



SIKKIM HERALD

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Republic Day celebrated



The Governor, Mr. Balmiki Prasad Singh reviewing the parade on the occasion of Republic Day at Paljor Stadium.

Sonam Wangmu Shenga, DIO(East), Pabitra Chhetri, SIA Buddha Hang Subba, SIA(North), Simon Subba, SIA(West)

Gangtok, January 26: Conveying his heartiest felicitations and good wishes to all the fellow citizens of the country on the happy occasion of 61st Republic Day celebration, the Governor of Sikkim, Mr. Balmiki Prasad Singh said that the people of India gave unto themselves a democratic constitution which enshrines the principle of governance by the people, on this day. The constitution articulates the hopes and aspirations of the people. The

principles of justice, liberty and equality that have been enshrined in the constitution, have been the bedrock of the nation's stability and progress. The constitution provides ample opportunity to all sections of the society to lead a life of dignity. "Let us remember our great freedom fighters with deep gratitude and rededicate ourselves to the task of nation building and ensure that the edifice of unity, integrity and secularism of the country is further strengthened",

said the Governor.

In the process of constitutional democracy, he said that Sikkim has not lagged behind. Harmony among all sections of society prevails. The peace environment and a low crime rate have made the state an oasis of peace and tranquility. The government is working on building a nature based economy and knowledge driven society in Sikkim.

Contd. on page 3

State Level Panchayat Sammelan

Sonam Goparma, SIA(East)

Gangtok, January 19: The Panchayats should introspect on their duties and work earnestly in order to empower the people from the rural sector, was the message from the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling during the State Level Panchayat Sammelan 2010, which was held at Sichey Public ground.

The sammelan organized by the Rural Management Development Department (RMDD) saw the congregation of Panchayats and the Zilla Panchayats from all four districts of the state.

Mr. Chamling who attended the function as the chief guest in his address stated that his government has worked on decentralization and devolution of power in order to empower the people from the rural areas and make them a potent force, therefore Panchayats and Zilla Panchayats and Block Administrative Officers should all work with one goal and this is to



The Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling presenting the Panchayat Shree award to one of the awardee. Also seen in the pic is Mr. C.B.Karki, Minister, RMDD and Secretary, RMDD, Mr. A.K.Ganeriwala

reform the villages of Sikkim and make Sikkim a model state in the country.

In an important announcement, Mr. Chamling informed that institution of discretionary funds for the Panchayats will be given soon, and added that Sikkim will be the first state in the country to give discretionary funds to the

panchayats. He also announced that latest information technology will be provided to the panchayats in order to keep them updated with the rest of the country as well as the world.

The Chief Minister also stressed that Panchayats should study the 29 subject revenue generation, and try and generate

Contd. on page 4

MoD for the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed

A team led by Mr. Karma Gyatso, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, signed the final Minutes of Discussion (MoD) for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assisted "Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project" of the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department. The signing ceremony took place during the meeting held on January 22 at New Delhi in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India where officials from JICA, Tokyo office, and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India were also present for the concluding session of the JICA assisted projects for the current financial year. The other members of the team from Government of Sikkim were Mr.S. T. Lachungpa, PCCF cum Secretary, Forest and Dr. Anil

Mainra, Additional PCCF. This is the first JICA assisted project for Sikkim and during current financial year only new forestry project in the country to be funded by JICA.

Signing of MoD is the final step before signing of pledge between Indian Ambassador in Tokyo and the Government of Japan and this will take place in Tokyo soon. Mr. S. Hara, Director, South East Asia Division, JICA Tokyo office assured that the project will be cleared for funding from Government of Japan before the end of this financial year so that implementation of the project can be taken up from the next financial year. During the discussion held at the Old Sikkim House in the evening Mr. Hara further evinced interest in the landslide treatment project for Sikkim and mentioned that the successful implementation

Contd. on page 4

Save water, secure the future

Sub office of the Reserve Bank of India inaugurated

Sonam Goparma, SIA(East)

Gangtok, January 25: The Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Dr. K.C .Chakraborty inaugurated a sub office of the Reserve Bank of India. The office is located in the first floor of Gupta Building at NH 31A.

The jurisdiction of this office is the entire state of Sikkim. It will have Rural Planning and Credit department including a "Financial inclusion Cell" to coordinate with NABARD and commercial banks to carry on the mission of financial inclusion through I.T.enabled services and Banking correspondent model as also to promote financial literacy in Sikkim to facilitate faster financial inclusion.

In the inaugural function, Dr. Chakraborty in his address marked the occasion as a land mark and historic one for the State as well as RBI.

MP (Lok Sabha), Mr. P.D. Rai who also addressed the gathering thanked the RBI Governor and Deputy Governor for coming up with this office in Sikkim and assured full cooperation to the newly inaugurated RBI sub office from the government.

The function was also attended by the Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University Dr. Mahendra P. Lama, DGP, Mr. C.M. Ravindran, along with the HODs of various departments.

It may be recalled that Dr. D. Subbarao, Governor RBI during the Central Board Meeting held at Gangtok on 1st of October 2009 announced setting up of a sub office of RBI at Gangtok.

This sub office will also have an issue cell to monitor availability of good quality currency notes in

Contd. on page 4

Pearls of Wisdom

Happiness is that state of consciousness which proceeds from the achievement of one's values.

-Ayn Rand

DISTRICT DIARY

Awareness programme for women

A week long awareness programme for women organized by Sashastra Seema Bal, Sikkim Area concluded on January 24 at Sombaria, West Sikkim, according to a press release received from Area Organiser, Sikkim Area, SSB. The valedictory function was held at Model English School, Sombaria in which Mr. Phurba Sherpa, Chairman, Tribal Welfare Board, Government of Sikkim was the chief guest and the other guests present were Mr. M.L.Rai, Panchayat President, Lower Thambong and Mr. Sonam Topgay Tashi, BDO, Sombaria.

The awareness programme started from January 18, 2010 in which 27 numbers of women participated from various villages of West Sikkim. They were made aware on various subjects like health and hygiene, HIV-AIDS, candle making, soap making, sauce making, bamboo works, phenyl and organic farming by the resource persons of various NGOs and State Government departments. The participants were awarded certificates by the chief guest on successful completion of awareness programme. All the items like candle, phenyl, bamboo items, herbal soap, tomato sauce etc. which were prepared in the programme by the participants were also displayed in the function.

The chief guest Mr. Sherpa expressed his gratitude towards SSB for imparting such a meaningful training to the rural women of West Sikkim. He further stated that such awareness programme will definitely give boost to the ultimate goal of women participation in governing the State and country.

Mr. Kiran Rizal, S.A.O, Officiating Area Organiser, SSB, Sikkim explained the aims and objectives of organizing such programme by SSB, so as to achieve vertical interaction with the civilian population by the Force personnel and to guard Indo-Nepal Border more effectively.

Mr. Manmohan Singh Kafola, Commandant 24th Bn., SSB, Gangtok also spoke on the occasion and believed that such programme will develop a good and health Police Civilian relationship.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. S.K. Badola, C.O., SSB, Sombaria and expressed his gratitude to the chief guest and all the dignified guest and the people of Sombaria for making this women awareness programme a success.

Annual youth convention of evangelical prestitution church

Mangan, January 25: 17th annual youth convention of evangelical prestitution church youth fellowship was held at Mangan School Ground. Mr. Hishey Lachungpa, Advisor to the Chief Minister was present as the chief guest of its inaugural session.

This four days long convention will be lead by the Mr. P.S. Tingmoo and convention will focus on various subjects like sports, cleanliness, drugs abuse etc. so as to create awareness and enthusiasm among the youth to pursue better carrier in future.

Around 600 youth from four different district of state is participating in the said convention.

Sonam Lhochar celebrated

Nima Tamang, Sub-Editor

Sonam Lhochar is one of the main festival of Tamang community. It marks the beginning of the new year corresponding to lunar calendar. It is celebrated in different parts of the state by Tamang community with great enthusiasm every year. This year it was celebrated on January 17 at Kateng-Bokrong public play ground under Namthang-Rateypani constituency, South Sikkim. The colorful festival which was arranged in grant manner was attended by the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling as the chief guest who was accorded a warm welcome by the area MLA, Panchayats, Mr. B.S. Tamang (Parang) President organizing committee and local people. The programme began with early morning prayers, lighting of butter lamps and releasing of a pair of pigeon by the Chief Minister symbolizing universal peace and communal harmony in the State.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that his government has given high value to various languages, culture and tradition of different communities of the State and it is because of this that today every community celebrates their festival at the state level in the

Sikkim. He also expressed his desire to develop and project the uniqueness of the Tamang culture and tradition in the field of tourism. Speaking on LT seats reservation, Mr. Chamling informed that he had once again raised the issue with Prime Minister and other Union Ministers during his recent visit to Delhi. Recalling the year 1994 when he had visited Kateng-Bokrong by foot, Mr Chamling expressed his satisfaction that his government was instrumental in constructing road in such a remote area. During the festival the Chief Minister declared that a Tribal community Bhawan will soon be constructed at the cost of Rs .50 Lakhs provided the local public procure the required land. He also suggested that the proposed Bhawan will be used as a centre depicting the Tamang culture, tradition and promoting the place as tourist destination.

Earlier, Mrs. Tilu Gurung, Minister Building & Housing who is also the area M.L.A. in her speech thanked the Chief Minister for gracing the occasion and she reiterated her commitment to bring about development for which she appealed for support from Panchayats and public of the area. During the festival, the

Sikkim ranks No.6 in the Composite Educational Development Index-HRDD

News items have appeared in various newspapers regarding issue of dropout rate in the State of Sikkim. Some newspapers have quoted sources in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India stating that the dropout rate is high in the State of Sikkim.

It is a well known fact that superficial projection of statistics without understanding the ground situation can lead to inaccurate interpretation and therefore may be analysed deeply to understand the ground reality.

If a crude definition of dropout rate is taken it simply means as difference in number of children which are present in Class I and the number of children which are present in Class XII. However to assume that all those students who did not reach up to Class XII have dropped from education system is gross misinterpretation of these statistics. This definition does not take into consideration students who have failed and have been retained in the education system. This also does not take into consideration children who have migrated out of the State and sought admission outside the State, all such students are also counted as dropouts though the fact remains that they are in the education system.

The Government of Sikkim has been pursuing a well appreciated policy of providing free education including free uniform, textbooks, mid day meal, shoes & socks, school bags, raincoats and pullovers for eligible students upto Class VIII. This progressive step had ensured that GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO (GER) in the State for primary level is 144.07% (Source : Selected Educational Statistic 2006-2007, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India). These benefits are available to all students irrespective of their place of resident. As such a large number of students from neighbouring areas come to study in schools along the State Borders to avail of these benefits. As these benefits are only available till Class VIII, they leave the State after Class VIII. This fact is reflected in the GER statistics which is more than 100%. All these students who are not original residents of the State are counted as dropouts, once they seek admission in their own State from Class IX.

The economy of the State of Sikkim is growing at an average rate of 10% till very recently. This economy boom is necessitated with the floating and migrating population who come to the State of Sikkim for a temporary period to support this boom. It is a well known fact that these migrant workers keep their children with them only till the stage of primary and once their children grow up they go back to their home State to pursue higher studies. All such students of floating/migrating population who are not local residents of the State are counted as dropouts in the crude statistical manner.

The Government of Sikkim has established a Single Window Management & Information system by which each and every student is tracked till the completion of his education by a student tracking system. This kind of student tracking system is not prevalent in most of the States in the country. This student tracking system allows the Department to accurately collect dropout rate using Co-hort Analysis Methodology which is one of the most scientific methods available to assess school education system. Using this methodology the stage wise dropout rate has been calculated in the Table given below. As per this Table the dropout rate in the State from Class I to X comes to 25.42%, the failure rate comes to 23.74%. Thus it can be seen that the crude methodology adopted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development fails to capture the ground situation in a small and hilly State like Sikkim.

Stage-wise State Dropout Rate (Percentage) - 2007

Sl.No.	Stage	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Class I-V	15.10	15.05	15.07
2.	Class IV-VIII	14.49	13.88	14.11
3.	Class I-VIII	21.63	22.42	22.02
4.	Class IX-X	12.86	12.36	12.59
5.	Class I-X	24.78	26.11	25.42

Source : PME data

The Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim has noted with regrets the attempts made by certain sectors to politicalise an issue which should have been debated at an intellectual level. The performance of the Government of Sikkim in the Education Sector can be seen by the following indicators :

D) Results in Class XII for the last six years :

Year	Appeared	Passed	Compartment	Pass %
2003	2579	1891	366	73.32%
2004	2867	2072	448	72.27%
2005	2984	2210	477	74.06%
2006	2986	2336	483	78.23%
2007	2644	2039	379	77.12%
2008	3210	2488	466	77.51%

Source : PME data

II) Boy : Girl Student Ratio (Girls PER 100 Boys) :

Stage	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	100	100	101	103	106	106	107

Source : PME data

III) Teacher Pupil ratio (excluding Language Teachers) 2007

- Primary Level : 1:16
- Upper Primary : 1:26
- Secondary Level : 1:09
- Sr. Secondary Level : 1:16

IV) Educational Facilities within Rural Habitation

- Primary Schools within 1km of walking distance : 87.28%
- Upper Pry. Schools within 3km of walking distance: 83.26%
- Secondary School within 5km of walking distance : 80.45%
- Sr. Sec. School within 8km of walking distance : 66.95%

Source : PME Data

V) Literacy Rate as the Census adopted by the Bureau of Economic & Statistics for the year 2007 is 82%.

VI) Sikkim ranks No.6 in the Composite Educational Development Index. (Primary Level) as per DISE flash statistics published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in 2007-2008

Chief Minister was felicitated by Area MLA and the public of Kateng-Bokrong for having developed road and other basic needs. The celebration committee also felicitated the land donor Mr. Dawa Tamang, who had donated land for the construction of public

ground at Kateng-Bokrong. In the festival, varieties of traditional food items, costumes were also showcased. Tamang folk songs presented by renowned young artists of Nepal and colorful cultural show of different committees of local were one of the

main attractions of the festival. Earlier, the welcome speech was proposed by Mr. Laxman Tamang and the vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Nima Tamang, Publicity Secretary, organizing Committee.

Contd. from front page Republic Day...

Human development is the most important variable in the development programmes of the country. The State Government in order to upgrade the standard of education, is laying major emphasis on imparting quality education and improving the literacy rate in the State. As a result of this, the literacy rate of 68.80% as per 2001 census has improved to 82% as of today. The Primary and the Secondary Schools are in the walking distance of 1 km and 8 km respectively, he added.

The Governor also highlighted various schemes of the state government for human resource development in the State, such as Chief Minister's Free Scholarship Scheme, education loan schemes etc. As far as the health is concerned, the Governor stated that the State Government has been providing affordable health care to all. A network of hospitals and rural health centres are already in place and more are being planned. Steps are also being taken to set up 575 bedded super specialty hospital at Gangtok.

The Government is also trying to enhance better connectivity with the rest of the country and the world by road, rail, air and the internet. Here, the Governor also stressed on the needs of the augmentation of Pakyong- Ranipool road.

Regarding agriculture, he said that it has been the mainstay of the economy with focus on high value produce. Sikkim, he said is under conversion to an organic State, as the new and modern technologies of organic farming are being introduced in the State. The Government propose to develop horticulture in a big way to provide employment opportunities to the people through opening of new ventures based on floriculture, production of fruits, vegetables including off season vegetables with focus on protection of local varieties. Accordingly, the Government is giving more emphasis to capacity building by providing training and exposure tours to the officers as well as farmers.

The Governor also highlighted that the major thrust of the Government has been to strengthen the rural masses. The various anti poverty flagship programmes of the State Government are being implemented, duly involving the local elected bodies. Besides, he also expressed that the State Government endeavour is to make Sikkim a vibrant and well informed society, and it is only possible through quality education. He also urged the young generation to acquire new skills that a knowledge economy has opened up and also called upon them to take full advantage of opportunities that are before them. He concluded his speech by saying that Sikkim would become a model State in India if, the people and Government work together with earnestness and move whole heartedly in this direction.

Earlier, amidst the tune of National Anthem, the Republic Day Celebration began with the

unfurling of the National Flag by the Governor and presentation of Guard of Honour by Sikkim Police and Army Contingents. Thereafter, in an open gypsy, the Governor reviewed the parade by the smart contingents of ITBP, SSB, SAP, IRBn, Sikkim Police male and female wing, Home Guards, ITBP Commando, Army band and Sikkim Police Band. The Parade was led by Mr. Hari Chhetri, S.P., Sikkim Police.

After the spectacular parade, ten personalities were awarded with the certificates who had rendered their service with utmost sincerity, dedication and hard work. The awardees were Mr. Bhim Kumar Roka, retired DIG, Mrs. Doma Chemzor, DIG, Mr. Kamal Chhetri, ASI, Dr. Kumar Bhandari, Cardiologist, Mr. Bhim Bahadur Gurung, DFO, Mr. Naresh Pratap Subba, O.S., Election Department, Mr. Dilli Ram Sharma, Traffic Police, Mr. Gopal Chhetri, ASI, SAP, Mr. Bijoy Khawas, Veterinary Assistant, AH&VHS and Mr. Paul Singh Rai, Head Constable, Sikkim Police.

The Programme also witnessed the releasing of books by the Governor, published by the Information and Public Relations Department. The books were: A call to Action-Sikkim 15 Triumphant Years of Democracy (1994-2009), Yuva-Building the Future of our Choice, Sikkim-Quest for prosperity: Rising to the Challenge and Awards and Honours conferred upon Dr. Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim for his outstanding contribution to the Sikkimese society.

Later, the Governor accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Karuna Singh, Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling, Mrs. Tika Maya Chamling, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chairpersons, Chief Secretary, Mr. T.T. Dorji, GOC, Black Cat Division, Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Karma Gyatso, DIG, Mr. C.M. Ravindran and other delegates visited the arms and ammunitions displayed by the Army.

Other highlights of the programme were the Band display by Army and Sikkim Police, Dog squad demonstration by Sikkim Police and SSB, signal drill by Road Safety Patrol and cultural programmes. Raj Bhawan also organized an At Home Function later in the afternoon.

The High Court of Sikkim and SSLSA also celebrated the Republic Day at their premises, respectively. Justice Mr.A.P Subba, Judge, High Court of Sikkim unfurled the National flag followed by National Anthem and Guard of Honor by the Sikkim Police at the High Court of Sikkim. Earlier, Justice Subba also unfurled the National flag at SSLSA premises at Development area.

Justice Mr.S.P. Wangdi, Judge High Court of Sikkim, Secretary, RMDD along with Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim, Judges, President and members of Sikkim Bar Association and other officials and Staff of High Court of Sikkim and Sikkim Legal Service Authority were also present during the occasion.

Mangan: The Republic Day was celebrated in a grand manner here at Community Hall, Mangan. The chief guest, Mr. T.T. Bhutia, Minister for Water Supply, PHE and Transport Department unfurled the National Flag followed by the National Anthem rendered by the Sikkim Police, NYK culture troops.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bhutia stated that under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling Sikkim has been possible to set an example of peace and tranquility in the State and for this on behalf of the people of north district the chief guest extended his gratitude to the Chief Minister. He appealed to the public in general to join hand on promotion of State's serenity and maintaining communal harmony. He also informed about the various pro-youth programmes initiated by the state government vis-a-vis pursuing higher education and capacity building etc. and urged the youths to come forward to avail of the facilities.

Earlier, DC(North), Mr. T.N. Kazi and ADC(North), Mrs. Sioffora Targain read out the messages of the Governor and Chief Minister, respectively.

On the occasion an eye-catching cultural programme was presented by the Nehru Yuva Kendra, North Star and Thinchim Dancing Club. **Chungthang:** The Republic Day was celebrated in a colorful manner at Chungthang. The MLA, Lachen Mangan constituency, Mr. T. W. Lepcha, was the chief guest during the function. Also present were the SDM, SDPO, officers from various departments, Representatives from the armed forces, Panchayats of Chungthang & Shipgyer, Pipons from Lachung, GMs of Teesta III HEP, local gentry and the public.

The programme began with the presenting of the Guard of Honor to the Chief Guest followed by singing of the national anthem. The SDM, Mr. Tashi Chopel, read the message of the the Governor and the Chief Minister after the welcome address made by the Sabhapati, Mr. Lhendup Lepcha. Colorful traditional and modern cultural programmes were presented by the local private school, ICDS, GICI. For the first time cultural programmes were presented from Lachung, Lachen and Shipgyer.

In the address of the Chief Guest, Mr. T. W. Lepcha highlighted the various programmes of the Government and asked the upcoming generation to avail of the benefits and also prepare for the future.

The vote of thanks was given by the BDO, Chungthang, Mr. Samdup Bhutia.

Gyalshing: Similarly, in Gyalshing the Republic Day was observed at Community Hall. The Deputy Speaker, Mr. M.B. Dahal was the chief guest and was attended by MLA, Yangthang, Mr. P.L. Subba, Up-Adhakshya, Mr. B.B. Bista, S.P(W), other heads of the offices, NGOs and locals.

The function started with unfurling the National Flag by the chief guest which was followed by singing of National Anthem. The contingent of Sikkim Police presented Guard of Honour to the

Life time achievement award conferred to the Chief Minister

The India International Friendship Society has conferred the "Life Time Achievement Award" to the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling for his outstanding contribution. The award has been conferred as a mark of sincere appreciation of Mr. Chamling's exceptional leadership and efficient administration and for guiding the State of Sikkim to become the most developed State in India. The award also marks his numerous achievements in diverse fields like maintenance of peace, enhancing literary, establishing quality education, conservation of environment, reservation in panchayats, SC/ST/OBC in employment and many more. (A copy of the intimation letter is attached for further reference).

Dear Dr. Pawan Chamling 24th Nov, 2009

Sub: GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

I am privileged to cordially invite you to our annual function "Global Participation in India's Economic Development" scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 7th January, 2010 which traditionally take place on the day following the day of Parvashi Bharatiya Divas.

Our program is traditionally take place on the day of inauguration of Parvasi Bharti Divas -the reason being that knowing the emotional attachment to their country of origin. NRIs from across the world, who come on the way to participate in the Parvasi Bhartiya Divas, could conveniently stay a little longer to enjoy the smell of the soil and feeling of oneness of their country of origin.

As a brief introduction, I would like to inform that India International Friendship Society (IIFS), is an old organization engaged in helping achieve India's targeted economic growth and modernization IIFS objective is to provide a platform such as the ensuing "Global Friendship Day" to facilitate interaction between NRI & Government of India and State Governments with regard to their investment and mutual benefit. These functions also strengthen and enhance friendship.

Also at this event Global Friendship Day, the Society confers "Life Time Achievement Award" to you, because you have glorified India with outstanding contributions. The conferment of the Award is a mark of our sincere appreciation of your exceptional leadership and efficient administration, which have earned Sikkim the honour of being 'the most developed State in India'. You made it possible by prioritizing maintenance of peaceful condition in the State that has helped you achieve your objectives, such as, enhancing literacy, establishing quality education institutions, conservation of natural resources and environment, major strides in empowering women, high ratio of women's reservation in panchayats, reservation of SC/ST/OBC in employment, maintaining high GDP growth rate, caring for people's health - the first State in India giving Hepatitis B vaccination free of cost and many more. Nature has gifted Sikkim with abundant mineral resources and spectacular natural beauties, unique flora and fauna - an amazing tourist attraction. We are sure you have a number of innovative projects in the pipeline. You may find the function, most advantageous to provide opportunity for showcasing your State to the NRIs, in rousing their interest and to obtain their investments and participation in order to realize your dream projects.

We are delighted to inform you that your name is selected for "Life Time Achievement Award" for your exclusive work for the country. We therefore, request you to kindly send us your detailed Bio-data and a copy of your latest photograph preferably by courier or preferably by e-mail at Globalfriendshipday@gmail.com the earliest. Please feel free to contact the undersigned for any other details. In order to save your precious time we request that you give us your email id for back and forth communication. Please feel free to contact the undersigned for any further information.

We look forward to receiving your early year at the earliest.

With best regards

Sd/-
Yours sincerely
Gurmeet Singh
(Office Secretary)

Dr. Pawan Chamling
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim
Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok

chief guest. The ADC (W), Mr. A.P. Rai and SDM (W), Mrs. Hondala Gyaltzen read out the message of the Governor and Chief Minister, respectively.

The chief guest in his speech said that it is an occasion to remember every individual's responsibilities towards their state and the country being the citizen. He called upon the gathering to preserve the unity and integrity of the state and encouraged them to come forward and cooperate with the government for better tomorrow. On the occasion, patriotic song and traditional dances was also presented by the local NGOs.

The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by SDM, Mr. Pravaker.

Namchi: Similarly, in Namchi the Republic Day was celebrated at the Community Hall with the unfurling of the National flag by the chief guest MLA, Mr. Binod Rai.

During the celebration, patriotic songs and dances were

performed by the students of JNV Ravangla and NYK, South District.

Other highlight of the programme was the Marathon "Run for the Unity of the Country" which was flagged off by the MLA, Mr. Binod Rai at Central Park. The Marathon consisted of four categories, namely: under 14 years (boys), under 15 years (girls), 15 years to 35 years (male), 15 years to 35 years (female), 35 years and above. The Marathon was participated by total of 164 participants from different categories from all the Districts of the State.

Earlier, DC(South), Mr. A.K. Singh delivered the welcome speech and read the message of the Governor. While the message of the Chief Minister was read by SDM(Namchi).

At the end of the programme cash prizes and certificates were given to the participants by the chief guest.

Ban on poultry products continues Tamang Hayullah Samaj calls on CM

Pabitra Chhetri, SIA

Gangtok, January 25: "The ban imposed on the entry of Poultry and its products from outside the State continues and the preventive actions has been taken in advance by the State Government after the confirmed reports of the Avian Influenza (Bird flu) in Burwan and Khargram blocks of Murshidabad district of West Bengal", said Mr. Vishal Chauhan, Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in a press conference, today. He informed that after the fresh outbreak in these blocks, the administration resumed the culling of birds within the three kilometer of radius. There are also unconfirmed reports from Cooch Bihar which is closer to the State therefore, the Department has started preparing in advance, he

added.

In this regard, a review meeting was also convened by the Chief Secretary, Mr. T.T. Dorji and was attended by the Principal secretary, Home Department, D.C. East, Additional S.P., officials of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and M.D, Denzong Cooperative whereby it was decided that the ban imposed on poultry and its products outside the State will continue and enforced strictly. The Secretary informed that the department has equipped in advance to check against the possibilities of entry of birds flu in the State. He further said that a joint patrolling consisting of the department officials and the police will soon be started to check the reported practice of entry of

poultry products by crossing the river.

Mr. Chauhan also stressed that there will be strict checking at all the check posts in the State and will be enforced under the Provision of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animal Act, 2009. Few special feed carrying vehicles will be sprayed with disinfectant at the check post and also the situation will be reviewed on day to day basis.

However, he also stated that there is no need to panic as the Department is putting every efforts to raise the poultry production in the State. Furthermore, he also appealed the Hotel and Driver Association not to procure poultry and its products from outside the State.

Dairy development top priority of the State Government -AHL&VS

In the news time published by a news paper it has been reported that Sikkim State has failed to seek dairy development fund under the Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The Department condemns this report and submits that this is a baseless report devoid of any fact.

During the financial year 2008-09, a project to establish modern Mother dairy farm at Karfectar with 100-120 milch cows was sanctioned under RKVY at a total cost of Rs.310.37 lakhs. The Chief Minister had laid the

foundation stone of this Mother Dairy farm on 10.12.09. Further, in the current financial year, department has been allocated Rs. 127.51 lakhs under RKVY for promotion of high yield cross bred dairy cattle, progeny propagation and development. Under the programme 300 milch cows will be inducted in the current financial year itself. In each constituency minimum 25 to 40 beneficiaries will get benefit under this scheme. Rs. 57.24 lakhs have also been allocated under RKVY in stream II for strengthening the processing

and marketing programmes of the Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union.

It is reiterated that dairy development has been on the top priority of the State Government and as a result, the State Government has launched Dairy Mission 2009-2012 to achieve milk production to 30,000 litres per day from the current level of 15,000 litres per day. To achieve this ambitious target significant investment has been made from the State Plan as well as resource are tapped from other agencies.

Contd from front page

State Level

funds and finances rather than depending on the government every time. Further, he urged them to be more capable and efficient administrators to provide all the government benefits to the genuine beneficiaries. He also informed that the government is preparing a road map to put Sikkim on a agricultural development map for which consultant from Denmark has been approached.

The Chief Minister also gave away the Panchayat Shree award to Ms. S. Rai (President) Rangbul GPU of South District, Mr. Subash Chandra Rai, (President) Chumbung GPU of West District, Mr. Dorjee T Lepcha, (President) Toong Naga GPU of North District and Mr. Hem Lall Giri, (President) Sudung Lakha GPU of East District for their commendable

performances, they were awarded with citation letter, shawl and cash prize.

Mr. Chamling also distributed free MDR Tuber Colossi treatment kits to the patients provided by the department of health during the function.

The Sammelan also saw Mr. Chamling felicitated by the department of Rural Management and Development Department, and presented him with memento

Contd from front page

Sub office...

the state by overseeing the operations of currency chests/bank branches and also to give thrust to public awareness campaigns for detecting fake currency notes in partnership with banks.

Mr. Eugene E. Karthak, General Manager in Charge will

and citation letter.

Minister for Rural Management and Development department, Mr. C.B. Karki who also addressed the gathering appealed to everyone to work in tandem to make Sikkim a model and exemplary state in the country.

Earlier, Secretary (RMDD) Mr. A.K. Ganeriwala welcomed the guests and also gave a brief account of the works done by the department.

head the sub office at Gangtok.

Earlier, Mr. F.R. Joseph Regional Director, Sikkim and West Bengal welcomed the guests with his welcome note.

Mr. S. Kumar, Chief General Manager of State Bank of India also addressed the gathering.

Incidentally year 2010 is the Platinum Jubilee year of Reserve Bank of India.

Contd from front page

MoD for...

of present project will be the determining factor for future JICA assisted projects in Sikkim. Mr. Arvind Kumar, Principal Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House and Mr. M.L. Arrawatia, Secretary, Science and Technology and officers from MoEF were also present in the evening function.

The main objective of the present project is to strengthen biodiversity conservation activities and forest management capacity and to improve livelihood for the

Gangtok, January 18 :- The Tamang Hayullah Samaj of Sikkim called on the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling at Samman Bhawan on the occasion of Sonam Lochar.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Chamling expressed his happiness and best wishes to the organization.

Mr. S.T.Tamang(Presiden) thanked Mr. Chamling and his Government for the honour and status given to the Tamang community.

Earlier, traditional folk dances like Damphu Nach and Tamang Selo were also presented.

Magisterial enquiry to be instituted

A fire incident had occurred at the store of Human Resource Development Department and the Government has been taken very seriously. It has been decided to institute a Magisterial Enquiry in to the causes of the incident and the District Magistrate, East District, Mr. D. Anandan shall conduct a detailed enquiry in to the incident and submit the report within one month. The terms of reference for the enquiry are To ascertain the cause of the fire, to ascertain, if any, act of negligence and willful violation of duty and fix responsibility, to ascertain correct quantum of losses for the Government, ways and means to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future.

Another recognition for the Chief Minister

The American Biographical Institute (ABI) located at 5126 Bur Oak Circle, PO Box 31226, Raleigh, North Carolina 27622-1226 (USA) has offered to nominate the prestigious "Gold Medal for India Award" to the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling. One of the few names of high repute in the area of publishing world the honour bestowed by American Biographical Institute in USA has firmly recognized the struggle and contribution made by the Chief Minister for promotion of peace, progress and development of the State.

The Gold Medal proposed for the Chief Minister is an honour reflective of championship and the struggle endured to ascend to the top. Nominated to represent the country with this major honour, the Sikkimese people stand proud and privileged to be guided by the mature wisdom of the Chief Minister. This honour is one of the many Awards already received by the Chief Minister, Regionally, nationally and Internationally.

SNT to introduce new luxury buses

Gangtok January 22: Sikkim Nationalized Transport, under Transport Department is procuring four numbers of fully built luxury mini busses having facility of LCD, push back seats and shelf of beverages / toffees, duly conducted by a guide.

The buses are being acquired from "Swaraj Mazda" Limited which specializes in producing such luxury buses.

Very shortly these buses will be on the road plying for various destinations in the city.

local people who are dependent on forests by promoting sustainable biodiversity conservation, afforestation and income generation activities including eco-tourism for the community development. This will contribute to environmental conservation and harmonized socio-economic development of Sikkim. Project activities would thus uplift the living standard of the local inhabitants living in forest fringe areas as well as conserve forest resources and biodiversity by supporting entry point activities, eco-tourism, participatory biodiversity conservation and forest protection.

The project thus envisages improving the economic status of communities living in fringe forest areas through non-consumptive

management of the forest areas under their control. The sense of ownership among the communities has already been developed through ongoing projects of the Department and Joint Forest Management (JFM) committees and Eco Development Committees (EDC) are functioning in various areas. The externally aided project which is proposed to be implemented soon is further set to revive the pride and interest of the people in their rich natural and cultural heritage thereby steering them towards the conservation and preservation of these common resources.

The final outlay of the project is estimated to be Rs. 330.57 crores and the activities are spread over a period of ten years.

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JEST A SECOND

Sandy began a job as an elementary school counselor and she was eager to help. One day during recess she noticed a girl standing by herself on one side of a playing field while the rest of the kids enjoyed a game of soccer at the other.

Sandy approached and asked if she was all right. The girl said she was. A little while later, however, Sandy noticed the girl was in the same spot, still by herself.

Approaching again, Sandy offered, "Would you like me to be your friend?" The girl hesitated, then said, "Okay," looking at the woman suspiciously. Feeling she was making progress, Sandy then asked, "Why are you standing here all alone?"

"Because," the little girl said with great exasperation, "I'm the goalie!"