

# Sikkim Green Mission

## APPEAL

The Government of Sikkim has announced State Green Mission for beautification of all road and vacant lands by Planting Ornamental Trees and Flowering Plants on the roadside of all the roads of Sikkim except those roads which are to be widened and in the vacant lands. Green Mission Task Force has been constituted in each constituency to make the programme successful. Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department on behalf of the Government appeal to the General Public, Voluntary Organisations, Heads of Public Sector undertakings, Government Departments of State and Central Governments, members of the Panchayats, Teachers and students to participate in the Green Mission to make our state the most beautiful state of our country. We also appeal to the owner of Houses in roadsides and the shop-keepers in towns to grow flowers in their premises. Sikkim has already achieved the milestone of becoming the best state in the country in protection of the Green Wealth. Although Sikkim has only 0.2% of the country's Geographical Area, is the owner of 26% of the total biodiversity of the country. Sikkim's geographical location, natural beauty, the diverse culture and tradition and the cordial hospitality extended by us have always tempted the domestic as well as the international tourists to visit and explore Sikkim.

State Green Mission has been launched to make Sikkim a Garden State. We once again appeal to all the People of Sikkim to wholeheartedly participate in the Mission so that we can make Sikkim the most sought after eco-tourism destination of our country.

Thank You.

**State Green Mission**

### State Green Mission What it is about?

#### State Green Mission

- ◆ is yet another product of Hon'ble Chief Minister's green policy imagination, a new concept, an idea, a dream and a vision thereof
- ◆ is a new direction and dimension in the State's efforts and endeavour to sustain, maintain and enrich Sikkim's environment and ecology.
- ◆ Is a programme to give to people the mandate to own, regenerate and protect their resources by themselves
- ◆ is about synergising development and environmental protection
- ◆ is broadbasing greening activities through peoples participation, support and guidance
- ◆ is converting Sikkim into a green paradise, a garden state and a tourist's ultimate dream and destination.
- ◆ is making Sikkim a more beautiful, more green and more natural by integrating ecology with economy for bequeathing it to the posterity.
- ◆ is spearheading peoples' movement towards achieving healthier and pollution free environs around their surrounds.

#### What you can do?

- ◆ Help and support the movement.
- ◆ Ensure your active participation.
- ◆ Plant a seedling and a flower this monsoon.
- ◆ Protect, care, and nurture plants.
- ◆ Keep your compound clean, green and beautiful.

## **Green Mission not a gimmick - Forest Dept.**

The department feels that the Green Mission is not a gimmick. It is a sincere and honest commitment of the State Government towards bringing every wasteland, vacant land, roadside land, institutional land and other industrial areas under the green cover by planting both ornamental as well as flowering plants. This will give the State not only the greenery but also the required stability to the fragile slopes in different vulnerable pockets. This is also a programme aimed at enlisting the support of the people in general, the Panchayats, the NGOs, Self Help Groups, the bureaucrats, the students and the teachers, every member of the society. It is misleading to state that the Government employees are not attending to their routine functions as only the services of a small fraction of Government employees of each Department have been rendered willingly for the successful completion of this mission. The Government has never come across any complaint from the members of the public regarding non performance and non attendance to their works by Government employees instead the members of the public are participating en masse in response to the call of the Government.

The three year project has been envisaged keeping in mind the period required for growing of saplings in the Forest Department nurseries as well as for being able to complete the entire network of vacant lands, road side land throughout Sikkim under this Mission. It is a massive task which requires a minimum of 3 years and cannot be ordinarily completed within one or two years with the limited resources available with the Department.

A small amount of cleaning and weeding of unwanted bushes is meant to find space for new plants to be introduced and not in any way to de-clothe the area leading to erosion. Moreover, the avenue plants that are being planted now will give stability to the roads and is meant to be a soil and water conservation measure and therefore it contributes to ecological balance and promotes tourism in the State.

Regarding the cost structure, the department would like to clarify that there is not much financial investment in the whole Green Mission project except for procurement of seedlings and manure whereas other activities are being whole heartedly contributed by the members of the society, the existing labor strength of various Government departments in addition to that of the local NGOs, Self Help Groups, Eco clubs, students and teachers. Everyone is coming forward to help to succeed the aims and objectives of this Mission.

On completion of this 3 year Green Mission, the State will be more beautiful and the net work of gardens and landscape will decorate the whole configuration of Sikkim. It will not only give strength to the fragile slopes, but also add to the promotion of tourism in the State.

## Khaki Goes Green



Sikkim Armi Police personnel took on a different weapon on Monday as they moved through their campus shouldering saplings and marched on a plantation drive to mark World Environment Day. (Just to pg 4 for detailed report)

## Maple to line road to Pakyong

### a NOW REPORT

**PAKYONG, 05 June:** On the occasion of the World Environment Day, a plantation programme was held today here at Namcheybong block under Lossing Pacheykhani constituency.

Deputy Speaker, Mingma Sherpa, was present as the chief guest and was accompanied by area MLA, Manita Manger, Ranka MLA, Nimbit Lepcha, Rhenock MLA, Bhim Donyel, SDM [Pakyong], MK Pradhan, all Pakyong sub-divisional officials, Panchayat members along with the headmaster, teachers and students of Namcheybong High School

and local people.

So far, around 6 kilometers have been covered by the plantation drive of imported Maple saplings procured from a Kalimpong nursery, along with Cherry and other flowering plants.

On the occasion, the chief guest stressed that with support of the people and the coordination of the officials, the Chief Minister's vision of Sikkim as a Garden State would be realized well.

Area MLA, Mrs. Manger, expressed her gratitude towards all who have contributed to the success of the plantation drive and hoped that the commitment would sustain

and see to it that the saplings grew into handsome trees.

Similarly, the Rhenock and Ranka MLAs also highlighted various aspects of the State Green Mission and how the initiative was beneficial for all people and contributed to the future prosperity of all parts of Sikkim.

Earlier, SDM, Mr. Pradhan, also requested the Forest department to ensure utmost care and proper nurturing of the saplings.

Only one species of Maple plant was sapplanted in 45 pits.

Similarly, AD/ RO and SBDO of Pakyong sub-division also came planting from Rorathang to Padamchey Road diversion point today.

## Lower Syari, Greener Syari

### a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 June:** Lower Syari Secondary School combined the occasion of World Environment Day with its support for the State Green Mission and undertook a massive plantation drive in the school campus. By the time the drive ended, the staff and students here had planted some 200 saplings of different varieties.

The programme was attended by the panchayat Usha Tamang, Forest Constable Dawa Rinzing Lepcha, the elders of the village, Headmaster, staff, students and local gentry.

The programme started with a short speech by the Headmaster on the importance of the World Environment Day during which he

apprised the students about the Green Mission initiated by the Chief Minister.

The Science teacher Pramad Thapa shared his thoughts on the importance trees. Arati Gautan, another teacher, spoke on the need for conservation and preservation of the planted trees and requested the panchayat to spread awareness among the villagers about the same.

The area panchayat promised to help the school care for the saplings planted today and also advised the Headmaster to move a request to have the school campus fenced.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by the Headmaster of the school.

**ADSNOW!**  
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# Chamling calls for collective partnership in nature conservation, announces Eco Clubs for schools

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 June:** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has called for collective partnership in nature conservation to ensure that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future and has urged individuals and public at large to take up the environmental challenge with greater deter-

mination. The Chief Minister made the appeal in his address for Sikkim on the eve of World Environment Day 2006 which will be observed all over the State on 05 June.

He said that Sikkim and its people were the "true custodians of Himalayan ecosystem" and adds that this puts it under a "sacred obligation" to act more responsibly while addressing the



environmental issues in the country and elsewhere.

Elaborating on the recent launch of the State Green Mission, Mr. Chamling explained that the basic idea behind the Mission was to preserve Sikkim's greenery and "bequeath to the future generations, a state full of greenery, beauty, resources and overall contentment."

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## Chamling calls for collective partnership in nature...

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In this regard, he appealed to all government agencies, institutes, NGOs, academic institutions and private sectors to 'plant beautiful trees to make their campus clean green and beautiful'.

The main attraction of this year's initiative on the occasion would be the promotion of 'Eco Clubs' in all the schools above the VI standard in the state, in order to promote 'green schools' starting this year. Solid Waste Management Awareness through schools and NGOs would also be taken up, Mr. Chamling informs in his address.

The theme for this year's World Environment Day is 'Don't Desert Dry Lands!' This, the Chief Minister feels, will highly complement his government's objective at the local level to go for mass plantation without leaving any barren land in the State.

The Chief Minister's World Environment Day address also focuses on the

unique participatory policy empowering the people, prepared for the protection of high altitudes under which local residents will be recognized as Honorary Himal Rakshaks to work jointly with the Forest Department to protect the mountain eco-systems.

In his address, the Chief Minister also speaks on the achievements of his government in the field of environment since coming to power in 1994. "Since the establishment of the SDF Government in 1994, the Government has launched many innovative projects like the Harit Kranti year with provision for matching fund like the Green Fund, and over the last few years, it has widely promoted the concept of Smriti Van, as a novel conservation measure involving society at large in nature conservation," he records.

This year, the main World Environment Day observance has been scheduled for Namchi where the Chief Minister is expected to be present as the chief guest.

## Awareness camps prepare Toong Naga for Green Mission

DEEPAK SHARMA

**MANGAN, 04 June:** An awareness camp, the third in a series for North Sikkim, was organized at Naga Mangor, North Sikkim, on 31 May under the State Green Mission. The programme was organized by the Toong Naga Gram Panchayat Unit and a local NGO, Toong Naga Development Association, and was attended by around 250 locals representing all households in the area, government employees and all panchayats, including the Zilla Panchayat.

During the camp, the area or avenue of plantation spread from Diversion Road on the North Sikkim High-

way to power Channel via Naga Gumpa was identified for plantation and saplings issued by forest nursery of Mangor and locally available plants decided to use. The entire stretch is expected to be covered over a span of three years. There was some apprehension from the people concerning stray cattle during winters, but the DFO (N) has given his full assurance of necessary measures in this regard.

Later, RO, Zilla, and Land Use, put outlined various technical considerations to be taken in mind during the plantation drive. Deputy Director, BDD also spoke on the occasion as Nodal Officer. DFO (N)

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## Awareness camps...

Contd from pg1

stressed on the species, time, and maintenance and road reserve during the plantation.

The Panchayat President assured the officials' role in the protection of the plants and requested for periodical inspection by forest officials.

The organizing committee plans to meet again on 09 June for the concluding ceremony at Naga Gumpa. The clearing of the area and the digging of the pits and selection of the species started from the second week of May.

The gathering was also addressed by Nim Tshering Lepcha, former Chairman Land Use & State Pollution Control Board.

Elders of Toong Naga GPU requested the DFOT & DFO (Land Use) to declare a 300 years old tree in the area as the Mother Tree for the initiative.

The drive saw full participation of all sectors including the students from Naga Primary School and Naga Monastic School, which was appreciated by the Panchayat, officials, the NGO and the School Management Committee. Labor engaged from forest nursery, Energy and Power Department and BRO (GREF) shall be facilitated on 09 June, the concluding day of the programme.