

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF "GYAN MANDIR" BY HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

Gangtok, 5th January (IPR): The Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling laid the Foundation Stone of "Gyan Mandir" (Temple of Knowledge), beside the All India Radio complex, today.

The programme which was organized by Building and Housing Department also had the presence of Shri Ugen Gyatso Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri A.K Ghatani Minister for Health and IPR, MLAs Shri Shyam Pradhan, Shri Phintso Chopel and Shri Ugen Nedup, Mayor Shri Shakti Singh Choudhary, senior Government officers and officials related to the project.

While speaking on the occasion HCM stated that Siksha, Gyan and Shakti should be the identity of the Sikkimese people, hence the State Government has decided to come up with such a learning centre. Gyan Mandir, a centre of information and learning will benefit the people of Sikkim, through the establishment of a world class knowledge centre and information, he said. 'Just building infrastructures will not help in the development of the state and people should work towards maintaining the infrastructure that the government has facilitated. Public should be aware of initiatives, policies of the state government and feel a sense of ownership and belonging to protect the properties for them as well as for the future generations,' he added.

The Chief Minister further urged that work should be qualitative, environment friendly and it should be completed within stipulated time. Ministers, MLAs and the bureaucrats should all work towards the betterment of the capital and the State. Lets us all come together and work towards making Gangtok a green city and utilize all the empty spaces by planting perennial and flowering plants, he said.

He concluded by saying that Sikkimese people should be capable and come up with best version of ourselves for which we need to acquire knowledge. Lastly he congratulated the department and the officials related to the project and hoped for its early success.

The knowledge centre is said to focus on 5 key areas of knowledge paradigm- access to knowledge, knowledge concepts, knowledge creation, knowledge application and development of better knowledge service to respond to contemporary requirements for improving reading habits and to meet the intellectual appetite of students, research scholars, bureaucrats as well as politicians.

The repository is said to accommodate atleast 20 Lakhs volumes of Physical books, E- books, periodicals, documents, manuscripts and the architectural design of the building is said to be in the form of an open book consisting of 3 blocks with a glass pyramid topped internal atrium.

Gyan Mandir will be seen on 2.36 acres of land, in the middle of the Gangtok with cost estimated at Rs. 200 crores and an additional Rs. 35 crores.

Apart from traditional areas, this facility is said to provide space for an art exhibition, E-library, library initiation centre, publishing and marketing sections, seminar halls for conducting workshops and all relevant infrastructure facilities required for a World Class Knowledge Centre.

The project will be executed through Artech Consultant Pvt. Ltd, Kolkata and scheduled for completion before 24th January 2021.

