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Lok Bhavan hosts At Home function to mark 80th Independence Day



Gangtok, August 15: Lok Bhavan hosted At Home function at Ashirwad Hall to mark the 80th Independence Day, today.

The function was attended by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Cabinet Ministers, Chief Secretary, HoDs, Secretaries, senior officers of the State Government, GOCs of the 17 and

27 Mountain Divisions, recipients of National and State Awards, eminent people from different walks of life, representatives of various associations and institutions, farmers, artisans and other invitees.

Mr Jitendra Singh Raje Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Lok Bhavan delivered the welcome

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Sikkim observes Har Ghar Tiranga



Gangtok, August 14: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur along with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, led the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' march from MG Marg, culminating in a commemorative event at Manan Kendra, today.

The programme also honoured 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' and observed 'Partition Horror Remembrance Day'.

The Governor, Chief Minister and other dignitaries viewed a photo exhibition on

'Partition Horror Remembrance Day', displayed at the premises of Manan Kendra.

Governor described the occasion as an emotional and historical and highlighted the evolution of the National Flag noting that it embodies the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters. Tracing its history from early concepts by figures like Madame Cama and Shyamji

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Sikkim inaugurates Organ Transplantation Centre

Gangtok, August 15: The newly established Organ Transplantation Centre and Post-Transplant ICU at STNM Hospital, Gangtok were inaugurated, marking a historic milestone in the advancement of specialised healthcare services in Sikkim, today.

The Organ Transplantation Centre and the Post-Transplant ICU were inaugurated by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur in the presence of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang and Mr GT Dhungel Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Ayush Departments.

The inauguration of the Organ Transplantation Centre and Post-Transplant ICU was conducted at the Level 7 OT Complex entrance. The dignitaries unveiled the commemorative plaque, formally dedicating the newly established facilities to the people of Sikkim.

Following the inauguration of the Organ Transplantation Centre and Post-Transplant ICU at STNM Hospital, Chief Minister Mr



Prem Singh Tamang described the commencement of kidney transplantation in Sikkim as a historic milestone achieved on the 80th Independence Day.

The Chief Minister informed that two Sikkimese patients were

undergoing kidney transplantation for the first time within the State and expressed confidence in the success of the procedures. He congratulated the Health and

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Sikkim celebrates 80th Independence Day

Gangtok, August 15: State-level celebration of 80th Independence Day was held at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok, today.

The programme commenced with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang ceremoniously hoisting the National Flag, followed by the national salute. He reviewed the Independence Day parade, which featured contingents from ITBP, SSB, Assam Police, SAP, 2nd IRBn, 3rd IRBn, Sikkim Police (Male and Female Platoons), Forest Department, Home Guards and Civil Defence, NCC and participating school contingents from Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School, TNA, Modern Senior Secondary School, Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior Secondary School, Enchey Senior Secondary School, West Point Senior Secondary School, Tadong Senior Secondary School and Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School, along with the Sikkim Police Band. The 7th Assam Police Battalion participated as the Guest Platoon.

The parade was led by Mr Santosh Baniya Additional Superintendent of Police with Mr Manish Gurung Police Inspector serving as the Parade 2 IC.



Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence and expressed gratitude to the armed forces and Paramilitary

forces, Sikkim Police and all security personnel for their service in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty, unity and security.

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Panchayat Sammelan on VB-G RAM-G

Pakyong, August 12: District-Level Panchayat Sammelan on Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM-G) organised by the Rural Development Department (RDD) was held at Rurban complex, Pakyong, today.

The programme was graced by Ms Prabha Pradhan Zilla Upadhaksha as the chief guest, in the presence of Mr Anil Raj Rai Secretary, RDD.

Addressing the gathering, Zilla Upadhaksha emphasised on the importance of the programme and the role of Panchayats in advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. She stated that sustainable development begins with the progress and empowerment of individual villages and urged Panchayat representatives to work towards making their respective areas self-reliant and sustainable.

She also highlighted the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in strengthening local livelihoods and promoting women's economic empowerment and encouraged to support SHGs by prioritising locally produced products and creating opportunities for their wider utilisation and market access. She further called for greater coordination among Panchayat members and concerned departments and urged to utilise the PanchSammelan as a platform for sharing their challenges, identifying local priorities and accelerating plans on long-term development in their respective areas.

Secretary RDD, emphasised the importance of involving and empowering the younger generation in the Swachh Bharat Mission while describing them as future ambassadors of the State. He stressed the need to preserve Sikkim's legacy as a fully ODF State while promoting sustainable development through collective responsibility and community participation.

Highlighting the four thematic areas under VB-G RAM-G that are water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and mitigation of extreme weather events, he urged the Panchayat members to focus on projects that deliver substantial and sustainable outcomes for communities. He also stressed the importance of proper documentation and digital compliance, including timely completion of e-KYC and accurate maintenance of job-card records, to ensure that eligible workers receive the benefits and entitlements under the scheme.

Ms Tshering Lhaden Lachungpa Special Secretary, Rural Development Department-cum-Mission Director, VB-G RAM-G underscored that Panchayat representatives play a crucial role in grassroots

implementation of VB-G RAM-G. She advised the participants to actively engage and equip themselves with the necessary knowledge to ensure effective implementation of the scheme towards the holistic and sustainable development of their respective areas.

Likewise, Ms Koshi Kapil Special Secretary, RDD-cum-Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G) highlighted the convergence of SBM-G and Finance Commission (FFC) grants, with emphasis on the nine themes of Panchayati Raj and various sanitation and rural development initiatives undertaken by the department. She highlighted various initiatives undertaken SBM-G, including water and greywater management, solid waste management, Community Sanitary complexes and other infrastructure and stressed the importance of community participation in sustaining ODF Plus outcomes. She further urged the Panchayats to regularly inspect community structures created under the department and ensure timely reporting of issues to facilitate their proper functioning and maintenance.

Furthermore, she also briefed on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, highlighting the responsibilities of local bodies, institutions and communities in effective waste management. She apprised on the need for proper waste segregation, identification of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), systematic collection, recycling, processing and safe disposal of waste at the Gram Panchayat level to ensure cleaner, healthier and sustainable communities.

During the meeting, Mr Sangay Gyatso Bhutia ADC (Development) Pakyong described the launch of VB-G RAM-G as a significant milestone in strengthening rural livelihoods, village infrastructure and sustainable employment opportunities. He acknowledged the contribution of officials and stakeholders towards effective implementation of rural development programmes at the grassroots level.

Mr Deepak Rai Joint Secretary, VB-G RAM-G, delivered a presentation on VB-G RAM-G, outlining its key provisions and major enhancements, including 125 days of guaranteed wage employment, wage payments within 14 days, and a 60:40 centre-state funding ratio. He highlighted the objectives of the initiative and its focus on the four thematic areas, with the broader aim of advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

He further highlighted the importance of outcome-based Gram Panchayat planning, convergence and saturation of Government schemes, emphasising integrated and need-based planning to maximise

the impact of rural development interventions. He elaborated on the key role of Zilla Panchayats and Gram Panchayats in identifying priorities, planning and implementing works while ensuring transparency, accountability, effective utilisation of resources and sustainable outcomes.

Assistant Programme Mr Tufan Subba Coordinator, RDD, emphasised the planning and fund-flow mechanism under VB-G RAM-G, explaining the systematic workflow from work identification and prioritisation to administrative and technical sanction and execution. He highlighted the importance of proper planning, convergence of resources, timely approvals, transparent fund utilisation and effective monitoring for quality implementation and desired outcomes. He also highlighted the role of technology-enabled monitoring in strengthening transparency and accountability throughout the implementation process.

Likewise, Mr Mahindra Luitel GIS Expert, RDD, provided an overview of the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP), highlighting its alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and its focus on saturation-based, future-ready, convergence-driven and evidence-based planning at the Gram Panchayat level. He elaborated on community participation, geospatial assessment, identification of development gaps and integration of local priorities with available resources under VB-G RAM-G. He also briefed the participants on the Yuktdhara Planning Portal, which supports GIS-enabled asset mapping, gap assessment and scientific identification of development interventions.

During the programme, the MGNREGA Social Audit Kick-Off Meeting was also conducted, wherein Ms Sridhi Rai DRP, Social Audit Unit, provided an overview of the MGNREGA Social Audit for FY 2026-27. She shared the status of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) and key findings, along with the Social Audit Calendar for FY 2026-27. She further briefed the participants on the prescribed checklists, required records and documents at the block level, highlighting pending issues requiring follow-up and timely action to strengthen transparency, accountability and compliance in the implementation of MGNREGA.

An interactive session was also held during which participants raised queries and sought clarifications on various aspects of the schemes and their implementation.

Also present were Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, Joint Director, Social Audit Unit and officials from the Rural Development Department.

Minister Samdup Lepcha inaugurates Police Assistance Booth at Chungthang

Mangan, August 15: Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Social Welfare Department-cum-Area MLA Lachen-Mangan Constituency inaugurated the Police Assistance Booth at Chungthang on the occasion of 80th Independence Day, today.

Tourism Minister reviews progress of Singshore bridge glass-deck skywalk project

Gyalshing, August 11: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation (T&CA) inspected the ongoing Singshore Bridge Glass-deck Skywalk project near Uttarey under Maneybong-Dentam in Gyalshing District, today.

The tourism infrastructure project is being developed with support from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under the PM-DevINE scheme.

The project aims to transform the iconic Singshore Bridge located between Dentam and Uttarey, into a major tourist and adventure destination featuring a transparent glass-floored skywalk and bungee jumping facilities.

Construction work is

The new booth will help provide quick assistance and support to the local people and visitors. The inauguration reflects the commitment towards better public service, safety, and convenience for the people of Chungthang.

progressing at a steady pace under the supervision of the T&CA Department, Government of Sikkim.

During the inspection, Minister took stock of the progress of the project and directed the executing agency to expedite construction while ensuring that prescribed quality standards are maintained. He also assured all possible support from the T&CA Department for the timely and quality completion of the project.

The transformation of Singshore Bridge into a glass-deck skywalk is expected to further strengthen Sikkim's tourism infrastructure and enhance the adventure-tourism potential of the State.

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Sikkim inaugurates...

Family Welfare Department, doctors, nurses, technicians and all personnel involved in making the initiative possible.

He highlighted the expansion of healthcare services since 2019, including dialysis centres across the State and the introduction of specialised cancer treatment, noting that these initiatives have significantly reduced the need for patients to travel outside Sikkim for treatment.

The Chief Minister also urged citizens to place greater trust in Sikkim's doctors and healthcare institutions, stating that the State now has qualified super-specialists and modern medical infrastructure in several fields.

Highlighting the support extended to patients, he stated that eligible BPL families and Sikkim Subject Certificate/domicile holders would receive comprehensive assistance for kidney transplantation, including treatment, surgery and diagnostic tests, while post-operative medicines for up to six months and required surgical kits would also be supported under the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme.

The Chief Minister extended his best wishes to the two patients and their families and congratulated the entire healthcare team on this landmark achievement for Sikkim.

Earlier, the family members of the first transplant patients were presented with Post-Operative Care packages under the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme.

Following the inauguration, a video screening of the journey of setting up the kidney transplantation centre was held, showcasing the landmark medical

intervention undertaken at STNM Hospital.

The landmark procedure was undertaken by the specialised transplant team from RN Tagore Hospital, Kolkata led by Dr TA Jahangir, in close coordination with Dr Abhishek Gautam, Nephrologist, STNM Hospital and the medical and support teams of STNM Hospital.

The historic procedures involved two Sikkimese patients. Mr Neching Lepcha from Tashiding underwent kidney transplantation with his wife, Ms Pem Diki Lepcha as the donor. The second transplant was Ms Shova Chettri from Bhusuk, who received a kidney donated by Mr Dal Bahadur Chettri.

The programme was attended by Mr Thenlay Tshering Bhutia MLA-cum-Advisor, Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Phurba Rinzing Sherpa Chairperson Health and Family Welfare Department, Mr Tshewang Gyachho Secretary Health and Family Welfare Department alongside Principal Director Medical Superintendent, Additional Medical Superintendents, senior officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department, hospital administrators, specialist doctors, members of the transplant and operating teams, nursing officers, paramedical personnel, engineers, technical staff and other stakeholders associated with the establishment and operationalisation of the facilities.

The inauguration of the Organ Transplantation Centre and Post-Transplant ICU represents a significant addition to Sikkim's healthcare infrastructure and reflects the state's continued efforts towards expanding access to advanced medical services for its citizens.

IPRD holds meeting to review digital media empanelment guidelines

Gangtok, August 13: Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) held a meeting to review and deliberate on the guidelines for the digital empanelment of media organisations in the State at the conference hall, Soochna Bhawan.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Ashit Rai Chairman, IPRD in the presence of Mr Yougan Tamang Press Secretary to the Chief Minister, Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary, IPRD, Mr Sunil Kumar Mothay Director, IPRD, Mr Samir Hang Subba President, Press Club of Sikkim, and Mr Prabin Khaling President, Journalist Union of Sikkim.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the proposed guidelines, with focus on establishing a clear, transparent and structured framework for the empanelment of eligible digital media organisations. The deliberations also covered the criteria and requirements to be fulfilled by digital media organisations seeking empanelment with the Department.

The meeting discussed the potential benefits of empanelment for Sikkim-based digital media platforms, including greater recognition, wider outreach and participation in Government communication and publicity initiatives. The importance of maintaining professional standards, credibility, transparency and responsible journalism in the evolving digital media landscape was also highlighted.

The participants deliberated on various aspects of the guidelines to ensure that the proposed framework is practical, inclusive and aligned with the changing dynamics of digital journalism. The initiative is aimed at strengthening coordination between the Department and digital media organisations while facilitating a more organised and accountable digital media ecosystem in the State.

The meeting also emphasised the need to encourage credible and professionally managed digital platforms that contribute to the timely dissemination of information and enhance public access to news and government-related information.

The discussions are expected to contribute towards further refinement of the guidelines and the development of a comprehensive framework for digital media organisations in the State.

Also present were executive members of the Press Club of Sikkim and Journalist Union of Sikkim and officials of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Government of Sikkim

Health & Family Welfare Department

Gangtok

No:-12/PDHS/H&FWD/2026-27

Date-11/08/2026

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB)

Engagement of a Catering / Mess Service Provider for Namchi District Hospital, Namchi District, Sikkim

Sealed bids are invited from eligible, validly registered, and experienced local mess service operators, food canteen operators, catering service providers, or catering firms for the supply of nutritious and balanced diets to indoor patients of Namchi District Hospital, Namchi District, Sikkim. The bidder shall be a valid voter of 11-Namchi Singhithang Assembly Constituency only. The details of the schedule are as under:-

Event	Date	Time
Issue of Bid Documents Commences	14 th August, 2026	11:00 A.M. onwards
Issue of Bid Documents Closes	29 th August, 2026	Upto 2:00 P.M.
Last Date for Submission of Bids	31 st August, 2026	Upto 1:00 P.M.
Opening of Bids	31 st August, 2026	2:00 P.M. onwards
Venue for Opening of Bids	Office of the Principal Director-III, Health & Family Welfare Department, Gangtok	

The Bid Forms, Terms and Conditions of Contract, and prescribed Diet Menu may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Accounts Officer-I (CAO-I), Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, on production of a non-refundable Bank Receipt of ₹50,000/-, credited under Major Head 0210-01-800-Other Receipts (Sale of Bid Document), for the diet supply contract of Namchi District Hospital.

Principal Director-III
Health & Family Welfare Department,
Government of Sikkim,
Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok.
(76,II)

Agriculture Department

Government of Sikkim

Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim-737102

No: 173/Secy/Agri

Date: 07/08/26

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Proposals are invited from registered and experienced firms/JV for following Works. The tender documents can be downloaded from the official website <https://www.agri.sikkim.gov.in> from 19.08.2026 to 10.09.2026. Non-refundable cost of tender documents/ tender fee is INR 5,00,000/- (Indian Rupees five lakhs only) in the form of Demand draft only. The details of Works are as under:

S.No	Name of work	Approximate cost of work	Completion period
1	Setting up a State of the Art organic food testing laboratory at Majhitar, Pakyong District, Sikkim on a turnkey basis	INR 35.20 Crores (Excluding taxes)	2 years

Any clarification/corrigendum/addendum to the tender documents will be uploaded on the official website only, without any obligation of press notification.

For further details and information, may contact at the following e mail ID: agri.secretary.sikkim@gmail.com or No.:+91-7001688952

Secretary
Agriculture Department
(75,II)

8th Batch of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra returns to India via Nathula

Gangtok, August 11: The 8th Batch of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) 2026, comprising of 41 yatris, two Liaison Officers (LOs) and one Medical Officer, with a total batch strength of 44 members returned to India through the Nathula border after completing the sacred pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar.

The returning yatris were warmly received in Gangtok by Mr Amit Kapil Chettri DGM, Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC) accompanied by officials and staff of STDC. The reception programme was graced by Mr Lukendra Rasaily Chairman STDC as chief guest.

As part of the programme, the yatris were felicitated with certificates in recognition of their successful completion of the sacred pilgrimage.

During the interaction, the yatris and Liaison Officers shared their experiences and feedback on the Yatra. They expressed their sincere gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of Sikkim, STDC and all the line agencies involved in the conduct of the Yatra. They particularly appreciated the arrangements and services provided by STDC from Delhi up to Nathula on the Indian side, stating that the support, coordination and hospitality extended to them contributed significantly to making their journey smooth, comfortable and successful.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman STDC congratulated the yatris on the successful completion of their pilgrimage and appreciated their dedication and spirit throughout the journey. He also urged the yatris to become brand ambassadors of Sikkim and upon returning to their respective places, share their experiences and promote Sikkim, its natural beauty, rich culture and warm hospitality.

Following their stay in Sikkim, the yatris are scheduled to depart for their respective destinations via Bagdogra on August 12, 2026, carrying with them cherished memories of their pilgrimage and their experience of Sikkim.

Before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim at

Gangtok

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Deepak Gurung**, son of Late Damber Bahadur Gurung, aged about 59 years, by faith Buddhist, by occupation retire Government employee, resident of Lower MG Marg, Namnang, Gangtok, District Gangtok, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

- That I am a law-abiding citizen of India (Sikkimese Orgin) residing at the above-mentioned address.
- That minor child **Samantha Subba** (Female), born on 23/06/2010, is the biological daughter of Mr. Sunny Subba and Mrs. Deepika Gurung, resident of Lower M.G Marg, Gangtok, Sikkim.
- That vide Adoption Order No.02/WCSC&DWD/MUS/RA/DCPU(G)/2026-2027 dated 16/04/2026 passed by the Office of the District Magistrate, Gangtok District, Sikkim (under Schedule XXXIII, Registration No. RSSK202506207792), I along with my spouse, **Denka Gurung**, have legally adopted the said minor child Samantha Subba.
- That pursuant to the said Adoption Order issued under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Adoption Regulations, the name of the minor child has been formally changed from **Samantha Subba to Samantha Gurung**.
- That henceforth, the minor child shall be known, named, and addressed as **Samantha Gurung** for all official, legal, educational, civic, and administrative purposes.
- That this affidavit is executed for the purpose of giving public notice in newspapers, updating school/educational records, changing name in government registries, and updating civic identity documents.
- That the statements made in paragraphs 1 to 6 above are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at Gangtok, Sikkim, on this 10th day of August, 2026, that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and no material facts have been concealed therefrom.

DEPONENT

Before the LD. Oath Commissioner, West

Sikkim at Gyalshing

AFFIDAVIT

I. **Sancha Maya Limboo**, Mother of **Army No. 13631780P, Rank-Scout, Name- Basant Rai**, R/O- Banduckey Borbotey, PW Dathong, Maneybong Sopakha GPU, West Sikkim -737113.

declared that: -

- That I have changed my name from **Sancha Maya Rai to Sancha Maya Limboo** due to mismatch in my son's service records.
- That **Sancha Maya Rai** and **Sancha Maya Limboo** both are same person vide Affidavit before the notary at District Gyalshing on 06/07/2026
- That this affidavit is made Bonafide.

VERIFICATION

That the statements made in the above paragraphs 1 to 3 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing has been concealed therein.

I have signed this affidavit on this 6th day of July, 2026, at Gyalshing, West Sikkim.

DEPONENT
Sancha Maya Limboo

Read and Advertise
in
Sikkim Herald

80th Independence Day celebrated in all Districts

Mangan, August 15: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated at Mangan Public Ground, today.

The programme was graced by Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department as the chief guest.

The celebration commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by National Song and rendition of National Anthem by the students of Mangan Senior Secondary School. Minister reviewed the parade and witnessed the march past by the participating contingents.

Thereafter, Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan read out the message of Governor and Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa ADC Mangan read out the message of Chief Minister.

A band display by PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School added to the patriotic spirit of the occasion.

Later, the Shravan Kumar Award for 30 Dzongu Constituency was also presented to 11 awardees in recognition of their dedication and contribution.

On the occasion, Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to employees from different departments and organisations under Mangan District in recognition of their dedicated service.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the significance of Independence Day and spoke about the road conditions in the district. He assured that the State Government would continue to work towards improving road connectivity, addressing related issues in the coming days. He also highlighted that North Sikkim is the only district to have prepared a budget under the Vibrant Villages Programme, reflecting its focus on development in border areas. He called upon everyone to uphold unity, responsibility and dedication towards the progress of Sikkim and the nation.

A CSR cheque from Canara Bank was also distributed during the programme.

Similarly, Namchi District joined the nation in commemorating the 80th Independence Day at Bhaichung Stadium, Namchi.

Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban Development Department

graced the occasion as the chief guest. The programme was also attended by Mr Satish Chandra Rai MLA Namchi-Singhithang, Ms Rama Tamang Advisor Panchayati Raj, APS to CM Namchi, Chairperson NMC, DC Namchi, ADC Namchi, SDMs along with Heads of Offices, officials from various line departments, ex-servicemen, teachers, students and public.

The celebration commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by the chief guest, followed by the National Anthem rendered by the student choir of PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School Namchi.

Thereafter, the ceremonial march past was presented by contingents comprising ex-servicemen, NCC cadets and students from various schools, led by the Pipe Band of PM SHRI Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Namchi and Namchi Public School.

As part of the official proceedings, Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi read out the Independence Day message of the Governor, while ADC Namchi Mr Subash Ghimirey read out the Independence Day message of the Chief Minister.

The Minister extended his greetings and best wishes to the people on the 80th Independence Day and congratulated the recipients of the Shravan Kumar Award 2026. He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students and ex-servicemen in the Independence Day parade and commended all those involved in making the celebrations a success.

The occasion also witnessed the presentation of the District Meritorious Service Awards (DMSA) to Government employees in recognition of their dedicated, committed and exemplary service.

Letters of Appreciation were also presented to Mr Udesch Hang Limboo, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Food and Civil Supplies Department and Mr Sangey Nima Tamang, Naik, Police Station Namchi, in recognition of their dedicated service and support.

The Simran Memorial Trust felicitated Ms Sharmika Sharma, Class XII (Science), VCGSS Rabong, for securing 95.20 per cent marks in the AISSCE CBSE examination for the academic year

2025-26.

The prestigious Shravan Kumar Award 2026 was also presented to 54 individuals from across Namchi District.

In the March Past Competition, PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School Namchi secured the first position, followed by PM SHRI Girls Senior Secondary School Namchi in second place and Namchi Public School in third place, respectively.

As part of the district’s continued commitment towards a drug-free society, the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) Pledge was administered by the SDM Namchi.

Likewise, the 80th Independence Day celebration commenced with great enthusiasm at Kyongsa Stadium, Gyalshing. Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Buildings and Housing Department graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Upon his arrival, Minister was welcomed by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, Ms Paru Ruchal Superintendent of Police Gyalshing, Mr Narayan Khatiwara Chairman, RDD, Mr Suresh Rai ADC Gyalshing, SDMs and Heads of Offices.

The programme commenced with a Guard of Honour presented by the Sikkim Police. Thereafter, Minister hoisted the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem presented by PM SHRI GGSSS, Kyongsa.

The ceremony featured a March Past by contingents of the SSB, Sikkim Police, Forest Department and students, along with a School Band display by PM SHRI GSSS, Pelling.

The Governor’s message was read out by DC Gyalshing and the message of the Chief Minister was read out by ADC Gyalshing.

Addressing the gathering, Minister extended his greetings and highlighted the significance of Independence Day.

A Felicitation Programme was organised to honour recipients of the District Meritorious Service Award 2026 for their dedicated service and contributions. The programme also included the felicitation of Shravan Kumar Awardees under Gyalshing District.

The day also witnessed the felicitation of beneficiaries under

Aama Sahayog Yojana 2026, District School Toppers in the 2026 Board Examinations, including four Class XII toppers and one Class X topper, as well as the Best Contingent.

Similarly, Pakyong District joined the nation in celebrating the 80th Independence Day at St Xavier’s School Ground, Pakyong.

The celebration was graced by Mr Puran Kumar Gurung Minister for Agriculture Department as the chief guest.

The Minister was accompanied by Zilla Adhyaksha, Zilla Upadhyaksha, Additional Political Secretary to the CM, Chairperson, Commerce and Industries Department, Chairman, Department of Panchayati Raj, Chairman, Transport Department, District Collector Pakyong, Superintendent of Police Pakyong; ADC (Hq) Pakyong, ADC (Dev), Pakyong, SDM (Hq), SDM Pakyong and OSDs.

Upon his arrival, the Minister hoisted the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem and presentation of Guard of Honour by the Police Department, Pakyong.

The programme included a march past by contingents from various schools, NCC, Scouts and Guides, with competitive and non-competitive categories and a band display.

Ms Pari Bishnoi DC Pakyong read out the Independence Day message of the Governor and Mr Sabindra Rai ADC (Hq) Pakyong read out the Independence Day message of Chief Minister.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister extended his warm greetings and highlighted the significance of the occasion. He spoke about the Government’s efforts towards strengthening specialised healthcare services in the State and highlighted the commencement of kidney transplantation services in Sikkim. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for the announcement to upgrade the existing Rhenock Hospital into a 100-bedded facility, noting that the initiative would further benefit the people of the region.

The programme included the presentation of the Shravan Kumar Award under the Rural Development Department, with 27 beneficiaries recognised for their

care and support towards their parents.

Various awards and Letters of Appreciation were also presented during the programme.

Under the Administration category, a Letter of Appreciation was presented to Mr Thendup Lepcha SDM (Hq) Pakyong.

Ms Arpana Gurung, SIA, IPRD, received appreciation under the Sports Department category.

The District Meritorious Award for non-gazetted employees were also presented.

A Token of Appreciation to Safaikarmachari from the UDD was presented.

Certificates of Excellence were presented to district toppers of Classes X and XII from CBSE and ICSE.

Awards for the Best March Past Contingent were also presented.

In Soreng, Mr MN Sherpa Speaker SLA graced the 80th Independence Day celebration as the chief guest at the Integrated Engineering Complex, Dak Bungalow, Soreng.

The programme featured a series of patriotic performances and felicitation of the awardees.

Upon arrival, the chief guest was accorded warm welcome by the District Administration officers and officials, following which, he was presented with the Guard of Honour. The ceremony proceeded with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the singing of the National Song and the National Anthem.

The Independence Day message of the Governor was read out by Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector Soreng, whereas the message of the Chief Minister was read out by Mr DR Bista ADC Soreng.

On the occasion, Speaker extended warm greetings and conveyed his best wishes to the recipients of Shravan Kumar Award and appreciated the initiative in recognising deserving individuals.

Highlighting several initiatives of the Chief Minister, he particularly spoke about the decision taken to promote traditional attire in Sikkim. He urged Soreng District to take the lead in implementing the CM’s vision and work towards becoming a truly digital and data-driven district.

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Sikkim observes...

Krishna Varma to Pingali Venkayya’s 1921 design, he emphasised that the Tiranga represents national unity and civic responsibility.

Reflecting on ‘Vande Mataram’, authored by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the Governor led the audience in chanting lines from the song and described it as a symbol of reverence for the motherland. He expressed gratitude to Union Home Minister Mr Amit Shah for recent legislative efforts to accord National Song status and mandated respect to ‘Vande Mataram’. He encouraged public offices and households to display

its text.

Recounting the tragedies of the 1947 partition, the Governor paid tribute to those who suffered and lost their lives. He shared memories of hearing accounts of trains arriving during partition and reflected on the suffering and sacrifices of those affected.

Emphasising civic duty, he urged the youth to demonstrate patriotism through honesty, environmental protection, unity and contribution to a developed India (Viksit Bharat). He appealed to citizens, legislators and residents of border villages to participate enthusiastically in the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ initiative.

Earlier, Mr Basant Kumar Lama Secretary Culture Department in his welcome address briefed on the importance of the

day’s programme and the significance of remembering the sacrifices and suffering during partition, honouring Vande Mataram and promoting patriotism through the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign.

Research Officer from the Culture Department, Ms Yangchen Donker Bhutia, delivered a brief talk

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Lok Bhavan...

address and extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries present on the occasion.

The ‘At Home’ function was marked by patriotic fervour and cultural performances by the Department of Music, Sikkim University. Adding to the

on ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ and ‘Partition Horror Remembrance Day’.

Following this, artistes from the Culture Department led the gathering in a mass singing of ‘Vande Mataram’ and the National Anthem.

During the programme, a two-minute silence was observed

programme, children of Lok Bhavan staff presented a cultural programme on the theme ‘Viksit Bharat @2047’. The performance displayed India’s rich cultural identity and highlighted the nation’s vision of rapid, inclusive and sustainable development showcased its economic progress, women’s empowerment alongwith emergence as a progressive and forward-looking nation.

in memory of those who lost their lives during partition.

A short video by the National School of Drama highlighting the horrors of partition was screened.

The event concluded with two patriotic songs by artistes from the Culture Department.

As part of the celebration, two books were released by the Governor in the presence of the Chief Minister and other dignitaries. The first book, titled ‘Vichar Aur Drishti’ is a compilation of speeches and addresses of the Governor delivered on various occasions. The second book titled ‘Chhatra’, was authored by Mr GL Meena Joint Secretary, Urban Development Department.

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Sikkim celebrates...

Highlighting Sikkim's strategic importance as a sensitive border state, he said that national security remained a priority for the State Government. He informed that 20% reservation each has been ensured for ex-Agniveers in the recruitment of Constables in Sikkim Police and Forest Guards in the Forest and Environment Department.

Emphasising the importance of border development, the Chief Minister said that the border should not be viewed as the last part of the country, but as the place where India begins. He stated that infrastructure development is being undertaken in 46 border villages of Sikkim under the Vibrant Villages Programme, stressing that vibrant villages, roads, schools, healthcare, communication, employment opportunities and confident citizens are equally important for a strong border.

Recalling Sikkim's contribution to the freedom struggle, he paid rich tribute to freedom fighters Savitri Devi, also known as Helen Lepcha and Trilochan Pokhrel, popularly remembered as 'Bande Pokhrel' or 'Gandhi Pokhrel'. He stated that the State had honoured their legacy by naming the Medical College after Helen Lepcha and Pakyong Airport after Trilochan Pokhrel.

The Chief Minister also highlighted Sikkim's recent achievements during its Golden Jubilee year, including the conferment of the prestigious President's Colour upon Sikkim Police by the President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu. He expressed gratitude to the President, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi and the Government of India for their support and participation in the State's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

On the state's economic progress, the Chief Minister said that Sikkim's GSDP growth had averaged more than 12.6% over the past eight years, while the state's GSDP had increased from ₹28,402 crore in 2018-19 to approximately ₹62,973 crore in 2026-27. He said the State is targeting an annual average economic growth rate of more than 13% in the coming years towards achieving Viksit Sikkim @2047.

Chief Minister announced a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for State Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, applicable for the period from January 1 to June 2026, with the arrears to be paid before Dashain 2026.

The Chief Minister stated that the State Government has decided to follow the centre's revision of DA and DR, highlighting that Sikkim has consistently increased and disbursed DA and DR for its employees and pensioners in line with revisions made by the Government of India.

The Chief Minister also announced several initiatives and highlighted achievements across

key sectors.

In healthcare, he announced the launch of the Kidney Transplant Programme at STNM Hospital, while adding that Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College had received permission to admit 100 MBBS students annually from 2026-27. He also highlighted progress in cancer treatment, dialysis and specialist healthcare services.

In education, he highlighted Sikkim's achievement of being declared a fully literate state in May 2026, making it the fifth state in the country to attain the status. He also highlighted the implementation of the Kindergarten System in all Government schools, Chief Minister's Model Schools, Special Numeracy Programme and the Chief Minister's Mentorship Programme.

Speaking about youth and employment, he highlighted Sikkim INSPIRES, the Skilled Youth Start-up Scheme, Mukhyamantri Yuva Udhamsheelta Vikas Yojna (MYUVY), SIKKIM RISE and Niyukti Kendra, acknowledging the growing number of MSMEs and employment opportunities for young people.

On agriculture, the Chief Minister announced that eligible farmers who repay their KCC crop loans on time would effectively receive loans at an interest rate of 1%, with the Government bearing the interest component. He also highlighted the 'Mero Elaichi, Mero Dhan' initiative for the revival of large cardamom cultivation.

Tourism, infrastructure, urban development and housing were also highlighted as key areas of the state's development agenda, while outlining various ongoing and proposed tourism projects, including ropeways, the Skywalk, adventure tourism projects and the Holistic Institute of Ayurveda and Wellness Centre.

On women's empowerment, he highlighted the Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, Aama Sahayog Yojana, Bahini Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Vatsalya Yojana, besides announcing the expansion of Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana to cover 50,000 mothers from 2027. He also highlighted the Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Service, operated by women drivers and conductors, as an example of safe public transport, self-reliance and opportunity for women.

He highlighted increasing participation of women in public leadership, stating that 35 women Councillors were elected out of 64 seats in the 2026 Urban Local Body elections, while the Gangtok Municipal Corporation elected its first woman Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Reaffirming the State Government's commitment to Sikkim's cultural identity, the Chief Minister said that the languages, traditions, traditional attire, arts and customs of all communities would continue to be preserved and promoted. He also highlighted efforts towards documentation, reconstruction and preservation of traditional Lepcha Ru-Soam or cane bridges in collaboration with UNESCO.

On the environment, he said that Sikkim's forest cover had increased from 47.08% in 2021 to

approximately 47.33% in 2023, while highlighting initiatives such as 'Mero Rukh, Mero Santati' and 'Mero Bato, Mero Bot'. He also informed about the recording of a tiger at an altitude of 3,966 metres in the Kyongnosla area and the designation of Khecheopalri Wetland as Sikkim's first Ramsar Site.

In sports, he announced plans for the Swarna Jayanti Integrated Sports and Cultural Village, comprising a FIFA-standard football stadium, athletics and field sports complex, indoor stadium, high-performance training centre and sports medicine facilities. Plans for a modern Swarna Jayanti Convention Centre were also highlighted.

The Chief Minister also announced plans to upgrade the existing New Sikkim House in New Delhi, originally constructed as a 26-room facility during the tenure of former Chief Minister Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari, into a modern facility with more than 100 rooms.

Calling upon the people to collectively contribute towards nation-building, the Chief Minister urged citizens to uphold the Constitution and democracy, remain vigilant towards national security, preserve communal harmony, protect the environment and Himalayas, and make hard work, honesty and innovation the foundations of a stronger Sikkim.

He expressed gratitude to the farmers, workers, teachers, doctors, nurses, Government employees, Police personnel, entrepreneurs, artists, sportspersons, youth, students, mothers and sisters, senior citizens and citizens from all walks of life for their contribution to the state's development.

The Chief Minister concluded by expressing confidence that through collective resolve, hard work and unity, Viksit Sikkim @2047 would progress proudly alongside the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, and extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim and the nation on the 80th Independence Day.

During the programme, Chief Minister presented awards and medals to several individuals in recognition of their distinguished service and meritorious contributions across diverse fields.

The honours recognised gallantry and distinguished service in the Armed and Police forces, Meritorious service in Government employees, exceptional contributions to society, devotion towards parents, academic excellence, journalism, cooperative performance and achievements in sports.

As a mark of recognition for their valour, courage and distinguished service to the nation, Gallantry Awards were presented to Naik Subedar Mr Kunal Gurung, Havildar Mr Arun Kumar Subedi, Naik Mr Budhi Raj Rai, Naik Mr Jhanu Prasad Chettri and Naik, Mr Pukar Kattel.

The Police Medal for Meritorious Service conferred on the occasion of Republic Day, 2025 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was pinned on Mr Hem Raj Rai Inspector General of Police.

The President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service conferred on the occasion of Republic Day, 2025, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was pinned on Mr Sonam Detchu Bhutia Superintendent of Police.

The Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service conferred on the occasion of Republic Day, 2025, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was pinned on Mr Bishnu Bhakta Sharma Assistant Sub-Fire Officer.

The Police Medal for Meritorious Service, conferred on the occasion of Independence Day, 2025 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was pinned on Mr Rinzing Choda Bhutia Head Constable.

Thereafter, the State Meritorious Service Awards were conferred to Mr Hemant Rai Special Secretary-cum-Director, Urban Development Department, Mr Amber Das Chhetri Director, Education Department, Mr John Gurung Joint Secretary, Home Department, Ms Norbu Doma Bhutia Headmistress, Asha Kiran Special School for Speech and Hearing Impaired, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, Mr Palden N Lachungpa District Civil Supplies Officer, Mangan District, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Ms Jyoti Lepcha Office Superintendent Horticulture Department, Mr Kharga Singh Subba Sub Inspector, Office of Superintendent of Police, Gyalshing District, Police Headquarters, Mr Bhai Kumar Gurung Assistant Sub-Inspector, Sikkim Armed Police, Pangthang, Police Headquarters, Mr Suk Bahadur Tamang Naik, Pakyong Police Station, Pakyong District, Police Headquarters, Mr Pema Tenzing Bhutia Production Assistant, Printing and Stationery Department, Mr Raj Kumar Chettri Supervisor, Public Health Engineering Department and Mr Dinesh Ram Safaikarmachari Tourism and Civil Aviation Department in recognition of dedicated and meritorious service to the State.

Letters of Appreciation were also presented to Dr Tshering Pema Bhutia, for her exceptional contribution to the establishment of the Helen Lepcha Sikkim Medical College, Dr Tarun Kumar Kulshreshtha, for his continuous services towards Persons with Disabilities in Sikkim under Sikkim Divyang Sahayata Samiti and Brigadier Amit Sakhre, Chief Engineer, Project Swastik, Border Roads Organisation.

The programme also featured the presentation of the Shravan Kumar Awards, instituted to recognise individuals for their devotion, care and selfless service towards their parents. The Shravan Kumar Awards were presented to Mr Jas Bahadur Rai, Mr Amit Das Chettri, Mr Madhav Khatiwara, Mr Devi Chand Chettri, Mr Phurba Tshering Bhutia, Mr Ganga Prasad Sharma, Mr Pempa Ongdi Tamang, Mr Kailash Subba, Mr Manzil Gurung, Mr Nima Dorjee Bhutia, Ms Tshering Ongmu Bhutia, Mr Deo Kumar Rai, Mr Santa Das Pradhan, Ms Pintso Doma Bhutia, Ms Pem Chaden Lepcha, Ms Chenga Bhutia, Mr Pema Tshering

Lepcha, Mr Bikash Kami, Ms Kipu Lepcha, Mr Nima Tshering Lepcha, Mr Chewang Dorjee Bhutia and Mr Tseten Dorjee Bhutia.

Recognising academic excellence, the Chief Minister felicitated students who secured the top positions in the State in the Class X and Class XII Board Examinations for the academic year 2025-26.

The Teesta Rangeet Aviral Kalam Puraskar was presented to Mr Pradeep Mizar of Himalaya Darpan in recognition of his contribution to journalism and the media landscape of the State.

The Chief Minister's Award for the Best Performing Cooperative Societies, 2026 was presented to Tareythang MPCs, Padamchey MPCs and Rongli MPCs.

The State Sports Awards for Outstanding Sportspersons were presented to Ms Abhista Basnet-Gold Award, Ms Esmarika Rai-Silver Award and Ms Kelsang Uden Bhutia-Bronze Award.

Additionally, the celebration also featured the release and launch of several important publications, guidelines, products and reports by various departments.

The Education Department released the Reintegration of Out-of-School Children in Sikkim-Operational Guidelines, aimed at providing a structured framework for bringing out-of-school children back into the formal education system.

While the Social Welfare Department released five books featuring translations in five tribal languages of Sikkim, the Information and Public Relations Department (IPR) released the latest edition of Sikkim Today, the department's flagship publication showcasing the state's development journey, achievements, culture and emerging opportunities.

Subsequently, three new tea products from Temi Tea Estate, namely; Temi Milk Tea, Temi Guras Tea and Temi White Tea were also launched during the programme.

The Directorate of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation (DESM&E) also released two survey reports, namely the Survey of Hotels and Homestays and the Survey of Industries.

The ceremonial programme also featured a band display by Sikkim Police, followed by a cultural presentation organised by the Culture Department and performed by students from various schools.

This was followed by a band display by Chief Minister's Model School, Assam Lingzey, and a performance by the Indian Army Band.

Thereafter, the results of the parade competitions were also announced. The 2nd IRBn was adjudged the All-Round Best Platoon in Division A, while the Home Guards and Civil Defence contingent was adjudged the All-Round Best Platoon in Division B. Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School was adjudged the Best School Contingent.

The programme concluded with a mass singing of the National Song led by artistes from the Culture Department.

Chief Minister felicitates kidney transplant team

Gangtok, August 15: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended a felicitation ceremony for the kidney transplant team at a local hotel in Gangtok, recognising their contribution to the landmark achievement of the State Government, today.

In his address, Chief Minister described the first kidney transplant in the State as a historic achievement for the healthcare sector. He said that the milestone reflected the unity, dedication and hard work of the Health Department and the medical teams involved.

He expressed gratitude to the specialist medical team from R N Tagore Hospital, Kolkata led by Dr TA Jahangir, for its support and guidance and acknowledged the doctors, nurses, technicians and

other healthcare professionals whose efforts contributed to the achievement.

The Chief Minister said the facility would enable people to access advanced transplant treatment within the State and reduce the difficulties faced by patients and their families who previously had to travel to other cities for kidney transplant services.

He said that strengthening healthcare has remained a key priority and highlighted the expansion of dialysis services and the introduction of chemotherapy and radiation therapy at STNM Hospital. He also stressed the need for greater attention to diet, lifestyle and preventive healthcare in view of the increasing number of diabetes and cancer cases.

High Court of Sikkim celebrates 80th Independence Day

Gangtok, August 15: High Court of Sikkim observed the 80th Independence Day at the High Court of Sikkim with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm, today.

Justice Mr Bhaskar Raj Pradhan Judge, High Court of Sikkim, hoisted the National Flag, following which he received the Guard of Honour from Sikkim Armed Police. The ceremony also featured a rendition of 'Vande Mataram', followed by the National Anthem.

The Independence Day celebrations continued with a cultural programme held at the Auditorium of the High Court of Sikkim presented by students and members of DIET (District Institute of Education and Training) College, Sikkim Judicial Academy, Bojoghari Children Welfare Association, Bar Association of Sikkim (High Court & Subordinate Courts), Sikkim High Court Bar Association and the High Court of Sikkim.

Thereafter, Justice Mr Bhaskar Raj Pradhan Judge, High Court of Sikkim and other dignitaries presented mementos to the participants as a token of appreciation for their performances and contributions to the celebration.

The programme was attended by distinguished guests, including Ms Bindu Mati Pradhan, Ms Manasa Priyadarshini, Mr Aarav Raj Pradhan, Mr Roger Randeep Rai, Senior Advocates, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Judicial Officers, Additional Advocate General, President and Executive Members of the Bar Association of Sikkim (High Court & Subordinate Courts) and Sikkim High Court Bar Association, officers and staff of the District Court, Sikkim Judicial Academy and Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, and officers, staff and medical unit of the Registry of the High Court of Sikkim.

Press Release from SLSA

Gangtok, August 15: Sikkim State Legal Services Authority celebrated the 80th Independence Day at the office premises in Development Area, Gangtok, today.

On this occasion, Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA hoisted the National Flag followed by a Guard of Honour and the rendition of the National Anthem by the Officers and staff of the Sikkim SLSA.

The event was graced by Mrs Manasa Priyadarshana Pradhan, Head Mistress, Foundational level, Tashi Namgyal Academy (spouse of Lordship),

Mr Aarav Raj Pradhan (son of Lordship), Registrar, High Court of Sikkim, Legal Remembrancer-cum-Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sikkim, Judicial Officers of Gangtok District, Chairperson, DLSA, Gangtok, Designated Senior Advocates, High Court of Sikkim, Members of Bar Association of Sikkim (High Court & Subordinate Courts), Ex-Officio Chairperson, Retainer Lawyers, Remand Lawyers, Pro-Bono Lawyers and Panel Advocates of Gangtok District, Officers and Staff members of High Court of Sikkim and Sikkim SLSA and members from the electronic and print media.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

CM attends Independence Day pre-celebration at Mamring

Pakyong, August 13: Mr Prem Singh Tamang Chief Minister-cum-Area MLA Rhenock Constituency, attended Independence Day Pre-Celebration and Football Semifinals at Government Senior Secondary School, Mamring, today. The tournament was organised by Independence Day Celebration Committee (IDCC), Rhenock Constituency, as part of the celebrations marking the 80th Independence Day.

The event had the presence of Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department, Mr Puran Gurung Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, Advisor to Chief Minister, Zilla Adhyaksha, Zilla Upadhyaksha Pakyong District, Chairman, Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes, DIG, SHQ, SSB Gangtok, Chief Information Commissioner, DC Pakyong, SP Pakyong, APS to the Chief Minister, CA to the Chief Minister and others.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister extended greetings on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day pre-celebration and highlighted the significance of the day. Recalling Sikkim's journey as the 22nd state of India, he noted the State's progress over the past five decades across various sectors and expressed gratitude to the people for their continued support and contribution towards Sikkim's development.

Speaking on Pakyong District, Chief Minister highlighted the progress achieved since its establishment and outlined various initiatives aimed at strengthening infrastructure and public services. He mentioned key developments including the District Hospital, new District Administrative Centre building and the Chief Minister's

Model School at Assam Lingzey.

He also outlined proposed initiatives for improving urban amenities, healthcare, tourism infrastructure and road connectivity in the District. Highlighting the Government's efforts in the health sector, he spoke about assistance being extended to patients requiring support.

The Chief Minister urged elected representatives and public representatives to work in coordination towards making Pakyong a model district, stressing the importance of unity, collective responsibility and a shared vision for development.

The Chief Minister reiterated that from 2027, the Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana would be expanded to cover more than 50,000 beneficiaries. He also informed about the State-level Tiranga Yatra scheduled to be held on August 14 and appealed public to participate in the programme as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

Earlier, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Mamring, presented the school vision, highlighting the institution's achievements, initiatives and developmental aspirations and outlined its future priorities and areas requiring further attention for the continued development of the institution.

The Chief Minister was felicitated by Rhenock Tourism Development Society along with IDCC 2026, Rhenock Constituency in recognition of his contributions towards the promotion and development of tourism in various parts of the constituency, supporting local livelihoods and community development and

contributing towards economic self-reliance and public welfare.

As part of the ceremony, Mr Chiranjeev Bhattacharjee Commandant 69 Battalion, SSB, Dhargaon Mamring, Mr Suk Bahadur Tamang Naik, Rorathang Police Station, and Mr Ram Chandra Bastola staff Government Secondary School, Amba were felicitated in recognition of their dedicated service, commitment and contributions towards the community, public service and welfare of the society.

Meanwhile, the second semifinal of 80th Independence Day Constituency-Level Open Football Tournament 2026 was played between Real Aritar and Rangers-19 with the former team emerging victorious with a score line of 3-2.

The final match of the Inter-School Constituency-Level Under-14 Boys Football Tournament was also played between Rorathang Senior Secondary School and PM SHRI Dikling Senior Secondary School, with the latter team securing victory by a score line of 4-1.

Swasti Bachan by Sanskrit Pathshala, Pacheykhani, a Band Display and Tattoo Drill by the 69 Battalion, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Dhargaon, Mamring followed by musical performance by Arpana Acharya, finalist of Nepal Idol was also presented as part of the programme.

Prior to the event, the Chief Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the NCC cadets of Government Senior Secondary School, Mamring.

Also present were Zilla and Gram Panchayats, officials from various departments under the district and public.

CEO Sikkim shares latest status of revision process

Gangtok, August 14: Mr Raj Kumar Yadav Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Sikkim, shared the latest status of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls 2026, covering the progress of hearings, claims and objections, notice delivery and the timeline for final publication, today.

The CEO informed that approximately 4,72,000 electors were covered under the SIR exercise, with Enumeration Forms distributed and collected through Booth Level Officers (BLOs) through a door-to-door exercise. Of these, 37,724 forms remained uncollected.

He informed that 1,20,424 notices have so far been delivered, while the remaining notices are in the process of being delivered. The hearing process is also progressing, with 1,15,748 hearings completed so far. As per the latest data, 12,929 electors have been found not eligible for final inclusion, while 55,669 have been found eligible and 17,177 cases remain under document verification.

With regard to the uncollected Enumeration Forms, the CEO informed that 1,460 Form 6 claims have been received so far. These claims are being scrutinised

in accordance with the prescribed documents and eligibility criteria.

On the progress of hearings, the CEO informed that 100 per cent of hearings have been completed in four Assembly Constituencies, 14-Temi-Namphing, 25-Upper Tadong, 27-Gangtok and 29-Kabi Lungchok.

Hearings are continuing in the remaining constituencies, with the concerned EROs and AROs being advised to expedite the pending cases. He also appealed to electors to extend their cooperation to the election machinery for timely completion of the process.

The CEO further informed that 57 first appeals have been received at the District level, of which 55 are currently pending. He urged electors and stakeholders with grievances regarding the electoral roll to utilise the prescribed appeal mechanism and submit their applications within the stipulated timelines.

He also informed that hearings conducted under the SIR process are being documented through video recording and photography to ensure transparency and proper record keeping.

On the timeline ahead, the

CEO stated that the remaining hearings are expected to be completed by August 16-17, following which re-hearings, scrutiny of Form 6 applications, processing of Form 7 and disposal of pending appeals will be undertaken up to September 2.

Preparation for final publication will be carried out from September 3 to 5, with the Final Electoral Roll scheduled for publication on September 6, 2026. A meeting with representatives of political parties and a press conference to share the final electoral figures are scheduled for September 7.

The CEO clarified that after final publication, the electoral roll will continue to remain open for continuous updation as per the prescribed procedure, with eligible citizens able to submit the relevant forms for inclusion, deletion or correction.

The CEO appreciated the BLOs, AEROs, EROs and other officials involved in the SIR exercise. He informed that outstanding officials will be identified for recognition, with the best-performing BLOs, AEROs and EROs proposed to be felicitated on National Voters' Day on January 25, 2027.