

Guv Patil extends greetings on Barahimizong

Gangtok, Dec 6: On the auspicious occasion of Barahimizong, Governor of Sikkim ShrinivasPatil and the First Lady RajanideviPatil extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim.

The Governor stated, "The festival of Barahimizong is associated with our Mangar brethren. It signifies our faith in the almighty as the bestower and protector of mankind. It is yet another reflection of our affinity towards Mother Nature and how our way of living in harmony with nature has evolved over the centuries. The festival is associated with the farming community, expressing gratitude to God by offering fresh harvest and seeking good fortune for the coming days. It represents all Sikkimese communities irrespective of religion, ethnicity and class.

May the almighty bless the Sikkimese people with eternal prosperity with bountiful harvest year after year. May the divinity that remains at the core of Sikkimese ethos and values permeate all sentient beings."

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CM greets on Barahimizong

Gangtok, Dec 6: Chief Minister PawanChamling and Tika Maya Chamling extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim, particularly the Mangar community on the auspicious occasion of Barahimizong festival.

"I pray and wish that the festival showers prosperity and brings out the goodness in each and every one, strengthening the bond of love and family. Festivals such as Barahimizong showcase our unique customs and tradition. We should work towards

promotion of the rich cultural ethos that Sikkim and the Sikkimese people are endowed with." The CM stated.

Barahimizong is celebrated every year on the fifth day of MangarPurnima, which usually falls in the month of December. On this day, people from the Mangar community dress up in their traditional attire and pay reverence to their forefathers and kuldevtaas by performing religious rituals and rites, normally on their ancestral lands.

Second meeting of State Steering Committee for IMI held

Gangtok, Dec 6: The second meeting of the State Steering Committee for Intensive Mission Indradhanush (IMI) for Immunization was held under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary A.K. Shrivastava at Manan Kendra Secretariat, Gangtok today.

Shrivastava lauded the efforts of the Health Department in successfully spearheading the campaign so far. He stressed on the involvement of District Collectors, the Panchayats and all the line departments to make the

campaign a collective success.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary Health Vishal Chauhan urged the line departments to continue to lend their support and underlined the importance of convergence of all line departments to achieve the stipulated immunization coverage.

After a brief address by Commissioner-cum-Secretary Health, a technical presentation on the roll out of IMI in the State was made by Dr. PhumzayDenzongpa, State Immunization Officer, Sikkim. She highlighted the progress made so far, shared the observations and presented the IMI coverage for the months of October and November. She informed that the campaign is being implemented in the East and West districts, and two round of immunization have been completed. The third round will begin from December 8 to 15, she informed.

The meeting had the participation of officers from all concerned line departments, along with representatives from WHO.

The meeting took detailed stock of the progress made so far after the Mission was launched in October. The meeting was followed by a discussion session.

Opening ceremony of All India Senior Ranking Badminton Championship 2017 held

Gangtok, Dec 6: The opening ceremony of the All India Senior Ranking Badminton Championship 2017, organised by the Badminton Association of Sikkim under the aegis of Badminton Association of India (BAI) was conducted at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT), Majhitar today. The event had the presence of Sports and Youth Affairs minister R.B. Subba as the chief guest and was attended by Sports and Youth Affairs secretary S.D. Dhakal, BAS President C. Zangpo, delegates, members of BAI and BAS, players and badminton enthusiasts from Sikkim. Minister Subba expressed delight to be part of the championship and congratulated the BAS for holding the national ranking tournament in Sikkim. "I am excited to know there are 27 states of India participating in the tournament, where international stars like Pratul Joshi, AsnalYadav, Bodhit Joshi, AnuraPrabhu Desai, RasikaRaje, Riya Mukherjee, ShikaGautam, Vignesh Deswalkar, Anil Kumar Raju and VenkatGaruva Prasad are participating. Their participation will be an inspiration to the players and also those who are witnessing the event," he said.

The minister also thanked the state government for sponsoring the programme 'financially, logistically and emotionally'. BAS president Zangpo thanked SMIT for providing the venue for the tournament and the parents of the players for supporting their children. He stated that the national players are enlightened and delighted to be in Sikkim for the championship.

The main draw matches were played today with national and international players. A total of 459 matches with 5 events including Mens Single, Womens Single, Mens Double, Womens Double and Mix Double will be played throughout the event. Today's event was followed by cultural performances.

The closing ceremony will be held on December 9 with Chief Minister PawanChamling as the chief guest.

Minister Ghatani holds discussion on IMI with union minister through video conference

Gangtok, Dec 6: Minister for Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department Arjun Kumar Ghatani attended a video conference with Union Health Minister J.P.Nadda today. The video conference was organised on implementation of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) in various states of India.

The Minister chaired the panel from Sikkim along with the Commissioner-cum-Secretary Vishal Chauhan, Mission Director National Health Mission Dr. Bimal Kr. Rai and State Immunization Officer Dr. PhumzayDenzongpa.

Union Minister Nadda was impressed with the performances shown by the state of Sikkim and applauded its endeavor to improve immunization coverage and health scenario in the state.

Ghatani responded to the queries put forth before Sikkim by the UM on various components that are being covered under Intensified Mission Indradhanush. He said that the Intensified Mission Indradhanush have been

successfully implemented in the state of Sikkim. Sikkim had its beginning of IMI on October 8, along with the inauguration of the IMI by Prime Minister NarendraModi at Vadnagar, Gujarat.

Replying in the context of target set up by Government of India to achieve 90% of Immunization coverage by 2018, the Minister stated that as per NFHS Sikkim has achieved 83% coverage and according to the survey conducted by the state government, Sikkim has already secured more than 90% of immunization coverage and he assured to work tirelessly in achieving 100% coverage at the earliest.

He informed that the State Steering Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the state and meetings are being conducted on a regular basis. State task force and district task force have been formed as per the guidelines. Activities related to Information, Education and Communication (IEC) are being organized properly to mobilize,

sensitize and aware public on the core subject of IMI in targeted population. Health scenario in the entire state is performing immensely under the visionary leadership and guidance of Chief Minister. PawanChamling, he stated.

Following the directions given by the Union Minister today, Ghatani instructed the concerned officials to involve civil societies, non-governmental organizations and social activist in accomplishment of the mission. He further suggested holding a video conference with the district task force to address the constraints and challenges in journey of Immunization coverage.

The 1st round of IMI commenced from October 8 to 14, 2nd round from November 7 to 15, 3rd round is scheduled to be started from December 8 to 15 and 4th round from January 8 to 15, 2018 in East (urban), East (rural) and East district of Sikkim, which are amongst the selected 118 districts in the country. (IPR)

KVK, West celebrates World Soil Day



Geyzing, Dec 6: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), West Sikkim celebrated World Soil Day today. The programme was chaired by Municipal Chairman, West I.K. Neopaney as the chief guest, Zilla Panchayat, Yangthang Constituency ShrimatiSanmatiSubba as guests of honour, Lower Bhaluthang Panchayat mem-

berSasikalaKhatiwada and ADO, FS&ADD Gyalshing West Sikkim Ganesh Kr. Gurung as special guests.

I.K. Neopaney motivated the participants to follow organic farming techniques, stated the importance of regular soil testing and urged them to take up agriculture as a business venture.

Sr. Scientist & Head T.N. Bhutia highlighted the importance of celebration of World Soil Day with special reference on soil health card and its benefits. A total of 355 soil health cards were distributed.

A message by Prime Minister Narendra D Modi on World Soil Day followed by a short video clip on Mobile Soil Health Application was shared by SMS Soil Science SaiParasaraDas.

In the second session, Farmers' Scientist Interaction on horticultural crops, animal husbandry and pests problems was witnessed where participants from Begha, PechrekMartam, Dentam and Sindrong showed active participation.

The programme was attended by 175 participants and officials from West District.

Online Consent Management and Monitoring System user workshop at Gangtok

Gangtok, Dec 6: A day long user workshop on Online Consent Management and Monitoring System developed by NIC New Delhi was conducted by NIC New Delhi consisting of Technical Director, NIC Delhi Anil Kumar, Project Manager, NIC Delhi Sudhir Kumar and SIO, NIC, Gangtok BirendraChettri. The workshop was attended by officials and staff from State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim headed by Dr. GopalPradhan, Principal Scientist, SPCB-Sikkim.

The main objective of workshop was to provide user training to SPCB officials regarding online submission of industry application for consent to establish (new/renewal),



operate (new/renewal), authorization and online processing of industry application and to issue online digitally signed consent/authorization order to the industry. This system will be helpful to officials for online processing of application received from industries in order to reduce

the processing time of the industry application.

During the user training, NIC officials from Delhi and NIC Sikkim Unit provided software demonstration to the participants. After the software demonstration, a hand on user training was also provided to State board officials.

Rejig in Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch, Rangpo

Rangpo, Dec 6: The reformation process of Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch, Rangpo branch was conducted in a meeting held at Rangpo Samaj Hall, organised under the presidentship of senior citizen Rampravesh Prasad.

The members nominated Sukdev Prasad as president, Manoj Prasad and Omjee Prasad as vice presidents, Ajit Sharma as general secretary, Suraj Prasad as joint secretary, Asarfi Prasad as cashier, J.P. Singh and Bishal Thakur as publicity secretaries and Parmeshwar Prasad, R.A. Pandey, Alimam Husain, Rampravesh Prasad, Mohammad Iqbal and Amichand Prasad as chief advisors of the committee.

Thanking the members for nominating him, newly nominated President Sukdev Prasad assured to work for the society and the state. Ajit Sharma appealed everyone to come forward for the upliftment of the society. He also assured to support students.

ICAR-KVK, East Sikkim celebrates World Soil Day

Gangtok, Dec 6: With a view to highlight the importance of soil as the most critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human commonwealth through its contribution to food, water and energy security and as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change, ICAR-KVK East Sikkim, Ranipool celebrated World Soil Day at ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong, Gangtok on Tuesday.

A total of 152 farmers from different villages of East Sikkim, state government and rep-

resentative of central government officials attended the programme. B.B. Rai, MLAN-amcheybong-Sikkim graced the occasion as the chief guest was attended by S.L. Dorjee, Director (Agriculture), FSADD and Dr. YashodaPradhan, Chief Executive Officer, SSOCA, Govt of Sikkim as guests of honour, dignitaries from state and other departments, scientists, subject matter specialists of ICAR-NOFRI and KVK.

B.B. Rai applauded the role of ICAR KVK-East Sikkim and ICAR-NOFRI in Sikkim for outstanding contributions, better cooperation and collaborative programs for the betterment of the Sikkim farmers.

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