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All ethnic communities of Sikkim felicitate CM



The Chief Minister, Mr.Pawan Chamling being felicitated by all the ethnic communities of Sikkim at Chintan Bhawan.

Sonam Goparma, SIA (East)

Gangtok, August 24: Pro-poor and people friendly policies of the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling and his government has led Sikkim into the new millennium. The state has experienced historic and landmark changes during the last 14 years of his governance like the reopening of Nathula trade route after prolonged gap of 44 years, induction of Sikkim into North Eastern Council, Sikkim getting a Central University, boom in

Tourism sector, investors flocking in to invest in the state, mushrooming of opportunities in every field and sector, sustainable overall development and a massive metamorphosis in the socio economic conditions of the people. But the recent landmark achievement of Mr.Chamling was the successful exemption of the Central Income Tax Law of 1961 for the Sikkimese people.

As a mark of respect and

gratitude for this unparalleled and unmatched achievement, all ethnic communities of Sikkim felicitated Mr. Chamling in a colorful programme organized at Chintan Bhawan, today. He was presented with a citation letter and a miniature statue of Guru Padmasambhava.

In his address, Mr.Chamling stated that people have been provided with all the possible rights and facilities and it is up to them now to shoulder and protect these rights and use them positively and progressively. Terming this as a historic occasion where all the representatives of various ethnic communities of Sikkim had congregated under one roof, he said that this felicitations will further boost his confidence and act as an impetus to strive forward and achieve more for the state. He also vowed to work relentlessly for the state and its people.

He exhorted the public to show more interest and participate in the programmes and policies of the government to further enhance the performance of the state. Further, he requested all the representatives of various

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Regional Administrative Centre inaugurated at Karfectar

Urmila Gurung, SIA (South)

Jorethang, August 22: The newly constructed Regional Administrative Centre (RAC) at Karfectar, Jorethang (South Sikkim) was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Mr.Pawan Chamling.

“This is one of the successful ventures of the state government in providing decentralized state administration to the public of south and west districts at their door step”, said the Chief Minister while addressing the inaugural function. He further informed that all those departments concerned directly with public works would have its offices in RAC and officials upto the rank of additional would be posted there. Mr.Chamling also said that all the government offices functioning from rented houses in Jorethang would be shifted to RAC immediately. He mentioned that the function of the RAC is to cater to all the public related works and therefore, he urged the officials to carry out their responsibility to provide effective



The newly inaugurated Regional Administrative Centre at Karfectar in Jorethang.

and receptive governance to the public. Officials should show punctuality and sincerity in their work and the administration in the RAC should be an exemplary administration in the state, he added. The officers should motivate and encourage their subordinates and staffs to work better and change the working atmosphere of the government offices into a positive, systematic and effective one, said Mr. Chamling. The Chief Minister also

announced that Land Bank Scheme would be launched in September along with other schemes.

The gathering was welcomed by Mr.P.S.Tamang, Minister for Buildings and Housing Department. In his address, Mr. Tamang said that it is a historical moment for the people of Sikkim as one of the largest structures in the state in terms of

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CM inaugurates Sub- Divisional Administrative Centre & Power Guest House at Rongli



The Chief Minister, Mr.Pawan Chamling inaugurating the Sub-Divisional Administrative Centre at Rongli while Minister, Mr. P.S.Tamang and Chief Whip, Mr.K.B.Chamling look on.

Pabitra Chhetri, SIA

Rongli, August 18: For better and efficient functioning of the government machineries, the Government of Sikkim visualized the formation of Sub- Divisional Administrative Centers (SDAC) catering to the far flung areas of the state. With this vision of the government, Sub Divisional Administrative Centre at Rongli was established. The construction commenced on 18th May 2004 and was completed on 25th June 2008. The three storied newly constructed building having a total plinth area of 11,435.00 sq.ft was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling, today amidst a huge gathering.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that in order to provide administrative facility to the people and to reach benefits and pro-poor schemes directly to the grass root level, the Sub-Divisional Administrative Centers has been established at the sub divisional and blocks level. With the inauguration of Sub Divisional Administrative Centre, the long pending demands of the people of Rongli have been fulfilled. He asked the officials of the SDAC to work efficiently and diligently and ensure proper implementation of the state government policies and

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Parnami Dharma Sewa Samiti felicitates CM

Pramod Gautam, SIA

Singtam, August 25: Sri Krishna Pranami Dharma Sewa Samiti of Sikkim felicitated the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawan Chamling for successfully exempting the Sikkimese people from the purview of Income Tax Act of 1961. The felicitations function was organized on the occasion of Janmasthan, today at Pranami Mandir.

Guruji 108 Sri Mohanpriyacharyaji from Mangal Dham, Kalimpong, who graced the function said in his address that today, on the occasion of Janmasthan and Nanda Utsav, religion and politics has come together for a good cause as

religion gives spiritual knowledge to the society and the politics develops the society through developmental works. He said that a politician should be religious like the Chief Minister, who believes in spiritual values. He further added that religion keeps a society united.

During his address Mr. Pawan Chamling said, religion should not be confined to words, temples and books only but it should practised in day to day life as well. The Chief Minister said that he want to make Sikkim into a

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Pearls of Wisdom

It does not take much strength to do things, but it requires great strength to decide on what to do.

- Elbert Hubbard

DISTRICT DIARY

20 unemployed women completes hand weaving training

Simon Subba, SIA (West)

Gyalshing, August 19: Twenty unemployed women of Omchung GPU under Gyalshing constituency completed three months hand weaving training under Skill Development and Capacity Building programme of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department.

The valedictory function which was organized at Panchayat Bhawan, Omchung saw Special Secretary, SJE&W Department, Mr. S.T.Lepcha as chief guest and Mr. Nirmal Darnal, Joint Director, SJE&W as guest of honour.

Addressing the participants, the chief guest informed that the woollen handloom products are in demand because of the climatic condition of Sikkim and therefore urged the trainees to take advantage of the situation. Further, he encouraged the participants to form Self Help Group and set up shops for which SIDICO, Khadi Board etc. are granting loans at low interest.

The Joint Director and Panchayat President also spoke on the occasion.

The programme also saw presentation of Certificates and weaving materials to the trainees by the chief guest.

Cooperative Department holds Coordination meeting in North District

Buddha Hang Subba, SIA (North)

Mangan, August 18: Coordination meeting of Cooperative Department (North District) was held at Committee Central Hall. Minister for RMDD & Cooperative Department, Mr. K.N.Rai chaired the meeting as the chief guest. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the weakness and progress of cooperative societies and to find a way for further promotion of cooperative business deal within North District.

After a patient hearing to the suggestion and grievances put up by the members of the cooperative societies of north district, Mr. Rai assured that all necessary suggestion will be taken up and placed before the Chief Minister. Regarding repairing of Multi Purpose Cooperative Society/ Buildings and fencing, Minister asked the BDOs to prepare a concept plan through NREGA scheme.

Further, he said that fundamental principle of cooperative movement is to transform a particular society into a self-reliant society through self-governance. Thus, he called upon the public of North District to come forward to participate in cooperative movement. Meanwhile, Mr. Rai said Sikkim government has always been focusing on pro-poor programmes with a view to uplift the living standard of poor people of the state. Therefore, Mr. Rai urged BDOs, panchayats and cooperative members to promote cooperative movement in north district and create a positive business transaction impact among the people.

During the meeting, Mr. Chaden Lepcha, Chairman, Milk Union (North) and Mrs. Chumki Saring, Chairperson, State Child Right Protection Commission stressed that there must be a close management between BDOs, Panchayat and President of cooperative organization so that the cooperative societies could achieve positive results in time to come.

The meeting was also attended by Registrar, Cooperative Society, Mr. W.T. Bhutia, DGM/MPCS, Mr. P.K.Mukhia, Executive officer, Mr. B.P.H.Subba, Zilla and Gram Panchayat Executive members, President and secretary of cooperative societies. The meeting was conducted by the ARCS (North), Mr. T. G. Phenzongpa.

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CM inaugurates...

programmes. He went on by saying that decentralization of power is not only the responsibility of the government itself but will bear fruit only when the people respond and involve themselves in the process. The officials and staff of the centre have to develop a work culture related to human touch and give preference to the public related works, he added.

He appealed to the Gram Panchayats to empower more people and avail of the opportunities offered. The Chief Minister expressed that welfare schemes should be distributed timely to the genuine recipients. He advised the people not to rely on middlemen instead to directly approach the staffs and officials so that fair work culture could prevail. He also informed the gathering about the constitution of 4th Pay Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice R.K. Patra,

former Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court in order to examine the pay structure of state government employees and to suggest changes which may be desirable and feasible.

Minister for Building and Housing Department, Mr. P.S. Tamang in his welcome speech said that for the welfare of the people and as a part of the nation building process, the government has devolved the power at the grass root level to reach every household and every member of the society. He also highlighted some of the major achievements of the government in fourteen years of their tenure.

Mr. K.B. Chamling, Area MLA said that Sub-Divisional Administrative Centre is the long pending demand of the people of Rongli and it will serve people from three constituencies. He also expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister on behalf of the people.

Later in the afternoon, the Chief Minister also inaugurated

Workshop on Lifestyle and Non Communicable Diseases

Sonam Goparma, SIA (East)

Gangtok, August 21: Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) are emerging as major health problems in under developed and developing countries. Trend of these diseases are towards decreasing trend due to effective control mechanism in developed countries, however due to changes in life style and socioeconomic development there is an epidemic of NCD in developing economies like India.

There are misconceptions that NCD needs to be managed only by super specialized services at tertiary level and are not to be prevented. This impression is possibly due to long latent period, multi factorial causation and poor understanding of the management of these NCDs.

In order to address the issue of NCDs, the department of Health Care, Human Service and Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim organized a two day World Health Organization (WHO) Workshop on Lifestyle and Non Communicable Diseases at a local hotel.

Principal Director, Dr. R.L. Sharma who was the chief guest for this workshop formally inaugurated the same along with Cardio Specialist Dr. Kumar Bhandari and Dr. I.L. Sharma who were the guests of honour.

The morning session of the workshop began with the introduction on Life Style issues and prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases globally and in India by Dr. Ranabir Pal Associate Professor, Community Medicine, SMIMS while Joint

Director, State Nodal Officer NCD, Dr. P.M Pradhan gave an elaborate power point presentation on the Life style issues and prevalence of NCD in Sikkim and its prevention.

The afternoon session saw Dr. N.T Sherpa HOD Department of Medicine, STNM Hospital give a comprehensive lecture on Lifestyle issues and prevention and management of Diabetes.

India which seems to be emerging as the diabetes capital of the world with about 35 million cases is a serious cause of concern, Dr. Sherpa said and also shared his views and ideas on how diabetes can be checked and kept under control and also cleared the air about the wrong notions on diabetes which people tend to believe.

During these two days workshop various issues were comprehensively discussed like the Findings of Community monitoring team, Findings of Medically Certified cause of Deaths, Vision, objectives, strategies, activities for Pilot Programme, Integrated community based interventions for control of NCD, Reduction of measurable and preventable risk factors, Cardiovascular Diseases, Stroke Cancer and Diabetes.

The workshop also saw group discussion on Action plan for prevention and control of NCD.

The workshop ended on the second day with a valedictory function which was attended by Director General Health Services Dr. Kumar Bhandari as Chief Guest

and Mr. Robert Chungthu, Deputy Secretary, Government of India as guest of honour.

Dr. N Thapa, Department of Psychiatry, STNM Hospital made a power point presentation on Alcohol, Tobacco and Lifestyle issues, while Dr. W.D. Bhutia CMO (Cardiovascular Diseases) DGHS, New Delhi made presentation on Lifestyle issues and cardiovascular diseases.

The participants also made an action plan for prevention and control of NCD during the group discussion and group presentation on lifestyle issues and prevention and control of NCD were also presented.

It was also emphasized that most of the NCDs have common risk factors which can be addressed in community level, Primary Health Care System and in all the Health Care Institutions.

Dr. Bhandari in his address said that this sort of workshops will be held in different parts of the state at regular intervals to create awareness of NCDs and hoped that it was useful for the participants.

While Mr. Robert Chungthu spoke on the approach of Government of India on NCD.

This workshop was attended by doctors, government officers, teachers; representatives form various Non Governmental Organizations, students and media personnel.

SSCSOA welcomes constitution of 4th Pay Commission

Gangtok, August 8: A meeting of the Officer's Association of Sikkim chaired by Mr. D.R. Kharel, President, Sikkim Civil Service Officer's Association was held at Tashiling Secretariat to discuss the constitution of the 4th Pay Commission, reads a press release received from General Secretary, SSCSOA.

The members present wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of the Government to constitute the 4th Pay Commission, immediately after the announcement made by the Chief Minister on 15th August, 2008 in Paljor Stadium. All the Officers of the State Government convey their thanks and appreciation to the Chief Minister. It was also decided that the individual Associations will nominate two members each in the Core Committee which will look into the common issues to be placed before the 4th Pay Commission. Concerned Officer's Association will submit the names of their nominees to the General Secretary, SSCSOA by 25th August.

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Regional Administrative...

state offices is being inaugurated at Karfector. He mentioned that the RAC was 5000 sq.ft larger than the Tashiling Secretariat. He said that the credit goes to the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister. It is also one the achievements of the State Government in the field of rural development, he said and added that the construction of RAC is the step towards making Sikkim the best state in the country.

The area MLA cum RMDD Minister, Mr. K. N. Rai also the Power Guest House which was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 39.5 lakhs. The work was commenced on June 2006 and was completed on March 2008.

addressing the gathering expressed his gratitude towards the Government for establishing this landmark Centre in south district. He also said that the decentralization of power is one of the main factor which initiated this project and the rural people will benefit the most from this centre.

According to the technical report presented by the PCE cum Secretary of Buildings and Housing Department, Mr. D. T. Lepcha, the total built up area of the building is 75000 sq.ft and the total land acquired for the project was 2.54 hectares. The building has been constructed as three inter connected blocks i.e. Block B as Central Wing and Block A and Block C on the left and right sides of the Central Block, respectively. The central block has four storeys

while the side blocks has five storeys. The structure is also made physically disabled friendly with a ramp for them alongside the staircase. The building has provision for 71 office chambers for officers of which 15 have attached WCs. The complex has 20 halls of three different sizes to accommodate about 200 non-gazetted personnel and will be able to accommodate about 20 to 25 departments. Besides, RAC also has a conference hall of 300 seating capacity and a mini conference hall of 20 seating capacity. Both these halls are fully air conditioned with public address system and a pantry. The total cost of the project is Rs.10.64 crores. He also added that the aim and objective of the Regional Administrative centre is to provide a regional administrative facility for quick and efficient disposal of official matters, benefiting the people of the south and west districts.

Earlier, the Chief Minister after the reception inspected the centre along with the Minister Buildings, Area MLA, Secretary Buildings, Ministers, Advisors, Chairmen, and concerned officials. Mr. Chamling gave away the certificate of recognition to architects, engineers, contractors and officials involved in the project.

The programme rounded off with the vote of thanks from the Additional Chief Engineer of Buildings Department.

Sikkim Floriculture Show Room at Delhi to be under RC, Sikkim House

Gangtok, August 25: Chief Minister, Dr. Pawan Chamling has expressed his concern over the functioning of the Sikkim Floriculture Show Room located at the Greater Kailash, New Delhi, to build an image for Sikkim as an organic State and was not happy with the lackadaisical manner in which the business was being conducted there. The Chief Minister said that the outlet should now be under the administrative control of the Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, New Delhi who should see to it that the Show Room functions successfully round the year by marketing all the different products of Sikkim instead of confining itself to flowers, vegetables and fruits.

The meeting chaired by the Chief Minister was attended by the Chief Secretary, Mr. N.D. Chingapa, the Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Finance Secretary, Development Commissioner, Secretaries of Industries, Agriculture, Buildings, Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, New Delhi and Chief Engineer, Tourism.

The Chief Minister said that in order to run the Show Room successfully a mechanism has to be developed to diversify the

goods for marketing so that the outlet could effectively play the role of a facilitator and match the supply with the growing demands. The Chief Secretary added that the outlet should be multipurpose under the administrative charge of the Resident Commissioner.

It was also decided in the meeting to start the work of construction of a Shop-cum-Show Room at Baba Kharag Singh Marg in New Delhi, where Sikkim has procured a space a few months back. The Chief Minister who was not happy with the delay in executing the work directed the Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, to take over the responsibility of completing the work within a month and make it operational before the Dussehra. The Chief Minister also said that the outlet at Baba Kharag Singh market should market all Sikkim products including flowers, fruits, handicrafts & handlooms and traditional rugs woven at Lachung, North Sikkim.

The Chief Minister also directed the Resident Commissioner to immediately start the construction work of additional rooms at Sikkim House which is being inordinately

delayed. The meeting also discussed the repair and renovation work of Sikkim House at Middleton Street, Kolkatta. In this connection the Development Commissioner pointed out the need to shift Tourism's counter from there to Poonam Building Office and give a bigger space to G.T.C.I counter where the traditional stalls and crafts are in good demands.

The meeting also discussed at length as to how best the newly constructed Regional Administrative Centre (RAC) at Jorethang could be used to set an example for other Administrative Centres in the State. The Chief Minister directed that the senior officers of the South and West District should be posted with their staff at the RAC with full administrative and financial powers. The Chief Minister who was impressed with the structure said that the administrative control of the RAC should be given to an officer of Secretary level and the Centre should be so exemplary and self-contained that it may become a model administrative centre in the State.

Sensitization Workshop on Protection of Geographical Indication

Pramod Gautam, SIA

Gangtok, August 22: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Intellectual Property India, Geographical Indication (GI) Registry and Craft Council of India organized a Sensitization workshop in the premises of Directorate of Handicraft and Handlooms. The work shop was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of High Court Mr. Ajoy Nath Ray.

GI Indication is a sign used on goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess essential qualities that are due to that place of origin. The Geographical Indication conveys to a consumer that a product in a certain place and has certain characteristics that are due to that place of production. Some of the examples of Geographical Indication from India include Darjeeling Tea, Basmati rice, Kanchipuram silk saree, alphonso mango, kolhapuri chappals etc. The registration of a geographical indication confers on the authorized user exclusive right to use the GI in relation to the goods in respect of which it is registered.

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All ethnic...

association to take this message across the state that the advantages of exemption from Income Tax should be availed in a proper manner and must not be misused. This exemption should motivate the people to be more productive and increase their earning to reap rich dividends, the Chief Minister added.

He also made an announcement that his government will provide financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs to the

ethnic communities of Sikkim for building their own community centers or Bhawans. He further assured to secure and safeguard the rich culture, tradition and heritage of all the ethnic communities of Sikkim so that their identities remain intact.

Speaking on the B.K Roy Burman Report which has been passed by the Assembly, approved by the cabinet and sent to New Delhi for approval by the Centre, Mr. Chamling said that this Commission was not formed to give safety and security to certain community or section of the

2 days HIV/AIDS awareness programme at Marchak

Two days HIV/AIDS awareness counselling and blood screening camp was organized on August 20 and 21 at 'A' company Marchak of 24 Battalion, SSB under the aegis of Sikkim State Aids Control Society, Gangtok, according to a press release received from Assistant Commandant, 24BN, SSB, Gangtok.

Besides, delivering motivational and individual/group counseling, blood testing was also conducted wherein 88 personnel benefited.

Mr. P.S. Thakur, Assistant Commandant, Mr. Sankar Kalita, Lab. Tech, ASI/M Bir Singh Lepcha and HC/M Mr. Binoy Singha from SSB delivered talks and assisted SSACS team in their work.

Similar camps were held in recent past in SSB and more camps will be organized in future. A number of SSB personnel have been benefited by this campaign till date as per press release of SSB.

society but to each and every ethnic community of Sikkim. Unity in diversity is what we are trying to attain, Mr. Chamling stated categorically. He also informed that in the report it has also been mentioned that the assembly seats of Sikkim Assembly should be elevated to 40 from 32.

Guest of Honour for the occasion, Speaker Mr. D.N. Takarpa, who also addressed the gathering, said that the exemption of Central Income Tax law 1961 for the people of Sikkim is a huge achievement and thanked the Chief Minister for the same..

Earlier, Dr. Shiva Kumar Rai,

A PLEA FOR THE WORLD PEACE

Dr. Alok K. Shrivastava

Health is wealth but one supposes reverse is never true. A healthy body may always have a healthy mind. There is a need to inculcate that. Whether mind is pure or has certain impurities, constrains or for that matter, deviations, mostly we are misled to think that I AM NOT ONLY CORRECT BUT ALSO POSSESS QUALITIES OR VIRTUES TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO ALL THE MALADIES. While posing so, perhaps we refrain from presenting ourselves correctly in everyday life. Most of us do not practice or follow what we otherwise expect fellow -beings to do. As a result, a certain degree of mistrust develops. It leads to a cleavage between the expectation and the performance. A state of anxiety crops up, paving the way for disturbance of mind even in a healthy looking body. I do not mean to say that the individuals having a certain say, influence or stature in the society are devoid of the anxiety syndrome. Perhaps, what separates them from the others is the ability to take things without a preconceived notion, assess and analyse a situation, event or challenge in an impartial manner and offer a solution or find a solution with a value free mind. Those who take a cue from such an approach lead a fairly peaceful and contented life rather than being susceptible to the tempting offers for leading a so called good life and in the process, falling prey to the clever, yet latent cobwebs, woven meticulously and religiously by the shrewd minds.

2. At the very outset, it needs to be correctly comprehended that the life, if not a bed of roses, is also not a plethora of problems, challenges and impediments. While approaching a face to face situation, we falsely and foolishly tend to take the support of 'friends' and well-wishers for granted. WE OFTEN FORGET THAT BOTH MIND AND BODY BELONG TO ME AND THAT ONLY I AND I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER IT AND BE PREPARED TO FACE THE VICISSITUDES OF THE MYSTICAL LIFECYCLE. The occasional succor or support from the parents, off-springs, life partner, boyfriend, girlfriend, or the so-called sympathisers should be and has to be considered a temporary phenomenon with no permanent intent. It may help in taking a break or in sustaining the same in the short run but expecting it to outdo or outshine a 'break fail' eventuality will be a piece of disastrous thinking with monstrous ramifications.

3. While thinking or deliberating about peace for collectivity, the state of peace at the individual level should be incumbent. Same is probable or possible if an individual is in a position to perform his daily chores in an honest and positive way with least or no desire or expectation from his act. We should keep on performing assigned tasks without bothering for results or rewards. IT IS ONLY WHEN WE ARE READY TO GIVE THAT SOMEBODY WILL BE FORTHCOMING TO OFFER. Our forefathers, after all, have been emphasizing- "THE MORE YOU SACRIFICE, THE MORE YOU GET."

4. A selfless life with preponderance of the divinely feelings is not only expected to be free from expectations but same may also be relatively free from any anxiety or stress. A state of contentment will ensure a peace of mind. Such a state on the part of the majority may lead to or will lead to peace among groups, associations, federations, confederations, districts, provinces, countries and so on and so forth. In other words, the organic unity triggered by a clear and positive vision by ensuring a balance of various individual 'functions' will be a prerequisite for the peace and stability of the "structure" of the society as a whole. We should keep trying and performing without being adversely affected by the latent and manifest onslaughts of the deviant, misguided and at times, the lunatic elements, who slowly, gradually and definitely harm the feeling and foundation of the collectivity and ultimately, the edifice of peace and prosperity like the invisible, yet, deadly termites.

5. Each individual effort is important. It has the necessary potential and power to forge unity in a situation of apparent demoralization and division. Memories of the past and the ill feelings of jealousy and hatred have to be replaced or substituted by taking recourse to adequate rest, relaxation, a sabbatical (if affordable) and a positive dose of thinking. It is only when we control our wishes and aspirations that the control over the wavering mind will be possible. Needless to say, such a situation or probability has the potential to be a prerequisite or the precondition for an all pervading world peace. The gap between the pretence and the possibility needs actual human bridge, not a non-descript piece of unfounded hypocritical thinking. Simple living and high thinking adequately charged and fuelled by the yogic postures, exercises and a bout of meditation is certain to alleviate and ensure a wholesome peace as opposed to the peace attained in a piecemeal manner.

* Address delivered on 29 May 08 at the Global Yog Festival organized under the authority of International Yog Confederation. Milan. Italy at the Constitution Club. Ravi Marg, New Delhi.

Convenor, Organizing Committee welcomed all the guest and dignitaries with his welcome and keynote address.

The programme which was attended by Cabinet Ministers, Advisors, Lok Sabha MP, MLAs and host of other dignitaries, came

to an end with a vote of thanks which was proposed by Dr. Kumar Bhandari, Director, General Health Care.

The programme was conducted by Mr. R.K Rai, Joint Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

Govt. employees must comply transfer orders - CS

It has come to the notice of the Government that a number of Government employees transferred either on promotion to another place of posting or on usual transfers are avoiding compliance of the transfer orders on one reason or the other, which is not in the best interest of the administration.

The Chief Secretary has therefore directed all Secretaries and Heads of Departments, not to recommend retention of any Government employees transferred on promotion to another place of posting or on usual transfers. Secretaries and Heads of Departments are asked to ensure compliance of these transfers. It has been further directed that those transferred on promotion not complying with transfer order within the next seven days will be reverted to their old posts held before promotion and those not complying with normal transfer will be placed under suspension. The Chief Secretary has asked all the Secretaries and Heads of the Departments to send the compliance report in all cases to his office within seven days from 21.08.2008.

Meeting on rules and regulations for registration of new vehicles and driving licences

Gangtok, August 21: A meeting was held in the chamber of the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Mr.N.D.Chingapa this morning to review the rules and regulations of granting registration for new vehicles and driving licences so that various complaints received by the government regarding fake driving licences and minor drivers could be rectified. These verifications were necessitated in view of the growing number of accidents taking place as a result of rash driving by careless and irresponsible drivers.

The meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary was attended by the Principal Secretary and the Additional Secretary to the Chief Minister, Transport Secretary, Additional Secretary and the Sr. Regional Transport Officer of the Motor Vehicle Department.

The Transport Secretary made it very clear in the meeting that his department strictly follows the prescribed norms while granting registrations to new vehicles and driving licences. He stressed that no licence is issued under pressure. The meeting was told that among various criteria required to secure a driving licence, passing out from a recognized Driving Training Institute and Traffic Class were also mandatory. However, the Secretary assured that his department will make every possible effort to rectify loopholes, if any, while issuing permits and licences.

To begin with, Motor Vehicle Department will reverify the details and other nitty gritty during the renewal of vehicle permits and driving licences so that issues of fake driving licences and minor drivers could be rectified. Since a number of fake driving licences is suspected from outside the State

the Transport Secretary said that a mechanism of quick detection of such licences could be introduced and carried out in a more aggressive manner. As far as the drivers of the plains are concerned, their driving skill will be retested as per the Sikkim Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2006 before authorizing such drivers to drive vehicles in hilly roads of the State. The Secretary further said that genuine endeavour will also be made to give preference to locals while granting driving licence so that the personnel trained by the Capacity Building Department of Government of Sikkim in driving vehicles could be fruitfully utilized.

The Chief Secretary who is as concerned as the Chief Minister on the growing cases of rash and irresponsible driving leading to many accidents said that the Motor Vehicles department should keep in their mind the cardinal point of rectifying fake driving licences and underage drivers to avert accidents and keep the trained locals in this line in mind while issuing driving licences. The Chief Secretary said that the prescribed rules and regulations should be enforced without any reservation but anything which is not relevant to the ground reality should not be implemented. He assured his full help and asked the Motor Vehicle department to make use of his offices, anytime they require.

Earlier, the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister outlined the agenda of discussions and apprised the meeting about the serious concern shown by the Chief Minister on the growing menace of rash driving leading to some unfortunate accidents. The meeting was held at the initiative of the Chief Minister.

Janta Mela 2008-09

Janta Mela 2008-09 to be held from 1st to 4th September 2008 in all the four Districts of Sikkim have been postponed as follows;

24th September, 2008 - Kyongsa Ground , Gyalzing.

25th September, 2008 - Bhaichung Stadium, Namchi.

26th September, 2008 - Public Ground, Mangan.

27th September, 2008 - Sichey Public Ground, Gangtok.

Justice Patra addresses press conference on 4th Pay Commission

Gangtok, August 25: Justice R. K. Patra, Chairman, Law Commission of Sikkim addressing a press conference at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariate. While addressing the Press, Justice Patra said that the main objective of constituting the 4th Pay Commission by the State Government was to examine the existing structure of pay scales of all categories of State Government employees and to suggest changes which may be desirable and feasible. The Commission will also examine the existing grades in Government Services and suggest changes which may be desirable for ensuring uniformity in scales of pay commensurate with duties and responsibilities expected from each grade and also to suggest either increase or reduction in the

number of grade. The Commission will also examine the variety of allowances and in kind that are presently available to the employees in addition to pay and to suggest rationalization and simplification thereof with a view to promote efficiency in administration.

The Commission will also review other existing rules relating to death-cum-retirement benefits, existing rates of T.A/ DA, leave travel concession facilities and recommend the date from which the changes/improvements will become effective.

Justice Patra further informed that the 4th Pay Commission will follow the 6th Pay Commission Report as its guideline and the basis for the 4th Pay Commission Report. The

Commission is yet to receive the 6th Pay Commission Report, however the commission will try its level best to submit its final Report by 31st March, 2009 as desired, he said.

The last Pay Commission was constituted in the year 1988 and it is time that revision is carried out keeping in mind the present inflation scenario. At the same time, the efficiency of the employees needs to be increased so that the fruit of administration reaches the common man, he stated. He also requested all the officers associated with the Commission to deliver the goods in time. Sikkim is the first State to have constituted the Commission after the constitution of the 6th Pay Commission at the centre.

Meeting on revamping SIE, teacher training, vocational education

Sonam W. Shenga, DIO(East)

Government schools in the state which has a total enrolment of 1, 27,726 students. Out of which 61,973 is boys and 65,787 is girls which indicates that there is no gender inequalities in the state.

Mr. Chankapa further mentioned that the HRD Department has been organizing training programmes for teachers and altogether, the Department has 69:21% trained teachers. With regard to SCERT, the Department is in the process of constituting the same. Process of establishing the DIET in three districts is presently under consideration of the State Government, he said.

Further, he said that presently only one DIET is functional in the East District. The Department is still continuing vocational educational programme at +2 stage inspite of the discontinuation of the grant-in-aid by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi during this 11th Five Year Plan.

During the discussion on SCERT/SIE, Member NEC, Mr.P.P. Shrivastava said that efficiency of the governing system in Sikkim is quite evident from the infrastructural development in the state. He pointed out that Sikkim has done a commendable job in every sector including education. The foundation of a better tomorrow can be laid only by

Human infrastructure development and Sikkim is heading in the right direction, he stated.

Mr. Shrivastava also said that School Education starts at the elementary level and becomes a part of a child's character. NEC will be emphasizing more on primary education through child friendly methods, education relating to environment, surroundings, skill based through vocation etc. Information Technology, reaching out to educated unemployed youths, school dropouts, training of science and mathematics teachers are some of the issues, he discussed.

Mr. S. Sathyam IAS (Rtd) deliberating on the revamping of SIE said that training of teachers has been a long pending problem in most of the states and time has come whereby a drastic measure is required. However, Sikkim having 70% of trained teachers deserves compliment, he said. Attention is now required to clear the 30% backlog and quality upgradation. Training is a continuing activity and SCERT has a major role to play in all stages of school education.

Other highlights of the meeting included power point presentation on education scenario in Sikkim and DIETS/ Training etc. by Director-cum-SPD and Joint Director (Training).

Gangtok, August 20: The North East Regional Institute of Education sponsored by North Eastern Council organized a high level meeting on revamping of SIE, teachers training and vocational training at the Conference Hall of the HRD Department today. The meeting was attended by Mr. P. P. Shrivastava, Member-NEC, Mr. S. Sathyam, Prof. G. Ravindra, Joint Director-NCERT (New Delhi), Dr. Poonam Agarwal, Joint Director (NCERT) Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Prof. D.S. Bhattacharjee, Secretary, Human Resource Development Department, Mr. K.T. Chankapa, Regional Director, IGNOU, Directors of HRDD and other officers.

Secretary, HRD Department, delivering the welcome address thanked Mr. P.P. Shrivastava for choosing Sikkim as the venue for this meeting and said that, this will definitely help and encourage the HRDD officials to learn more about the schemes and programme. He also apprised the gathering on some of the activities undertaken by the Human Resource Development Department on teachers training, SCERT and Vocational Education.

He also informed that altogether there are 765

(Contd from front page)

Parnami Dharma...

"Abode of Gods". He announced that grants will be given to 24 Pranami temples of Sikkim on the occasion of Janta Mela 2008.

Joytisaroopji Maharaj from Chandigarh and Dawa Sherpa, President, Sikkim Parnami Sewa samiti also addressed the function.

Mr. S.N. Poudyal, Minister for Agriculture, Mr.D.T Lepcha, Minister for Roads and Bridges, Secretary, Ex-MLA, Chairmen, Pranami Dharma followers and devotees were also present at the function.

State Planning Commission reconstituted

The State Government has reconstituted the State Planning Commission consisting of Mr. Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister as Chairman, Mr. P.D. Rai, Tadong as Deputy Chairman, Mr. J.K. Bhandari, Former MLA, Mr. Sonam Dorji, Former MLA, Mr. I. B. Rai, Former MLA, Mr. S.K. Gurung, Retired Secretary, Mr. Y.B. Thapa, Former Chairman, Mr. Thondup Pintso, Former Registrar, Cooperation, Mr. D.D. Pradhan, Retired Secretary as Members and Development Commissioner, DPER and NECA as Member Secretary, vide Notification No:85/Home/2008, dated:19.08.2008 issued by Home Department, Government of Sikkim.

The Deputy Chairman will be accorded the status of the Cabinet Minister and the Members of the Commission will be accorded the status of the Minister of State for Protocol courtesies, the notification further reads.