

GANGTOK, September 25th: With much exuberance and enthusiasm , the Month Long National Sanitation Campaign for Swachh Bharat was kicked off today at Titanic Park, MG Marg . The campaign was synchronically launched with the National Sanitation Campaign of the Government of India for 'Mission Swachh Bharat'.

The Hon'ble Minister for RMDD-Shri S.B. Subedi spoke on the importance of cleanliness and prolonging personal hygiene. He mentioned the prolific actions taken by the State Government under the leadership of Shri Pawan Chamling such as the complete ban on the use of plastic bags. Mr Subedi vocalized that the people of Sikkim needs to be supremely pro-active in implementing this campaign and making sure that this mission is an absolute success. He lauded the efforts of the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling and the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for starting the Kailash-Mansarovar Pilgrimage route via Sikkim and advised all that this new avenue for tourism and development also brings with it the need to focus more on cleanliness and sanitation.

Delivering the welcome address, Mr DR Nepal-Secretary RMDD spoke at length about the need for the active participation of people from all walks of life to keep Sikkim Clean and Green . He enlightened all that the focus of this Mission is to achieve Swachh Bharat status by 2nd October 2019, the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi . Mr Nepal outlined the action plan of this campaign starting with rural-level sensitisation on correct liquid and solid waste management , safe sanitation followed by basic self hygiene practices like washing hands and keeping one's immediate environment clean . He said that people right from the grassroot level to the upper echelons needs to take active participation and responsibility in ensuring the success of this mission . He also cited the paramount role of the Health Department, the HRDD and the State Media Organisations in sensitising the citizens on the importance of maintaining a clean locale and hence , make Sikkim the cleanest state in the nation .

The event also saw the axiom of "re-using and re-cycling" wherein Shri SB Subedi planted saplings in flower pots made entirely from obsolete car tyres .

Waste carrying vehicles for the Liquid Waste Management projects of Namthang , Lachen and Tashiding were also flagged off from the setting. The Minister also flagged off a mountain bike rally and students rally carrying messages for Clean Sikkim.

Mr Anil Raj Rai , Additional Secretary RMDD , in summation ,thanked all the Dignitaries , Officials , Media personnel , students and the general public for coming together for this inaugural event and urged everyone to pool in and work for the cleanliness of the state .

The event concluded with an awareness rally taken out by the students from various schools of Gangtok displaying vibrant messages pertinent to the campaign.

The event was attended by Shri S.B Subedi, Hon'ble Minister for RMDD , Secretaries of RMDD , IPR and various other Departments, Mr Tshewang Gyachho-DC East , Advisor , Mayor (GMC), Deputy Mayor(GMC) , Media personnel ,school students alongwith the general public in attendance .