



SIKKIM HERALD

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Governor attends ICFAI Sikkim University's 19th Convocation



Gangtok, October 10: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur attended the 19th Convocation of ICFAI Sikkim University held at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Governor who is also the Visitor of the ICFAI Sikkim University was present as the chief guest and Dr Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy, Founder and Director of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology (AIG) hospital and recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri as the guest of honour.

The Governor conferred degrees and awards as the gold and silver medals to 14 meritorious students. A total of 219 students graduated during the 19th Convocation.

He said that the Convocation ceremony marks a defining moment in a student's life, the completion of one journey and the beginning of another filled with greater responsibilities towards society and nation-building. The Governor urged the students to utilise their knowledge, skills and technology asserting that knowledge gained through education should be used in the service of humanity.

He called upon the students to make India a Vishwa Guru and the hub of innovation and knowledge once again. He further mentioned that there was a time when India was known as the

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Chief Minister attends Chirbirey River Fest

Namchi, October 11: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the second day of the Chirbirey River Fest, reaffirming the importance of river conservation, aquatic biodiversity and sustainable environmental stewardship.

Upon his arrival, the Chief Minister was accorded Guard of Honour by 2nd Indian Reserve Battalion (IRBn). He was subsequently escorted to the fish ranching site along the banks of the Rangeet River, where he along with Ministers, MLAs and officials, released Chocolate Mahseer fish into the river as part of the initiative to promote aquatic biodiversity and conserve indigenous fish species.

The Chief Minister later visited stalls set up by various entrepreneurs, interacted with stall representatives and enquired about the goods and services on

display, acknowledging their efforts in promoting local enterprise.

During the programme, the Chief Minister was felicitated by executive members of the Sikkim Anglers' Association and South West Taxi Drivers' Association. A representative of Thulo Bhai also presented him with a selection of locally produced edible products.

Sikkim Anglers' Association felicitated Mr KC Pradhan Founder President, Dr DK Subba former executive member and Dr Pushpa Tamang former Director of Science and Technology, in recognition of their contributions and association with the organisation.

In a gesture of solidarity and support for those affected by the Rimbi floods, members of the Former Legislators' Federation of Sikkim handed over a cheque of

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Chota Samdong Govt SSS celebrates Golden Jubilee

Soreng, October 12: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Government Senior Secondary School, Chota Samdong, Soreng District, today. He was accompanied by Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department.

Chief Minister reminisced about his teaching tenure at the school and shared fond memories of his time as a teacher. He congratulated the school on completing 50 years of its establishment and commended its achievements and progress over the years. He highlighted various welfare initiatives and schemes of the State Government aimed at improving the lives of the people including Sikkim Garib Aawas Yojana, Shrawan Kumar Award, Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme, Aama Shashaktikaran Yojana, Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant (CMDG) and Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme (CMMAS).

He also highlighted employment opportunities expected to be generated in the coming years, initiatives towards



the regularisation of jobs in various sectors and the State Government's commitment to promoting tourism. Furthermore, the Chief Minister informed the gathering that Soreng District would soon be connected through improved telecommunication services. He announced that a medical van would be provided to Government Senior Secondary School, Chota Samdong, through

the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant (CMDG).

Mr Aditya Golay MLA Soreng-Chakung Constituency highlighted various developmental initiatives in Chota Samdong, including the Residential Model School, Yuma Manghim, public ground, community halls at Dewanitar and Aarobotey, and

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First leg of 2026 (MTB) Zabarvan Extreme Legends Series flagged off

Soreng, October 11: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang flagged off the first leg of the 2026 (MTB) Zabarvan Extreme Legends Series, an International Mountain Bike Downhill Competition at Rock Garden, Zoom, Soreng District, today.

Organised by Zabarvan Extreme in collaboration with Zoom GPU, the event marks a significant milestone in promoting adventure sports and strengthening the State's potential as an emerging destination for sports tourism.

The event was held as part of the Zabarvan Extreme Legends Series, an initiative promoting downhill mountain biking across diverse terrains and destinations in India. In 2025, the series covered Kashmir, Assam and Meghalaya, while the 2026 edition has commenced with Sikkim, and subsequently to be held in Ladakh and Maharashtra. The event witnessed participation of leading international riders, including Douglas Vieira, a five-time national champion and last year's winner,



who faced strong competition from renowned riders Matej Charvat and Samuel Hills, an eight-time Mountain Bike World

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Pearls of Wisdom

"We accept the love we think we deserve."

- Stephen Chbosky

Mental health and addiction awareness programme organised

Pakyong, October 10: To mark World Mental Health Day 2026, a mental health and addiction awareness programme was organised by Sarathi NGO in collaboration with Sikkim State AIDS Control Society at Community Hall, Pakyong, today.

The programme was organised in alignment with the vision of Chief Minister towards building an ‘addiction-free Sikkim and a mentally healthy Sikkim’. It aimed to raise awareness about mental health and addiction, emphasising the importance of mental well-being and encouraging collective efforts towards creating a healthier and more supportive society.

The event was attended by Mr Rohit Raj Gurung (Maharaj), Advisor to the Chief Minister and also Chief Resource Person for Sarathi NGO as the chief guest. Also present were Mrs Laden Lamu Bhutia Zilla Adhyaksha, Pakyong District, Ms Nim Chiki Sherpa Chairman, Commerce and Industries Department, Ms Bidya Biswakarma Chairman, Cooperation Department, Dr Bharat Chandra Basista Member of ITS, Mr Nilkantha Bhandari SDM Pakyong, Confidential Assistant to the Chief Minister and OSD to MLA Namcheybong Constituency.

Advisor to the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of mental well-being and inner peace. He highlighted the need to maintain a positive outlook towards life and encouraged individuals to prioritise their happiness. He also spoke about managing stress and maintaining emotional well-being during challenging situations. Highlighting the work of Sarathi Organisation, he outlined its efforts towards prevention of substance abuse youth welfare and community-based support, including initiatives aimed at helping young people lead healthier, addiction-free lives.

Mr Bishal Sharma, Additional Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Pakyong District and Project Director, Sarathi NGO, outlined the objectives and community-based approach of Sarathi NGO. He highlighted its focus on substance abuse prevention, mental well-being, counselling, recovery and rehabilitation support for individuals affected by addiction. He elaborated on the role of Sarathi Clubs and Sarathi Samaj in engaging students and local communities through awareness initiatives and collective participation towards building an addiction-free and mentally healthy society.

Reiterating the Chief Minister’s vision of ‘Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim’, he emphasised that realising this vision requires the collective responsibility and active participation of every individual, with communities working

together to promote mental well-being and address substance abuse.

During the session, Dr Madanmani Dhakal, Chief Medical Officer, highlighted the importance of mental health awareness, impact of addiction on overall well-being, and the need to recognise mental health concerns without stigma or prejudice. He emphasised the importance of timely support, understanding and access to appropriate care for individuals facing mental health challenges.

Referring to this year’s global theme, ‘Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change,’ he stressed the need to listen to and understand the experiences of individuals dealing with mental health conditions. He also highlighted the role of behavioural change communication in promoting awareness and positive behavioural practices.

He further highlighted common mental health conditions, the stigma associated with seeking help, and the role of families and communities in providing a supportive environment. He also informed the participants about Tele-MANAS, a national initiative providing tele-mental health counselling and support.

Mrs Dikit Lepcha, Deputy Director, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department-cum-Social Welfare Officer, highlighted the importance of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Abhiyan in promoting the education, dignity and empowerment of the girl child. She emphasised the need to build confidence among girls and encourage boys to respect and value girls, stressing the importance of addressing gender-based discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for all. She noted that emotional well-being and self-confidence play an important role in enabling girls to become independent individuals and realise their potential.

She also administered the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao pledge, encouraging participants to uphold the dignity and rights of girls, ensure equal opportunities in education, and support them in becoming confident, independent individuals capable of pursuing their aspirations.

Mr Pradeep Chettri, Station House Officer, Pakyong, spoke on drug abuse and addiction, highlighting the need to address the issue as a collective social responsibility. He emphasised that substance abuse affects not only the individual but also the entire family, often causing emotional distress and adversely affecting the mental well-being of family members. He underscored the wider social impact of addiction and the importance of collective efforts by families and the community in addressing the

issue.

Likewise, Ms Tshering Ongmu Lepcha from Sikkim State AIDS Control Society conducted an awareness session on HIV and AIDS, covering its modes of transmission, preventive measures, treatment and the importance of timely testing and regular medication. She also highlighted the role of the Aids Control Society in promoting awareness, facilitating access to healthcare services and encouraging people to seek timely diagnosis and treatment.

The session further highlighted the need to address stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and stressed the importance of providing them with care, support and access to treatment without prejudice. Participants were also sensitised to the provisions of the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017.

In addition, she underscored the importance of community participation, awareness and collective efforts in addressing mental health and addiction-related concerns, reducing stigma and promoting access to appropriate care and support.

Ms Chandrakala Sapkota, Mental Health Counselor, Pakyong PHC, briefed the participants on the Sikkim Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) Project, the SPAN-S screening tool and the mental health services available at the PHC. She emphasised the importance of self-care, recognising emotional distress and seeking support when needed, highlighting that prioritising one’s own mental well-being is essential to maintaining healthy relationships and supporting others.

The programme also featured the presentation of citations of appreciation to individuals, sports clubs, local catering enterprises and fitness centres in recognition of their contributions towards rehabilitation, community awareness and the promotion of healthier lifestyles. Individuals were also acknowledged for their personal progress and positive contributions towards society.

Medical professionals who had extended medical assistance in Nepal during the disaster were also felicitated in recognition of their dedicated service and humanitarian efforts.

A testing facility was also set up at the venue to provide screening and testing services for various health conditions.

The programme was also attended by Councillors of Pakyong Nagar Panchayat, Heads of Offices, officials from various departments, Police personnel, SHG members and Anganwadi Workers.

to serve the nation with the same dedication and wisdom.

The Governor also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and the people of

Sikkim for the unwavering affection, respect, and cooperation extended to him during his tenure in the State.

DC-cum-DEO Pakyong conducts appeal hearings

Pakyong, October 12: Ms Pari Bishnoi, District Collector-cum-District Election Officer, Pakyong conducted 268 appeal hearings pertaining to the 22-Namcheybong Assembly Constituency at DAC Pakyong, today.

The hearings were conducted as part of the Special

Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls 2026, and pertained to appeals under the categories taken up at the DEO level.

Also present during the hearings were Mr Sabindra Rai ADC (Headquarter) and officials from District Election Office, Pakyong.

SICA Residential Complex inaugurated

Pakyong, October 8: Mr Sanjeet Kharel, MLA-cum-Advisor, Power Department in the presence of MLAs Mr Aditya Golay and Mr Erung Tenzing Lepcha inaugurated the Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) Residential Complex at Mining, Rangpo, today.

Also present were Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary IPRD, Ms Yangchen Doma Tamang Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Mr Phurba Wangdi Bhutia MD SBS, Mr Tika Subba President SICA along with officials from various line department, executives from SICA and public.

The inauguration marks a step towards strengthening residential and training facilities for cricketers in the State, comprising of various amenities to provide accommodation and support to young cricketers undergoing training at the SICA residential academy.

The Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA) Residential Complex is part of the State’s vision of creating a cricket ecosystem to nurture players from the grassroots level and support their progression towards high-performance teams and national-level cricket. The

complex comprises of SICA Guest House, dormitory, boys’ hostel, girls’ hostel, kitchen and dining hall, accommodating approximately 150 players and 40-50 support staff.

The SICA residential academy, which initially began with around 12-15 players, subsequently expanded to 30-40 players and currently accommodates nearly 70 young cricketers. The association also provides support for schooling, clothing and other requirements of academy players.

Additionally, the association has also established a structured pathway for players to pursue cricket as a career. Senior men and women players receive match fees, with earnings of around ₹50,000/- per day and former academy players have also progressed into roles as coaches, trainers and physiotherapists, it was learnt.

Prior to the inauguration programme, cricketing gear and kits were distributed to 24 schools across six districts as part of the initiative to promote sports among young children and encourage greater participation in cricket and other sporting activities.

Before the Oath Commissioner, at Gangtok, Sikkim
AFFIDAVIT

I, **Karma Tamang**, son of Late Gopilall Tamang, aged about 68 years, by faith Buddhist, resident of Sang Martam, Gangtok District, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That I am the natural son of **Late Gopi Lal Tamang** and Grandson of **Late Ran Bahadur Tamang**.

2. That my grandfather's actual and correct name is **Ran Bahadur Tamang** and the same has been recorded in his Sikkim Subject Certificate bearing Serial No. 155, Volume No. II under Block **Nazitam**.

3. That my grandfather's name has been recorded as **Ram Bahadur Tamang** in my father's namely **Gopi Lal Tamang** Certificate of Identification bearing Serial No. 155, Volume No. II under Block **Nazitam**.

4. That I am swearing this Affidavit to state and declare the name **Ran Bahadur Tamang** and **Ram Bahadur Tamang** are the names of one the same person i.e. my grandfather.

That the statements made hereinabove are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed there from and I have signed and verified this Affidavit on this the 22nd day of August, 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Identified by me:-
Mrs Sita Chettri
R/o- Vajra, Gangtok

DEPONENT

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Chief Minister...

wished Governor good health, happiness and fulfilling life

**Government of Sikkim
Health & Family Welfare Department
Gangtok, Sikkim**

NIT No:- 01/EC/H&FWD/NIT/2026-27

Dated:- 14.10.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tender on Item rate basis from the eligible class of contractors of appropriate class / within District level for the work listed as under: -

Sl.No	Name of work	Value put to tender (Amount in ₹) Exclusive of taxes	Completion Time (in months)	Amount of Earnest Money @ 2.50% For issue of tender Form	Amount of Bank Receipt/ Challan for cost of tender documents(₹)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Primary Health Centre at Chakung under Soreng District.	6,92,18,423.00	36 months	17,30,461.00	1,00,000.00

Note: - The Earnest Money Deposit indicated in the above table is 50% exempted for all Enlisted Women Contractor participating in the bidding process. In case of such bidder accepted as L1 bidder, the issue of the Work Order shall be governed by Notification No.104/R&B dated 08/10/2020.

The date and time of submission of completed bid documents are as under: -

i) Publishing of e-tender bid	- 16.10.2026
ii) Online bid submission start date	- 17.10.2026
iii) Bid submission closing date	- 18.11.2026 (till 1.00pm)
iv) Bid opening date	- 18.11.2026 (after 2pm)
v) Submission of hard copies of challan/ TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents) to be submitted in the office of Additional Chief Engineer(Civil) Health & Family Welfare Department Govt, of Sikkim Jan Sewa Bhawan, Gangtok.	- 18.11.2026(11am to 1.00pm)

Tender documents and other details may be downloaded from the Sikkim Government E-portal www.sikkimtender.gov.in

- Tender documents may be downloaded from the Sikkim Government E-portal www.sikkimtender.gov.in.
- The above Tender Value is exclusive of GST & CESS and same is payable to the Contractor as applicable on the date of Tender.
- The following document in hard copies in original must be submitted on 18.11.2026 from 11am to 1.00pm
 - Earnest Money in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt/Fixed Deposit Receipt in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer/ Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.
 - Cost of Tender document in the form of Bank Receipt or Challan.
 - Validated / Certified copy of the Enlistment Certificate from SPWD of the appropriate Class.
 - If the hard copies of above documents are not received within the specified time as indicated above, the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered as non-responsive and shall not be evaluated.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
- Uploading of tender documents in e-portal is mandatory.
- Submission of hard copies only will not be considered as a valid bid and shall summarily be rejected.

**Additional Chief Engineer (civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim.
(98,II)**

**Government of Sikkim
Health & Family Welfare Department
Gangtok, Sikkim**

NIT No:- 04/EC/H&FWD/NIT/2026-27

Dated:- 14.10.2026

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Primary Health Centre at Namthang, under Namchi District	6,78,83,068.00	36 months	16,97,077.00	1,00,000.00

Note: - The Earnest Money Deposit indicated in the above table is 50% exempted for all Enlisted Women Contractor participating in the bidding process. In case of such bidder accepted as L1 bidder, the issue of the Work Order shall be governed by Notification No.104/R&B dated 08/10/2020.

The date and time of submission of completed bid documents are as under: -

i) Publishing of e-tender bid	- 16.10.2026
ii) Online bid submission start date	- 17.10.2026
iii) Bid submission closing date	- 17.11.2026 (till 1.00pm)
iv) Bid opening date	- 17.11.2026 (after 2pm)
v) Submission of hard copies of challan/ TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents) to be submitted in the office of Additional Chief Engineer (Civil) Health & Family Welfare Departmen Govt. of Sikkim Jan Sewa Bhawan, Gangtok.	- 17.11.2026(11am to 1.00pm)

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 - Earnest Money in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt/Fixed Deposit Receipt in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer/ Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.
 - Cost of Tender document in the form of Bank Receipt or Challan.
 - Validated / Certified copy of the Enlistment Certificate from SPWD of the appropriate Class.
 - If the hard copies of above documents are not received within the specified time as indicated above the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered as non-responsive and shall not be evaluated.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
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**Additional Chief Engineer (civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(100,II)**

**Government of Sikkim
Health & Family Welfare Department
Gangtok, Sikkim**

NIT No:- 03/EC/H&FWD/NIT/2026-27

Dated:- 14.10.2026

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Primary Health Centre at Martam under Gyalshing District	6,92,19,729.00	36 months	17,30,493.00	1,00,000.00

Note: - The Earnest Money Deposit indicated in the above table is 50% exempted for all Enlisted Women Contractor participating in the bidding process. In case of such bidder accepted as L1 bidder, the issue of the Work Order shall be governed by Notification No.104/R&B dated 08/10/2020.

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iii) Bid submission closing date	-20.11.2026 (till 1pm)
iv) Bid opening date	-20.11.2026(after 2pm)
v) Submission of hard copies of challan/ TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents) to be submitted in the office of Additional Chief Engineer(Civil) Health & Family Welfare Department Govt, of Sikkim Jan Sewa Bhawan, Gangtok.	- 20.11.2026(11am to 1.00pm)

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**Additional Chief Engineer (civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(97,II)**

**Government of Sikkim
Health & Family Welfare Department
Gangtok, Sikkim**

NIT No:- 02/EC/H&FWD/NIT/2026-27

Dated:- 14.10.2026

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Primary Health Centre at Rinchenpong, under Soreng District.	6,92,19,808.00	36 months	17,30,495.00	1,00,000.00

Note: - The Earnest Money Deposit indicated in the above table is 50% exempted for all Enlisted Women Contractor participating in the bidding process. In case of such bidder accepted as L1 bidder, the issue of the Work Order shall be governed by Notification No.104/R&B dated 08/10/2020.

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**Additional Chief Engineer (civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(99,II)**

Learning and Mentorship Session organised

Soreng, October 8: DIC Soreng under Commerce and Industries Department and Sikkim Innovation Hub under Sikkim INSPIRES organised a 'Learning and Mentorship Session' under the Start-up Sikkim District Connect initiative at DAC Soreng, today.

The programme was organised with the objective of creating awareness among aspiring entrepreneurs, start-ups and young innovators about entrepreneurship, business management, Government schemes and available institutional support. The session also provided participants with an opportunity to interact with experienced resource persons and gain practical knowledge and guidance for establishing and managing their enterprises.

Ms Anula Gurung, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Soreng, elaborated on the objectives and significance of the session. She stated that such programmes aim to encourage entrepreneurship and create greater awareness about various Government initiatives and support mechanisms available to prospective and existing entrepreneurs. She also provided an overview of the Sikkim Start-up Policy, highlighting the support available to start-ups in areas such as establishment, promotion, marketing and other aspects of enterprise development. She further briefed the participants on platforms and initiatives including the SPARK Portal, KoBo Tool and incubation support, particularly for those at the initial stage of their entrepreneurial journey.

The first technical session was conducted by Mr Ram Kumar from Start-up Sikkim, Commerce and Industries Department. A major focus of the session was on the importance of accounting for entrepreneurs, particularly for small and emerging businesses. He explained that maintaining proper and regular financial records enables entrepreneurs to understand the financial health of their businesses, make informed decisions and plan for future growth.

The session covered the basic accounting records that every small business should maintain, including a sales register, purchase register, cash book and expense register. Participants were

advised to maintain a clear distinction between business and personal finances, including the use of separate business and personal bank accounts. The importance of preserving bills, invoices and other supporting documents was also emphasised.

He explained the fundamentals of a Profit and Loss Account, including business revenue, business expenses, gross profit and net profit. He highlighted the importance of reviewing financial performance on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis and demonstrated a simple monthly Profit and Loss format that entrepreneurs can use to monitor their businesses.

The session also highlighted the important distinction between cash flow and profit, explaining that a profitable business may still face financial difficulties if cash flow is not properly managed. Other areas covered included inventory and stock management, treatment of business assets, basic understanding of GST and accounting, salary and wage records, and maintaining a regular monthly accounting routine. He also introduced participants to the concept of a simple monthly business dashboard, which can help entrepreneurs monitor key indicators of business performance.

The second session was conducted by Mr Malay Kumar Biswas, SBI Lead Bank Manager, Soreng, who provided participants with an overview of banking facilities and various Government-backed financial and social security schemes relevant to entrepreneurs and the general public. He explained the difference between current and savings bank accounts, advising business owners and entrepreneurs to consider opening a current account for business transactions. He highlighted that maintaining a dedicated business account helps entrepreneurs keep proper records and track business transactions systematically.

He also briefed participants about various credit and loan schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), and explained the different categories of Mudra loans, along with the eligibility and documentation requirements

associated with availing credit facilities.

Information was also provided on the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and the financial assistance available under the scheme for eligible entrepreneurs and prospective business owners. The session further covered important social security and financial inclusion schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The resource person explained the relevance of these schemes in providing financial and social security to individuals and entrepreneurs.

The workshop concluded with an interactive discussion involving the resource persons and participants. The discussions covered various aspects of entrepreneurship, business planning, access to finance, Government support, banking services, accounting practices, start-up development and enterprise management.

The workshop is one of the many initiatives undertaken by the District Industries Centre (DIC), Soreng, under the aegis of the Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim, over the past few months to foster a strong and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district. These initiatives are aimed at creating greater awareness, facilitating access to institutional support, strengthening entrepreneurial capacities and providing aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with opportunities for mentorship, networking and business development.

The establishment and strengthening of incubation centres and innovation hubs in the state is also expected to provide a significant advantage to entrepreneurs across Sikkim, by creating avenues for mentorship, innovation, networking, capacity building and access to various forms of institutional support. Such facilities will benefit not only established start-ups but also aspiring entrepreneurs and young innovators at the early stages of their entrepreneurial journey.

recognised destination for adventure sports and tourism. He commended the collective efforts, cooperation and active participation of the people of Salghari-Zoom, acknowledging the contribution of Zabarvan Extreme, the Cycling Federation of India and the associated teams in making the event possible.

The Chief Minister highlighted the State Government's continued commitment to the holistic development of Salghari-Zoom, Jorethang and the surrounding areas, with particular emphasis on strengthening infrastructure and unlocking the constituency's tourism potential. He outlined ongoing and proposed initiatives, including the development of

tourism infrastructure such as Peacock Park and the widening and improvement of the Zoom road. Emphasising the importance of road connectivity in shaping the visitor experience, he expressed his vision of developing well-engineered, quality roadways that would make travel safer, smoother and more convenient while enhancing the region's appeal to tourists.

Urging the public and the organising committee to sustain the momentum generated by the competition, he expressed hope that the event would become an annual feature, further establishing Salghari-Zoom on the international adventure sports calendar. He also highlighted the broader prospects for tourism

Meeting of ATMA Governing Body and Management Committee held

Pakyong, October 9: A meeting of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Governing Body and Management Committee, along with District Farmers Advisory Committee (DFAC) was held at DAC Pakyong, today.

The meeting organised by ATMA Pakyong was chaired by Ms Pari Bishnoi, DC Pakyong, who also serves as the Chairperson of ATMA. She appreciated the achievements of ATMA Pakyong and shared insights on identifying five high-value agricultural products in the State strengthening forward linkages to improve their market reach. She emphasised the importance of connecting these products with wider markets to enhance their value and create better opportunities for farmers.

DC stressed on the importance of developing suitable packaging, processing and marketing facilities to enhance the value of local products. She cited the potential of orchids in the gifting industry and highlighted the scope for promoting distinctive local products through value addition.

Mr Tshering Chophel Bhutia, Additional Director-cum-Project Director, ATMA, provided an overview of the structure and functions of ATMA. He elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of

the ATMA Governing Body and its functioning, highlighting its role in strengthening agricultural extension services and supporting the farming community.

Ms Rebecca Gurung, Deputy Director, Agriculture Department and Deputy Project Director, ATMA Pakyong, presented the progress report of ATMA Pakyong for 2025-2026. Through a PowerPoint presentation, she outlined fund utilisation and the physical progress of activities undertaken across all six blocks of Pakyong District. The activities included training sessions, awareness programmes, demonstrations, farm schools, Kisan Gosthis and capacity building programmes conducted in collaboration with various departments. She also presented the District Action Plan of ATMA Pakyong.

Dr Prakash Sharma, Head, KVK, shared insight on rainwater harvesting and water management in agriculture, with particular emphasis on dryland farming. He highlighted the importance of conserving and utilising rainwater to meet the day-to-day water requirements of farming activities, especially in areas with limited water availability. He also discussed the need for efficient water management practices to support agricultural operations and promote sustainable farming.

development in the region, referring to the upcoming International Fishing Festival at Chirbirey as another initiative that would showcase the area's natural assets and create opportunities for local communities and tourism related enterprises. He further underscored the ongoing upgradation of road infrastructure across the district, as an important component of the State Government's wider development agenda.

Highlighting initiatives aimed at strengthening the rural economy, the Chief Minister also spoke about 'Gauley Haat', an initiative designed to provide local farmers with a dedicated marketplace to sell their agricultural produce. The facility, equipped with essential amenities such as sheltered spaces, cold storage and washrooms, aims to facilitate better handling and preservation of produce and support the livelihoods of local farmers.

The Chief Minister also touched upon various welfare initiatives of the State Government, including Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, under which, the performance and progress of beneficiary mothers would be assessed in the coming year, with recognition and awards for those demonstrating effective utilisation of the assistance provided. He further apprised about of a proposed scheme for fathers aimed at supporting house upgradation, with 2,000 beneficiaries envisaged in each constituency. In addition, he highlighted initiatives such as Sewa Samman, which recognises and honours the service and contributions of ex-servicemen

and retired Police personnel.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister extended his appreciation to the people of Salghari-Zoom, organising committee, participating teams and athletes for their collective contribution to the successful hosting of the international competition. Reaffirming the Government's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote sports, tourism and local development, he assured continued encouragement and support for future editions of the event.

The series witnessed participation from athletes representing eight countries: Iran, Australia, Brazil, Italy, the Czech Republic, Taiwan, Nepal and India, providing a platform for riders from across the world to showcase their skills and compete on the challenging downhill terrain of the region.

Earlier, Mr Khagendra Rai, OSD to Transport Department introduced the international athletes participating in the series, who were felicitated by the Chief Minister.

Alongside the sporting activities, a daylong event was organised at Rock Garden, Zoom, featuring cultural performances, musical performances, rock climbing activities, stalls and exhibitions by seven Self-Help Group (SHG) members. These activities showcased the region's cultural heritage, adventure tourism potential and local entrepreneurial activities, while providing a platform for community participation and the promotion of local products.

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First leg...

Champion. Their participation raised the competitive level of the event, bringing together accomplished riders for a thrilling display of skill, speed and endurance.

Chief Minister congratulated the organising team and all stakeholders associated with the International Downhill Mountain Bike (MTB) Competition, describing the event as a historic milestone for Sikkim and a moment of immense significance for Salghari-Zoom. He noted that hosting an event of international interest in the constituency reflected the region's growing potential to emerge as a

Chirbirey River Fest concludes

Namchi, October 12: Three-day Chirbirey River Fest, organised by Sikkim Anglers' Association (SAA) in collaboration with Fisheries Department concluded at Chirbirey, Jorethang, today. The festival also commemorated 25 years of the Association's commitment to river conservation, ecological stewardship and preservation of aquatic ecosystems.

Mr Madan Cintury MLA-cum-Advisor attended the festival as the chief guest.

During the programme, the chief guest was felicitated by the Association in recognition of his support and cooperation in organising the festival. The Association also felicitated Nayabazar-Jorethang Nagar Panchayat and Karnali Rafting & Adventure Pvt Ltd, an adventure tourism agency from Nepal, for their association with the event.

The Catch-and-Release Angling Competition remained the centrepiece of the festival, highlight responsible Angling and conservation of aquatic life. Mr

Sukraj Yonzon secured first place and received a trophy, certificate of participation and a cash prize of ₹50,000/-.

Mr Tilak Rai and Mr Nazeem Lepcha jointly secured second place, each receiving a trophy, certificate of participation and a cash prize of ₹20,000/-. Mr Sanjay Rai secured third place and was presented with a trophy, certificate of participation and a cash prize of ₹20,000/-. In recognition of their outstanding performances, Mr Chong Targain received a Special Commendation for exceptional Angling, while Mr Vikiran Gurung was conferred the Best Sportsman Award. Both were awarded cash prizes of ₹10,000/- each.

Mr Jacob Daniels from the United States of America and Mr Devendra Jaishe from Nepal were also presented with certificates in recognition of their participation in the three-day festival. 22 participants in the Angling competition also received certificates of participation.

As part of the special recognition ceremony, the

Association presented tokens of gratitude to Mr Noel Karthak, Ms Maria Malenda, Solo Desi Traveller, Varnamala Parivar, Sanctorium, Poetry Room, Serenity Home, Zero Waste Himalaya, Teesta Rangeet Rescue Team and Community Health Centre, Jorethang, in appreciation of their valuable support and contributions towards the successful organisation of the festival.

The concluding programme also featured musical performances and poetry recitations, adding to the festive atmosphere. A performance by the Salakhala band further enriched the cultural presentations.

It may be mentioned that the three-day Chirbirey River Fest was commenced on October 10 at Chirbirey, Jorethang marking 25 years of the Sikkim Anglers' Association's (SAA) commitment to river stewardship and the conservation of river ecosystems.

with the Annual Road Safety Action Plan, along with the timely preparation and submission of Minutes of Meetings (MoM) and updated Action Taken Reports (ATR) to facilitate regular monitoring and follow-up action.

During the interactive session, Committee members and representatives of taxi associations shared their observations and suggestions concerning road conditions, parking facilities and traffic management. The District Collector advised the members to maintain coordination with the concerned departments and identify practical measures to address road safety issues across the district.

The meeting was attended by Dr Namgay Bhutia CMO Gyalshing, Mr Bikash Pradhan Superintending Engineer Roads and Bridges Department, Mr Bimal Kumar Gurung Sub-Divisional Police Officer Gyalshing, Mr Ram Hang Subba Senior Regional Transport Officer Gyalshing, Mr Santosh Singh Divisional Engineer Roads and Bridges Department, Junior Engineer Roads and Bridges Department, President Gyalshing Main Line Taxi Drivers Association, President Gyalshing Local Taxi Drivers Association and other officials.

further variety to the cultural presentations.

Among those present were Cabinet Ministers, MLAs and other dignitaries.

Causa) were awarded to former Judge of Sikkim High Court, Mr Justice Sonam P Wangdi, Padma Shri awardees, Ms Droupadi Ghimirey and Mr Kedar Gurung for their contribution in different fields.

The convocation ceremony was attended by Dr ORS Rao Chancellor of ICFAI University, Vice-Chancellor, Board Director, governing body, faculty members, parents and other dignitaries.

Coordination meeting with TSPs convened

Mangan, October 12: A coordination meeting with major Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) was convened at the office of DC Mangan, today to address persistent network outages and improve telecommunications infrastructure throughout the district.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Samdup Lepcha, Minister for Social Welfare Department-cum-MLA Lachen Mangan Constituency and co-chaired by Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan.

The session witnessed participation from key district administrative and line department officials, including the Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDM) of Mangan and Chungthang, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP, Mangan), Regional Transport Officer (RTO, Mangan), Assistant Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Assistant Motor Vehicles Inspector (AMVI, Mangan), and the District Project Officer-cum-Joint Director (DDMA). Telecom authorities and service providers were represented by the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Sub-Divisional Engineer (SDE), BSNL, Network Lead and Operation & Maintenance Lead from Reliance Jio alongside representatives from Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, who attended virtually.

Addressing the forum, the DC drew serious attention to the recurring telecom disruptions affecting the region,

Meeting to discuss implementation of ECI's instructions on special drive held

Gangtok, October 9: A meeting to discuss the implementation of the Election Commission of India's (ECI) instructions on the special drive for the enrolment of left-out and first-time, young electors was held under the chairmanship of Mr Rohan Agawane, DC-cum-DEO at his office, today.

During the meeting, DC apprised representatives of recognised political parties of the Commission's instructions and discussed measures to facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors whose names are not included in the current electoral roll. As per the ECI's instructions, the special drive aims to identify eligible electors whose names appeared in the pre-Special Intensive Revision (SIR) electoral roll but are not included in the current roll, as well as individuals seeking enrolment for the first time, including young electors.

The meeting highlighted the importance of coordination among Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and political parties to facilitate the enrolment process. BLOs have been directed to compare the pre-SIR and current electoral rolls, identify eligible electors

underscoring that Mangan hosts numerous strategic and Vibrant Villages situated along international borders.

The Minister reiterated the urgent need for a reliable, resilient, and uninterrupted mobile network so that residents in far-flung and remote habitations can access essential mobile and internet services without disruption.

DC emphasised that robust connectivity is not only critical for regular governance and disaster preparedness but also vital for border security and regional development. To ensure seamless e-governance, administrative communications, and virtual proceedings, he formally directed service providers to install a dedicated mobile tower within the District Administrative Centre (DAC) complex.

In response to the concerns raised, Bharti Airtel assured that 5G network rollout will be initiated in Mangan, commencing from the Pentok area before expanding into other parts of the district. Reliance Jio committed to optimising and strengthening their existing mobile coverage and substantially upgrading data/internet speeds and Department of Telecommunications (DoT) affirmed that shadow and weak-coverage zones across the district would be surveyed and addressed under relevant central government schemes, with priority focus on border belts and remote settlements.

whose names are missing, and undertake house-to-house visits to ascertain their present status and assist eligible individuals in submitting Form 6 for enrolment.

The ECI has also directed that booth-wise lists of identified electors be shared with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of recognised political parties. The progress of the drive is to be reviewed regularly by the concerned election authorities.

In addition, Booth Level Camps and special camps may be organised to facilitate the submission of enrolment applications, including by people residing in labour colonies and night shelters, as well as homeless and marginalised individuals.

The Commission has emphasised awareness and outreach activities through educational institutions, local-level initiatives, Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities and press briefings to ensure that all eligible citizens are informed about the enrolment process. The special drive aims to facilitate the enrolment of all eligible citizens and strengthen participation in the electoral process.

Gyalshing, October 12: A meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC), Gyalshing, was held under the chairmanship of Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, at this office, today.

The meeting focused on improving road infrastructure at vulnerable locations, addressing traffic congestion and strengthening traffic enforcement and road safety awareness across the district. The meeting commenced with a review of the proceedings of the Committee's previous meeting held on March 31, 2026, led by DC in his capacity as Chairperson of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC). The DC took stock of the progress made in implementing the road safety measures discussed during the earlier meeting and reviewed the action taken by the concerned departments.

During the deliberations, DC emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among Committee members to identify areas requiring intervention and address road safety concerns in the district. The Committee discussed road conditions at various locations, particularly shortcut routes and accident-prone stretches.

DC acknowledged suggestions concerning the

installation of convex mirrors, crash barriers and appropriate road signage at vulnerable locations to improve road safety.

Issues relating to roadside parking, loading and unloading of vehicles, and traffic congestion were also taken up, particularly near the district hospital, taxi stands and school areas. The Committee examined suggestions for improving parking arrangements and facilitating the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The discussions also covered road safety awareness programmes, enforcement of traffic regulations, prevention of drunk driving and vehicular pollution checks. Matters concerning the regular monitoring of road accident data, identification of accident-prone locations and black spots, and implementation of appropriate corrective measures were also reviewed.

DC highlighted the importance of displaying contact numbers inside vehicles to facilitate communication when required. The possibility of incorporating barcodes containing vehicle-related contact information was also discussed. The meeting further highlighted the requirement for conducting quarterly meetings in accordance

also featured traditional dances, musical performances and poetry recitations. A Tai Chi demonstration by representatives of Hinoki Dojo, Gangtok, added

emphasised that Viksit Bharat is not a distant vision but a future that today's youth will help shape.

The Governor also urged students to become masters of technology rather than its slaves, stressing the need for its responsible use amid growing concerns over the impact of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence.

During the programme, Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris

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Chief Minister...

₹2,01,000/- towards the Rimbi Flood Relief Fund. The programme

Contd. from front page

Governor attends...

Vishwa Guru adding that steps must be taken to bring back the past glory. Highlighting the central role of youth in nation-building, the Governor reiterated Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi's vision of placing yuva shakti at the heart of India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047. He

Two-Day recce conducted ahead of Sikkim Adventure Tourism Festival 2026

Gangtok, October 14: In preparation for the upcoming Sikkim Adventure Tourism Festival 2026, a two-day recce was undertaken on October 13-14 by teams from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and Information and Public Relations Department along with key stakeholders, to assess the feasibility, operational readiness and safety arrangements for various adventure tourism activities proposed for the festival.

The recce covered key adventure tourism locations across Pakyong, Soreng and Namchi Districts, with the teams conducting on-site assessments of paragliding, rafting, hiking and cycling activities, along with proposed activity routes, access points, landing sites and associated logistical requirements.

On the first day, the team visited Pakyong, Thumki Dara, Rorathang and other identified locations to inspect the proposed paragliding take-off and landing sites. A live flying demonstration was also conducted to assess site conditions, including elevation, terrain profile and wind patterns, and evaluate their suitability for safe paragliding operations.

The second day focused on the proposed festival venue at Linkhim Tar, Namthang, in Namchi District. The team inspected the site and assessed the areas identified for paragliding and rafting activities, including the feasibility of short-duration adventure experiences and proposed routes connecting surrounding locations with the

festival venue.

In Soreng District, a paragliding recce was undertaken from Chakhung to Jorethang, with the team examining the proposed flight route, landing arrangements and technical and safety requirements. The exercise also included an evaluation of elevation profiles, wind speed and direction to determine the suitability of the route for paragliding operations.

Hiking routes in and around Chakhung were also assessed as part of the recce to examine their suitability for adventure tourism activities and visitor experiences during the festival.

Accommodation and visitor facilities were also reviewed, including an inspection of homestays at Chakhung in Soreng District to assess their suitability for participating teams and visitors during the festival.

Simultaneously, a rapid rafting recce session from Rangpo to Linkhim Tar was also conducted as part of the exercise, which had the participation of Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Dr Dawa Gyalpo Sherpa Field Director, Department of Tourism, GTA along with officials from the Government of Sikkim.

A cycling recce and equipment testing session was also conducted at the Institute of Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE), Chemchey, where the cycles and associated equipment for the festival have been stored. The session focused on testing the

equipment and assessing its operational readiness ahead of the festival.

The reconnaissance exercise for river rafting activities was supported by the Teesta Rangeet Rescue Centre (TRRC), led by its Ms Shanti Rai President and Team Leader, whose team assisted in the assessment and safety-related aspects of the adventure activities. The assessment also covered river gradients, rapids, currents and water flow along the proposed rafting stretches to evaluate route suitability and safety requirements.

As part of the promotional preparations, vehicle stickers and pamphlets regarding the festival were distributed across inter-State entry points and border check-posts in Rangpo and Melli to generate wider public awareness about the event.

The entire preparatory exercise was led by Mr Kazi Sherpa Additional Director (Adventure), Tourism and Civil Aviation Department-cum-Principal, Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE).

The two-day recce brought together officials, adventure activity experts, pilots, rafting personnel, rescue teams and other stakeholders to assess the proposed activities and ensure coordinated planning for the Sikkim Adventure Tourism Festival 2026, scheduled for November 1-7 at Linkhim Tar, Namthang, in Namchi District.

Siddhi Kumar Gurung, was also felicitated in recognition of his contribution to the institution.

Retired teachers who served alongside the Chief Minister at the school in 1986, were presented with Golden Jubilee souvenirs. The recipients included Mr Narayan Pradhan of Daramdin, Mr TN Adhikari of Tumin, Mr DR Gautam of Pakyong and Mr CB Tamang of Majuwa. Promising alumni Ms Sheema Gurung, Mr Oma Hang Limboo and Mr Abhi Raj Rai were also felicitated for their achievements. Mr Shree Dhoj Limboo, the land donor for Yuma Manghim, Chota Samdong and its architect, Mr Santa Bir Limboo, were also honoured for their contributions.

The programme also witnessed the handing over of cheques to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the victims of the Rimbi floods. The contributions were made by the Education Department, Soreng District, various schools across the district, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Mr Prakash Sharma, Principal Government Senior Secondary School Chota Samdong, presented a brief report highlighting the school's journey, achievements, and contributions to education over the past five decades.

Mr DR Bista ADC Soreng presented an overview of the

Aspirational District Programme and highlighted Soreng District's achievement of securing the first position in the Delta Ranking under NITI Aayog in the Health and Nutrition sector.

Recognising the district's achievement, Chief Minister presented Letters of Appreciation to Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC Soreng, Ms Smriti Rai CMO Health and Ms Gauri Tamang CDPO for their contributions towards securing the first position in the Delta Ranking under NITI Aayog in Health and Nutrition.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated Yuma Manghim at Chota Samdong and visited exhibition stalls showcasing handicrafts, learning and teaching materials and prototype models.

Present during the event were Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA, Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Labour Department, MLAs, Former Ministers and MLAs, Political Secretary to CM, Zilla Adhyaksha, Zilla Upadhyaksha, Zilla Panchayats and members, Advisors and Chairpersons, Secretary (Education Department), DC Soreng, ADC Soreng, ADC Development, ASP Soreng, SDMs, OSDs, ex-servicemen, retired employees, Heads of Departments (HoDs), Heads of Offices (HoOs), Officer from various line departments and students.

Two-day North Sikkim Innovates 2026-grand pitching event begins

Mangan, October 13: Two-day North Sikkim Innovates 2026-Grand Pitching Event under the Sikkim INSPIRES initiative commenced at DAC Mangan, bringing together aspiring entrepreneurs from Mangan and Dzongu blocks to showcase their innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial potential, today.

Organised by District Administrative Centre, Mangan, the event aims to identify promising business ventures, encourage innovation and strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing aspiring entrepreneurs with a platform to present their ideas before an expert panel.

Mr Anant Jain DC highlighted the importance of effectively presenting business ideas, identifying opportunities for growth and utilising the platform to gain valuable experience and exposure. He further emphasised that any financial assistance received through the initiative must be utilised judiciously to strengthen and expand the proposed enterprises. He encouraged participants to view the event not merely as a competition for grant support but as an opportunity to learn, refine their ideas and build sustainable businesses.

The jury panel also briefed the participants on the key aspects of a successful business pitch, including identifying market gaps, demonstrating the viability of business models, developing effective branding strategies, strengthening market linkages and exploring avenues for production and business expansion. The panel encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to focus on practical solutions to existing market challenges and ensure that their proposed ventures respond to genuine local needs.

The panel appreciated the efforts of the district innovation

team in introducing the initiative and creating a platform for local entrepreneurs. They stressed that the broader objective of the programme extends beyond seed funding to include enterprise development, market access, branding, financial sustainability and long-term business growth. Participants were also encouraged to understand the importance of proper grant utilisation and active engagement in the entrepreneurial process.

Following the introductory session and briefing by the jury, the pitching session commenced, with participants from Mangan and Dzongu presenting their respective business ideas before the panel for evaluation.

The second day of the event, scheduled for October 14, will feature pitching sessions for aspiring entrepreneurs from Kabi and Chungthang blocks, completing the district-level pitching process across all four blocks of Mangan District.

Following the completion of the pitching sessions, 15 promising ventures will be selected through the evaluation process. Each selected venture will be entitled to a grant of ₹3 lakh under Sikkim INSPIRES to support the development and growth of their businesses.

The initiative marks an important step towards nurturing grassroots innovation, promoting entrepreneurship and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities in North Sikkim by empowering local aspiring entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into viable business ventures.

The programme was attended by SDM-cum-Nodal Officer, Sikkim INSPIRES, Member Secretary ICFC, members of the jury panel, entrepreneur, members of IIM Calcutta, participants and officials and staff.

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Chota Samdong...

road construction in and around the area. He reiterated the State Government's commitment to developing remote areas and improving infrastructure and public amenities. He also placed several demands before the Chief Minister on behalf of the people of Chota Samdong, highlighting the need for further development in road connectivity, infrastructure, animal husbandry projects, tourism, and other essential sectors.

The celebration featured felicitation ceremonies honouring distinguished personalities and individuals who had contributed to the development of the school and the local community. The Golden Jubilee souvenir, flower pots and school magazine 'Gyandip' were presented to the Chief Minister and other dignitaries. The Yuma Manghim Committee, Chota Samdong, also presented souvenir to the Chief Minister.

Land donors who contributed to the establishment of the school, including Mr Kaley Limbu, Lt Mr Purna Singh Limbu Lt Mr Chaptey Limbu and Lt Mr Malumay Limbu were honoured with Felicitation Letters by the celebration committee. The school's first Headmaster, Mr

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.

Executive Members of SBA call on Governor

Gangtok, October 8: Executive Members of Sikkim Badminton Association (SBA) led by Mr Jacob Khaling Political Secretary to CM and also President SBA called on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

During the courtesy meeting, SBA extended a formal invitation to the Governor to grace the 49th Inter-State, Inter-Zonal and Junior National Badminton Championships 2026 as the chief guest. The tournament is scheduled to be held from November 14-21 at Indoor Hall,

Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.

They informed the Governor that for the first time the State will host the prestigious National-level Junior Badminton Championship. The Badminton Association of Sikkim under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India, will feature Boys' Singles, Girls' Singles, Boys' Doubles, Girls' Doubles and Mixed Doubles in the Under-19 age category.

Additionally, the Governor conveyed his best wishes to SBA for successful conduct of the tournament.

Joint Secretary MoRD reviews rural development schemes

Gangtok, October 14: Mr Pavanesh Kumar Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, is on a visit to Sikkim from October 11-15 for a series of field visits and review interactions to assess the implementation of key rural development schemes across the State.

On October 12, Joint Secretary MoRD visited the Self-Help Group (SHG) Khada-Making Centre at Namcheybong, where he interacted with Lakhpatri Didis and reviewed their livelihood activities, income-generation initiatives, and progress towards economic empowerment.

He subsequently visited a Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) site at Assam Lingzey to assess the progress and quality of the ongoing construction and interacted with the beneficiary. He also visited a VB-G RAM-G worksite at Pachay-Samsing in Pakyong District, where he inspected the ongoing works and interacted with workers and Panchayat representatives to review implementation at grassroots level.

On October 13, he visited Kyongnosla Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU), where he inspected development works and interacted with Panchayat representatives to gain insights into ground-level implementation and the concerns of local institutions. He also visited Gnathang GPU and inspected Amrit Sarovar, gaining first-hand insight into rural asset creation and the challenges associated with implementing development programmes in Sikkim's high-altitude terrain.

Later, an interaction session was held with the officials and scheme heads of the Rural Development Department at a local hotel in Gangtok.

During the session, the respective scheme heads presented updates on the progress, implementation status, and challenges of key rural development programmes, including the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), VB-G RAM-G, State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), and PMAY-G.

He appreciated the opportunity to visit Sikkim and gain first-hand insight into the

implementation of rural development programmes. He observed that field visits enable officers to understand ground realities and practical challenges beyond their respective areas of work, thereby supporting more informed decision-making.

He also acknowledged the unique challenges faced by Sikkim as a hill State, including scattered habitations, adverse weather conditions, a relatively small population, and limited working seasons. Despite these constraints, he expressed satisfaction with the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by departmental officers and field functionaries in implementing rural development programmes.

During the interaction, he enquired about the challenges encountered in implementing various schemes. The concerned officers apprised him of key issues and field-level constraints, along with the measures being undertaken to address them. The session provided a constructive platform for discussion and the exchange of insights, fostering a better understanding of the challenges involved in implementing rural development initiatives in the State.

On October 14, Joint Secretary, MoRD, visited a training centre at Lower Syari under DDUGKY. He further visited the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) at Ralep under Khamdong Block, where he held a meeting with the Director of RSETI and engaged in discussions with the faculty members, furthering his engagement with initiatives aimed at promoting rural livelihoods, skill development, and self-employment.

The visit presented an opportunity to review the progress of key rural development schemes, interact with beneficiaries and stakeholders, and gain a better understanding of implementation-related challenges. The field visits and review interactions underscored the importance of ground-level assessments and constructive engagement in strengthening programme implementation and ensuring that the intended benefits of rural development initiatives reach communities across Sikkim.

Chief Minister attends Sadbhawana Sammelan

Pakyong, October 10: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the Sadbhawana Sammelan in the presence of Shri Satpalji Maharaj Minister for Tourism, Rural Works, Irrigation, Public Works, Culture and General Administration, Government of Uttarakhand, organised by Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti (MUSS) at Rangpo Goli Ground, today.

Speaking to the devotees, Shri Satpalji Maharaj shared his insights on Sanatan Dharma, emphasising the importance of spiritual values, moral conduct and leading a life dedicated to the service of humanity. He also reminisced about his longstanding association with Sikkim and reflected on the bond he shares with the state. He appreciated the initiatives undertaken by Chief Minister across various sectors and acknowledged the State Government's continued efforts towards development, public welfare and the well-being of its people. He lauded the state's achievements and progressive initiatives, extending his blessings and best wishes for continued growth and holistic development.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister highlighted the relevance of manav dharma in fostering harmony among physical health, mental well-being, and spiritual growth. He underscored the role of medical science and meditation, noting that while medical science addresses physical ailments, meditation helps cultivate inner peace, mental

clarity and spiritual awareness. The Chief Minister also lauded the contributions of Shri Satpalji Maharaj towards spiritual enlightenment, social welfare and educational empowerment. He highlighted on the Mission Education initiative, which seeks to support underprivileged children by facilitating access to educational resources. He reiterated the message of 'One Nation, One Flag, One Spirit', underscoring the importance of national unity, harmony and collective responsibility.

He further highlighted the State's longstanding tradition of communal harmony, where people from diverse cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds coexist in an atmosphere of mutual respect, further emphasising that the principles of manav dharma strengthen the spirit of unity, promoting cooperation and respect towards building an inclusive society. Additionally, the Chief Minister highlighted various initiatives undertaken to support the Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti and advised the devotees to imbibe the teachings of manav dharma and translate the values into meaningful actions in their daily lives.

Likewise, Shri Vibhuji Maharaj apprised the audience of the importance of spirituality and moral values in shaping individual character and facilitating a balanced society. Drawing upon the principles of Sanatan Dharma and the teachings of manav

dharma, he encouraged attendees to cultivate compassion, inner awareness and a sense of responsibility towards other beings. He further stated that the true essence of spirituality lies in its practice in everyday life through righteous conduct, and selfless service.

Earlier, President MUSS, Mr Purna Yonzon highlighted the contributions of Shri Satpalji Maharaj and Shri Vibhuji Maharaj towards promoting spiritual awareness and human welfare through their spiritual and humanitarian initiatives. He also acknowledged the contributions of the Chief Minister towards public welfare, further expressed his gratitude who contributed to the successful organisation of the programme.

During the programme, a powerpoint showcasing the social, spiritual and humanitarian activities of the Manav Utthan Sewa Samiti was also presented.

The Sadbhawana Sammelan was held with devotional bhajans, dance performances and a felicitation ceremony, marking the occasion with messages of spiritual harmony and collective well being.

The programme was attended by MLAs, Advisor to CM, Zilla Upadhyaksha, Chief Secretary, Secretary Chief Minister's Office, DC Pakyong, SP Pakyong along with dignitaries from various departments, members of MUSS and devotees.

Chief Minister visits Rimbi landslide affected area

Gyalshing, October 9: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang visited the landslide affected area of Rimbi under Yuksom-Tashiding Constituency to assess the situation and review the relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken for the affected families, today.

The Chief Minister first visited the landslide site, followed by under construction rehabilitation centre. He subsequently proceeded to relief camp, where he interacted with the affected families, gave a patient hearing to their concerns and assessed their immediate requirements.

Chief Minister expressed regret over his inability to visit the area earlier. He stated that, despite not being physically present at the site sooner, he had directed the Area MLA and the District Administration to visit immediately and ensure that necessary assistance was provided to the affected people. Acknowledging the extensive loss of land and houses suffered by the residents, he expressed relief that no lives had been lost in the disaster. Assuring the affected families of the State Government's continued support, he stated that every possible assistance would be extended to help them rebuild their lives.

He informed that houses under the State Government's Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana (SGAY) would be provided to families who

had lost their homes, while land would be allotted to those who had lost their land. He further stated that suitable land with additional space would be considered to enable families to maintain kitchen gardens and rear livestock, thereby supporting their long-term livelihood needs.

The Chief Minister also announced financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the affected families as under; ₹5 lakh each for houses that have been completely damaged, ₹2 lakh each for families whose kitchens have been completely damaged, ₹1 lakh each for other affected individuals and ₹50,000/- each for tenants affected by the disaster.

Further, he directed all concerned departments to expedite essential works and ensure timely restoration of services in the affected area. Emphasising the importance of a coordinated response, he instructed the line departments to work in close coordination to address the challenges arising from the disaster and ensure that the needs of the affected families are met without delay.

Reaffirming the State Government's commitment to stand by the people of Rimbi, the Chief Minister assured the affected families that assistance would be extended wherever required, including provision of land and housing to those who had lost

their homes and land. He concluded by expressing his appreciation to all individuals, organisations and agencies that had directly or indirectly contributed to relief and assistance efforts during this difficult time.

Earlier, Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister-cum-Area MLA Yuksom Tashiding, noted that the residents of Rimbi had remained vigilant and taken proactive measures when the landslide began. He also thanked the Chief Minister for his continued support and acknowledged the assistance extended by individuals and various organisations.

Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC briefed on the landslide, the extent of damage caused and the immediate requirements of the affected families.

It may be mentioned that cheques for financial assistance and allotment of houses were distributed to the affected families during the Chief Minister's visit today.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, DC Gyalshing, Senior SP, Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Advisors, Zilla Adhyaksha and Zilla Upadhyaksha of Gyalshing, Zilla Panchayats and Panchayats, Secretaries and HoDs, along with other officials.