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Union Minister of State for DoNER meets Governor and Chief Minister



Gangtok, October 5: Dr Sukanta Majumdar, Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Education called on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

During the courtesy meeting, they held discussions on key development initiatives in the State, with special focus on DoNER projects and education sector schemes. They also

explored future strategies as Sikkim is an important state in the North Eastern region.

The Union Minister of State is currently in Sikkim on his two day official visit.

On the same day, Union Minister of State also met with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence, Mintokgang.

During the meeting, the

Chief Minister extended his best wishes to the Union Minister of State for his official engagements and visit to Sikkim, wishing him a fruitful and successful stay in the State.

The Chief Minister also expressed his commitment to continued cooperation and meaningful engagement towards the progress and development of the North-Eastern region.

Chief Minister attends SASY cheque distribution ceremony

Pakyong, October 3: Chief Minister-cum-Area MLA, Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the cheque distribution ceremony of Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana (SASY) for Rhenock Constituency, organised by Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department at Titribotey, Rorathang, today.

The Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana is a state wide initiative aimed at empowering mothers, strengthening families and promoting their socio-economic well-being. Under the initiative, a total of 32,000 mothers across 31 constituencies and Sangha are being supported through financial assistance, with beneficiaries being reached through the respective Block Administrative Centres.

Chief Minister-cum-Area MLA acknowledged the contributions and sacrifices of mothers in fostering a supportive environment for communities. He underscored that empowering



mothers contribute towards strengthening families and communities as a whole.

Speaking on the Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, Chief Minister highlighted that 1,169 beneficiaries from Rhenock Constituency are receiving financial assistance under the

scheme. He urged the beneficiaries to utilise the assistance judiciously, adding that mothers who make productive use of the assistance would have the opportunity to be recognised through the newly introduced Aama Samman Puraskar

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Higher Command Course delegation call on Governor



Gangtok, October 6: A delegation of Army Officers undergoing Higher Command Course 55 in Army War College, Mhow led by Lieutenant General Ajay Chandpuria, AVSM, VSM, Commandant of Army War College called on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

During the meeting, the Governor engaged and interacted with the officers. He also shared his insights about the border areas.

Interacting with the

Governor, Army Officers raised their queries on connectivity, tourism, infrastructure development, conservation of environment, border trades and challenges faced by troops and people of border areas.

Governor also highlighted various environmental initiatives taken by the State and stated that environmental consciousness is deeply embedded in the culture of the people. He also mentioned about several best practices adopted by the State.

Sikkim State Open Basketball Championship concludes

Gangtok, October 5: Five-day Sikkim State Open Basketball Championship organised by Basketball Association of Sikkim, culminated in the presence of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang at Paljor Stadium, today.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced a cash incentive of ₹5 lakh each for the five participating teams from Sikkim that made it to the finals of the tournament.

In the finals, Meghalaya Basketball Association won the Women's Category, defeating Hawks, Gangtok 70-55, while Eklavya Model Residential School emerged winners in the Girls' Category over Paljor Namgyal Girls' School (77-18). Sagarmatha

Basketball Academy won the Boys' Category against ISA Basketball, Nepal (76-65) and Ravens, Gangtok clinched the Men's title, defeating Yetis, Namchi (64-44). The Tournament MVPs were Ms Ashim Shipe (Women), Ms Edenla Bhutia (Girls), Mr Pema Tenzing Sherpa (Boys) and Mr Arvinder Singh (Men).

At the outset of the programme, the executive committee of the Basketball Association of Sikkim presented basketball jersey to Chief Minister who also ceremonially signed the official tournament basketball. The latter half of the tournament also featured a three-point contest.

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind."
- Roy T. Bennett

Fisheries Department sensitises students on fisheries schemes and ecosystems

Pakyong, October 7: A learning and interactive programme on Fisheries Awareness and Knowledge Sharing was conducted at the Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Parakha, today.

Organised by the Fisheries Department, Pakyong District, the programme aimed to educate students on the importance, scope and potential of fisheries and aquaculture, while encouraging them to explore the sector as a viable avenue for livelihood generation, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

Addressing the gathering, Ms Gauri Mukhia District Fisheries Development Officer provided an overview of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and its various benefits and activities, including support for trout hatcheries,

ornamental fish farming, trout raceways and hatcheries. She also highlighted other initiatives under PMMSY, including motorcycles with fish boxes, recreational fisheries and fish feed mills.

She further apprised the students of centrally sponsored activities aimed at supporting livelihoods, including the Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS), its coverage and claim benefits. She also elaborated on the Mukhya Mantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana (MMUUY) and the benefits available to farmers under the scheme, further she sensitised the students on the Sikkim Fisheries Acts and Rules, fishing licences and the factors contributing to the decline in fish populations.

Emphasising the ecological importance of fisheries and introduction to various common

fish species found in Sikkim, she stated that fish play a vital role in maintaining the balance of freshwater ecosystems by supporting aquatic food chains, contributing to water quality and sustaining the health of rivers and lakes.

Ms Usha Sharma Principal, EMRS Parakha, expressed her gratitude to the Fisheries Department for organising the programme and apprising the students on the aquaculture and fisheries sector.

Additionally, the awareness programme also included Financial Literacy and Credit Counselling (FLCC) on Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facilities available to fish farmers.

As part of the learning activities, a drawing competition and quiz competition was also organised.

157th Gandhi Jayanti observed across all Districts

Mangan, October 2: The 157th Gandhi Jayanti was observed in Mangan District at District Administrative Centre (DAC), Mangan with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Mr Anant Jain District Collector Mangan, followed by the offering of Khada on the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. Heads of Offices, Officers and staff from various departments were present on the occasion to pay their respects to the Father of the Nation.

The occasion was also observed in the remaining three Subdivisions - Kabi, Dzongu and Chungthang, with the respective SDMs leading the observance. The Subdivisions also saw active participation of officers and staff.

Similarly, **Namchi District** Headquarters observed Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Namchi.

As part of the observance, the dignitaries and officials paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi situated within the DAC premises and offered khadas in remembrance of the Father of the Nation.

The occasion served as a solemn reminder of Mahatma Gandhi's enduring ideals of truth, non-violence, simplicity and selfless service, inspiring all to uphold these values in public life and society.

Likewise, the 157th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed at the premises of the **DAC Gyalshing**. The observance formed part of the Week of Non-Violence being observed across the State from September 29-October 4.

Mrs Zangmo Bhutia, President, Tikjuk-Kyongsa GPU, attended the programme as the chief guest. Panchayats, Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing District, ADC Gyalshing, Senior SP Gyalshing, teachers, students and officials of the DAC were present.

The programme

commenced with the garlanding of the bust of Mahatma Gandhi located in the premises of the District Administrative Centre, Gyalshing by the chief guest and other dignitaries.

DC Gyalshing highlighted the importance of familiarising younger generations with Mahatma Gandhi's life, teachings and contribution to the nation. He urged teachers and students to understand and carry forward Gandhi's principles in their daily lives, while encouraging Government officials and employees to uphold responsibility, integrity and a spirit of service in their work.

Students of PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Pelling, presented a skit as part of the Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan, highlighting the harmful effects of alcohol consumption and the importance of collective efforts to raise awareness and promote a healthier, substance-free society, with the message, 'Nasha Ki Nash'. A peace rally was also organised by students of Nova Bliss English School, Tikjuk, carrying messages of peace, harmony and non-violence.

Awareness messages under the Nasha Mukh Sikkim campaign were also displayed.

In Pakyong, the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed at DAC Pakyong, with a cleanliness drive conducted under the direction of the District Collector Pakyong.

The programme began with a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and a remembrance of his principles of truth, non-violence and self-reliance.

Following the tribute, officials and participants carried out a cleanliness drive at the DAC complex and adjoining areas as part of the ongoing Swachhata initiatives.

The programme was attended by the SDM Hqs, SDM Pakyong, DE Zilla, General Secretary Government Driver Association, Pakyong District

and staff.

Likewise, the Pakyong District Police also conducted a cleanliness drive on October 1 as part of the Swachh Abhiyan to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The drive was carried out as part of activities to promote cleanliness and sanitation.

Soreng District celebrated the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at DAC Soreng, commemorating the ideals of truth, non-violence and peaceful coexistence advocated by the Father of the Nation.

Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC Soreng emphasised the importance of the 1930 helpline number and encouraged the public to make effective use of the service. He also congratulated the winners of the essay competition organised by Cooperation Department Soreng on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Further, he informed that Soreng District had secured Rank 1 in Health and Nutrition under the NITI Aayog Delta Ranking, marking a significant achievement for the district.

Mr Parshu Ram Sharma ASP Soreng briefed on the three new criminal laws, namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). He highlighted the people-centric approach of the new legal framework and explained its key provisions. Additionally, he sensitised on various aspects of cybercrime, its growing prevalence and its impact on society.

As part of the celebration, Cooperation Department distributed prizes and certificates to the winners of an essay competition organised under the theme 'Non-Violence and Cooperation: The Foundation of a Peaceful Society'. A total of 15 participants from various Cooperative Societies across Soreng District took part in the competition.

Relief Commissioner-cum-Commissioner-cum-Secretary LR&DMD and Tunnel Monitoring Committee jointly inspect Reshi Road Tunnel

Soreng, October 7: Mr Mingma T Sherpa Relief Commissioner-cum-Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department (LR&DMD) along with members of the Tunnel Monitoring Committee conducted a joint site inspection of Reshi Road Tunnel at Reshi, Soreng, today. The inspection was aimed at assessing the present condition of the tunnel, reviewing ongoing and pending works and examining safety and precautionary measures required for the convenience and protection.

During the inspection, Relief Commissioner-cum-Commissioner-cum-Secretary (LR&DMD) held detailed discussions with the concerned officials on various technical and safety-related aspects of the tunnel. He sought clarification on the precautionary measures, safety protocols and guidelines being followed by NHPC and emphasised the need for proper compliance with the prescribed safety standards. He directed the concerned authorities to submit all relevant technical and other documents to his office for examination and further necessary action. He also proposed the constitution of a sub-committee to facilitate regular monitoring, assessment and coordination regarding the tunnel.

DC Soreng Mr Dhiraj Subedi raised several issues concerning the pending works at the tunnel and highlighted matters directly affecting the safety and convenience of students, local residents and other road users. He particularly raised the need for proper completion and maintenance of the drainage system and provision of a safe pedestrian walkway through the tunnel. He stressed the importance of taking necessary measures to ensure that the movement of pedestrians and vehicles remains

safe and convenient.

Members of Reshi Tunnel Monitoring Committee conducted a detailed assessment of the present condition of the tunnel and sought information from the NHPC officials regarding its structural condition, maintenance, rehabilitation requirements and other safety-related concerns. The members also put forth suggestions and recommendations to the NHPC, Rangit Stage IV HE Project, with emphasis on strengthening safety measures, timely completion of pending works and ensuring public convenience.

During the inspection, Mr RM Sahoo DGM-HRT, Rangit Stage IV HE Project made a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the present status of the Reshi Road Tunnel. The presentation also covered the Diversion Road Tunnel along SH-22/NH510 near the dam site at Reshi, recommendations for rehabilitation treatment, major construction equipment required and the estimated requirements for repair and upgradation of the Diversion Road Tunnel. The presentation provided the committee with an overview of the existing conditions, proposed interventions and technical requirements associated with the tunnel infrastructure.

The inspection provided an opportunity for the concerned departments, technical experts, disaster management authorities and NHPC officials to jointly assess the issues associated with the tunnel and discuss coordinated measures for addressing the same. The authorities emphasised the need for continued monitoring, timely execution of remedial works and adherence to safety protocols to ensure the long-term safety and functionality of the tunnel.

Minister Tshering Thendup Bhutia inspects under-construction SDM office

Gyalshing, October 3: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department conducted an inspection of the under-construction Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) office building at Yuksom, today.

The three-storied SDM office building near Yuksom helipad is being constructed under the Buildings and Housing Department.

The Minister inspected the construction site and reviewed the progress of ongoing works with officials and engineers. He expressed satisfaction with the progress and quality of construction and directed the concerned officials to expedite the work, while maintaining the required quality standards

without compromise.

During the inspection, various plans and proposals concerning the facilities and requirements of the new office complex were also discussed.

Minister emphasised that once completed and operational, the new SDM office will significantly benefit the people of the region.

He added that the centralised administrative complex is designed to enhance efficiency in public service delivery and improve coordination among various Government departments.

The Minister was accompanied by Zilla Adhyaksha Gyalshing, Gram Panchayats, SDM and BDO Yuksom and other officials.

Specialised Healthcare Services expanded in Namchi

Namchi, October 7: Six-day Gallbladder Stone Laparoscopic Surgery Camp and the Day Care Cancer Centre were inaugurated at Namchi District Hospital, marking a significant step towards strengthening specialised healthcare services, today.

The inaugural programme was attended by Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban Development Department as the chief guest, while Mr Satish Chandra Rai Area MLA Namchi-Singithang was present as the guest of honour.

The programme was attended by Mr Tshewang Gyachho Bhutia Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Ms Anjeeta Rajalim Zilla Adhyaksha Namchi, Mr Ganesh Rai Chairperson NMC, Ms Anupa Tamling District Collector Namchi, Dr Junita Yonjon CMO Namchi, Dr Ugen Sherpa DNO, Mr Prabhakar Golay Chief Patron Garib Jan Kalyan Prakosta, along with other dignitaries, doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals and officials.

At the outset, the Minister and Area MLA interacted with doctors, staff nurses, technicians and other healthcare professionals involved in the laparoscopic surgery camp. The medical team is scheduled to perform laparoscopic procedures on more than 100 registered patients, in coordination with the Garib Jan Kalyan Prakosta. The dignitaries extended their best wishes to the medical team for the successful conduct of the procedures.

The seven-bedded Day Care Cancer Centre was also inaugurated during the programme, with the objective of providing accessible and comprehensive oncology care closer to the homes of cancer patients. The facility will provide treatment, follow-up and referral services under the supervision of Dr Ashis Rai, Oncologist and is already operational, with two patients currently receiving care.

Addressing the gathering, Minister described the commencement of the two initiatives as a new chapter in healthcare delivery. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his visionary initiatives aimed at strengthening healthcare services and promoting the welfare and wellbeing of the people of Sikkim. He stated that the State Government has consistently accorded priority to the healthcare sector and described the introduction of specialised services at the district level as a major benefit. He urged people to make optimum use of the facilities and services available at Namchi District Hospital.

Emphasising the role of healthcare professionals, he urged healthcare workers to approach their responsibilities with empathy and professionalism, noting that even small acts of kindness can have a meaningful impact on patients and their families.

He further encouraged

young employees to discharge their responsibilities with sincerity and dedication and work in the spirit of contributing towards the progress and development of Sikkim. He also highlighted concerns surrounding the declining fertility rate and called for greater awareness and collective efforts to address the issue.

He assured continued support to the District Administration and Namchi District Hospital and stated that necessary assistance would be extended towards strengthening hospital infrastructure and improving the management of its sewage treatment facilities.

Area MLA Namchi-Singithang expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for bringing specialised healthcare services closer to the people of Namchi and adjoining areas.

He stated that the availability of laparoscopic surgery and a Day Care Cancer Centre at Namchi District Hospital would provide considerable relief to patients who previously had to travel outside the district for specialised treatment.

Further, he urged the public to make proper use of the facilities and stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness within the hospital premises. He appealed to visitors and attendants to refrain from littering and emphasised that maintaining a clean and hygienic hospital environment is a shared responsibility.

Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department highlighted the Department's continued efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and expand specialised medical services across Sikkim.

He emphasised the need to improve healthcare delivery and ensure timely access to quality and specialised treatment closer to people's respective districts.

He also highlighted the vital contribution of frontline health workers, particularly ANMs and MPHWs serving in rural areas, noting that many experienced personnel are approaching retirement. He stressed the need for timely recruitment and replacement by young health workers committed to serving in rural areas to ensure continuity and sustained delivery of grassroots healthcare services.

Speaking on advanced healthcare facilities being developed in the State, he highlighted services including IVF treatment and organ transplantation, along with other specialised medical services being prepared and provided at STNM Hospital, Gangtok.

He also stressed the need to further strengthen C-section facilities at Mangan District Hospital, particularly in view of the geographical challenges faced by the region.

Referring to the installation of advanced ophthalmic equipment at the district

hospital, he proposed strengthening retinal and other specialised ophthalmic services to enable the hospital to provide advanced eye-care facilities locally.

He further spoke about upcoming state-of-the-art healthcare centres and various projects underway, which are envisaged to further strengthen the State's healthcare infrastructure and expand access to advanced medical services.

Dr Birendra Gurung Paediatrician, Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College, delivered a presentation on thiamine deficiency disorders among infants, highlighting the critical importance of nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life.

He explained the role of essential vitamins and micronutrients in supporting the physical and cognitive development of children and stressed the importance of adequate complementary feeding from the sixth month onwards. He called for greater awareness among parents and caregivers regarding appropriate infant nutrition.

He also highlighted the health implications of micronutrient deficiencies and the importance of timely supplementation and appropriate nutritional interventions. He informed that fortified rice containing essential micronutrients such as iron, folic acid and Vitamin B12 may differ slightly in colour from regular rice, which can sometimes lead to misconceptions.

Dr Junita Yonjon CMO Namchi expressed gratitude to Chief Minister for his continued support towards initiatives aimed at strengthening healthcare services in Namchi.

She acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, doctors, technicians, staff nurses and other healthcare workers in facilitating the delivery of specialised healthcare services in the district.

The programme also witnessed the release of IEC materials for ANQAS Primary Health Centres, aimed at strengthening awareness and quality improvement initiatives at the primary healthcare level.

In addition, thiamine, Vitamin D and micronutrient supplementation for infants was launched as part of efforts to address nutritional deficiencies and strengthen preventive healthcare and nutrition interventions among children.

It maybe mentioned that laparoscopic surgery and Day Care Cancer Centre will now be fully operational at Namchi District Hospital, providing the people of the district and neighbouring areas with access to specialised surgical care closer to home and eliminating the need to travel outside the State for such treatment.

Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair to promote Sikkim as premier travel destination

Gangtok, October 6: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, during a special briefing held at his office in Tashiling Secretariat, today, informed that the Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair will be held in Gangtok on November 21 and 22, 2026, with the objective of showcasing the State's diverse tourism offerings and promote stronger linkages with the wider travel trade.

The Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair is being organised by Panda Event Management, in collaboration with Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim, with the objective of showcasing the State's diverse tourism offerings and strengthening linkages between Sikkim's tourism industry and the wider travel trade.

The two-day fair will bring together travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers, homestay operators, hospitality professionals, tourism entrepreneurs and other industry stakeholders on a common platform to facilitate business networking, knowledge exchange and the development of new tourism partnerships.

The event will showcase Sikkim's distinctive tourism experiences, including nature and adventure tourism, rural and community-based tourism, culture and heritage, wellness, cuisine, homestays and sustainable tourism initiatives. Key focus will

be on promoting emerging and lesser-known destinations, while providing greater visibility to local tourism enterprises and community-led initiatives.

The fair will also provide opportunities for local tourism stakeholders to engage directly with travel trade partners, explore new markets and develop collaborative tourism products.

The programme will feature B2B interactions, destination presentations, networking sessions and promotional activities, enabling participants to gain insights into emerging travel trends and identify opportunities for tourism collaboration.

Highlighting the growing interest in the event, the Minister informed that Yeti Airlines, Nepal, has confirmed its participation as the premier exhibitor, while Tourism Boards from Nepal and Bhutan have also confirmed their participation as international buyers. Invitations have been extended to Tourism Boards of all States across India to participate in the fair. The Department is also pursuing participation from the respective consulates of Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

Through the Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair, the State seeks to further position Sikkim as a premier travel destination, while creating new opportunities for tourism-led economic activity, market expansion and local employment.

Sikkim to host 49th Yonex-Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship

Gangtok, October 2: Sikkim will host first Yonex-Sunrise 49th Inter-State, Inter-Zonal and Junior National Badminton Championships 2026 from November 14-21 at Indoor Hall, Paljor Stadium, Gangtok, prestigious national-level junior badminton championship.

The official mascot and logo of the event were digitally unveiled today at MG Marg, Gangtok, on the occasion of the 157th Gandhi Jayanti celebration in the presence of Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang.

The mascot and logo were presented by Mr Jacob Khaling Political Secretary to CM also the President, Badminton Association of Sikkim (BAS) along with executive members of BAS, and formally unveiled by Governor and Chief Minister.

The championship has also been accorded the status of a State Event by the Government of Sikkim. The official notification to this effect was presented to the dignitaries by Mr Raju Basnet, Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Department and Ms Yangchen D Tamang, Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

As part of the preparations, Ms Neha

Meherwal, Promotion Head, Yonex Sunrise India, signed a four-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the BAS. A token of appreciation was also presented to Ms Meherwal on the occasion.

Organised by the BAS under the aegis of Badminton Association of India, the event will feature Boys' Singles, Girls' Singles, Boys' Doubles, Girls' Doubles and Mixed Doubles in the Under-19 age category, bringing together leading junior badminton players from across the country.

The hosting of the championship is expected to provide a significant platform for the development of badminton in Sikkim, while giving local players and the sporting community an opportunity to witness and engage with high-level national competition.

A tournament memento was subsequently presented to Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur on the occasion.

The event is also expected to provide an opportunity for Sikkim to showcase its sporting infrastructure and organisational capabilities while strengthening the State's presence on the national sporting calendar.

International Day of Older Persons 2026 observed

Gangtok, October 1: Women, Child, Senior Citizens and Divyangjan Welfare Department (WCSC&DW) observed the International Day of Older Persons 2026 under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, with the theme, 'The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives', today.

The programme was attended by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Women, Child, Senior Citizens and Divyangjan Welfare, as chief guest along with Mr Jigme D Bhutia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, WCSC&DW Department as the special guest.

Also present were Ms Bandana Rai Special Secretary, Ms Manisha Cintury Joint Secretary, representatives of senior citizen organisations, children from Child Care Institute Homes, officials and other stakeholders.

Minister acknowledged the valuable contributions of older persons to the State and society and emphasised the collective responsibility of ensuring that they continue to live with dignity, security and a sense of belonging. Speaking on this year's theme, the Minister highlighted the importance of adopting a holistic approach to healthy ageing. He spoke of the significance of regular physical exercise, a healthy diet, adequate and quality sleep, keeping the mind active through continued learning and mental stimulation, and maintaining meaningful relationships and social connections.

The Minister encouraged senior citizens to remain physically and mentally active and continue engaging with society even after retirement. He also stressed the importance of strengthening intergenerational relationships and addressing the gap between younger and older generations. Building stronger bonds between generations is a collective responsibility, he stated, while encouraging families and communities to create more opportunities for interaction, sharing of experiences and mutual understanding.

Emphasising the importance of the Senior Citizen Card, he urged the Department to ensure that the facility reaches eligible senior citizens across the State, including those living in remote and rural areas. He encouraged senior citizens to obtain and carry the card, stressing its importance in accessing various facilities and benefits available to them. He further urged older persons to remain aware of their rights, entitlements and the laws, rules and provisions established for their welfare and protection. He also cautioned them to remain vigilant against online scams, fraud and other forms of financial exploitation, particularly in

regard to the increasing digitisation.

The Minister assured the gathering that the concerns and grievances raised by senior citizens during the programme would be taken up by the department and addressed appropriately. He reiterated the State Government's commitment to strengthening support systems for older persons and ensuring that their welfare and security remain an important part of the State's social welfare efforts.

Mr Jigme D Bhutia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, WCSC&DW Department, appreciated the continued engagement of the Sikkim Senior Citizen Foundation and the Sikkim Government Retired Employees' Association, particularly their constructive suggestions on matters concerning older persons. He observed that the International Day of Older Persons provides an opportunity not only to recognise the contributions of senior citizens but also to reflect on their changing needs and the challenges associated with ageing. He added that ageing is a natural process and that advancing age should not diminish a person's dignity, respect or sense of belonging.

Referring to this year's theme, he highlighted the need to adapt healthcare, social support, housing and financial systems to ensure that longer lives are accompanied by dignity, security, comfort and meaningful participation. He stressed that older persons should not feel left behind as society and its systems evolve. On the occasion, he also read out the message of the United Nations Secretary-General for the International Day of Older Persons, which highlighted the need to rethink systems and strengthen support mechanisms in response to increasing longevity.

He further appreciated the active participation of senior citizens in the Department programmes and acknowledged the suggestions and advisories shared by their representative organisations, stating that such feedback helps address immediate concerns while also providing direction for policy and welfare measures.

Mr KN Sharma, President, Sikkim Senior Citizen Foundation, expressed gratitude to the State Government and Chief Minister for strengthening the Foundation by bringing it under the WCSC&DW Department.

He highlighted the constitutional right to dignity and observed that a meaningful life in old age extends beyond basic needs, encompassing a sense of purpose, relevance and continued contribution to society. He also outlined some of the activities undertaken by the Foundation for the welfare of

senior citizens.

Mr Tulsi Pradhan General Secretary, Sikkim Government Retired Employees' Association, briefed on the evolution and activities of the Association, which was established in 2009 and currently has more than 20,000 members. He highlighted the Association's efforts to extend support in cash and kind to people affected by natural calamities and placed several suggestions and requests before the department concerning the welfare of senior citizens. These included enhancements of medical allowance, provision of senior citizen reservation at Sikkim Houses located across the country and in state buses, and the organisation of camps to facilitate life certificate submission, among other matters.

The programme also featured the presentation of citations to Mr Purna Kumar Pradhan, IAS (Retd), Dr Bela Rani Cintury and Mr Tashi Gempo Bhutia in recognition of their distinguished and dedicated public service, continued contributions to society and commitment to the welfare of senior citizens and the wider community.

Appreciation was also presented to Mr Passang Tshering Bhutia, Caretaker and In-Charge, Old Age Home, Namchi-Boomtar, and Mr Mani Ram Rai, Caretaker and In-Charge, Old Age Home, Ranipool, for their dedicated service and care of senior citizens. The winners of the Elderly Walkathon, held on September 23 at Paljor Stadium, were also felicitated during the programme.

In the senior citizen category, Mr Dorjee Tashi Bhutia secured the first position, followed by Mr Tulsi Pradhan in second and Mr Ser Bahadur Chettri in third position. In the younger generation category, Master Chetan Darjee of Sita Panchawati Children Home secured the first position, followed by Master Ayan Biswakarma of Rainbow Children Home in second and Master Santosh Rai of Sita Panchawati Children Home in third position.

The intergenerational category that brought senior citizens and younger participants together as teams, Mr Ser Bahadur Chettri and Master Prayash Darjee secured the first position, followed by Mr HK Chettri and Ms Neeruta Rasaily in second, while Mr CK Basnett, Ms Reetika Rai and Master Navin Rana secured the third position.

At the onset, the programme commenced with the administration of the pledge on the rights and well-being of older persons by the chief guest, followed by the screening of a documentary film highlighting initiatives of the Department under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana.

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Chief Minister...

and Pragatisheel Aama Puraskar, instituted to acknowledge their progress and contributions.

The Chief Minister further announced that from 2027, the coverage of the Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana would be enhanced from 32,000 to 50,000 beneficiaries, with more than 1,500 mothers from each constituency expected to be covered. He also urged beneficiaries to ensure the equitable implementation of Government schemes and refrain from availing benefits under multiple schemes when they are not eligible, so that assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Elaborating on the State Government's initiatives for the welfare and empowerment of women and children, the Chief Minister highlighted various programmes, including the Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, Aama Sahayog Yojana, Bahini Yojana, enhanced widow pension, Mission Vatsalya, Sabbatical Leave initiative, Maternity Leave, Sishu Samridhi Yojana, Shravan Kumar Award, Aama Didi Bahini Bus Sewa, Breastfeeding Pods and free HPV vaccination. He stated that these initiatives seek to address the social, economic and welfare needs of women, mothers and children while strengthening family support systems.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the role and contribution of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in strengthening livelihoods, promoting entrepreneurship and advancing socio-economic development at the grassroots level. He further apprised the employment opportunities and skill-based avenues being created across the district, while emphasising the need to bring barren and unused land under productive cultivation to promote agriculture and generate sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Earlier, the Chief Minister received a Guard of Honour from the District Police, Pakyong District.

Additionally, Mr Jigmee

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Sikkim State...

Also present were Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor, Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Jacob Khaling Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Mr Bikash Pradhan Advisor Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Mr Rinzing Wangyal

Dorjee Bhutia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, WCSC&DWD, highlighted that the Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana seeks to empower women by strengthening their economic independence, self reliance and capacity to contribute towards the well being of their families. He stated that the initiative recognises the invaluable role of mothers and women in society while creating avenues for greater financial security and self-sufficiency. He further assured that the department would provide support to promote the welfare and upliftment of society by strengthening women, families and communities.

As part of the programme, a felicitation ceremony was also held for Mr Pem Tshering Sherpa, son of Late Chettar Sherpa, and his 16-member family from Lashithang Ward, Rhenock Constituency, in recognition of their contribution towards demographic sustainability and strengthening family values in the State.

Likewise, a beneficiary from the region, Mrs Sabitri Biswakarma shared her journey about the challenges faced by women and expressed her appreciation to the Chief Minister for extending assistance and support through various initiatives aimed at promoting the welfare and empowerment of women.

A health camp was also organised by the Jan Kalyan Prakosta and Rhenock CHC to provide medical assistance and basic health services to beneficiaries and attendees.

It may be mentioned that Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana cheque distribution programme was held across all Districts.

The programme was also attended by Mr Bishnu Kumar Khatiwada Advisor to CM, Mr SD Dhakal Chairman Administration Reforms Commission, Mrs Laden Lhamu Bhutia Zilla Adhyaksha, Mrs Prabha Pradhan Zilla Upadhyaksha, Mr Jigme Dorjee Bhutia Commissioner-cum-Secretary WCSC&DWD, Ms Sarika Pradhan Secretary Social Welfare Department, Ms Pari Bishnoi DC Pakyong, Mr Tshering Sherpa SP Pakyong, Head of Offices from various line departments and public.

Chopel Chairman, Sports Development Board, Mr Prem Gurung Chairman, Sikkim Labour Welfare Board, Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs, Ms Yangchen Tamang, Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Municipal Commissioner, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, students, participants and other stakeholders.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

157th Gandhi Jayanti celebrated

Gangtok, October 2: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the 157th Gandhi Jayanti celebration at MG Gangtok, with a programme highlighting cleanliness, sanitation, waste management and community participation, today.

The programme commenced with the flag-off of 12 advanced sewage and waste collection equipment, along with the handover of the equipment by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. to Urban Development Department, Government of Sikkim, under the Toyota CSR Programme for FY 2026-27.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening mechanised sanitation and supporting efforts towards the elimination of manual scavenging. Mr Bikram Gulati of Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd handed over the keys to the Governor and the Chief Minister.

Thereafter, the dignitaries paid floral tributes and offered khadas to the bust of Mahatma Gandhi, honouring the enduring legacy and ideals of the Father of the Nation.

The programme also witnessed the presentation of a series of awards and recognitions to individuals, institutions, Self-Help Groups, and Urban and Rural Local Bodies for their contributions towards cleanliness, sanitation and waste management.

Under the Cleanest Gram Panchayat Award 2026, presented through Rural Development Department, Poklok Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) secured first position and received a cash award of ₹5 lakh. Sukrabarey Suntalay GPU secured second position and received ₹3 lakh, while Passingdong Saffo GPU and Rimbi Timbong GPU jointly secured third position and received ₹1 lakh each.

The Swachhata Mitra Awards were presented to personnel of the Gangtok Sewerage Division under the Public Health Engineering Department. Mr Gopal Dahal, Mr

Mangal Tshering Lepcha, Mr Laxman Sharma and Mr Pema Gyatso Lepcha received ₹10,000/- each, along with Certificates of Appreciation, in recognition of their dedicated services.

Prizes were also distributed to the winners of the ENGAGE-2025-26 Inter-College Competition, organised by Urban Development Department. Loyola College of Education, Namchi secured first position, followed by Harkamaya College of Education, Tadong in second place and Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Tadong in third, respectively.

Cash rewards and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Safai Karamcharis from Urban Local Bodies in recognition of their contribution to maintaining sanitation services across the State. The recipients included Mr Diwas Chettri of Namchi Municipal Council, Mr Samten Tamang of Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Ms Kamala Bardewa of Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Ms Sukriya Rai of Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, Mr Norbu Tshering Bhutia of Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat, Mr Gopal Singh Rai of Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat, and Mr Bishal Rawat, Mr Sonam Bhutia, Mr Shouvik Chatterjee and Mr Asis Basnett Chettri of Gangtok Municipal Corporation.

Under the Swachha Shehar Abhiyaan, the Jagriti SHG of Nayabazar, Jorethang, was recognised as the best-performing Self-Help Group and received a cash award of ₹50,000/-. Chandmari Ward was recognised as the Cleanest Ward under the Gangtok Municipal Corporation and was presented with a cheque of ₹1 lakh along with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The Cleanest Urban Local Body Awards were also presented. Gangtok Municipal Corporation secured first position and received ₹8 lakh, followed by Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat in second position with ₹6 lakh and Rangpo Nagar Panchayat in third position with ₹4 lakh.

In recognition of their contribution to solid waste management, Certificates of Appreciation along with cash rewards of ₹5,000/-each were presented to GMC personnel. The awardees included Mr Sonam Tshering Bhutia, Mr Mahesh Chandra Dahal, Mr Prashant Rai, Ms Tenzing Dolkar Bhutia, Mr Dilip Biswakarma, Mr Bhakta Prasad Dhakal, Mr Nim Rinchen Bhutia, Mr Nar Bahadur Chettri, Ms Nari Maya Gurung, Mr Suk Ram Biswakarma and Ms Swarsati Ramu Damu.

The programme also witnessed the release of the WOW Gangtok Report, prepared by the Gangtok Municipal Corporation, documenting the initiatives and efforts undertaken towards improving waste management in the city. In another contribution towards strengthening waste management infrastructure, GNS Builders handed over the key of a waste management vehicle to the State Government.

The Safaa Gangtok App, developed by the Urban Development Department, was subsequently launched by the Governor and the Chief Minister. The application is designed to provide citizens with convenient access to waste management-related services at the click of a button. A video showcasing waste management initiatives in Gangtok was also screened by the Gangtok Municipal Corporation.

The official mascot and logo of Yonex-Sunrise 49th Inter State, Inter Zonal & Junior National Badminton Championships 2026 was digitally launched by the Governor and Chief Minister.

Also present were Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Political Secretary to CM, Chief Secretary, Advisors, Chairpersons, Adhyaksha and Upa Adhyaksha Gangtok, Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Councillors GMC, distinguished guests along with Heads of Departments from various departments, OSDs and officers and officials of the State Government.

Union Minister of State for Education and DoNER visits Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College

Gangtok, October 5: Union Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr Sukanta Majumdar visited Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College as part of his two-day official visit to Sikkim, today.

Upon his arrival at the institution, the Union Minister was received by Mr Chandra Vijay Basnet, PCE-cum-Secretary, Buildings and Housing Department, Mr YN Gautam PCE, Buildings and Housing Department and other senior officials along with faculty members of Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College.

During the visit, the Union Minister of State assessed the Medical College and its infrastructure. He was briefed on the facilities and various components of the campus by Dr

Bikram Kharga, Dean, Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College, following which he interacted with students from the first batch of Medical College.

The Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College, the first Government Medical College in the State was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi on April 28, 2026, marking a significant milestone in the development of medical education and healthcare infrastructure in Sikkim.

The campus comprises of a comprehensive Academic Building as its central facility, supported by dedicated accommodation and residential infrastructure.

The institution also has sports and recreational facilities, including a Basketball Court, Volleyball Court, Gymnasium and Indoor Badminton Court.

The Medical College has been named after Helen Lepcha (1902-1980), a noted freedom fighter from Sangmoo, Assangthang in present-day Namchi District. She actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Quit India Movement and was awarded the Tamra Patra by the Government of India in 1972 in recognition of her contribution to the freedom struggle.

The UMoS's visit formed part of his official programme in Sikkim, during which, he visited projects under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE), along with projects supported by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), North Eastern Council (NEC) and the State Government.

Sikkim Information Commission observes RTI Week 2026

Gangtok, October 7: Sikkim Information Commission observed Right to Information (RTI) Week 2026 under the theme 'Transparency is the key to accountability' at Chintan Bhawan, today.

The programme was organised to promote awareness about the Right to Information Act, 2005, and highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability and informed citizen participation in governance.

Mr Kuber Bhandari Chief Information Commissioner, Sikkim Information Commission said that the observance of RTI Week provided an opportunity to reflect on the Right to Information Act, 2005 and assess how effectively its provisions were being implemented in day-to-day governance.

He said that the Right to Information is not merely a procedural law but an important instrument for promoting transparency, accountability and an informed citizenry, while enabling people to participate meaningfully in governance.

Chief Information Commissioner highlighted the important role of State Public Information Officers (SPIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) in ensuring effective implementation of the RTI Act at the ground level.

Referring to Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005, he said that public authorities had an important responsibility to proactively disclose information relating to their functioning and other prescribed particulars. He said that greater proactive disclosure could reduce the need for citizens to file individual RTI applications and urged departments to regularly update information and strengthen compliance with the provision.

He said that First Appellate Authorities had an important responsibility in ensuring that appeals under the RTI Act were properly examined and dealt with. He urged the authorities to conduct hearings within the prescribed framework, noting that an effective departmental appellate mechanism could help resolve grievances at the department level and reduce the burden of second appeals before the Commission.

He also highlighted the role of technology in making the RTI mechanism more accessible. He said the use of video conferencing alongside physical hearings had improved access and reduced the difficulties faced by citizens required to travel long distances. He added that technology could serve as an important instrument for promoting inclusive and accessible governance.

He urged departments to regularly update their online platforms, websites and dashboards to provide citizens

with accurate and current information.

Highlighting the Commission's outreach initiatives, he said that the Commission had been reaching out to schools and colleges to create awareness about the RTI Act among students. He appreciated the efforts of teachers and students in promoting awareness and said such initiatives would help the younger generation understand the importance of transparency, accountability and informed participation in a democracy.

He emphasised that the message of transparency must reach the next generation, as democracy is strengthened when citizens are informed, aware and able to participate actively in governance.

Concluding his address, Chief Information Commissioner congratulated the teachers and students for their efforts and said transparency was fundamental to good governance. He stressed that RTI should not be viewed as a burden but as an instrument of accountability, adding that information empowers citizens and transparency strengthens democracy.

He called for an administration where citizens would not have to struggle to obtain information that should be made available proactively, and urged the nodal departments to strengthen their efforts towards greater transparency, accountability and accessibility of information.

Earlier, the programme commenced with the welcome address by Ms Jyotsna M Karthak Secretary, Sikkim Information Commission wherein she apprised the series of programmes and awareness activities organised by the Commission as part of the RTI Week celebrations. She highlighted the importance of creating greater awareness about the RTI Act and encouraging citizens, particularly students and young people, to understand their role in promoting transparency and accountability in public administration.

During the programme, officials of the Sikkim Information Commission made a brief presentation to raise awareness about the Right to Information Act, 2005. The programme also featured selected reels, presentations by the winners of the inter-school elocution competition and the winning skit, followed by prize distribution for competitions organised as part of the RTI Week celebrations. Winners of the elocution, inter-school skit and reels competitions were felicitated for their performances and participation.

The programme concluded with the presentation of souvenirs and certificates of participation.

Darjeeling MP calls on Governor



Gangtok, October 5: Mr Raju Bista, MP Darjeeling Constituency and the newly appointed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State In-Charge, Sikkim paid a courtesy visit to Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhawan, today.

During the courtesy

meeting, Governor congratulated Mr Raju Bista on being appointed as the BJP State In-Charge, Sikkim.

He was accompanied by Mr DR Thapa former member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly and Sikkim State BJP President.

Chief Minister reviews status and progress of Rangit Stage-IV HE Project

Soreng, October 1: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang reviewed the present status and progress of the Rangit Stage-IV Hydro Electric (HE) Project at Reshi, Soreng District at a meeting held at Dak Bungalow, Soreng, today.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister enquired about the various aspects of the project, including the progress of ongoing construction works and issues pertaining to its implementation. He directed the NHPC officials to ensure efficient execution of the project, keeping in view the convenience and welfare of the public. He also discussed at length regarding the tunnel need to be well lit, pedestrian friendly, and safe for public movement.

He further informed that a Committee comprising of officials from the Mines and Geology Department, along with the District Collectors of concerned districts, would be constituted to examine matters related to the project. He also directed NHPC and the proposed committee to maintain close coordination for smooth implementation and monitoring of

ongoing projects across the State.

During the meeting, Mr RM Saho DGM-HRT (NHPC), presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the current status of the Rangit Stage-IV HE Project. The presentation covered the status of the Dam Control Room Building, Dissipating Chamber and Self-Flush Tunnel, Head Race Tunnel (HRT), Surge Shaft, Power House, Tail Race Channel, Pothead Yard works and the diversion road tunnel along SH-22/NH-510 near the dam site at Reshi. The presentation also highlighted recommendations for rehabilitation and remedial treatment, requirements for major construction equipment and an appraisal of the Chun Bhatti Nala slide zone.

The meeting was attended by Speaker SLA, Cabinet Ministers, Political Secretary to CM, MLAs, DC Soreng, ADC Soreng, SDMs, SE (Roads and Bridges Department), representatives of NHPC and officials from Roads and Bridges Department, Soreng.

Registration opens for Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026

Gangtok, October 6: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department addressed a press conference on the upcoming Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026, scheduled to be held from November 1-7, 2026 at Linkhim Tar, Namchi District.

The Minister highlighted the festival as an initiative to promote Sikkim as a premier destination for adventure tourism while showcasing the State's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and diverse tourism experiences. He stated that the festival is expected to bring together locals, visitors from across the country and international tourists, offering them an opportunity to experience Sikkim's pristine landscapes,

cultural diversity and adventure tourism offerings.

He extended a warm invitation to tourists and visitors from India and abroad to participate in the festival and experience the State's unique blend of nature, culture and adventure. He also called upon locals and visitors to actively participate in the festival and make the most of their stay in Sikkim while discovering the State's distinctive natural and cultural attractions.

The official portal for the Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026 is now available, with registrations open to all interested participants. A QR code has also been provided for easy access to the portal, registration and other information.

86th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister celebrated

Gangtok, October 5: The 86th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari was celebrated at Samman Bhawan with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as the chief guest, today.

The programme was attended by Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Speaker, MLAs, MPs, Chief Secretary, elected representatives, former legislators, Secretaries, senior Government officials and other dignitaries.

The programme commenced with Chief Minister and other dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp in remembrance of the late leader. This was followed by a special address on the life and contributions of Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari, delivered by Mr Neelam Neopaney, OSD, Culture



Department. He elaborated on the life, political journey and contributions of the former Chief Minister, providing an account of his role in the development and progress of Sikkim.

The programme also

featured the screening of a documentary produced by the Information and Public Relations Department, showcasing the life, legacy and contributions of Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari.

Sixth Foundation Day celebration of Pari Prakashan held

Soreng, October 1: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the Sixth Foundation Day celebration of Pari Prakashan held at Engineering Complex, Dak Bungalow, Soreng, marking the six years of its contribution towards promoting literature and providing a platform for emerging writers.

Chief Minister highlighted the organisation's objectives of encouraging new and emerging writers and creating opportunities for them to showcase their literary works. He also congratulated the fifteen writers for the launch of their books and emphasised that collective support and encouragement are essential for nurturing new talent in the literary field. He highlighted the historic significance of August 20, 1992, when Nepali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. He acknowledged the contributions of Former Chief Minister of Sikkim Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari and Former Member of Parliament Mrs Dil Kumari Bhandari towards securing constitutional recognition for Nepali language.

He also underscored the significance of the UPSC Reference Text Collection, a compilation of prescribed texts included in the UPSC syllabus in Nepali language, which would serve as a valuable resource for civil service aspirants. Furthermore, he congratulated the recipients of the Pari Puraskar 2026, Mr TB Gurung and Mrs Meena Subba for their achievements and contributions.

The Chief Minister also spoke about various initiatives, including the APATAN Fellowship introduced by the State Government, promotion of news publication in the Nepali language, Kalakar Bharosa Sammelan and the Heritage Guardian Award, announced to be conferred on August 15. He reiterated the importance of preserving and promoting language, literature, art and cultural heritage.

Earlier, Mr CP Sharma Vice President of ITS and President of Pari Prakashan briefed the

gathering on the establishment of Pari Prakashan on October 1, 2020, and its journey towards providing a platform for writers and bringing their literary works to the public. He stated that the books launched during the occasion marked the first edition of publications under Pari Prakashan. He also appreciated the participation of Sikkim's youth in the preservation and promotion of the State's rich literary and cultural heritage.

He highlighted the organisation's vision of contributing towards Viksit Sikkim 2047 and reiterated the importance of UPSC Reference Text Collection in providing aspirants with access to prescribed study materials.

The Pari Puraskar 2026 was conferred upon Mr TB Gurung in the male category and Mrs Meena Subba in the female category. Both awardees expressed their gratitude to Pari Prakashan and the Chief Minister for the recognition and honour.

The event witnessed the launch of fifteen literary publications by various authors, comprising of poetry collections, children's poetry, essays, bhajans, songs and other literary works.

The titles included Pasina ko Rang by Mr Laxmi Prasad Sharma-Kavita Sangraha. (Poetry collection), 'Mailay Bache ko Samay' by Mr Rohan Rai-Kavita Sangraha. (Poetry collection), 'Mero Pratispardha' by Ms Upasana Sharma-Kavita Sangraha. (Poetry collection), 'Anuwa aruko Tambung' by Mr Sabin Kumar Limbu-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Amurtha Yatra' by Mr Vijay Rai-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Anubhuti' by Mr Bidur Vasistha-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Mo Lakhna Badhya Chu' by Mr Prayas Pradhan-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Mukundo haru ko shahar' by Mr Shafik Bantawa-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Manavta ko Awaaz' by Mr Padam Bahadur Manger-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Karnadhar' by Mr Rabin Rai-Bal Kavita Sangraha (Children's Poetry Collection),

'Chultho' by Ms Kaushila Upreti-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Samjhana Vitra ka Kavita' by Mr Bharat Sapkota-Kavita Sangraha (Poetry Collection), 'Balan' by Mr Abhichandra Sigdel, 'Samridhi ko Goreto Ma Sikkim' by Mr Bharat Sharma-Lekh Sangraha (Collection of Essays) and 'Makhmali' by Mr BR Kharel-Collection of Bhajans, Songs and Poems.

The UPSC Reference Text Collection was also formally launched during the programme. Additional book launches were conducted by Ms Rajani Pegha, Mr DP Adhikari, Mr SM Basnet and Ms Purnima.

The programme also featured poetry recitations by Mr Madan Cintury MLA (Salghari-Zoom), Mr Jacob Khaling Political Secretary to the Chief Minister and Ms Abigail Rai, adding a literary dimension to the celebration. The organising committee of Pari Prakashan felicitated Chief Minister along with poets and writers, in recognition of their contributions and association with the literary fraternity.

On the occasion, Heavenly Nirvana Path also launched its book titled 'Aamas Healing: Jungle Dekhi Samaj Samma'. The celebration concluded with a renewed emphasis on encouraging literary creativity, nurturing emerging writers and strengthening the preservation and promotion of Nepali language and literature in Sikkim.

The event was also attended by Mr MN Sherpa Speaker (SLA), Mr NB Dahal Minister for Roads and Bridges Department, Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Buildings and Housing, MLAs, Mr CP Sharma ITS (Vice President), Political Secretary to CM, Zilla Adhyaksha, Upa Adhyaksha, Zilla Panchayats, Advisors and Chairpersons, Secretaries, APS to CM (Soreng), DC Soreng, ASP Soreng, ADC Soreng, SDMs, OSDs, HoDs, HoOs, Principals, officials and students.