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Maghey Sakranti Mela inaugurated



The Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling being felicitated by the area MLA, Mr. Madan Cintury on the occasion of Maghey Sakranti.

Urmila Gurung, SIA(South)

Jorethang, January 14: The Maghey Sakranti Mela of Sikkim was inaugurated today at Jorethang South Sikkim by the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling.

Addressing the inaugural function here at Jorethang play Ground the Chief Minister stated that he had come to Jorethang Mela as a citizen of the state and as a part of the celebration. He further said that, "I am aware of my responsibilities and will always uphold the sentiments of the people of Sikkim." For the last 16

years I am working tirelessly for the security of my people, today Sikkim has gained respectful place among the states of the country and under his governance people of Sikkim are enjoying peace and tranquility in the state, stating this he further said that today Sikkim is witnessing the highest number of developmental works in the country. Sikkim is free of insurgency and everybody is working independently here through which Sikkim is becoming the brand name of peace in whole world today. Following the good

governance of SDF Government, Sikkim has witnessed maximum developments till date, he added. Talking on the Jorethang Mela, the Chief Minister said that this Mela at Jorethang can be a better platform for the promotion of tourism in the state and local talents, he said that this Maghey Mela was not of any individual but is the collective responsibility of the area people to make it better and renowned in the country and world as a whole.

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Assam Lingzey winter fest concludes

Pabitra Chhetri, SIA

Gangtok, January 12: The three day long Assam Lingzey winter fest concluded today. The fest was organized by Society of Assam Lingzey for Village Tourism and Environment (SOALTE) focused on tourism, horticulture, floriculture, and the traditional stalls, handicrafts displayed by the locals.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling attended the final day of the fest with his cabinet colleagues, MLAs, senior government officials, Panchayats, and locals.

In his speech, the Chief Minister said that tourism as a revenue generating sector is very viable for Sikkim therefore this should be made profession in this century. The hardwork and dedication will contribute to make tourism a viable project and urged the people to adopt the constructive and positive attitude to sustain them. The Chief Minister also congratulated the SOALTE for encouraging locals and popularizing tourism trade from the city hub to the village.



The Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling looking at the handicraft displayed at Assam Lingzey winter fest.

While speaking on the developmental tempo, he mentioned that Sikkim, today is known both for its peaceful ambience and responsible development initiatives including infrastructure and establishment of diverse set of institution. The present government has been providing equality, freedom of speech, rule of law, and a host of opportunities that the civilized society crave for. He further appealed the gathering that the

higher aspect of peace, security and qualitative opportunities will be created, sustained and maintained if collective commitment and devotion would be made. "Without robust education there will be no robust society", said the Chief Minister and added that the present government is looking forward and robust with public and the good to righteous will find the

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Governor and CM condole the passing away of Jyoti Basu

Following is the condolence messages of the Governor and Chief Minister of Sikkim on the passing away of Shri Jyoti Basu.

"I join people of Sikkim in deeply mourning the death of Shri. Jyoti Basu. Shri Jyoti Basu, popularly known as Jyoti Babu, passed away at 11:47am on January 17 at the age of 95.

It was my privilege to have known him. Jyoti Babu was an able administrator, a good human being and a statesman among political leaders. This great patriot, a communist leader of rare repute, known for courage and determination was Chief Minister of West Bengal for 23 years.

Jyoti Babu was first elected to the Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1946 and ever since he never looked back. He was a driving force behind the transformation of the communists in playing an important role in the parliamentary system of governance. In a political career spanning seven decades, Jyoti Babu was a trail blazer standing solid as a rock in the face of adversity. He could have become the Prime Minister of the country after 1996 Lok Sabha elections but bowed down to the wishes of his party. Even though he never contested the Lok Sabha polls he continued to influence national politics till the very end.

Kolkata is poorer today with the death of this remarkable bhadralok. West Bengal would never be the same again. In fact in Jyoti Babu's passing away the country has lost a charismatic leader whose service to the people would remain etched in the memory of the common masses.

May his son and other family members get strength to bear this great loss. May his soul rest in peace".

B.P.Singh
Governor of Sikkim

The Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Chamling has deeply condoled the demise of veteran CPI(M) leader and former Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Jyoti Basu. The condolence message addressed to the Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya read as follows:

"A colossal of our times, Jyoti Babu will always be remembered for his strong personality, perseverance and astute statesmanship. A great leader that Nation has lost in recent time. Our heartfelt condolences to West Bengal and bereaved family. May forbearance and fortitude be on your side to bear this sad loss. People and the Government of Sikkim join me in paying homage to a great son of Bengal".

Pawan Chamling
Chief Minister of Sikkim

Today's rain water is tomorrow's life saver!

Cabinet approves and sanctions various proposals

Gangtok: The Cabinet met on January 13 at Tashiling Secretariat and after detailed deliberation considered and approved the followings:

Health Department

1. Approved for

development of 575 bedded multi specialty hospital and to establish the Radiotherapy facilities at Sichey with other facilities like residential accommodation for

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Pearls of Wisdom

Dreams are today's answers to tomorrow's question

-Edgar Cayu

DISTRICT DIARY

Livelihood school inaugurated

Buddha Hang Subba, SIA(North)

Mangan: Livelihood School- a flagship programme of the state government initiated under the Capacity Building programme was inaugurated on January 13 by Mr. Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, Chairman, Sikkim Nationalized Transport at Tingvong Veterinary Complex, Dzongu.

Livelihood school is one of the distinct step taken by the State government and basically aims to transform the Sikkimese local people into a sound and skilled human resource by providing almost a year long training on various fields like agro based, tourism, hardware, software etc. While, in Dzongu Department of Animal Husbandry in association with the department of Capacity Building will impart training on Animal Husbandry and in Mangan Department of Tourism will impart training on Hotel Management and Tourist guide as informed by officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lepcha instructed to the concerned officials to impart training according to the interest of the trainees so that they can be self reliant in their lives. Further, he said that the livelihood school is an alternative to the educated unemployed to get into the best profession and appealed to the trainees to receive the training sincerely and affirmatively.

The Chairman(NDMU) and Mr. S.D.Dhakal also spoke on the occasion.

Similarly, Mr. Tshering Wangdi Lepcha along with Chairman (NDMU) inaugurated livelihood school of Lachen-Mangan on January 18.

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Cabinet approves...

doctors etc. beside sanction of Rs.2.82 crores for first phase of work for construction of X-Ray block in PHEs.

2. Also approved the Sikkim Health and Population Policy.

Information & Public Relations Department

Approved and Sanctioned Rs.1 crore for transferring to Building and

Housing Deptt. for construction of "Soochna Bhawan" at Sikkim Jewels Complex Tadong against the total project cost of Rs. 4.27 crores.

Irrigation & Flood Control Department

Approved and sanctioned Rs.20 lakhs to be released as 1st installment for providing river training work along the right/left bank of Rani Khola below Adampool, East Sikkim against the project cost of Rs.205.78 lakhs.

Social Welfare Deptt.

1. Sanctioned Rs.29.36 lakhs and Rs.68.63 lakhs for providing Post Matric and Pre-Matric scholarship to 1714 ST students & 79010 ST students respectively.

2. Sanctioned Rs.3.84 crores for construction of DAC (Annexe Building at Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim)

3. Sanctioned Rs.50 lakhs under TSP and SCSP to implement various programs under under Sports and Youth Affairs department.

4. Approved for distribution of "TetraVermin" bed with other inputs to 1519 ST beneficiaries under TSP at the cost of Rs.110 lakhs under Horticulture Department.

5. Sanctioned Rs.60 lakhs under TSP and Rs. 28 lakhs under SCSP under IPR Department.

6. Sanctioned additional amount of Rs. 22.56 lakhs for carpeting work along the approach road to Simik village Km 1st & 2nd in East Sikkim.

Rural Management Development Department

Sanctioned Rs.1111.76 lakhs

to be transferred as second and final installment as grant in aid for the year 2009-10 for Zilla and Gram Panchayats and also approved construction of Panchayat Ghar at Luving.

Tourism Department

Approved authorizing Chokerling Dev. & Mgt. committee Rabong, South Sikkim to implement the development of the pilgrimage & cultural center at the tentative project cost of Rs. 3296 lakhs and also sanctioned Rs. 900 lakhs for release on installments by the department.

Land Revenue Department

Approved for acquisition of 0.3540 hectares of land at Kartok block and 0.7040 hectares of land at Dikling block under Pakyong Sub Division for construction of Green Field Airport.

Labour Department

Approved for implementation of externally aided project- Vocational Training improvement project with the World Bank Assistance, upgradation of Government ITI at Rangpo at the total project cost of Rs. 215 lakhs.

Forest Department

1. Approved and sanctioned Rs.79.45 lakhs as an advance mobilization fund for construction of Walk Through Aviary of Sidkeong Tulku Bird Park at Rabdentse and also sanctioned Rs. 293.25 lakhs for integrated forest protection scheme.

2. Approved and sanctioned Rs.10 crores for implementation of different work component for 4th phase of Green Mission.

Energy & Power Department

Approved to maintain Status Quo in respect of free supply of electricity upto 50 units to certain consumers in rural areas for domestic uses. Also sanctioned Rs.45.35 lakhs for upgrading and re-modeling of existing distribution system of MG Marg Gangtok.

Urban Development & Housing Department

Approved for revival of Sikkim Housing Development Board and also sanctioned Rs. 36.87 lakhs towards consultancy

In the administration

Mr.Karma Gyatso, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary-Cum-Development Commissioner, DPER & NECA Department, shall hold the additional charge of Department Of Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Training, Public Grievances, Career Options & Employment, Skill Development and Chief Ministers Self Employment Scheme.

Capacity Building- Towards shaping the future of younger generations

The Sikkim Democratic Front Government under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling has made it clear that in order to take Sikkim to its desired goal, its human resource has to be developed and enhanced and provided with requisite skills and training. Keeping this in mind, a unique policy decision was announced by the Chief Minister in that all departments and Panchayatiraj institutions have been directed to set aside 2% of their budget allocation for capacity building programmes and trainings for the youths. The Capacity Building Programme initiated by the government is first of its kind in the country. Accordingly, the government has also set up a full-fledged Capacity Building Training Institute at Karfector, South Sikkim last year.

The State Government is of the firm belief that the Capacity Building Programme has been a most practical way of providing on hands training to our youth who are also later on supported with financial assistance to start their own business venture.

A large number of youths have been sponsored by the government for undergoing various self-employment oriented schemes under capacity building within and outside the country with a sole aim of transforming them into productive individuals with capability to interact with the world and further serve as a resource pool of human resource for the state.

Under the programme over 4000 youths have been provided loans to start business ventures; nearly 350 have availed of higher technical education in other parts of the country and abroad and thousands more provided with skills in the various vocational institutes within the state to begin their own small enterprise.

The main objective of the government is to utilize the services of the Youth Empowerment Directorate and allied agencies to substantially reduce the number of unemployed youth from the ages 15-34 by providing a range of free and paid for services. The Chief Minister has stated that the upsurge of employment opportunities for the unemployed in various sectors and industries in the next five years, that the refined objectives and system of YED will attain will transform the state. As per the projected growth in the next five years 8000 jobs will be generated in tourism, 4000 in agriculture,, horticulture, 5000 in construction and atleast 1500 would be motivated to rake business and 1000 in IT sector.

Infrastructure development and creation of opportunities only will not contribute towards economic development of the people. The State Government, therefore, fully aware that it would need competent manpower who, besides being educated, are capable and skillful to take advantage of many opportunities available. Besides, the need to change the stereotyped mindset of younger generation to answer the call of time and circumstances and switch over to more promising and potential professions including the service sector. Accordingly, the Government is encouraging all sections of the society -both educated and uneducated, the farmers and entrepreneurs to undergo exclusive training schedules for skill augmentation so that the opportunities arising out of Sikkim's natural strength and rich climatic variations could be effectively harnessed by the local people.

fee. Sanction was also accorded for Rs.36.83 lakhs and Rs. 22.12 lakhs for procurement of Pothole Repairing machine and for construction of Green House at Damthang South Sikkim respectively.

Accorded sanctioned for Rs.1237.77 lakhs for beautification / upgradation and modernization of Tadong Bazar, Makha Bazar, Yanggang Bazar, Namthang Bazar, Kaluk and Rinchenpong Bazar.

PHE Department

Accorded sanction of the revised proposal for upgradation and modernization of Feeder of Selep Water treatment plant for Gangtok at the cost of Rs.4.80 crores.

Roads & Bridges Department

Contd. from front page

Maghey Sakranti...

While speaking on the various policies and decisions of the state government, Mr. Chamling announced that schemes/works worth 400 crore have been sanctioned in the cabinet meeting held a day earlier in the capital and said that around 95 developmental schemes under different government departments would be implemented. On this he further informed the public that for works upto one crore, a mobilization fund would be allotted to the rural contractors who are financially handicapped to enable them to begin their contract works on time without hassles. However, he said that more than

Approved and sanction Rs.220.75 crores for taking up 95 numbers of Road Works like Carpeting / Widening in 28 Assembly Constituencies and also sanctioned Rs. 1.60 crores for construction of Bridge at Ghanti Khola along Legship, Geyzing, Tashiding road in West Sikkim.

Human Resource & Dev. Department

1. Approved and sanctioned Rs.1.60 crores for procurement of 2538 fire extinguishers for government schools and colleges.

2. Approved and sanctioned Rs.35.16 crores for upgradation and related developmental work of Government Degree College at Tadong and Rs. 22.04 crores for construction of Polytechnic at Mangshila, North Sikkim.

one crore work would also be allotted mobilization fund but with interest. He also informed that cost of tender forms would be reduced and huge tender works would be fragmented to enable the rural people to carry out the works without complications. Mr. Chamling also stated that he has prepared a scientific vision for the development of Sikkim in future including all the modern technical details to make the lifestyle of Sikkimese people safe and better. The Chief Minister further said that almost 30,000 BPL families would receive Janata Mela benefits in the forthcoming Janata Mela of 2010. Mr. Chamling further stated that, his government is creating number of opportunities for the local people but the so called vested

Building & Housing Department

Accorded approval of the revised estimate of Rs. 650.89 lakhs for construction of High Court building- Phase II at Gangtok.

Food & Civil Supplies Department

Approved and sanctioned Rs.3.52 crores for procurement of 7000 thousand DBC-LPG connections for distribution to 7000 beneficiaries.

Excise Department

Approved for creation of 2 posts of peons in the pay scale of Rs.5200-20200.

Culture Affairs Department

Sanctioned Rs.328.46 lakhs for construction of Multi Purpose Cultural Complex at Gangtok.

interests were becoming hindrances in the betterment of the educated youths of the state. He also informed that the government has passed a resolution stating that no contractors can now sell the works allotted in their names.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister was also felicitated on behalf of the mela committee by the area MLA, Mr. Madan Cintury who is also the chief patron of the mela committee.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the new building of Fire Station, Tourist Information Centre and also a Water Fountain Corner at Jorethang which he said were one of the biggest achievements for the people of Jorethang.

Women Organisation for Socio-Cultural Awareness (WOSCA)

Kalpana Palkhiwala*

(Women Organisation For Socio-Cultural Awareness has been awarded Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award for the year 2008 in recognition of their outstanding contribution to environment conservation in the category of Organisation) WOSCA. It is an NGO which was born on 20th December, 1993 with the commitment to serve the needy people in Orissa. It lends top most priority to grass root level operations and hence intends to prepare the human resources as "active agent" for developmental actions. The NGO which began with vocational training program on tailoring and Handicraft products has now expanded its thrust areas in agriculture and food security, integrated nutrition & health projects, SHG promotion for Income Generation & women's empowerment, water & sanitation, strengthening of Panchayati Raj, bio-diversity conservation, handicraft & rural artisan promotion, vocational training and youth empowerment, science & rural technology and revamping of culture for better living.

The Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra (IPVM) Award, 2008 in the category of 'Non Government organization' has been awarded to this Women's Mandua, Women's organisation for Socio-cultural Awareness in recognition of its outstanding achievements in institutions building and wastelands development at Keonjhar, Oissa. WOSCA is working since last sixteen years. Gradually, 2003 onwards WOSCA started to visualize its objectives in broader terms and involved itself in multifarious developmental activities through need based programs in Keonjhar District of Orissa.

In various villages, the NGO had set up a number of nurseries and reclaimed more than 265 hectares of wasteland by adopting various soil and water management techniques. Three Livelihood cooperatives were also formed to promote collective marketing of the forest and agriculture and agriculture produce. The rain water harvesting model developed and implemented by the WOSCA has been adopted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development - NABARD for replication in other projects.

National Resource Management-NRM and Bio diversity conservation programmes are launched to assist people in better livelihood options and help promote cleaner environment. Considering its long-term presence, WOSCA stepped up its effort in the areas of food security for the poor and deprived sections of the society.

Besides, it has begun its capacity building efforts to empower cross sections of the society at village level so that they can be instruments of change and participate in the development process. Strengthening of institutional system for improvement of service delivery through community empowerment is one of the focused areas for intervention and we are working on it.

Promotion & Strengthening of SHGs

WOSCA has worked closely with the women Self-Help Groups in the project villages in planning, implementation and monitoring. A total of 297 SHGs has been formed during these years. These SHGs have further strengthened in handling the developmental work. It has included building a shared vision for sustainable NRM. These SHGs have been motivated to establish proper linkages with line departments for forest regeneration. During the reporting period savings amount of Rs. 74,87,296/- has been mobilized among the SHG members.

Environment Awareness & Forest Protection Programmes

Forest protection and conservation mechanism such as watching in rotation basis, collection of NTFP, collection of fuel wood, grazing control, selection of species for plantation, safety breeding of birds, collection of funds and penalties have been shared with community members from 9 villages of Rutisila & Basantapur. through formal meeting and discussion. Consensus has been built up among communities to use leaf for cooking rather than wood in seven villages.

Livelihood Enhancement through WADI Development

Income Generation Activities like animal husbandry, mushroom, bee-keeping, backyard poultry, nursery raising, value addition and processing of Non Timber Forest Produce-NTFP and traditional unutilized fruits & demonstration of improved farming techniques by capacity building of the participatory farmers have helped in sustainable improvement in the livelihood of the tribal poor. WOSCA is implementing the WADI(application, distribution, infrastructure) development programme in Ghatagaon block of Keonjhar district under the Tribal Development of NABARD. 257 members of the five villages and 19 Udyan Vikas Samiti (UVSs) planted Cashew, Amrapalli, Dasseri, Subarnarekha, Himsagar etc on 210.10 acres of nurtured lands.

Promotion of Organic Farming

Concept of organic farming and agriculture bio-diversity has been brought into practice by 267 households. They followed successful approach of 2 farmers of Kandasar village of Basantapur village who prepared liquid manure and organic compost. It has helped in protection of 37 acres of land from degradation; reduce 70 % chemical fertilizers and disposal of household waste has been solved. After Demonstration on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), and off season cultivation 78 farmers followed initially motivated 8 farmers who are practicing SRI paddy cultivation in the upgraded land. Individual paddy production has been increased from 4 quintal to 7.40 quintal from 3 acre of land. A four fold increase in production of paddy has helped increasing 2 additional months of food subsistence of 152 families.

Land development & Natural Resource Management Activities

Under natural resource conservation and wasteland rehabilitation initiatives undertaken at Bidyadharpur village, 1000 people are aware of the protection mechanism of the natural resources for their secured livelihood. Activities such as successful interventions in soil and water conservation, forest protection and other wasteland development works are being replicated to 3 villages of Rutisila Gram Panchayat. 2289 mtr long Land management structure of Bidyadharpur village helped rain water to flow through high land so that poor people were able to cultivate long duration paddy which resulted substantial hike in harvesting. This has also protected 174 acres crop damage during rain and enhanced 75 % Paddy production of 54 Households. Out of them 32 households belong to vulnerable section. Community based forest protection initiatives have widespread horizontal impact and many village forest protection committee are now actively involved in the conservation of their forest land.

Awareness building Programme on Social Security Schemes

Looking to the need of the project continuous sensitization programme with periodic follow up programme on Social Security Schemes have been conducted in the villages of Rutisila & Basantapur G.P. Right to Food under Social Security Schemes has been shared among the villagers in the monthly village meeting separately. As the follow up initiatives 5 nos. of village level awareness meetings conducted on Social Security Scheme in Basantapur Gram Panchayat(GP) . 83 community people applied for pension and 25 availed annuity. Four GP volunteers from two GPs are monitoring the Public Distribution System through Mobile Technology Project. Community volunteers trained on Social Security Schemes and helping people in application process.

Food Security & Empowerment Project

To bring about sustainable improvement in the livelihood of the poor & to enable the community to plan and implement and monitor the developmental activities with a holistic objective to ensure proper management of natural resources WOSCA is implementing the Food Security & Empowerment programme in 10 villages of Pandapada & Purumunda Gram Panchayat of

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HEALTH

What youth should know about HIV/AIDS

Youth and HIV/AIDS

Youth of today are tomorrow's future and prosperity. They are the force for change. They are resilient open to change, creative and often idealistic.

It is a period of transition, discovery, growing emotion, exploration and experimentation.

They have right to information and education that effects their health and future. HIV/AIDS is such an issue that needs to be explained to them and counseled on healthy and responsible behaviour.

What is AIDS?

AIDS stand for:

Acquired: not genetically inherited but one gets it from somebody.

Immune Deficiency: weakness or inadequacy of the body's main defense mechanism, the immune system.

Syndrome: not just one disease or symptom but being present in the body as a group of diseases or symptoms.

AIDS is a condition caused by a virus. A closer look at the term itself tells us a lot about what AIDS is. AIDS arises from damage to the immune system acquired as a result of infection with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

AIDS can take more than 8-10 years to develop after infection with HIV.

AIDS cannot be diagnosed on the existence of one sign or symptom. All the symptoms of AIDS can be symptoms of other diseases too. Therefore, a person cannot tell whether he/she has AIDS or not unless he/she has been examined at a hospital or health centre and diagnosed as such.

HIV stands for

H: Human

I: Immunodeficiency

V: Virus

HIV is a virus which causes impairment to the immune system in humans. There are currently more than one type of HIV, which are known to cause AIDS. HIV belongs to a family of many viruses called retro viruses. The destruction of the immune system by the virus means that infectious organisms can invade the body unchallenged and multiply to cause disease.

How HIV weakens your Immune system?

- Your immune system is your guard against disease.
- White blood cells kill the germs that attack your body.
- HIV attacks your immune system by entering your white blood cells.
- HIV stops your immune system from being able to protect your body.
- Once HIV has weakened your immune system, germs can take over your body, and you become sick.

How do people get infected with HIV?

HIV is transmitted mostly through semen and vaginal fluids during unprotected sex without the use of condoms. Globally, most cases of sexual transmission involve men and women, although in some developed countries homosexual activity remains the primary mode. Besides sexual intercourse, HIV can also be transmitted during drug injection by sharing of needles contaminated with infected blood; by the transfusion of infected blood or blood products; and from an infected woman to her baby before birth, during birth or just after delivery.

HIV is not spread through ordinary social contact; for example by shaking hands, traveling in the same bus, eating from the same utensils, by hugging or kissing. Mosquitoes and insects do not spread the virus nor is it water-borne or air-borne.

(To be continued in next issue)

Amazing Facts

Word "Science" derives from Latin word scientia meaning knowledge.

Human need approximately 12 hours in order to entirely digest the food.

Brain cells are the longest living cells in our body, they can last for an entire lifetime.

Some human brains are bigger than other and the biggest human brain weighed 2,3 kg.

Venus is the hottest planet in our solar system with surface temperature above 450 C.

If we are to believe scientists there are approximately 50,000,000,000 galaxies "out there".

One of the most accidental discoveries was the one of microwave. This discovery happened after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

In case you have ever wondered why giraffes are such a quiet animals it is because they have no vocal chords to make any noise.

Minister IT attends NE Business Summit at Kolkata



Mr. N.K. Pradhan

The NE Business Summit is an annual event organised by the

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entire environment conducive for positive actions.

Referring to the income tax, he said that income tax has already been exempted to the bonafide Sikkimese and the demand has also been placed to exempt the old settlers. He further informed that he had apprised the centre for making Sikkim a tribal state, during his recent visit to Delhi.

Highlighting on the future plans, the Chief Minister, reiterated that the new PWD roads

Indian Chamber of Commerce in association with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) with an aim to attract investors and discuss solutions to problems dogging the region.

The Summit this year was held at Hyatt Regency, Kolkata on January 8 and 9 and attended by Ministers and Ambassadors from South East Asian countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Union Minister from the Government of India, Secretaries from Central and State Government and big industrialists. The focus of the Summit this year has been to work out ways and means on how to stimulate the food processing industry in the north east.

construction will be tendered and constructed ½ km wide and the cost of tender forms would be reduced. He further mentioned that ten rooms building will be constructed in all Bazaars, so that the tourism and its related business could be flourished. And in the same manner, he also urged the people to reap the benefits provided by the Government.

Mr. Bhim Dhungel, Minister for Tourism in his speech said that the state Government has declared 2010 as the "year of Tourism" and this festival itself is the first in this context. He expressed that Assam

The inaugural function was graced by Mr. B. K. Handique, Minister, DONER and Mr. Subdh Sahay, Union Minister, Food Processing Industry.

The Minister for IT, Mr. N.K. Pradhan was the guest of honour for the session on IT and skill development. In his address he highlighted the initiative been taken by Sikkim in the IT sector with special reference to the livelihood schools in the state under the capacity building programme.

Mr. R.P. Chingapa, Secretary, IT and Mr. Rajesh Verma, Pr. Director, IT, also participated in the Summit, according to a press release received from Deputy Director/IT

Lingzey has high potential in tourism and called upon people to involve and participate in the tourism trade.

Earlier, the Chief Minister and other dignitaries visited the stalls put up by locals, SITCO, and other Self Help Group.

The programme also saw the released of "Janani" the collection of poems written by Dipendra Rai, by the Chief Minister.

The day was also marked by the traditional cultural programme performed by locals.

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Women Organisation....

Ghatagaon block since 2004. In this year the existing Village Development Committees strengthened. Through the initiatives of 6 VSS 800 Hectre forest protected & regenerated. 12 SHG strengthened & linked with institutional credit. 14 SHG leaders trained on SHG management. 10 Land use plan developed. 4 Water Harvesting Systems constructed & water made available for second crop. 20 Village level volunteers trained on land & wage issues. Community-based monitoring system established & become functional.

Women Development Programme

Much training for the SHG members on the concept of account management along with record maintenance has been organized in seven blocks of the district. A total of 10000 villagers have been trained on various developmental issues under awareness training programme. More than 300 farmers were trained for concept, implementation and the management of Plantation of WADI and plant management

Income Generating Activities

By imparting Micro Economic Development Project training to the SHG members of the operational areas under the sponsorship of NABARD, the women SHG members are now preparing pressed Tamarind & Trifala powder, etc. Again, a no. of Training programmes have been organised to enhance the capacity of women members from 7 SHGs of Rutisila including the adjacent villages, i.e. Bidyadharpur, Chandposi, Nischintpur, Sarupat, Jharbedda, Balabhadrapur and Badapichhula) on the processing and value addition of the available Non Forests Timber Products. Market linkage has also been established with ORMAS, Keonjhar for marketing of pressed Tamarind and Sal leaf plate. This strategy has fulfilled the dual objectives of income generation and forest protection as the community realized that forest can significantly improve their livelihood situations. Followed to which there will be units and training will be organized in the month of November. While assessing, scope of involvement of land less have been prioritized. Traditional skills of members have been developed and modern inputs have been provided to SHG members through Exposure visits and capacity building. Apart from economic activities they have been sensitized to take up other development activities to ensure a sustainable livelihood for them.

Orissa Forestry Programme

To ensure forest conservation through promotion & strengthening the village level forest protection groups, Orissa Forestry Programme has been implemented in 5 villages of Maidankel Gram Panchayat of Sadar block with the active support of Centre for People's Forestry-Secunderabad. Under this programme 5 VSS have been strengthened with JFM approach to encourage tribal community for bio-diversity conservation. Taking the representatives of the VSS a cluster committee has been formed to ensure forest conservation. Survey has been conducted in 5 villages to curb prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Two tenant farmer groups have been formed to undertake SRI method of cultivation & 14 SHGs have been formed to promote self help initiatives and to ensure poverty alleviation through creation of livelihood options, infrastructures for IG activities duly linked with Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Bio-diversity Conservation programme

To sensitize the community on bio-diversity conservation and to create environmental awareness among the tribal replication of Bio-diversity programme in 50 villages of Sadar and Ghatagaon block of Keonjhar is being implemented with the active support of CEE-Ahemedabad. Under this project 64 SHGs have been formed in this year to undertake capacity building activities with regard to conservation of eco- system. 29 VSS formed and strengthened & 50 village level micro-plans have been developed and action initiated. 49 environmental awareness programmes have been conducted. 4 demonstration sites selected for enterprise setup. 74 farmers have been adopted SRI method of paddy cultivation. (PIB)

Glimpses of Maghey Sankranti



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