



SIKKIM HERALD

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Gangtok (Tuesday) February 02, 2010

Regd. No.WB/SKM/01/05

Martyr's Day observed



The Governor, Mr. Balmiki Prasad Singh offering scarves on the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at M.G. Marg on the occasion of Martyr's Day.

Pabitra Chettri, SIA

Gangtok, January 30: Every year, the death anniversary of the Father of Nation, Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi is observed

Ex-Servicemen At-Home Function

Sonam Goparma, SIA(East)

Gangtok, February 1: The Ex-Servicemen (ESM) At-Home Function was organized at Raj Bhawan, today where the Governor, Mr. Balmiki Prasad Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest along with his wife Mrs. Karuna Singh to honour the Ex-

as Martyr's Day in India. Similarly, in Sikkim, the Governor, Mr. Balmiki Prasad Singh paid his tribute to Gandhiji by offering garland at his statue at the backdrop of Ram Dhun being played by the Police Band at M.G. Marg.

He was accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Karma Gyatso, DGP, Mr. C.M. Ravindran, Principal Secretary, Home, Mr. Jasbir Singh, Secretary, Forest, S.T. Lachungpa, Com-cum-Secretary, UD&HD, Mr. Tobjor Dorji, Secretary, Raj Bhawan, Mr. K.N. Bhutia, and other senior government officials and the local gentry.

Similarly, the officials and staffs of the Information and Public Relations Department also observed two minutes silence in tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and all those martyrs who dedicated their lives for the cause of the country.

Use only what you need, water is a limited natural resources.

Servicemen, Veer Naries and their dependants.

The ESM At-Home Function is an honour given traditionally by the Governor of Sikkim at Raj Bhawan.

During the function, Certificate of Merit, Citations and gifts were awarded to nine recipients by the Governor, namely, Hony Lt. Mr.D.B. Chettri,

Contd. on page 2

Sikkim rated as No.1 in environmental protection

The Centre for Development Finance, Chennai has rated the environmental sustainability index of Indian States for the year 2009. Sikkim has been rated in the following area of environmental protection.

- 1) Reducing pressure on environment, No: 1
- 2) States response to maintain their environment, No: 1

Dr. G. R.C. Reddy calls on the Chief Minister



The Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling with Dr. G.R.C. Reddy, Director, National Institute of Technology, Calicut at Mintokgang.

Sonam Goparma, SIA(East)

Gangtok, January 29: Dr. G.R.C. Reddy, Director, National Institute of Technology, (NIT), Calicut called on the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling at his official residence Mintokgang, today.

During this short meeting, Dr. Reddy was all praise for the tranquil and peaceful environment of Sikkim and was highly impressed with the newly revamped M.G. Marg stretch, which has become a major tourist attraction in the capital.

He also informed the Chief Minister of his visit to Rabongla, South Sikkim where NIT is proposed to be established and expressed his satisfaction about the location. Further, Dr. Reddy also

informed that NIT has allocated 90 seats for the State of Sikkim out of which 50 percent of the seats will be for the students of Sikkim.

Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling assured to extend all possible help and cooperation from State Government for the establishment of NIT etc.

The Director was accompanied by the Minister for Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Mr. N.K. Pradhan, Secretary, Mr. R. Telang, Director Technical Education, Mrs. Jemima Pradhan and Dean NIT Calicut, Dr. T.P. Somasundaran.

Chief Minister selected as outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century

Gangtok, January 29: The Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Chamling has been selected as 2,000 outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century 2009/10, as per the communication received from Director General, Mr. Nichololas S. Law of International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England,

The prestigious publication is due to release in mid 2010 and Mr. Chamling has been cordially invited to take his place within its pages.

The inclusion in this prestigious publication is purely based on merit alone.

The International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England has been producing a full range of biographical directories for more than 40 years. These directories cover vast interest and geographical areas and are specially designed to provide easy access to detailed biographical information from many varied prominent individuals.

All IBC titles are compiled without political racial or religious bias and are of genuine international interest.

Pearls of Wisdom

You don't need fancy highbrow traditions or money to really learn. You just need people with the desire to better themselves.

- Adam Cooper and Bill Collage

**Government of Sikkim
Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms,
Training, Public Grievances, Career Options &
Employment, Skill Development and Chief Minister's Self
Employment Scheme
Gangtok-Sikkim**

No.286/GEN/DOP

Dated 30/01/2010

CIRCULAR

Rule 13 of the Sikkim Government Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2009 provides that the arrears on account of Revised of Pay and Allowances will be paid in 3 (three) installments i.e 40%, 40 % and 20% in the Financial Years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, respectively. The Government has now decided to release 100% salary arrears to the employees within the current financial year duly declaring the Interim Relief paid in the year 2008-09 and 2009-2010

Sd/-
(Karma Gyatso) IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms,
Training, Public Grievances, Career Options &
Employment, Skill Development and Chief Minister's Self
Employment Scheme

Memo No. 9271/GEN/DOP

Dated 30/01/2010

DISTRICT DIARY

Women awareness programme at Sakyong GPU

Gyalshing, January 27: Seven days long women awareness programme started at Sakyong Gram Panchayat Unit, Gyalshing, with participation of 25 women from various villages of West Sikkim.

The programme which was organized by Sikkim Area of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) was inaugurated by the chief guest and area MLA Mr. P.L. Subba, where Mr. M.B. Rai, Chairperson, Sikkim Milk Union was the guest of honor.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest Mr. Subba expressed his gratitude towards the officers of SSB for selecting Sakyong as the venue for generating awareness among rural women. He was also pleased to see that the programme organized by SSB matched with the idea of the Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Chamling and also assured all the possible cooperation to SSB for organizing such meaningful awareness camps for women.

Mr. Kiran Rizal, SAO, officiating Area Organizer of SSB informed that the main objective of arranging such programme was to generate awareness on various aspects of life like health and hygiene, child care, village handicraft, organic farming and making of herbal soap, candle, pickle and phenyl and sauce to rural women of Indo Nepal Border and to create a cordial relationship between the civilian and the force.

The inaugural programme ended with the vote of thanks which was proposed by Mr. S. Adak, Circle Organiser, SSB (Gyalshing).

2nd Regional SARAS FAIR concludes

The ten days long 2nd Regional SARAS FAIR-2010 successfully concluded on January 23 at Jorethang. This fair coinciding with Maghe Sankranti Mela added a symbolic colour of grandeur to each other. During this fair products produced by Self Help Groups from all over the country were brought. All together 74 numbers of artisans from other states i.e. Tripura, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttarpradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and 62 artisans from Sikkim participated in this fair.

During the closing ceremony MLA Salghari-Zoom, Mr. Madan Cintury was the chief guest. In his address, he expressed his happiness for conducting such mela. He said "Sikkimese people are becoming the producers which I have felt during the visit of SARAS Fair". The Secretary, RM&DD cum Chairman of SRDA was the guest of honour. In his speech he highlighted the government's policies and the vision of the Chief Minister to make the BPL families self sustainable through self employment schemes such as SGSY etc.

Other highlights of the programme were cultural programme presented by the "Taal Group" of Namchi, SHG members and local artists.

Mr. L.P. Pandey, Project Director, SRDA delivered the vote of thanks

Meeting for selection of Brand Name for Sikkim held

Sonam Goparma, SIA(East)

Gangtok, January 29: A high level meeting for selection of Brand Name for Sikkim was held under the chairmanship of journalist and former President of Press Club of Sikkim Mr. C.D. Rai in the chamber of Mr. S.B.S. Bhaduria, Secretary Tourism Department, Government of Sikkim

During the meeting a variety of names suggested by the tourists and the students from various schools from the capital were discussed and short listed.

After taking all factors into consideration it was decided that the department shall invite more such names from other schools as well as other institutions and even from the press and media, than in the first week of March it will be screened and after finalizing the names it will be sent to the government for consideration and approval.

The meeting was also attended by the officials of the Tourism department, and the Members of TASS and SAATO.

25th North Bengal Flori Show

D.K.Sharma, SIA(Siliguri)

Siliguri : The 25th North Bengal Flori Show was held at Kanchendzonga Stadium from 15 to 20 January. It was organised by Siliguri Horticulture Society where varieties of Orchids, seasonal potted flowers, cut flowers, Gerbara etc. were displayed. In the flori show florist from different corners of North Bengal like Jalpaiguri, Duggiri, Birpara, Mirick, Darjelling and including Sikkim state participated in it. Among these Sikkim's Mainam Garden was highly appreciated by the people and it also received special prize for its effort. During the function, Mr. Prasant Sen, General Secretary of the organising team expressed his gratitude to the participants. This kind of participation will help Sikkim in promoting tourism at National and International level, he added.

Department giving top priority to Projects like EDUSAT and E-Education to encourage interactive E-learning-HRDD

As per a press release received from Director (School Education), HRDD, this pertains to the news item published in a local daily with a heading "176 Computer Teachers in Government School go without salaries" which was on non payment of Computer Teachers salary appointed under Project ICT@Schools. In this respect, the Department of Human Resource Development wishes to clarify on the news item published on 26th Jan 2010 and put forward the following facts:

1. Project ICT @Schools is a three (3) years Centrally Sponsored Scheme funded by MHRDD for imparting Computer education at Secondary and Sr.Secondary level on 90:10 ratios. The said project is being implemented on BOOT Model on turn key basis and is awarded to M/s Computel Systems and Services Pvt.Ltd, New Delhi, after a tedious tendering process on all India basis. Under this model, the vendor M/s CSS Pvt.Ltd has to provide requisite number of Computers and peripherals, Internet connection, conduct training for school Teachers and appoint Computer Teachers to the Schools. The release of payment for which, is done on quarterly basis from time to time subject to successful completion of the above mentioned work and as stipulated in the bid document. As per the agreement signed between the Department and the vendor, the Department also had to release 25% amount of total project cost against a bank guarantee, to the vendor as mobilization advance to effect all the work mentioned above, which the Department has already done.

2. Since, the project is based on BOOT model on turn key basis, as mentioned above, the onus of appointing Computer Teachers for a project period of three(3) years, payment of their salary on time as per the norms, their posting etc has to be done by the vendor (CSS). It was also reported that the salary of Computer Teachers were reduced or is not uniform, in this regards, we would like to clarify that Project being based on BOOT Model on turn key basis, the Department has a limited role to play in incase of Teachers deployment, payment of their salary etc. However, when all these issues came to our knowledge we sought an explanation from the vendor vide letter no :959/dir/hrdd/se,dated:12/12/09 and a reply received from them and is currently being examined.

3. As for the issue of under qualified teachers, It was specifically mentioned in the bid document vide clause C under section III that the vendor shall appoint Computer teachers of different category with following qualifications:

i) Senior Computer Teachers: B.E.(Computer Science/IT) / B.Sc. with PGDCA certificate/ B.Sc (Computer Science) and equivalent from recognized University.

ii) Instructors: Same as above.

iii) Junior Computer Teachers: Graduate with one year diploma in Computer applications.

However, the vendor M/s CSS Pvt Ltd did not comply to it and appointed under qualified candidates under Senior teachers and Instructors category going against the bid document to fill these posts. On our query, they cited non availability of qualified local candidates. The Department of HRD, since then, have been instructing the vendor to fill the said posts with qualified teachers but till now, nothing concrete has been done by the vendor in this regards.

The matter being so, the Department has not entertained any bills in any respect till now, which was supposed to be released quarterly. Apart from non payment of Teachers salary, appointment of under-qualified teachers, the Department has also received numerous complaints from various quarters about the other aspects of the Project. The Department has taken a very strong note of it and is on the process of initiating necessary actions against the vendor on the ground of non-compliance of the agreement signed. The Department of HRD is very much vigilant on all these issues and is not as reported in the news item. There has been no inexcusable gap in communication or lack of understanding the groundwork or neither is the Department sleeping in all these issues. The Project being based on BOOT model, the vendor has a major role to play incase of Teachers deployment, their payments and other execution. The Department can control all the lapses by pending the release of payments till its effective completion as per the provisions mentioned in the bid document.

However now, considering the plight and sufferance of the computer teachers who are being subjected to lots of hardships for no fault of theirs, the Department is considering releasing the salary bills submitted by the vendor for the remaining three months in the last academic session i.e. for October to December 2009 after making necessary amendments in the agreement.

We also wish to bring this to the kind information of all concerned that the Department of HRD is trying its best and is leaving no stone unturned to make Project ICT@Schools a success. It is indeed a very good project through which the students can benefit lots in terms of Information and Communication Technology. There have been some lapses in the past owing to non-compliance of the agreement by the vendor, but we hope to start fresh from this coming academic session. Hence, in order to have an effective monitoring of the Project ICT@Schools, web based monitoring system is also on anvil.

Not only project ICT, the Department is also giving top priority to Projects like EDUSAT and E-Education to encourage interactive E-learning through which quality of Education can be enhanced using modern day technology.

Contd from front page

Ex-Servicemen...

Sub Mr. T.B. Poudyal, Mrs. Pema Chuki Kazini, Ls/ NK Mr. Dhan Bdr. Chettri, Hony Captain Jaslal Pradhan, Ex Signalmn, Mr. Am Prasad Rai, Mrs. Geeta Gurung, Mrs. Jamuna Devi Rai, Ex Rfn Mr. Padam Singh Gurung.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor remarked that this is a very important day for Raj Bhawan. He also urged the Army personnel to inspire the younger generations to come forward and join the armed services. Further, Mr. Singh also invited one interested Ex-servicemen to come and work at Raj Bhawan.

Earlier, GOC 17 Mountain Division, Major General,

Mr. R.S. Chopra in his address expressed his gratitude to the Governor for organizing such function for the Ex-servicemen, he also remembered the sacrifices made by these valiant soldiers towards the nation.

A short film on Armed Forces Flag Day was also screened on the occasion. While Ms. Remanti Rai sang patriotic songs in memory of those who gave their

lives for the nation.

The function began with the welcome address by Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board Lt. Colonel (Retd.) Mr. P.B. Gurung while Brigadier, Mr. S.C. Joshi proposed the vote of thanks.

The function was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Karma Gyatso, DGP, Mr. C.M. Ravindran, Home Secretary, Mr. Jasbir Singh along with the ex-servicemen from all over the state

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Mahatma Gandhi NREGA: Building Rural Sikkim

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) aims to provide 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household demanding it. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, was always concerned about rural India's poverty and living conditions. His pet phrase was, "India lives in villages". Similarly "Sikkim also lives in villages". Therefore, it was in fitness of things when the popular flagship programme National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was renamed after him. In a commemorative function in Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 2nd October, 2009, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India said that the government move to rename the NREGA is only a "humble tribute" to the Father of the Nation on his 140th birth anniversary. The greatest strength of democracy is that, under this programme, the people are the masters of the destiny and also of their own developmental works. This is the principle of "Swaraj" or "self rule", that Mahatma Gandhi had always cherished.

MGNREGA is currently in its 4th year of implementation in Sikkim. This Scheme has been universalized and is operational in all the 163 Gram Panchayats of the State. The Scheme has been able to put money in the hands of the poorest of the poor on a scale that is unprecedented. During the last financial year (2008-09), a mind boggling 52,000 (of the total 80,000) of the rural households (mostly women) participated in this program. The program attracted not only the 19,235 rural poor but also the 32,765 APL families. Wage payments to the tune of Rs. 25 crore was released to them, creating a multiplier effect and stimulating the rural economy. MGNREGA was able to dignify labour work in the villages, and provided purchasing power among the rural household. When these poor households spend this additional money, they create a demand for commodities. The production of these commodities, in turn, creates demand for capital raw materials and workers. This demand stimulating process is called the multiplier. The plan of action this year is to shift the emphasis to those activities that enhance "rural household incomes". If implemented in true sense by focusing on strengthening rural livelihood, this is an historic opportunity to transform rural Sikkim sustainably like never before.

In order to ensure transparency, the wage payment was routed through 42,000 newly opened bank and post office accounts. The muster rolls were also read out in the gram sabha in Social Audits conducted by reputed NGOs in all the villages. A grievance redressal mechanism has also been established along with transparent material purchase norms and a toll free helpline 7979 is operational. The shelf of works to be taken up in the village are proposed by the Gram Sabha, estimation is done by the Block office, technical sanctions are done at the District level and financial sanctions by the Zilla Panchayat. No contractors or middle men are permitted and 100% implementation of works is by the Gram Panchayat.

The MGNREGA, a wage employment guarantee programme has received an unparalleled public response and more than 40,000 rural households are currently participating in this programme. This translates to a wage payment of Rs 40 lakh daily to rural Sikkim. Recently Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has approved an 83% hike in central release for MGNREGS-Sikkim for 2009-10 based on a very positive, independent performance evaluation by IIM-Shillong. The total budget for the State is to the tune of Rs 75 crore and the Central share of Rs 54 crore has already been released in 15 installments. Sikkim is the only state in the country where 100% implementation is being done by Gram Panchayats. The average outlay for a GPU is about Rs 40 lakh annually. MGNREGA has helped in strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions by bringing real democracy to the grassroots, and facilitated the transformation from Contractor Raj to Panchayati Raj.

Also development of critical springs under the banner of "Dhara Vikas" (Spring-shed Development) under MGNREGA has also been initiated. Development of the spring-shed will be taken up with soil moisture conservation works like digging staggered trenches and pits along contours, gully plugging, bunding of terraces and making them inward sloping, de-silting of existing, dried up ponds and lakes. Vegetative measures will include plantation of low water demanding and shallow-rooted grass/shrubs/trees.

Currently MGNREGA-Dhara Vikas works on a pilot basis are underway to revive 3 springs in the South and East districts.

In order to improve the technical management of this programme, additional technical manpower on contractual basis have been recently appointed. Amongst the new initiatives, Village Service Centers (Gram Seva Kendra) at the GPUs level which will function as a MGNREGA Village Office will soon be created. The budget for each of these centers will be Rs 10 lakh each, and the work will be started from April, 2010. They will be developed as an extension of the existing Gram Prashashan Kendras or will be located in the immediate vicinity. An SMS based, micro-monitoring system will also soon be put in place which will enable the progress at the Gram Panchayat Ward level to be recorded on a weekly basis. This will enable near real time progress reporting at the micro level and corrective action can be taken much faster.

A pharmacy college at Sajong, Rumtek

As a result of the Government of Sikkim's initiative of creating a conducive atmosphere for industry in the State along with other Industries, Pharmaceutical Companies have also set their manufacturing units in the State. Till date thirteen (13) small and medium sized pharmaceutical units have obtained manufacturing licenses and have started production and another three units are in the offing. This has opened up numerous job avenues in the sector.

The Department of Health & family Welfare has identified the existing site of the Leprosy Hospital at Sajong for the above mentioned Pharmacy College. The proposed site at Sajong is presently in the possession of the Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department and measures approximately 1.056 acres. The site along with infrastructure had been utilized till 2003 as a leprosy hospital under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. With the state achieving the Government of India target of a prevalence of less than 1/10000 leprosy cases and the new guidelines from the Centre to do away with hospitals specifically meant only for leprosy patients the Hospital along with existing infrastructure was handed over to the parent department in 2003-04. The establishment of the Pharmacy College at the proposed site would ensure optimal utilization of the land available.

HEALTH

What youth should know about HIV/AIDS

Contd. from the last issue

What is STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease)?

A disease which one contracts during sexual contact is called as STD. The disease should not be taken lightly and must be treated as early as possible. STDs can be very painful and can cause a lot of damage to the body often resulting in loss of manhours, infertility, various disabilities and may lead to death.

Why is early treatment of STD important?

High rates of STD caused by unprotected sexual activity enhance the transmission risk in the general population. Early treatment of STD reduces the risk of spread to other sexual partners and also reduces the risk of contracting HIV from infected partners. Besides, early treatment of STD also prevents infertility and ectopic pregnancies.

Why a focus on youth?

- 50% of HIV infection is found to be in the age of 15-24 yrs.
- They are entering into the reproductive age group (15-49yrs.)
- Unprotected sexual relations increase risks of unwanted pregnancy and early child birth as well as unsafe abortion and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including HIV/AIDS.
- Lack of family education and counselling ...
- Experimentation is a normal part of adolescent development which exposes them to health risks.
- Stigma and embarrassment associated with STD can impair psychological development and attitudes towards sexuality later in life.
- Young people can communicate better with other young people than older people can. This means their role as peer educator and motivator cannot be taken by others.
- Young people have the enthusiasm, energy and idealism that can be harnessed for spreading the message on HIV/AIDS awareness and responsible sexual behaviors.
- Young persons can ideally serve as role models for younger children and their needs.

What makes them vulnerable to HIV/AIDS?

- Risky sexual behavior, substance use and the lack of access to HIV/AIDS information.
- Marginalized young people like street children, refugees and migrants are at particular risk of sexual abuse, drugs and exploitation.
- Biological, social and economic factors makes young women especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.
- Injectable drug abuse is another area coupled with active sexual relations.
- Peer pressures.
- Independence and experimentation. Media invasion-Erosion of traditional values-parental control.
- Socio-economic disadvantages and deprivation.
- Exposure to modern style of life which is often beyond their means.

What can young people do about HIV/AIDS?

- Young people have a vital role in the prevention and control of HIV infection. Their role extends from protecting themselves, protecting their needs to protecting their families and their community.
- Discuss the aspects of HIV/AIDS and sexuality with their peers.

Contd. on page 4

Amazing Facts

- # Surprisingly enough little mosquito has 47 teeth.
- # Ants are so hardworking that they even do not sleep.
- # In terms of rapid procreation rats lead the way since two rats can have after year and the half more than 1 million descendants.
- # Our fingernails are growing much faster than our toenails, about 4 times faster.
- # Talking about the hot stuff - The highest temperature produced in a laboratory was 920,000,000 F (511,000,000 C) at the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor in Princeton, NJ, USA.
- # Hurricanes cause havoc which is really no surprise since a typical hurricane produces the energy equivalent to 8,000 one megaton bombs.
- # Polar bears may look slow and fat, but they are in real life far from it since they can run at 25 miles an hour and jump over 6 feet in the air.
- # Interesting enough, Earth is the only planet in our solar system that hasn't been named after some Roman or Greek god.

State level workshop on Homoeopathy for Mother and Child Care

Pabitra Chettri, SIA

Gangtok, January 29: A two days State level workshop on Homoeopathy for Mother and Child Care was held at the conference hall of the State Election Commission, today. The workshop is organised under the aegis of the Health Care Human Services and Family Welfare Department in association with

Central Research Council on Homoeopathy, New Delhi and sponsored by Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Minister for Health Care and Human Services and Family Welfare, Mr. D.N. Takarpa graced the occasion as the chief guest in the inaugural function.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest said that Indian system of medicines dates back to the age old concept in the community in India, and in most places of Sikkim is no exception as, it has a very strong Ayush based practice in the Amgi System and other natural practices. He further said that the Ayurvedic medical system of which Homeopathy is a component has an impressive record of safety and efficacy in prevention and mitigation of diseases. Under the NRHM umbrella of Sikkim we seek to revitalise local health tradition and main streaming of Ayush, through man power development and drug distribution, so, as to strengthen the public health system at all levels, he added. Focusing on today's theme of the workshop he said that the involvement and sensitization of ASHAs /ANM/ Paramedics/ NGOs in Homeopathy practice will help in overall, well being of Mother and Child care. He further informed the gathering that in Sikkim Ayush wings has been constructed in all the four district hospital where Ayush doctors (Homeopathic) have been posted in two district, and four Paramedics have been trained to assist the Homeopathy doctors in these districts. Basic support in the form of furniture and equipments have also been provided and most of the drugs are placed. The chief guest stated that the implementation of Homeopathy concept for Mother and Child Care will go a long way in building-up the health parameters, basically, in the rural areas which is the one of the main objective of Government. He said that once the proposed 575 bedded hospital is constructed the government has a plan to incorporate the Ayurvedic, Homoeopathy and Amgi wings in this hospital itself.

Earlier the welcome address was placed by Mr. T.K.Rai, Programme Officer, AYUSH. While the vote of thanks was placed by Dr. Neelima Thatal, Medical Officer (Homoeopathy), District Hospital, Namchi.

Seminar on Food Business Enterprises for Better Market Access

Sonam Goparma SIA (East)

Gangtok, January 28: A day long seminar on how to manage Food Business Enterprises for Better Market Access was held today. Mr. P.L. Subba, MLA and Chairperson, Agriculture, Horticulture Board graced the seminar as the chief guest.

The seminar which was organized by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited or (NERAMAC) a Government of India Enterprise and sponsored by Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India was also attended by the officials from Agriculture, Horticulture and Commerce and Industries Department along with progressive farmers.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Subba stated that the government as well as the department are seriously working in the field of marketing the agricultural products of Sikkim

and also added that with the help of NERAMAC it will be able to market the products more efficiently.

Mr. Vijay Sardana, Managing Director, APRL Agri-business Knowledge Service, New Delhi introduced and highlighted on the programmes of the seminar to the gathering and also said that Sikkim has great potential with its conducive climatic conditions for various agricultural products. Sikkim just needs to identify its strengths on how to market them, he added.

Earlier, Mr. S. Bhattacharjee, Managing Director, NERAMAC, Limited delivered his welcome address, while Zonal Manager NERAMAC, Sikkim, presented the vote of thanks.

Later part of the seminar was confined to technical and interactive session.

CM invited to join as an outstanding individual in the ABI

The Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling has been invited to join as an outstanding individual in the American Biographical Institute on behalf of ABI Board, as per the communication received from Mr. J.M. Evans, President, American Biographical Institute, Host of the World Forum, University of Cambridge, England. The Institute is a 42 year old global organization whose wide reaching knowledge of influential people is recognized throughout the world. This knowledge stems from the publication of over 250 biographical editions honoring men and women whose careers, community spirit, dedicated research, teaching, mentorship, and practice provide an example of leadership and encouragement for those with whom they come in contact. A large study was done by the ABI's Internal Board and its Advisory Panel of over 4,000 in positions of professional importance to determine the names of the Hall of Fame inductees.

Similarly, Friendship Forum of India, New Delhi has also chosen Mr. Chamling for the "Best Personalities of India Award" and Gold Medal in recognition of his exceptional caliber and outstanding performance.

Screening test for Class V students

Sonam Goparma SIA (East)

Gangtok, January 30: Under the Chief Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme 2010, Human Resource Development Department conducted a screening test in Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School for the best performing students of class V of the state studying in various government schools from all over the state.

Almost sixty students appeared for this screening test. Among these sixty students fifty best students will be selected for the scholarship, out of these fifty students, ten best students will be sent to study under the scheme in various reputed Public schools beyond the boundaries of the state while rest forty students will be get admission in various public schools within the state itself.

**Conserve
water
and
conserve
life.**

Obituary



Late Mr. Pemba Thondup

Late Pemba Thondup, popularly known as Pemba Sir passed away on 27th January, 2010 at Nayak Nursing Home, Siliguri where he was undergoing treatment.

Simple, ever smiling and friendly Late Pemba Thondup had his early education in SUMI, Kalimpong. He started his career in government service in the Department of Education in sixties. Thereafter, he switched over to the then Political Office (now Raj Bhavan) and worked as

Assistant Editor, Tibetan news bulletin. He also worked in Government Institute of Cottage Industry and later retired as Director, Information and Public Relations Department. He was appointed as Special Officer in the Chief Minister's Office where he worked till his last.

A hard working government servant, late Thondup was decorated with Roll of Honour for his meritorious service by the State Government which he was very reluctant to receive as he told us that "I do not deserve this". This speaks of his simplicity and dedication to duty.

A prolific writer, late Thondup penned a number of publications brought by the IPR Department and his most ones are A Tribute to Guru Padmasambhava, 25 Years of Statehood and Nathula – Then and Now. He was fond of football and watching movies.

His funeral was held in Gangtok on 31st January, 2010 which was attended among others by the Chief Minister of Sikkim, other distinguished persons and a large number of people.

IPR Friends

Contd. from page 3

What youth should...

- Spread the message of responsible sexual behavior amongst friends community.

MESSAGE

Safe sex

- Delay sex till marriage
- Avoid pre-marital sex
- Avoid multi-partner sex
- Insist on the use of condom
- Don't hide but treat sexually transmitted diseases.

Safe Blood

- Always insist on H IV screened blood
- Discourage professional blood donors

Safe Needle

- Don't share needles
- Use sterilized/boiled/disposable needles each time
- Don't reuse the same needle without sterilisation

VCCTC

- Avail free voluntary confidential counseling and testing services in the following places:-

1. STNM Hospital, Pathology section.
2. District Hospital, Namchi.
3. District Hospital, Singtam.
4. District Hospital, Gyalzing.
5. District Hospital, Mangan.
6. Central Referral Hospital, 5th Mile, Tadong.

What youths should always remember?

- Always have positive attitude towards life and living.
- Keep good and trust-worthy company
- Educate yourself about HIV/AIDS and be prepared
- Learn the facts of human sexuality, -develop a wholesome attitude
- Cope up with physical and emotional changes
- Take part in sports and social works Keep away from vices like smoking, alcohol and drug abuse etc.
- Take good care of your health and protect yourself from Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and other diseases.
- When confronted with a problem don't be panicky. Consult your parents, teacher and trusted friends and find out a solution.
- When you are not understood, don't be restless and low, discuss and give a serious thought to what your parents and teachers say. Don't be emotional.
- Nature has endowed every one with physical mental attributes. Be happy and make the best use of them.