



Mt. Khangchendzonga



# Sikkim ENVIS Newsletter

On Status of Environment &amp; Its Related Issues

Vol. 8, Issue 1

## ENVIRONMENT EVENT SPECIAL

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: Conservation of Natural and Cultural Values of Khangchendzonga National Park

Proposed World Heritage Site

**Gangtok, May 15-16:** To discuss, deliberate and have discourse on Conservation of Natural and Cultural values of Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP), renowned individuals both national and international in field of biodiversity, culture and ecology gathered for a two day international conference in the State capital town Gangtok on May 15-16, 2015.

Mt. Khangchendzonga (8585 m) which literally means '**the Abode of Gods consisting of five hidden treasure houses**' indicating five Peaks is the Guardian Deity of Sikkim from time immemorial. It occupies predominant position in the middle, flanked by Mt. Narsing (5825 m), Mt. Pandim (6692 m) and Mt. Kabur on the Southern side; the twins (Nepal Peak and Tenth Peak) on the Northern side; Mt. Simvo (6811 m) and Mt. Sinolchu (6888 m) on the Eastern side. These beautiful mountains and

peaks wholly or partially fall in the Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP). Major portion of the park is high altitude zone and adjoins with the Mt. Khangchendzonga range from all the directions. Considering the same, the name of the park was declared as Khangchendzonga National Park. KNP was declared vide Sikkim State Official Gazette No. 95 dated 26th August 1977 with an initial area of 850 sq. km. KNP was later extended from 850 sq km to 1784 sq km during 1997 covering an area as much as 25.14 % of the land area of Sikkim.

The Khangchendzonga National Park spread in South, West and North districts of Sikkim, has now been proposed by the Union government to UNESCO for declaration of World Heritage Site on 'mixed criteria' basis.

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APRIL-JUNE

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**Picture: The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri. Pawan Chamling with his cabinet colleagues and senior government officers in a group photo with national and international delegates at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok**

Organized by the Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim at Chintan Bhawan the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri. Pawan Chamling graced the inaugural session of the International Conference as the Chief Guest.

Highlighting the various policies and initiatives taken by the Sikkim government towards protection of environment, the Chief Minister during his inaugural address assured the Government of India, and through it the UNESCO, the determined and continued political will to protect and conserve KNP for all time to come and ushered strong belief for its inscription as one of the World Heritage Sites.

The nomination dossier of the Sikkim State Government for inscription of KNP on the World Heritage List has undergone the completeness check by the officials of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India and the proposal has been submitted to UNESCO.

WII Director V.B. Mathur informed that the UNESCO team would come to Sikkim and visit KNP on later part of the year for an extensive field visit. He also spoke about the benefits

“  
**The proposal for inclusion of  
 Khangchendzonga National Park  
 in UNESCO World Heritage Site  
 is a testimony of the efforts  
 taken by Sikkim towards  
 conservation of nature and  
 culture.**  
 ”

- **Shri. Pawan Chamling**

that KNP could enjoy once it is included in UNESCO world heritage site list. “There are tourists who only visit the UNESCO sites; The KNP recognition would also boots up the tourism in Sikkim. The State government should promote responsible tourism”, said Mathur.

During the two days conference at Gangtok, the national and international experts shared space with local scientists and environmentalists from Sikkim to engage in intellectual discourse for finding solution to various contemporary challenges to conservation of KNP. The conference was also a morale boost for the State Government for further preparations for UNESCO recognition.

Speaking on the occasion, State Forest Minister Shri. Tshering Wangdi Lepcha

mentioned that the UNESCO recognition for KNP will globally boost the name of Sikkim.

The inaugural session also saw launching of websites of Sikkim Biodiversity Board ([www.sbsikkim.nic.in](http://www.sbsikkim.nic.in)) and Ecotourism Directorate ([www.ecotourismsikkim.com](http://www.ecotourismsikkim.com)); release of PANDA Magazine and Rapid Biodiversity Survey Report II; screening of short documentary on KNP; and awards to eight persons and two NGOs by the Chief Minister for their commendable work in KNP. The awardees were Phupu Tshering Bhutia, Gopal Limbo, Ong Tshering Lepcha, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Chung Chung Bhutia, Dup Tshering Lepcha and B L Subba and two NGOs – Mutanchi Lom Aal Shezum and Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee.

Earlier the function began with Dr. Thomas Chandy, PCCF cum Principal Secretary, Forest Department welcoming the guests with his welcome note and screening of documentary on KNP. While Mr. C.S Rao, Chief Wildlife Warden, Sikkim drew curtains on the inaugural session with his vote of thanks.

The technical sessions followed the rest of the day and a day after at Chintan Bhawan and Hotel Siniolchu at Gangtok on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.





Launch of SBB and Ecotourism websites



Release of special edition PANDA Newsletter



Awards to Himal Rakshaks/ EDC members/ NGOs



Photo/poster exhibition as side events



Technical session at Chintan Bhawan on Day 1



Ethnic food and culture for delegates



Technical session at Hotel Siniolchu on Day 2



Field visit to KNP on West part of Sikkim



Forest officials and local stakeholder's hospitality for foreign delegates at KNP Yuksam Range



Foreign delegates at their delight at KNP



22 MAY 2015  
INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

Sikkim Biodiversity Board (SBB) under Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim, celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) on 22nd May 2015 with the theme "BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT". The programme was supported by Food Security & Agriculture Development Department; ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre; Regional Research Station, Spices Board; Sikkim Philatelic Society; Biodiversity Management Committees and ESS-India.

Following the theme for this year, some innovative events were showcased in the capital town Gangtok along with other district level programmes. These included a three-day exhibition of Seeds and Stamps at Star Hall Gangtok (22-24 May) showcasing the rich diversity of the storehouses of LIFE itself and some postage stamps on biodiversity from the priceless collection of Mr. Ganesh Kumar Pradhan, owner of Ram-Gauri Sangrahalaya and President of Sikkim Philatelic Society, and Mr. Shital Pradhan.

A major attraction of the day was a giant street game "The Biodiversity March" by ESS-India hosted by Mr. Diwakar Basnett and Ms. Meghn aThapa, on MG Marg outside Star Hall at Gangtok where people could come, play, win exciting prizes and also understand a lot more about biodiversity.



Environment Health Club of Deorali Girls' Sr. Secondary School observing IBD 2015

Nodal Officers of SBB in the districts also coordinated with NGOs like Butterflies and Moths of Sikkim (BAMOS) and Sikkim Ornithological Society (SOS) to organize programmes like butterfly and bird-watching outings for schools in their areas. The programme was funded By National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.



# Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy and Green Schools State Award 2015

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2015 AT A GLANCE

June 5, 2015 | Gangtok

The World Environment Day themed **"Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care."** was befittingly organized by Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department at the premises of Sir Tashi Namgyal Government Senior Secondary School, Development Area, Gangtok to present the 5<sup>th</sup> successive prestigious award scheme "The Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy and Green Schools State Award". This year eight schools including one private school were felicitated by the Forest department for their effort towards conservation and protection of the school's environment.

Sonamati Memorial Government Senior Secondary School from Khamdong, East Sikkim bagged the Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy -cum- Green Schools State Award 2015. The award comprising of Rs. 5 lakh, certificate and a trophy was handed away by the Hon'ble Minister (RMDD) Shri S. B. Subedi, the chief guest during the state level World Environment Day celebrations at Gangtok. Certificates, trophies and cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh each to four other Senior Secondary/ Secondary Schools and Rs. 50,000/- each to one best JHS, one best Primary School and one best private school (see table) were also handed away by the chief guest.



### 2015 State Awardees

SN.	SCHOOLS NAME	AWARDS
1.	Sonamati Memorial, Government Sr. Sec. School, Khamdong, East Sikkim	CM Rolling Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize – Rs. 5.00 lakhs
2.	Government Senior Secondary School, Hee- Yangthang, West Sikkim	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 1.00 lakhs
3.	Government Secondary School, Singhik, North Sikkim	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 1.00 lakhs
4.	Government Secondary School, South Regu, East Sikkim	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 1.00 lakhs
5.	Government Sr. Sec. School, Yangyang, South Sikkim	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 1.00 lakhs
6.	Government Junior High School, Rabitar, South Sikkim	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 50,000/-
7.	Government Primary School, Titribotey, East Sikkim	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 50,000/-
8.	St. Xavier's School, Pakyong, East Sikkim (Pvt.)	Trophy/ Certificate/ Cash prize- Rs. 50,000/-







World Environment Day 2015  
**Seven Billion Dreams.  
One Planet.  
Consume with Care.**  
June 5

**5 JUNE, 2015:** State Level World Environment Day celebration programme began with the ceremonial plantation of about 100 indigenous saplings by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Minister (RMDD) Shri S.B. Subedi, Hon'ble Minister (Forests) Shri T.W. Lepcha and other political dignitaries, Upadhakshyas, Adakhshyas, Head of Departments, officers, principals, teachers, students and general public at the premises of Sir Tashi Namgyal Government Senior Secondary School, Development Area, Gangtok.

The day was observed to acknowledge the effort of various schools in the State in regards to conservation and protection of the school's environment. The felicitation cum awareness programme was organised at the school auditorium.

The programme began with the welcome address by PCCF- cum- Principal Secretary Dr. Thomas Chandy by highlighting and addressing the gathering on the theme of this year's World Environment Day – "Seven billion Dreams. One Plant. Consume with Care".

The Hon'ble Minister (Forests) Shri T.W. Lepcha highlighted environment achievements of the Government and appealed the people especially students to be the leader of the future and take wise step towards conserving and protecting the environment.

The Chief Guest on the occasion Hon'ble Minister (RMDD) Shri S.B. Subedi talked about the conservation of local and native trees, protection of young plants and appealed to all to be model for one another for environment protection and conservation. He also congratulated the awardee schools and Department Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management for the organising the event.

Besides, the Chief Guest also released token grants of Rs. 2500/- to school Eco-Clubs under the National Green Corps Programme which is being coordinated in Sikkim by ENVIS Cell of this department. A short ENVIS documentary on "Green School Programme Sikkim" was also screened.

ENVIS Centre publication on Nepali and English languages highlighting the environment initiative of the Government of Sikkim from 1995 to 2015 was also released during the Press Conference on the eve of environment day by the Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri T.W. Lepcha.



Shri. S. B. Subedi, Minister (RMDD) addressing the gathering



Plantation by Shri. S. B. Subedi, Minister (RMDD)



Release of booklet on Nature based Festivals



Plantation by Shri. T. W. Lepcha, Minister (Forests)



Release of School Eco-Club grants



Plantation by Shri. A. K. Ghatani, Minister (Health)



Address by Shri. T. W. Lepcha, Minister (Forests)



Screening of Green Schools Programme Sikkim



Release of publication on Environment Initiatives



# Paryavaran Mahotsav 2015

A People's Programme | June 15-30, 2015

**June 15-30, 2015:** Sikkim celebrated the third successive environment festival "THE PARYAVARAN MAHOTSAV 2015" from 15<sup>th</sup> of June to 30<sup>th</sup> of June with great pomp and zeal. As notified in the State Government Gazette vide Notification No. 40/Home dated 21/06/2013, this environment festival has been envisaged and declared by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling during 2013 duly integrating the visionary programmes Viz. **the State Green Mission and Ten Minutes to Earth** to be celebrated as annual rituals thereby adding new dynamism to the green Sikkim campaign. Paryavaran Mahotsav has been a unique programme, assimilating the eco-friendly policies of the Government and the noble actions of the local people for environment amelioration that would truly benefit humanity and the entire world.

To commemorate the 2015 event, various activities as under were carried out throughout the State;

- Flag off ceremony; free distribution of seedlings and garbage bags for vehicles
- Massive plantation drives under 10<sup>th</sup> phase State Green Mission and 7<sup>th</sup> phase Ten Minutes to Earth on June 25
- Cleanliness drives at major towns
- Greenathon (Green Walk and Green Run)
- Signature campaign on green pledges
- Environment lectures on Low Carbon Lifestyles at various schools
- Mass awareness through media and publicity



Distribution of garbage bags for tourist vehicles by the Minister (Forests), Shri T. W. Lepcha



Students taking part in the signature campaign



Seedling distribution vans being flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister Forests, Shri Tshering Wangdi Lepcha

## FLAG OFF CEREMONY | June 15, 2015

The Hon'ble Minister (Forests) Shri Tshering Wangdi Lepcha flagged off the 3rd successive Paryavaran Mahotsav from MG Marg Gangtok in presence of officials from Forest, Gangtok Municipal Corporation and other departments including local people and students. The Minister distributed garbage disposal bags for vehicles, handed away Tulshi plant saplings to environment enthusiasts and also launched the signature campaign to pledge for clean and green environment.

The programme was also launched throughout the State at District-levels in which free distribution of saplings and other activities such as plantation, cleanliness drives and signature campaigns were coordinated under the supervision of forest officials with active participation of other departments and volunteers from local populace.



Pr. Secretary cum PCCF Dr Thomas Chandy presenting Tulshi sapling to Minister (Culture) Shri G. M. Gurung



Forest officials taking stock of seedling distribution

## PLANTATION DRIVES:

The State Government's unique initiative "**Ten Minutes to Earth**" plantation programme as conceived by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling himself during the year 2009 was observed for the 7th consecutive year throughout the State. The ceremonial plantation drive was conducted at VIP colony, Gangtok on 25th June 2015 from 10 am onwards by the Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Shriniwas Patil and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Chamling along with his cabinet Ministers and other political dignitaries, Head of the Departments and other government officials. Later the dignitaries also released ENVIS publication "**Paryavaran Mahotsav 2014**" Report.

To facilitate the 10<sup>th</sup> phase State Green Mission plantation drive this year, Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department had set up about 50 seedling distribution booths and about 15 mobile seedling distribution vans were mobilized across the State. This year 3,56,803 seedlings were planted throughout the State through active participation of all government departments, municipal corporations, several NGOs, urban and rural bodies, private industries, educational institutes, panchayats and local people.

SN	District	No. of Seedlings planted on Paryavaran Mahotsav 2015		
		State Green Mission (10th Phase)	Ten Minutes to Earth (7th phase)	Total
1	East	77,376	46,169	1,23,545
2	North	46,669	10,094	56,763
3	South	1,15,172	18,340	1,33,512
4	West	38,567	4,416	42,983
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,77,784</b>	<b>79,019</b>	<b>3,56,803</b>

Figure source: Territorial Circle, FEWMD





Hon'ble Governor Shri Shrinivas Patil and the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling with the first lady Smt. Rajanidevi Shrinivas Patil and Smt. Tika Maya Chamling planted Rhododendron saplings each at VIP colony, Gangtok during the Ten Minutes to Earth ceremonial plantation programme on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

### GREENATHON (Green Run and Green Walk for a clean and green Sikkim):

In order to spread the message of environment well-being amongst the people, Green Run and Green Walk with a message "For a Clean and Green Sikkim" was organized by the Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department at district headquarters of North, South and East districts on 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. The winners of the green run in various categories were presented certificates, trophies and cash prizes.



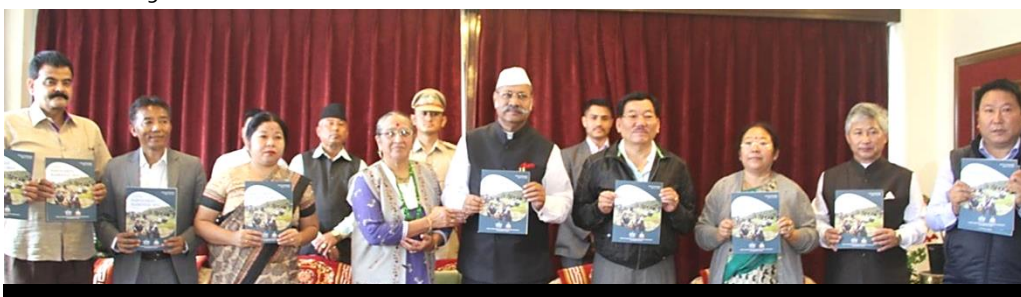
### PARTICIPATION BY SCHOOL ECO-CLUBS:

School eco-clubs from almost all schools of the State actively participated through eco-competitions, plantation and cleanliness drives at their respective premises. Special awareness lectures on low carbon lifestyles were also conducted in many schools by the forest officials.



### CLEANLINESS DRIVES:

Cleanliness drives at major towns were carried out in supervision of forest officials with active participation of local officials and volunteers to mark the end of Paryavaran Mahotsav 2015.



Honorary dignitaries releasing the pictorial report on Paryavaran Mahotsav 2014 published by ENVIS

Plantation by the Hon'ble Governor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Forest Minister during the historical flag off programme of Mansarovar Pilgrimage Yatra from Sikkim on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Ridge Park, Gangtok.





## State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) Reconstituted for Sikkim

The Government of India in consultation with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section 3 of Section 3 of *Environment (Protection) Act, 1986* (29 of 1986) and in pursuance of the EIA Notification 2006, has reconstituted the SEIAA and SEAC for Sikkim State through Notification# S.O.1100 (E) dated 27th April 2015.

The reconstituted SEIAA for Sikkim comprise of the following members;

SN	Name & Address	Designation in SEIAA
1.	Shri. Sonam Topden Lachungpa, IFS (Retd.) Hidden Forest, Sichey	Chairman
2.	Dr. Bina Pradhan, Principal, Sikkim Government College, Namchi	Member
3.	Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)	Member Secretary

To assist the authority, SEAC has also been reconstituted as under;

SN	Name & Address	Designation in SEAC
1.	Shri. B. K. Tewari, IFS (Retd.), 6 <sup>th</sup> Mile Tadong	Chairman
2.	Shri. T. B. Gurung Joredhara, Tadong	Member
3.	Shri. Mahendra Pradhan Telephone Exchange, Deorali	Member
4.	Pr. Scientist, SPCB	Member
5.	Dr. Satya Deep Chhetri Sikkim Government College, Tadong	Member
6.	Shri. D. R. Chettri Dy. Chief Fire Officer, Fire and Emergency Services, Police Department, Gangtok	Member
7.	Dr. Ghanashyam Sharma, Tadong	Member
8.	Dr. B. C. Basistha, Addl. Director, Science & Technology and Climate Change Department	Member
9.	Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)	Member Secretary

The Chairman and members of SEIAA and SEAC will hold the office term for three years from the date of publication of this notification in the official gazette.



**July 2, 2015 | EC Portal for Category B projects launched:** The Honourable Union Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India Shri Prakash Javedkar inaugurated the web portal (<http://environmentclearance.nic.in/>) for online submission of proposals for Terms of Reference and grant of Environment Clearance to category 'B' projects by the SEIAA/ SEAC.

The web portal was launched by the minister in presence of 19 State's through video conferencing organized at State NIC headquarters of respective States. The SEIAA chairman from Sikkim Shri S. T. Lachungpa, IFS (Retd), SEAC Chairman Shri B. K. Tewari, IFS (Retd) along with Member Secretary (SEIAA Sikkim) Shri C S Rao, IFS, CCF and other members were present at the State NIC video conference unit at Gangtok.

### BAN OF FIRECRACKERS

The State Government through Gazette Notification No 544 dated 19th December 2014 imposed prohibition on the manufacture, sale and use or bursting of all types of firecracker including any sound emitting or illuminating type of firecrackers within the State of Sikkim.

### BAN ON SLASH BURNING

The State Government through Gazette Notification No. 13 dated 27th January 2015 imposed prohibition on the burning of agricultural waste, leaves, litter, paper wastes and garbage within the State of Sikkim. The prohibition shall however, not cover the use of processed agricultural wastes, leaf litter and garbage as fuel and controlled burning of forest litter for the purpose of scientific management of forest fires.



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This newsletter is aimed at disseminating environment, forest and wildlife information among the environment enthusiasts, students and public at large.

Please send your valuable suggestions, comments and queries to;

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