



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 70 No. 18

Gangtok (Tuesday) May 05, 2026

National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education concludes



Gangtok, May 2: National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education concluded with the final closing plenary session held at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Organised by High Court of Sikkim in collaboration with e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, the two-day conclave, comprising of two conferences being

simultaneously held at Chintan Bhawan and Samman Bhawan, brought together members of the judiciary, legal experts and delegates from across the country and abroad to deliberate on the role of technology in strengthening judicial systems and legal education.

Governor Mr Om Prakash

Mathur attended the closing plenary session as the chief guest.

In his address, the Governor underscored the urgent need to integrate technology with legal education and judicial processes, while ensuring inclusivity and accessibility, during the concluding session of a two-day conference on Judicial and Technological Education.

The Governor described the conference as a 'significant step towards strengthening one of the foundational pillars of democracy the judiciary.'

Highlighting the State's progressive approach, the Governor stated that the deliberations throughout the conclave reflected the growing importance of aligning judicial systems with rapid technological advancements.

He emphasised that the adoption of digital tools is not

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Army felicitation ceremony organised



Gangtok, April 30: Army felicitation ceremony was organised to honour the Black Cat Division of the Indian Army stationed in Gangtok, along with its various units, for their role in safeguarding the nation's borders and their outstanding contributions to social activities at Lok Bhavan, today.

Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur attended the occasion as the chief guest along with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as a special guest.

The event was attended by GOC Black Cat Division, Major General MS Rathore (SM, VSM, AVSM) and the newly appointed GOC Mr Ashish Negi.

During the programme, a citation was presented to the Black Cat Division.

Governor emphasised that Sikkim holds immense strategic importance and commended the

Indian Army for living by the ideal of 'Seva Parmo Dharma'. He further highlighted that the Army has made remarkable contributions not only in ensuring security but also in the field of development in Sikkim.

The Governor lauded the developmental works being carried out at Nathula, Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple, Chola, Sikkim Prerna Sthal and Dokala under the Ranbhoomi Darshan initiative, noting that these efforts have increased tourist in flow and helped people connect with India's glorious history. He also appreciated the initiatives under Operation Himrahat and Operation Sadbhavana.

It is noteworthy that developmental works at Nathula, Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple, Chola, Sikkim Prerna Sthal and

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Sikkim declared as 1st paperless Judiciary in India



Gangtok, May 1: The Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education Conference was formally inaugurated at Chintan Bhawan in the presence of Mr Justice Surya Kant Chief Justice of India as the chief guest and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as guest of honour, today.

Organised by High Court of Sikkim in collaboration with e-Committee Supreme Court of India, the conference shall be held for two days at Chintan Bhawan and Samman Bhawan to deliberate on the evolving role of technology in strengthening judicial systems and enhancing legal education.

On the occasion, Mr Justice Surya Kant Chief Justice of India officially declared Sikkim as the

first paperless state judiciary in the country.

Chief Justice of India, Supreme Court Mr Justice Surya Kant remarked Gangtok as an ideal venue to host such a significant conclave, adding that under the majestic presence of Mt Khangchendzonga, ideas too could rise to great heights. Sikkim's natural beauty is not merely a backdrop but a catalyst for inspiration, where the tranquil environment allows space for reflection and where tradition and progress coexist harmoniously, enabling a renewed vision of justice, he added.

Reflecting on the longstanding challenges owing to difficult terrain, the Chief Justice

of India stated that access to courtrooms in such regions had historically been a test of endurance. This reality is now changing due to improved infrastructure and more significantly, due to the growing role of technology in redrawing the map of access to justice, he stated.

He highlighted that digital networks were creating new pathways and that the "digital highway" was connecting citizens directly to judicial forums.

The Chief Justice of India emphasised that the aspiration was to build a system where justice no longer required arduous physical travel, and where petitions could

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Gujarat and Maharashtra's Statehood Day celebrated

Gangtok, May 1: Lok Bhavan Sikkim celebrated Gujarat and Maharashtra's Statehood Day under the theme of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', today.

The celebration commenced with the screening of video messages of Gujarat Governor, Mr Acharya Devvrat and Maharashtra Governor, Mr Jishnu Dev Varma where they highlighted the rich cultural heritage, historical legacy, and significant contributions of their respective states to nation building.

The programme also

featured a captivating video documentary showcasing the rich heritage, geography and cultural ethos of Maharashtra.

Extending State Foundation Day greetings, Mr Diwas Gautam Joint Secretary, Lok Bhavan, conveyed his good wishes to everyone and said that both the States made significant contributions to the nation's economic growth.

The programme was attended by officials and staff of Lok Bhavan and ITBP personnel.

Pearls of Wisdom

"It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not."

- Andre Gide

Gyalshing District Observes International Labour Day-2026

Gyalshing, May 1: Labour Department, Gyalshing observed International Labour Day 2026 with a district-level awareness programme on “Labour Laws for Building and Other Construction Workers” under the Sikkim Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act, 1996 at Gyalshing Community Hall, today.

The programme was attended by Mr L N Sharma Area MLA (Gyalshing-Bernyak, as the chief guest, accompanied by Mr Narayan Khatiwara Chairman, Rural Development Department (RDD), as the guest of honour.

Other dignitaries present were Zilla Panchayat Member, DC, Gyalshing, SP Gyalshing, General Secretary, Labour Wing, BDO Gyalshing, AE Roads and Bridges Department, representatives from NHIDCL and Shiga Energy, along with officials from various departments and stakeholders.

MLA Mr LN Sharma reflected on the significance of International Labour Day, emphasising its historical context in acknowledging the struggles and rights of the working class. He recognised the invaluable contributions of labourers in nation-building and urged all stakeholders to view the ongoing labour registration initiative positively, as it aims to secure long-term welfare and protection for the workforce.

He also highlighted various welfare schemes extended to workers under the BOCW Act by the State Government and stressed the need for timely disbursement of wages and effective redressal of labour-related issues.

DC emphasised the importance of safeguarding workers’ rights and strengthening labour welfare measures. He suggested the introduction of uniforms for labourers, particularly those working in market areas, to promote identity, discipline, and dignity of labour, noting that such initiatives would enhance visibility and instill pride among workers.

DC Namchi conducts annual review meeting of DTFI & PCPNDT

Namchi, April 29: Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi chaired the annual meeting of the District Task Force on Immunization (DTFI) along with District Advisory Committee under the PCPNDT Act, 1994 at DAC Namchi, today.

The DC reviewed progress on immunization and stressed the need to achieve full coverage through a proactive and coordinated approach, ensuring no eligible beneficiary was left out. She emphasised strengthening micro-planning, regular monitoring, and accountability. Reviewing the PCPNDT implementation, she reiterated zero tolerance for violations and directed strict enforcement through continuous surveillance, prompt action against defaulters, and intensified IEC activities to enhance public awareness and community participation.

With regard to the implementation of the PCPNDT Act during 2025-2026, the meeting reviewed the status of registration and monitoring of diagnostic centres. Emphasis was laid on strict adherence to the provisions of the Act, timely submission of reports and regular inspections to prevent violations. Members also underscored the need to intensify awareness campaigns to curb gender-biased sex selection and promote the value of the girl child.

During the meeting, Dr BK Chauhan DRCHO, presented a detailed annual review of 2025–26. He informed that 90% of ANC registrations had been achieved, of which 92% were registered during the first trimester. He further highlighted that 1085 institutional deliveries, accounting for 98.9%, had been recorded, with a birth sex ratio of 1007:1000, while the overall immunization coverage stood more than 100%. He added that other vaccinations were on par with targets and noted that zero maternal deaths had been recorded in the district during the quarter.

Ms Bijay Laxmi Rai CNO, provided an orientation to the newly appointed members, presenting an overview of key health programmes and priorities of the district.

She also briefed on the PCPNDT Act, 1994, outlining its objectives, key provisions, and the roles and responsibilities of members in ensuring effective implementation.

The meeting also assessed on the implementation status of the PCPNDT Act, informing that six ultrasound clinics one Government facility at District Hospital Namchi and five private clinics were operational in the district. The house also took note of the recommendations of the State Advisory Committee, including the discontinuation of existing inter-state practitioners (ultrasound users) and restrictions on the registration of new inter-state users. It was directed that regular monitoring visits be conducted by the district monitoring team to ensure strict compliance, with prompt action against any violations by the District Appropriate Authority (DAA).

The meeting further reviewed the District’s performance under NQAS, noting that several HWC, PHCs and HWC, SHCs had achieved certification, while other institutions were under the targeted certification process. It was also highlighted that four HWC-SHCs in the aspirational block had been successfully certified under NQAS during the year.

The DC appreciated the progress achieved during the year while underscoring the importance of sustained efforts, strict enforcement of provisions, and community participation to address existing gaps and further strengthen healthcare outcomes in the district.

Press Release from Ecclesiastical Department

Namchi, May 3: International Monlam Chenmo and Buddha Purnima Celebrations was held from May 1-3, 2026 at Tathagata Tsal, Ravangla.

The three-day prayer festival, organised by Mane Chokhor Ling Monastery in collaboration with local religious institutions, brought together monks, devotees and visitors from across the region. The event marked the sacred occasion of Lord Buddha’s enlightenment and focused on prayers for world peace, compassion and collective well-being.

Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical Department along with several officials and dignitaries attended the event.

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Army felicitation...

Dokala have been undertaken under CSR initiatives with the efforts of the Governor.

The major contributions of the Army include development of tourist sites, improvement of living standards in border villages, establishment of gardens and National Flags, cultural initiatives, tourism-promoting activities such as supercar rallies, development of religious sites and installation of statues, green initiatives and hydroponic projects, military-civil fusion programs and civil defense arrangements, as well as providing relief to tourists through Operation Himrahat.

State-Level International Labour Day programme held

Namchi, May 1: Marking the observance of International Labour Day 2026, a State-level awareness programme on labour laws for building and other construction workers was organised at the Community Hall, Jorethang, today.

The programme was jointly conducted by the Sikkim Building and Other Construction Workers’ Welfare Board in collaboration with the Sikkim Labour Welfare Board under Labour Department.

Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Labour and Buildings and Housing Departments attended the occasion as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Mr Madan Cintury MLA Salghari-Zoom, Mr Phigu Tshering Bhutia Advisor and Mr Prem Raj Gurung Chairman Sikkim Labour Welfare Board.

The Minister expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his continued support towards the welfare of the labour workforce in the State. He emphasised that the State Government has consistently remained at the forefront in supporting workers and strengthening their livelihoods.

Highlighting key initiatives, the Minister announced that hostels for the children of labourers would be established across all five Districts of the State, noting that Gangtok District already has such a facility. He further informed that land has been identified and registered for Pakyong and Mangan Districts for similar developments. The State Government, he added, would also prioritise infrastructure development and the deployment of staff for educational support and essential services in these hostels.

He urged workers to avail themselves of the various welfare schemes implemented for their benefit, reiterating the State Government’s commitment to improving their socio-economic conditions.

Advisor Labour Department, highlighted the importance of awareness among workers regarding labour laws and statutory provisions, stating that such knowledge empowers them in their daily lives.

Chairman Sikkim Labour Welfare Board, expressed appreciation to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support towards workers’ welfare. He also commended the dedication of labourers during the recent visit of the Prime Minister, and extended his gratitude for their contribution.

Elaborating on the functioning of the Sikkim Labour Welfare Board, it was informed that Labour Inspectors have been deployed across all six Districts to collect data on workers in the unorganised sector. Unregistered workers were encouraged to enroll through the Department to avail themselves of various schemes and benefits.

Earlier, Secretary, Labour Department conveyed the Chief Minister’s message on the occasion and underscored the global significance of International Labour Day and paid tribute to the invaluable contributions of workers in shaping society.

Additional Labour Commissioner, conducted an awareness session on various labour laws and highlighted welfare schemes available under the Department, including those of BOCW and ESIS.

The programme also featured the presentation of the Shram Samman Puraskar, awarded to one worker from each district in recognition of their contributions: Mr Dhan Kumar Chettri (Gangtok), Mr Chatra Bahadur Limboo (Soreng), Mr Tshering Dupden Lepcha (Mangan), Mr Lako Bhutia (Pakyong), Mr Ratna Bahadur Thatal (Namchi) and Mr Lal Bahadur Rai (Gyalshing).

Additionally, Sikkim Labour Welfare Board conferred awards under four categories: Platinum Excellence Award to Mr Chung Chung Bhutia (Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.), Star Performer of the Year to Mr Abel Lepcha (Lupin Ltd.), Operational Excellence Award to Mr Sanjay Lama Tamang (Juventus Healthcare Ltd.) and All-Rounder Performer Award to Mr Surendra Rai (Titan Company Ltd.)

As part of the welfare initiative, 60 unorganised workers were provided with benefits under the Board’s schemes. The programme also included felicitation of dignitaries, cultural and musical performances, and the screening of a short film on BOCW.

Public Health Engineering Department
Government of Sikkim
Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok
Expression of Interest No: 08/DPR-NJNP/SEW/PHED/2025-26
Date 27-04-2026.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited from reputed firms registered under Government of Sikkim/either individually or as consortium of companies)/Joint Ventures, for DETAILED SURVEY INVESTIGATION, DESIGNING AND PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT FOR SETTING UP OF NAYA-BAZAAR JORETHANG NAGAR PANCHAYAT SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN NAYA-BAZAAR JORETHANG TOWN AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS, NAMCHI DISTRICT, SIKKIM.

For details and subsequent communication please visit website:-
www.sikkimtender.gov.in from 27/04/2026

Chief Engineer
PHE Department
Government of Sikkim
(42,1)

Conference-I of Technology and Judicial Education Conclave deliberate on e-Filing and Judicial process reforms

Gangtok, May 1: Following the inaugural session of National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education, technical sessions under Conference - I were held at Chintan Bhawan focusing on strengthening judicial systems through technology-driven reforms, today.

The first technical session was centred on the theme ‘Roadmap for Mandatory e-Filing.’

The session was chaired by Hon’ble Mr Justice JK Maheshwari, Judge, Supreme Court of India, with Mr Justice Sandeep Mehta, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Mr Justice S.V. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India, as Co-Chairs.

The panel deliberated on the need for a structured and uniform approach towards implementing e-filing across courts in the country. Emphasis was laid on simplifying procedures, developing user-friendly digital platforms and strengthening infrastructure to support seamless adoption.

The importance of training judicial officers, lawyers and court staff was also highlighted to ensure smooth transition from traditional systems to digital processes.

The second technical session focused on the theme ‘Process Alignment and Re-engineering.’

It was chaired by Mr Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, along with Mr Justice Arun Bhansali Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature at Allahabad.

The session highlighted the need to streamline court procedures and align them with digital systems to improve efficiency and reduce delays. Speakers emphasised the importance of re-engineering existing processes rather than merely digitising outdated practices.

The role of coordination between various levels of the judiciary and adoption of

integrated digital systems were also underlined as key to ensuring effective justice delivery.

Across both sessions, participants stressed that technology should act as an enabler to improve access to justice, particularly for people in remote and underserved areas. The need for standardisation, capacity building and continuous judicial education was widely acknowledged.

The thrust of the sessions was that while technology can enhance efficiency and transparency, it should serve as a support to judicial decision-making and not replace it.

The sessions was participated by judges, legal experts, and delegates, contributing to meaningful discussions on building a more accessible, efficient and technology-enabled judicial system.

Conference - II of National Conclave on technology and judicial education

Gangtok, May 1: A two-day National Conclave on technology and Judicial Education, featuring Conference II and marking the declaration of Sikkim as a Paperless Judiciary was organised at Samman Bhawan by Sikkim Judicial Academy under the aegis of the High Court of Sikkim in association with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA).

The first session chaired by Mr Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, Judge, Supreme Court of India, focused on ‘Virtual Court Management: Challenges and Best Practices’, with participation from Judges of various High Courts, Advocate General, Sikkim and other legal experts.

The panel discussion examined the transition from physical to hybrid and virtual courts, highlighting key issues such as case-flow management, procedural fairness, cybersecurity and access to justice amid the digital divide.

The panel emphasised that while technology has significantly expanded the reach of the judiciary, the fundamental principle that justice must be seen to be done remains paramount, underscoring the importance of judicial ethics in digital environments.

Discussions also highlighted the need for robust digital infrastructure, continuous capacity building and institutional readiness to effectively manage virtual courts.

Further, emphasis was laid on the phased digitisation of legacy cases and the integration of physical records into digital systems to ensure continuity, efficiency and improved accessibility in judicial processes.

The panel comprised Mr Justice Hamarsan Singh

Thangkhiew Judge, Meghalaya High Court, Mr Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Judge, Orissa High Court, Mrs Justice Preeta A Krishnamma, Judge, Kerala High Court and Mr Basava Prabhu S Patil, Advocate General, Sikkim.

The session was moderated by Mr Justice Gopinath P Judge, Kerala High Court, along with Dr Richa Chaudhary, Dean, SGT University, while Mr Lekden Basi, Advocate, High Court of Sikkim, was the discussant.

The second technical session was held on ‘Designing Interactive Methodology in Judicial Training’ and was chaired by Mr Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

The co-chair Mr Justice N Kotiswar Singh Judge, Supreme Court of India, outlined key aspects of modern judicial training.

The presentation focused on the growing need for interactive and experience-based learning in judicial education, particularly in light of rapid technological advancements in the justice system. It highlighted a shift from lecture-based teaching to active learning approaches.

Key themes included the science of adult learning, behaviour-oriented training design and the use of methodologies such as simulations, problem-based learning, case studies and role-play.

The session also addressed the role of digital tools in training, the importance of blended learning models, and peer learning across jurisdictions.

Further emphasis was laid on measuring the impact of training, addressing structural challenges, and strengthening judicial education as part of a

broader justice-sector ecosystem.

The presentation concluded with a focus on practical design principles and the need to align judicial training with the goal of improving justice delivery.

Following the presentation, a panel discussion commenced, focusing on key themes such as ‘Moving Beyond Lecture-Based Pedagogy’, ‘Use of Simulations, Problem-Based Learning and Role-Play’, ‘Digital Tools for Engagement (Polling, Breakout Rooms, AI-Assisted Learning)’, ‘Peer Learning Across Jurisdictions’ and ‘Measuring Training Impact and Judicial Performance’.

The panel featured Mr Justice Anil K Narendran, Judge, Kerala High Court, Mr Justice Vinit Kumar Mathur Judge, Rajasthan High Court and Mr Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya, Judge, Calcutta High Court. The discussion was moderated by Mrs Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua Judge, Himachal Pradesh High Court and Dr Saleena K Basheer Dean, Jamia Hamdard.

The session concluded with remarks by the discussant, Mrs Shruti Jane Eusebius Research Fellow, National Judicial Academy, who summarised the session and highlighted its key outcomes, focusing on the development of adaptable, technology-enabled teaching methodologies suited to adult judicial learners.

The first day of the conference witnessed participation from judicial academy heads, legal experts, senior officials from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and students from various universities.

Before The Oath Commisioner, at Gangtok,Sikkim Affidavit Cum Declaration

I, **Dhan Maya Damai**, wife of late Kharka Bahadur Damai, aged about 83 years, by faith Hindu, resident of Tadong, under P.O. Tadong and P.S Gangtok, Gangtok district of Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

- That I am the bonafide resident of above-mentioned address and legal wife of late “**Kharka Bahadur Damai**”.
- That my husband name is “**Kharka Bahadur Damai**” which is recorded in his Service records bearing No. PPO No. PAO/AR/4942, PA/AR/159-C, issued by Directorate General of Assam Rifle.
- That in his Death Certificate bearing registration No.D20251 1900140000177, issued by Department of Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare, my husband name has been recorded as “**Kharka Bahadur Darjee**”.
- That this affidavitis made bonafide and to declare that the name “**Kharka Bahadur Damai**”and “**Kharka Bahadur Darjee**” are one and the same identical person i.e., my late husband. Further the name “Kharka Bahadur Damai” **shall be used in future purports.**
- That this affidavitis made *bonafide*.

Deponent

Verification

I, the above named deponents do hereby verify and declare that the statements made in above paragraphs are true to the best of our knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed therefrom and I sign this affidavit on the 8th day of April, 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Deponent

Government of Sikkim Buildings and Housing Department Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok

Expression of Interest No: 2446/SD/HQ-I/Bldgs/P/22

Date 02-05-2026.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Addl Chief Engineer, Buildings and Housing Department invites percentage rate Tender in single cover system from Class II-A Contractors within the district of Gangtok, enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department for participating in the e-tender "Construction of Office and Residential Complex for BIP Rumtek, under SIB Gangtok" amounting to ₹5,14,85,723.00. For further details, kindly visit the website.

www.sikkimtender.gov.in

sd/-

Addl Chief Engineer (MGP)
Buildings & Housing Deptt.
(44, II)

Health Tips

10 MORE WAYS TO STAY YOUNG AND HEALTHY

1. **Vitamin E**

Vitamin E is one of the effective anti ageing agent. Enrich your daily diet chart with foods which are rich in vitamin E. Even if you use any skin care products, prefer those which are enriched with vitamin E.

2. **Vitamin A**

Use of Retinol A; a purest form of vitamin A can help to reduce wrinkles and fine lines.

3. **Benefits of Apple Juice**

Apple juice is healthy for having a fresh skin, also you can apply fresh apple juice on your skin daily; apple juice is helpful to remove fine lines and wrinkles.

4. **Use of Glycerin, Lemon juice and Rose water**

All these 3 are great for having a healthy skin, take Glycerin, lemon juice and rose water in equal amount. Mix all these and apply daily on your face, hands and neck, before going to bed at night. This solution is very effective for younger looking skin.

5. **Aloe Vera Gel**

Apply Aloe-Vera gel as a face mask on your face, neck and hands. Let it dry for 20 minutes, put the mask out and wash your face with fresh cold water. If you have dry skin then add vitamin E (oil) in the gel and mash it well before applying.

6. **Take steam Bath often**

Take steam bath at least once in a week, this will help your body to remain healthy and young.

7. **Think Positive**

Your mental health directly affects your physical health. Adopt a positive attitude towards life and think positive, it's the way to look young and healthy.

Education Department organises Press Conference on CBSE Class X Results 2026

Gangtok, April 29: A press conference on the CBSE Class X results for the year 2026 was held at the Conference Hall of the Education Department, today. The event was chaired by Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department.

In his address, the Minister highlighted the significant improvement in CBSE Class X pass percentage following implementation of the Chief Minister’s Mentorship Programme. The programme was officially launched on September 5, 2024, by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang during the state-level Teachers’ Day celebration.

He stated that the pass percentage for CBSE Class X increased from 54.55% in 2023 to 61.47% in 2024. Following the introduction of the mentorship programme, the results further improved to 76.58% in 2025 and reached 84.24% in 2026.

Providing district-wise performance data, he informed that Mangan District recorded the highest pass percentage at 92.86%, followed by Pakyong District at 90.71%, Gangtok District at 88.42%, Namchi District at 80.64%, Gyalshing District at 79.17%, and Soreng District at 77.69%. These figures contributed to the overall state pass percentage of 84.24%.

On gender-wise performance, he noted that female students out performed male students and also observed a significant increase in the number of students scoring above 60%. In terms of school performance, out of 2,011 secondary schools in the State, 46 schools achieved a 100% pass percentage, while 42 schools recorded pass percentages above 90%.

Addressing the issue of the unavailability of NCERT textbooks for Class IX, Minister explained that since Government schools in the State are affiliated with CBSE, textbooks must be procured from NCERT and cannot be sourced from private publishers. He stated

that due to the ongoing revision of the Class IX curriculum framework, NCERT has not yet completed printing the updated textbooks.

However, he clarified that teaching has not been disrupted, as schools are continuing with the existing syllabus. He added that there is minimal difference in the revised content and that soft copies of most subjects are available, except for Social Sciences. According to NCERT, the textbooks are expected to be fully available by May.

He further explained that the academic session in Sikkim begins in February, whereas, most CBSE schools across the country commence their sessions between April and May. This difference affects the printing schedule and contributes to delays in textbook availability in the State. He emphasised that this is not an issue limited to government schools but affects all CBSE-affiliated institutions that begin their sessions earlier.

The Minister also noted that while Class XI textbooks have not yet been received due to curriculum revisions, the academic session for Class XI begins in May. NCERT has indicated that textbooks for both Class IX and Class XI will be available within the same month. In the meantime, schools are using available syllabi and supplementary materials to continue instruction.

On the rationalisation and merger of schools aimed at improving viability, he informed that out of 79 primary schools, 52 were initially merged due to low enrollment and concerns regarding infrastructure and accessibility. However, following an increase in enrollment and considerations of distance to the nearest schools, 22 of these schools were reopened. As a result, 30 schools remain merged.

He added that the data of all transferred students has been properly recorded and managed by the Government. Additionally, 17

schools have been identified for further rationalisation due to low enrollment, and arrangements will be made to ensure a smooth transition for affected students.

Referring to the State Achievement Survey, a census-based assessment conducted for Classes 3, 5 and 8 to evaluate learning outcomes and inform policy decisions, the Minister stated that measures are being taken to improve student performance in English and Mathematics through collaborations with various organisations.

He highlighted that in partnership with Empathy Bridge Foundation, capacity-building training programmes are being conducted for special educators working with students with special needs. In collaboration with Azim Premji Foundation, SCERT is focusing on foundational literacy programmes.

He further noted that only 65% of students passed Mathematics overall. To address this, a collaboration with JodoGyan has been ongoing for the past three years, emphasising play-based and experiential learning methods. Additionally, a joint initiative with the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, under the iRise (Inspiring India in Research, Innovation, and STEM Education) programme, is being implemented to strengthen Science and Mathematics education at the middle school level through teacher capacity-building.

He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with EkStep Foundation, Bangalore, to strengthen student learning in subjects where they require additional support.

Also present at the press conference were Mr Tashi Chopel, Secretary Education Department (Higher Education), along with other senior officials of the Education Department.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Department discuss promotion of Sikkim tourism post Prime Minister’s visit

Gangtok, April 30: A meeting to discuss the promotion of Sikkim tourism following the Prime Minister’s visit was chaired by Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, at the Conference Hall, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, today.

The meeting’s agenda centered on deliberations to promote and develop Sikkim’s tourism sector, with active involvement of stakeholders and to outline a future course of action.

Addressing the gathering, Minister, expressed appreciation to the stakeholders for their presence and highlighted the recognition of Sikkim’s hospitality by the Prime Minister and encouraged all to prepare for a promising future in tourism. Referring to the Prime Minister’s

‘Dekho Apna Desh’ initiative, he stated that the State must prepare to further enhance its tourism sector. He also responded to the issues raised during the meeting. Additionally, he expressed appreciation to efforts of the Chief Minister in ensuring the success of the Prime Minister’s visit.

In his address, Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, highlighted the importance of promotion of tourism by the Prime Minister’s visit. He emphasised the need for structured planning, exchange of ideas and a clear roadmap to further strengthen the tourism sector.

In her address, Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, expressed gratitude to the

stakeholders for their continued cooperation and support. She underscored the need to strengthen and improve tourism in the State, noting the anticipated rise in tourist inflow and the importance of preparedness. She also emphasised the promotion of wellness and adventure tourism.

Mr Neeraj Pradhan PCE-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, in his remarks, referred to the Prime Minister’s endorsement of Sikkim’s tourism potential, and highlighted that the State must be prepared for effective execution with active support from stakeholders.

The meeting included detailed discussions during which stakeholders shared their concerns and proposed solutions aimed at improving the tourism sector.

Sikkim participates in Empowered Committee meeting

Gangtok, April 30: Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, organised an Empowered Committee meeting today via video conference on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the forthcoming transition phase to the Viksit Bharat Grauntee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAMG).

Senior Officials from the Rural Development Department represented Sikkim at the Ministry of Rural Development’s video conference with States and Union Territories covering implementation performance, scheme transition on MGNREGA/ VB-GRAM-G

The meeting was attended by officials from six States and two Union Territories. Sikkim was represented by senior officials of the Rural Development Department (RDD), Government of Sikkim namely Ms Tshering Laden Lachungpa, Special Secretary, RDD cum-Project Director, RDD, Mr Deepak Rai, Joint Secretary, RDD, Ms Sisila Lama, Joint Director (IT), RDD, MGNREGA officials, RDD, Government of Sikkim.

The meeting provided a comprehensive review of programme implementation across participating States and Union Territories. States were advised to: Expedite completion of ongoing works within stipulated timelines, Initiate new works wherever required to meet prevailing labour demand, Ensure employment is provided as per demand without administrative delay.

Transition to Upcoming Rural Employment Framework: A significant portion of the meeting focused on ensuring a smooth transition to the forthcoming scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development. States were directed to: Ensure continuity of all existing MGNREGA works through and beyond the transition period, Prepare an adequate shelf of projects aligned with new scheme priorities, including climate resilience and rural infrastructure, Complete onboarding on digital

platforms and Aadhaar-based authentication systems, Ensure timely budget provisioning and financial approvals at the State level and Reconcile pending liabilities and coordinate with the Government of India for timely fund release.

Sikkim also placed on record that the State had sought a higher allocation for the previous month however, full utilisation could not be achieved due to the lean season with relatively low labour demand. It was further informed that the empanelment period of engineering suppliers had concluded, as it is subject to annual renewal. In this regard, a proposal has already been initiated to extend their engagement. The official added that with the planned rollout of community-based works, which are largely material-oriented, onboarding of suppliers is essential. With these measures underway, Sikkim expressed confidence that performance and utilisation will improve in the coming months. With an administrative measures firmly in motion, the State looks forward to a strong performance trajectory in the months ahead contributing fully to the national mission of empowering rural communities through the transition phase.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Rural Development urged all participating States and Union Territories to expedite all preparatory measures to ensure a smooth transition to the upcoming framework. It was highlighted that FY 2026–27 marks a landmark “Transition Year” for rural employment in India, as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is being phased into the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAMG) framework.

The Empowered Committee emphasised that the transition must be seamless, with no disruption in wage employment, and called upon States to ensure continuity of work, timely implementation, and preparedness at all levels during this critical phase.

Pakyong Nagar Panchayat holds first meeting with newly elected Councillors

Pakyong, May 2: The first meeting of the newly elected Councillors of the Pakyong Nagar Panchayat was convened at Pakyong Yakten Gram Prashasan Kendra, marking the formal commencement of the newly constituted municipal body, today.

The meeting focused on sensitising the Councillors regarding their roles and responsibilities, along with key provisions of Sikkim Municipalities Act, 2007, to ensure effective governance and administration.

Mrs Prabha Pradhan Zilla Upadhyaksha congratulated the councillors and urged the members to work collectively towards building a cleaner, greener and more accessible municipality.

Additionally, Mr Hemant Rai Special Secretary, Urban Development Department, informed that the functioning of the Nagar Panchayat has commenced with immediate effect, including the handover of responsibilities from Pakyong Bazaar Officer to the Municipal Body outlining on the role of the Municipal Executive Officer (MEO).

Further, Mr DP Sharma Bazaar Officer, UDD, highlighted that the focus for the current term will be on improving sanitation, ensuring transparent administration and accelerating developmental activities through coordinated efforts to strengthen the municipality.

Contd from front page

National Conclave...

merely an administrative upgrade but a structural transformation aimed at making the justice delivery system more transparent, efficient, and accessible.

Referring to innovations such as e-processes, paperless courts, digital records, e-filing, hybrid court models, and live streaming of proceedings, the Governor said these initiatives are redefining judicial administration across the country. He further stated that Sikkim has begun the transition towards becoming India's first fully paperless judiciary, in line with the broader vision of Digital India.

The Governor also stressed on the expanding role of Artificial Intelligence and digital management systems, describing them as essential to equipping judicial institutions to address complex legal challenges, particularly in the evolving cyber landscape.

At the same time, he called for a balanced approach to ensure that technological advancement does not compromise accessibility.

Among key recommendations, the Governor advocated for greater use of local languages in judicial proceedings, supported by translators and modern applications, to make the system more citizen-friendly.

He also cautioned against the misuse of publicly accessible court proceedings on social media platforms, urging the need for safeguards and stricter legal provisions to counter misinformation and propaganda related to judicial decisions.

Highlighting procedural efficiency, the Governor stressed that urgent judicial orders, including bail directives, must be transmitted promptly to Subordinate Courts to ensure swift implementation. He further recommended that young advocates be provided free access to judicial decisions to support their professional development.

Expressing confidence in the outcomes of the conference, the Governor said that the deliberations would contribute meaningfully to building a robust and future-ready judicial system aligned with the vision of a developed India.

In his special address, Mr Justice AHMD Nawaz Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, highlighted the deep cultural and historical ties between India and Sri Lanka, noting that his long association with India over the years had fostered a strong sense of connection with the country.

He added that these ties extended beyond geography to shared cultural influences, traditions, and historical narratives, which continue to strengthen the relationship between the two nations.

Referring to the conclave, he appreciated the initiative of bringing together members of the judiciary from across the Commonwealth, describing it as a valuable platform for exchange of ideas and collaborative learning. He stated that such engagements

were important for sharing knowledge, understanding emerging challenges and collectively working towards strengthening judicial systems.

He further remarked that discussions held over the two days had provided meaningful insights into the evolving role of technology in the justice delivery system.

Emphasising that the legal and judicial professions were at a crucial juncture, he stated that the adoption of new tools and technologies must be approached thoughtfully, particularly in the context of evidence and decision-making processes.

He further observed that Sikkim, with its unique geographical and cultural position, served as an ideal setting for such deliberations, bringing together diverse perspectives and ideas. He expressed hope that the outcomes of the conclave would continue to guide future efforts in judicial reform and innovation.

He appreciated the efforts of the organisers and expressed confidence that the exchange of ideas during the conclave would contribute to building stronger, more responsive, and forward-looking judicial systems.

Presenting his observations, Professor (Dr) S Sivakumar, President, Commonwealth Legal Education Association, described the conclave as enriching and forward-looking, and appreciated the initiative of the High Court of Sikkim in bringing together members of the judiciary and legal academia on a common platform.

He highlighted that the discussions over the two days reflected a significant transition in the justice delivery system from one constrained by physical processes to one enabled by digital technologies. He remarked that the deliberations had gone beyond mere digitisation and focused on broader institutional transformation, where technology is used to improve access, efficiency, and transparency in a meaningful way.

Referring to key themes of the conclave, he stated that discussions on e-filing emphasised not just technical implementation but also usability, inclusiveness, and trust. He added that the focus was on re-engineering judicial processes to simplify procedures and enhance institutional clarity.

Speaking on emerging technologies, he observed that tools such as blockchain could strengthen the security and integrity of judicial records, while Artificial Intelligence offered opportunities to support research, organisation, and case management.

However, he stressed that there must be a balanced approach, where technology assists judicial functions without replacing human judgement, which remains central to the delivery of justice.

He also underscored the importance of judicial education in adapting to these changes, noting that learning systems must evolve to integrate legal knowledge with technological understanding. He stressed that collaboration across jurisdictions, particularly within

the Commonwealth, would play a key role in strengthening capacity and sharing best practices.

Highlighting concerns around the digital divide, he cautioned that unequal access to technology could lead to unequal access to justice, and stressed the need for inclusive systems.

Concluding, he stated that the true measure of technological advancement in the judiciary lay not only in efficiency, but in ensuring fairness, protecting rights, and strengthening the justice delivery system, and called for a continued commitment to innovation, collaboration, and ethical governance.

Sharing his reflections, Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, described the conclave as a significant journey adding that the discussions over the two days had brought forward diverse yet meaningful perspectives.

He observed that while the sessions reflected a range of views, some cautious and others path-breaking, the overall outcome was clear, highlighting the urgent need for continued reforms to ensure that justice is delivered effectively and without delay.

He remarked that the exchange of ideas among judges, experts, and participants from across the country and abroad marked an important moment in the ongoing evolution of the Indian judiciary and the wider Commonwealth judicial community. He noted that the deliberations had provided greater clarity on the use of technology and Artificial Intelligence in strengthening judicial processes.

Emphasising the changing nature of the justice delivery system, he stated that technology was no longer merely an administrative tool but an integral part of judicial infrastructure. He added that the discussions reflected a growing recognition within the judiciary that delays often stem from systemic inefficiencies, which must be addressed through timely and thoughtful reforms.

He further observed that the judiciary was entering a new phase of transformation, focused on redesigning institutions to make them more responsive and efficient. He emphasised that such progress must be guided by constitutional values and human sensitivity to ensure that justice remains fair and accessible.

He expressed hope that the conclave would be remembered as a significant step towards shaping a more dynamic, technology-enabled, and people-centric judicial system.

Mr Justice A Muhamed Mustaque, Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, participants and stakeholders for their valuable contributions to the conclave.

Highlighting the collaborative nature of the conclave, he stated that the successful organisation of such an event in a small State like Sikkim was made possible through the collective efforts of the judiciary, the Bar, technical teams, and the State Government. He also

Contd from front page

Sikkim declared...

move without necessitating the movement of individuals. In this context, he stated that the conclave carried deep symbolic significance, as it reinforced that digital reform was not merely a matter of theory but a practical necessity for sustaining the rule of law.

Speaking on the broader national context, he stated that the integration of technology in the judicial process was aimed at dismantling geographical constraints, whether arising from difficult terrain, financial limitations, or distance. He added that such efforts ensured that access to justice was not confined to urban centres but extended equally to remote regions, including the far-flung areas of North Sikkim, Western Ghats and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

He further added that the Indian legal landscape had undergone a fundamental transformation and congratulated Mr Justice A Muhamed Mustaque Chief Justice for this unique initiative, through which the High Court of Sikkim had achieved the distinction of becoming the country's first paperless High Court.

He stated that the judiciary was steadily moving away from the era of paper-based systems towards a vibrant digital ecosystem, where initiatives such as the e-Courts project had redefined the relationship between litigants and the law. He highlighted the role of judicial data systems in offering real-time insights into institutional performance and described them as central to monitoring the health of the justice delivery system.

He also referred to the growing use of artificial intelligence tools such as SUPACE and SUVAS, adding that these innovations were acting as force multipliers by assisting in research, translation, and case management, thereby reducing the burden of routine tasks on judges. He stated that such technological advancements allowed judges to focus more deeply on the complexities of law, thereby enhancing the quality of judicial work. He added that the true measure of these reforms lay in their accessibility, as they enabled litigants, even in the most remote parts of the country, to track case progress, access orders and engage with legal processes without intermediaries.

Highlighting the importance of transparency, he remarked that real-time updates and virtual hearings were transforming courtroom dynamics and contributing to greater efficiency and accountability. However, he cautioned that despite significant progress, the journey towards full digitisation remained ongoing and

acknowledged the support extended by all stakeholders in ensuring the smooth conduct of the sessions.

The conclave concluded with a note of gratitude delivered by Ms Sonam Denka Wangdi,

required sustained effort.

Outlining future priorities, he stressed the need for stronger standardisation across judicial systems, particularly through the implementation of the National Court Case Information System (NCCIS).

He stated that recent developments indicated a positive shift in the adoption of such systems by High Courts and emphasised that a balance between uniform national standards and local flexibility was essential.

He also highlighted the importance of expanding e-Seva Kendras, describing them as crucial links between the complexity of the legal system and the immediate needs of citizens, especially in a country with varying levels of digital literacy. He added that the existing network of kendras already reflected a strong national infrastructure and called for further strengthening of their technical capacity to ensure inclusivity.

Speaking on the role of Artificial Intelligence, he highlighted its potential application at the trial court level, particularly in areas such as preliminary verification, case management, and identification of patterns in judicial decisions. He observed that such tools could help reduce delays, minimise frivolous litigation, and promote consistency in areas such as sentencing and bail practices.

The Chief Justice of India further said that while consistency was essential for predictability and efficiency, it must be achieved without compromising judicial independence. He stated that technological tools could assist courts in identifying disparities and moving towards more coherent decision-making processes.

Stressing that the adoption of technology must be accompanied by a corresponding shift in legal education, the Chief Justice of India said that modern judicial training must go beyond basic digital literacy and include a deeper understanding of artificial intelligence systems and their interaction with foundational legal principles such as natural justice. He emphasised the importance of ethics in this transition, adding that judges must remain vigilant in identifying potential biases in algorithmic systems and ensure that technology is strengthened, rather than undermined with regards to the core values of justice. He added that judicial education must equip future jurists with the ability to critically engage with technological tools while maintaining control over their application.

Concluding his address, he congratulated the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim, along with all stakeholders including the State Government led by Chief

Contd on page 6

Central Project Coordinator, High Court of Sikkim.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Mr Tashi Raptan Barfungpa, President, Bar Association of Sikkim (High Court and Subordinate Courts).

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Sikkim declared...

Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for achieving the milestone of a paperless High Court and for placing Sikkim on the national map of judicial innovation.

He expressed hope that the conclave would provide a roadmap that was both progressive and compassionate and commended all participants for contributing to a mission aimed at ensuring that justice remained accessible, transparent and future-ready.

Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the programme as the guest of honour and delivered the executive address, reaffirming the State Government's commitment to supporting judicial reforms and digital governance initiatives.

In his address he extended warm greetings to all dignitaries on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima and International Labour Day, highlighting the values of compassion, harmony, and dignity of labour.

Welcoming the distinguished gathering, including the Chief Justice of India and judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Court of Sikkim, as well as international delegates, he described the hosting of the conclave in Sikkim during the Golden Jubilee year of Statehood as a matter of pride and honour for the State.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the judiciary plays a vital role in safeguarding the rights and dignity of citizens, particularly the working class, and noted that the integration of technology into the justice delivery system is both timely and essential in the digital era.

Highlighting the State Government's commitment to good governance and innovation, he stated that Sikkim is actively supporting initiatives aimed at strengthening judicial infrastructure, expanding access to courts in remote areas, and promoting legal awareness through institutional mechanisms.

He further underscored the importance of ensuring that technological progress remains inclusive, cautioning that no citizen should be left behind due to lack of access or digital literacy.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the deliberations of the conclave would contribute significantly towards building a modern, responsive, and citizen centric judicial system. Describing the declaration of Sikkim as a paperless judiciary as a historic milestone, he congratulated the judiciary for this achievement and noted that it would set an example for the rest of the country. He also highlighted the importance of global collaboration, stating that the presence of international delegates would enrich discussions and strengthen shared learning.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to all dignitaries for their presence and wished the conclave success, expressing hope that it would pave the way for meaningful reforms and advancements in the justice

delivery system.

Earlier, Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge of High Court of Sikkim and Chairman of the Computer Committee and Sikkim Judicial Academy, underscored the growing importance of technology in strengthening the justice delivery system. He stated that while digital initiatives such as the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and virtual court systems have significantly improved efficiency and access, the integration of artificial intelligence must be approached with caution and guided by constitutional principles. Emphasising that the judiciary must retain its human conscience, he called for ethical regulation of emerging technologies.

He further highlighted the need to modernise judicial education, enhance digital competency among judges, and ensure that technological advancements remain inclusive, particularly for those affected by the digital divide. He further expressed hope that the deliberations would contribute towards a comprehensive roadmap for a more accessible, efficient, and humane judicial system.

Mr Basava Prabhu S Patil, Advocate General of Sikkim, highlighted the evolving role of technology in legal practice and governance. He stated that the initiative marks a shift from traditional file based systems to a more efficient, transparent, and citizen centric judicial process. He emphasised that technology must serve to reduce delays and procedural barriers without compromising judicial integrity, noting that artificial intelligence and digital tools should assist but not replace human judgement.

Highlighting Sikkim's unique geographical challenges, he underlined that digital systems can significantly improve access to justice for remote regions.

The Advocate General also stressed on the importance of simplicity, training, and trust in ensuring the success of a paperless judiciary, and called for continuous judicial education and robust digital infrastructure. He expressed confidence that Sikkim's initiative would contribute to the broader national movement towards judicial modernisation, making courts more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of citizens.

The Presidential Address delivered by Mr Justice A Muhamed Mustaque, Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim, described the declaration of a paperless judiciary as a historic milestone for both Sikkim and the Indian judicial system. He observed that despite over two decades of efforts in building IT infrastructure, the judiciary continues to face challenges in achieving true digitalisation, stressing that the focus must now shift from mere digitisation to practical, ground level transformation. Emphasising the need for a results oriented approach, he noted that technology should not be pursued as a matter of form, but for its tangible impact on the lives of

citizens and litigants. He underscored that the success of such reforms lies in addressing heavy workloads, particularly in trial courts, and ensuring that technology enhances access to justice. He also spoke on the importance of judicial education, collaborative learning, and the adoption of innovative digital tools, while acknowledging the challenges posed by evolving legal and technological landscapes.

Expressing gratitude to the Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court of India and other dignitaries for their presence, he appreciated the support extended by the State Government towards advancing judicial reforms in Sikkim.

In his felicitation address, Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General of India, called for a fundamental rethinking of access to justice in the digital age, emphasising that it must move beyond physical access to ensure meaningful and substantive justice through modern tools and institutional reform. He highlighted the growing interlinkage between judicial processes and policy transformation, noting that most contemporary disputes have wider institutional and societal implications.

The Attorney General underscored that technology should function as both a collaborator and an enabler in this transformation, while cautioning against uncritical dependence. He further called for reimagining court management as a comprehensive justice delivery system aimed at enhancing efficiency, accessibility and public confidence. He expressed optimism that the conclave would serve as a catalyst for innovative thinking and institutional reform, positioning India as a leader in technology driven judicial transformation.

Mr Justice Rony James Govinden, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Seychelles, highlighted both the opportunities and challenges of judicial functioning in the digital era. He observed that while the rapid shift to virtual courts during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the potential of technology to expand access to justice, it also exposed critical gaps, particularly the digital divide, cybersecurity risks, and issues relating to procedural integrity. He emphasised that unequal access to digital infrastructure and literacy poses a serious challenge to fairness in justice delivery, especially for marginalised communities.

Stressing the need for robust safeguards, he called for stronger data protection measures, secure digital platforms, and clear procedural guidelines to maintain the integrity and dignity of court proceedings. He also underscored the importance of continuous training for judges, court staff, and lawyers to effectively navigate digital systems and evolving technologies.

Highlighting the value of international collaboration, he advocated for strengthened cooperation across

Commonwealth jurisdictions in judicial education, including shared resources, modular training systems, and peer learning platforms. He concluded by stating that while technology can enhance efficiency and accessibility, the core principles of justice, fairness, inclusivity, and public confidence must remain paramount in all digital transformations.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr Justice JK Maheshwari, Judge of the Supreme Court of India. He emphasised that the integration of technology in the judiciary must focus on enhancing access to justice while preserving its human essence.

Recalling his association with Sikkim, he described the State as a fitting venue for deliberations on the future of justice, noting its balance of simplicity and efficiency.

He observed that technological transformation in courts must go beyond digitisation of existing processes and instead aim at reengineering systems to improve efficiency, transparency and user experience.

He highlighted that while tools such as e-filing, artificial intelligence, and digital case management hold immense potential in addressing delays and improving access, they must be implemented thoughtfully. He cautioned that technology should assist judicial functions but cannot replace human judgement, which remains central to justice delivery. He also stressed the importance of continuous judicial education, collaborative learning, and adapting to evolving digital systems, noting that judges today must be equipped not only with legal knowledge but also with technological understanding.

Addressing concerns such as the digital divide, virtual court functioning, and globalisation of legal systems, he called for a balanced approach that ensures inclusivity and fairness while embracing innovation. He concluded by stating that initiatives such as the declaration of a paperless judiciary in Sikkim mark an important step in removing procedural barriers and making justice more accessible, while reaffirming that the ultimate goal of technology must be to serve the people and strengthen public confidence in the judicial system.

The session concluded with remarks by Mrs Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge of the High Court of Sikkim, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and participants for their contributions to the successful commencement of the conclave. She observed that the conclave would go beyond discussions on administrative convenience and address deeper questions on how the justice

delivery system can uphold constitutional values while adapting to rapid technological change.

Emphasising that access to justice in a diverse country like India remains a significant challenge, she noted that technology offers practical tools to bridge gaps caused by geography, infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities.

She highlighted that systems enabling e-filing, digital access and improved case management can enhance inclusivity and efficiency, but cautioned that innovation must be guided by judicial wisdom. She stressed that while technology can aid processes, it cannot replace human judgement, conscience, and the core principles of fairness, due process and independence.

Underscoring the importance of institutional collaboration, she stated that meaningful reform requires coordinated efforts among the judiciary, Government, legal fraternity, and technical experts. She further noted that the success of the conclave would ultimately be measured by tangible improvements in accessibility, transparency, and timeliness of justice for ordinary citizens.

She concluded by thanking Chief Justice of India, Chief Minister and all dignitaries for their support, expressing hope that the deliberations would lead to meaningful outcomes in strengthening the justice delivery system.

Earlier, a short video highlighting the journey towards establishing India's first paperless High Court in Sikkim was screened.

It may be noted that Sign Language interpretation was provided during the programme by Mr Akhilesh Chauhan, Master Trainer(Deaf) and Mr Vishal Biswakarma ensuring accessibility and inclusive participation. They were assisted by first year DISLI trainees from CRC-Sikkim Ms Ruby and Ms Yojna.

The programme was held in the presence of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India, Judges of various High Courts of India, District Judges, Chief Administrator-cum-Cabinet Secretary Mr VB Pathak, Chief Secretary Mr R Telang, Director General of Police Mr Akshay Sachdeva, LR cum Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department Mr Suraj Chettri and Presidents of various Bar Associations of the State, along with members of the judiciary, legal fraternity and other stakeholders along with representatives from Commonwealth Legal Education Association.

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Fourth Council Formation and oath taking ceremony of newly elected Councillors under GMC

Gangtok, May 2: The Council formation and oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Councillors was held at new Conference Hall in the GMC Building at Deorali, today.

A total number of 20 newly elected Councillors under Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) were present during the oath taking ceremony.

The oath was administered to newly elected Councillors by Mr Tushar G Nikhare Municipal Returning Officer Gangtok District, in the presence of Mr GT Dhungel Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Culture Department and AYUSH, Mr Arun Kumar Upreti Minister for Urban Development Department, Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor, Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha MLA, Mr Jitendra Singh Raje Commissioner-cum-Secretary UDD and Officers from concerned line departments.

During the resolution for the post of GMC Mayor, the Councillors proposed the name of

Ward No.09 Councillor Ms Tshering Palden Bhutia, representing the SKM Party.

The proposal was unanimously supported by Councillors leading to Ms Tshering Palden Bhutia elected as the new GMC Mayor.

During the resolution for the post of GMC Deputy Mayor, the Councillors proposed the name of Ward No. 12, Arithang II-Councillor Ms Sara Lama, representing the SKM Party.

The proposal was unanimously supported by Councillors leading to Ms Sara Lama elected as the new GMC Deputy Mayor.

Mr Jitendra Singh Raje Commissioner-cum-Secretary UDD in his brief address, congratulated the newly elected Councillors on behalf of Government of Sikkim.

In his concluding remarks, the Commissioner stated that the Councillors have a responsibility to serve the public and urged them to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity.

DC Gangtok reviews Central and State schemes in Gangtok District

Gangtok, April 30: Mr Tushar G Nikhare DC Gangtok convened a meeting with Officers from various line departments to evaluate saturation and coverage of Government schemes in Gangtok District at conference hall of DAC Gangtok, today.

The objective of the meeting was to ensure 100% saturation and coverage of Central and State flagship schemes in identified vibrant villages under Gangtok District.

The evaluation meeting included discussion of coverage and saturation points on Ujjwala Yojana, Banking and Financial Inclusion, Forest related issues, Tourism Initiatives in vibrant villages regarding various Central and State related schemes.

interaction with the Officers from various line departments, directed the departments to provide him objectives, financial outlets and estimated timeline of the projects that their respective departments are involved in.

The DC also enquired about incomplete projects undertaken by various line departments and urged the Officers to complete the pending works related to Central and State schemes.

The DC further appreciated efforts executed by the Officers in projects pertaining to Vibrant Village Programme under Gangtok District.

The meeting had the presence of DFO (T) Forest and Wildlife Department, ADC Gangtok and Officers from various line departments.

Information & Public Relations Department Government of Sikkim Gangtok

No.(378-II)/IPR/09-10/341

Date: 12.02.2010

CIRCULAR

In order to give wide publicity of Tender Notices/Employment Notices published in Sikkim Herald Classified and other local news papers the following procedures will be followed with immediate effect.

Tender Notices will be accepted by the Department for publication having **minimum time of 35 days** before the last date of submission of tenders. Other notices like Employment/Auction etc. will be accepted for publication having **minimum time of 17 days**.

Heads of Departments are requested to send the Tender Notices/ Employment Notices for publication **in triplicate** duly observing the above time limit.

No bill for advertisement pertaining to other department other than IPR should be entertained for payment if the same is **not certified** by Under Secretary/Director/ IPR.

All Tender Notices/Employment Notices etc. to be sent to the Department addressed to Secretary or Director, I.P.R. Department through official channel only and under no circumstances the I. P. R. Department will accept the advertisements sent through unauthorized person.

This issues with the approval of the Government.

Sd/-
Secretary

Press Release

Gangtok, April 30: Ms Asha Malviya, a solo female cyclist from Madhya Pradesh paid a courtesy call on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

Cyclist Ms Aasha Malviya commenced nationwide a 7,800 km solo cycling expedition from western part of India to eastern part

of India to commemorate the 78th Indian Army Day. She has already completed 6,400 kilometers of her journey and has reached Gangtok.

The Governor praised the courage of Ms Asha and wished her a bright future and success in achieving her goals. He said that her expedition serves as sources

Oath taking ceremony of Councillors of all Districts

Mangan, May 2: The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected Councillors of Mangan Nagar Panchayat was held, today.

The oath of office was administered by Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa Additional District Collector Mangan in the presence of Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department, today.

The following members took oath as Councillors of Mangan Nagar Panchayat: Ms Tshering Doma Bhutia elected from 5-Lower Mangan Bazar Ward representing Sikkim Krantikari Morcha and was also elected as the President of Mangan Nagar Panchayat.

Mr Norbu Rinchen Lepcha elected from 3-Power Colony Ward and also elected as the Vice President of Mangan Nagar Panchayat. Mr Hangu Lachenpa was elected from 4-Rinzing Namgyal Marg Ward. Mr Tshering Pintso Saring was elected from 1-Upper Mangan Bazar Ward and Ms Phurkit Lepcha elected from 2-Pentok Ward.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by Mr Jigme Wangchuk Bhutia Special Secretary, Urban Development Department, Mr Karma Sherpa Joint Secretary, Election Department, Mr Karzong Bhutia MEO Mangan Nagar Panchayat, former Councillors and other dignitaries.

In Namchi, the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected Councillors of Namchi Municipal Council and the Panchayat members of Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat under the Municipality Election 2026 was held at District Administrative Centre, Namchi.

The oath ceremony of the Councillors and Panchayats was presided over by the prescribed authority, Ms Anupa Tamling Municipal Returning Officer cum DC Namchi.

Prior to the oath taking ceremony, the Councillors of Namchi Municipal Council elected the Municipal Chairperson and Municipal Vice-Chairperson, where, Mr Ganesh Rai from 06 Upper Singithang Ward, and Ms Saraswati Sharma from 01 Gangyap Ward were elected as Chairperson, and Vice-Chairperson, respectively.

Similarly, for Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat, Mr Samten Muktan Tamang from 04 Majhigaon Ward and Ms Manjari Rai from 02 Trikaleshwar Ward were elected as President and Vice-President, respectively.

Following the oath taking ceremony, Ms Yogeeta Rai Secretary UDD held a brief meeting with the Councillors and Panchayats, where the Secretary highlighted about the

responsibilities that they should prioritise during their tenure as elected representative members.

In Gyalshing, the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected members of 06 Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat under the Sikkim Municipal Election 2026 was held at the Zilla Conference Hall, Gyalshing.

During the ceremony, the Oath of Affirmation was administered by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa District Collector-cum-Municipal Returning Officer to the newly elected members of the Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat.

Ms Khina Maya Tiwari was elected as the President of Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat and Mr Rinzing Bhutia as the Vice President. The elected members include-Ms Laki Doma Bhutia, Ms Suman Mittal and Mr Praveen Darjee.

The ceremony was graced by Mr Lok Nath Sharma Area MLA Gyalshing-Bernyak Constituency in the presence of Mr DS Limboo Zilla Adhyaksha Gyalshing, officials and others.

Addressing the gathering, Area MLA congratulated the newly elected members and highlighted the importance of their roles as public representatives. He emphasised that they must prioritise the welfare of the people, ensure inclusive development, and uphold the trust reposed in them by the public. He further stated that their tenure should be guided by accountability and a strong commitment to development, urging them to work in close coordination with Government departments and stakeholders.

In Pakyong, the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected Councillors of Pakyong and Rangpo Nagar Panchayats under the Sikkim Municipal Election 2026 was held at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Pakyong.

During the ceremony, the Oath of Affirmation was administered by Mr Rohan Agawane District Collector-cum-Municipal Returning Officer to the newly elected members of Pakyong and Rangpo Nagar Panchayats.

Under Pakyong Nagar Panchayat, Mr Inchung Bhutia (Kartok Ward) was elected as Municipal President and Ms Bhim Maya Chettri (Basnet Gaon Ward) as Municipal Vice President.

The elected members include Ms Rozi Gurung (Dugalakha Ward), Mr Rakesh Basnett (Pakyong Bazar Ward) and Ms Sancha Maya Tamang (Dikling-Chalamthang Ward).

Under Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, Mr Sanjeev Kumar Khati (Mandi Bazar Ward) was

of inspiration for our youth and future generations and symbolises dedication to the nation.

Ms Asha has so far undertaken a solo bicycle journey of thousand kilometers across India with the objective of women safety and women empowerment.

elected as Municipal President and Ms Sanju Manger (Majhitar Ward) as Municipal Vice President.

The elected members include, Ms Radha Pradhan (Mining Ward), Mr Pinku Kumar Prasad (Rangpo Upper Bazar Ward) and Ms Larishna Tamang (Chanatar Ward).

Subsequently, the Municipal President and Municipal Vice President also took the Oath of Affirmation as per the provisions of the Sikkim Municipalities Act.

The ceremony was graced by Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department-cum-MLA Namcheybong Constituency, Mr LB Das MLA, Ms Prabha Pradhan Zilla Upadhyaksha and Mr Bishal Sharma Additional Political Secretary to CM.

Likewise, the oath taking ceremony of the newly elected members of Soreng Nagar Panchayat 2026 was held at the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng.

The oath of office was administered by Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector Soreng-cum-Municipal Returning Officer wherein the elected representatives pledged to discharge their duties with dedication, integrity and in the interest of public welfare in the presence of Mr Aditya Golay MLA (Soreng-Chakung) alongside Mr DB Gurung Chairmen State Bank of Sikkim.

The member took oath as Soreng Nagar Panchayat, Councillors are Ms Santi Kala Limbu for Ward No. 01 Singling (ST) (W) from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Party, Mr Naren Subba for Ward No. 02 Dara Bazar (UR) from Bharatiya Janata Party, Ms Dina Hangma Subba for Ward No. 03 Soreng Bazar (ST) (W) from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Party, Mr Dil Prasad Jogi for Ward No. 04 Pragati Chowk (OBC) (C) from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Party and Ms Divya Subba for Ward No. 05 Daragaon (ST) (W) from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Party.

Following the oath taking ceremony, Ms Dina Hangma Subba was unanimously as elected the President of the Soreng Nagar Panchayat and Mr Dil Prasad Jogi as the Vice President of the Soreng Nagar Panchayat.

In the ceremony, Mr Aditya Golay MLA (Soreng-Chakung) extended his greetings and congratulated the newly elected members of Soreng Nagar Panchayat as Councillors.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the establishment of Soreng Nagar Panchayat, with the newly elected members assuming office as councillors and affirming their commitment to serving the people with sincerity and responsibility.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju offers prayers at Lachung Monastery



Mangan, May 1: On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, Mr Kiren Rijiju Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Government of India offered prayers and reverence at Samling Choling Monastery in Lachung, today.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Social Welfare Department along with renowned singer Mr Mohit Chauhan.

Also present on the occasion were Mr Pema Wangyal Lachungpa Chairman Forest Department, Mr Sonam Gyatso Lachenpa Chairman, Medicinal Plants Board, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Sonam Tshering Lachungpa and Mr Chungtuk Tshering Lachungpa Pipons of Lachung,

Chutimpas, senior monks and locals.

The programme also had the presence of Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Special Secretary, Chief Engineer Social Welfare Department, DC Mangan, SP Mangan, DFO (T) SDM Chungthang, SDPO Chungthang and other officials.

After offering prayers and interacting with the monks, the Union Minister visited the under-construction Monastery in the same complex. He was briefed about the progress of the work. He assured support from the Government of India for early completion of the monastery and adjacent facilities.

Following this, the Union Minister visited Ani Gumpa (Monastery) and offered his prayers.

Union Minister checks restoration work in Chungthang

Mangan, April 30: On his way to Lachung in North Sikkim, Mr Kiren Rijiju Union Minister made a brief stop at Chungthang bridge. The area had suffered extensive damage during the GLOF that occurred in

October 2023.

The Union Minister was briefed about the status of restoration work in the area by Mr Anant Jain District Collector Mangan.

Minister Samdup Lepcha calls on Union Minister

Mangan, April 30: Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Social Welfare Department-cum-Area MLA, called on Mr Kiren Rijiju Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Government of India at Army Guest House in Lachung today.

The Minister thanked the Union Minister for his visit and apprised him of the developmental initiatives in the district. He also briefed the Union Minister of the challenges faced by the people and shared the welfare initiatives of the State Government.

The Minister was accompanied by Mr Pema Wangyal Lachungpa Chairman, Forest Department, Mr Sonam Gyatso Lachenpa Chairman, Medicinal Plants Board along with members of the Lachung Dzumsa and locals.

Also present were Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Special Secretary, Chief Engineer Social Justice Department, DC Mangan, SP Mangan, SDM Chungthang, and SDPO Chungthang.

Union Minister visits Yumthang Valley and Dongkya La Pass

Mangan, May 1: As part of his official tour of North Sikkim Mr Kiren Rijiju Union Minister visited Dongkya La pass, today.

He was accompanied by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister and host of other dignitaries and district officers.

At Dongkya La, the Union Minister interacted with the officers and jawans of the Indian Army and lauded them for their

service to the nation, braving challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions.

On the way back, the Minister stopped at Yumthang valley and spent some time amidst nature. He was joined by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister, Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan, Mr LB Chettri SP Mangan, Mr Manzil Kharel DFO (T) Mangan, other officers and tourism stakeholders.

Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence take centre stage at Judicial Conclave

Gangtok, May 2: Second day of the National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education at Chintan Bhawan witnessed in-depth deliberations on the integration of emerging technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence into judicial administration.

The proceedings under Conference-I brought together Chief Justices, Computer Committee Chairpersons, and Central Project Coordinators from across the country to examine practical pathways for digital transformation in the judiciary.

Session III, on the theme 'Why Blockchain for Judicial Administration' was chaired by Mr Justice Soumen Sen, Chief Justice of the High Court of Kerala, with Mr Justice GS Sandhawalia, Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, as Co-Chair.

The session featured panel discussions by Mr Justice Debansu Basak, Judge, Calcutta High Court, Mr Justice Ananda Sen, Judge, Jharkhand High Court and Mr Basava Prabhu S Patil, Advocate General of Sikkim.

The session was moderated by Mr Justice Suman Shyam, Judge of the Bombay High Court and had Mr Joseph Rajesh K A,

Central Project Coordinator, High Court of Kerala as discussant.

The session highlighted existing challenges in judicial administration, including reliance on manual registers, file tracking systems, process service logs, and evidence custody mechanisms, which are often time-consuming and vulnerable to tampering.

Experts noted that blockchain technology offers solutions through immutable time-stamping, distributed verification systems, tamper-evident records, and automated audit trails, thereby enhancing transparency, efficiency, and reliability in court processes.

Session IV, titled 'Where AI Can Be Safely Introduced First' was chaired by Mrs Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice of the High Court of Gujarat, with Mr Justice M Sundar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur, as Co-Chair.

The panel included Mr Justice Michale Zothankhuma, Judge from the Gauhati High Court, Dr Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Judge, Rajasthan High Court, and Mr Justice Nikhil S Kariel, Judge, Gujarat High Court and was moderated by Mr Justice Anoop Chitkara, Judge of the Punjab and

Haryana High Court with Dr John Varghese, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Pathanamthitta, Kerala as Discussant.

Deliberations in this session focused on the safe and phased introduction of Artificial intelligence in judicial systems. It was observed that AI can be effectively deployed in registry functions, case-flow management, filing scrutiny, document handling, scheduling, and recording of witness testimonies. At the same time, participants emphasised the need for caution in extending AI into judicial decision-making, reaffirming that human judgement remains central to the justice delivery process.

The discussions reflected a consensus that while technology offers transformative potential, its adoption must be guided by principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that the core values of the judicial system are preserved.

The conclave continues to serve as a platform for exchange of ideas and best practices, aimed at strengthening a modern, efficient, and inclusive judicial framework.

Second day of National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education

Gangtok, May 2: Second day of the two-day National Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education, featuring Conference II and marking the declaration of Sikkim as a Paperless Judiciary, was held at Samman Bhawan, today. The event was organised by the Sikkim Judicial Academy under the aegis of the High Court of Sikkim, in association with the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA).

The first technical session of the day was themed 'Curriculum Globalisation and Transnational Law'.

The session was chaired by Mr Justice Rony James Govinden, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Seychelles. Mr Justice AHMD Nawaz, Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, and Mr R Venkataramani, Attorney General for India, served as Co-Chairs.

The session underscored the growing significance of cross-border legal issues in areas such as commerce, cybercrime, environmental law, and human rights. It highlighted how globalisation has reshaped the legal landscape through evolving international frameworks and increased judicial engagement with transnational disputes.

Key challenges discussed included the enforcement of international obligations, the rise of cyber threats governed by global conventions and environmental concerns guided by principles such as transboundary responsibility.

The session further

emphasised the need for harmonised legal education and greater cooperation, particularly among Commonwealth nations sharing common law traditions, to effectively address the complexities of an interconnected legal order.

The panel comprised of Mrs Justice Prathiba M Singh, Judge of the High Court of Delhi, Mrs Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya, Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana and Prof E Kofi Abotsi, Dean of UPSA Law School and Executive Member of CLEA (online).

The session was moderated by Mr Justice Somasekhar Sundaresan, Judge of the Bombay High Court and Ms Meera Furtado, General Secretary of CLEA and Head of Business and Humanities at the International Study Centre, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Mr Sumit Bhattacharya, Research Fellow at the National Judicial Academy, served as the discussant.

Furthermore, the second session was chaired by Mr Justice MS Ramachandra Rao, Chief Justice of the High Court of Tripura, and co-chaired by Mr Justice P Sam Koshy, Judge of the High Court for the State of Telangana.

The session, titled 'Digital Challenges in Judicial Education: Cooperation across the Commonwealth' highlighted key themes including disparities in technological infrastructure, the need for shared digital repositories and learning platforms, the role of

artificial intelligence in judicial research and training, ethical frameworks governing the use of technology in courts, and the importance of institutional cooperation among Commonwealth judicial academies.

The panel featured Mr Justice DK Singh, Judge of the Karnataka High Court, Dr Justice Kauser Edappagath, Judge of the High Court of Kerala, Barrister Prashanta Barua, Barrister-at-Law, UK and Executive Member of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) and Professor Stephanie Laulhé Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform (online). The session was moderated by Mrs Justice Shoba Annamma Eapen, Judge of the Kerala High Court, along with Dr Giri Sankar SS, Vice President, CLEA Asia.

The discussant, Dr Ruchi Sharma, Joint General Secretary, CLEA, concluded the session by outlining its key outcomes, which included the formulation of a roadmap for collaborative digital platforms, faculty exchange programmes, and strengthened knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

Also present in the discussion, through video conference was Professor, Stephanie Laulhe Shaelou, Professor of European Law and Reform and Head of the School of Law of the University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus).