



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

REPORT ON
CELEBRATION OF WORLD OZONE DAY

THEME: OZONE FOR LIFE: 35 YEARS OF OZONE LAYER PROTECTION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Celebrating 35 years of Ozone layer protection with the UNEP designated theme/ slogan “Ozone for Life”, Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim commemorated the World Ozone Day or the International day for Preservation of Ozone Layer on 16 of September, 2020 with day long activities which are highlighted as under:

- 1. Online Quiz Competition:** State level online quiz competition for students and general public of Sikkim State was organized by ENVIS (Environmental Information System) cell of the department. The quiz was conducted for 20 minutes from 1pm to 1.20pm through the ENVIS website www.sikenvis.nic.in in which 396 participants was recorded in a span of 20 minutes.

The winners as per automated timestamp was declared the same day by 4pm on the website as under;

1st - Mr. Rishal Pandey Chettri (School Student) from 5th Mile Gangtok, East Sikkim – Cash prize Rs 20,000/-

2nd - Mr. Abhisek Chettri (General Public) from Kazitar Namchi, South Sikkim – Cash Prize Rs 15,000/-

3rd - Mr Diwakar Sharma (College Student) from Melli Dara, South Sikkim- Cash prize Rs 10,000/-

WORLD OZONE DAY
OZONE FOR LIFE
35 years of ozone layer protection
16 SEPTEMBER 2020

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE WORLD OZONE DAY
Participate and Win e-Certificates and attractive Cash Prizes

ONLINE QUIZ COMPETITION
20 MINUTES QUIZ TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OZONE LAYER PROTECTION
OPEN FOR ALL PUBLIC AND STUDENTS OF SIKKIM

Date & Time
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 [1 PM to 1.20 PM]

1st Prize : Rs. 20,000
2nd Prize : Rs. 15,000
3rd Prize : Rs. 10,000

Visit our website to participate
www.sikenvis.nic.in
(See the link under Major Activity Section)

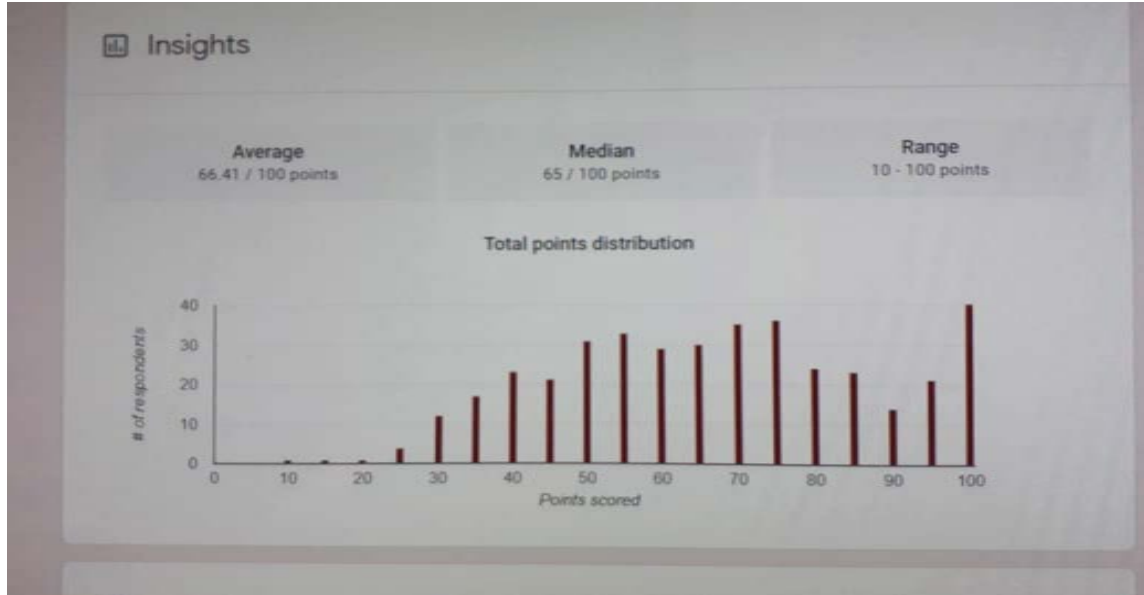
PLEASE NOTE

- The link for online quiz will be activated for 20 minutes from 1 PM to 1.20 PM on September 16, 2020 in Sikkim ENVIS website www.sikenvis.nic.in
- Top three winners will be selected by automated system on first come first serve basis.
- In case of multiple attempts by a participant, only the first entry will be valid.
- Results will be declared and displayed in the website same day at 4 PM.

In case of any technical difficulties, please contact
8927956177 / 9434109635 / 9635878286 / 7407183210

Organized by:
Sikkim ENVIS Hub, Forest and Environment
Department, Government of Sikkim

A 20 minute State level Online Quiz Competition organised by Sikkim ENVIS Hub to commemorate World Ozone Day from 1pm to 1.20pm today was participated by 396 students/general public. 40 participants scored 100/100. The average marked scored was recorded as 66.41/100. All participants are being issued e-certificates to appreciate their participation which are downloaded from www.sikenvis.nic.in under Major Activity Section of the ENVIS website.



ENVIS Hub: Sikkim
Status of Environment and Related Issues
Hosted by Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim
Sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India

MAJOR ACTIVITY

- WORLD OZONE DAY 2020 Online Quiz Competition
- Online Quiz Competitio..
- Results - WED Online E..
- Green Skill Developmen..
- Environmental Initiati..

Last Updated: 16/09/2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 16 - World Ozone Day...
- COP+25 International Climat...
- 150th Birth Anniversary of ...

Last Updated: 11/09/2020

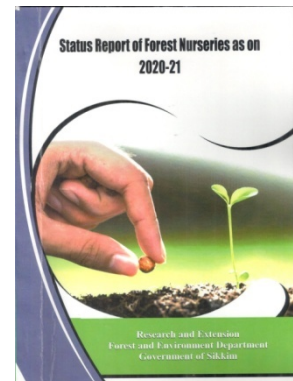
MAJOR ACTIVITY (Circled in red)

Ozone Day Quiz hosted in Forest ENVIS Website www.sikenvis.nic.in

2. **Book Release:** On the occasion, Honourable Minister Forest Shri Karma Loday Bhutia today released a book publication on “**Status Report of Forest Nurseries 2020-21**” in presence of Principal Secretary cum PCCF Shri M L Srivastava and senior officers of the Forest and Environment Department.

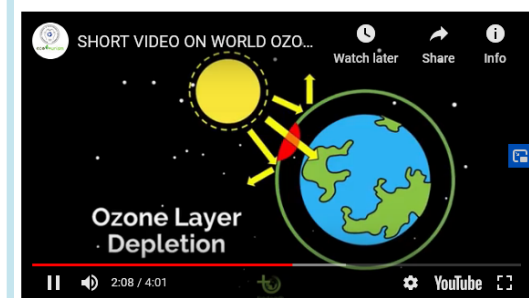


The Honorable Minister mentioned that a commendable initiative has been taken up by the Research and Extension sector of the department by coming out with detailed status report of forest nurseries in the state of Sikkim as in the current financial year i.e. 2020-21. This includes inter alia, the past and present history, soil and water analysis, current seedling stock and prescription for further improvement and so on. “I am sure this will be immensely beneficial for the practicing foresters, researchers, academicians, scientists and general public. The entire team deserve kudos and profound congratulations” he added. The report has been prepared under the supervision of Shri Chewang Tashi Bhutia, Assistant Conservator of Forest and his team comprising of Shri Robish Pradhan (Tour In-charge), Shri Ramesh Sharma and Shri. Passang Dawa Tamang.



3. **Awareness and Sensitization by School Eco-Clubs:**

As a part of World Ozone Day, Eco-Club network of 856 school/ college eco-clubs in the state were provided with short videos for sensitization amongst the students. The video used for the purpose has been prepared by ENVIS Resource Partner Ecotourism uploaded in YouTube (<https://youtu.be/ND6RyNa0xk4>) and



shared in ENVIS website, WhatsApp groups of Eco-Clubs for awareness through social media.

4. **Virtual meeting with Industrial Units held:** A Virtual meeting was organized with industrial units of the Sikkim State in which 21 industrial units participated which comprised of pharma formulation industries, distillery and food industry. The virtual meet was organized by State Pollution Control Board Sikkim under the chairmanship of Dr. Thomas Chandy, Chairman SPCB Sikkim. After briefing on the importance of day it was advised by Chairman SPCB to contribute towards the cause individually as well as through industrial community by adopting responsible life style, by managing cooling system in their units properly, by preferring ozone friendly production process etc. He also encouraged them to adopt renewable source of energy like solar power system so that use of DG sets are minimized gradually for effective greener response.
5. **World Ozone Day (16/09/2020) Message of Hon'ble Chief Minister published in local newspaper and social media**



Newspaper clip

(Message Text): As we are all aware that the ozone layer is the part of the Earth's atmosphere which contains relatively high concentration of ozone gas. The Ozone layer absorbs most of the ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth from the sun. It protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. Without the Ozone layer in the atmosphere, life on Earth would be very difficult. Plants cannot survive and grow in high intensity ultraviolet radiation, nor can the planktons that serve as food for most of the ocean life. With a weakening of the Ozone Layer shield, humans would be more susceptible to skin cancer, cataracts and impaired immune system.

Ozone can both protect and harm the Earth – it all depends on where it resides. For instance, if Ozone is present in the stratosphere of the atmosphere, it will act as a shield. However, if it is in the troposphere Ozone is harmful. It is a pollutant that can cause damage to lung tissues and plants. Hence, an upset in the ozone balance can have serious consequences.

*In the 1980s, scientists discovered that the ozone layer was thinning in the lower stratosphere, with particularly dramatic ozone loss- **known as the “ozone hole”**- in the Antarctic spring. Scientists also discovered that the thinning in the ozone layer was caused by increasing concentrations of ozone-depleting chemicals- chlorofluorocarbons of CFCs and to lesser extent halons. These chemicals can remain in the atmosphere from decades to over a century. CFCs were commonly found in refrigerants, solvents, propellants, and foam - blowing agents before the Montreal Protocol was agreed on in the 1980s- an international commitment to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals that was universally ratified by all countries that participate in the UN conference.*

In the state of Sikkim we have given emphasis on preserving and conserving our natural heritage for perpetuity and results of our efforts of conservation of the environment are visibly galore. The forest and tree cover of our state which stands at 47.62 % as per SFR 2017 has increased by 4% approximately over the last 20 years. Rural water sources have got rejuvenated, wildlife population has gone up, forest gaps have been filled and soil erosion has been checked to a large extent. Water bodies have increased by 2 Km² due to protection of forest with strict enforcement of relevant Forest Laws and Rules in the State. Many afforestation activities under different programmes and schemes to rejuvenate the degraded forest lands, implementation of Non-forest and Private Land Tree Felling Rules have been taken up. The state has 30.77% of geographical area under Protected Area network, comprising of seven Wildlife Sanctuaries and one National Park, which is highest in the country.

*Sikkim is one of the fastest growing economies in the country. The state’s GDP per capita is rated third in the country after Goa and Delhi. The State has host of green policies that are aligned with development initiatives to comprehend Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with primary focus on the environment, society and economy. The state has been first in the country to become organic, garnering global attention to boost its organic market. As such bold policies like a blanket ban on use of chemical fertilizers has helped achieve all of the state’s farmland of around 75,000 hectares to be certified organic thus rendering an environmental boost to this Himalayan ecosystem. Organic farming is considered the agricultural system closest to the traditional Sikkimese way of farming, which is rain-fed with low external inputs. At the same time, Sikkim’s approach reaches beyond organic production and has proven truly transformation for the state. As such, Sikkim is an excellent model for other Indian states and countries worldwide to upscale agro-ecology. Sikkim has the potential to set an example that adds not just economic value, but enhances livelihood generation, and all this within ecological limits. Owing to the state’s splendid natural beauty, clean environment well comprehended by State’s host of green policies such as **ban on plastic carry bags, ban on Styrofoam products, ban on firecrackers, ban on burning of agricultural wastes** and so on, huge avenues have been created for curbing hazards of a civic society interfering with the natural ecosystem and also in the process flourishing tourism in the state*

Sikkim has a meagre population of 6.10 lakh (as per 2011 census) but the number of tourists visiting the state per year is over 2 times the State's population. Visitors leave in awe of this mountainous place, richly endowed with fauna and flora, with the beautiful lakes, cherry blossom trees, rhododendrons and all adding to the pristine nature and improved air quality. Young and budding entrepreneurs are provided startup support for setting up an enterprise with ecologically responsible Models. The State of Sikkim has been promoting the mainstream idea of being green and ecologically safe in their business operations. Local business enterprises in Sikkim not only support local livelihood creation but also ensure ecologically clean practices of business operations, especially in avenues of waste management.

On this World Ozone Day, September 16th, I invite one and all to join hand and adopt environment friendly practices for a better future for overcoming generation.
