



Picture (above) : Gangtok Municipal Commissioner Shri C. P. Dhakal receiving the Cleanest Hill Station award from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and India Today Group Chairman Shri Aroon Purie

Gangtok - The Cleanest Hill Station of India

Sikkim capital adjudged the cleanest hill station at the India Today Safaigiri Summit and Awards 2015

October 2, 2015 | New Delhi: Gangtok, the capital town of Sikkim State was awarded the Cleanest Hill Station of the country by the India Today Group at the Safaigiri Summit and Awards 2015 held on 2nd October, 2015 at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

Gangtok, Sikkim was selected as a winner of the award in the 'Cleanest Hill Station' category by a jury comprising of: India Today Chairman and Editor-in-Chief Aroon Purie; Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayanamurthy; Actor Vidya Balan; Writer Chetan Bhagat; Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Chandrasekhar; Feedback Infra chairman Vinayak Chatterjee; and Sulabh International Founder Bindeshwar Pathak, and verified by an independent research agency, Indicus.

On invitation of the India Today Group Chairman and Editor-in-Chief Aroon Purie, Gangtok municipal commissioner C P Dhakal

received the award which was presented by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi during the Safaigiri Awards function held at New Delhi.

Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) constituted in the year 2010 has municipality population of 1,00,286 (Census 2011) and today about 40 MT of municipal solid waste is collected and treated on daily basis. Urbanization in Sikkim is heavily Gangtok centric with average density of 52 persons per hectare. Despite demographic challenges, the mission Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been on a war footing led by good governance and greatly supported by the GMC and nature loving people of the State. With the ban on plastics, ban on smoking publicly, ban on spitting and littering at MG Marg, ban on firecrackers and several environmental safeguards under the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister of Sikkim Pawan Chamling, Gangtok is set to emerge as the model city of the mountains.



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Nature Protects if She is Protected



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BIRD'S EYE VIEW, GANGTOK

Source: IPR



Nominated as a 'Clean India Advocate' by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India Today Group launched Safaigiri Summit and Awards 2015 in 13 categories as a culmination of efforts in realizing the vision of Swachh Bharat and also as an attempt to motivate India to recognize the cleanliness champions across the country and learn from their examples.

Safaigiri Awardees 2015

SN	Category	Winner
1.	Cleanest Hill Station	Gangtok, Sikkim
2.	Cleanest Market	Connaught Place, New Delhi
3.	Cleanest Park	Rock Garden, Chandigarh
4.	Cleanest Ghat	Assi Ghat, Varanasi
5.	Community Mobilizer	Nadia District, West Bengal
6.	Corporate Trailblazer	Piramal Foundation
7.	Garbage Guru	Mailhem Ikos
8.	Tech Icon	R. Vasudevan
9.	Cleanest Temple Town	Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
10.	Toilet Titan	ERAM Solutions
11.	Water Warrior	Naandi Foundation
12.	Cleanest Monument	Victoria Memorial, Kolkata
13.	Cleanest Beach	Havelock Island, Andaman & Nicobar



Under the supervision of GMC Commissioner C.P. Dhakal, the cleanliness drive in Gangtok is being carried out on a war footing as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Earlier during the month of August 2015, Gangtok was also ranked among the top 10 cleanest cities in India and third among the State capitals according to Swachh Bharat ranking done by the Union Urban Development Ministry. The ranking of all 476 Class-I cities in 31 States and Union Territories, each with population of above one lakh were based on assessment of total sanitation practices covering a set of parameters including the extent of open defecation, solid waste management, sewage management, waste water treatment, drinking water quality, surface water quality of water bodies and mortality due to water borne diseases.

Sikkim is also the first State in the country to achieve 100% sanitation during the year 2008 and has been conferred with the Rashtriya Nirmal Gram Puraskar.

Cleanliness drive led by Hon'ble Minister (Forest) Shri T W Lepcha and Principal Secretary -cum- PCCF Dr Thomas Chandy along roadside from Ganesh Tok to Tashi View Point on 6th November, 2015



Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department has been serving as an active catalyst for the upkeep of State's cleanliness to contemplate the vision of Swachh Bharat Swasth Sikkim.

Living with Wildlife

Wildlife Week Celebration 2015

October 2-8, 2015: Sikkim has a high stake in conserving the wildlife resources with 30.77% of the State's geographic area under the protected area network (1 National Park and 7 Wildlife Sanctuaries) which is the highest in the country percentage-wise. Nature has been particularly generous in her gift of sylvan treasures to the state of Sikkim. The State is endowed with rich floral and faunal diversity. While the figures are still not absolute with host of other life forms yet to be enumerated, the State harbors over 5500 flowering plants, 557 Orchids, 41 Rhododendrons, 16 Conifers, 28 Bamboos, 362 Ferns and its allies, 9 Tree Ferns, 60 Primulas, 11 Oaks, 1681 Medicinal plants, 144+ mammals, 552 Birds, 48 Fishes, and over 690 Butterflies and 7000 species of Moths.

In order to spread awareness about the importance of conserving the wide array of wildlife species, the wildlife divisions of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department organized various activities to befittingly commemorate the Wildlife Week on 2-8 October 2015 with the theme 'Living with Wildlife'.

The following activities were conducted through active involvement of local bodies, students, EDCs, NGOs, Dzomsa, Army and GREF personnel;

- Trekking, bird watching from Golitar to Tinjurey, East Sikkim
- Elocution, painting and quiz competitions at various schools
- Cleanliness drives in Shingba Rhododendron sanctuary and Yumthang to Zero point.
- Screening of short wildlife films.
- Lectures by eminent resource persons Shri Chewang Bonpo and Shri Nosang Limboo from the Sikkim Ornithological Society, Dr. Bharat Pradhan, and local youths Shri Hissey Lachungpa and Shri Pema Lachungpa, Shri N W Tamang CF (WL), Shri Sangay G. Bhutia DFO(WL) who spoke on Biodiversity of Lahung, Avifauna & Bird watching, Ecotourism, Waste Management and Human Wildlife interactions.

To encourage the students, the winners of elocution, painting and quiz competitions were awarded certificates and prizes.

Source: Wildlife Circle, FEWMD



Okharey Ecotourism Carnival

October 17-19, 2015 | West Sikkim

An Initiative of Directorate of Ecotourism, FEWMD
PROMOTED UNDER SBFP-JICA



A Report on Okharey Ecotourism Carnival Conserving Natural and Cultural Heritage of Sikkim

Report Source:

Directorate of Ecotourism, FEWMD

Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim is undertaking the JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP). The main focal areas of the project include Biodiversity Conservation, Ecotourism and Joint Forest Management. The Directorate of Ecotourism under the project aims at the development and promotion of Ecotourism in the State for which 11 zones have been identified.

The Directorate of Ecotourism recognizes the need for organizing festivals and fairs as an effective mode of promoting ecotourism in the State.

Okharey, West Sikkim being the second zone among the 11 zones has accomplished the final product and package designing and development. The opening of Okharey zone was done by organizing a three days Ecotourism carnival by involving the entire community of the zone under the Directorate of Ecotourism from 17th-19th October, 2015.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ECOTOURISM FESTIVAL IN OKHAREY:

- To create wider awareness about the ecotourism initiative in Okharey among local stakeholders-community members, government departments, officials, panchayats, etc.

- To facilitate in bringing all relevant stakeholders into a single platform.
- To generate awareness about conservation among school children.
- To attain much-needed publicity about the ecotourism initiative among Sikkimese as well as others.
- To gain attention from the tourism market about the ecotourism products/ packages available in the zone.
- To instill confidence among the ecotourism stakeholders and to provide an opportunity to local people to display their talents, artifacts, etc.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Local, National and International tourists; Delegates from International Tourism Mart; Officials from various departments; Schools; Media; Other line Departments; Tourism Industry; Eco-tourists; Other institutions.

The opening of the carnival was held on 17th of October, 2015 and the Chief Guest for the occasion was the Hon'ble Minister of Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department. Invitation of the festival was also sent out to many officers from other departments who witnessed the opening of the carnival.

The carnival included many activities both nature based and culture based activities. After the carnival procession the guests were able to experience many activities such as Singhi dance, cultural dance, local cuisine, visit to the local monastery, visit to interpretation centre, visit to local handicraft stalls, etc.

The Chief Guest along-with several officers from the Department also shared their views about the Ecotourism zone at the culture ground. The carnival was declared open by the chief guest to the guests.



Singhi dance during the carnival procession welcoming the guest

Activities during the festival:

- **Singhi Dance:** One of the main highlight of this carnival was the Singhi Dance. Costumes were specifically bought from Nepal for this purpose and training on singhi dance was given to seven stakeholders from Okharey.
- **Horse riding activity:** Horse riding was another unique activity that was introduced during the carnival. A total of five horses were hired for this three day long carnival.
- **Mountain biking:** Five mountain bikes were also hired for the carnival. Visitors had to pay a certain amount for hiring the bikes.
- **Night safari:** Two gypsy vehicles were hired for taking the visitors through the sanctuary on a night safari. The visitors who were interested in this activity had an opportunity to sight some of the local animals found inside the sanctuary. This activity had two different slots for the visitor's convenience. One trip started at 6 PM and the other one at 8 PM. A total of four visitors could be accommodated in a single vehicle so visitors had to make an advance booking for this activity.
- **Night scouting:** Night scouting like night safari also had two slots. Visitors were taken on foot through the nearby forest by trained guides. In this activity the visitors had an opportunity to see the wildlife which included both flora and fauna.
- **Lamasing trek:** This four hour long trek was enjoyed by many nature enthusiasts during the carnival. Several stakeholders from the village were given training on basic trekking guiding for this purpose.
- **Cultural program:** A separate culture ground was also established for the carnival. Guests and locals were able to enjoy and experience cultural program of different local ethnicities.
- **Interpretation centre:** an interpretation centre was also set up during the carnival showcasing all the local artifacts of the Sherpa culture. Visitors were able to learn a lot about the Sherpa culture during the carnival.





Tourist enjoying local cuisine



Interpretation Centre



Night Scouting



Sikkim Forest officials with ECOMOS and IUCN team at Dzongri area (KNP) on 6th October 2015

CONCLUSION

- Through this three days carnival the team was able to showcase the local Sherpa culture and was also successful in introducing the zone to the market.
- Students who participated in this festival were all given certificate of participation.
- All the volunteers were also given certificate of participation.
- NGO's and other partner organizations were handed out certificate of appreciation for their involvement.
- The carnival created a platform for both Sikkimese people and tourists to learn and acquire knowledge about Sikkim's nature and culture and also about the concept of ecotourism.

- Installation of effective signposts and natural interpretation.
- The carnival provided a prospect for learning the value of coordination, team work and developing an understanding between the Forest officials and the stakeholders which in turn will result in a better forest management.

ABOUT OKHAREY

With Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary on its forest fringes, Okharey is blessed with countless flora and fauna. The presence of unique tribe "Sherpas" and the pleasant hospitality of the community will beyond doubt make your visit an extra admirable one. Though the reach is exhausting, the true hospitality and love of the local community and the incredible nature of Okharey will make your visit memorable and worthy.

You can experience



HORSE RIDING



NIGHT SCOUTING



NIGHT SAFARI



TREKKING



MOUNTAIN BIKING



TRADITIONAL FOOD



MEDITATION / INTERPRETATION CENTER



CULTURE PROGRAM

For more details, contact:

Directorate of Ecotourism
Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department,
Government of Sikkim
Deorali-737102, Gangtok, East Sikkim

Email: sikkimecotourism@gmail.com
Website: www.ecotourismsikkim.com



INDIA'S INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

WORKING TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE

Source: Press Release dated 2nd October, 2015,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India

India's INDC to UNFCCC

October 2, 2015 | New Delhi: On Gandhi Jayanti, India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat. The approach of India's INDC has been anchored in the vision of equity inspired by the Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi's famous exhortation; "*Earth has enough resources to meet people's needs, but will never have enough to satisfy people's greed*" and formulated under the leadership and guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has called for 'convenient action' in order to deal with the 'inconvenient truth' of climate change.

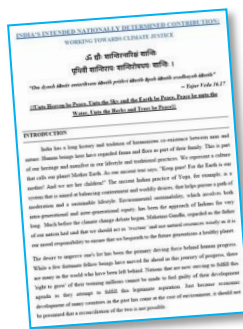
2. Conference of Parties (COP) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at 19th Session held in Warsaw in November 2013 invited all Parties to initiate domestic preparations for their INDC towards achieving the objective of the Convention and to communicate them, well in advance of the 21st session of the Conference of Parties. The concept of 'Nationally Determined Contributions', taking into account the outcomes of both Warsaw COP 19 and Lima COP 20 has to (i) reflect the principles of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and (ii) the Country's contributions must be seen in a balanced and comprehensive context. INDC would outline the post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new international agreement.

3. India's INDC is fair and ambitious, considering the fact that India is keen to attempt to work towards a low carbon emission pathway while simultaneously endeavoring to meet all the developmental challenges that the country faces today. The INDC document is prepared with a view to taking forward the Prime Minister's vision of a sustainable lifestyle and climate justice to protect the poor and vulnerable from adverse impacts of climate change. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change adopted an inclusive process for preparation of

India's INDC. It held stakeholder consultations with the specific involvement of the key Ministries and State Governments. Interactions were also held with civil society organizations, think tanks and technical & academic institutions of eminence. The Ministry had commissioned Greenhouse Gas (GHG) modeling studies for projections of GHG emissions till 2050 with a decadal gap. The gist of all these consultations & studies were taken on board before submitting India's INDC. For India's INDC, Government zeroed-in on a set of contributions which are comprehensive, balanced, equitable and pragmatic and addresses all the elements including Adaptation, Mitigation, Finance, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building and Transparency in Action and Support.

4. India's INDC is prepared in a balanced and comprehensive manner to reflect all issues of mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building. The proposals are on the following:

- Sustainable Lifestyles
- Cleaner Economic Development
- Reduce Emission intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Increase the Share of Non Fossil Fuel Based Electricity
- Enhancing Carbon Sink (Forests)
- Adaptation
- Mobilizing Finance
- Technology Transfer and Capacity Building



Detailed Press Statement and India's INDC document can be accessed from our website

www.sikenvis.nic.in

Direct URL:

<http://sikenvis.nic.in/VieGeneralLatestNews.aspx?Id=4491&Year=2015>

Want to know more about INDC? Then Visit http://unfccc.int/focus/indc_portal/items/8766.php



Excerpts of India's INDC

- To put forward and further propagate a healthy and **sustainable way of living** based on traditions and **values of conservation and moderation**.
- To adopt a **climate friendly and a cleaner path** than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.
- To **reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level**.
- To achieve about **40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030** with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- To **create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tones of CO₂ equivalent** through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- To **better adapt** to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management.
- To mobilize **domestic and new & additional funds** from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaption actions in view of the resources required and the resource gap.
- To **build capacities**, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies.

Customized Hands-on Bhuvan Training for ENVIS Centres



November 19-20, 2015 | Shillong, Meghalaya:

A 2-day training programme for 16 ENVIS Centres was held at North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), Shillong, Meghalaya on 19th-20th November 2015.

Seventeen participants shortlisted from 16 ENVIS Centres comprising both thematic and State/UT Centres attended the programme. This training programme was focused for skill development of ENVIS officers for useful creation and dissemination of content relating to the themes assigned to ENVIS Centres in geo-spatial platform, Bhuvan (www.bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in). Senior Scientists from NRSC, ISRO, Hyderabad demonstrated how Bhuvan portal resources could be used for enriching the content of ENVIS websites. It was emphasized that features of Bhuvan portal may be used by State and Thematic

ENVIS Centres for further dissemination of information.

Specific usage of bhuvan services for representing data and information in spatial platform was focused by hands-on training sessions which were conducted throughout the 2 day training programme. Customized hand-on experience for creation and dissemination of spatial data on bhuvan platform and also usage of QGIS software for offline workout was carried out in presence of scientists from ISRO, Hyderabad. ENVIS participants were acquainted with various features of bhuvan services such as bhuvan-2D, shapefile creation, thematic services, map and GIS services. Open source layers for development of web services were also explained and hands-on training was conducted during the second day of the training.



(<http://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in>)

Visit Bhuvan Portal for wide array of Indian Geo-Spatial Applications, Android Apps and information.

ENVIS Centre Sikkim *On Status of Environment* publishes newsletter on quarterly basis with the support from the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India. A special edition "PANDA Newsletter" is published at every fourth quarter with the extended support from the Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim.

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;

ENVIS CENTRE SIKKIM

On Status of Environment & its Related Issues

Forest Secretariat, Block - B,
Room No – B101, Ground Floor
Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management
Department, Government of Sikkim,
Deorali -737102, Gangtok

Email us at: sik@envis.nic.in

Visit us at: www.sikenvis.nic.in

Tel (O) : 03592-280381

Fax: 03592-281778, 280381

ENVIS TEAM

B. B. Gurung

Coordinator / Addl. Director (Planning / Environment & Soil Conservation)

Sr. Programme Officer

Information Officer

IT Assistant

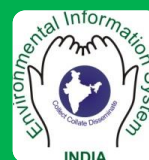
Data Entry Operator

Rajen Pradhan

Laxuman Darnal

Renu Gurung

Tulsha Gurung



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**Arriving at New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Station on
30-31 December 2015**

After 7 successful tours across India, "Science Express" has been redesigned on the theme 'Climate Change' and from 15 October 2015, it is running as 'Science Express – Climate Action Special (SECAS)'. It is a unique collaborative initiative of Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Ministry of Railway, Government of India.

The state-of-the-art exhibition aboard the 'Science Express – Climate Action Special (SECAS)' aims to create awareness among various sections of society, especially students, as to how Climate Change can be combated through mitigation and adaptation.

Of the 16 coaches of SECAS, exhibition in 8 coaches developed by Centre for Environment Education (CEE) on behalf of MoEFCC, GoI is exclusively devoted to information, case studies and material related to various aspect of Climate change, the underlying science, impacts, adaptation activities, mitigation solutions and policy approaches in a manner that is easy to understand and interesting for not just school students but also the masses.

For more details (Train Schedule, Tour Map, About Science Express), please see the website

<http://www.scienceexpress.in>

Also Keep updates from our website

<http://sikenvis.nic.in> (under Kids Corner)