

Vice President of India, M.Hamid Ansari on a three day visit to Sikkim

Gangtok, October 28: The Vice President of India, Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari accompanied by his wife arrived in Gangtok this morning on a three day visit to Sikkim .He was received by the Governor, Mr. Balmiki Prasad Singh, Chief Minister, Mr.Pawan Chamling , Chief Justice and judges of Sikkim High Court, Ministers, MLAs, DGP, GOC, 17 Mountain Division and heads of the Department at the Army Helipad at Libing. On his arrival, the Vice President was given Guard of Honour by the Sikkim Armed Police at Libing from where he drove straight to the Raj Bhavan.

In the afternoon he visited Lingdum Monastery in Ranka where he was accorded a warm welcome by His Eminence Zurmang Gharwang Rinpoche, Speaker, SLA, Mr. K.T.Gyaltsen, Chief Secretary, Mr. T.T.Dorji and the monk representatives of the monastery which was followed by a Singhi dance. The Vice President interacted with His Eminence Gharwang Rinpoche and enquired about the monastic studies being imparted in the monastery.

Thereafter, he proceeded to Khangchendzonga Tourist cum Cultural Village at Ranka where he was received by

Minister, RMDD, Mr.C.B.Karki and MLA, Mr.Mr.Menlom Lepcha, Secretary, RMDD, Mr.A.K.Ganeriwala and other officials of the departments. A technical report presentation was also made to the Vice President by the Secretary RMDD on the ongoing Cultural Village Project where Secretary RMDD highlighted the special components of the project which will house social cultural amusement park, tourist villa with rides and shows, Sikkim panoramic dome etc. The project spreads over a total area of 16.98 acre and the work commenced on June, 2006. The project is likely to be completed by February, 2010 and has been funded through Additional Central Assistance, Government of India in a phased manner, he mentioned. The Vice President also visited Banjhakri Waterfall and arrived at M.G.Marg later in the evening where the Vice President accompanied by his wife, Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary offered scarves to the bust of Mahatma Gandhi.

On the second day of his visit, the Vice President accompanied by his wife and Governor, visited an orchid farm at Assam Lingzey, Sikkim Himalayan Orchid Limited, a joint venture company between Natsyn Flora, Chennai and Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department, Government of Sikkim. He was received by the Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Chamling, Minister, Mr.Dawcho Lepcha, area MLA, Mr. B.B.Rai, Cabinet Ministers and Officers of the Department.

RMDD Minister stresses On water conservation

Rangpo: A project on conservation of natural water resource under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, organized by State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and Rural management Development Department (RMDD) began from Block Administration Centre (BAC) Duga, East Sikkim.

The project, new of its own kind, is for providing water in rural areas of the state through by developing sources and construction of water reservoirs. Mr. C.B. Karki, Minister RMDD, was present as Chief guest and Miss Neeru Sewa, Minister Information and Public Relations (IPR) and area MLA as guest of honour. Block Development Officers (BDO) of different BAC, forest officials, officials from Human Resource Development Department (HRDD), Zilla Panchayats, Source Conservation Project Technical Officer Mr. Hiralall Shah were also present.

Chief Guest Mr.Karki released posters and publicity materials on conservation and source development. These materials are for making common public aware about conservation of water sources as sources are vanishing day by day. Mr.Karki highlighted importance of water source conservation and informed that this project will help rural people and especially farmers. Farmers must utilize this type of schemes as an opportunity for them, he said. Different developmental work under NREGs is being

implemented successfully in the state, he said. He laid the foundation stone of water conservation and resource development project of Rs.7 lakhs.

Assistance Conservation of Forest (ACF) of Duga BAC, Mr. Sangey Kazi, informed about forest department's initiatives through NREGS. Department is running different nurseries successfully through NREGS, he said.