as a career and help in creating and promoting Cinematic Tourism.



Gyalpo Losar Celebrated



Gyalshing, February 23: The ten-day long Gyalpo Losar Celebration concluded with a special function at Martam Primary School, West Sikkim. Minister for Information and Public Relations Department, Mr.L.N. Sharma graced the occasion as the chief guest and Minister, Energy and Power, Mr. M. N. Sherpa was present as the guest of honour.

The programme was organised by Bhoudha Sherpa Samaj committee. Addressing the gathering, Minister, Mr. L.N. Sharma highlighted various ongoing developmental works in the Constituency. He encouraged the public to adopt agriculture as a lucrative profession and articulated on the future scope of agro-tourism, productivity and natural potential of the area. He also threw light on various schemes and programmes of the Government to uplift unemployed youths and further emphasised on advantage of taking private sectors of business for livelihood and ownership.

Governor inaugurates 131st Birth Anniversary Celebration of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati

New Delhi, February 23: Governor of Sikkim, Mr. Ganga Prasad inaugurated 131st Birth Anniversary Celebration of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati at Constitution Club New Delhi.

Governor Mr. Prasad paid his respect and remembered Swami Sahajanand Saraswati and his contribution and dedication in bringing progress and development of the country.





Chief Minister Attends Sustainable Development Conclave at Guwahati

Guwahat, February 24: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang attended the North East Chief Ministers' Conclave on Sustainable Development Goals at Guwahati on February 24, 2020. The meeting was chaired by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Development of North-East Region and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Jitendra Singh. On the sidelines of the meeting, Chief Minister Mr. Tamang also held a brief meeting with the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Mr. Pema Khandu, the Chief Minister of Tripura Mr. Biplab Kumar Deb, the Chief Minister of Mizoram Mr. Pu Zoramthanga and Minister of Planning & Coordination and Land Revenue of Nagaland Mr. Neiba Kronu. The developmental strategies being adopted by the respective north-eastern states were extensively discussed during these meetings.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, along with the other dignitaries, participated in releasing the following books.

- 1) SGD Conclave 2020 State Indicator Framework & District Indicator Framework of North Eastern States.
- 2) North East and SGDs Partnerships, Cooperation and Development.
- 3) Stories of Change (Journey to the Global goals)

Along with the Chief Ministers of North Eastern States, Vice Chairperson, Niti Aayog was also present during the book release function.



Chief Minister Meets Union Minister of State (IC)

Guwahati, February 26: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang met the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Youth Affairs and Sports and Minority Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijiju, at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati on February 26, 2020.

During the brief meeting, the two leaders after exchanging pleasantries discussed various issues on development of the North-Eastern region.

Mr. Rijiju appreciated how Sikkim is making a rapid stride forward under the new Government led by Mr. P.

S. Tamang, especially in the tourism sector. He also congratulated the Chief Minister for the three girls from Sikkim who have been selected in the Indian team for FIFA Under -17 Women's World cup.

Chief Minister Mr. Tamang while expressing his gratitude, requested the Union Minister to provide the state with funds for the construction of playing fields in Sikkim and also for the upgradation of Paljor Stadium.

The Union Minister assured all possible help from his end and also informed that he will be visiting Sikkim soon.



Photo News



As a part of the National Integration Camp, a rally and cultural extravaganza was showcased at Central Park Namchi on February 24, 2020. The five-day camp was organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan at Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco Tourism Institute located at Chemchey, South Sikkim. The participants displayed the cultural specialities of their states by performing dance and other forms of art, unique to their states





Photo News



Glimpses of Rural Sports organized by Sports & Youth Affairs in collaboration with Rural Development Department from 25th Feb to 29th Feb 2020 in all Gram Panchayat Units of Sikkim.



Coordination Meeting of DTFI held at West Sikkim



Gyalshing, February 27: The coordination meeting of District Task Force for immunization (DTFI) under District Hospital, Gyalshing was held in the chamber of SDM(HQ), Mr. Tushar G. Nikhare at District Administration Centre, Rabdentse, West Sikkim on February 27, 2020. Addl. Director or - cum - DRCHO (West), Dr.

Anusha Lama said that the DTFI meeting is held every month in the district and is a platform to share ideas and have proper co-ordination amongst the Governmental Departments involved for executing the upcoming programme successfully. Dr. Lama briefed the meeting about the upcoming events of District Hospital Gyalshing(DHG).

District Task Force Meeting on Immunization



Namchi, February 27: A District Task Force Immunization meeting under the chairmanship of DC (South) Mr. Ragul K. was held at DAC, Namchi on February 27, 2020. The agenda for the meeting was to deliberate on National Deworming Day to be observed on 3rd of March, 2020, aimed for age group of 01- 19 years old children and adults. Tablet Albendazole would be administered in schools under the supervision of the respective nodal teacher.

Children and adolescents who have not been enrolled in schools and fall under this age bracket would also be given the tablet at the various Anganwadi Centers (AWC) and children who have been left out will also be given the tablet on mop up day which falls on March 12, 2020.

The meeting also saw in-depth discussion on Maternal, Child Death and Still birth review and also on PC- PNDT.



Minister Agriculture meets Officials from AYUSH GOI



Gangtok, February 27: Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. L.N. Sharma had a brief meeting with Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India Mr. Roshan Jaggi, Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences Prof. KS Dhiman and officials from the Ministry in the capital on February 27. The delegates from the Union Ministry were in the State to attend the “International Workshop on Preservation of Sowa Rigpa in Asia” at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok on the February 28, 2020.

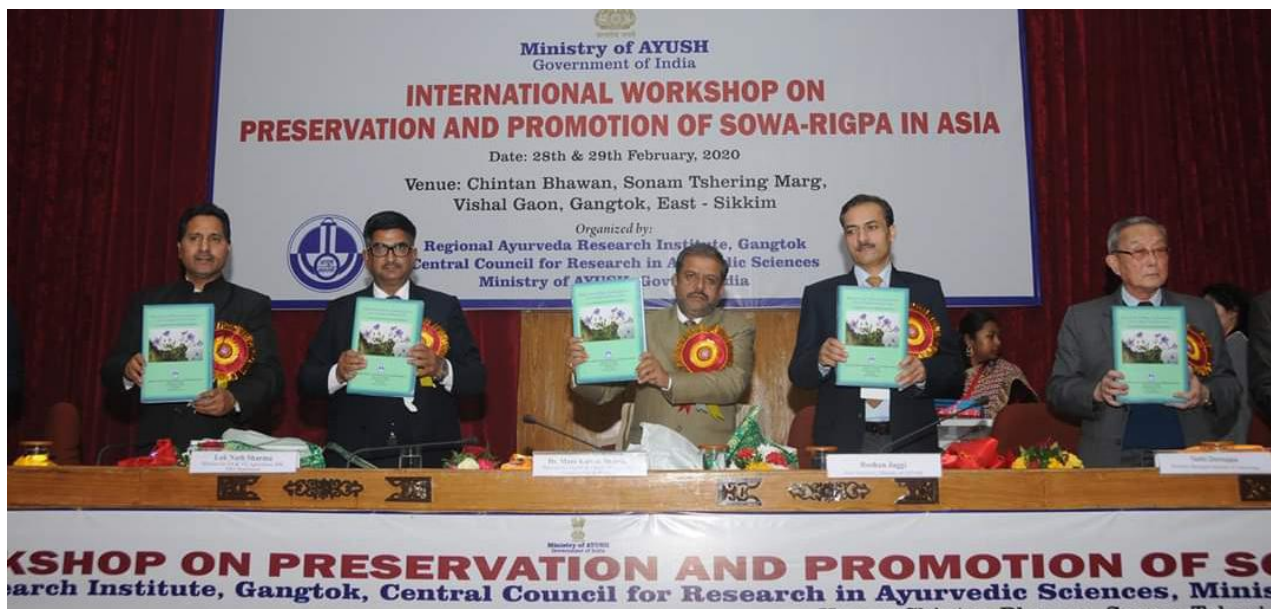
Minister Mr. Sharma informed that the State of

Sikkim is completely dedicated to implement all the schemes and programmes of the Government of India. The state will leave no stone unturned to double the income of the farmers in the state.

The Minister also shared about the medicinal potential in the Himalayan region of Sikkim and urged the Ministry for the establishment of a Pharmacy Institute of Herbal Medicinal plants to ensure optimum benefits to the farmers from the available medicinal resources with value addition. During the discussion, officials from the Ministry appreciated the planning and assured to extend all possible support for development of AYUSH components in the State of Sikkim.



International Workshop on Preservation & Promotion of Sowa Rigpa in Asia



Gangtok, February 28: A two-day International Workshop on Preservation and Promotion of Sowa Rigpa in Asia under the direction of Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India was organised by Regional Ayurveda Research Institute in association with Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Deorali, at Chintan Bhawan on February 28, 2020.

The inaugural session was presided over by Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim, Dr. M.K. Sharma. Dr. M.K. Sharma in his address delved on his practical experiences information and knowledge in the number of key issues of Sowa-Rigpa including information of regulation, use of Sowa Rigpa in the national healthcare system and its affordability, accessibility and availability. He said that there should be a standard medication supported by quality, continuous supply of medicine which is possible simply because this Sowa Rigpa, Ayurveda has been an organised system for thousands of years with research,

publication, conferences, interaction, workshop and many other scientific activities. He stated that Government of India has also embarked on this alternative system of medicine

The Minister stressed on the need for adequate scientific research and compilation of data for the creation of more usable standard quality medicines.

He said that Sikkim has a very favourable climatic condition for growing herbal medicinal plants which needs to be given more impetus. He called for continued support from the Ministry of AYUSH for the propagation of Sowa Rigpa system of medicine in Sikkim.

Minister for Agriculture, Mr. L.N. Sharma welcomed and congratulated the delegates for their participation in International Workshop on Preservation and Promotion of Sowa Rigpa in Asia. He mentioned that Sikkim has been declared as a fully organic farming State, while the newly formed Government under Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang has conceptualized and



envisioned 'Green Economy' to promote and preserve the global marketing of abundantly available medicinal raw materials with value addition.

Further he proposed for the establishment of Medicinal Plant Industry-cum-Pharmacy Unit and AYUSH Research Centre in the State of Sikkim to ensure optimum benefit to the farmers.

Joint Secetary, Ministry of AYUSH, Mr. Roshan Jaggi expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Sikkim for hosting the two-day workshop and said that the presence of two Ministers in the workshop reflected the Government's commitment towards holistic health care.

He said that workshop will focus on the pros

and cons and how to strengthen the system in order to bring a strong scientific footing so that it develops as a real science and contribute towards healthcare framework of the country. He stated that he expected a good outcome of two days of deliberations and recommendations.

He further said that the country needs to propagate and develop Ayurveda including Sowa Rigpa because this system has the capacity to give the people of this country a solution to the emerging healthcare challenges where people are shifting to natural medicines instead of chemical medicines.

The inaugural session was followed by an exhibition and the technical sessions.

Mapping of Tribal Sports Talent



Gyalshing, February 28: The Tribal Research Institute, Social Justice & Welfare Department, in collaboration with Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim organised its fourth edition of Mapping of Tribal Sports Talents at various Gram Panchyat Unit level under Soreng subdivision. The Mapping exercise is being funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

Disciplines of sports such as Football, Volleyball, Badminton, Karate and Athletics was conducted by the department. The tribal children from age

group of 9 to 14 participated in these events and displayed their skills. It was disclosed that best two talents from each category would be consider to participate in the state level at Gangtok. And after due selection, the best 10 talents will be sponsored to visit Sports Academy outside the state.

The objectives of the program was to provide a platform to identify innate sports talents from among tribal children and inculcate same talent where they can avail an opportunity to hone their skills in a chosen game in the national and international arena.



Rural Sports Meet in South Sikkim

Namchi, February 28: In order to encourage health and fitness among children, the State Government organized Rural sports meet in all the Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) for five days from 25th Feb to 29th February, 2020. Under this meet various sports activities namely football, volleyball, badminton, athletics, tug of war, musical chairs and archery events are being held. The sports meet is open to all age group and especially to people from rural areas in order to hone their skills.

All GPUs in South Sikkim was covered under this initiative, under the aegis of the Sports Department Officials, South District, in coordination with south district administration.



Agriculture Minister Holds Special Meeting with Ministry Officials



Gangtok, February 28: Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. L.N. Sharma chaired a meeting in special presence of the Chairman of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Ayog, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, Dr. Vallabhai Kathiria in the capital on February 28.

During the meeting, Minister Mr. Sharma submitted two proposal of project for the Establishment of Siri Cow Conservation-cum-Rearing Unit and Self Sustainable Siri cattle Gaushala in Sikkim.

The Minister outlined the existing scenario of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in the State of Sikkim. He threw light on the growing interest of farmers and efforts being taken up by the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang to double the income of farmers as envisioned by the Prime Minister of India.

He further informed that the state government is



formulating ground work for the establishment of Animal Husbandry University in the state and urged for support and cooperation of the Union Government. He also shared the strong commitment made by the state government to set an example in the field practices to witness paradigm shift in Animal Husbandry and other sectors in near future. Chairman Dr. Vallabhai Kathiria, in his address, advised to develop Integrated Farm in the state which would be well equipped with various prime components including a Research unit for genetic study of cow breeding and its milk, Cow dung and Urine, Training centre for farmers, a demo unit etc. He also highlighted value of indigenous variety of Siri Cow and suggested to develop Integrated Cow Breed Unit, Cow Tourism Centre in the state as well. Chairman of the Aayog also suggested to establish Kamdhenu Study Centre in every Colleges and Universities to conduct sensitization programmes for the students. He also assured to extend all possible support from the Union Govt. and suggested to name the upcoming university as “Sikkim Kamdhenu University”.

Earlier, Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Mr. S.B Subba gave an overview of the departmental activities.

Awareness Programme on Child Rights

Mangan, February 28: The District Child Protection Unit, North in coordination with the Village level Child Protection Committee of Kabi Rongpa GPU conducted an awareness programme on child rights and also formation of Village level Children’s Parliament in Kalzang Gyatso Senior Secondary School, Kabi.

The Children’s Parliament are being formed with 17 Ministers to fulfil each Sustainable Development Goal headed by a Prime Minister.

The DCPO North first explained to the children the four rights of the UNCRC and the 17 sustainable development goals. Thereafter, the students voted through the sociocratic method their ministers and the oath were administered by Panchayat President, Ms. Thinlay Ongmu Bhutia.

The aim of the Parliament is to give to the students a platform to voice their issues to the local authorities and thus practice their right to participation.



Sikkim Hosts Global Cinema Festival 2020

Gangtok, February 28: Global Cinema Festival, 2020 was formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang, in the special presence of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Dr. Ashraf Shikhaliyev, Cabinet Ministers, and noted film personalities from the Indian Film Industry. Organized by the Film Federation of India, in coordination with the Sikkim Film Cooperative Society, with support from the Government of Sikkim and Government of India, the three-day Cinema Festival was the first-of-its-kind event held in Sikkim. The Sikkim Film Policy was formally inaugurated by the

Chief Minister and noted film personalities. Likewise, the event was marked by awards and felicitations to noted personalities.

Ace Cinematographer, Mr. Binod Pradhan was conferred the Life Time Achievement for his immeasurable contribution to the Indian Film Industry. Noted Film Maker Mr. Rahul Rawail conferred the Award on Mr. Binod Pradhan, which was followed by a short acceptance speech by Mr. Pradhan.

Likewise, Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang and the Ambassador of Azerbaijan were felicitated by the Film Federation of India.





Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang in his speech congratulated FFI, SFCS and various line departments for making the event a reality. He expressed joy that such an event is taking place in the State and applauded all the people present for bringing such an event to the state and for showcasing the vast cinema that the world had to offer under one platform.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government will extend all the support in making Sikkim a destination for filming. He urged the young generation of entrepreneurs in the State to take advantage of the opportunities that the film industry in the State would generate.

President, Film Federation of India, Mr. Firdausal Hasan said that Sikkim is the first state in North East to host a Global Film Festival. He stated that the festival will create opportunity for the youths in Sikkim. He extended his gratitude to the Chief Minister and State Government. In the end, he urged the FFI and SFCS to take Indian Film to the world. Renowned actor Mrs. Manisha Koirala in her short address congratulated the State Government and all stakeholders involved in making the event possible. She praised Sikkim for leading the way in terms of Organic agriculture, Education and Pollution free environment. She wished the Gobal Cinema Festival all the success in years to come.

The inaugural programme was also graced by renowned actress of yesteryears Mrs. Padmini Kolhapure.





Chief Minister Holds Special Meeting with Film Investors, Producers and Stakeholders

Gangtok, February 28:

Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang chaired a coordination meeting with the Investors, Industrialists, producers, stakeholders and eminent personalities from film industry at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat. The Chief Minister extended a warm welcome to the delegates and thanked them for travelling all the way to attend the Global Cinema Festival in Sikkim.

The Chief Minister touched upon the newly released Film Policy of Sikkim and urged the investors to promote Sikkim with at least 70% of film shooting in the state to be entitled for

financial support of Rupees ₹ 1 Crore from the state government. Further, he articulated to promote the Himalayan state of Sikkim to attract more filmmakers across the globe.

He also outlined strategic developmental programme along with the planning of tunnelling to connect all districts for the convenience in transport system in near future.

The delegates wholeheartedly applauded the state of Sikkim and its diversified potential and wide scope for film making and also suggested to create awareness about its beauty across the world to attract filmmakers.





Investors, Industrialists and the producers introduced about their impressive spheres of experiences and achievements and expressed their interest to explore Sikkim as a potential film shooting destination.

Chief Secretary Mr. S.C. Gupta assured that the state government has duly noted all suggestions, ideas, information and interventions put forth by the delegates, and added that the inputs would be effective and useful for future perspectives in film making.



Film Enthusiasts Flock on Second Day of Global Cinema Festival

Gangtok, February 29: The second day of Global Cinema Festival 2020 witnessed an array of world cinema being showcased, and technical workshops on various aspects of film production and digital marketing on February 29, 2020.

Both feature and non-feature films from India, France, Spain and Azerbaijan, as well as a short film titled 'Buwa' from Sikkim were screened. The Indian films included films from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Bengal, Gujarat, Jharkhand and the host State Sikkim.

The technical sessions had noted film maker Mr. Rahul Rawail take a session on Art Production / VFX, while noted sound engineer/director Mr. Pravash Pradhan provided insights on various aspects of sound in the audio-visual media. The session on Production Management was conducted by Director, SRFTII Mr. Ashok Vishwanathan, while the session on digital marketing was conducted by Mr. Uddipan Nath.





Temi Creative Studio inaugurated as a part of Global Cinema Festival

Namchi, February 29: In connection with the ongoing Global Cinema Festival, 2020 'Temi Creative Studio' was jointly inaugurated by Director & COO, Graphiti (Mumbai) Mr. Munjal Shroff, and Director Editft Studios (Kolkata) Mr. Harcharam Singh. on February 29, 2020.

Temi Creative Studio project is funded by Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME), Government of India. MSME plays a crucial role in providing employment opportunities at lower capital and aids in industrialization of rural areas reducing regional

imbalances and encouraging equitable distribution of wealth.

The main aim of this project is to provide training and employment avenue to youths, especially school drop outs. This project will be assisted by Brand Consultant for Temi Tea Estate Mr. Aaron Leonart Bhutia who will be imparting knowledge on creative skills and various other facets of animation. This free of cost training will ensure that the learner can be self-sufficient and can venture into their own entrepreneurship sector in the field of technology.





Global Cinema Festival Concludes on a High Note

Gangtok, March 01: A film facilitation workshop was organized by the Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim, on the concluding day of the Global Cinema Festival, at Manan Kendra, Gangtok on March 01, 2020. The workshop was organized in coordination with the Film Federation of India (FFI) and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), to deliberate on creating an enabling environment for an effective Single Window Ecosystem for Films in Sikkim. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the Officials of the State Government and stakeholders on the need

for making a user-friendly environment for promoting filming in the State, which will help develop the Film Industry therein. The workshop aimed to assist the state machinery and Government line departments to create a 'Film Friendly Ecosystem' including setting up of Film Cell and to develop film industry in Sikkim.

The workshop had eminent speakers namely Mr. Supran Sen – Secretary General, Film Federation of India, Mr. Firdausal Hassan – Producer & President, Film Federation of India, Mr. Goutam Ghosh – renowned international film maker, Mr. Arindam Seal – renowned film maker, Mr. Ravi Kotarakara – Secretary. South Indian Film





Chamber of Commerce and past President of FFI, Mr. Arijit Dutta – Film Distributor and Promoter, Ms. Tribeny Rai – independent film maker from Sikkim, Ms. Mandira Chettri – independent film maker from Sikkim, and Mr. Raj Sitaula – Line Producer from Sikkim.

The panel discussions were moderated by Mr. Vikramjit Roy, Head, Film Facilitation Office, NFDC, and Mrs. Anita Gupta, Principal Advisor, Global Cinema Festival.

The topics deliberated in the panel discussion were – The Role of the State towards developing a film eco-system and Industry; The Perspective from Ground Zero/ requirements from the State; Creating a Film Friendly Eco-system; The FFO Eco-System and the Integration with Sikkim; and Marketing Sikkim

as a Filming destination.

Earlier, Mrs. Anita Gupta, Principal Advisor, Global Cinema Festival, briefed the audience about the objective of the workshop and the role of various agencies in working towards an enabling environment for film making in Sikkim.

The Workshop was participated by nodal officers of various government departments, executive members of the Sikkim Film Cooperative Society, and officers of FFI, NFDC and IPR Department.

The three-day Global Cinema Festival concluded on a high note with highly acclaimed films from around the world being screened throughout the day. A total of four films from Sikkim were screened on the final day of the festival.





Chief Minister Attends Spiritual Discourse

Jorethang, February 29: Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Krishna Rai, attended the Srimad Bhagawat Katha Gyan Yagya Anusthan at Jorethang playground on February 29, 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang expressed his delight to be a part of the discourse and congratulated the people of the locality who have contributed for Srimad Bhagawat Katha Gyan Yagya Anusthan. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the renowned Bhagwata Acharya Mr. Rohit Raj Maharaj for enlightening large number of devotees on Bhagwat Katha and other motivational sessions on substance abuse which was attended by the students of surrounding schools along with large numbers of devotees.

Additionally, the Chief Minister directed the officials and checkpost In-charge to be alert and vigorously stop crimes such as human trafficking, drug peddling and other anti-social elements. He also assured to render every

possible support from the State Government in rehabilitation of drug abuse victims. Our endeavour is to promote tourism for all the districts of Sikkim which will be initiated by opening Ramam Checkpost, for the upgradation of West Sikkim at the first phase and gradually other districts will be followed, the Chief Minister informed.

Furthermore, he elaborated the State Government's initiatives on the promotion of religious tourism in Sikkim so that entrepreneurship and employment avenues are created for the Sikkimese youth.

The Chief Minister also reiterated to make Sikkim a disease free, drugs free and plastic free State and in view to achieve the goal, one must introspect and transform the inner self to change the society, he added. The State Government has given priority to games and sports, art and culture, besides all innovative aspects, for the upliftment of young minds in Sikkim.