

Press release from Social Forestry Division, Gyalshing, under the Forest and Environment Department

Day 5 of Watershed Mahotsav Concludes with Community Shram Daan in Uttarey, Gumba Dara Gyalshing, 8 December: The fifth day of the Watershed Mahotsav witnessed strong community participation in environmental conservation initiatives aimed at protecting forests and water resources in rural Sikkim.

Organised under the Watershed Development Component of PMKSY 2.0 by the Social Forestry Division, Gyalshing, under the Forest and Environment Department, the event began with awareness campaigns, including card displays and slogan chanting promoting water and forest conservation on December 7.

A community Shram Daan followed, where participants contributed to planting Cherry and Azalea saplings and cleaning monastery premises, reinforcing collective responsibility for environmental protection.

Chief Guest Mr NK Karki, SDM Dentam, appreciated the community's efforts and assured continued administrative support for strengthening environmental resilience and water conservation initiatives across the Maneybung-Dentam region. He was accompanied by Mr Diwash Rawali, OSD, department officials, and Panchayat representatives from Begha, Sopakha, and Maneybung GPUs.

Hissey Palmu Bhutia, Head of the monastery, expressed gratitude to the department and participants by offering khadas to distinguished guests. Officials also handed over a water pipe and dustbin to promote improved water use and waste management practices.

Certificates were distributed to participants in recognition of their active engagement, and a token of appreciation was presented to the Chief Guest, marking the conclusion of the day's programme.

Community organizations contributing to the programme included:

1. Samaj Uthan Samiti, Gumba Dara
2. Denzong Sherpa Kyidug Samaj, Sang Dara
3. Sangai SHG, Sang Dara
4. Sangdara Mani Group

As the Mahotsav approaches its final day, the key message resonates: "Forests protect water — safeguarding both is a shared responsibility for a sustainable future."