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Chief Minister distributes cheques under CM's SEAs Scheme



Gangtok, November 29: To empower the spirit of entrepreneurship, a cheque distribution programme under the Chief Minister's Self Employment Assistance Scheme was organised by Chief Minister's Office in collaboration with Commerce and Industries Department at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Chief Minister Mr Prem

Singh Tamang explained the basis on which cheques would be provided to the beneficiaries. He emphasised that the State Government is committed to supporting hardworking individuals and noted that these scheme aim to assist youth and entrepreneurs. He shared examples of individuals who have already benefitted from the schemes and

reiterated that the State Government's foremost priority is to extend financial support to those in need.

He further mentioned that this is the first phase of the cheque distribution. The Chief Minister also highlighted that the State Government recently conducted a three-day coordination meeting with all Departments to streamline processes and ensure smoother service delivery for the public. Additionally, he announced that five outstanding entrepreneurs will be recognised and rewarded.

Mr Karma Namgyal Bhutia Secretary, Chief Minister's Office outlined the objectives of the programme and informed that a total of 351 organisations would be receiving cheques. He outlined beneficiaries under each category, including 40 under the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant, 286 under the Chief Minister's Self Employment Assistance Scheme, and 25 under the Chief Minister's

Contd. on page 4

Three-day state coordination meeting concludes



Gangtok, November 28: Three-day State-Level Coordination meeting concluded under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, at Manan Kendra, today.

The meeting was attended by Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs-cum-Advisors, Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretary, HoDs and senior

officials from various departments and members of the Institute for Transforming Sikkim (ITS).

Chief Minister during the concluding session of the 3rd Coordination meeting, expressed his appreciation for the successful conduct of the programme and thanked all participants for their active involvement. He stated that the meeting held considerable

significance, as such platforms provided valuable exposure, insight, and administrative guidance from senior leadership.

Referring to the numerous presentations delivered during the sessions, he acknowledged the effort invested and urged all Departments to now translate these ideas into tangible results.

He highlighted the importance of coordination, not only between Departments but also within them, stating that such meetings help identify gaps and offer opportunities to address grievances. He mentioned that the presentation by the Chief Secretary was precise and aptly defined the role and responsibilities of a bureaucrat.

The Chief Minister emphasised that everyone present is part of Team Sikkim, comprising both policymakers and implementers. He urged officers to be results-driven, fulfil their duties diligently, and uphold accountability as a fundamental aspect of leadership.

Chief Minister commended

Contd. on page 4

**Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat
Sonam Tshering Marg, Gangtok, 737101**

No. 467/L&PA/SLAS

Dated : 01/12/2025

NOTIFICATION

The following Order No. SKM/GOV/2025/388, Dated 26th November, 2025 of the Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim is hereby published for general information:

"ORDER"

In exercise of the power conferred on me by clause (1) of Article 174 of the Constitution, I, Om Prakash Mathur, Governor of Sikkim hereby summon the Sikkim Legislative Assembly to meet on 12th December, 2025 at 11.00 am in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

I, further direct that the Secretary, Sikkim Legislative Assembly shall notify the members accordingly.

BY ORDER

Sd/-
(Om Parkash Mathur)
Governor of Sikkim

Sd/-
(Lalit Kumar Gurung)
Secretary

Second day of coordination meeting reviews departmental reports and grievances

Gangtok, November 27: Second day of the third State-Level Coordination Meeting convened at Manan Kendra, today.

The session was chaired by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, and attended by Speaker SLA, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, and senior officers.

14 departments, six District Collectors and SSPs presented their reports. Each placed updates covering ongoing work, progress since the last review and plans for the next phase.

Mr Anil Raj Rai Rural Development Department opened the session. Secretary, briefed on MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), PMGSY, Jal Jeevan Mission, Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana, PDNA and SRLM. He reviewed field progress, noted implementation challenges and outlined the Department's approach for the coming period, including expected outcomes and the focus areas identified for improvement.

Mr Dushyant Pariyar Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, followed with an overview of the Department's vision, mission and ongoing programmes. He briefed on the status of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, preparation of Panchayat Development Plans, infrastructure works for DPRC and

GPK Bhawans and the rollout of e-office and online services. He stated that the department would continue strengthening monitoring and coordination.

Mr TT Bhutia, Secretary, Horticulture Department, presented updates on State-supported horticulture schemes, cluster-based initiatives and vegetable production programmes. He reviewed the status of infrastructure and government farms, outlined work under Krishi Unnati Yojana and area expansion, and reported progress under the National Bamboo Mission. He placed the Department's digital plans and priorities for the next financial year.

Ms Tashi Cho Cho, Secretary, Skill Development Department, briefed on government ITIs, trade capacity, enrolment and placement. She reviewed the INSPIRES programme, CSS components, apprenticeship promotion and self-employment initiatives. She outlined the QR-based registration system, audit status and the department's plans for youth employability, ITI modernisation and cadre restructuring.

Ms Sarika Pradhan Secretary, Social Welfare Department, presented updates on PMJVK, PM-AJAY, NAPDDR,

Contd. on page 5

Pearls of Wisdom

"Help others without any reason and give without the expectation of receiving anything in return."

-Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

Comprehensive District-Level Health inspection concludes in Gyalshing and Soreng

Gyalshing, November 30:A comprehensive second-day inspection of key health facilities across Gyalshing and Soreng Districts was conducted, marking the conclusion of a two-day District-level review led by Mr Tshewang Gyachho Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department.

The inspection team comprised of Dr DC Sharma Principal Director (Incharge) for Gyalshing/Soreng Districts, Chief Engineer and Civil Wing team, Additional Chief Engineer and Mechanical Wing team, Additional Director and Quality Control team, Joint Director and Sanitation team, Chief Medical Officer, District Level Programme Officers, FSO (FSSAI), Electrical Engineers, and representatives from SIECB.

The team visited District Hospital Gyalshing, where the team reviewed emergency services, diagnostic capabilities,

medicine availability, equipment functionality and adherence to quality standards. They also evaluated the Critical Care Block under PM-ABHIM, currently under construction. Officials examined structural compliance, pace of progress and readiness to enhance critical and emergency care services within the district.

The team visited Dentam HWC–PHC, Sombaria HWC–PHC and Hee-Bermiok HWC–SC. At Dentam they assessed OPD services, diagnostics, NCD screening, teleconsultation and overall HWC performance. At Sombaria, the newly constructed HWC–PHC building developed as per IPHS norms was reviewed for its layout, sanitation systems, accessibility, and preparedness for expanded services. At Hee-Bermiok, service delivery and community outreach activities were evaluated. During these visits, the Secretary emphasised

the importance of timely and accurate mobile-based reporting of diagnostic test reports from all PHCs, reinforcing its role in improving monitoring, data reliability and delivery of health services.

Thereafter, the Secretary interacted with Medical Officers, Nurses, Paramedical staff and ASHA workers.

The team also reviewed the implementation of major programmes including Ayushman Bharat–HWC initiatives, NHM schemes, RMNCH+A services, Maternal and Child Health interventions, Immunization coverage, NCD activities and ongoing Quality Assurance measures.

The two-day inspection concluded with officials noting visible improvements in infrastructure, programme performance and service readiness across the district.

AI Capacity-Building programme concludes

Soreng, November 27:Three-day AI training programme ‘Smart Proposals, Smart Governance’ organised under the initiative of Science and Technology Department in collaboration with the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng, concluded after completing its scheduled sessions for officials of Soreng District.

The programme aimed at strengthening the proficiency of government officials in utilising Artificial Intelligence tools for documentation, project conceptualisation, presentation development and various administrative functions.

Across the three dates, 90 Government officials from various departments in Soreng District actively participated in hands-on training, live demonstrations and interactive discussions.

Participants appreciated the insightful and practical advantage of the training. The AI tools introduced during the sessions would help streamline daily office responsibilities, refine documentation, and enhance overall productivity.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, Science and Technology Department to strengthening digital

governance, encouraging innovation and enabling the integration of Artificial Intelligence across government systems, in alignment with the theme ‘Smart Proposals, Smarter Governance’.

Mr Nabeen Sharma Team Coordinator who extended sincere appreciation to the District Administration, Soreng for their seamless logistical support and conveyed gratitude to the participating officials for their enthusiastic engagement throughout the sessions. He also acknowledged the overall guidance and coordination of Mr Suman Thapa Director, Science & Technology Department, whose continued support ensured the smooth and successful execution of the programme.

Following the successful conclusion of the day’s session of the training programme, Mr Amir Bhandari AD (IT) interacted with Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector discussing the overview of the training initiative. During the interaction, he briefed about the key highlights of the training and its successful completion.

Participants included officials and officers from RDD, Commerce and Industries, IT, Land Revenue, BAC, Education and Police Departments.

Mangan District holds key coordination meeting on resettlement of affected families of Toong Naga

Mangan, November 29: District Administration Mangan, convened a coordination-cum-public meeting on the rehabilitation of GLOF-affected residents of Toong-Naga Village at Rel Purtam, Upper Naga, today.

The meeting aimed to review ongoing rehabilitation initiatives, address pending challenges and ensure a coordinated, inter-departmental approach for the long-term resettlement of the affected families.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister-cum-Area MLA and Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister.

Mr Nim Tshering Lepcha Chairman Sikkim Welfare Commission in his welcome address, highlighted the severe devastation caused to Toong-Naga following the GLOF, which resulted in the complete loss of homes, land and livelihoods. He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for the timely allocation of rehabilitation land for the affected residents. He also outlined the vision to develop the new location as a model village with a tourism-centric approach, considering its unique geographical advantage. He further explained the need for close coordination among all line departments for the rehabilitation process.

Minister Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha expressed solidarity with the affected residents, acknowledging the emotional and physical hardships endured. He conveyed his appreciation to the Chief Minister for his support and urged the public to participate actively in developing and safeguarding the new settlement, reminding them that proper planning today would ensure

lasting security tomorrow.

Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister commended the collective strength and unity demonstrated by the people of Toong–Naga during the crisis. He acknowledged the immense challenges faced during the rehabilitation approval process and announced that the resettlement plan has now been formally sanctioned.

He informed that new houses will be constructed under the Punar Awas Yojana and Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana, following the submission of DPRs by the concerned Departments. He encouraged all Departments to collaborate closely and emphasised that despite the tragedy, the new location offers an opportunity for a fresh start and improved living conditions. He thanked the Chief Minister for ensuring coordinated state-level support and prioritising the welfare of North Sikkim.

Mr Anil Raj Rai Secretary, Rural Development Department expressed optimism that the official procedures would be completed soon followed by the DPR for the new settlement. Expressing his solidarity to the affected families, the Secretary assured that the Rural Development Department would lend all necessary support to the project.

Earlier, Mr Anant Jain District Collector Mangan provided an account of the land acquisition process and timeline of disasters that impacted Toong-Naga. He recalled the GLOF incident of October 2023, followed by the cloudburst in June 2024 and the subsequent large-scale subsidence from September 2024 onwards, which progressively destroyed homes, agricultural land and

infrastructure.

He informed that immediate relief was provided to affected families, but emphasised the need for a long-term resettlement solution.

Acting upon the directives of the Chief Minister to expedite the process without Departmental delays, a total of 12.76 hectares of land above Naga, at Sano Bhojoghari, has been successfully acquired as the new rehabilitation site, informed the DC.

Mr Siddharth Rasaily Additional Chief Architect, RDD stressed in the importance of thorough land profiling, road stability assessment, and preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman, Tourism and Aviation Department recommended incorporating tourism-centric planning into the rehabilitation master plan. He suggested adopting traditional architectural styles, preserving the natural landscape and creating traditional walking trails instead of concrete pathways. This, he said, would enhance tourism potential and generate livelihood opportunities.

Mr Jeewan Thapa Chief Engineer-cum-Director, SREDA, proposed establishing a 200 kW Micro-Grid Solar Panel System to ensure 24x7 power backup for the new settlement. Initially conceptualised for Dzongu, Lachen and Lachung, he affirmed that the project could also be extended to Toong-Naga.

Representatives of Toong-Naga, Mr Ongmit Lepcha and Mr Passang Targay Lepcha, spoke on behalf of the affected families, expressing both their grievances and gratitude to the Government for its consistent assistance.

Namchi hosts District Level Youth Festival

Namchi, November 27: As part of the forthcoming 29th National Youth Festival 2026, a District Level Youth Festival was held at the Indoor Stadium in Namchi, today.

The event was organised by Sports and Youth Affairs Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

The programme was attended by Mr Suraj Rai, CEO Namchi, who attended as the chief guest.

The festival featured District Level Selection Trials for the 29th National Youth Festival 2026 across several competitive categories, including Group Folk Dance, Group Folk Song, Painting Competition, Declamation Speech Competition and Poetry Writing Competition.

The event concluded with

the distribution of certificates to all participants recognising their talent and encouraging their active engagement in cultural and literary activities.

It may be mentioned that the winners from today’s District-level competition will represent Namchi District in the State Level Selection Trial to be held in Gangtok, for the final selection of participants for the 29th National Youth Festival 2026 scheduled to be held in January in New Delhi.

Also present were Mr Basant Pradhan Deputy Director S&YAD Namchi, Mr Bhupendra Kumar Chettri Assistant Director S&YAD Namchi, Mrs Nim Choden Bhutia Assistant Director S&YAD Namchi, Mrs Shoba Gurung Assistant Director S&YAD Namchi, staff, along with judges, teachers, participants and students.

High Court of Sikkim
Gangtok

Ref. No.: 69/HCS

Date.: 02.12.2025

N-O-T-I-C-E

The following candidate has qualified for the interview/viva-voce, for the three (3) vacant posts of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (Grade-III) in the cadre of Sikkim Judicial Service (2025), scheduled on 11.12.2025, at the Conference Hall, High Court of Sikkim.

SL.NO.	NAME	ROLL. NO.
1.	Mr. Yashir Namgyal Tamang	45/SJS(2025)/HCS

The candidate is required to reach the venue atleast 45 minutes before the commencement of the interview/viva-voce for scrutiny of all testimonials and certificates in original. The timing will be intimated to the candidate directly.

By Order,
Sd/-
Registrar
(Judicial Service)
(173)

Shree Shree Shree Bala Chaturdasi Celebration 2025

Gyalshing, November 30:The Shree Shree Shree Bala Chaturdasi Celebration-cum- Mela at Legship, Gyalshing District concluded with much festivity and religious inclusiveness, today.

Commenced on November 17, the fourteen-day-long celebration featured a series of captivating football matches under the Open Men’s Football Tournament and traditional musical performances.

Mr NB Dahal Minister for Roads and Bridges Department graced the concluding day of the celebration as the chief guest, accompanied by Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia MLA-cum-Advisor and Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor as guests of honour in presence of Mr Lok Nath Sharma Area MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, Mr Tshering Sherpa SP Gyalshing, Chairpersons, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, Officers from line departments, BDOs, Principals, teachers, students of the peripheral schools, and the public at large.

Minister in his address, expressed his delight at being part of the celebration that is observed with utmost spirituality in a historically significant place of the State. He mentioned that the primary focus of the State Government, under the leadership of the Chief Minister is steadfast in upholding the sanctity of the

religious places in the state. He briefly highlighted on the recent decision of the Government of India in augmenting the Baghpool to Rangpo (National Highway) and mentioned about the considered developmental initiatives that are poised to facelift the Melli-Jorethang and Jorethang to Legship road.

Minister Mr NB Dahal advised Panchayats to diligently undertake the responsibility of working collectively for community upliftment and assist the State Government in its aspiration of effective implementation of the beneficial schemes. He urged officers to prioritise the aspirations of the general public and provide assistance on the humanitarian grounds.

Area MLA-cum-Advisor Mr L N Sharma, underscored the persistent efforts of the State Government under the leadership of the Chief Minister toward the well-being and welfare of the state and its people.

He maintained that the State Government is fully committed to ensuring all spiritually significant places of worship across the state are well preserved.

He noted the public-centric initiatives undertaken in the constituency and mentioned the aspirations of the Chief Minister for its holistic development.

He emphasised the need for collaborative efforts to enhance

the overall stature of the constituency.

The day-long celebration also featured ceremonial events of Deep Prajwalan and Swasti Vachan by Gurukul Legship; a spiritual dance performance by Uchatar Sanskrit Pathshala; and colorful cultural dances by the students of peripheral schools.

In the final match of the much-anticipated football tournament in the Open Men’s Football Tournament, Boot Camp FC (Hingdam, Namchi District) faced Chatyang FC (2nd Bn IRBn), with the final score on board registering two goals. Boot Camp FC , with the leading score, lifted the Championship Trophy of the tournament. Mr Kiran Gurung from Boot Camp FC, was named Man of the Match, and Player of the Tournament was Mr Amrit Tamang from the latter team.

Later, in the premises of Shree Shree Shree Kirateshwar Shivlaya Dham, the chief guest, along with the esteemed dignitaries, offered prayers and thereafter performed a Yagya.

The dignitaries also sought blessings at the Gumpa situated at the SSSKSD premises and thereafter performed the sacred Ganga Aarti at Rangit River, marking a successful culmination of Shree Shree Shree Bala Chaturdasi Celebration at Legship, Gyalshing District for the year 2025.

Sikkim wraps up State-Level India Skills Competitions 2025

Gangtok, November 28: The district and state-level competitions for Health and Social Care and Cloud Computing trades at Sangkhola and Topakhani campuses of Medhavi Skills University concluded, today. The events were held as part of the ongoing nationwide India Skills Competition 2025, organised by Skill Development Department, Government of Sikkim under the aegis of NSDC and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

Earlier the district and state level competitions for Beauty Therapy and Cooking were conducted across Gangtok, Bermiok, Gyalshing and the SICB campus in Karfectar, Jorethang. Participation across the four trades was overwhelming, with a total of 265 competitors in Health and Social Care, 128 in Beauty Therapy, 60 in Cooking, and 29 in Cloud Computing. From each trade, two shortlisted candidates will now represent Sikkim at the regional-level competition, where they will compete against other state finalists.

The valedictory ceremony for the state-level events in Cloud Computing and Health and Social Care was attended by Principal Director-cum-Chief Administrator, SICB, Skill Development

Department, Mr Bishal Rai, Deputy Director, Skill Development Department and SPOC for ISC 2025, Mr Saimon Paul Rai, Assistant Directors, Skill Development Department, Ms Pem Lhamu Lepcha and Mr Arun Tamang, Project Officers, SICB, SDD, Mr Arun Mukhia and Mr Anil Sharma and Medhavi Skills University officials including Chancellor, Dr Pravesh Dudani, Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr Ashwani Kumar Sharma, and Associate Dean Mr Bharat Bhushan and Dr Manoja Reddy, General Physician, Central Referral Hospital, Gangtok.

Both the ISC 2025 district- and state-level competitions were judged by a panel of experts that included SDD officers, a general physician from the Central Referral Hospital, Tadong, and IT faculty members from MSU. Competitors were evaluated through a three-stage process involving a theoretical examination featuring MCQs developed by experts from the National Skill Development Corporation, MSDE, GoI followed by practical assessments and a communication skills test.

With state-level rounds now complete, Sikkim’s top performers will prepare for the regional stage, a key step toward earning a place in the national finals of India Skills Competition 2025.

Government of Sikkim
Department of AYUSH, Gangtok Sikkim

NIT No. 180/EC/NIT/2025-26

Dated:17/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Department of AYUSH, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok District, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tender in two cover system on ITEM RATE basis from the eligible class of contractors of appropriate class /Area within Sikkim State for the work listed as under: -

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender Exclusive of taxes	Completion Time, (in months)	Earnest Money in form of TDR/FDR @ 2.50%	Bank Receipt/Challan for cost of tender document (₹)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Upgradation of SOWA RIGPA Educational Institute at NIT Deorali,Sikkim	6,43,94,422.00	24 months	16,09,861.00	1,00,000.00

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

i) Publishing of e-tender bid

26/11/2025

ii) Online bid submission start date

27/11/2025

iii) Pre-Bid Meeting date

05/12/2025

iv) Bid submission closing date

03/01/2026

v) Submission of hard copies of challan/TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents.

06/01/2026 (10am to 2pm)

vi) Bid Opening Date

06/01/2026 (after 2pm)

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

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

2. The above Tender Value is exclusive of GST & CESS and same is payable to the Contractor as applicable on the date of Tender.

3. The following document in hard copies must be submitted on 06/01/2026 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm.

I. 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.

II. Cost of Tender document in the form of Bank Receipt or Challan.

III. Validated / Certified copy of the Enlistment Certificate from SPWD of the appropriate Class.

IV. 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.

4. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

5. 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.

Addl. Chief Engineer (Civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(171, i)

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Contd. from front page

Three-day...

DAC Gangtok for the Mission Clean Sky initiative and DAC Namchi for raising the issue of student dropouts calling both important examples of proactive governance. He also underscored the importance of elected public representatives attending such coordination meetings as equal partners in progress.

He reaffirmed that the State Government is committed to strengthening administrative frameworks, streamlining Departments and ensuring ease of service delivery. He cited reforms such as maternity leave, sabbatical leave, cadre restructuring and policy-level independence as progressive measures taken for the welfare of employees.

Taking reference from the Chief Secretary's presentation he emphasised the need to identify, groom and empower emerging leaders within the system. He noted that while work culture has improved significantly in Sikkim, there remains scope for further enhancement.

He underscored discipline, punctuality and motivation as essential pillars of good governance. He also acknowledged significant achievements made under the State Government, including:

- * Reduction in poverty levels, placing Sikkim among the least poor states in India
- * Reduction of unemployment rate to 7.5%
- * Increase in life expectancy
- * Lowest crime rate and safest state for women as per National Crime Records Bureau
- * 100% electrification across Sikkim
- * 40% increase in tourism growth since 2019
- * Best Performing State in TB Control, Jal Jeevan Mission, Environment Education and NEP-aligned Kindergarten Education

He also shared the State's goal of achieving 100% literacy by 2027.

Stressing improved service delivery, he urged officers to uphold the spirit of Aagan Ma Prashasan governance at the doorstep and recommended that Departmental meetings be scheduled after 2:00 PM so that public service remains the first priority. He also suggested integrating essential life-saving skills into the school curriculum.

The Chief Minister further highlighted several flagship initiatives aimed at reinforcing core sectors and advancing Sikkim's overall development:

Swastha: focuses on upgrading healthcare infrastructure with major facilities in hospitals of Sikkim. Technological enhancements are being prioritised to improve service delivery, and a new advanced medical institute is being established to expand opportunities for the youth.

Shiksha: aimed at improving the education sector, this initiative strengthens school infrastructure,

modernises learning facilities and enhances access to quality education across all regions.

Sadak: focuses on improving road connectivity, with the Roads and Bridges Department undertaking the complete upgradation of all roads within Sikkim to ensure safer and more efficient travel.

Sakcham: designed to empower the youth, this initiative provides a range of skill development and capacity building programmes implemented through the Skill Development Department and the Social Welfare Department, helping young people become more capable and self-reliant.

Samaan: promotes equality, dignity and inclusive growth, ensuring fair access to public services and welfare schemes for all communities, reflecting the Chief Minister's commitment to social justice.

Swachata: focused on cleanliness and environmental sustainability, this initiative strengthens waste management, encourages responsible waste practices and supports the upkeep of towns and villages across Sikkim through award systems for ULBs and GPUs.

Surakcha: enhances public safety by strengthening disaster preparedness, improving law and order, and ensuring effective protection of citizens during emergencies.

Sampannata: Uniting all the above initiatives, Sampanatha serves as the State Government's integrated development framework. By strengthening key sectors such as health, education, connectivity, youth empowerment, equality, cleanliness and public safety, it collectively drives the State towards the vision of Sunaulo Samriddha and Samartha Sikkim.

In conclusion, the Chief Minister encouraged officers to continue working with dedication, unity and clarity of purpose. He urged young officers to come forward during the next meeting and present their work, fostering a culture of leadership and responsibility. He reiterated the shared vision for a progressive and efficient administration and extended warm festive greetings to everyone present.

Mr Arun Kumar Upreti Minister for Cooperation and Rural Development Departments emphasised that all Departments must adhere to the set deadlines and ensure that the proposed works are completed within the committed timeframe. He added that achieving the shared vision of a more progressive Sikkim requires collective effort and collaboration

Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs Departments briefed on the functioning of the Departments under his charge, with particular focus on the regulation of private universities to ensure quality, transparency and strict adherence to norms. At the same time, he acknowledged issues in the

implementation of certain government projects and called for stronger monitoring, timely execution and greater accountability.

Mr R Telang Chief Secretary highlighted that the theme of the review meeting was to assess what each Department has achieved so far and what it aims to accomplish in the coming year. He underscored the importance of maintaining fundamental Departmental decorum, including strong leadership, a disciplined work culture, hard work, and sustained motivation.

He urged officers to lead by example, work collectively as a team, understand their individual responsibilities and cultivate a clear organisational culture that reflects the Department's purpose and direction. He further emphasised the need for every Department to clearly define its core functions and responsibilities. In addition, he stressed on the importance of punctuality as an essential attribute of effective governance.

Subsequently, the Chief Secretary examined presentation of the Departments individually and offered suggestions and guidance to further strengthen implementation and improve overall outcomes.

Furthermore, Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLA-cum-Advisor in his session, underscored that the infrastructure of the Power Department was established many years ago, there is an urgent need for a new power office to adequately accommodate the growing workforce and ensure smoother functioning.

Mr L N Sharma, MLA-cum-Advisor underlined that true leadership lies not in status but in work, calling for a result-oriented approach from all officers.

Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor described the programme as an important opportunity for her constituency, stating that she has placed before the government the key needs of the area, particularly those concerning youth opportunities.

Mr Samdup Tshering Bhutia MLA-cum-Chairman expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, for acknowledging the long standing issue of irregular and insufficient power supply faced by the residents of the Tumin-Lingi constituency.

Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee briefed on the functioning of the Committee and its role in ensuring financial accountability. He informed that employment generation is being actively pursued by the Government and lauded the introduction of mini buses, which will help reduce transportation costs for the public.

At the onset, Mr Aditya Golay MLA highlighted that Soreng is home to several ongoing digital pilot projects and initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide,

Review and Feedback Session on Census Pre Test 2025 - 27

Gangtok, November 29: A review and feedback session on Census Pre Test 2025 to 2027 was held today at the Gangtok Municipal Corporation Conference Hall, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Chiran Rizal Joint Municipal Commissioner GMC along with Mr Vimlesh Kumar Statistical Officer, Census. Supervisors and enumerator staff involved in the pre-test exercise were also present.

The session reviewed the ongoing digital census testing using the House Listing Block application and the Digital Layout Mapping application across ten enumeration blocks. The pre test covered both rural and urban areas, with rural testing in Rakdong Tintek and urban testing in Chandmari, with ten enumeration blocks in each location. This pilot exercise forms part of the preparations for the actual Census Phase One (House Listing), tentatively scheduled between April and September 2026, to be followed by Phase Two (Population Enumeration) from February 9 to 28, 2027.

Joint Municipal Commissioner GMC reaffirmed the department's commitment to supporting the census exercise and ensuring smooth coordination among all officials involved. He stated, "The census pre test is a vital step in preparing for the

national census and active participation of field teams is crucial. Their feedback will help strengthen the methodology and improve operational preparedness".

He further urged enumerators to maintain a systematic approach and uphold data quality standards during the upcoming phases.

The Statistical Officer also highlighted key observations from the field, emphasising the importance of timely reporting, verification of entries and adherence to prescribed guidelines.

During the feedback session, supervisors and enumerators shared firsthand experiences and challenges encountered during field visits. Their inputs provided practical insights for refining procedures related to household listing, data entry and on ground coordination.

Further, Joint Municipal Commissioner expressed appreciation to the Statistical Officer, departmental representatives and field teams for their dedicated contributions to this important national initiative.

The session aimed to assess progress on the ongoing census pre test and strengthen the data collection process to ensure accuracy and consistency across all wards.

ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong-737106, Sikkim, India

Email: director.nrco@icar.org.in, Website: www.nrco.icar.gov.in
F.No: NRC(O)/ADMN/VENDOR REGISTRATION/25-26/77

Date: 02/12/2025

NOTICE FOR VENDOR REGISTRATION

Due to limited vendor's receipt for vendor registration at ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong: The Director, ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim, is again inviting interested parties for **vendor registrations/updates as suppliers/service providers** in respect of ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong. The vendor registration program shall be open for up to 15 days from the date of issue of this notice. For more details, interested parties should email to ao.nrcorchids@gmail.com to get registration form/to get support regarding the registration.

(Rajendra Kumar Meena)
Administrative Officer
(172)

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Chief Minister...

Education Assistance Scheme. He further elaborated on the beneficiaries across these three categories and highlighted that under the Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme, four students have been identified through the Connect to CM initiative.

Thereafter, a video presentation highlighting the beneficiaries who have received support through the Chief

enhancing governance, and strengthening the local economy. In line with these efforts to ensure inclusive development, he also shared that the cheques issued for underprivileged children are being closely monitored to ensure they are utilised solely for educational purposes.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Mr Rinzing

Minister's Self Employment Assistance Scheme was also screened.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister, distributed 351 cheques under the following categories; 40 under the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant, 286 under the Chief Minister's Self Employment Assistance Scheme, 25 under the Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme.

Also present were beneficiaries from six districts, officers and officials of the Chief Minister's Office and other dignitaries.

Chewang Bhutia Secretary, Department of Personnel.

The first two days of the coordination meeting featured 39 State Departments, six District Collectors and six SSPs presenting various reports on their ongoing works and progress since the last review meeting and plans for the next phase.

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Second Day...

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, scholarship schemes and PM-YASASVI hostels. She reviewed ongoing work, fund utilisation and compliance under PCR and PoA Acts. She stated that the department would strengthen monitoring, improve outreach and address operational issues noted in field inspections.

Ms Yangchen D Tamang Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, briefed on State-funded sports works across districts, including construction and upgradation of grounds and facilities. She placed the status of Khelo India projects and outlined priorities for the next financial year, covering upgradation of major venues, district-level improvements, conduct of State and school games and long-term preparations for national events and youth programmes.

Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, reported on schemes under Swadesh Darshan, PRASAD, PM-DevINE and SASCI. He briefed on State-funded tourism infrastructure, digital platforms such as the tourism portal, payment systems and asset management tools. He outlined next-year priorities including marketing plans, regulatory compliance under the new Act, digital transformation, skilling and completion of ongoing projects.

Mr Prabhakar Verma Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Transport Department, presented updates on Centrally sponsored schemes and Central Sector Schemes, including testing facilities, inspection centres and transport-system upgrades. He reviewed e-office adoption, bus-ticketing integration, dashboard systems and ongoing digital measures. He outlined priorities for the next financial year, including development of transport hubs, expansion of workshops, fleet augmentation, women-centric services, electric buses and CCTV installation in buses.

Mr AB Subba Secretary, Roads and Bridges Department, briefed on State and Central road works, focusing on upgradation, new construction and priority corridors. He reviewed project timelines, highlighted digital initiatives under PM Gati Shakti and RAMS and outlined progress on externally aided proposals. He stated that the Department would continue to emphasise field supervision and timely completion.

Mr Lhendup Dorjee Lamtha Secretary, Water Resources Department, reported on PMKSY-HKKP, irrigation surveys and spring documentation. He reviewed revenue trends and placed flood-management and river-training proposals under consideration of technical bodies. He outlined DPR preparation, priorities for the next financial year, audit compliance and work under groundwater and spring-management frameworks.

Ms Normit Lepcha Secretary, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department briefed on Anganwadi

Services, nutrition schemes, Poshan Abhiyaan, PMMVY, Sakhi Niwas, One Stop Centres and Women Helpline-181. She highlighted issues relating to enrolment, nutrition and protection services. She outlined priorities including expansion of support centres, Anganwadi upgradation, strengthening of child-protection units, establishment of After-Care facilities and improvements in monitoring systems.

Ms Sonam Doma Bhutia SSP, Special Branch, presented updates from the Police branches. She reported procurement of security equipment, online passport verification through tablets and the operational status of the media and threat-analysis unit. She reviewed communication upgrades, drone-based surveillance, Home Guards' deployment, fire-service responses, reserve-line activities and check-post management. She outlined ongoing work under planning and modernisation, including SMART facility improvements and expansion of CCTV coverage.

Mr Suraj D ASP CID presented the CID and Cyber Crime report. He briefed on the cyber forensics lab, cyber awareness activities, ANTF operations under Nasha Mukh Sikkim and training on cyber and criminal laws. He reported AHTU work in tracing missing children, crime registration through digital platforms, mobile-trace recovery and support for NCL implementation. He outlined e-Beat monitoring, ICJS progress, training courses, revenue records, Project Utthan, armed-police duties, community initiatives and the roadmap for SMART and technology-led policing.

Mr Karma Namgyal Bhutia Secretary, CMO presented the Chief Minister's Schemes Integrated Management System (CM-SIMS) and the Connect to CM platform. He explained that these initiatives aim to build a clear and reliable verification system that supports good governance and brings services closer to people. He said the goal is to reduce the gap between citizens and the State Government by reaching the most remote households. He also shared details of six schemes under CM-SIMS from July 2019 to October 2025, such as CMDG, CMRF, CMEAS, CMMAS, Mukhya Mantri Vatsalya Yojana for IVF and the Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyamsheelta Vikas Yojana. His presentation concluded with the achievements of the Connect to CM initiative and its success stories.

Mr Rinzing Chewang Bhutia Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management, started his presentation by explaining a hybrid method to be adopted in the state under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme guidelines of 2021-2026. He spoke about NAKSHA, Online Property Registration and the action plan for the next financial year. He also shared updates on the National GLOF Risk Mitigation Programme and the National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project. Training and capacity building for DM Assistants, supervisors and coordinators were

also outlined. He ended his presentation with a review of outstanding audit paras.

Mr Rinzing Chewang Bhutia Secretary, Department of Personnel, also presented data on employees who joined through promotion, direct recruitment and compassionate appointment from April 1, 2025 to date. He also highlighted the cadre review and the notification of four new services by the State Government. His report touched upon new policies including Induction into Cadres for employees who have completed six years of service as of December 31, 2025. He also introduced a new attendance system to be implemented soon in Government Offices. His presentation concluded with an overview of ongoing reforms in the department.

Mr Tushar Nikhare DC, Gangtok presented the work of the Gangtok District Administration and its recent innovations. He spoke about Mission Clean Sky, SWASTHYA programme and regular inspection drives. He also explained about My Application, a system for tracking and processing citizen applications and SAMVAD, a smart messaging and virtual assistance dashboard. His report included digital attestations, disaster readiness through mock drills and the PAILA programme for young innovators. He ended with the district administration's plan for the coming months.

Mr Mahendra Subba SP, Gangtok, began by announcing that Sadar Police Station has been ranked first in the State by the Ministry of Home Affairs. He explained efforts to maintain law and order such as night patrolling, strict enforcement and preventive policing. He highlighted new infrastructure created in Gangtok District and spoke about fitness and welfare activities for police personnel. He shared the awards and recognitions received by the station and detailed anti-drug efforts and cyber-crime awareness campaigns. His presentation concluded with an update on traffic management and future plans for improvement.

Mr Rohan Agwane DC, Pakyong, presented the key initiatives of Pakyong District Administration. He highlighted Nomad Sikkim, with Yakten Village recognised as the nation's first digital nomad village. He explained SciMatix AI, an app-based learning tool for Science and Maths, and AI on Wheels, which teaches AI skills to students from classes 7 to 9. He concluded with a briefing on the NIRPEKSH portal, designed to manage disaster-related records in a digital format.

Ms Paru Ruchal SSP, Pakyong District, presented data on criminal and UD cases in 2025 and reported on recent case convictions. She explained the district's anti-drug operations along with rehabilitation and counselling support. She highlighted community policing efforts and awareness programmes conducted across the District. Her presentation also outlined activities carried out by Pakyong Police and future plans for improved service delivery. She closed with the steps being taken

to strengthen preventive policing.

Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, presented notable practices adopted by the Gyalshing District Administration. He spoke about the Health ATM service, a WhatsApp chatbot for service delivery and a breastfeeding pod for lactating mothers. He also explained the District's plastic waste management system and other local initiatives. He concluded with the District's focus on citizen-friendly services and future improvements.

Mr Tenzing Sherpa SP, Gyalshing, presented steps taken to strengthen police presence in the district. He shared details of major cases cracked and the disaster response and rescue efforts of the police team. He highlighted community policing activities and public outreach programmes. He concluded with a brief outline of the District police's way forward and ongoing improvements.

Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC, Soreng, shared updates on support systems for caregivers working with persons with disabilities who require high-support care. He presented plans for the establishment of a digital nomad village at Jautar village in Gumpadara, Soreng. He described the project location, components, convergence model and funding structure. He also presented slides on natural calamities in the district and strategies to manage and reduce their impact. His presentation concluded with ongoing initiatives of the Soreng District Administration.

Mr Nakul Pradhan SP, Soreng District, reported on the achievements and current work of the Soreng Police. He shared detailed data on UD cases, crime investigations and progress in the fight against drugs. He highlighted infrastructure renovation aimed at improving both police functioning and public interaction. He also outlined future plans such as new outposts, cyber cell upgrades and better traffic management. His presentation also stressed the value of public outreach and cyber-crime awareness across schools, markets and public spaces.

Mr Anant Jain DC, Mangan, presented major achievements of

the Mangan District Administration since the last coordination meeting. He introduced an ex-gratia management system for handling compensation during natural disasters. He also shared prototypes of the PISCES web portal and a mobile app for PAP and RAP permits with check-post verification. He closed his presentation with the Vibrant Mangan portal, which aims to support local growth and public services.

Mr LB Chettri SP, Mangan presented crime data for the year 2024-25 including the number of cases registered in the District. He also reported on conviction rates and the major achievements of Mangan Police. He spoke about natural disaster preparedness and ongoing capacity building programmes for police personnel. His report ended with the district's traffic management system and plans for improvement.

Ms Anupa Tamling DC, Namchi, presented an overview of school dropout issues in the district. She explained the risks connected to dropout cases and shared updated data and the beginning of related district initiatives. She announced the start of MAYA, a mission for adolescent and youth advancement. She discussed the challenges identified in the district and the way forward. Her presentation closed with steps planned to support vulnerable students.

Mr Karma Gyamtso Bhutia Senior SP, Namchi District, presented data under the 'Pakdihalcha' campaign. He highlighted public-police partnership activities such as an open basketball tournament held in the district. He also reported on the creation of a fully functional Police Outpost at Kitchudumra, which will be inaugurated soon. He ended his presentation with details on investigations into homicide cases and steps taken to strengthen policing in the district.

The meeting concluded with the Departments putting forth their grievances, following the completion of all scheduled presentations for the day.



Joint inspection in Gyalshing and Soreng Districts

Gyalshing, November 29: A comprehensive two-day joint inspection led by Mr Tsewang Gyachho Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, covering key health facilities across Gyalshing and Soreng Districts commenced today.

The high-level inspection team included Dr DC Sharma Principal Director (Incharge) for Gyalshing/Soreng Districts, Chief Engineer and Civil Wing team, Additional Chief Engineer and Mechanical Wing team, Additional Director and team from Quality Control, Joint Director and Sanitation team, Chief Medical Officer and Programme Officers of both districts, along with Electrical Engineers, FSO FSSAI, and representatives from SIECB.

The purpose of the visit was to assess ongoing schemes,

monitor infrastructure development, and review the overall progress of health facilities across two districts. The inspection aims to ensure that services are aligned with state health standards and that essential resources are strengthened for the benefit of the public.

On the first day, the team visited Tashiding HWC-PHC, Yuksam HWC-PHC and Darap HWC-SC, where they reviewed civil and electrical works, water and sanitation systems, quality control measures, availability of medicines and diagnostics, functioning of equipment, and overall service delivery. The team also visited under-construction site of the upcoming Darap HWC-PHC, where they assessed the progress of civil works, structural readiness, and compliance with standards

required for future service delivery.

The inspection further covered the implementation and progress of Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres, National Health Mission (NHM), RMNCHA+N programmes, NCD services, Telemedicine initiatives, Immunization performance, Maternal and Child Health schemes, Quality Assurance activities, and other ongoing State and Central health programmes being delivered at the facility level.

The two-day exercise reflects the Government of Sikkim's continued commitment to strengthening grassroots healthcare, ensuring better access, improved infrastructure and quality health services for the people of Gyalshing and Soreng Districts.

Six-Day Packaging Training concludes under RAMP–MSME Initiative

Gangtok, November 30: Commerce and Industries Department concluded a six-day Packaging Training Programme at Government Fruit Preservation Factory (GFPF), Singtam, under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative of the Ministry of MSME. The programme marked a significant step towards strengthening the technical capabilities of entrepreneurs, food processors, and value-addition stakeholders across the state.

The training held from November 24 to 29 was conducted in two intensive batches of three days each, with 25 participants per batch. The programme was inaugurated by Mr M Ravi Kumar, Director (MSME), wherein he shared insightful remarks on the growing importance of scientific packaging in ensuring product quality, market acceptance, and competitiveness. He emphasised that such capacity-building initiatives directly benefit local producers by enabling them to

meet industry standards and expand their market presence.

Expert faculty Dr Nilay Pramanik, Deputy Director and Dr Bidan Das, Joint Director and Associate Professor from the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Kolkata) led the technical sessions.

Industry professionals Mr Anil Chettri and Mr Bimal Gurung from Temi Tea enriched the programme with practical inputs on market-oriented packaging. Additionally, Mr Brajendra Ghosh (Sr Manager-Procurement) and Mr Aditya Dhakal (Manager-Production) from GFPF also briefed participants on packaging processes, material suitability, and real-world challenges faced during production and procurement, offering a broader industry perspective.

A key highlight of the programme was the live packaging demonstration conducted by the packing unit of GFPF, allowing participants to gain hands-on exposure to various practical

packaging techniques, equipment usage, and real-time troubleshooting.

Participants engaged in comprehensive training sessions that focused on shelf-life enhancement, material selection, food safety compliance, and quality-driven packaging strategies. These skills are essential for elevating the marketability of Sikkim's agricultural and processed food products.

This initiative reaffirms the Government of Sikkim's commitment to capacity building, innovation, and entrepreneurship development within the MSME sector. By equipping local producers with advanced knowledge and practical skills, the state aims to cultivate a robust food processing ecosystem-one that promotes value addition, empowers rural households, and advances the vision of One Family, One Entrepreneur.

Pakyong District holds disaster preparedness meeting

Pakyong, December 1: A meeting on disaster preparedness in the district was chaired by Mr Rohan Agawane DC Pakyong in the presence of Mr Hari Prasad Dangal Coordinator of State Government for dealing with matters pertaining to pharmaceutical companies at the RDD Community Complex, Rurban Pakyong, today.

The meeting aimed to review disaster preparedness of organisations in the district, including their response arrangements during communication disruptions and to understand their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) priorities and explore ways to align them with ongoing projects of the District Administration.

During the meeting, the

plant heads and organisational heads presented their Standard Operating Procedures, disaster management plans, pollution control measures and the inventories available for disaster preparedness for the district. They also submitted proposals for CSR activities for 2026-27 and highlighted issues faced by their organisations and plants.

Following the presentations, DC Pakyong directed all organisations to include specific details in their disaster preparedness reports. He instructed them to identify the nearest wireless communication point for use in emergencies, outline their disaster management SOPs for possible hazards, and provide details of fixed and

portable inventory along with the number of units available. He further asked them to submit the CSR budget for the year, the priority areas in which they plan to invest, and the annual turnover of the plant, with a clear timeline for submission.

He also detailed various initiatives of District Administration such as Nomad Sikkim, Sci Matix AI, AI on Wheels and NIRPEKSH portal, providing a general overview of their objectives and functioning, noting their focus on supporting development, education and digital literacy in the district.

Further, he urged the heads of the organisations to prioritise projects that deliver long-term, qualitative impact at ground level.

Maghey Sankranti Mela 2026 first stakeholder meeting conducted

Gangtok, November 29: Maghey Sankranti Mela Committee, held its first stakeholder meeting with Tourism and Civil Aviation Department at the department's Mini Conference Hall today. The meeting was chaired by Mr Madan Cintury MLA-cum-Advisor.

In his keynote address, the Advisor emphasised primary objective of making tourism the main focus of the mela, with the intention of elevating it to national and international prominence. He also proposed that Sandhya Aarati should be organised throughout the duration of the mela to enhance its religious significance. He advised the organisers to ensure cleanliness, promote tourism friendly arrangements, and provide essential services such as transportation, accommodation and entertainment.

Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department highlighted key priorities for enhancing the upcoming mela experience. He addressed the accommodation challenges and suggested a few interim solutions. He stated that Incredible India and the Regional Director will support wider promotional activities to establish the festival at national and international levels. He also emphasised the need to improve washroom facilities, curate package tours through travel associations, promote adventure activities and strengthen local economic opportunities.

Mr Bishal Mukhia General Secretary Maghey Sankranti Mela Committee, presented the proposed zone mapping of the mela. He outlined the major attractions planned for this year's edition, including the All India Eleventh Chief Minister's Gold Cup Football Tournament, musical concerts, cultural programmes,

Senior Citizens Saanj, adventure sports, traditional food stalls, SARAS Mela for women empowerment, friendly competitions, art exhibition, entertainment zone, various expos, Bangay Bazaar, Teen Street, Departmental stalls, organic market and River Rangeet campsite.

An open house discussion was also held between the organisers and the key stakeholders.

Maghey Sankranti Mela 2026 will be held from January 14 to 21, 2026. This mela is one of Sikkim's oldest and largest annual celebrations. It was first organised in 1955 as an agricultural fair that provided a platform for farmers and local producers from in and around Jorethang to exchange goods and produce. Over the years, football tournaments and traditional fairs became important features of the event. The mela coincides with Maghey Sankranti, an auspicious period in the Nepali calendar that marks the end of winter and the beginning of warmer days. The name Maghey Sankranti Mela was derived from this occasion. Today, it has grown into a cultural festival that showcases traditions, local crafts, food and a vibrant marketplace for artisans and entrepreneurs. Last year, the mela recorded a minimum footfall of twenty thousand tourists per day and over two lakh visitors in total.

Also present were Mr Yougan Tamang Press Secretary to Chief Minister; Mr Binod Sharma Principal Director (Accounts) Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Mr Pratap Gautam Additional Chief Engineer, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; President, Maghey Sankranti Mela and members of TAAS, SHRA, ASTHA and other stakeholders.

Local Entrepreneurs shine at District Exhibition-cum-Sale

Namchi, November 30: Two-day District Level Exhibition-cum-Sale organised by the District Industries Centre, Namchi under the Commerce and Industries Department concluded at Central Park, Namchi, today.

The two-day Exhibition-cum-Sale was held under the aegis of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)'s Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, with an aim to enhancing awareness, facilitating exhibitions, and providing platform and support local entrepreneurial talents.

With a total of 30 stalls the exhibition saw participation from 60 local entrepreneurs, each showcasing a diverse range of products. This include

handicrafts, local plants and arts, set up by local entrepreneurs, SHGs and others.

The exhibition under MoMSME included an open-mic session. This exhibition was inaugurated by Mr Satish Chandra Rai Area MLA-cum- Chairman.

Additionally, the exhibition gives a platform to entrepreneurs to generate revenue, identify innovative products, and access further support in packaging and product development.

The event was attended by Director MSME Mr Ravi Kumar alongwith with Inspectors and staff of the DIC Namchi.

It maybe mentioned that the Exhibition-cum-Sale will also be organised in other districts to provide a dedicated platform to local entrepreneurs across the State.