

Aritar plays host to State level World Environment Day celebrations

“Sikkimese society still lacks interest in environment conservation”

ARITAR, June 05: The State level World Environment Day was observed today here at the Chungthang Gaddi in East Sikkim with a massive plantation drive by the students and the local people.

Organized by the State Forest, Environment and Wildlife Department in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the programme was attended by the Area MLA KB Chamling as the chief guest along with the presence of the Zilla Adakshya (East) Bimal Diwedi, officials from the concerned department and WWF. While addressing the gathering, Mr. Chamling, who is also the chief whip of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) party, said that the people of Sikkim still lacked interest and sensitivity towards protecting their environment.

The Area MLA also urged the people for more afforestation adding, “Environmental issues are major and crucial issues that need to be addressed by the people all over the world.”

‘The initiative of the State Government in starting the State Green Mission for the first time in the country itself speaks volume about the steps towards biodiversity conservation in this tiny Himalayan State,’ he said.

Expressing concern over the extinction of some flora and fauna in the State, the MLA also stressed on the need for the conservation of rare and endangered species and also informed that Pangulakha under Regu constituency was a haven of rare species of herbal and medicinal plants and wild faunas such as the Mithun.

The Conservator of Forest (Land Use), C Lachungpa said, “Global warming has led to massive melting of the glaciers which can possibly invite natural disasters. Students and teachers can also play a pivotal role in imparting the message of environment conservation, he said.

Others to address the gathering were the officials from the State Forest Department, WWF and members of Joint Forest Management Committee.

The day also witnessed the presentation of a mono act play, “to save the trees” by the students of Tashi Namgyal Academy.

A quiz competition on environment was organised, in which Vidya Bharati bagged the first prize while Chujachen Senior Secondary School and Dalapchand Senior Secondary School won the second and third positions respectively.

In the Essay competition for group A, Akash James of St Xavier’s School, Pakyong, Nima Lamhu Sherpa of Gyalshing Senior Secondary School and Sandeep Gurung of Namchi Senior Secondary School became first, second and third respectively.

In Group B Essay competition, the first position was bagged by Amit Kumar Singh of St Xavier’s School, Pakyong, while Misma Subba of Gyalshing SSS and Pema Doma Bhutia of Phodong SSS bagged the second and third prizes.

Mina Sharma of Upper Khamdong Primary School, Gautam Dhobi of Rongli Junior High School and Arpana Rai of Dalapchand Secondary School stood first, second and third in the painting competition.

The prizes were handed over by the chief guest.

Courtesy: Sikkim Express

CM leads South District World Environment Day celebrations

NAMCHI, June 05: Like the rest of the world, South Sikkim celebrated the World Environment Day in various ways.

The celebration started today morning with a plantation drive at the premises of the District Administrative Centre here by the Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling. Officials from various departments of Namchi also planted saplings. The State Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, South carried out the plantation programme throughout the District as well as enlightened the common people to take care of the planted saplings.

Different NGOs and the Clubs also shouldered the responsibilities to protect and preserve the environment through different means.

As per the information received from different corner of the District, the Environment Day was observed with a number of colourful programmes and plantation drives.

In Namchi, the students and teachers of New Light Academy (NLA) organised a programme at the Community Hall. The students of NLA staged presentations spreading the message of environment preservation, which was attended by the local people.

Similarly, a plantation programme was carried out at Bikmat, South Sikkim where the local NGO, Sikkim Paryawaran Samrakshan Sangh planted around 300 saplings at the premises of Bikmat Sec School. It was also taken predicated by the local gentries.

The students of Denchung Junior High School also carried out plantation at the school premises under the supervision of their teachers LN Bhutia and JB Rai. They planted around 300 saplings of different species and also promised to look after the saplings.

A plantation drive was also carried out at Damthang bazaar area by the Damthang Gram Panchayat, Pragati Sangh (local club) and SSA Employees Association, South District.

The release further informs that the SSA Employees Association and Damthang Secondary School organized an environment awareness programme along with the painting competition with the theme, 'Nurture Nature for our Future' at the school while GPU and the local club took part in the plantation programme under which more than 500 saplings of Argelia were planted.

The programme was also attended by the locals and the members of the respective associations.

Later, the winners of the painting competition, participated by 20 students of Damthang School were presented with the awards.

A similar drive was carried out at Chisopani, South Sikkim under Jorethang Constituency where the local NGO Jan Kalyan Sangh carried out the plantation marking the World Environment Day.

Duga celebrates World Environment Day

Rangpo, June 05: The World Environment Day was observed today at Duga Block Administrative Center under Central Pandam Constituency which was jointly organized by the Block Administrative center, Duga and Gram Vikash Sangha, an active NGO of the area.

Area MLA cum Minister of the State Horticulture Development, Somnath Poudyal was present as the chief guest while CP Dhakal, Joint Chief Electoral Officer was present as a special guest. The chief guest in his address said that it was important for both the present generation and the future to protect the environment.

The Joint Chief Electoral Officer in his address thanked the Chief Minister Pawam Chamling for his keen interest in environment.

Courtesy: Sikkim Express

**Message of the Chief Minister Dr. Pawan Chamling on the occasion of World
Environment Day, 5th June 2008**

I am very pleased that the World Environment Day is being commemorated in our State to instill greater awareness among the general masses to the cause of the environment conservation in the state with the global slogan “**Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy**”. The issue of environmental degradation is throwing up new challenges for the mankind. The immediate cases in mind are the global food crisis, recent earthquake in China and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar killing thousands of people and destroying properties worth crores of rupees.

Recognizing that climate change is becoming the crucial issue, we have been shaken up by the gravity of the situation. For any effective measures, there has to be awareness at the grass root level. We have to update and upgrade all our conservation initiatives to make them more competitive and which complement other similar initiatives undertaken at the global context.

As a corrective measure and to ease the harm done to our environment, the international communities have instituted Clean Development Mechanism also known as CDM. This is in the context of the large scale emissions of carbon dioxide and its adverse impact on the global warming process, Developed nations are trying to compensate any government or organization adopting clean development mechanism under carbon trading arrangement and in the recent Bali conference, they have also created for adaptive fund to help developing countries to adapt to the vagaries of climate change.

As responsible citizen of the world, let us empower ourselves to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development. Let us promote an understanding that the key to environmental security depends on the level of collective commitment and the zeal with which we pursue our goal of a clean and green state, Nation and the World at large. Let us come together and work collectively to make this world a safer place to live in and prosper.

**Message of Minister of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management,
S. B. Subedi on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2008**

The theme for this year's World Environment Day "**Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy**" reminds us all about the burgeoning concerns of global climate change. The theme also includes the role of forest conservation and sustainable forestry in achieving domestic and global climate change goals. This day is an excellent opportunity to highlight our natural resources and empower ourselves to sustainable development.

On this World Environment Day, let us raise awareness and promote action on national environment issues. Let us focus on greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them. Let us strengthen our initiatives that promote low carbon economies and life-styles, such as improved energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, etc. There are many ways you can kick the carbon habit for World Environment Day. You could leave your car at home and prefer to walk, cut your rubbish and waste by half, use less electricity and less water.

Sikkim state under the able leadership of Nations Greenest Chief Minister, Dr. Pawan Chamling has set up an example for all others by implementing a program like State Green Mission. With the goal to bring ourselves near to nature and live with nature, this mission strives to cover all the road reserves and other vacant lands with quality green cover. So let us all adopt this mission as cultural habit and broaden our participation to make our lives both more survivable and more pleasant.

I wish all the best to the people of Sikkim for a great success to make this tiny Himalayan biotic hub as Garden State.

LET'S LIVE CLOSE TO NATURE

Environmental awareness has become the order of the day. Studies and strategies for saving and promoting the healthy environment have been given wide spaces nowadays but simultaneously on the other hand, rapid growth in industrialization, population explosion, deforestation, use of pesticides, insecticides, chemical fertilizer, unnecessary uses of innumerable vehicles, non degradable items such as plastics, fast consumption rate of natural resources, and above all, lack of knowledge and concern regarding **ENVIRONMENT** is creating all the problems like Green-house-effect, depletion of ozone layer, Global warming, epidemics and irreparable loss in health of all living organisms, unhealthy mental attitude towards one another, life costing new diseases, tension, frustrations etc.

Hence, the first step towards a healthy environment and better today and tomorrow is the environment awareness in every individual. As the great writer and philosopher Gibran has rightly said trees are the poem written by the earth on the sky. Let's plant trees as much as we can wherever possible, love and save our surroundings, help execute the laws passed by the Government to promote healthy environment, make each citizen aware of his duties and responsibilities towards healthy and better tomorrow so that we can enjoy the soft and warm lap of our mother **'nature'**

**Courtesy: Aritar – Rhenock Snakul (Complex)
Vidya Bharati Sikkim.**

**Vidya Bharati
Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan
Tadong, East Sikkim
Gangtok.**