

CM announces Forest Museum to celebrate Sikkim's traditional commitment to conservation

GANGTOK, 9 Dec. Chief Minister Pawan Chamling announced today that 'world class' Forest Museum dedicated to the 100 years of forestry in Sikkim will be constructed in Sikkim in the coming days. He was addressing a packed auditorium at Saramsa Gardens at the concluding day's ceremony of the Forest Centenary Year celebrations.

This Forest Museum, the CM explained shall be developed as an institution in itself and help the coming generations understand the contributions of their ancestors towards forest and wildlife conservation and inspire present and coming generations towards adopting similar commitment to the environment.

Perhaps in a bid to preempt red-tape that can delay delivery, the CM added. "I want all concerned officials to note that works on all development announcements should start immediately. What is announced should be carried out immediately and not be delayed in files. Like with all our development commitments, the government will find the funding; the concerned officials should work and the civil society should contribute to make this a joint collaboration".

While congratulating the forestry fraternity of Sikkim on its 100 years of 'dedicated service', he said that forestry, flora and fauna and the environment were the biggest resources of Sikkim, and should be harnessed sustainably to facilitate all round development.

Mentioning further-that the development of bird and butterfly parks would strengthen Sikkim's standing on an eco-sensitive State, he called on all present to cooperate with and support the effort of the State government to develop Sikkim as the top ecotourism destination of the world.

He suggested that Sikkim's sacred caves and trees be conserved and celebrated as tourist destinations which would provide sustainable incomes for the people and dissuade them from succumbing to the lure of felling or other ecologically insensitive undertakings.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for the Forest Department to expand its area of engagement and its traditional style of functioning to adapt with the changing times and its demand. The Forest Department, he said, should also focus, for example, on allied aspects of forestry like waste management.

"We have to develop a brand name for Sikkim which projects everything that is good and worth emulating in the State. With the resources

at our disposal, we can definitely become the Number One State of the country and get recognized throughout the world. Our model should inspire others to follow suit”, he stressed.

In passing reference to what is being touted as political rumblings of dissent in the State, Mr. Chamling pointed out that the vision dreamt by his government for Sikkim was obviously not sitting easy on sections which thrive on uncertainty and flux.

“We are moving ahead with clear vision and firm commitment and this is where the civil society’s involvement is most important, not only to ensure that we stay on the right course, but also ensuring with their presence and appreciation that we remain motivation as well,” he commented.

Women given respect by SDF, Says Cheli Morcha

Gangtok: An interactive meeting of newly formed Cheli Morcha Committee of Sikkim Democratic Front was held SDF headquarters on December 8 which was presided by Morcha General Secretary Mrs. Manita Manger. Members from all the four districts were present and discussed their role in the society.

The developmental programme of SDF and vision of its leader Dr. Pawan Chamling should be conveyed to the masses, members opined. Social justice introduced by SDF with total respect to women should be rightly brought to the knowledge of common women while seeking their active participation in party’s every political and social programme to be aware about their rights and social status.

“The future of Sikkimese people is secure under the able leadership of Dr. The principle and programme of SDF is always pro people and the party has made every woman respectable”, Mrs. Manger said. MLA, Melli Constituency, Mrs. Tulsi Devi Rai, Rinzing Ongmu, Malika Subba were the other speakers, informs a release by SDF Publicity Secretary (HQ), Mr. Amber Rai.