

# Convergence meeting on Sikkim Jurisdictional REDD+ Program



**OPERATION SMILE - II**

A team from CID, Gangtok conducted an awareness programme on Operation Smile II at Melli Bazaar on Friday. Operation Smile II is a special drive being carried out by CID to trace out missing children from Sikkim.

**Gangtok, Jan 23:** The first meeting of the REDD+ steering committee of Sikkim was held in a local hotel here in Gangtok today.

The Jurisdictional REDD+ program which is being implemented by Sikkim is the first of its kind in India.

Sikkim is expected to benefit from emerging national and international financial instruments that complement the forest conservation and enhancement through valuation of increase and sustained management of carbon stocks in the state's forests. The REDD+ mechanism has gained considerable momentum since it was recognized as a priority climate change mitigation instrument in the recent Paris Agreement, launched at the 21st Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, December 2016.



Today's meeting was attended by the steering committee consisting of Secretaries of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Commerce and Industry, Land Revenue, Science and Technology and Climate Change, Rural Man-

agement and Development, Building and Housing Departments and senior officers from Urban Development, Food Security and Agriculture, Horticulture and Ecclesiastical Departments.

The steering committee deliberated on ways of convergence of programs and

policies of different departments that contribute to forest conservation and which could be incorporated in the REDD+ program.

A presentation was made by Swapan Mehra of IORA Ecological Solutions on Forest PLUS activities which has mapped the forest areas, forest cover and forest types across three time lines, namely for 2002, 2009 and 2013, derived from IRS LISS-III and LANDSAT data sets.

The programme has also developed a mobile based application that has been developed to validate the remote sensing data with ground based observations. He also presented a preliminary mapping of government programs of various government departments that can be converged with the goals and objectives of the Sikkim REDD+ programs.

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion wherein it was asserted that all the programs and policies of the government implemented by the departments represented in the steering committee needed to be studied using the REDD+ lens to understand which programmes could be projected as a REDD+ item.

**Modi declassifies...**

rounding his sudden disappearance over 70 years ago. The release of the files "will meet the long-standing public demand" and "will also facilitate scholars to carry out further research on Netaji", a culture ministry statement has said.

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen said in Kolkata on Saturday that he was interested in seeing the contents of the files. But it was far more important to debate his (Subhas Chandra Bose) life and work, to follow his vision, rather than to discuss in what circumstances he died.

**Sikkim junior...**

Chhetri, Sangay Chopel Bhutia, Prashant Biswakarma, Amrit Tamang, Hangsen Limboo, Sanjeev Pradhan, Bibek Rai, Adrash Pradhan, Anish Tamang, Chu Kingchum Lepcha, Richie Pradhan, Boxer Pradhan, Budhiraj Rai, Bikram Tamang, Praveen Chhetri, Zigmee Sherpa, Ganesh Bahadur Chhetri, Menla Ethenpa, General Secretary in his press release stated that this year the SFA has given emphasis to the grass-root players from sub-division and districts.

B.K. Roka, President, SFA, has extended his good wishes to the team.

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**GUEST OF HONOUR**

**SMT. VIDYA JAYPRAKASH THAKUR**  
Hon'ble Minister of State Women and Child Development, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Food and Drugs Administration, Government of Maharashtra

**IN AUGUST PRESENCE OF**

<b>SMT. POONAM MAHAJAN</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mumbai North Central	<b>SHRI ARVIND SAWANT</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mumbai South	<b>SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mumbai South Central	<b>SHRI GAJANAN C KIRITKAR</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mumbai North West
<b>SHRI GOPAL SHETTY</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mumbai North	<b>SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA</b> Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Mumbai North East	<b>SHRI SUNIL SHINDE</b> Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Worli	<b>SHRI ASHISH SHELAR</b> Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Vandri West

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