

10 MINUTES TO EARTH

Sikkim's Earth Hour planting for the planet through "Ten Minutes to Earth" supporting the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) worldwide Tree Planting Campaign "Plant for Planet: Billion Tree Campaign", Sikkim Government under the direction of Hon'ble Chief Minister initiated the Ten Minutes to Earth Programme.

Ten Minutes to Greenery, 15th July 2009

The theme for the year 2009 was 'Ten Minutes to Greenery'. A total of 610694 (six lakhs ten thousand six hundred and ninety four) saplings in the stipulated 10 minutes time were planted to beat the world record. As the clock ticked 10.30, thousands of people stopped all other activities to pledge themselves to Earth for 10 minutes. They appeared from all the nooks and corners of Sikkim to participate in the historic moments of planting of saplings, more than the population of State. The stipulated time was from 10.30 am to 10.40 am. The idea was to plant trees equivalent to the population of Sikkim in Ten Minutes: one tree for one person. This was also a record that within 10 minutes the plants numbering population of the State were planted anywhere. This ten minutes activity would also help in sequestration of 1400 tons of carbon dioxide annually. So Sikkim has shown its unique way of Climate Change Mitigation technique which contributes annually and would to forever during life of the planted trees. The programme was unprecedented and one of its kind. The seedlings were distributed by the Forest Department in large scale.

Total No. of Saplings planted during Ten Minutes to Earth programme on 15/7/2009



Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. of Saplings planted
1	North	50465
2	East	203740
3	West	186039
4	South	170450
	TOTAL	610694

Ten Minutes to Earth, June 25, 2010

The theme for the year 2010 was called 'Ten Minutes to Earth' where every citizen of Sikkim were to dedicate ten minutes of their time in plantation of tree for the protection of the environment. Mr. Chamling who last year announced that this day to be celebrated as an annual festival in the state stepped into its second year.

This year's 'Ten Minutes to Earth' kicked off from 9:15 am till 9:25 am where people were appealed to devote ten minutes time of their lives towards environment.



The Governor Mr. B.P Singh, Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Chamling and Mrs. Tika Maya Chamling planted the saplings of rhododendron tree in the premises of Ganesk tok temple here in the capital on the occasion of second phase of 10 minutes to earth.

Terming the 'programme as 'innovative', the Governor said that 'Ten Minutes to Earth' is in the highest traditions of the Indian civilization values. It is a people's programme where every Sikkimese person participates on the same day and at the same time, he said. Through this programme, Sikkim is lighting a lamp for restoration of ecology and may this lamp guide other States of India and world, said Singh.

Each of the four districts of Sikkim was allocated 1.5 lakh saplings by the department. The saplings were distributed free of cost to the people, NGOs, schools and other institutions free of cost by the department through various distribution centers.

Saplings of indigenous plant like rhododendrons and local trees like Chaap, Cherry, Guava and Pompsey were distributed. In urban areas, ornamental flowers and shrubs like Azlia saplings were distributed. Educational institutions and Science Centre at Sajong were given medicinal plant saplings for plantation. Above all, the saplings were distributed as per the various climatic zones of the state for instance, Silver Fur saplings in high altitude areas.

This plantation drive was observed all over the state with great enthusiasm and about 6 lakhs sapling of various kinds were planted during this second phase of ten minutes to earth programme by students, government employees, people from various association and general public all over the state.