

Gangtok, April 5: (IPR) Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Shri A.K. Shrivastava chaired the 3rd State Steering Committee Meeting for Immunization in the State. The meeting had the presence and participation of Commissioner cum Secretary Health Shri Vishal Chauhan, and senior officers of all concerned departments as well as District Collectors of all four Districts.

The meeting was also attended by officers from partner organizations such as WHO and UNICEF. The meeting began with address by Commissioner cum Secretary Health Shri Vishal Chauhan. He briefed about the purpose of the meeting and the outcomes of the previous State Steering Committee Meetings. He stated that the meeting has been organized to review the Intensified Mission Indradhanush, its implementation on the ground, and the steps taken to achieve the target of 90% immunization by December, 2018. He informed that Hon'ble Chief Minister will be releasing the HPV Operational Guidelines on the occasion of World Health Day on 7th April 2018. He called on the respective departments, especially the HRDD for up scaling the campaign in the Government and private schools in the State.

State Immunization Officer, Dr. Phumzay Denzongpa made a presentation on status of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) to be introduced in the State in the month of June, 2018. She further apprised the meeting about the status of implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) in the State. She informed that the HPV is being introduced in the State to prevent the young adolescent girls from incidents of Cervical Cancer. She informed in detail various stages of the preparedness for the Campaign, the process of Immunization, and the strategy adopted by the Health Department in convergence with other departments. It was reiterated in the meeting that private schools should be sensitized to participate in the HPV Campaign. The involvement and role of various departments was discussed in detail. After a brief open house discussion by partner agencies, the meeting discussed about the feedback of the Intensified Mission Indradhanush by the Government of India.

Chief Secretary and Chairperson of the State Steering Committee, Shri A.K. Shrivastava in his address called for active participation of all the Departments invariably to make the Campaign successful and to ensure 100% coverage. He assures full support at every stage and encouraged the district collectors and other functionaries to take the leadership in coordination with the Health officials.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Mission Director NHM, Dr. Bimal Rai.

