NSS Volunteers Render Valuable Service amidst Covid-19 Lockdown

**NSS Volunteers of Sikkim**

_Fighting against Corona Virus (COVID-19) Pandemic_

- The Honorable Prime Minister during his address to the nation on Corona Virus Pandemic and the Honorable Chief Minister, Sikkim requested the citizens to follow the Janta Cerfew on 22nd March 2020 from 7am to 9pm. The NSS volunteers from different district/institutions uploaded awareness Campaign through Social Media in Various languages and door-to-door campaign in and around their neighborhood. The videos/images were shared in the Northeast NSS group on watsapp as well.

- On the direction from the Government of India for emergency youth volunteers support during the lockdown announcement, contact details were sent to the respective District Collectors. Total contacts of 161 NSS Program Officers (Teachers) and selected District level Nodal Officers were forwarded to the District Collectors and the Regional Director (NS) Government of India, Guwahati on 28th March 2020.

- As per the standing order of the Government, due to the total Lockdown the service of the NSS Volunteers were not requisitioned by the GPU level authorities instead the NSS volunteers were asked to spread awareness via social media. The volunteers from various institutions made videos related to the prevention of COVID-19 by demonstrating Hand wash, Hand sanitization, Social Distancing, symptoms of Corona Virus etc. and distributed handmade face masks among their family members and their neighbors (200+ videos and Photos were shared in YouTube and in Facebook).
Sikkim being a small State, due to the Lockdown, frequent rainfall and thunderstorm, the Volunteers are putting their best foot forward even when most of the people working are facing Network connectivity problems and slow Internet. Sikkim is the only state with 0 positive cases of COVID-19 because of the fact that there is strict initiation of the lockdown by the government.

State NSS officer,
Department of Sports and Youth Affairs,
Government of Sikkim
(18th April’20)

To:
1. Regional Director, Government of India

Copy for information:
2. Secretary, SYA, Government of Sikkim

- Video Conference held on 2nd April 2020 through mobile app, was an online training program. A Total of 13,291 Volunteer enrollment, contact details of various Institutions is submitted to the Regional Director (NSS), will participate in the further online training and other necessary activities.

- State NSS Cell has been intimating information and necessary instructions via group chats with the Program Officers concerned. The Program Officers along with their volunteers are ready for any assignment as and when required at all levels.

- The Honorable Prime Minister on 3rd April announced to turn off all the lights for 9 minutes from 9:00 pm to 9:09 pm and to light up lamps, torch etc.in solidarity to end the “Darkness” of COVID-19. The State NSS Volunteers through respective Program Officers initiated the same and ensured that their neighbors did the same as well.

- Progress report from 10th April 2020 onwards has been submitted daily to the Regional Director. The District Level Nodal Officers are has been emphasizing the need to download AAROGYA SETU app and following the contents of the app to their fellow PO who then are making sure that their NSS volunteers doing the same. More than 60% Volunteers and all PO’s/PC’s have done the same. All the PO’s are guiding their volunteers while registering themselves in the igot.gov.in and later will guide the volunteers in the online training.