



# SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 66 No. 21 visit us at [www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in)

Gangtok (Tuesday) May 03, 2022

Regd. No.WB/SKM/01/2020-2022

## Governor flags off Bike Rally



**Gangtok, May 01:** Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad flagged off the bike rally organised by the Motor Vehicle Division, Transport Department in collaboration with District Administration Centre at Green Park in Topakhani, today.

The event is observed as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', under the banner of Celebration of North East Festival. The programme had the presence of Area MLA (Martam-Rumtek) Mr. Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, DC

Ragul K, ADC, ADC (Dev) and other officials from different departments.

RTO East said that the main purpose of the Bike Rally is to spread road safety awareness in the State and inform the public about ethical road ride behavior. More than twenty-five participants from Bikers United of Sikkim, Dirty Angels Motorcycle Club and many more participated in the rally. The Rally concluded at MG Marg, Gangtok.

## Governor hands over cheque to Borong handmade Unit

**Namchi, April 25:** Governor Mr. Ganga Prasad handed over a cheque of ₹5 Lakh to Handmade Paper Unit of Borong and ₹2.5 Lakh to Borong Secondary School, today, as announced by him during Entry Point meeting of Governor's Adopted Village at Borong on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

Panchayat President of

Borong Phamtam GPU Mrs. Rupa Gurung and Mr. Durga Dutta Sharma received the cheque on behalf of Borong Secondary School and Handmade Paper Unit at a function held at Raj Bhawan, Gangtok, in the presence of Secretary Raj Bhawan Mr Raj Yadav and District Collector Namchi Mr. M Bharani Kumar.

### Photo News



The Sikkim Co-operative Milk Producer's Union Ltd. awarded one of the e-market National Awards by the NCDFI for its performance in NCDFI e marketing and the performance shown in Army milk supplies in Sikkim and West Bengal.

Additional General Manager, Ms. K.D. Barfungpa received the award on behalf of Sikkim Co-operative Milk Producer's Union Ltd. from Union Minister, Home and Cooperation Mr. Amit Shah at Anand, Gujarat on April 10.

## Chief Minister attends joint conference of CMs and Chief Justices of High Courts

**New Delhi, April 30:** Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang attended a joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts at Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan, today.

The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi along with the Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana, Union Minister for Law and Justice Mr. Kiren Rijju and Minister of State for Law and Justice Prof. SP Baghel. The conference deliberated on ways to strengthen the judiciary in the country to deliver swift justice and utilise technology to be more efficient.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang highlighted the Central Government's decision to grant an Independent BSNL circle for Sikkim and requested for expediting



the process. He added that this will boost internet connectivity throughout the state and assist in digitizing the government services. Further, he expressed his delight to be a part of the joint conference and thanked the Prime Minister,

Chief Justice of India, and Union Law Minister for the invitation.

The conference was attended by Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Ministers of all the states and Chief Justices of High Courts.

## CM inaugurates Pakyong DAC

**Pakyong, April 29:** Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the District Administrative Centre of the newly formed district of Pakyong, today.

Pakyong District was officially created on December 2021 by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly's Reorganization of Districts Act 2021. Pakyong District comprises of three Sub-divisions which are Pakyong, Rangpo and Rongli Sub-divisions.

The Chief Minister was welcomed with the guard of honour by the 3<sup>rd</sup> IRBn Battalion HQ, Manglay Battalion HQ, at DAC, Pakyong, which was followed by his inauguration of

the RURBAN Community Complex. Thereafter, he addressed the public at St. Xavier's school ground.

During the programme, dance and song were presented by students of St. Xavier's school. A memento and a video named "Let's go Pakyong" was also screened.

District officers and staff who were instrumental in the formation of the new district were felicitated by the Chief Minister. It may be noted that a book named "Shreya's Invincible Pregnancy- A guide to nourish your mental health" written by Punam Sharma was released by Chief Minister.

In his address, the Chief

Minister spoke in detail his vision of transforming Sikkim and highlighted that Pakyong district should aim to be the new Gangtok in terms of development. The onus lies not only on the MLAs, District Collector and Superintendent of Police, but on all Government employees and each and every citizen of the district. Everybody has to collectively nurture the new district.

The Government is making all necessary efforts to systematize the administration to make it convenient for the people and is encouraging doorstep governance and have given it the

Contd. on page 7

## International Labour Day observed

**Gangtok, May 01:** International Labour Day or May Day was observed in the State capital, today. The State-level celebration organised by the Labour Department at Manan Kendra was attended by Minister for Buildings & Housing and Transport Departments Mr. Sanjit Kharel as the chief guest accompanied by Minister for Labour Department, Mr. M.N. Sherpa as the guest of honour.

The event had the presence of Deputy Speaker, SLA, Minister for UDD, MLAs, Mayor, Deputy Mayor GMC, Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary, Labour Department alongside Chairmen, Advisors, HoDs and dignitaries from various departments. The



celebration had the participation of a large number of labourers and workers community.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang virtually relayed his

Labour Day greetings to the audience from Sikkim House, New Delhi. He said that the State

Contd. on page 5

### File to the Field visit in Chungthang

**Mangan, April 29:** File to the Field initiative cum Departmental inspection for assessing, managing and mitigating disaster during the monsoon and visits to ICDS, School, GPU and others was conducted at Chungthang, today.

The field visit cum inspection was headed by DC Mangan, Dr A.B. Karki along with ADC(Dev) Chungthang, SDM Chungthang, BDO Chungthang, CMO, officers from Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Departments of Education, SPWD, Forest, Power, Roads and Bridges, Tourism, PMGSY, Horticulture, Irrigation Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Social Justice and Welfare, Women and Child Welfare Department, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department and DCSO.

In the weekly departmental inspection, the team visited Theng Ward, Pegyong Ward,

Chorten Ward, Bop Ward and Chungthang Ward. The team first stopped at Toong, where police officers from Chungthang subdivision presented their requirements for the need of new police quarters.

The team then visited the Trout Farm at Theng, where reports of the farm and prospects were submitted by officers from Department of Fisheries. They also visited Theng ICDS Centre and Government Primary Theng and immediate needs of the establishment were noted.

Likewise, Government Primary School Pengong and Pengong ICDS Centre was also visited after which the team went to Chorten Ward. After a short visit to Chorten ICDS Center, the team went to inspect the nearby natural lake of Chorten to which the public requested rejuvenation, protection and support infrastructure.

The team stopped at Teesta Urja Dam site to inspect

the safety and security of the dam and for the prospect of opening the dam for tourists to boost the tourism sector in Chungthang. The under construction Chungthang monastery that was damaged in 2011 earthquake was inspected by the team.

The team also visited and inspected, Model Chungthang ICDS Centre, Food Godown Chungthang, Chungthang PHC, Tasa Tengay Government Senior Secondary School Chungthang and Office of ADC(Dev) Chungthang.

At the Tasa Tengay Government Senior Secondary School Chungthang, the team interacted with teachers and students of class 10 and 12. The team concluded the day with a short meeting in the conference hall of ADC(Dev) Office Chungthang, where a brief summary of the day was presented.

### One-day training for Safaimitras organised

**Mangan, April 29:** Mangan Nagar Panchayat organised a one-day training on source segregation for Safaimitras at MNP Conference Hall, today.

The event had the presence of chief guest

Municipal President Mrs. Norakit Lepcha along with Municipal Vice President Mr. Ugen Palzor Kazi, Councillors Power Colony and Lower Mangan Bazaar, MEO MNP, Inspectors, HA-MNP, staff and Safaimitras.

MNP Safaimitras were trained on waste source segregation and were explained the benefits in managing waste in the household level.

### World Malaria Day 2022 observed

**Mangan, April 28:** World Malaria Day 2022 with the theme 'Harness Innovation to Reduce the Malarial Disease Burden & Save Lives' was observed at Mangan, today.

ADC (Mangan), Mr. Sonam Lepcha attended the programme as the chief guest along with Zilla member Mrs. Phumjay Lepcha as the guest of honor. Also present were Councillors, Power Colony and Lower Mangan, Joint Director cum APO, NCVBDP, DMS cum

DSO District Hospital Mangan, Medical officers along with Technical officers and ASHAs from Mangan District hospital, Chungthang PHC and Dikchu PHC, students and teachers from Mangan Senior Secondary school, Girls Senior Secondary school, and North Sikkim Academy.

ADC in his address encouraged all stakeholders and public to come forward to make Mangan the first malaria free district in the State.

Joint Director cum APO NCVBDP gave a brief on the programme and State Entomologist presented a PPP on National Framework for Malaria Elimination.

The programme also had a quiz and placard competition followed by prize distribution to the winners. A health rally was conducted from Mangan Bazaar to Pentok to raise awareness on malaria among the general public.

### DC Namchi convenes Monsoon Preparedness Meeting

**Namchi, April 27:** DC (Namchi) Mr. M. Bharani Kumar chaired a monsoon preparedness meeting at Conference Hall of Namchi DAC, today. The meeting was joined by SSP(Namchi) Mr. K.L. Tenzing along with ADC (Namchi) Mr. Anant Jain, ADC (Namchi) Mr. Satyen Pradhan and officials from line departments, representatives from private companies.

DC informed that the aim of the meeting was to review the arrangements being made and the precautionary measures being taken to handle the situation, which may arise due to the monsoon season in the district. He underlined the importance of smooth communication between the line departments so as to avert any unfavourable circumstances. He also issued clear directives to Land Revenue and Disaster Management, Energy and Power, Forest and Environment, Roads and Bridges Departments, (Namchi Division and National Highway Division/ADB) and NHIDCL, WS and PHED, NMC/NJMC, RMDD,

Smart City, UDD, Food and Civil Supplies, Agriculture and Horticulture, Health Departments and NHPC and various other departments to undertake the clearance work at the earliest and updated that necessary permissions needed to be taken in case of excavation work undertaken especially during the onset of the monsoon season. He added that men and machinery to be made available and deploy them as and when necessary. He also emphasized the SDMs to coordinate with RS/ARS to explore the sites where road widening, landslides and damage to public property have occurred.

DC also informed about the helpline number cum Disaster Control Room-03595-264100, which will be operational from May 15. He further informed that geo tagging has been proposed to point out endangered spots.

Similarly, Power Department was asked to set up teams for power supply related issues during heavy rains. The department has also to ensure that line men and engineers to

wear protective gears, equipment while restoring damaged or shut down lines so that no untoward incidents can happen.

Further, the Forest and Environment Department were directed to ascertain vulnerable locations and clear them at the earliest so as to tide through any potential disaster. The department was instructed to form a quick response team in all five ranges at the earliest and remove trees posing threat within the next 10 days. It was also informed that the Namchi Municipal Council and Naya-Bazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat are to conduct a cleanliness drive and unclog drains in most of the wards for better drainage before the onset of the rainy season so as to prevent inundations in the habitations.

It was informed that reports of the departments of monsoon preparedness need to be submitted within the stipulated time. Moreover, the officials also apprised regarding many developmental works being carried out in the district.

### District level quiz competition cum conclave organised

**Mangan, April 27:** A district level quiz competition cum conclave under the banner of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' was held at Zilla Bhawan, Mangan, today. With the theme 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP), the programme was organised by DTF (BBBP), District Administration, Mangan.

The programme had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha Mangan, along with District Collector, Mangan, Dr A.B. Karki, SDM Dzongu, CMO(Mangan), CEO Education, DPO/CDPOs of Mangan, Dzongu, Chungthang, DCPO Mangan, Principals and HMs, Students, Anganwadi workers and Staff from Women and Child Development Department.

Councillor, Ms. Tshering Doma Bhutia, in her address, thanked the District Collector, Mangan for successfully organising the event and highlighted the need to build a society and community where every child can thrive and be encouraged. She mentioned the importance of education and its role and said that everyone needs to work together to spread awareness about it.

District Collector, Dr A.B. Karki, welcomed the guests and introduced the members of the District Task Force(DTF),

Mangan.

The quiz competition initially had a participation of about 20 schools from in and around Mangan District, out of which, 12 schools qualified to take part in the semi-finals and final. The competition was segregated into three parts; Semifinal I and II and the final.

During the competition, Phodong Sr. Sec. School bagged the first position while Eklavya Model Residential School, Swayem stood in the second position followed by Hee-Gyathang Sr. Sec. School in the third position, respectively.

The winners were presented with a cash award of ₹20,000/-, ₹10,000/- and ₹5,000/- along with awards, medals and certificates. The participants of the competition were also presented with the Certificates.

Earlier, a keynote address on the various aspects of BBBP was presented by CDPO, Chungthang.

The two national and internationally acclaimed folk music instrumental artistes, namely Tshering Lhendup Lepcha and Samdup Lepcha along with Leedamit Lepcha from EMRS, Swayem were felicitated, who had also presented cultural performances in the programme.

### KCC organises workshop

**Gyalshing, April 27:** A workshop on designing a sustainable tourism policy paper promoting green livelihoods for Gyalshing was organized at the Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Gyalshing, today. The workshop as a part of UNDPs Green Recovery Programme was organized by the Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee (KCC). The workshop was chaired by, Senior Superintendent of Police, Gyalshing District Mr. Hari Chettri and also attended by SDM (Hq), SDM (Yuksom), Additional Director (Animal Husbandry), Additional Director, Tourism Department, Gyalshing, DFO and other representatives of the Forest Department, Officials from line Departments, India and KCC team and the rural tourism representatives.

Sr. SP Gyalshing thanked UNDP and KCC for organizing the workshop emphasized on coordination between all stakeholders to enhance the eco-tourism sector.

The workshop started with an address by Board member of KCC, Mr. P.G. Bhutia., Project Coordinator, Green Recovery Programme, Ms. Supriya Khound gave a brief overview of the initiative. The Green Recovery Programme for Gyalshing Sikkim, being implemented in convergence with other ongoing GEF-GOI-UNDP SECURE Himalaya project, is addressing the key areas of green livelihoods, solarisation and one health approach for zoonotic disease management.

Regional Head for North-

East India for UNDP Mr John Borgoyary shared his experiences in working on rural tourism in the region. The resource persons Consultant, Organic Mission and Ecotourism Mr. Renzino Lepcha, and CEO, ECOSS, Gangtok, Mr. R. P. Gurung, gave insightful presentation on the tourism pattern and trends in Sikkim and the Sikkim tourism policy, which was drafted in 2018.

After a presentation, the baseline findings for the tourism policy was shared by the consultant Dr. Amit Sharma, engaged for drafting the draft policy by UNDP. The three thematic groups were divided based on the aspects of sustainability, conservation, policy level engagement and convergence. Discussions were held in each group regarding the existing patterns and challenges for each sector. After the discussion, the groups presented their major action points of discussion. Important issues like capacity building, standardization of homestay and service provider rates, increasing publicity and information accessibility, enhancing connectivity were some of the pertinent issues highlighted by the groups.

In his remarks Policy Specialist, UNDP India Mr. Jaimon Uthup mentioned that the district has immense potential for further promotion of eco-tourism and UNDP shall work with the district administration to make the tourism policy relevant and of the desired quality.

## Disaster Management and Monsoon Preparedness meeting at Soreng District

**Soreng, April 27:** DC Mr. Bhim Thatal chaired the first District Disaster Management and Monsoon Preparedness Meeting held at the Soreng Community Hall, today. The meeting had the attendance of Zilla Adhyaksha (WDZP), Mrs. Devika Subba, Block Panchayat Presidents, SP (Soreng) Mr J. Jayapandiyan, ADC (Soreng) ADC/Dev (Soreng), SDM (Soreng, DFO (T), DSP (IRBn/Pipalay)) Officials from line Departments, Principals and Headmasters, representatives from private companies and respective stakeholders.

The meeting was also held to make aware about the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), the introduction of members and their functionalities, with DC being the Chairperson and District Panchayat President as the Co-chairperson along with ADC as the General Secretary and the SP, ADC/Dev and CMO as the

Committee members.

Zilla Adhyaksha highlighted that the rural areas are in use of single-use plastic bags and are still not sure how to properly dispose them. She also mentioned about the ignorant behaviour of people in dumping the garbage according to their convenience rather than at its designated places, resulting in clogged drainage, landslides and soil erosion.

She was suggestive towards the Panchayats and Officials in identifying the problematic areas that are at higher risk especially during the upcoming rainy season and asked all the stakeholders to be more proactive in contributing towards lessening its consequences.

DC suggested everyone who are related to public works/ services organization, to acquaint themselves regarding the DDMA Act. He asked everyone to discharge their roles

and responsibilities along with their personal safety during any form of disaster. Explaining the concept of Vulnerability Mapping, the DC said that it is necessary to identify and assess those areas that are at a greater risk of damages through calamities. He also directed all departments to constitute a team of first responders during the need of hour and also instructed the concerned department to timely report all the existing essential commodities.

SP laid down some of the suggestions as a precautionary measure during the monsoon season. He also informed about the emergency contact number 112 for any help throughout the State.

The programme also saw an interactive session wherein all issues that may arise during monsoon, and the precautionary measures were thoroughly discussed.

## Door-step Governance initiative starts in Soreng

**Soreng, April 26:** With a view of promoting and familiarising the concept of Door-step Governance, the MLA Mr. Aditya Golay and DC Soreng Mr. Bhim Thatal jointly inspected and interacted with the people of areas facing major problems of landslides, proper connectivity, sinking land and water scarcity under Soreng constituency, today. The visiting team constituted of the Panchayat members, SDM Soreng Mr. Ranjan Rai, DPO Soreng Mr. Roshan Subba along with officials of the Departments of Roads and Bridges, Education and Law.

The inspection included the under construction of Office infrastructure at Malbasey, land sinking area, properties pertaining to Junior High School at Mendogaon, VLW Centre, Sikkim Khadi and Woolen Centre, ICDS, Tashi Choling Gumpa, Village Administrative Centre, Government Pre-Primary School at Rupsang, Government Primary School at Jambudara, Rurban Community Complex at Pegha Gaon, and the landslides

at Nesur Gaon and Dara Gaon.

During the inspection, the MLA advised for proper utilisation of the newly constructed office spaces. Regarding the issues related to landslides and land sinking, he directed the concerned officials to compile a proposal including the estimation for the construction of a protective wall at the earliest. He also directed the concerned contractor to take immediate steps to avoid any road obstruction especially during the upcoming monsoon season.

He also advised that in order to successfully implement the schemes under public-related works, maximum participation from the community is a must. The ongoing nationwide Jal Jeevan Mission can be the solution of water crisis, provided that the community actively participates in its approach, he added. He also suggested each GPU to constitute JJM Monitory Mechanism Committee that helps in regulating the benefits from the schemes.

DC while visiting the

various school infrastructures spoke about many schemes and policies of the Government under Samagra Siksha Abhiyan. He informed that all schools (private or Government) must adhere to the norms and guidelines of the Right to Education Act and asked the School authorities to have a proper profiling of the teachers and the mandatory qualification as per the RTE Act. During the inspection, it was observed that the enrolments of students in the Government schools are at a low rate and also advised the teachers to promote the advantages and benefits of enrolling their children into Government run schools. In order to boost the development of some of the areas, the DC assured all necessary help and aid to be provided when required. He announced to provide few benefits which include a water tank at Mendogaon Junior High School, Computer System at VAC and a sum of Rupees one lakh to construct short term preventive works for the landslide at Nesur Gaon.

## Kisan Mela campaign held in Mangan

**Mangan, April 26:** 'Kisan Bhagidhari Prathamikta Hamari' Kisan Mela campaign was held at KVK premises, Mangan District, today. The programme was organized by ATMA, Agriculture Department Mangan.

Several stalls of ATMA (Agriculture Department) SHGs and progressive farmers, KVK, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and Horticulture Departments from all four blocks of Mangan District were put up.

The programme was attended by Zilla Adhyaksha North Ms. Namday Lepcha as the chief guest, accompanied by Panchayats, Director Agriculture Department Mr. Sonam Rinchen Bhutia, Additional Director cum

Project Director Agriculture Department Mr B. D. Rai, Joint Director Agriculture Department, Joint Director, AH&VS Department, ADOs, HDOs, BTMs, ATMs (ATMA) SMSs (KVK), and progressive farmers.

The programme started with a power point presentation on fall army worm (Maize) by SMS KVK Mangan Mrs Karma Doma Bhutia, followed by a power point presentation by ATM Mrs. Enjay Lhamu Lepcha.

During the programme, farmers were also given an opportunity in an interactive session.

Four progressive farmers were felicitated with certificates of appreciation by the chief guest and

other officers.

Zilla Adhyaksha encouraged the farmers and expressed her gratitude to them for their hard work. She also suggested the youths to come forward and opt for it as it has vast scope for becoming self reliant.

Addl. Director, Agriculture Department informed about various schemes of the Government in the Agriculture Department and encouraged the farmers to come forward and take advantage of those schemes.

The Director Agriculture and Joint Director of AH&VS also highlighted numerous schemes and projects under agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.

## Review meeting of GPU's under SAGY held

**Mangan, April 26:** The district level empowerment committee cum Village Developmental Plan (VDP) review meeting of the GPU's under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna (SAGY), in coordination with Rural Development Department was held at DAC Mangan, today.

DC cum District Nodal Officer, Dr A. B. Karki, in his address urged the line department officials to focus on the developmental activities of the GPUs and the reports of the respective departments to be prepared and submitted by the

May 10. He mentioned the need to work in the baseline survey of the old and newly adopted GPUs. He expressed the need for the developmental activities to be practical and socio-economically based.

Earlier, a presentation on SGAY was put forward by PDA cum STOT (SGAY), Mr. Kamal N. Bhattarai, following which, reports of the activities and initiation of their respective GPU's were presented and discussed upon by the Charge officers/ BDOs.

## Kisan Mela organised in Gyalshing

**Gyalshing, April 26:** Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gyalshing organised a day long Kisan Mela as a part of 'Kisan Campaign' under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at KVK premises, today.

The main objective of the Mela was to provide an appropriate platform to the progressive farmers of the district to showcase their agricultural products for wider publicity and also to explore the possibility of the market linkages.

The Mela was attended by Zilla Panchayat (Yangtey GPU), Mr. Roshan Khatiwada as the Chief Guest and was accompanied by Panchayat President, Mrs. Kala Subedi, Additional Director (AH&VS), Dr. N.M. Cintury, Senior Scientist and Head (KVK), Mr. Dinesh Basnett, and other officials of Agriculture Department/Gyalshing, Manager (SISCO Bank/Gyalshing), Deputy Manager (National Insurance), Panchayat Members, Departmental Officials and public.

Zilla Panchayat expressed his gratitude towards all the farmers for their dedication and passion on organic farming.

He also requested all the bank officials to elucidate the instructions comprehensively to the beneficiaries regarding various schemes.

Senior Scientist, briefed about the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and informed that the campaign is being organised from 25th till 30th April 2022.

Further, he informed that the Central and State Government have given due importance to farming and urged all to avail the benefits of Government's schemes. In addition, he also briefed about the KVK, which would provide training with latest organic production technologies.

ADO and other officials also briefed on agricultural schemes, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, respectively.

The highlight of the

programme were the felicitation ceremony and distribution of Kisan Credit Card to the following progressive farmers, namely, Mr. Jeewan Kumar Sharma (Ratomatay, Thangsing), Mrs. Mingma Phuti Bhutia (Melli, Aching), Mr. Ganesh Kumar Chettri (Lower Tikjeck), Mrs Anjela Rai (Sombaria).

Similarly, Mr. Chandra Bahadur Limboo, Mrs. Ganga Rai and Mr. Passang Lepcha were the KCC recipients.

Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, SSDMA has been executing the National Disaster Management Authority, NDMA Scheme 'Up Scaling of Aapda Mitra' for the three Districts of the State, namely, South, West and North wherein 300 volunteers (100 volunteers per district) have to be trained.

SSDMA has selected Namchi District for the 1st batch of training the volunteers wherein 33 numbers have already been trained under the scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 12th April 2022.

The 2nd batch of volunteers of 45 numbers is undergoing the said training from April 26 to May 07 at Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco Tourism, IHCAE, Chemchey, Namchi.

The inaugural session for the training was held on April 26 which was attended by Director/SSDMA, Mr Prabhakar Rai, Additional Director/SSDMA, Mr Rajiv Roka, Administrator IHCAE Mr Rajiv Rai, and officials from SSDMA and IHCAE.

Director/SSDMA briefed the volunteers about the importance of the training and has targeted the ward level community for the same. Additional Director/SSDMA spoke on the scheme of Up Scaling of Aapda Mitra. Administrator/IHCAE thanked SSDMA for choosing the institute for the training and elucidated on the programme schedule.

It was followed by a presentation by IT specialist/SSDMA Ms Ada Lawrence on the basic concept of disaster management and preparedness.

## National Panchayati Raj Day 2022 observed

**Gyalshing, April 24:** The National Panchayati Raj Day 2022 was celebrated at the Village Administrative Centre of Lingchom Tikjya GPU, today.

As a part of the celebration, a special Gram Sabha was also conducted by the GPU.

Deputy Speaker, SLA, Mr. Sangay Lepcha graced the event as the chief guest along with Zilla Adhyaksha (WDZP) Mrs. Devika Subba as the guest of honour. The programme also saw the presence of Chairman, SIDICO, Mr. Janak Gurung, Chairman PHE, Mr. Hari Narayan Subedi, Zilla Up-Adhyaksha, Mr. Ashok Gurung, ADC (Development) Mr. Surat Gurung, SDM(Hq.) Mr. Gopal K. Chettri, DPO(Gyalshing) Mr. Ganga Prasad Sharma, BDO(Gyalshing) Mr. Bijay Subba, Panchayat President Lingchom-Tikjek GPU, Mr. Phul Man Limboo and other dignitaries.

On the occasion, 'Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar' 2022 was conferred to West District Zilla Panchayat and Lingchom Tikjya GPU in Zilla and Gram Panchayat level by the Deputy Speaker under Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India.

Deputy Speaker informed that the day has been celebrated throughout the Nation to mark respect to the most elementary and important aspects of democratic system. He congratulated the WDZP and Lingchom Tikjya GPU for the achievement and said that Lingchom Tikjya GPU has set an example for other GPUs about how a sincere and dedicated service can get recognition in the

National platform. He also articulated that the hard work has no substitute and rendering the sincere service towards the people will definitely transform the rural India.

Mrs. Devika Subba, on behalf of Zilla Panchayats congratulated Lingchom Tikjya GPU for the achievement. She highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals and also mentioned about its primary aspects. She also applauded Lingchom Tikjya GPU for its adaptability on digital reformation.

The celebration was also addressed by SIDICO Chairman, ADC (Development), SDM (Hq) and BDO Gyalshing, respectively.

A live webcast of the National Level Celebration was also projected in the programme.

Similarly, Panchayati Raj Day cum Panchayat Award ceremony was held at Simik Lingzey GPU at GPK Aritar, today.

The programme was graced by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr. M. K. Sharma as the chief guest.

During the programme, Panchayat Mr Pralad Poudyal was handed over National Panchayat Award on Child Friendly GPU by the Minister. The Award was conferred by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Simik Lingzey GPU for excellent child friendly work for the year 2020-21.

Programme also had the presence of Advisor to CMMr T.N. Dhakal, Director, Panchayat, ADC Development, DPO East District, BDO Khamdong, ADs other officials, dignitaries and local people.

Likewise, the National Panchayati Raj Day was observed at Damthang Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) and other nine Gram Panchayat Units under the Block Administrative Centre, Namchi in their respective GPUs, today. The Damthang GPU which has been selected as the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) village observed the day by organising a 'Special Gram Sabha' under the chairmanship of Panchayat President Mr. Lalit Rai. The programme was attended by Gram Panchayats, Block Development Officer, Namchi, officers from SIRD and PR, BAC Namchi, RD functionaries of the GPU and the members of Gram Sabha.

The Panchayat President in his address highlighted the importance of observing the National Panchayati Raj Day.

BDO Namchi, Mr. Tenzing Bhutia stressed upon the idea of strengthening the institution of Panchayati Raj. He mentioned that the role of Panchayats and its functionaries are of vital importance and the idea of nation building can be achieved through their active participation. He also shared about the launching of the 'Grameen Sanchar Abhiyaan' on April 25<sup>th</sup> by the IPR Department Assangthang, Namchi. The primary objective of this mission is to disseminate information of various governmental schemes and policies so that the general public can associate and benefit out of these. He also highlighted the Sustainable development Goals.

## Grameen Sanchar Abhiyan commences at Assangthang

**Namchi, April 25:** Grameen Sanchar Abhiyan at Namchi District commenced from Assangthang Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) under Poklok Kamrang Constituency, today.

This Abhiyan is a new initiative of the Information and Public Relations Department, which ensures constant dissemination of State Government information in rural areas, especially in areas with low internet connectivity or smart phone access.

Zilla Adhyaksha Namchi Mrs. Tshering Dem Bhutia attended the programme as the chief guest in the presence of the Secretary IPR Mrs. Siphora Targain, Director IPR Mrs. Benu Gurung, AD Archives Mr. Subash Sharma, Namchi BDO Mr. Tenzing Bhutia, PI Namchi BAC along with Panchayat Presidents and members of the GPUs of the constituency.

The chief guest distributed

the newly launched portable blue tooth devices under the Grameen Sanchar Abhiyan to the identified representatives of the GPUs.

In her address, the chief guest acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the IPR Department to connect the rural areas with the latest government information through the new age technology so that the rural populace would be informed of various information about the State Government meant for the upliftment of the public. She also extended her gratitude to the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang for starting off the initiative and added that the rural populace will benefit the most from this Abhiyan.

Secretary IPR delved into the difficulties of the rural areas in obtaining the proper information, especially in the far-flung where internet connections are poor. In such areas, she said that people are more persuaded to believe in fake and false information.

Therefore, through the use of this portable Blue tooth device, the people will be well informed about the latest government schemes, policies, employment notice, medical assistance, and various other initiatives related to different departments of the State Government.

AD Mr. Subash Sharma highlighted the technical details of the device and informed that the blue tooth devices should be played in various locations such as Fair Price Shops, Block Administrative Centre, Milk Collection and Common Centres, where the public generally gathers and visits the most. Recorded audio information on State Government's schemes and policies will be provided by the department to the public, he added.

The programme also saw the demonstration of the use of the portable device illustrated by Data Analyst Mr. Karma Lama.

## DC Gyalshing convenes virtual meet

**Gyalshing, April 22:** A virtual meeting was held at the Conference Hall of National Informatics Centre, Rabdentse under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Policy) Mr. Vishal Chauhan, who is also nominated as Central Prabhari Officer to Aspirational District, today.

The meeting had the presence of District Collector, Gyalshing, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo, along with Chief Education Officer/ Education Department Mr. K.C. Gyatso, Additional Director/ AH&VS, Dr. N.M. Cintury CDPO Gyalshing, Mr. H.B. Shanker, DRCHO/District Hospital Dr. Patrika Rai, representative of Piramal Foundation, and other Departmental officials.

The DC gave an overview of the progress and implementation of the Aspirational District Programme in the district through Power Point presentation. The following topics were discussed in detail: health and nutrition, West Sikkim, education sector, West Sikkim, agricultural sector, West Sikkim, financial inclusion and skill development, West Sikkim and status of project under NITI Aayog (Award Money).

During the presentation, he shared the improvement of the

performance till date and put forth various issues and challenges confronting the pace of development. Further, he stressed on health camps through mobile units, upgradation of basic infrastructure, shortages of manpower.

Mr. Chauhan, in his valuable feedback and suggestions, stressed on health sector and to give due importance to NHFS Survey (National Family Health Survey). He also suggested making optimum use of health oriented applications, which are accessible. He also suggested to provide medicines of diabetes and hypertension in a monthly basis and stated that all the generic medicines should be made available in the district. Further, keeping in mind the mobile medical units, he advised it to be kept only in remote areas of the district. He reiterated that screening and testing should be done within the district and added that it should be entered into the portal as well.

In addition, he asked to carry out vocational along with language training under Skill Development and urged the concerned officials to motivate all in education and agriculture sectors to move forward.

## Final AKAM meeting for North East Festival held

**Gangtok, April 28:** The final meeting for the Celebration of North East Festival under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was held in the office of District Collector, Gangtok, today.

The meeting was chaired by District Collector and Chairman DLC, Mr. Ragul K and attended by officers from concerned line Departments who are members of the Committee.

The meeting discussed in detail various activities proposed by the Committee to be conducted as a part of the celebration. ADC, Mr. Tushar Nihare briefed about different events of the festival including sports.

District Collector mentioned that a Bike Rally will be conducted as a part of the celebration. He informed that the Painting Competition for students from various schools has been conducted. He apprised that the Poster Designing Contest will be launched, which will be based on the history of Sikkim and also about the Flora and Fauna of the state. NIC will be the Nodal agent for Poster Designing Contest. The competition will be open in two categories, which will include the Student category and the Open age category. Interested

participants can enroll for the competition online and all other necessary information regarding the celebration can also be accessed from the NIC website- <http://dacgtkakam.in/>

He also informed about the other events to be conducted like Photo Exhibition, Display Exhibition of Postal Stamps and Covers, and the display of old coins. He also requested the Sikkim Philatelic and Numismatic Society members to take part in this event. He appealed to the Philatelic Cell of the Department of Post, Government of India to exhibit their stamp collection.

He further informed that the last event of the celebration will be a Talk Show, which will include the history of Sikkim followed by the certification of the participants.

Research Officer, Culture Department Mrs. Yangchen Donker Bhutia apprised about the Heritage Walk to be conducted as a part of the celebration. She said that this Walk is an effort to share knowledge and save history as much as can be.

A Day to be Marked in the Golden Page of Sikkim's History:- Pakyong District inaugurated by Chief Minister of Sikkim Mr. Prem Singh Tamang

### Government of Sikkim Office of the Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Forest and Environment Department, Forest Secretariat, Deorali-737 102, Gangtok

Ref. No. 14/WLC/F&E

Date: 22/04/2022

#### Notice

Ms. Namrata Nepal Environment Assistant working under Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary South Wildlife Division Government of Sikkim is absenting from her duties w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 without any leave application or prior permission.

She is therefore directed to report back to her duty within (7) days from the date of publication of this notice failing which disciplinary action shall be initiated against her without further notice".

Under Secretary (Wildlife)  
(1100)

**SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**Old Tourism Complex, MG Marg Gangtok-737101**

Fax: 03592-207572

Email: [spsc-skm@nic.in](mailto:spsc-skm@nic.in), Website: [www.spscsm.gov.in](http://www.spscsm.gov.in)

Reference No: 24/EXAM/SPSC/2022

Date: 21/04/2022

**NOTICE**

On the basis of the marks obtained in the Written Examination and Vice-Voce/Interview for filling up **01 post each of Scientific Officer (Chemistry, Questioned Documents and Biology)** in the level -16 of Pay Matrix through direct recruitment, as advertised vide Adv. 02/SPSC/EXAM/2021 dt: 15/02/2021, the following candidates are hereby declared qualified and their names are recommended for appointment.

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER (CHEMISTRY)		
ROLL NO	NAME OF CANDIDATE	Reservation / Roster Point No.
01	SONAM ZANGMOO BHUTIA	UR/01

  

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER (QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS)		
ROLL NO	NAME OF CANDIDATE	Reservation / Roster Point No.
01	DHURBA CHETTRI	UR/01

Further, there were no candidates eligible for the post of Scientific Officer (Biology). Hence, the post is carried forward.

The candidature of the candidates as shown in the list is **provisional**, subject to police verification, medical fitness and verification of all required documents by the State Government.

**Yangchen D. Tamang (SCS)**  
**Controller of Examinations**  
 (Sl. No.1097, i)

*Contd. from front page*

**International...**

government is committed to the health and welfare of the labourers and workers community and will continue facilitating various schemes to regulate their employment and conditions of services and protect them from exploitations of any kind. He also announced that the minimum wages of labourers who do not fulfill the criteria for regularisation will be revised to ₹15,000/- under the Minimum Wages Act. He also announced an ex-gratia relief of ₹5 lakh to be granted to the next kin in case unfortunate death of a driver in accidents or in the line of duty. He informed that the Drivers Welfare Board will provide assistance in the interest and welfare of drivers of Sikkim which will be established soon for with a separate budget allocated in the General Budget 2022-23. He further added that the State government will provide Bolero Taxis to the best drivers of each district of Sikkim so that they can be self-sufficient.

Highlighting the various initiatives undertaken by the State government for the welfare of the labourers and workers in the State, the Chief Minister urged all the labourers and workers to register themselves with the Labour Department, in order to take full advantage of the schemes and programmes initiated by the Centre and the State government.

Minister Mr. Sanjit Kharel said that the revised Minimum Wages Act to ₹15,000/- as announced by the Chief Minister is in itself a gift to the labourers and workers community of Sikkim from the State government on the

occasion of the International Labour Day. He said that there has been a significant decrease in cases of labour unrest in the State and an increase in the prosperity of the community with 90% of active labourers contributing towards the development of the State as a whole. He urged for better HR coordination and collaboration in order to build strong employee relationships and added that both employer and the employee should always have a good intention of ensuring the welfare of the State. He further assured full support of the State government for the protection and safety of the rights of the labourers and workers.

Minister Mr. M.N. Sherpa in his address said that the State government achieved a historical milestone with the introduction of the Sikkim Labour Bill, 2021 which has made the registration and annual licensing of service providers or employers and establishments along with the labourers mandatory. He urged all the heads of the companies to immediately avail the facility of the suggestion/complaint box. The keys to the box need to be handed over to the concerned officials of the Labour Department. He asserted that the complaint box be kept away from the radar of any CCTVs in the area. He also directed for the maintenance of inspection books by all the companies and employers in order to aid smooth monitoring and problem solving of various issues by the department.

Secretary, Labour Department, Ms. Namrata Thapa, gave a comprehensive presentation about the benefits, which are given to the labourers under various schemes initiated by the department.

During the event, the Labour Department launched the e-service portal Sikkim Shram Suvudha ([www.labour.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.labour.sikkim.gov.in)) and the help desk with a toll-free helpline number for labourers - 18003451474 - through the hands of the chief guest. Subsequently, 30 workers of various departments, companies and pharmaceuticals from all six districts of the State were presented with the Mukhya Mantri Shram Samman by the State government in recognition of their outstanding contribution in both public and private sectors. A token financial assistance of Rs. 5000/- was presented to 30 workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers or BOCW Scheme. The remaining workers will be covered by the scheme subsequently, it was informed. The programme also felicitated 27 Inspectors of the Labour Department for their commendable service beyond their call of duty, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A cultural programme featuring two dance performances by workers of Aristo Pharmaceutical and children of BOCW labourers residing at Lingding Hostel and a song by a representative of Sikkim Distilleries Limited was also presented. A short documentary film on the history and importance of Labour Day was screened earlier during the event.

A free health camp and a blood donation camp were set up at the premises by STNM Hospital, Gangtok. Free medicine kits were also distributed for the benefit of the workers. The kits were provided by various pharmaceutical companies in the State.

**SMU celebrates 124<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Dr. TMA Pai**

**Gangtok, April 29:** Sikkim Manipal University and its constituent colleges celebrated the 124<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of its founding father, visionary educationist, banker and philanthropist, Dr. Tonse Madhava Ananth (TMA) Pai, today.

A series of academic and cultural events were organised in the campus of SMU, Tadong throughout the week, also commemorating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. Events like seminar presentation, slogan competition, Hindi elocution competition themed 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', debate and cultural show was part of the week-long celebrations at SMU.

Students of Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing, Sikkim Manipal College of Physiotherapy, Department of

Humanities and Social Sciences, SMU (DHSS-SMU) participated in the event.

As a part of the celebration, DHSS-SMU organised an intra-departmental Futsal Tournament in the SMU campus. Likewise, a webinar on 'plastic management, recycling and reusing' was also organised under the initiative of NSS, DHSS wherein the participants were oriented about the use of plastic and the proper ways of recycling and reusing the same. NSS volunteers along with doctors from Central Referral Hospital visited the Old Age Home at Jalipool, East Sikkim, where the residents were treated with basic health and fitness assessment. A cleanliness and plantation drive was also held to mark the occasion.

**Government of Sikkim**  
**Home Department**  
**Tashiling Secretariat**  
**Gangtok**

No.356/GEN/HOME

Dated 21/04/2022

**FINAL NOTICE**

Shri Rahul, Safaikarmachari of Home Department is absenting from his duty continuously since 13/10/2018 without any prior information or approval and his whereabouts is not known. He is, therefore, directed to report to Home Department within 15 days of publication of this notice and provide in writing the reason for such long unauthorized absenteeism failing which your government service will automatically cease in accordance to rule 14 sub rule (1) & (2) of Sikkim Government Service Rules, 1974.

By Order.

(Abinash Rai), SCS

Joint Secretary to the Government of Sikkim  
 Home Department  
 (Sl. No.1098, ii)

**Government of Sikkim**  
**Land Revenue & Disaster Management**  
**Department**  
**Tashiling Secretariat**  
**Gangtok 737101**

No:01/LR&DMD/Acq./GOS

Dated:22/04/2022

**NOTIFICATION**

In supersession to the Notification No. 49/LR&DMDI ACQ/GOS Dated: 30/11/2021 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 43(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, Shri Subash Ghimirey, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Chungthang is hereby appointed as Administrator for preparation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan for the Acquisition of land for the Construction of key Location places at Lachen, Lachung and Chungthang by Ministry of Defence ( Government of India) in North Sikkim .

sd/ -

Sarala Rai, IAS

Commissioner cum Secretary  
 Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department,  
 Government of Sikkim  
 (Sl. No.1099)

**Department of Information and Public Relations**  
**Government of Sikkim, Tadong, Gangtok**

**ATTENTION**

Instances of non-receipt of Sikkim Herald in various Departments have been reported even though the same are being delivered by the Department regularly.

In view of above, it is proposed to deliver the Sikkim Herald to a designated delivery point in different Departments through a designated contact person (Nodal Officers) which will facilitate in keeping track of regular delivery of Sikkim Herald to them.

Although some Departments have already complied, there are still few Departments who have still not designated a Nodal Officer for the same. Kindly intimate the name, designation and contact number (both landline & mobile) of the Nodal Officer who will be responsible for receipt of Sikkim Herald in their respective Departments at the earliest to the undersigned.

**Assistant Director (Pub.)**  
**sikkimherald\_ipr@yahoo.com, Mob.No. 7908097115**

**Information and Public Relations Deptt.**  
**Government of Sikkim**

You can follow us at:

- [GovernmentofSikkim@sikkimorganic](mailto:GovernmentofSikkim@sikkimorganic)
- <https://instagram.com/governmentofsikkim>
- [sikkim information and Public Relation Department](https://www.sikkiminformationandpublicrelations.gov.in)
- [twitter@sikkimgovtipr](https://twitter.com/sikkimgovtipr)

[www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in)  
[www.sikkimgovfeedback.org](http://www.sikkimgovfeedback.org)

## Symposium on Smart City Revolution organised

**Gangtok, April 30:** A symposium on 'Urban Development in North Eastern States: Smart City Revolutions' was organised by Planning & Development Department, Urban Development Department, Government of Sikkim and Gangtok Smart City Development Limited in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER), Government of India here at the capital as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav': North East Festival, today.

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, attended the programme as the chief guest accompanied by Minister of Urban Development and Food & Civil Supplies Departments, Mr. Arun Kumar Upreti, as the guest of honour.

The event was attended by MLA, Tadong cum Advisor, Gangtok Smart City, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Director, Smart Cities Mission, Director, DoNER, Director, NEC and Secretary, Urban Development along with delegates from North Eastern Smart Cities and officials from the Centre and State.

Minister Mr. Arun Upreti, in his address expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister on behalf of Sikkim and North Eastern States for implementing the smart city projects which has played a crucial role in reshaping the socio-economic conditions of cities in the North East Region. He further thanked the

Government of India for selecting Gangtok as the venue for the symposium. He stated that the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister P.S. Tamang has been constantly working in close coordination with the Central Government to ensure that pro-people flagship projects like Smart City could be implemented for fulfilling the gap in infrastructural necessities in urban areas.

Underlining the major disruption caused in the state economy owing to the COVID-19 pandemic for the last two years, he asserted that the Gangtok and Namchi Smart Cities remain fully committed to the mission in pursuing the completion of work in a safe, diligent and reasonable manner and that the work progress has reached to an advanced stage despite several bottlenecks such as connectivity, inclement weather and geographical disadvantages. He also put forth the long standing request of the State for considering changing of funding pattern from 50:50 to 90:10 ratio for Smart City as in the case of other CSS for North East and Himalayan States without decreasing the plan size of mission for the State of Sikkim. He added that the revised pattern of funding would smoothly allow the State Government to meet up the State share and would enable to complete the mission as per the revised schedule of date of June 2023.

Addressing the gathering,

the Union Minister praised the State government's efforts and added that Gangtok could notably become the lighthouse for other cities in the country. The Union Minister announced that the Government of India has agreed to amend the funding pattern to 90:10, thus ensuring that many projects in the region will reach completion. He commended the rapid progress exhibited by the Smart Cities of Gangtok and Namchi in implementing the Smart City projects worth Rs. 2,474 crores under the Smart City mission. Reiterating the Central Government's commitment towards connecting North East India through infrastructure and technology, he stated that the North Eastern States have become India's areas of high growth that can fuel India's push towards an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. He stressed on the massive potential of the region to be the trade link between India and South East Asia in the years to come.

He congratulated the State Government of Sikkim and the Gangtok Municipal Corporation for being the first State to implement OBPS and commended all the agencies of the State for successfully rolling out the OBPS and Online Municipal Services in the region. He also congratulated all the Smart Cities in the North East for their enthusiasm in working towards the common goal of Smart City Mission.

## Two-day national seminar held

**Gangtok, April 29:** A two-day national seminar titled 'Ancient Indian Jurisprudence and its relevance in Contemporary Society' commenced at Sikkim Judicial Auditorium, Sohyagang, today.

The event was organised by Sikkim Government Law College and sponsored by Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

MP (Lok Sabha) Mr. Indra Hang Subba attended the event as the chief guest. Also present were HoD Department of Law, North Bengal University (NBU), Vice-Chancellor SRM University, Director, Higher and Technical Education and Principal, Sikkim Government Law College.

MP in his address said that it is necessary to organise educational seminars to motivate students. He stated that institutions like law are an effective medium to bring social change in the country and have an important role to play.

The law system regulates rules and acts as a social mediator and guides everyone to bring change at different levels, he added.

Prof. (Dr) Gangotri Chakraborty spoke on 'Indian Concept of Law of Rita and Dharma'. She congratulated Dr. Tshewang Dorjee Lama for initiating a discourse related to

Jurisprudence adding that Jurisprudence is one of the most important and fundamental subjects related to law. She also mentioned the principles related to Dharma and said that it is the bundle of rights, obligations, duties, and privileges, all rolled into one but always governed by a sense of duty for right and righteousness. She also elaborated on the origin of Jurisprudence and its influence on civil life and society at large.

Mrs. Yishey Yongda expressed her gratitude to be present at the occasion organised by the second oldest higher education institute in the state. Speaking about Late Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee, who was the legal Advisor of Sikkim during pre-merger and who later became the Judge of Sikkim High Court, she highlighted his significant contribution towards enactments and acts when Sikkim Code was being penned down. She also congratulated the Principal, faculty members, and students in acclaiming Sikkim Law College to 30<sup>th</sup> position in the ranking order list of Law Institutions in the Country as adjudged by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

Dr. Tshewang D. Lama briefed on the history of Sikkim law College and said that it is the second oldest institute of

higher learning in the State functioning under the guidance of the Sikkim government and is recognised by the Bar Council of India, New Delhi. He also informed that the college is acknowledged by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and stands inclusive in provision 2(f) and 12 B, UGC Act, 1956.

Earlier in the programme, Memorial Lecture Series to be held online in the name of Late Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee was inaugurated. The series will be an annual event, where Legal Luminaries of National and International stature will be invited to share their thoughts on contemporary legal developments together with a quarterly exercise where eminent scholars will be invited to share their thoughts as well.

The inaugural session was followed by a technical meeting chaired by Associate Professor HoD Sikkim University along with a special lecture by Professor Dr. Gangotri Chakraborty, Professor & Head, University of North Bengal. The basic intent of the seminar was to elaborate on the history of mankind in relation to societies, systems, ideologies, cultures and Governments where the influence and the role of law have always been significant.

## Heritage walk held

**Gangtok, April 30:** To commemorate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, State Archives and Museum, Culture Department in collaboration with the District Administration Centre, Gangtok organised Heritage Walk, a walking reminiscence of Sikkimese history and culture. The heritage walk started from Tsuklakhang Royal Chapel and ended at Raj Bhawan, today.

The programme was attended by DC Gangtok, Mr. Ragul K, ADC, Joint Director, Culture Department, Assistant Director, Culture Department and Research Officer from the Culture Department. 20 students from

West Point Senior Secondary School participated in the Heritage Walk.

DC in his address mentioned about the purpose of the Heritage Walk, that is to share knowledge and understanding about the cultural and historical heritage related to Sikkim.

Speaking with the students, Research Officer encouraged students to come forward and take initiatives to understand more about the history and culture of Sikkim. She also briefed about the cultural, architectural, and historical aspects related to the places en route.

## Awareness-cum-distribution programme held

**Mangan, April 30:** A constituency level 'Farmers Awareness cum Benefit Distribution Programme' under Kabi Lungchuk Constituency, was held at the Lingchom Community Hall, today.

Minister for Forest and Environment Department, Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia attended the programme as the chief guest along with Director Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Addl. Director, Horticulture Department

Secretary Agriculture, Director Agriculture, Addl. Director Agriculture, Mangan District, SE Agriculture, Joint Director Horticulture Department, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Joint Director Agriculture, ADO Kabi, ADO Mangan, and ocal Panchayats.

The programme oversaw the distribution and token of farm machineries, farm equipment, and other farming items that would help the farmers in the constituency.

## AKAM celebrations competition held

**Gyalshing, April 30:** To commemorate the 75th year of India's independence i.e. 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' an essay, debate and painting competitions were held on April 27 in all Secondary and Senior Secondary schools in Gyalshing and Soreng districts where students from class 9 and above were eligible to participate.

All 29 senior secondary

schools and 34 secondary schools from Gyalshing and Soreng Districts took part in the competition held at the block level in which top two entries were selected. A total of six students from each block was qualified for the final round that will be held at the district level and the top three winners under each category was awarded cash prizes along with certificates.

## Painting competition held under AKAM

**Namchi, April 29:** Commemorating the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, a painting competition was held in all Government Secondary and Senior Secondary schools of Namchi District on the theme 'The Smart City Revolution in North East' under the banner of 'Celebration of North East festival', today.

22 Senior Secondary and 33 Secondary schools of Namchi District participated in the competition. Schools were instructed to submit top 3 paintings at school level to the office of Chief education officer Namchi by April 30. The top three paintings will be displayed in an exhibition at Central Park Namchi.

## Protiva Utsav organised

**Gangtok, April 29:** Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with the Culture Department organised Protiva Utsav, a festival of dance and music of young talent artistes at Manan Kendra, Gangtok, today.

The programme was attended by Advisor, Culture Department Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma as the chief guest and Chairman Sikkim Cultural Heritage and Communal Harmony Board, Mr. Sonam Sherpa as the guest of honour. Artistes from West Bengal, Odisha, Assam and Sikkim

participated in the Utsav. Children from various schools from in and around Gangtok witnessed the programme along with officials of Culture Department and Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata.

As a part of the programme, Swachhata Pakhwada cleanliness drive was also organised at Luing Senior Secondary School on April 28 which was participated by the principal, teachers and students of the school. A skit on Swachhata Pakhwada was showcased by a local NGO along with other cultural programme.

## Minister L. N. Sharma and team visits FIU Miami

**Florida, April 28:** The Sikkim delegation led by the Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Mr. L. N. Sharma visited the Florida International University (FIU) at Miami, today. The delegation visited research and production facility of the Smart Infrastructure Group, at West Palm Beach, Florida.

CEO, Mr. Achyut Kumar Allady stated that the Company is involved in developing programmes with resilient and sustainable infrastructure (smart-infrastructure) development. It is a pioneer in the field of creating 'advance warning systems' through sensor technology. The company has developed infrastructure communication system which monitors infrastructures such as bridges, high rises, roads, water storage facilities to prevent failures of these

infrastructures. Sensors are laid during construction of the infrastructure with a communication tool linked with the cloud. Information such as tilt, sway, 3D movements in high rises, corrosion, load strain, interface, and pressure in bridges are collected and monitored which helps in decision making before a calamity strikes, he added. A decision was taken to invite the firm to Sikkim for making a presentation to the State Government which the company agreed to.

The delegation also attended the Association of Food Industries (AFI) convention at Ft Lauderdale. Various organic commodities such as tea, ginger, turmeric, large cardamom, buckwheat, pumpkin powder were displayed at the Importers Resource gallery.

It was informed that

agriculture being dependent on foreign agricultural workers and workforce from abroad is an expensive affair and hence the cost of production is high. Therefore FIU is looking for alternatives. The community model /FPO model of end to end value chain development of Sikkim was discussed. The importance of creating a brand identity for agricultural commodities is important and Florida has come up with a branding programme, 'Fresh from Florida' that promotes Florida grown agricultural products. Minister expressed that a reputed University such as FIU should come forward establish educational institutions in Sikkim and FIU in response showed interest in creation of a 'College of Business' in Sikkim if the State Government provides necessary support, clearances and facilities.

## Minister L.N. Sharma meets USDA officials

**Washington DC, April 27:** Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Departments Mr. L. N. Sharma held a meeting with the United States Department of Agriculture, at their Federal office in Washington DC, today. Director, International Activities Division, USDA Ms. Cheri Courtney was present along with officials of USDA and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). Different organic practices prevalent in Sikkim were elaborately explained and briefed through a presentation made by CEO, SOFDA Dr. S. Anbalagan, which was duly acknowledged by USDA as an impressive model created by Sikkim for emulation to others. The Chief Executive Officer of SSOCA Mr. Sudhir Giri also briefed about various activities related to organic produce. USDA agreed to explore trade opportunities for organic commodities of Sikkim through their International Trade wing.

With the recent focus and

interest in natural farming by the Indian Government, USDA was keen to know about Sikkim's stand regarding this new development. It was informed that Sikkim has already brought the entire agricultural area under organic management through third-party certification. With Sikkim having already established an identity as an organic farming State there will be no shift to any other system of farming.

Later, the delegation met Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington, DC. Mr. Abu Mathen George, Counsellor (Commerce) was also present. Minister Mr Sharma also underlined the existing scenario of the state in numerous sectors and further stated that Sikkim is also looking forward to investments from the US in the field of tourism and education in addition to agriculture and other allied sectors.

Mr. Sudhakar highlighted

that the demand for organic commodities is on the rise in the United States and there is a huge potential for the organic products of Sikkim.

The way forward as suggested by the Deputy Chief of Mission was to identify priority areas in each of these sectors and have virtual meetings initially with potential investors. On the issue of accreditation of Certification Bodies for NOP standards by USDA, with special reference to SSOCA, the Mission mentioned that the matter has been taken up at a bilateral level and the Mission will continue to pursue it until it is resolved.

The Sikkim delegation to the United States of America with regard to the agriculture and food processing sector will be conducting a series of meetings at different levels with a prime motive to benefit the farmers of Sikkim.

diseases.

Additional Director, Directorate of Fisheries spoke on schemes like PMMSY, which comes under the Directorate of Fisheries. He informed about the website link: [pmmysy.sikkim.gov.in](http://pmmysy.sikkim.gov.in) and email id: [sikkimfishery@yahoo.com](mailto:sikkimfishery@yahoo.com) to the famers for the enrollment to the scheme.

Joint Director cum PD, ATMA Agriculture Department, Mrs. Rachna Gurung expressed her gratitude to the farmers for participating in the event. She informed that the campaign will be held for five days wherein the farmers will have a proper guidance about various aspects of agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry sectors. She also gave a brief about various Central and State Government schemes and added that the event will include farmers-scientist interactive session so as to help them with their queries.

The event also saw the felicitation of six farmers.

*Contd. from front page*

## CM inaugurates...

tagline - 'Aangan ma Prashashan'. All the districts should work towards the transition to digital or paperless administration for greater efficiency and transparency. Adequate funds will be allocated in the upcoming Supplementary budget. Government is working towards enhancing the happiness index of the people, including government employees.

\*Education and Health are the priority sectors of the present Government and unprecedented development have already been made.

\*Teaching is a noble profession. We will ensure that all the teachers will be granted home posting during the fag end of their careers.

\*Eligible persons for appointment on compassionate grounds will not need a NOC from public representatives. Their applications will be immediately be processed by the concerned heads of departments.

\*All official documents like license etc. should be processed within a week. Likewise, all renewal work should invariably be completed within three days. Failure to ensure this timeframe will be liable for penalty.

\*Mobile Village Clinics will commence soon.

\*All sporting, cultural and social activities which were affected by Covid-19 will be given continuity. From henceforth, a new competition called 'Golden Voice of Sikkim' and 'Golden Dancer of Sikkim' will be organized annually by the Government, with handsome cash awards enough to build their career.

\*'Visit Sikkim 2022' and 'International Football Tournament' are the two international level events to be organised in the month of October-November, 2022 under the patronage of the State Government.

\*There is enough evidence to show the change or parivartan in the State in less than three years of forming the Government. The action on the ground is testimony to this.

\*The developmental initiatives of the present Government show that the State is in its best financial health.

\*Chief Minister's Scholarship Scheme for UPSC coaching, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Fellowship Scheme, APATAN Fellowship Scheme, and Fellowship Scheme for Journalists are innovative and landmark schemes of the present government.

\*All Government employees should work as per the directives of the Government

without any bias, fear or favour.

\*We should acknowledge and honour the services of our drivers. The government is establishing a Driver's Welfare Board with a Chairman, and dedicated budget head.

\*Government is also devising the Minimum Wages Act for the welfare of employees who do not fulfil the criteria for regularisation, as well as those working in private companies.

\*Skilled Youth Startup Scheme and Foreign Employment Training Programme for Youth are landmark schemes designed for making the youth self-reliant.

\*All the pending payments for land compensation at Pakyong Airport site will be cleared at the earliest.

Chief Minister concluded his address by thanking and congratulating the public of Pakyong and further requested the public to make Pakyong an exemplary district and foresight to plan a profitable long-term strategy.

Minister for Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Mr. K.N. Lepcha said that the new district will provide ease of access to the public with the administration where the people of the district would not need to travel to Gangtok for their work. He thanked the Chief Minister and highlighted the various developments made by the district under his leadership.

Area MLA Namcheybong Contituency, Mr. Em Prasad Sharma in his address thanked the Chief Minister for making this day possible. He assured everyone that the State Government is trying its best to move Pakyong forward. He further place the demand of the district to the Chief Minister like, hundred bedded district hospital, car parking plaza, look into water shortages in the district and road extension in Chujachen, Namcheybong and West Pendam.

Earlier, District Collector, Pakyong, Mr. Tashi Chopel in his welcome speech gave a brief history of Pakyong district to the public.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the Speaker, SLA, Mr. L.B. Das, Deputy Speaker, SLA, Mr. Sangay Lepcha, Minister for Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Area MLA, Namcheybong, Mr. Em Prasad Sharma, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Assistant Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Mayor (GMC), Deputy Mayor (GMC), Zilla Adhayksha, Panchayats, District Collector (Pakyong), HoDs, District Officers, Government officials of line departments, the general public, teachers and students.

## Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari campaign organised

**Gangtok, April 26:** Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), East, Agriculture Department, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra and ICAR organised 'Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari' campaign at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Marchak, today.

The programme commenced with the visit of exhibition stalls by chief guest, Secretary, Agriculture Department, Mr. Rinzing Chewang Bhutia.

The programme was observed as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. During the course of the campaign, a day-long Kisan Mela will be organised in all districts through ATMA, it was informed.

Secretary, Agriculture Department, stressed about the Extension Programme, which guides every farmer. He apprised about Farm Machinery Bank and appealed to the farmers to purchase machines at affordable costs. He said that the State Government has introduced various schemes, which is beneficial to the farmers and providing incentives in these

sectors is a great motivation to increase productivity.

Head (IC), KVK East, Dr. J.K. Singh apprised the farmers about various KVK activities for the welfare of farming sector.

Chief Manager, Lead Bank, Mr. Gopal Lama stressed that Lead Bank plays a medium between main banks and the farmers. He apprised about KCC (Kisan Credit Card), which farmers can enroll for to avail the benefits of PM Kisan Scheme.

Joint Director, Horticulture Department, Mr. Passang Tamang briefed about various schemes (IPM and RKVY etc.), which are introduced by the Government of India and added that the State Government has proactively guided the farmers with those schemes.

Additional Director, Animal Husbandry Department, informed about different schemes and elaborated the incentive benefits that have been provided to the farmers. He also apprised about Disease Investigation Cell, which prevents animals from various

**Read and Advertise  
in  
Sikkim Herald**

## CM attends virtual COVID-19 preparedness meeting

**Gangtok, April 27:** Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi chaired the meeting held via video conference with the Chief Ministers of all the states, today. He reviewed the health infrastructure and the current COVID-19 preparedness in the states. Emphasising on embracing a dynamic approach, he urged all the states to collectively work

towards addressing the COVID-19 situation.

During the virtual meet, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang assured that Sikkim is fully prepared and equipped to tackle COVID-19 situation and remarked that the guidance and support from the Prime Minister will help the state to successfully overcome the pandemic.

## Union Minister for Education on a 4-day visit to Sikkim

**Namchi, April 29:** Minister of State for Ministry of Education Ms. Annpurna Devi inaugurated Academic Building and MPH, Laboratory and Library of National Institute of Technology, Ravangla, today. She was accompanied by Area MLA Mr. T.T. Bhutia, Secretary, Education Department Mr. Anil Raj Rai, DC (Namchi) Mr. Bharani Kumar, SSP (Namchi), Director (NIT) and officers from different line department.

The Minister congratulated the Principal and staff members of the college for providing the students with best facilities and technologies in the school.

She expressed her happiness on the ample opportunities provided for the students to make them technically sound. She highlighted about various scheme provided by the Prime Minister for the welfare of the students like 'Start Up India', 'Make in India' and said that the students should be technical friendly. She further added that the National Education Policy 2020 has been re-implemented so that the students can learn in their mother language/ local language, and the subject of their choice. Further, she encouraged the Principal, Staff and students to work as dedicatedly to make the institute an exemplary.

Similarly, she also visited educational institutes of Ravangla, Namchi District, today.

On the second day of the official visit, the Union Minister visited Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Ravangla.

On the same day, she was welcomed by Minister for PHE and Water Resources Department Mr. Bhim Hang Subba, DC (Gyalshing) Karma R. Bonpo and officials from the District Administration in Gyalshing.

The Union Minister accompanied by Joint Secretary (Policy) also nominated as Central Prabhari Officer to Aspirational District Mr. Vishal Chauhan along with CEO, Education Department, K.C. Gyatso, Additional Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, CDPO Gyalshing, DRCHO/District Hospital, Kuntal Pal (Piramal Foundation) and other departmental officials.

She attended and interaction programme with officer,

NGOs and SHGs of West District at Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Kyonghsa, Gyalshing. In her address she appreciated all the District officers of Geyzing stating the district has been included in the Aspirational Districts programme that aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country. The programme is being initiated by the Central Government in convergence with the State Government. She stated that the 'Aspirational Districts Programme' essentially is aimed at localizing Sustainable Development Goals leading to the progress of the nation. She also stressed on health sector and suggested to give due importance to Family Health Survey. Additionally, skill development training would be very useful to sort out the unemployment issue, she added.

DC gave an overview of the progress and implementation of the 'Aspirational District Programme' in the district through PPP and deliberated on topics pertaining to Health and Education and Agricultural sectors.

Later, the Union Minister attended a short educational function held at Geyzing Senior Secondary School, Kyongsa.

On April 28, The Union Minister arrived at Namchi. Upon her arrival, she was warmly welcomed by the Minister, Urban Development Department, Mr. Arun Upreti along with Advisor Skill Development Department Mr. Satish Chandra Rai, Zilla Adhyaksha (South) Mrs. Tshering Dem Bhutia, NMC Chairperson Mr. Ganesh Rai and locals.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Secretary, Education Department Mr. Anil Raj Rai, DC(Namchi) Mr. M Bharani Kumar, SSP(Namchi) Mr. K.L. Tenzing along with officials of National Institute of Technology, Ravangla.

During the visit, Mrs. Annpurna Devi attended the evening aarti at the Siddheshwara Dham and offered prayers to Lord Shiva.

Thereafter, she also toured the Samdruptse complex and offered her prayers to Guru Padmasambhava.

## Minister L.N. Sharma attends AFI convention

**Florida, April 29:** The delegation from Sikkim led by Minister L.N. Sharma attended the Association of Food Industries (AFI) convention at Ft Lauderdale, Florida, today.

In the Importer Resource Gallery, the organic products of Sikkim like large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, buckwheat, pumpkin powder, tea, and pulses were displayed. The commodities are marketed by SIMFED, Temi and private entrepreneurs. A total of fourteen exhibitors, nine industry experts, and foreign agencies representing five different countries were present at the convention. Commodities such as cashew, fresh and frozen fruits, tomato products, cheeses, pastry and bakery, jams, jellies, marmalade, beverages and water, seasonings, etc were on display at the event.

The delegation got first-hand information about the processed food products and services available for food importers' businesses. Supply chain and logistics issues were also discussed during panel

discussions. Presentations were made by Portugal Trade & Investment Agency, HACCP consulting group on conducting hazard analysis of food commodities in Florida International University on nutritional benefits of dried fruits and nuts. Details about the Foreign Supplier Verification Programme (FSVP) and the process of licensing FSVP were also provided during the event. Ideas for end-use and marketing of food products were also provided by FIU such as making claims for sustainability, fair trade, nutrition focus, and being innovative.

Minister in his address talked about Sikkim's organic initiatives and encouraged everyone to utilize the platform to forge long-lasting business relationships not only with the farmers but farmer's producers' organisations, and stakeholders of Sikkim to position Sikkim as an organic food factory. The delegation met the Ambassador of Ivory Coast Mr. Ibrahim Toure at the Sikkim stall.

The delegation also met Senator, Broward County Mr. Steven A. Geller who stated that the Indian diaspora has contributed immensely to the development of the County and the Sikkim Government can definitely find partners for their products in any of the industries like tourism, film, agriculture, health, and education.

The team also visited the warehouse facility of M/S Kotecha Brothers (KB) at Homestead. CEO of the company during discussions mentioned that there are possibilities of sourcing spices from Sikkim for distribution in Florida. The team also visited their vegetable farm and fruit farms. After detailed discussions, field visits, and learning about each other's requirements, and with the exchange of samples of organic commodities such as tea, processed ginger, turmeric, and large cardamom, Kotecha Brothers were positive to forge an alliance with the organic producers and processors of Sikkim.

## Forest Minister address Press conference on IPCA

**Gangtok, April 26:** Minister, Forest and Environment Department, Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia addressed a press conference at the conference hall of Forest Department, today. The Minister was joined by ACS cum PCCF Forest Mr. M.L. Shrivastava and senior officers of the Department, Secretary Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, DC Namchi and representatives of IPCA Pharmaceuticals of Namchi district.

The press conference was organised to address the ongoing issue regarding alleged land encroachment by IPCA Pharmaceutical Company in Melli under Namchi district. The press conference aimed to explain in detail the steps taken by Forest Department in coordination with Land Revenue Department to address the issue.

Minister in his opening remarks said that the press conference cum interaction programme has been convened to transparently address the ongoing issue regarding the alleged land encroachment. He reiterated that the Forest Department immediately got into action after the issue came to the fore. He said that the joint field visit conducted on April 25 was to understand the situation on the ground and to listen to the deliberations from all concerned quarters.

District Collector, Namchi, Mr. M. Bharani Kumar in his address gave a brief overview about survey settlement operation of land records. Regarding the issue concerning IPCA

Pharmaceuticals, he explained that a part of the holding was given on lease to IPCA Pharmaceuticals by two private individuals namely Mr. Bhakta Bahadur Pradhan and Late Mr. Dal Bahadur Chettri.

He informed that the total revenue land is 3.042 hectares, out of which 0.79 hectares is diverted forest land. Therefore, the remaining land under consideration is 3.832 hectares or 9.46 acres. He said that since there is a dichotomy between 1950-52 and 1978-80 land survey settlement records, it has been a challenge to come to the exact figure. He informed that a team has been constituted to demarcate the land under dispute.

Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department informed that the new survey to be conducted at the land under question will be done with hi-end technology to ensure accuracy. She maintained that the Department is doing its best to address the issue despite of changes in the figures in the land records over the years.

ACS cum PCCF, Forest Department in his address reiterated that forest land is sacrosanct and there are enough legal provisions to protect forest land against any encroachment. He briefly touched upon the concrete action taken by the Forest Department in coordination with Land Revenue Department in connection with the issue of alleged land encroachment by IPCA Pharmaceuticals in Melli. He added that all necessary steps are being taken to come to a logical conclusion.

CF (Territorial), Mr. Karma Legshey through a power point presentation explained the sequence of events leading up to the present situation, since the RTI was filed by an individual on March 22. He explained that the Forest Department was already acting on the case since January, two months before the RTI was filed.

DFO (Territorial) Namchi, Ms. Peggyla Tshering made a detailed presentation on the action taken by the Forest Department from January 2022. She informed that the Range Officer (Melli) had taken cognizance of the illegal muck dumping by IPCA Pharmaceutical Company without prior permission, and a case was registered against the company on January 20 and the work was immediately stopped and the vehicles and materials were seized.

She further explained that the other land under question was referred to the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department to ascertain if it is belonged to the Forest Department or not. She added that as per existing land records, a substantial portion of the land falls under a private holding. She said that the dispute is presently under the consideration of the Land Revenue Department.

An official from IPCA Pharmaceutical Company presented a detailed presentation by explaining the backdrop of the issue under discussion.

Thereafter, in an interactive session, various questions were put forth by members of the NGOs and civil society.

**Log on  
to  
[www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in)**