



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 70 No. 29

Gangtok (Wednesday) July 15, 2026

Photo News



Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur pays tribute to Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya on the occasion of 212th Bhanu Jayanti at Bhanu Udyan, Zero Point on July 13.

In the same way, special guests, officials and public also paid floral tributes honouring the revered literary figure.

Reciprocal transport agreement signed between Sikkim and West Bengal



Kolkata, July 10: In a significant development aimed at strengthening inter-state transport connectivity and improving the livelihoods of Sarathis and transport operators, Governments of Sikkim and West Bengal signed the Reciprocal Transport Agreement at Paribahan Bhavan, Kolkata, today.

The agreement was signed by Mr Ravinder Singh Principal Secretary Transport Department Government of West Bengal, Mr Manish Pradhan Secretary, Transport Department Government of Sikkim and Mr Roshan Pradhan ATC-cum-

Secretary, State Transport Authority in the presence of Mr Arjun Singh Minister-in-Charge, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal.

The agreement follows discussions between the two State Governments to strengthen transport connectivity. It introduces several significant benefits for Sikkim's transport sector. The quota of countersignature permits for Sikkim taxi vehicles has been increased from 3,000 to 6,000. Taxi vehicles operating under Special

Contd. on page 8

212th National-Level Bhanu Jayanti celebrated

Soreng, July 13: 212th National-Level Bhanu Jayanti was celebrated at Jautar Stadium, Soreng with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attending the programme as the chief guest, accompanied by Madam Sarda Tamang, today.

Chief Minister in his address said that the State Government's vision of organising national-level events across different districts, rather than confining them to the State capital, is aimed at identifying, encouraging, and uplifting talented individuals from rural areas by providing them with opportunities to showcase their potential on national platforms. He mentioned that such initiatives not only promote inclusive development but also ensure that the rich cultural and literary heritage of every district receives the recognition it deserves.

He highlighted Bhanu Bhakta Acharya's unparalleled contributions to the development and enrichment of Nepali language and his enduring influence on the Nepali-speaking



community. He noted that his literary works continue to inspire generations and remain an integral part of Nepali literature. As a mark of respect, the Chief Minister recited the celebrated poem 'Ghasi', emphasising its timeless message of dignity of labour,

humility and social responsibility. He further observed that the people of Sikkim have consistently excelled in the fields of Nepali language, literature, art and culture, making significant

Contd. on page 9

1st Sikkim Van Mahila Sammelan

Gangtok, July 14: As part of the celebration of Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026, the Forest and Environment Department organised the 1st Sikkim Van Mahila Sammelan at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Held under the theme 'Women at the Forefront of Environment Conservation', the programme aimed to recognise and celebrate the contribution of women to environmental conservation, sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, traditional ecological knowledge and community-led natural resource management while promoting inclusivity, encouraging fresh perspectives and strengthening women's participation in environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

The programme was attended by Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly as the chief guest in the presence of Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor and Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA-cum-Advisor.

Deputy Speaker SLA congratulated the Forest and Environment Department for



organising the first Sikkim Van Mahila Sammelan describing it as a significant initiative to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of women to environmental

conservation. She said women have always been at the forefront of protecting nature and preserving traditional ecological

Contd. on page 7

Pearls of Wisdom

"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore."

- William Faulkner

F&E Department Mangan strengthens Green Legacy Campaign under Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026

Mangan, July 13: As part of the ongoing observance of Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026 under the theme 'Leave a Green Legacy' Mangan Territorial Division, Forest and Environment Department continued its series of environmental initiatives on the thirteenth day with an Avenue Plantation Drive at Thingchim, today.

The plantation programme was jointly carried out by Mangan (Territorial) Range and the Environment and Soil Conservation Range in collaboration with the Northern Riders Motorcycle Club, reflecting a collective

commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The drive focused on planting avenue saplings along the roadside to enhance the area's green cover, improve local landscape and contribute to ecological balance. The initiative also aimed to promote awareness on the importance of tree plantation in mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity and ensuring a healthier environment for future generations.

Mr Pema Rinzing Lachungpa RO Mangan (T) Range, officials and staff of Forest and Environment

Department, members of the Northern Riders Motorcycle Club and local participants took part in the plantation activity, demonstrating the importance of community participation in protecting and preserving natural resources.

The avenue plantation drive formed another significant activity under Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026, reaffirming the Department's commitment to fostering environmental stewardship and inspiring citizens to work collectively towards leaving a greener and more sustainable legacy for generations to come.

Minister UDD inaugurates Rankey Mela 2026

Namchi, July 12: Rankey Mela 2026 was inaugurated by Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban Development Department, today.

Organised by Namchi Rankey Mela 2026 Celebration Committee, the inaugural day was attended by Mr Satish Chandra Rai Area MLA Namchi-Singhithang, Ms Rama Tamang Advisor Panchayati Raj Department, Mr Ganesh Rai Chairperson Namchi Municipal Council, councillors NMC, ASP Namchi, SDM (Hq), members of Celebration Committee and other dignitaries.

Minister Mr Bhoj Raj Rai formally declared the opening of the Mela, following his visit to the stalls setup by various

communities, SHGs, departments and local entrepreneurs.

The Minister highlighted the cultural and historical significance of Rankey Mela, stating that the festival has become an integral part of Namchi's identity. He mentioned that the mela, celebrated on the occasion of Saune Sankranti, has its roots in ancestral traditions associated with the monsoon season and prayers for a bountiful harvest. He explained that the ceremonial burning of the Rankey effigy symbolises the triumph of good over evil following which, the community comes together in celebration. Urging the people, particularly the younger generation, to

preserve and promote this unique cultural heritage, he called upon everyone to keep the spirit of Rankey Mela alive for posterity. He concluded by expressing hope that the festival would continue to strengthen communal harmony and preserve the rich cultural legacy of the region.

This year, Rankey Mela 2026 includes wide range of activities including Namchi Rankey Run, Rural Sports competitions, Jhim Jhim Bazar for local cuisines, Heritage Walk to nearby attractions, nature camping, adventure sports etc and many more.

Polling Stations open across Gyalshing & Pakyong District for Claims and Objections

Gyalshing, July 10: Special Intensive Revision (SIR), 2026 of the Electoral Roll and the period of Claims and Objections is being in Gyalshing District, today.

The Draft Electoral Roll and the ASDD (Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate) list have been published and made available for public inspection at the offices of the District Election Officer (DEO), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), all Gram Panchayat Units (GPUs), and the office of the Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat.

Help Desks have been established at the offices of EROs and AEROs to assist electors in checking their names in the Draft Electoral Roll and the ASDD List, filing claims and objections and resolving queries related to the ongoing revision process.

In rural areas, a meeting was conducted in presence of concerned Ward Panchayat and public regarding dissemination of information on SIR anomaly.

Office of the EROs and AEROs have also begun

generations and issuances of notices to all the concern electors through the BLOs.

As part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls 2026, polling stations across Pakyong District remained open to facilitate the receipt of claims and objections from electors through Forms 6, 7 and 8, in accordance with the directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on July 11.

The initiative was conducted on July 11 and 12, aimed to provide voters with an opportunity to submit applications for inclusion of their names in the electoral roll (Form 6), deletion of entries (Form 7), and correction or updating of existing electoral details (Form 8).

It is to be mentioned that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were present at their respective polling stations to assist electors in filling out the prescribed forms, verify documents, and address queries related to the electoral roll revision process.

The Claims and Objections period will continue from July 5

to August 4, 2026. During this period, eligible citizens who have attained the age of 18 years, left-out eligible electors, and existing voters seeking inclusion of their names, correction of particulars, or raising objections to entries in the electoral roll may submit the prescribed forms to the concerned Booth Level Officers. The applications will be processed by the Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Applications may also be submitted online through the ECINET mobile application.

The District Election Office has appealed to all eligible electors to actively participate in the Claims and Objections process, verify their electoral particulars, and ensure that the electoral roll is accurate and error-free before the publication of the Final Electoral Roll.

For any assistance or queries related to the Claims and Objections process, electors may contact the Election Helpline at the District Administrative Centre, Pakyong, at 03592-200024.

Minister Tshering Thendup Bhutia conducts constituency tour

Gyalshing, July 10: Mr Tshering T Bhutia Minister-cum-Area MLA Yuksom-Tashiding conducted a tour of various villages under Yuksom-Tashiding constituency and inaugurated two newly constructed houses under the Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana (SGAY), today.

The Minister began his tour from Simichen Panchayat Ward, where he inaugurated a newly completed SGAY house and handed over to the beneficiary after inspecting the quality of construction. He later inaugurated SGAY house at Samtek village.

Highlighting various initiatives of the State Government, the Minister said that the State Government is

committed to ensuring inclusive development and better living standards for every household.

The beneficiaries, Mr Nar Bahadur Chettri of Simichen village and Mr Dil Bahadur Rai of Samtek village, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister for providing them with permanent houses under the SGAY scheme, describing it as a life-changing support for their families.

During the constituency tour, the Minister was accompanied by officials wherein they inspected various public infrastructure projects.

Among those present were Gram Panchayats, BDO Yuksom, AD (PRI), APO Yuksom BAC and others.

Weekly coordination meetings with recognised political parties initiated for SIR-2026

Gyalshing, July 10: District Election Cell, Gyalshing, has initiated weekly coordination meetings with representatives of recognised political parties in connection with the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of the Electoral Roll.

The meeting was held at the Office of District Collector, Gyalshing chaired by Ms Tripti Hangma Subba ADC (Hq) Gyalshing.

The initiative aims to provide a regular platform for interaction between district election officials and recognised political parties to strengthen coordination, promote transparency, and ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the electoral roll revision process in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that the coordination meetings, which were previously held on a monthly basis, will now be convened every Friday throughout the Claims and Objections period of the SIR-2026 exercise. The weekly meetings are expected to facilitate the timely exchange of information, review the progress of the revision process, and address issues arising during the implementation of the exercise.

ADC Gyalshing stated that the weekly coordination meetings would significantly contribute to making the revision process more transparent,

inclusive, and error-free. She emphasised that regular engagement with recognised political parties would strengthen coordination and enhance the accuracy of the electoral roll.

She urged representatives of the recognised political parties to actively involve their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in the revision process and advised them to work in close coordination with election officials to ensure the accuracy of the electoral roll. She further emphasised that the active participation of political parties would be instrumental in the timely completion of the stipulated SIR-2026 exercise in the district, as mandated by the Election Commission of India.

The meeting was attended by Mr Agni Pd Chettri Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Yangthang AC-cum-Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Hq), Mr Sandesh Subba ERO Gyalshing-Bernyak AC-cum-SDM Gyalshing, Mr Pem Dorjee Bhutia Additional AERO to Yangthang Constituency-cum-DPO Zilla, Ms Kadem Bhutia GDZP Office Superintendent Election Cell Gyalshing officials of the Election Cell and, authorised representatives of the recognised political parties functioning in the district, namely the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Sikkim, and the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM).

Green walk and plantation drive held at Ringhim Mangan

Mangan, July 12: Social Forestry Division of Forest and Environment Department Mangan organised a Green Walk at Ringhim as part of Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026 under the theme 'Leave a Green Legacy'.

The walk commenced T from Ringhim Gumpa concluding at Ringhim Helipad. The programme aimed to spread awareness about protecting nature, promoting sustainable living and encouraging everyone to work together for a greener future.

The programme was attended by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Social Welfare

Department-cum-Area MLA Lachen Mangan Constituency as the chief guest, joined by Mr Kado Lepcha Adhyaksha Mangan, Mrs Sonam Kipa Bhutia Upadhyaksha Mangan, Gram Panchayats, MNP Councillors, SDM Mangan, Additional Director Forest, DFO Social Forestry, ACF, RO Social Forestry and locals.

During the programme, the Minister and other dignitaries planted saplings around the Ringhim premises, symbolising the shared commitment to protecting the environment and preserving nature for future generations.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN & GREEN**

Power Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

NIRFP No. 150/P/SLDC/2022-23/32

Date:07.07.2026

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Chief Engineer (SLDC), Power Department invites percentage rate tenders through e-tender system from the local IT Solution providers within the state empaneled with the IT Department, Govt. of Sikkim for the following project:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Value in INR	Cost of Tender Form /Documents in INR	EMD @ 2.5% of the bid value in INR	Completion time (in months)
1	Implementation Of SAMAST (Scheduling, Accounting, Metering and Settlement of Transactions) Modules and Integration with Existing ABT Metering System at State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC), Sikkim	₹8,48,52,450.00	₹1,00,000.00	₹21,21,311.00	12 months

The bids should be submitted online in the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in.The eligible bidders should have their own portal enrolment and digital signature certificate (DSC).

SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR e-TENDERING

Sl.No	Activity	Date & Time
1	Date of publishing of tender in the portal	07.07.2026
2	Document Download / Sale Start Date	07.07.2026
3	Pre bid Meeting	28.07.2026 in the O/o Chief Engineer (SLDC) at 1100 hours
4	Bid submission start date	29.07.2026 from 1000 hours
5	Bid Submission end date	06.08.2026 up to 1600 hours
6	Last date of physical submission of Tender Fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) along with hard copy of tender document.	07.08.2026 1100 hours up to 1530 hours.
7	Date & time of Technical and financial bid opening	12.08.2026 at 1100 hours.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. The e-tender is open only to the eligible contractors/bidders of appropriate grade/Class enlisted with the Power Department as per Notification No.21/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 18/10/2023

2. The work/bid value put to tender is inclusive of design, supply, erection, transportation, testing & commissioning and exclusive of all taxes and CESS.

3. Cost of tender documents in the table above at column 4 (non-refundable) in the form of DD/Bank Draft from the State Bank of Sikkim or any nationalized bank in favour of Director (F&A), Power Department shall have to be uploaded (scanned copies of the originals).

4. Earnest money @ 2.5% of tender value duly deposited in the State Bank of Sikkim or any nationalized bank of India should be in the form of Fixed Deposit (FD)/ Bank Draft (BD) in favour of Director (F&A), Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok shall have to be uploaded (scanned copies of the originals).

5. The DD/BD/FD specified in Sr. No. 3 & 4 in original should be submitted in sealed envelope duly mentioning the name of bidder indicating enlistment registration number to the office of the tenderer within the time limits specified in the notification Office Memorandum No. 11/Fin/Adm. dated 24/08/2012 vide serial No. 14f (iv).

6. Mandatory documents:

i. Updated/Validated enlistment certificate

ii. GST registration and latest Professional Tax Clearance Certificate.

iii. Latest financial capability certificate/solvency certificate from any Nationalized Bank/State Bank of Sikkim for minimum of ₹ 1.0 Crore.

iv. Manufacturers Authorization Form (where applicable).

7. The tenders will be opened by the Tender Opening Committee in presence of the tenderer or their authorized representatives who wish to be present on the date and time indicated above.

8. The representatives of the tenderer should produce the letter of authority of the tenderer to whom he/she is representing at the time of opening of tender.

9.The scope of work includes design, supply, transportation, handling, insurance, storage during construction, erection, testing & commissioning of electrical, electronics & telecommunication equipment's for above mentioned project.

10. The tenderer should have their own experienced engineers and other technical staff who are conversant with implementation of electrical, electronics & telecommunication works.

11. In addition to above conditions, other conditions laid down in Sikkim Public Works Manual 2009 along with latest amendments shall be applicable.

12. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

sd/-

Chief Engineer (SLDC)

(66)

In the Court of Sub-Divisional Magistrate
Gangtok District, Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, PRAKASH CHETTRI (KARKI), son of late Purna Bahadur Chettri (Karki), aged about 48 years, by faith Hindu, by occupation - Government Servant, resident of Nazitam Busty, P.O. Nazitam, P.S. Singtam, Gangtok District, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That, I am the bonafide holder of Certificate of Identification bearing Sl. No. 26314/DCE dated 19.10.1989, issued by the District Collector, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim, wherein the name of my paternal grandfather has been recorded as "RAM BAHADUR CHETTRI".

2. That, in the Khatian Parcha bearing Khatian No. 51, Plot Nos. 436, 438, 439, 440, 470, measuring total area of 2.3181 hectares, situated at Nazitam Block, Gangtok District, Sikkim, the name of my paternal grandfather has been recorded as "DAMBER BAHADUR CHETTRI".

3. That, the correct name of my paternal grandfather is "DAM BAHADUR CHETTRI" as recorded in his Sikkim Subject Certificate vide Sl. No. 111, Vol. No. II under block Nazitam and also in the Sikkim Subject Certificate of my father 'Purna Bahadur Chettri' vide Sl. No. 115, Vol. No. II under block Nazitam.

4. That, I hereby affirm and declare that, the names "RAM BAHADUR CHETTRI", "DAMBER BAHADUR CHETTRI" and "DAM BAHADUR CHETTRI" are of same and one person representing my paternal grandfather only.

The statements made herein above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. And I have signed this affidavit on this the 09 day of 06 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Identified by me:

Rohit Sharma R/O Tadong

DEPONENT

Government of Sikkim
Health & Family Welfare Department
Namchi, South Sikkim

NO:241/ACCTT/NDH/2026-27

Date:2/7/2026

NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) No. 193/ACCTT/NDH/2026-27 dated 19/06/2026 for the Preparation and Supply of Nutritious and Balanced Diet to the In-door Patients of Namchi District Hospital, Namchi has been kept on hold until further orders due to administrative reasons.

Accordingly, all activities related to the said tender, including the sale of tender documents, submission of bids, and opening of tenders, stands suspended until further notification.

The revised schedule, if any, will be communicated separately through an official notification.

Any inconvenience caused in this regard is regretted.

Chief Medical Officer

Health & Family Welfare Department

Namchi District Hospital

(65, I)

READ AND ADVERTISE
IN
SIKKIM HERALD

**Office of the Sr. Deputy Accountant General (A&E), Sikkim,
Lekha Pariksha Bhawan, Deorali, Gangtok- 737102**
Phone :-03952 280465 Email:- agaesikkim@cag.gov.in

No.PAO/Press Notification/26/27/58

Date:03/07/2026

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified that during the month ending **30.06.2026**, the following State Governments have increased the Dearness Relief on pension to the Pensioners drawing pension in other states. The Pensioners of the respective states drawing pension in the state of Sikkim may contact the Pension office, Finance Department, Government of Sikkim or Office of the Sr. Dy. Accountant General (A&E), Sikkim Lekha Pariksha Bhawan, Deorali, Tadong, Gangtok 737102 for further information.

SL. NO	NAME OF STATE	ORDER NO. AND DATE	NAME OF THE RELIEF / D.A. GRANTED AND THEIR PERCENTAGE	EFFECTIVE DATE	LETTER NO. AND DATE OF DESPATCH TO STATE GOVERNMENT
1	West Bengal, Treasury Building, Kolkata	Circular No. Pen. Co-ordn./ 93 vol.VI/255/Vol-III/04. Date: 02.04.2026	The payment of arrear of Dearness Relief in r/o West Bengal Government pensioners / family pensioner drawing pension in other states.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/08 Date: 08.04.2026
2	Rajasthan, Jaipur	No. F.1(16)FD/Rules/2012 Dated: 24.04.2026	Regarding Grant of Medical Allowance.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/08 Date: 08.04.2026
3	Punjab & U.T., Sectr-17E, Chandigarh-160017	No. Pen-12/IMP. Ord/ 25-26/45214-45648 Dated: 01.04.2026	Notification of Finance Department Government of Punjab: 1. Revision of Pension of Pre 01.01.2026 pensioners/ family pensioners/recipient of extra ordinary pension etc. 2. Revision of Pension of Pre 01.01.2026 pensioners/ family pensioners/recipient of extra ordinary pension etc. 3. Release of Dearness Relief to the pensioners opting for unrevised pay scales.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
4	Maharashtra	No.P/26/Govt./70150696/ Maharastra/Ch. 3/80127132 Dt. 15.04.2026	1. Dearness Relief Increase to 58% on Pension/ Family pension w.e.f 01.07.2025. 2. Dearness Relief Increase to 257% for the pensioners/Family pensioners being drawn in the Pre-revised scale (Sixth Pay) w.e.f. 01.07.2025. 3. Dearness Relief Increase to 474% for the pensioners/Family pensioners being drawn in the Pre-revised scale (Fifth Pay) w.e.f. 01.07.2025.	01.07.2025	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
5	Chhattisgarh, Raipur	No. Rules/478/2025 FINANCE. Date: 08.04.2026	Revised rate of Dearness Relief to Pensioners of Chhattisgarh States.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
6	Arunachal Pradesh, Finance Dept, Naharlagun	No. RDAP/PEN-II/99-2000/ Vol VIII/14-15 Date: 11.05.2026	Grant of Dearness Relief to Arunachal Pradesh Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners- Revised rates w.e.f 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
7	West Bengal, Kolkata	Circular No. Pen. Co-ordn./ 93-Vol.VIII/VI/20 Date: 14.05.2026	Modified rates of Dearness Relief payable from January 2016 to December 2019.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
8	Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Dept of Justice, New Delhi	-	Grant of additional instalment of Dearness Relief (DR) to the retired Judges of Supreme Court/High Court and family pensioners of such Judges-revised rates effective from 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
9	Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Dept of Justice, New Delhi	-	Grant of Dearness Allowance (DA) to the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts - Revised Rates effective from 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
10	Madhya Pradesh	No. Pension/148 date: 30.04.2026	Madhya Pradesh order regarding revised rate of Dearness relief @58% in 7th Pay Scale and 257% in 6th Pay scale) w.e.f 01.01.2026 to Pensioners/family pensioners of state of Madhya Pradesh.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/ 2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026

Contd. on page 5

Contd from page 4

11	Uttarakhand	No. PA/Pension/Utkhd Govt. order/DR/Judicial/DR- date: 27.04.2026	As per the recommendation of Hon'ble 2nd National Judicial Pay Commission (relative to the 7th Pay Commission) the State retired revised pension/family pension and other retirement benefits are to be made estimable from 01.01.2016 and the related arrears are to be paid.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/41 Date: 29.05.2026
12	Gujarat, Ahmadabad	No. Pen/AA&E/GR/SSA/Guj/26-27/152 date: 22.05.2026	Grant of Temporary increase (Dearness Relief) to State Government pensioners/Family Pensioners with effect from 01.01.2026 (Revision of pay Rule, 2009, 6th Pay Commission & 7th Pay Commission).	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
13	Haryana, Chandigarh	No. Pen. Gen-26/DA/2026-27/81-159 Date: 06.05.2026	Payment of Dearness Relief @60% to Haryana government pensioners and family pensioners' w.e.f 1st January 2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
14	Rajasthan, Jaipur	PA order (order /K-107 date: 23.04.2026	Grant of Dearness Relief to State Government Pensioners.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
15	Tripura, Agartala	No. Pen-1/TripuraRelief/2026-27/ Date: 26.05.2026	Grant of Total quantum of Dearness relief @ 41% (36% + 5%) w.e.f 01.04.2026 over the basic pension/basic family pension to the Tripura Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
16	Rajasthan, Jaipur	No. Pension authority/K-183/1/1441759/2026 Date: 20.05.2026	Information regarding pensioners of Rajasthan State who are receiving pension from other states.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
17	Odisha, Bhubaneswar	No. P.M.-DR-28/State/Odisha/SSA/26-27/ Date: 25.05.2026	Sanction of Dearness Relief (TI) @ enhancing the existing rate from 58% to 60% w.e.f in favour of the state government pensioners/family pensioners, Government of Odisha, Finance Department O.M. No. Fin-CS3-Pen-0002/2020/12936/F dated 18.05.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
18	Tripura, Agartala	No. Pension-1/TripuraRelief/Judicial/2025-26/24608 date: 21.05.2026	Grant of Dearness relief to Central Government Pensioners, retired Judges of Supreme Court/High Court Judicial Service/family pensioners at revised rate @ 55% w.e.f 01.01.2025, @ 58% w.e.f 01.07.2025 and @ 60% w.e.f 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/46 Date: 09.06.2026
19	Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar	No. Pen A/c/2026-27/DA/330-363 Date: 02.06.2026	Payment of Dearness Relief to Pensioners/Family Pensioners and Dearness Allowance on revised rates w.e.f 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/52 Date: 30.06.2026
20	Government of Goa, Directorate of Accounts, Goa	No. DA/PA-1/pens/25-26/TR-216/DR-292 Dated: 10.06.2026	Grant of Dearness Relief to Goa State Freedom Fighter pensioners of Government of Goa, revised rates effective from 01.01.2026 @ 60% from 58%.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/52 Date: 30.06.2026
21	Government of Goa, Directorate of Accounts, Goa	No. DA/PA-1/pens/26-27/TR-203/DR-281 Dated: 09.06.2026	Release of Additional instalment of Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government pensioners / family pensioners revised rate with effective from 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/52 Date: 30.06.2026
22	Tamil Nadu, Chennai	No. AG/(A&E) Entt.-29/1/12666/2026-27 Dated: 08.06.2026	Tamil Nadu - Grant of Dearness allowance to pensioner and Family Pensioners - Revised rate admissible from 1st Jan 2026 - orders - forwarded - reg.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/52 Date: 30.06.2026
23	Government of Goa, Directorate of Accounts, Goa	No. DA/PA-1/pens/25-26/TR-216/DR-292 Dated: 15.06.2026	Grant of Dearness Relief to Goa State Retired High Court and Supreme Court Judges Pensioners of Government Of Goa Revised rate effective from 01.01.2026 @ 60% from 58%.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/52 Date: 30.06.2026
24	Tamil Nadu, Chennai	No. AG/(A&E) Tamil Nadu/ Pen-29/I-1/2678/2026-27/115-6722 Dated: 08.06.2026	Tamil Nadu - sanctioned a lumpsum Pongal Prize amount - 2026 to pensioners and Family pensioners Orders. - regd.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/52 Date: 30.06.2026

Sr. Accounts Officer/PAO
(67)

Namchi Election Officers trained to ensure fair and transparent hearings during Electoral Roll Revision

Namchi, July 9: As part of Phase III of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Sikkim, a training programme on the hearing of claims and objections was conducted at the Town Hall, Namchi for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Additional Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (Addl. AEROs) of Namchi district, today. The training follows the publication of the Draft Electoral Roll after the completion of the enumeration phase.

Addressing the participants, Ms Anupa Tamling District Collector-cum-District Election Officer (DC-cum-DEO) Namchi urged all EROs, AEROs and Addl. AEROs to discharge their responsibilities with dedication, integrity and impartiality. She emphasised the importance of conducting every hearing fairly and maintaining an unbiased approach towards both applicants and objectors while delivering their decisions.

The DC-cum-DEO further directed the officers to maintain comprehensive records of speaking orders for every hearing and to ensure thorough verification of all supporting documents submitted by electors. She stressed that the

proceedings must remain confidential and that all decisions should strictly adhere to the prescribed instructions and guidelines.

Highlighting the need for efficient service delivery Ms Anupa Tamling called for the deployment of dedicated teams to assist electors in filling out and submitting the required forms. She also advised the officers to provide hands-on training to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) on the hearing process, including the generation, service and digitisation of notices and receipts.

She further instructed the EROs, AEROs and Addl. AEROs to hold weekly meetings with recognised political parties and share details of claims and objections. Similar information, she said, should also be displayed on the notice boards of all Gram Panchayat Units (GPUs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to ensure wider dissemination and public awareness.

Deputy Secretary Election Ms Bhumika Chettri, delivered a detailed presentation on the hearing of claims and objections, outlining the objectives of the process and the statutory roles and responsibilities of the EROs, AEROs and Addl. AEROs.

She explained that under

the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Electoral Registration Officer is the statutory authority responsible for the preparation, revision and maintenance of the electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision. She further informed the participants that AEROs and Addl. AEROs have been vested with the powers of the ERO under Section 13C(2) of the Act and shall exercise those powers under the supervision of their respective EROs.

She also briefed the officers on the preparatory steps required before conducting hearings and the procedures to be followed during the hearing process. She reiterated that EROs are required to share weekly lists of claims and objections with representatives of recognised political parties and display the same on the notice boards of their respective offices.

Officials from the Election Commission of India also conducted technical sessions on the generation of notices during the claims and objections stage, providing practical guidance to the officers for the effective implementation of the process.

Government of Sikkim Women, Child Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department Samaj Kalyan Bhawan 5th Mile Lumsey Tadong, Gangtok-737102

No. 06/WCSC&DWD/MVS/2026

Dated: 02/07/2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The interested and eligible local candidates are invited to appear for the Walk-In-Interview for the selection of Member, Sikkim Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) in 05 (five) vacancies.

Date and Venue of Interview:

* Date: 23.07.2026

* Time: 11.00 AM

* Venue: Office of the Chairperson, Sikkim Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) Old Secretariat, opposite Super Market, Gangtok.

Eligibility Criteria: The applicant should be a graduate degree holder having experience in the field of:

1. Education
2. Child health, care, welfare or child development;
3. Juvenile justice or care of neglected or marginalized children or Children with disabilities;
4. Elimination of child labour or children in distress;
5. Child psychology or sociology; and
6. Laws relating to children.
7. Age shall not exceed 60 years.
8. Any person having past record of any violation of child rights shall not be eligible to apply for the post.

Documents Required:

Candidates are required to appear before the Interview Board with the following documents in original along with a set of xerox copies

1. Sikkim Subject /COI
2. Educational certificates and testimonials.
3. Proof of age and identity
4. Experience certificates, if any
5. Documents issued by the concerned organization/authorities indicating experience in the relevant field.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The engagement shall be governed by the provisions of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 and relevant rules/guidelines issued by the Government.
2. No TA/DA shall be admissible for attending the interview.
3. The decision of the Selection Committee/Competent Authority shall be final and binding.
4. Honorarium of the Member will be as prescribed by the standing Rules which is ₹2000/- per sitting.

This notice is also available in the departmental website

www.sikkim.gov.in/departments/WomenChildSeniorCitizen&DivyangjanWelfareDepartment

sd/-

(Normit Lepcha)

Principal Director -Scum-Secretary

Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department

(64, I)

Government of Sikkim Urban Development Department Gangtok District

Ref. No:T(3083)/TP/E/UDD/ATP/25-26/24

Dated:09/07/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 7 ULBs namely, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Namchi Municipal Council, Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat, Nayabazar-Jorethang Nagar Panchayat, Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Rangpo Nagar Panchayat & Mangan Nagar Panchayat was notified vide No. 40/DMA/UD&HD/06-07/119 (B) dated 18/01/2008 and the first election was held in the year 2010. It has since been observed that many buildings in all ULBs and other notified areas were constructed without approved Blue Print Plans, likely because they were constructed prior to the area being notified. It is hereby informed that there is a provision under the Sikkim Allotment of House Sites and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) Act, 1985, to regularize/legalize these constructions upon consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case.

Further, under Clause 10- Power of State Government to Regularize on Payment of Fees, if upon considering the facts and circumstances of a case, the Government is satisfied that any building already constructed before the commencement of the Act in contravention of the existing laws, rules, notifications, orders or directions and does not fall within the notified Green Belt area, it may pass order for regularization of such construction on payment of such fees as may be fixed by the Government through notification in this behalf.

Further, as per Notification No. 19/UDD/2024 dated 27.08.2024, Sl. No. 10(a)-(b), the rates for regularization of buildings constructed prior to the area being notified, which does not fall within the notified Green Belt area have been fixed as follows:

1. Applicable within Gangtok Municipal Area: Maximum Floor Area \times ₹30 per sq. ft.
2. Applicable within ULBs & Other Notified Areas: A lump sum fee of ₹10,000/- shall be applicable for regularization.

It is further informed that Pakyong Nagar Panchayat and Soreng Nagar Panchayat have been recently notified vide Notification No. 32/UDD/2025 dated 12.12.2025.

Now, therefore, as a one-time measure, the Government has decided to allow regularization of all such eligible buildings constructed without approved Blue Print Plans prior to the notification of the respective areas. All concerned property owners are hereby advised to submit applications for regularization of such buildings to the concerned authority within one year from the date of publication of this notice. No applications shall be entertained after the cut-off date.

All concerned property owners are therefore advised to take note of the above provisions and approach the concerned authority for regularization of eligible buildings in accordance with the applicable rules and notifications.

By Order

s/d

Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS
Commissioner cum Secretary
Urban Development Department
Government of Sikkim
(69, II)

Government of Sikkim Buildings and Housing Department Gangtok

Memo No. 2425/SD/HQ-I/ Bldgs/P/24

Dated: 09/07/2026

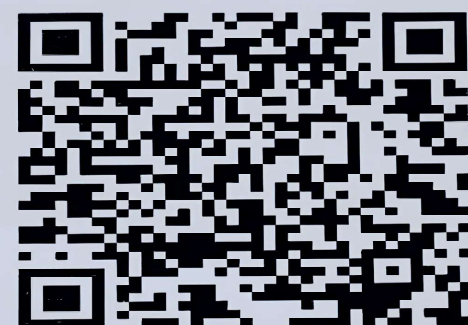
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Superintending Engineer (Plg), Buildings and Housing Department invites percentage rate Tender in single cover system from Class II-B Contractors within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gangtok Assembly constituency, enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department for participating in the e-tender "Construction of Office and Residential Quarters for New FRRQ Office at Zero Point, Gangtok" amounting to ₹3,09,51,271.00. For further details, kindly visit the website. www.sikkimtender.gov.in

- sd/-

Superintending Engineer (Plg)
Buildings & Housing Deptt.
(68, II)

1. DRAFT ELECTORAL ROLL WITHOUT PHOTO
2. POLLING STATION WISE ASDD (ABSENT,SHIFTED, DEATH & DUPLICATE) List



Contd from front page

1st Sikkim...

knowledge, adding that environmental stewardship is a shared responsibility that required collective participation.

Highlighting Sikkim's rich natural and cultural heritage, she observed that the State's clean air, peaceful environment, lush forests and biodiversity continue to attract visitors from across the country. Referring to traditional practices such as 'Devi Than puja' and local food such as 'Dheyro, Makai Bhaat and sisnu', she said these reflects the deep-rooted relationship between people and nature and underscored the importance of preserving the State's traditions, culture and natural resources. She also emphasised the significance of wearing traditional attire, stating that it reflected Sikkim's unique cultural identity and heritage and should be proudly preserved and promoted among the younger generation.

Deputy Speaker further highlighted the State Government's 'Mero Bato, Mero Bot' and 'Mero Rukh, Mero Santati' initiatives, stating that these programmes have strengthened public participation in tree plantation and environmental conservation. She encouraged women, youth and school students to actively participate in such initiatives and become responsible custodians of forests, water sources and biodiversity.

Emphasising the role of women in society, she said women possess the knowledge, determination and resilience to lead positive change. She encouraged them to strengthen their capacities, remain courageous and confident and discharge their responsibilities with honesty, dedication and discipline. She also appreciated the growing contribution of Self-Help Groups in promoting sustainable livelihoods, environmental awareness and community participation, while noting that women have made remarkable contributions to community development and environmental protection across the State.

She also expressed confidence that the Sikkim Van Mahila Sammelan would inspire greater participation of women in environmental conservation and sustainable development, while motivating future generations to safeguard Sikkim's rich natural heritage, cultural traditions and biodiversity.

This was followed by a song on forest and environment titled 'Prakriti Ko Sundarta' and a video presentation titled Women in Forestry-Stories of Inspiration.

The technical session featured Deputy Speaker SLA, Ms Sonam Choden Bhutia Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Dr Yodida Bhutia Professor, Sikkim University and Chairperson, National Education Policy and Ms Manita Pradhan Mountaineer and Everester as

panellists.

The first technical session on 'Women Forest Officers in Conservation Leadership Roles' was presented by Ms Kusum Gurung AD, Forest and Environment Department. The session highlighted the evolving role of women in the Forest Service and emphasised their contribution as leaders and agents of change in strengthening conservation outcomes. She underlined the importance of gender diversity in environmental governance, promoting environmental education among students, youth and communities, addressing institutional and cultural barriers and inspiring future generations of women to take leadership roles in conservation.

The second technical session on 'Women and Forests' was presented by Ms Chimi Ongmu Bhutia Founder, Lagstal Design Studio. She emphasised that forests formed the foundation of culture, traditional ecological knowledge, livelihoods and sustainable development. Highlighting the role of women as custodians of biodiversity and indigenous knowledge, she said they had preserved sustainable practices across generations and were increasingly emerging as entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders of the green economy. Drawing from her entrepreneurial journey, she showcased how sustainable enterprises based on bamboo, natural fibres, recycled materials and zero-waste innovation could generate livelihoods while conserving forests. She also stressed the need to empower women through improved access to finance, technology, markets and opportunities, stating that investing in women would strengthen families, communities and environmental stewardship.

The third technical session on 'Women as Catalysts for Policy, Conservation and Sustainable Development' was presented by Ms Tshering Palden Bhutia Mayor GMC. She highlighted the pivotal role of women in environmental conservation and sustainable development, stating that women, as caregivers and custodians of natural resources, had a unique responsibility in promoting environmental stewardship.

She also highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the Gangtok Municipal Corporation, including the War Against Waste campaign, cleaning and rejuvenation of drains and jhoras, plantation drives and development of an orchard at the Waste Treatment Facility at Martam, establishment of the STNM Wellness Park and the Governance at Doorstep initiative aimed at enhancing public service delivery and community participation.

The fourth technical session on 'Writing on Nature: How Stories Shape Environmental Stewardship-A Woman's Perspective' was presented by Ms Tribeni Rai

Filmmaker. She highlighted the role of storytelling in preserving traditional ecological knowledge and fostering environmental stewardship. She observed that, long before environmental laws and scientific interventions, stories, folklore, songs and cultural traditions had guided communities in living in harmony with nature. While emphasising that environmental conservation was a shared responsibility, she said women had played a significant role in preserving indigenous ecological knowledge across generations.

Drawing inspiration from the lives of environmental champions such as Gaura Devi, Amrita Devi Bishnoi, Sugatha Kumari, Tulsi Gowda and Raginibai Soma Popere, she highlighted how the courage, wisdom and leadership of women had shaped forest conservation and inspired sustainable environmental practices across the country. She also shared the story of her late grandparents, whose simple and harmonious way of living with nature had instilled in her the values of environmental stewardship from an early age.

The fifth technical session on 'Empowering Green Guardians-Women Forest Frontline Staff' was presented by Ms Lata Dahal Range Officer. She highlighted the growing role of women frontline staff in the Forest and Environment Department, stating that women personnel had been actively contributing to forest protection, wildlife rescue, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, disaster response and community outreach across the State. She noted that women officers often built stronger trust and communication with local communities, enabling more effective public engagement in conservation initiatives.

While acknowledging the difficult terrain and operational challenges faced by women officers, she emphasised the need for gender-responsive infrastructure, appropriate field equipment, continuous capacity building, mentorship, research opportunities and institutional support to strengthen women's leadership in the forest sector.

The sixth technical session on 'Role of Women Support Staff of the Forest Department in Conservation', under the theme 'Guardians and Growers: Stories from the Field', was presented by Ms Manita Gajmer Head Forest Guard, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary. She highlighted the invaluable contribution of women support staff in forest conservation and protection across the State. She spoke about the Mero Rukh, Mero Santati campaign, describing it as an important initiative to promote water security, groundwater recharge, ecological balance and environmental sustainability. She stated that women support staff had been actively participating in plantation drives, wildlife protection and various conservation programmes across the State.

Orientation programme for Non-Farm Sakhis conducted

Gyalshing, July 9: An Orientation Programme for Non-Farm Sakhis under Sikkim INSPIRES was held at Yangthang Farms, Gyalshing, today.

Non-Farm Sakhis under the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), selected from Self-Help Group (SHG) members play an important role in identifying aspiring entrepreneurs, facilitating skill development, connecting them with financial institutions and markets and providing continuous handholding support for setting up and managing micro-enterprises under Sikkim INSPIRES. Their work is aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities beyond agriculture while encouraging women's economic empowerment and local enterprise development.

An orientation was conducted for 20 Nos. of Non-Farm Sakhis under Gyalshing District. The programme began with an introductory session by Ms. Dawa Yankee Bhutia, BPM SRLM-cum-APM, Sikkim INSPIRES, who provided an overview of the objectives of Sikkim INSPIRES and its focus on strengthening community-led enterprises as a means of enhancing rural livelihoods.

This was followed by a

session by Ms Kalpana Gurung, BPM SRLM-cum-APM, Sikkim INSPIRES, who explained the role of Non-Farm Sakhis in mobilising potential entrepreneurs, supporting enterprise development, and guiding community members through various stages of enterprise promotion in their respective blocks.

Participants were also oriented on the formation of Enterprise Groups (EGs) under the three intervention areas Off-Farm, Souvenir, and Green SHGs. The session covered the criteria for group formation, membership norms, organisational structure, quorum requirements, and the process to be followed after the finalisation of products.

The orientation concluded with an interactive discussion, during which participants shared their queries and experiences. The programme helped strengthen their understanding of their responsibilities and prepared them to support enterprise development at the grassroots level. With their active involvement, Non-Farm Sakhis are expected to play a key role in mobilising rural communities and facilitating the successful implementation of Sikkim INSPIRES across Gyalshing District.

Health Tips

*** Eat a healthy diet:** Eat a combination of different foods, including fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole grains. Adults should eat at least five portions (400g) of fruit and vegetables per day. By eating healthy, you will reduce your risk of malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

*** Cosume less salt and sugar:** Reduce your salt intake to 5g per day, equivalent to about one teaspoon. On the other hand, consuming excessive amounts of sugars increases the risk of tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain.

*** Reduce intake of harmful fats:** Fats consumed should be less than 30% of your total energy intake. This will help prevent unhealthy weight gain and NCDs. There are different types of fats, but unsaturated fats are preferable over saturated fats and trans-fats.

*** Avoid harmful use of alcohol:** There is no safe level for drinking alcohol. Consuming alcohol can lead to health problems such as mental and behavioural disorders.

*** Don't smoke:** Smoking tobacco causes NCDs such as lung disease, heart disease and stroke.

*** Be active:** Physical activity is defined as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure. This includes exercise and activities undertaken while working, playing, carrying out household chores, travelling, and engaging in recreational pursuits.

*** Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing:** Diseases such as influenza, pneumonia and tuberculosis are transmitted through the air. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, infectious agents may be passed on to others through airborne droplets.

The technical session concluded with an interactive panel discussion moderated by Ms Dechen Lachungpa AD, Forest and Environment Department.

This was followed by the distribution of uniforms to three women Forest Officers and a scooter to a woman frontline staff member of Ranipool Range.

The Forest and Environment Department also felicitated women support staff in recognition of their dedicated service.

The programme was attended by Ms Sara Lama Deputy Mayor GMC, Ms Sonam Choden Bhutia Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Forest and Environment Department, Advisors, Chairpersons and Councillors, senior officers of the Forest and Environment Department, women frontline forest personnel, officers and staff, representatives of Self-Help Groups, academicians, research scholars, students and stakeholders.

DISHA Committee reviews welfare and development schemes across Gangtok District

Gangtok, July 10: The District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting for Gangtok District was held at the Conference Hall of the Zilla Bhawan, Gangtok, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Indra Hang Subba MP (Lok Sabha) and Chairman DISHA in presence of Mr NB Dahal Minister for Roads and Bridges Department, Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Samdup Tshering Bhutia MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha MLA-cum-Advisor and Mr Balaram Adhikari Zilla Adhyaksha, Gangtok District.

The meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of various Central and State Government schemes and development programmes being implemented across the district.

In his keynote address, MP and Chairperson Mr Indra Hang Subba appreciated the active participation of all members in the meeting. He urged all departments to take into account the suggestions and observations of the DISHA Committee while implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

He directed the concerned departments to submit written replies, along with definite timelines on issues that could not be adequately addressed during the meeting. He also instructed departments to specify the reasons for delays in ongoing projects and outline the corrective measures being taken to ensure their timely completion. He clarified that the Committee's objective was not to find fault with departments but to strengthen accountability, improve coordination and enhance public service delivery. He added that regular monitoring helps identify implementation gaps and enables departments to take timely corrective action.

Highlighting the importance of the DISHA Committee, Mr Indra Hang Subba stated that the forum plays a vital role in monitoring the effective implementation of

Government schemes to ensure that their benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. He emphasised that welfare schemes are designed to reduce socio-economic disparities and improve the lives of the poor, vulnerable and marginalised sections of society.

The Chairperson said that public representatives and Government officials share the responsibility of ensuring transparency, accountability and the efficient implementation of development programmes. He urged departments to proactively assist eligible beneficiaries facing difficulties due to a lack of awareness or incomplete documentation so that no deserving person is deprived of Government support.

Appreciating the efforts of the Commerce and Industries Department, he called for greater emphasis on skill development and entrepreneurship. He said the success of training programmes should be measured through tangible outcomes such as employment generation, enterprise creation and improved livelihoods.

He further called for a more coordinated and people-centric approach to development. Reiterating that public representatives and Government officials are accountable to the people, he urged every department to remain responsive to public concerns and ensure effective delivery of Government services.

Concluding his address, he underscored the importance of preserving Sikkim's unique identity and called upon everyone to work collectively with dedication and commitment towards the inclusive and sustainable development of the State.

Speaking during the meeting, Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor emphasised the need for departments to work in close coordination to ensure the timely and effective implementation of Government schemes. She urged officials to adopt a collaborative

approach in addressing implementation challenges and strengthening service delivery so that the benefits of various welfare and development programmes reach every eligible beneficiary across the district.

This was followed by a presentation on the highlights of the minutes of the previous DISHA meeting and the significance of the Committee by Additional District Magistrate, Gangtok, Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia.

During the meeting, the Rural Development Department, Agriculture Department, Social Welfare Department, Health and Family Welfare Department and the Commerce and Industries Department delivered PowerPoint presentations on the implementation and progress of various flagship Central and State Government schemes under their respective departments.

The Rural Development Department presented the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for providing all-weather road connectivity to eligible rural habitations, and the Dhara Vikas initiative for spring-shed development and sustainable water resource management.

The Agriculture Department highlighted the implementation of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for promoting agricultural growth, enhancing farmers' incomes and strengthening agricultural infrastructure. The Department also presented the progress of the Krishi Unnati Yojana, an umbrella scheme aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable farming practices and supporting the overall development of the agriculture sector.

The Social Welfare Department presented the progress of projects being implemented under the Ministry of Minority

Affairs, including the construction of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and the 300-bedded hospital at Singtam. The Department also highlighted initiatives under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, including the construction of toilets and a 50-bedded girls' hostel at Samdong. In addition, it reviewed projects under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, including the construction of a 100-bedded Scheduled Caste boys' and girls' hostel at NBBGC.

The Health and Family Welfare Department presented the implementation and progress of the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, the Treatment Supporter Honorarium for tuberculosis patients, Nikshay Mitra Food Basket.

The Department presented the implementation and progress of the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, Treatment Supporter Honorarium for tuberculosis (TB) patients, Nikshay Mitra Food Basket Distribution, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and the National Health Mission (NHM).

The Department also highlighted the implementation of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for the prevention and control of dengue, scrub typhus and malaria, along with snakebite management initiatives. It also reviewed the progress of the National TB Elimination Programme, National Quality Assurance Standards, National Mental Health Programme, National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), programmes for the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes, the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) and the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

The Department further informed that training programmes on mental health, menstrual

hygiene and other public health issues had been conducted to strengthen awareness and capacity building. It also reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including the Block Public Health Unit at Sang PHC and the Primary Health Sub-Centre at Marchak.

The Commerce and Industries Department presented the implementation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a credit-linked subsidy scheme that promotes self-employment through the establishment of micro-enterprises. The Department also highlighted the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme for enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. It further presented the UNNATI initiative for promoting entrepreneurship, skill development and sustainable livelihood opportunities, besides reviewing the implementation of the Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, PM Vishwakarma, and other initiatives aimed at strengthening the MSME ecosystem and generating employment opportunities in the district.

An open discussion followed, during which members reviewed the status of various developmental programmes and deliberated on implementation challenges, inter-departmental coordination and measures to improve service delivery. Members of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee also shared their observations and suggestions for the effective implementation of Government schemes and programmes across the district.

The meeting was attended by Gram Panchayats, senior officers from various line departments, Block Development Officers and officials of the District Administration.

Press Release from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department

Kolkata, July 12: Tourism & Civil Aviation Department concluded its participation at TTF Kolkata 2026, with the State making a remarkable impression during the three-day travel and tourism exhibition.

The Sikkim Pavilion attracted an overwhelming response from visitors, travel trade professionals and industry stakeholders, reaffirming Sikkim's growing stature as one of India's premier tourism destinations.

A defining highlight of the event was the conferment of the TTF Excellence Award-Group Participation Award to Sikkim Tourism in recognition of its

outstanding collective participation and impactful presence throughout the exhibition. The prestigious award reflects the commitment, professionalism and collaborative efforts of Sikkim's tourism fraternity in showcasing the State's diverse tourism offerings and unique experiences.

This year, Sikkim Tourism was represented by a wide cross-section of tourism stakeholders and associations, including the Travel Agents Association of Sikkim (TAAS), Sikkim Hotel and Restaurant Association (SHRA), Sikkim United Tour Operators (SUTO and United Silk Route

Tourism Development society, Rhenock Tourism Development Society, Homestay Association of Sikkim (HAS), AASTHA, PTDA, Village Tourism Development Committees from Pakyong District, Soreng District, Namchi District along with several prominent tourism entrepreneurs.

Their active participation played a significant role in promoting Sikkim's tourism potential, strengthening business networks and generating valuable trade opportunities.

The participating tourism stakeholders expressed immense satisfaction with the quality of interactions, productive business

engagements and networking opportunities created during the exhibition. Tourism stakeholders conveyed their sincere gratitude to Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang and Minister Tourism & Civil Aviation Department Mr Tshering T Bhutia for guidance, encouragement and unwavering support, which enabled the successful participation of the State at the prestigious Travel and Tourism Fair.

The participation was coordinated by Ms Rina Brahma, Joint Director, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and the team from the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), Kolkata, whose

dedicated efforts ensured the seamless organisation and impactful presentation of the Sikkim Pavilion throughout the event.

The Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation expresses its heartfelt appreciation to all participating stakeholders, tourism associations and entrepreneurs for their wholehearted cooperation, commitment and collective efforts in successfully representing Sikkim at TTF Kolkata 2026.

The Department also extends its sincere gratitude to the organisers of TTF Kolkata for recognising Sikkim Tourism with the TTF Excellence Award – Group Participation Award.

Contd from front page

Reciprocal transport...

Permits will now be allowed to pick up passengers on their return journey from Siliguri and other areas. In addition, Sikkim-based transport vehicles travelling

between Rangpo and Melli will no longer require countersignature permits under the newly introduced corridor facility. These measures are expected to improve the efficiency of transport operations while creating greater earning opportunities for Sikkim's Sarathis.

Welcoming the signing of the agreement, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang described it as a historic milestone for the State's transport fraternity. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister of West Bengal Mr Suwendu Adhikari, Mr Arjun Singh Minister-in-Charge, Transport

Department Government of West Bengal and the Government of West Bengal for their prompt support and cooperation in making the agreement a reality within a short span of time.

The Chief Minister stated that the agreement would provide significant relief to thousands of

Sarathis, enhance regional connectivity, and further strengthen the longstanding bond of friendship and cooperation between the neighbouring States of Sikkim and West Bengal.

Minister Puran Kumar Gurung inspects monsoon-damaged PMGSY Road at Chujachen Constituency

Pakyong, July 9: Mr Puran Kumar Gurung Minister-cum- Area MLA Chujachen Constituency conducted an inspection of the PMGSY road from Tshalamthang to Lower Tareythang following the damage caused by ongoing monsoon under Chujachen Constituency.

The inspection was undertaken to assess road settlement and damage caused by incessant rainfall and river bank erosion along the PMGSY road connecting Tshalamthang to

Lower Tareythang, which provides connectivity to the habitations of Tareythang and Bering. The inspection focused on identifying the affected stretches and reviewing the necessary restoration measures.

During the inspection, the Minister directed the concerned department to immediately deploy manpower and machinery for clearance of debris and restoration of traffic. To facilitate the movement of light vehicles, he further instructed that stone

soling with mixed filling be taken up after completion of the traffic clearance work.

During the interaction, residents of lower Tareythang urged the Minister and the concerned department to undertake permanent restoration of the damaged road stretches at the earliest to ensure safe and uninterrupted connectivity.

The inspection had the presence of DE, RDD, PMGSY, DPO Pakyong, RO/AD Pakyong, officials from DDMA.

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212th National...

contributions at both the national and international levels. He reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to preserving and promoting the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of Sikkim through sustained support for writers, artists, scholars and cultural institutions.

Acknowledging the historic efforts towards the constitutional recognition of the Nepali language, the Chief Minister paid tribute to former Chief Minister Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari and former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Mrs Dil Kumari Bhandari, for their significant role in advocating for the inclusion of the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. He described their contributions as milestones in safeguarding the linguistic identity and cultural aspirations of the Nepali-speaking community. Reiterating the State Government's commitment to the preservation of regional languages, the Chief Minister stated that several schemes and programmes are being implemented to encourage literary activities, cultural exchanges, documentation of indigenous languages, and the promotion of local traditions among the younger generation.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced the institution of the 'Anubad Setu Award', to be introduced from next year with the objective of promoting translation, literary excellence, and the preservation of Nepali language and literature. He informed that the award will be presented annually on the occasion of Bhanu Jayanti to one distinguished literary personality in recognition of their outstanding contributions to literature. The recipient will be honoured with a cash prize of ₹3 lakh, along with official recognition for their exemplary service to the literary community.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister announced that the Bhanu Jayanti celebrations next year will be hosted in Pakyong District. He urged the MLAs and local administration of the district to begin preparations well in advance to ensure the successful organisation of the event and expressed confidence that the celebration would further strengthen the promotion of

Nepali language, literature, and culture while showcasing Pakyong's cultural heritage to a wider audience.

Earlier, Mr CP Sharma, Chief Coordinator of the 212th Bhanu Jayanti Celebration Committee (BJCC) and Vice Chairman (ITS) highlighted various literary and cultural programmes organised at the Engineering Complex, Malbasey, showcasing the rich literary and cultural legacy of Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya.

Dr Bidhan Acharya, a fifth-generation descendant of Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya, shared insights into the life, literary contributions and enduring legacy of the revered poet. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and the Government of Sikkim for their continued support in promoting Nepali language and literature. As a mark of respect and appreciation, the 212th National-Level Bhanu Jayanti Celebration Committee felicitated Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for his invaluable contributions and steadfast support towards the success of the programme.

The celebration featured a series of literary and cultural programmes, including an Inter-Constituency Ramayan Path, folk dance performances by students from Senior Secondary, Secondary, and Junior High Schools, college-level poetry recitation, folk song competitions, and painting competitions. The Chief Minister presented prizes to the winners of various competitions held earlier at the Engineering Complex, Dak Bungalow, Malbasey, as part of the celebration.

The highlight of the event was the final round of the debate competition between Sikkim University and Khangchendzonga State University on the topic, 'AI Manav Jati Ko Heet Ma Cha Ki Chaina'. Sikkim University emerged as the winner after a closely contested competition, while Ms Mandira Rawat of Sikkim University was adjudged the Best Speaker.

The programme also witnessed the release of a dictionary by the Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha and the book titled, 'A Tribute to Bhanu' authored by Mr Kishan Dahal. Several eminent poets and writers from Sikkim were felicitated in recognition of their invaluable contributions to Nepali literature. Literary organisations and associations

from across the country were also honoured for their continued efforts in preserving and promoting the Nepali language and literary heritage.

A documentary highlighting the cultural heritage and developmental progress of Soreng district was screened during the programme. Digital content creator Ms Salini Chettri (hii_foodie_) won the first place in the Content Creator Competition.

In recognition of sporting excellence, Ms Soniya Subba, who recently secured a bronze medal at the 5th U-15 Sub-Junior Boys & Girls National Boxing Championship, 2026, was felicitated for her outstanding achievement.

During the programme, representatives of 19 communities of Sikkim were honoured by the organising committee for their significant contributions towards preserving their respective art, culture, literature, and traditions.

Prior to the programme at Jautar, the Chief Minister along with dignitaries offered khada (ceremonial scarf) and lighted the ceremonial lamp at 'Bhanu Salik', as a mark of respect and tribute to the life and contributions of the legendary poet on his birth anniversary followed by floral tributes in remembrance of the literary icon. Following the ceremonial proceedings, the Chief Minister joined the traditional 'Shobha Yatra', a vibrant procession that forms an integral part of the annual Bhanu Jayanti celebrations. Various government departments, educational institutions, cultural groups, and local organisations from across Soreng District participated in the procession, displaying colourful banners that highlighted the district's cultural diversity, developmental achievements and community spirit.

The event was attended by Speaker, Deputy Speaker (SLA), Cabinet Ministers, Political Secretary to CM, MLAs, Zilla Adhyaksha (Soreng), Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, President and members of SNP, Advisors, Chairpersons, DGP (Sikkim), Secretaries, Additional Political Secretaries to CM, DC Soreng, SP (Soreng), ADC (Soreng), ADC (Development), SDMs, Heads of Departments, Heads of Offices, BDOs, OSDs, district officials, literary personalities from neighbouring states, teachers, students and public.

Department of AYUSH launches AYUSH Social Media Promotional Week

Gangtok, July 10: In line with the Government of Sikkim's vision and commitment to promoting preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare, the Department of AYUSH has launched a digital awareness initiative titled 'AYUSH Social Media Promotional Week' w.e.f July 6, 2016. The initiative aims to enhance public awareness about the various systems of AYUSH and strengthen citizen engagement through the Department's official social media platforms.

Designed as a year round Information, Education and Communication (IEC) initiative, the campaign features one AYUSH system every week, with daily dissemination of informative posts, educational reels, wellness tips, myth-versus-fact series, expert messages from AYUSH doctors and information on the services available at AYUSH health facilities across the State.

The current week is dedicated to Homeopathy, with AYUSH doctors contributing creative and evidence based content to educate the public on the principles, benefits and role of Homeopathy in promoting health and well-being.

The initiative seeks to increase public awareness, encourage preventive healthcare practices, improve the visibility and utilisation of AYUSH services and establish a strong digital presence

for the Department. It also provides a platform to showcase the knowledge, expertise, and dedication of AYUSH professionals serving the people of Sikkim.

The Department appreciates the enthusiastic participation of its doctors and healthcare professionals, whose creativity and commitment have been instrumental in the successful implementation of this initiative.

The Department of AYUSH expresses its sincere gratitude to the Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for his continued encouragement towards strengthening the AYUSH sector in the State and to Minister for AYUSH, Mr GT Dhungel, Advisor Mr Arjun Kumar Ghatani, Chairman Mr Manoj Pradhan and all stakeholders for their constant guidance and support.

The Department invites citizens to follow its official social media platforms, engage with the content, and share the messages widely, thereby becoming active partners in promoting holistic health and wellness across Sikkim.

'AYUSH Social Media Promotional Week' reflects the Department's commitment to making authentic AYUSH knowledge accessible to every citizen through innovative, credible, and engaging digital communication.

Green Marathon promotes environmental awareness under Sikkim Paryavaran Parva

Mangan, July 10: As part of the ongoing observance of Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026 under the theme 'Leave a Green Legacy', Mangan Territorial Division, Forest and Environment Department organised a 10-km Green Marathon for boys and girls in Mangan, today.

The Green Marathon was flagged off from DAC Complex by Mr Bijoy Subba Additional SP Mangan in the presence of Mr Manzil Kharel DFO (T) Mangan. The route commenced from the DAC Complex, proceeded up to the Old Petrol Pump Station and culminated at the DAC Complex, covering a distance of 10 kilometres.

The event witnessed participation from around 90 students representing PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School, Mangan Girls' Senior Secondary School, Ringhim Senior Secondary School, Singhik Secondary School and North Sikkim Academy.

Organised as one of the key activities under Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026, the Green Marathon aimed to encourage physical fitness while reinforcing the importance of environmental conservation among the younger generation. The initiative highlighted that protecting nature requires collective responsibility and inspired participants to adopt sustainable practices and contribute towards

building a greener and healthier future.

In the boys' category, Phurzang Sherpa of PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School secured the first position, followed by Abhishek Chettri of North Sikkim Academy in second place, while Sukithang Subba of Singhik Secondary School finished third.

In the girls' category, Som Maya Subba of PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School secured the first position, Ledia Sherap of Ringhim Senior Secondary School claimed the second position, while Miss Rachana Limboo, also from Ringhim Senior Secondary School, secured the third position.

The programme concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, during which trophies and certificates to all the participants were presented by ADC Mangan, ASP, SDM, RTO, DFO, Deputy RTO, ACF (T) and other officers of the Forest and Environment Department.

The Green Marathon forms part of a series of activities being organised across Mangan district under Sikkim Paryavaran Parva 2026, reaffirming the Forest and Environment Department's commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and encouraging citizens to leave a lasting green legacy for future generations.

212th Bhanu Jayanti marked with cultural and literary programmes

Gangtok, July 13: 212th Bhanu Jayanti was celebrated at Manan Kendra, Gangtok, today.

Organised by Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim, the state-level celebration was based on the theme 'Language is Our Civilization; Traditional Attire is Our Culture'.

Mr Arun Upreti Minister for Rural Development Department attended the programme as the chief guest.

The Minister applauded Nepali Sahitya Parishad for organising the event and urged the younger generation to draw inspiration from the life and works of Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya to contribute towards social development. He also reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to the promotion and preservation of the Nepali

language.

On the occasion, distinguished personalities were honoured with the Sevashree Samman, Bhasha Gaurav Samman, and the prestigious Bhanu Puraskar 2026, which was conferred upon eminent litterateur Mr Sukraj Subba (Khajum) for his outstanding contribution to Nepali language and literature.

The programme also witnessed the release of the Bhanu Smarika, followed by the awardee's address and the distribution of prizes to winners of various competitions organised as part of the Bhanu Jayanti celebrations.

The programme was attended by literary personalities, members of Nepali Sahitya Parishad, teachers, students and public.

Medhavi Skills University celebrates 14th Foundation Day

Gangtok, July 10: 14th Foundation Day of Medhavi Skills University was celebrated marking 14 years of the University's contribution to skill-based and higher education at Manan Kendra, today.

The programme had the presence of Major General Ashish Negi General Officer Commanding, 17 Mountain Division as the chief guest.

He underscored the role of students in shaping the future of nation. He encouraged the students to cultivate leadership qualities, lead by example and continuously enhance their knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world. Emphasising the significance of skill development, he urged the youth to remain disciplined, resilient and committed to lifelong learning.

Dr Toko Onuj Chairmancum-Managing Director, Hydo Power Development Corporation of Arunachal Pradesh appreciated the natural beauty and developmental progress of Sikkim, stating that the State continues to lead by example in several sectors. He emphasised the importance of skill-based education, underscoring that competency, practical knowledge and industry-relevant skills are as essential as academic qualifications in preparing the youth for future opportunities.

Mr Tushar Nikhare Secretary, Planning and Development Department underscored the importance of skill development in empowering the youth and fostering sustainable growth. He encouraged the students to actively contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Sikkim by equipping themselves with relevant skills, innovation and participating in the nation's developmental journey.

Ms Pari Bishnoi DC Pakyong encouraged students to set ambitious goals and pursue them with determination. She urged them to make the best use of the opportunities and time available to them, strive for continuous self-improvement.

Dr TN Giri Director, Vocational Education (NIOS), Ministry of Education, elaborated on the importance of vocational education in fostering a skilled and future-ready workforce. He highlighted its role in equipping students with practical knowledge. He further emphasised that vocational education complements conventional learning by promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

Mr Pravesh Dudani Founder & Chancellor, Medhavi Skills University, in his address, reflected on the University's journey and the vision behind establishing the institution. He underscored the importance of skill development and encouraged students to remain curious, adaptable and committed to learning.

Mr Kuldeep Sarma Co-Founder and Co-Chancellor, Medhavi Skills University reflected on the University's 14-year journey, its growth, key initiatives and continued commitment to promoting skill-based education. He stated that the University is aligning its skill development programmes with the vision of the Prime Minister, to position India as a global skill capital.

Thereafter, the chief guest officially launched the Medhavi Anthem followed by felicitation of the dignitaries by the Founder and Chancellor, Mr Pravesh Dudani, and the Co-Founder and Co-Chancellor, Mr Kuldeep Sarma, Medhavi Skills University.

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai returns Sikkim after retirement

Pakyong, July 11: Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai returned to Sikkim today following her retirement as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court upon attaining the age of superannuation.

On her arrival at Rangpo Tourist Facilitation Centre, she was received by Ms Mingma Diki Sherpa Additional Secretary, Home Department.

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai retired on July 11 after an

illustrious judicial career spanning over three decades. She had assumed charge as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on 5 June 2026, becoming the first woman from Sikkim to serve as the Chief Justice of a High Court.

IPR Department conducts plantation drive

Gangtok, July 10: Reinforcing the State Government's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development, the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) organised a plantation drive at Selep Tank today as part of Sikkim Parvavaran Parva 2026, themed 'Leave a Green Legacy: A Tree for Our Mother Earth.'

The programme was attended by Mr Asit Rai Chairperson IPR Department, Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary IPR Department, Mr Sunil Mothey Director IPR Department, Mr Pema Chultim Bhutia OSD IPRD, Mr Bishal Khawas Additional Director IPRD, Mr Samir Hang Limboo President, Press Club of Sikkim (PCS), Mr Bikash Chettri Vice President PCS, Mr Simon Subba Deputy Director IPRD, officers and staff of the department.

The plantation drive was carried out with technical assistance from the Forest and Environment Department represented by Block Officer Mr Aeegen Lepcha and Head FG Mr Umesh Rai.

Chairperson, IPR Department said the plantation drive reflected the State Government's steadfast commitment to protecting the environment and preserving the State's rich natural heritage. Thanking the Forest Department for providing saplings, the

Chairperson also appreciated the collective efforts of the IPR team in successfully organising the programme.

Emphasising that plantation should not end with the planting of saplings, the Chairperson called upon officials and staff to regularly monitor and nurture the trees to ensure their healthy growth. He expressed confidence that the initiative would continue in the coming years and said the trees planted today would stand as a lasting green legacy for future generations.

Ms Annapurna Alley described the plantation drive as a true example of teamwork and inter-departmental coordination. She thanked Forest Department for providing saplings, the Horticulture Department for supplying implements and vermicompost, and the Sikkim Nationalised Transport (SNT) for facilitating transportation for participants.

The Secretary also acknowledged the dedication of the officers and staff who prepared the plantation site in advance, stating that their commitment played a key role in the successful execution of the programme. Stressing the importance of post-plantation care, she urged all participants to periodically monitor and maintain the saplings to ensure their survival and growth.

President, Press Club of

Pakyong District observes National Fish Farmers Day

Pakyong, July 10: Fisheries Department, Pakyong District, observed National Fish Farmers Day under the theme 'Honouring Farmers, Strengthening Fisheries, Nourishing the Nation' at Rurban Complex, Pakyong, today.

The programme aimed to honour the contributions of fish farmers and promote the sustainable growth of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The programme was attended by Mr Bishal Sharma Additional Political Secretary to CM as the Chief Guest. During his address, he congratulated the Fisheries Department for organising the programme and appreciated the efforts of fish farmers and entrepreneurs in strengthening the fisheries sector. He lauded the participation of students highlighting the importance of creating awareness among the younger generation about the fisheries sector as a career option.

He emphasised the importance of agriculture and allied sectors in ensuring sustainable livelihoods and generating employment opportunities. He encouraged the dissemination of awareness on agricultural and

fisheries sectors and urged the farmers to utilise the various government schemes and subsidies available for the development of the aquaculture and fisheries sectors in the state.

Additionally, Ms Gauri Mukhia, District Fisheries Development Officer, highlighted the significance of National Fish Farmers' Day, commemorating the successful achievement of induced breeding in Indian major carps by renowned scientists, further emphasising that the occasion is also dedicated to recognise the contributions of fish farmers and entrepreneurs.

She apprised on the initiatives undertaken by the Department to promote sustainable fisheries and improve the livelihoods of fish farmers and stressed on the nutritional and health benefits of fish consumption.

Furthermore, she also elaborated on the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and informed the participants about the various subsidies, financial assistance and insurance schemes available under the scheme to support the growth of the aquaculture sector and

enhance the economic well-being of fish farmers.

A technical session on 'Ornamental Fish Farming: Breeding and Culture' was also conducted by Senior Scientist, CIFRI Guwahati Centre, Dr Niti Sharma, who also demonstrated the proper setup and maintenance of aquariums.

During the event, a fisheries-themed quiz competition for students was also held, followed by the distribution of ornamental fish to participating schools and experience-sharing session was conducted by progressive fish farmer Mr LD Dulal, who shared his journey into successful fish farming practices.

The day concluded with the felicitation of progressive fish farmers, entrepreneurs and students for their contributions and achievements in the fisheries sector.

Also present were Dr Shyamal Chandra Sukla Das and Dr Diwakar Bhakra, Senior Scientists, CIFRI; officials from Fisheries Department, along with teachers and students from various schools.