

# Rashtriya Nirmal Gram Puraskar for Sikkim

## This recognition will inspire us wards more milestones: CM

**GANGTOK, December 8 (IPR):** In a glittering award giving ceremony, Sikkim earned the distinction of being the first State in the Country to achieve 100 percent sanitation. The award including citation and a gold medal was given away by the President of India, Pratiba Patil to the Chief Minister of Sikkim Pawan Chamling.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Chamling said that on behalf of the people of Sikkim, it was indeed a proud moment for him to accept the first Rashtriya Nirmal Gram Puraskar from the President. This rare honour and recognition bestowed will further continue to guide us to achieve many more milestones for the State and the Nation in times to come, he said.

While stressing on the need to "practise and adhere to the ethics of responsible politics and responsible bureaucracy leading to building up of pool of



responsive citizens, the President lauded Sikkim State for "becoming a State with 100 percent sanitation covered" and exhorts other States to follow the suit.

She also hailed Mr. Chamling as "Sachin Tendulkar" in the field of establishing Nirmal gram.

Addressing the function, Union Minister for Rural Development Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh welcomed the Chief Minister and his team to the function. Elaborating on the

comprehensive programme of the central Ministry of Rural Development, Dr. Singh said that the ultimate mission was to wipe out poverty and make the nation more prosperous progressive. The meeting was also addressed by Panchayat representatives of Southern States.

Mr Chamling was accompanied to the meeting by Mrs Tika Maya Chamling, State RMDD & Cooperation Minister, KN Rai, all four Adhayakshyas and UpAdhayakshyas of the State, Panchayat representatives, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister RS Basnet, Secretary RMDD Anil Ganeriwala, Resident Commissioner, Sikkim House, Arvind Kumar, Departmental officials of RMDD, Government of Sikkim.

The meeting was also attended by over 7500 people and stakeholders coming from different parts of the country.

## President urges other States to follow Sikkim's example in sanitation coverage



### SE Report

**GANGTOK, December 8:** President Pratibha Devisingh Patil today congratulated Sikkim for becoming the State with 100 percent facilities and urged other States to take inspiration from Sikkim.

"I congratulate Sikkim for becoming a State with 100 percent sanitation facilities and I hope that other States will follow suit", said the President during the presentation of Nirmal Gram Puraskar Awards at Pune today.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is at Pune to receive the award which was presented by the President.

The year there were 30,000 applications for the Nirmal Gram award out of which about 11000 Panchayat Raj Institutions

won the award. The number of award winners has increased tremendously in the last three years which reflects that people have taken interest in participating in the countrywide sanitation movement, said the President.

"This is also an indication that the Total Sanitation Campaign has been accepted in the right spirit by the rural people in India and this programme has become a people's campaign. It enhances the quality of life", Mrs. Patil said.

*Courtesy: Sikkim Express, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2008*