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President of India arrives in Sikkim on three-day official visit



Gangtok, May 26: President of India, Ms Droupadi Murmu arrived in Gangtok on a three-day official visit to Sikkim, today. The President was accorded a warm reception at Libing Helipad by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang.

Also present to receive the dignitary were Mr MN Sherpa Speaker and Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, MP (Lok Sabha), Senior civil and police officials including the Chief Secretary,

Director General of Police, District Collector (Gangtok), Superintendent of Police (Gangtok), State Protocol Officers and representatives of the Indian Army.

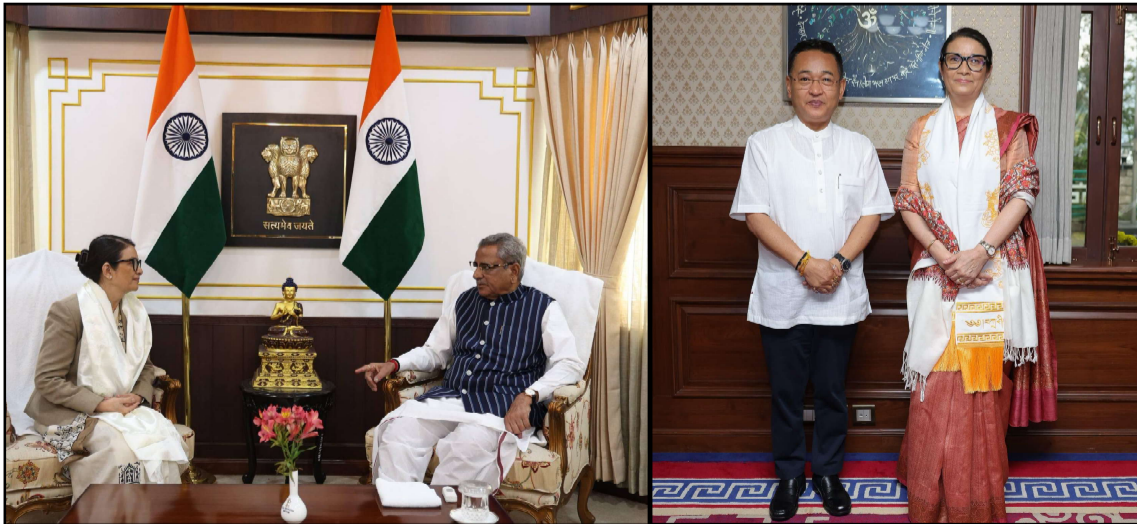
Following her arrival, the President reached Lok Bhavan, where she was received by Governor, Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Governor and other senior State Government officials. Later, the President attended a State Banquet hosted in her

honour by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan.

Thereafter, President Ms Droupadi Murmu visited Ridge Park Orchidarium located at the Swarna Jyanti Maitreya Manjari Complex. The Orchidarium reflects Sikkim's rich floral heritage and the State's continued commitment towards biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism and sustainable tourism development. Housing a wide variety of rare and indigenous orchid species, the

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Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai meets Governor and Chief Minister



Gangtok, May 26: The designate Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, Justice Ms Meenakshi Madan Rai, paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Sikkim, Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

On 22 May 2026, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended the appointment of Justice Ms Meenakshi Madan Rai as the Chief Justice of the High

Court of Judicature at Patna. A native of Sikkim, Justice Ms Rai is presently serving as the senior judge of the Sikkim High Court.

This was her first formal meeting with the Governor following her elevation as Chief Justice of a High Court.

During the courtesy meeting, the Governor extended his heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Justice Rai. Describing

the occasion as a historic moment for Sikkim, the Governor said that she had brought immense pride to the State by becoming the first woman judge from Sikkim to be appointed as the Chief Justice of a High Court. The Governor also expressed confidence that under her leadership, the Patna High Court would continue to uphold

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Governor concludes three-day visit to Gyalshing District



Gyalshing, May 22: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur concluded his three-day official visit to Gyalshing District, today.

Before departing from the District, Governor chaired a review meeting on the implementation and progress of ongoing Central and State Government schemes held at a local hotel in Kyongsa, Gyalshing.

The meeting focused on strengthening governance, reviewing developmental progress, and addressing critical infrastructure and connectivity concerns in the District.

During the meeting, the Governor addressed pertinent issues mentioned by DC

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Florence Nightingale Awardee from Sikkim meets Governor



Gangtok, May 19: Ms Madhu Mala Gurung Florence Nightingale Awardee 2026 called on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

Ms Madhu Mala Gurung, Senior ANM of Rangpo Primary Health Centre under Pakyong District, was recently conferred the

prestigious National Florence Nightingale Award by President of India Ms Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The Governor congratulated Ms Madhu Mala Gurung on her remarkable achievement and lauded her 38 years of dedicated service in the field of nursing.

Pearls of Wisdom

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

- Mahatma Gandhi

ERO Gyalshing conducts training-cum-orientation workshop on SIR Exercise

Gyalshing May 23: Electoral Registration Officer-cum-SDM Gyalshing, conducted a training-cum-orientation programme for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant EROs, Additional AEROs, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of Yangthang and Gyalshing Barnyak Constituency at Zilla Conference Hall, Zilla Bhawan, Gyalshing. The training was chaired by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC-cum-District Election Officer, Gyalshing.

At the outset, SDM-cum-ERO Gyalshing briefed on the purpose of the training highlighting the significance of Special Intensive Revision process in the State, elaborating on the key features of the SIR process and explained in detail the Enumeration Form (EF), preparation of the draft electoral roll and hearing and verification for individuals whose names are not found in the electoral rolls.

He briefed the participants on the SIR schedule, specially Enumeration Phase, during which BLOs will undertake house-to-house visits for distribution and collection of Enumeration Forms (EFs). He further highlighted the roles and responsibilities of BLOs,

BLAs and electors and urged them to coordinate closely with each other for smooth functioning of the exercise. He also spoke on the necessity of SIR exercise in the State to ensure accuracy of electoral rolls.

Topics such as rationalisation of polling stations, documents required during hearings for claims and objections, details pertaining to the Enumeration Form and features of the ECI Net App were also discussed.

He stressed on SIR schedule and various phases involved in revision process.

Detailed briefings were also provided on the roles of the DEO, EROs, AEROs, Supervisors, BLOs, BLAs and electors.

Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DEO-cum-District Collector highlighted the importance of SIR. Thanking all participants for their presence he further outlined the roles and responsibilities of BLOs and electors and urged the BLOs to coordinate closely with BLAs for successful completion of the exercise. Emphasising the crucial role of EROs, AEROs and Additional AEROs, he directed them to accord the highest priority to SIR exercise and execute it with

absolute commitment.

SDM (Hq)-cum-ERO directed all BLOs to carry out their responsibilities with sincerity and caution for them being the backbone of the complete process.

Further, Additional District Collector (Hq) stated that the exercise is being conducted after nearly two decades and is significant for ensuring a clean and accurate electoral roll. Further, she stressed on the special provision made for the people of age 85 and above and suggested the BLOs to reverify the status of the senior citizens.

She also briefed about the user friendly nature of ECINET App, including procedures for searching names in the last SIR records.

Present during the training cum orientation were SDM-cum-ERO Yuksam, BDO-cum-AERO Yangthang, BDO-cum-AERO Gyalshing Barnyak, BDO-cum-AERO Yuksam, DLC-cum-Additional AERO, Revenue Officer-cum-Deputy Director-cum-Additional AERO Yuksam, officials from Election Department and various other departments, BLOs, BLAs and Supervisors.

DC-cum-DEO Mangan chairs monthly election coordination meeting-cum-orientation session

Mangan, May 22: Mr Anant Jain District Collector-cum-District Election Officer Mangan chaired a meeting-cum-orientation session with political party representatives, today. The DEO was joined by Mr Karma Sherpa Joint Secretary, Election Department Mangan.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party and Citizen Action Party. The meeting deliberated on provisions and directives of the Election Commission of India with regard to electoral procedures, ensuring coordination among political

parties and also the upcoming Special Intensive Revision.

DEO also conducted a detailed orientation session on Special Intensive Revision to attune the political party representatives about all aspects of SIR. The meeting discussed the implementation of the SIR process in the State, which involves an intensive revision aimed at identifying genuine electors and removing ineligible voters from the electoral roll.

He highlighted the importance of SIR, including its schedule and key dates. He also explained the SIR process in detail, which involves an

Enumeration Phase during which Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct house-to-house visits to distribute Enumeration Forms. He further mentioned the list of documents prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) that are required to be submitted by eligible voters for inclusion in the electoral roll, particularly in cases where their names are not found in the 2002 SIR Electoral Roll.

The DEO also urged representatives of political parties to raise and clarify any doubts or concerns regarding the SIR process to ensure smooth and transparent implementation.

and responsibilities of officials, key features of the Special Intensive Revision and effective process management for smooth execution of electoral revision activities.

During the programme, officials were briefed on the importance of maintaining accurate and updated electoral rolls to ensure transparency and efficiency in the electoral process. Emphasis was also laid on timely coordination among election

officials for proper implementation of the revision process across the district.

The training aimed to strengthen the preparedness and capacity of election officials in carrying out revision-related responsibilities in a systematic and efficient manner.

Present during the programme were EROs and AEROs of Namchi District along with Deputy Secretary (Election Cell).

Court. On behalf of the Government and the people of Sikkim, he extended heartiest congratulations and best wishes on her well-deserved elevation. Justice Rai's appointment marks a historic milestone as she becomes the first lady Judge from Sikkim to attain the distinguished position of Chief Justice. Describing the achievement as a matter of immense pride and honour for the

State, the Chief Minister lauded her dedication, integrity, and distinguished service to the judiciary. He further expressed confidence that under her leadership, the Patna High Court would continue to uphold the highest traditions of justice and constitutional values. The Chief Minister wished her a successful and exemplary tenure ahead.

Training on SIR Phase-III held at Pakyong

Pakyong, May 22: A training programme on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Phase-III for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), BLO Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was held at the RDD Community Complex, RURBAN, Pakyong, today.

The programme was chaired by Ms Pari Bishnoi District Collector-cum-District Election Officer Pakyong as part of the preparation and implementation of SIR process in the district.

During the training, DEO highlighted the importance of the SIR, stating that the exercise is being conducted across the country after 24 years and is significant for ensuring a clean and accurate electoral roll. She informed that the exercise is aimed at preparing a fresh electoral roll and directed all BLOs to carry out their responsibilities with sincerity, caution and complete understanding of the process.

She further instructed BLOs to personally distribute the partially pre-filled enumeration forms to each household without delegating the task to anyone else and directed them to visit households three times for collection of forms and maintain proper documentation in cases where residents are unavailable. The documentation process includes placing stickers outside houses, taking photographs, and leaving contact details to ensure transparency and accountability.

Emphasising the role of BLOs in public awareness, she directed them to provide correct information to citizens, clear doubts promptly, and prevent rumours or panic regarding the exercise. She stated that the objective of the exercise is to ensure inclusion of all eligible Indian citizens above 18 years of age in the electoral roll while removing names of deceased, shifted, or

ineligible persons.

The DEO informed that an appeal mechanism exists for individuals whose names may be removed from the electoral roll, with provisions for appeals at both DEO and State levels. She further instructed all BLOs to keep their mobile numbers active and accessible, as random verification calls may be made from the Head Office, and warned that non-responsive numbers could invite show-cause notices.

District Level Master Trainer, discussed the objectives of SIR and elaborated on the key features of the SIR process emphasising its role in strengthening the electoral system.

He briefed the participants on various activities under the revision process and the prescribed schedule, including training and printing of forms, enumeration phase, rationalisation of polling stations, publication of the draft Electoral Roll, submission of claims and objections, issuance of notices, hearings and verifications, and the publication of the final Electoral Roll. During the session, he explained the procedures to be followed and practices to be avoided during the revision process.

Further, he discussed the responsibilities and actions to be undertaken by EROs and AEROs, BLO Supervisors, BLAs, political parties, and electors, while explaining specific role of each stakeholder in ensuring the successful conduct of the revision exercise.

He also elaborated on voter classification for documents and the list of indicative documents, clarifying that Aadhaar serves only as a proof of identity and not as proof of citizenship, address, or date of birth. The session also included a demonstration on SIR modules in the BLO App and the ECINET App, including procedures for searching names in the last SIR records.

District Level Decongestion Committee conducts first inspection

Soreng, May 19: The District Level Decongestion Committee Soreng, conducted the first inspection in various areas under Soreng Nagar Panchayat to assess road conditions and traffic management issues across key routes in the District, today.

The inspection was carried out by three separate teams. The team headed by ADC Soreng, inspected the route from Pragati Chowk to S-Turning. The team led by SDM (Hq), covered Bhir Dara to Chakung Gate stretch, while the team headed by SDM Soreng, inspected the route from Dara Bazar to Ghanti Khola, Singling.

During the inspection, the teams conducted detailed

measurements of roads and assessed the extent of encroachments along the identified routes. The inspection also focused on identifying suitable locations for parking facilities, examining encroachments on public land and assessing the number and nature of such encroachments.

Present during the inspection were President (Soreng Nagar Panchayat), Members (Soreng Nagar Panchayat), ASP Soreng, SHO Soreng, DEs (Roads and Bridges), RO/AD Soreng, Bazar Officer (UDD), MVIs, Inspectors and officials from line Departments.

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Justice Meenakshi...

the highest traditions of justice, fairness and constitutional values.

Earlier, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang met Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai ahead of her assumption of office as the Chief Justice of the Patna High

District-level monsoon preparedness meeting conducted

Gangtok, May 19: District-level monsoon preparedness meeting was conducted today by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)-Gangtok at Zilla Bhawan, Gangtok. The meeting was chaired by Mr Rohan Agawane District Collector-cum-Chairman, DDMA-Gangtok.

Mr Rohan Agawane District Collector-cum-Chairman DDMA-Gangtok highlighted that poor drainage systems and mismanagement of water are among the root causes of environmental damage in hilly terrains. He noted that due to climate change, the intensity of rainfall over short periods has increased, affecting drainage systems and water collection points, as these systems are often not designed to handle such intensity. He also underscored the need to prioritise resilient infrastructure development.

He stressed on the importance of effective water management, noting that most of the main urban areas of Gangtok are built along steep mountain ridges and hillsides rather than on flat valley floors, making them highly vulnerable to disasters and underscoring the need for robust disaster management measures. He stated that special focus would be placed on road drains, jhoras, and PHE pipelines that often obstruct drainage channels. He also emphasised Section 30 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which empowers the DDMA to issue directions to line departments involved in risk

management, with non-compliance potentially attracting provisions under Section 51 of the Act, which pertains to penalties for obstruction or non-compliance with such directions.

He further informed that a Disaster Management Team would be constituted, headed by a Disaster Management Coordinator, followed by Disaster Management Supervisors and Disaster Management Assistants, to map the entire district and identify vulnerable points within their respective jurisdictions. He concluded by mentioning that an inventory of all machinery, equipment and assets related to disaster management within the District would also be prepared.

Mr Mahendra Subba SP Gangtok requested active coordination and cooperation from all line Departments during emergencies and natural calamities. He highlighted the need for responsible frontline personnel and stressed on the importance of ensuring compliance during such situations. He also emphasised the importance of quick decision-making during emergencies and urged all stakeholders to remain in a state of constant preparedness, noting that natural calamities are unpredictable and can occur at any time.

Mr Balaram Adhikari, Zilla Adhyaksha, Gangtok District, reiterated the importance of being ever-ready to respond to emergencies. He also emphasised effective inter-departmental coordination for the smooth

execution of disaster management activities. He requested the clearance of debris from drainage systems to prevent waterlogging and also stressed the provision of relief materials and preparedness of relief camps.

Officials from line departments, namely Roads and Bridges Department (NH Wing), Gangtok District, NHIDCL, GREF 129RCC, GREF 87RCC, Forest and Environment Department, Power Department, Food and Civil Supplies Department, STNM Hospital, Central Referral Hospital, Urban Development Department, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Public Health Engineering Department and Water Resources and River Development Department, also presented their monsoon preparedness plans. The presentations covered action plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for dealing with monsoon-related disasters, along with challenges faced at various sites.

Emphasis was also laid on the identification of vulnerable locations, preventive measures undertaken, and deployment of manpower, machinery, and materials for mitigation. The status of ongoing works was also presented, along with emergency contact details of officials designated for coordination during emergencies.

The meeting was also attended by officials from various line departments and stakeholders.

Pakyong District holds awareness programme on PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

Pakyong, May 19: An awareness programme on PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was chaired by Ms Pari Bishnoi District Collector-cum-Chairman for District Level Committee (DLC) for PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, in the presence of Ms Paru Ruchal, SSP, Pakyong at Rurban Complex, Pakyong today.

Organised by Sikkim Renewable Energy Development Agency (SREDA) under Power Department, the programme aims to educate the citizens on the benefits and procedures of installing rooftop solar systems under the centrally sponsored scheme.

DC Pakyong highlighted the importance of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and stressed on the need to promote renewable energy resources for a cleaner and greener future. She encouraged representatives from various GPUs to work collectively towards

community upliftment and ensure proper maintenance of solar infrastructure in their respective areas.

Additionally, she congratulated Lingtam Phadamchen GPU for being recognised as the best-performing GPU under the scheme and encouraged them to utilise the resources provided for long-term community development. She also stated that under the Surya Sankalp initiative, emphasis would also be laid on installing solar panels in Government office premises to encourage sustainable energy practices.

Mr Ruplal Subba Additional Chief Engineer, SREDA, Power Department, presented a brief presentation on the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and elaborated on the features of the scheme, eligibility criteria, cost analysis for on-grid systems as per MNRE benchmarks and the merits

and demerits of hybrid and on-grid solar systems. He briefed on the consumer registration process through a detailed flow chart presentation and shared information on the Solarisation of Government Buildings under the RESCO Model of PM Surya Ghar and encouraged attendees to disseminate information on the scheme and its feature, while improving electricity access in remote areas.

The programme also featured a felicitation ceremony to Lingtam Phadamchen GPU under Pakyong District for winning the Model Solar Village Competition under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana under the Model Solar Village scheme.

A nukkad natak was also presented by the officials of SREDA under Power Department showcasing awareness on the scheme.

Governor mentioned that follow-up meeting on a monthly basis shall take place at Lok Bhawan. He also directed DC to conduct monthly meeting at District level to follow up with the ongoing projects under NHIDCL and BSNL.

The Governor also reviewed the status of various public welfare and development initiatives being implemented in the District. He interacted with Heads of Departments and emphasised

Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission
Rural Development Department
Gram Vikas Bhawan
Gangtok

RFP No: 544/GoS/SRLM/RDD/2026-27
Dated: 21st May 2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Sikkim State Rural Livelihoods Mission invites Bids under two bid basis i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid from reputed and experienced agencies for providing consultancy services for the Impact Evaluation of the PRI CBO Convergence implementation into the Sikkim State.

The interested bidders should submit their bids **by email on ceosikkimslm@gmail.com** for attention of Chief Executive Officer on or before 17th June 2026 before 2:00 pm. (Details for RFP is available at www.sikkim.gov.in)

Sikkim Rural livelihoods Mission reserves the right to cancel the bid at any time or amend / withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid Document without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Executive Officer
Sikkim State Rural Livelihoods Mission
Rural Development Department, Gangtok
Government of Sikkim
(49,II)

Before The Sub-Divisional Magistrate at Gangtok, Sikkim AFFIDAVIT

I, **Passang Tsering Lepcha**, son of Late Chiten Lepcha, aged about 41 years **Buddhist** by faith, resident of Tumin, Gangtok District, P.O. and P.S. Tumin, Gangtok District, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That my father actual and correct name and caste is "**Chiten Lepcha**", which is correctly recorded in my father's Sikkim Subject (SSC) bearing serial no. 267, Vol No. I, issued by the Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok Sikkim.

2. That in my Certificate of Identification his name has been inadvertently recorded as "**Tseten Lepcha alias Cheten Lepcha**", which is issued by the Office of the District Collector.

3. That this affidavit is made bonafide and to declare that the person by names and caste "**Chiten Lepcha** and "**Tseten Lepcha alias Cheten Lepcha**" denotes and refer to the one and the same person i.e., my father.

4. That this affidavit is made bonafide and to give above declaration on oath.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, **Passang Tsering Lepcha**, the deponent, do hereby verify and state that the declaration made in paragraphs 1-4, herein above is true to best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed there from. I have signed this affidavit on this for 15th Day of April, 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Identified By: **Phumkit lepcha**
R/o Tumin Namrang

DEPONENT

Lost

Nakul Tiwari s/o Dhan Prakash Tiwari resident of Gyalshing has lost his COI Bearing SI no. 1110/DC(W), Date 25/02/2003 Sikkim Subject Register vide SI No. 33 Vol No XI under Block, West Sikkim around Gyalshing Bazaar, If found kindly contact-9732460023.



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Governor concludes...

Gyalshing over the prolonged delays and hindrance caused by NHIDCL and BSNL, which have adversely affected road and communication connectivity in the District. Stressing on the importance of timely execution of infrastructure projects and communication services, he directed the concerned agencies to

address the issues at the earliest.

The Governor directed NHIDCL to expedite the ongoing works at the earliest and also directed BSNL to construct Ten Telecommunication Towers (Base Transceiver Stations) along the border road leading to border-outpost (BOP) Chewabhanjyang, to enhance the connectivity at the border area. He asked concerned Department to submit the action report to MP Lok Sabha through the DC within this month.

efficient coordination to ensure that Government schemes and benefits reach the intended beneficiaries without delay.

The meeting was attended by MP Lok Sabha, DC Gyalshing,

SP Gyalshing, ADC (Hq) Gyalshing, SDM (Hq) Gyalshing, Commandant 36th Battalion SSB Yangtey, Commandant 72nd Battalion SSB, GM BSNL and NHIDCL representatives.

Everest Day Sikkim 2026 celebrated

Gangtok, May 22: Everest Day Sikkim 2026, organised by Sikkim Mountaineering Association was celebrated in the presence of Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education and Sports and Youth Affairs Departments who attended the programme as the chief guest at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

The day was observed to honour and commemorate Lt Sonam Gyatso, one of India's pioneering Himalayan climbers and the first person from Sikkim to summit Mount Everest on May 22, 1965. At the age of 42, he became the oldest climber in the world at that time to summit Everest. He spent nearly 50 minutes on the summit without supplemental oxygen, which was considered a world record at the time. He is also a recipient of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Arjuna Award.

The Minister, in his address, emphasised the importance of exploring 'the road not taken' in order to discover new and unique avenues and unlock untapped potential, thereby contributing to human progress. He appreciated the efforts of Everest summiteers in overcoming monumental challenges and achieving their goals. He called for greater societal recognition of such individuals to inspire others to reach similar heights.

He also highlighted the importance of promoting sports climbing, a recently introduced Summer Olympic discipline featuring three categories Speed Climbing, Lead Climbing, and Bouldering. He noted that the State's terrain naturally favours such activities and assured continued State Government support for their development. He further stressed on the need for improved road infrastructure to increase tourist inflow and boost

opportunities for entrepreneurs in the tourism sector.

Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department stated that the State has around 130 named mountains, also noting that the tourism sector requires capacity-building training and effective marketing to realise its full potential. He urged stakeholders to work collectively towards scaling and strengthening tourism in the State. He further emphasised the development of adventure tourism activities such as river rafting, rock climbing, trekking, mountaineering, birdwatching, camping, and wildlife expeditions.

President, Sikkim Mountaineering Association, briefly presented the history of the Association, which was established in 2005 and is affiliated with the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and UIAA (Switzerland). He stated that the association aims to provide high-standard mountaineering training for aspiring climbers.

He highlighted the association's achievements, noting that it has conducted expeditions on five major peaks. He also presented training data, including two Basic Mountaineering Courses, two Advanced Mountaineering Courses, 100 trainees in BMC, 60 trainees in AMC, 350 adventure courses conducted, 80 rock climbing activities, and 65 trained basic and advanced guides since its inception.

He added that the Association has collaborated with National Social Service (NSS), Home Guards, Sikkim Fire Service, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, and local youth groups for training programmes. He concluded by

outlining the Association's adventure course offerings and a proposed project for establishing a mountaineering facility in the state.

At the onset, the chief guest inspected an exhibition of mountaineering equipment used by the late mountaineer Lt Sonam Gyatso during his expeditions, including compass, watch, boots, ice axe, ropes, and buckles. Also on display were a personal letter from former Prime Minister Lt Jawaharlal Nehru congratulating the mountaineer on his successful Cho Oyu expedition and another letter from former Home Minister of India Lt GB Pant regarding the same expedition. His awards, accolades, and medals were also exhibited.

Mr ST Gyatso, son of Lt Sonam Gyatso also presented a brief history of the late mountaineer.

The event also witnessed the launch of a biography of Mr Kunzang Gyatso Bhutia by the chief guest and other dignitaries. The biography was authored by Dr Vidha Prakash Kayastha. Mr Kunzang Gyatso Bhutia summited Mount Everest in 2008 and is the second person from Sikkim, after Lt Sonam Gyatso, to achieve this feat.

The Sikkim Mountaineering Association Gold Medal 2026 was presented to Mr ST Bhutia, former IPS officer and former President of SMA, for his contribution to the state's mountaineering journey. The Award of Excellence was presented to Dr Jigme Bhutia Associate Professor of Sikkim University, for similar contributions.

The event also included felicitation of 16 senior mountaineers from the State, including Everest summiteers.

Press conference on Aquaex Northeast 2026 held

Gangtok, May 19: A press conference on Aquaex Northeast 2026 was held at the Department of Fisheries highlighting opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture development in the Northeast region, today.

The upcoming expo, scheduled to be held on June 12 and 13 at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati, Assam, is being jointly organised by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and Aquaex India Events. The Press Conference was chaired by Mr KK Shrestha, Principal Director, Department of Fisheries, and organised by the Department of Fisheries in collaboration with NFDB and Aquaex India Events.

Mr Nitesh Gurung Deputy Director, informed that Aquaex Northeast is a specialised edition of Aquaex India curated to serve the freshwater fisheries and aquaculture ecosystem of Northeast India and other high-potential inland fish-producing states. He stated that the event would bring together fish farmers, entrepreneurs, hatchery operators, feed manufacturers, technology providers, banks, insurance companies, researchers and government agencies on a single

platform to accelerate productivity, profitability and sustainability in the fisheries sector.

Mr Arup Sarmah, Governing Board Member of NFDB and aquaculture entrepreneur, stated that the objective of the event is to ensure that Government schemes reach fish farmers while also creating networking and investment opportunities for aquaculture entrepreneurs across the Northeast. He urged farmers to participate in the event and gain exposure to the latest technological advancements in aquaculture.

Mr Rajnish Kumar, Governing Board Member of NFDB and partner of Aquaex, informed that Aquaex Northeast 2026 would mark the 10th edition of Aquaex. He stated that India's fish production capacity has significantly increased through initiatives of the Government of India and added that the national target is to achieve 400 lakh tonnes of fish production by 2047 under the Viksit Bharat initiative.

Highlighting the nutritional importance of fish, he said the sector has the potential to address the country's protein deficit, while generating employment and

entrepreneurship opportunities. He further informed that the event has been structured into three major components pre-harvest, post-harvest and seminar sessions to comprehensively address challenges faced by fish farmers and aquaculture entrepreneurs.

The exhibition will feature specialised pavilions on production and hatchery systems, feed and nutrition, health and biosecurity, processing and cold-chain infrastructure, and trade and finance. Technologies including RAS and biofloc systems, automated feeders, disease diagnostic kits, blast freezers and aquaculture finance solutions will be showcased for stakeholders across the fisheries value chain.

Officials stated that the expo aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and would provide a platform for buyer-seller meets, networking and investment opportunities for the Northeast region.

Mr Surendra Bhandari Assistant Director, appealed fish farmers to contact the Department offices in their respective districts for participation and further details regarding the event.

LR&DM Department holds press briefing on NAKSHA Pilot Project

Gangtok, May 19: Land Revenue and Disaster Management (LR&DM) Department held a press briefing at the Conference Hall of the Department on the implementation of the National Geospatial Knowledge-Based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) pilot project in Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) area under Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Mr Rinzing Chewang Bhutia Secretary-cum-Relief Commissioner, Land Revenue and Disaster Management (LR&DM) Department, stated that the project aimed to create updated digital urban land records through modern survey technologies, including GPS- and GIS-based mapping systems, to strengthen transparency, reliability and efficiency in urban land administration.

He informed that the survey was being conducted within 19.02 sq km area under Gangtok Municipal Corporation and clarified that the exercise was not a routine field survey but a comprehensive urban land reference update and digitalisation programme. He stated that both land parcels and standing structures, including buildings, were being measured and verified under the project.

He stated that existing municipal land records were still largely dependent on surveys conducted in 1952. Although revised surveys and maps were prepared between 1970 and 1982, the records could not be fully attested and implemented, resulting in administrative complications, land disputes and boundary-related issues.

He also informed that survey work was currently underway in selected wards, including Deorali, Lower Tadong-6th Mile and Ranipool. Field surveys and data collection have already been completed in some areas, while verification, documentation and technical

assessment work remain in progress in other wards.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, he stated that updated land records would help residents during inheritance transfers, redevelopment works, trade licence applications, occupancy permissions and other property-related procedures.

He added that outdated or inaccurate measurements often resulted in legal complications, cumulative violations and penalties in future transactions.

The Secretary-cum-Relief Commissioner further informed that Urban Property Cards would be issued to property owners after completion of the survey process. He stated that the cards would contain updated ownership and technical details of properties and would facilitate future land transactions and administrative procedures.

Secretary-cum-Relief Commissioner acknowledged that densely populated urban areas, overlapping structures and irregular construction patterns had created technical challenges during the survey process. He appealed to residents to cooperate with survey teams by providing land registration documents, title deeds, allotment papers and approved building plans during field visits.

Special Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer, NAKSHA Project, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Mr HK Chettri, highlighted the importance of public cooperation for the successful implementation of the project and urged residents to extend support to survey teams during field visits.

Mr Dinkar Gurung, Chief Town Planner, Urban Development Department, stated that the initiative would help establish a clear and updated urban land reference system, strengthen urban governance and reduce future land-related disputes in the state.

Department of Information & Public Relations Government of Sikkim, Gangtok

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CIRCULAR

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

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

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

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

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

This issues with the approval of the Government.

Sd/
Secretary

Founder's Day of NIT observed with CPTN Memorial Lecture

Gangtok, May 22: Founder's Day of Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT) was observed to commemorate the 103rd birth anniversary of its Founder President, His Highness Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal at Deorali today.

The programme was graced by Gyalsey Palden Gyurmed Namgyal as the chief guest in the presence of Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical Department, Mr Sonam T Venchungpa MLA Martam-Rumtek constituency, Mr Kunga Nima Lepcha Advisor to the CM, Mr Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha Additional Political Secretary to the HCM, Dr Passang D Phempu Director, NIT, Mr KT Gyaltzen former Speaker, along with scholars, dignitaries and students.

Mr Sunanda K Datta-Ray Eminent journalist, author and columnist also attended the celebration as the speaker for Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal Memorial Lecture.

Addressing the gathering, Gyalsey Palden Gyurmed Namgyal, described NIT as more than an academic institution, calling it a living centre for preserving and sharing the spiritual and cultural heritage of Sikkim and the Himalayan world.

Reflecting on the vision of its Founder President, Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal, he said the late Chogyal understood early that endangered cultures must be actively documented, protected and passed on to future generations through institutions, scholarship and public engagements.

Gyalsey Palden Gyurmed Namgyal highlighted that the Chogyal's legacy extended beyond political history, while emphasising his role as a moderniser, institution-builder and protector of Sikkimese identity.

He spoke about the Chogyal's contributions towards education, healthcare, infrastructure, transport, industries and democratic representation, while simultaneously safeguarding the State's cultural and spiritual traditions.

Calling upon the younger generation to reconnect with their roots, Gyalsey Palden Gyurmed Namgyal stressed that culture cannot survive merely as memory or ceremonial display. He said traditions must be taught, documented and made accessible

Thousands participate in final journey and enshrinement of fourth Dordrupchen Rinpoche's Kudung

Gangtok, May 24: Thousands of devotees, monks and dignitaries participated in the sacred final journey and enshrinement ceremony of the 'Kudung' of the Fourth Dordrupchen Rinpoche, His Holiness Kyabgon Dordrupchen Jigme Thupten Trinley Palzangpo, today.

The sacred procession commenced from the Tsamkhang at Lukshyama Royal Crematorium campus and proceeded to Deorali Chorten Gonpa through a grand 'Serbang' procession conducted in accordance with traditional Buddhist rituals and monastic observances. Devotees lined the route to offer prayers, khadas and

in engaging formats for the youth.

Sharing future initiatives, he informed that a series of documentaries are being developed on Sikkim's sacred and historical heritage. He added that many such important stories from Sikkim's spiritual history remain lesser known and deserve wider recognition.

He also shared plans to introduce community-based learning programmes inspired by the concept of "Sunday schools", where children can learn about Sikkimese languages, traditions, history and culture in an interactive and enjoyable environment.

He further stated that the newly established Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal chair would work towards promoting research and public understanding of Sikkim's history, geography and cultural identity.

The broader aim is to make the rich knowledge preserved within institutions like the NIT more accessible and relatable to younger generations and the wider public, he stated.

He also expressed gratitude to Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for their continued support towards preserving and promoting Sikkim's cultural and spiritual heritage.

He further acknowledged the efforts of Dr Phempu NIT Director for reviving the CPTN Memorial Lecture.

In his concluding remarks, Gyalsey Palden Gyurmed Namgyal said the greatest tribute to Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal would be not merely remembering his achievements, but continuing the work of preserving and strengthening Sikkim's unique cultural and spiritual heritage for future generations.

Journalist, author and columnist Mr Sunanda K Datta-Ray, while delivering the Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal Memorial Lecture, offered a deeply personal reflection on his long association with the late Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal and shared insights into Sikkim's political, cultural and historical journey.

Recalling his early encounters with the Chogyal in the 1960s, Mr Datta-Ray described him as a warm, accessible and forward-looking leader whose relationship with people extended beyond protocol and formality.

floral tributes, while monasteries, Buddhist organisations, schools and community groups accorded ceremonial receptions at various points.

The sacred cortège reached Deorali Chorten Gonpa, where it was ceremonially received by the Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, along with Mr Pintso Chopel Lepcha Minister, Gyalsey Mr Palden Namgyal and other dignitaries.

Following the counsel of eminent Lamas, a Golden Reliquary Stupa was prepared at Deorali Chorten Gonpa as the final resting place of the sacred Kudung. On the occasion, the

He said the Chogyal possessed a broad international outlook and envisioned Sikkim as a modern Himalayan State that could engage confidently with the wider world while preserving its distinct identity and traditions.

Drawing from his personal experiences and historical observations, he highlighted the Chogyal's efforts to promote Sikkim internationally through cultural diplomacy, trade and global engagement long before such approaches became widely recognised.

He stated that the Chogyal understood the importance of economic and cultural outreach in shaping international relationships and projecting Sikkim's identity on the global stage.

The veteran journalist also revisited his experiences in Sikkim during the 1970s, a theme extensively documented in his book *Smash and Grab: Annexation of Sikkim*. He recalled the turbulent events of April 1975 and paid tribute to the courage and dignity displayed by the people of Sikkim during that period.

Mr Datta-Ray went on to highlight the inclusive and pluralistic character of Sikkimese society. He emphasised that Sikkim belonged to all its communities and praised the Chogyal's vision of harmony, coexistence and shared identity among diverse ethnic and cultural groups.

Throughout the lecture, Mr Datta-Ray stressed the importance of preserving historical memory and understanding Sikkim's past with nuance and balance. He remarked that the story of Sikkim was not merely about political events, but also about culture, identity, resilience and the aspirations of its people.

Thereafter, a Q&A session moderated by Mr Pema Wangchuk Senior journalist was held, which witnessed active participation from the audience.

The occasion also witnessed the release of two publications *50 Years of Buddhism in Sikkim: History, Culture and Challenges* and *A Guide to Holy Buddhist Sites in Sikkim*.

On the occasion, the speaker, Mr Datta-Ray, was presented with the Centennial Medal of Honour in recognition of his contributions to literature, journalism and historical discourse.

Chief Minister offered 'Kusum Mendel' and also inaugurated the 'Thongdrol Khangzang' (Liberation Through Seeing Hall), which houses sacred relics and personal items used by His Holiness during his lifetime.

The sacred enshrinement ceremony, attended by thousands of devotees was marked by solemn prayers and traditional Buddhist rituals. The Golden Reliquary Stupa is expected to remain an enduring spiritual site symbolising the legacy, compassion and teachings of the Fourth Dordrupchen Rinpoche.

Training on Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls held for BLOs

Gangtok, May 22: A day-long training session for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls under Gangtok district was conducted at the Conference Hall of the Gangtok District Zilla Panchayat, Gangtok, today.

The training programme was conducted in two separate sessions covering the eight Assembly Constituencies under Gangtok district. The first session was attended by BLOs from 16-Tumen Lingi, 17-Khamdong Singtam, 23-Shyari and 24-Martam-Rumtek constituencies, while the second session included BLOs from 25-Upper Tadong, 26-Arithang, 27-Gangtok and 28-Upper Burtuk constituencies.

During the session, ADC (Hq) Gangtok, highlighted the significance of the SIR process in the State in view of the demographic changes taking place in Sikkim. He elaborated on the key features of the SIR process and explained in detail the Enumeration Form (EF), preparation of the draft electoral roll, and the hearing and appeal mechanisms for individuals whose names are not found in the electoral rolls.

ADC also briefed the participants on SIR schedule, particularly the Enumeration Phase, during which BLOs will undertake door-to-door visits for distribution and collection of Enumeration Forms. He further outlined the roles and responsibilities of BLOs and electors and urged the BLOs to coordinate closely with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) for smooth implementation of the exercise.

Contd from front page

President of...

Orchidarium highlights the ecological richness of Sikkim and ongoing efforts towards preservation of its natural heritage.

During her tour of the Orchidarium, the President was introduced to the diverse varieties of orchids, including the 507 species found across Sikkim, along with cultural symbols such as 'Thunpa Puen Zhi' (the Four Harmonious Friends). A key highlight of the visit was *Cymbidium Namo*, a unique orchid species named in honour of the Prime Minister.

The President was accompanied by Governor, Chief Minister, Minister for Urban Development Department and Food & Civil Supplies Department, Chief Secretary, Commissioner-cum-Secretary for Urban Development Department, Mayor, senior members of the State Government and members of the Ridge Park Management team.

Subsequently, President Ms Droupadi Murmu visited the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (NIT). Upon her arrival, the President was received by

Topics such as rationalisation of polling stations, documents required during hearings for claims and objections, details pertaining to the Enumeration Form and features of the ECI Net App were also discussed extensively.

In the second session, LDC, Election Department, conducted the training through a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke on the necessity of the SIR exercise in the State to ensure purification and accuracy of the electoral rolls. He elaborated on the SIR schedule and various phases involved in the revision process.

Detailed briefings were also provided on the rationalisation of polling stations and the roles of the DEO, EROs, AEROs, Supervisors, BLOs and electors. Subjects including notices, hearings, verification procedures, publication of the final electoral roll and the features of the ECI Net App were explained comprehensively.

Ms Dhan Maya Rasaily Under Secretary, Election Department urged the BLOs to carry out their responsibilities with sincerity and complete the assigned tasks within the stipulated timeline.

At the outset, an interactive session was held between officials and BLOs to address queries and clarify issues related to SIR process.

The programme was attended by DEO-cum-DC Gangtok, ADC (Development) Gangtok, SDM (Hq) Gangtok, SDM Gangtok, AEROs and officials from the concerned departments.

Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang in the presence of Minister, Ecclesiastical, Public Health Engineering and Water Resources Department, Mr Sonam Lama, along with senior officials. The President toured the institute premises and viewed various artworks, rare artefacts, murals, manuscripts and exhibits displayed at the institute. She was briefed on the rich heritage, traditions and cultural significance that have been preserved and showcased by the institute over the years. She also interacted with officials and representatives of the institute, who apprised her of the efforts being undertaken towards the preservation, documentation and promotion of Himalayan Buddhist culture and traditional knowledge systems. The visit underscored the importance of preserving and promoting the Himalayan Buddhist cultural and literary heritage for future generations.

During her three-day official visit to Sikkim, the President is scheduled to attend the 7th Convocation of Sikkim University and present the President of India's Police Colour to Sikkim Police.

NIC Deputy Director General briefs Governor on Digital Governance initiatives

Gangtok, May 19: Dr Laxmi Prasad Sharma Deputy Director General of National Informatics Centre (NIC), Government of India, paid a courtesy call on Mr Om Prakash Mathur Governor at Lok Bhavan today.

Deputy Director General of the National Informatics Centre (NIC), a native of Sikkim, is presently posted in New Delhi following his recent promotion.

During the interaction, he briefed the Governor on various digital initiatives being implemented by the National Informatics Centre to strengthen digital governance and enhance public service delivery in the State. On the occasion, Deputy

Director General of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) presented a copy of his recently published book, 'Bhagavad Gita for Government Employees', to the Governor as a gesture of goodwill and respect. He informed the Governor that the book offers guidance and clarity to Government employees in the discharge of their duties and serves as a valuable read for public servants as well as the educated public in general.

The meeting concluded on a cordial note with discussions focusing on the growing role of technology-driven governance and the delivery of efficient digital services to the public.

Ram Patro Memorial Award Ceremony honours Excellence in Journalism

Gangtok, May 24: The Ram Patro Memorial Award Ceremony, organised under the aegis of the Ram Patro Memorial Award Committee to honour excellence in the field of journalism, was held at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

The award, established in memory of Late Ram Patro, founder of Sikkim Express and Himali Bela, is presented annually on May 24. The event pays homage to outstanding journalists for their unwavering dedication and exemplary service in the field of journalism. It also recognises their vital role in upholding the values of media ethics, truthful reporting and public awareness, while contributing to a more informed and responsible society.

The programme was graced by Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA as the chief guest, and Mr Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha Additional Political Secretary to CM, as the guest of honour.

In her address, Deputy Speaker congratulated for hosting the Ram Patro Memorial Award Ceremony and appreciated the role played by journalists and media institutions in strengthening democracy and public awareness.

Highlighting the importance of responsible journalism in the present digital era, she stated that the media serves as a vital bridge between the government and the public and plays a significant role in shaping an informed society. She also lauded the contribution of Sikkim Express towards journalism and public service over the past five decades and congratulated the publication on its Golden Jubilee year.

She further congratulated the award recipients and encouraged young journalists to uphold the values of ethical, truthful, and people-oriented journalism.

During the programme, Mr Amber Gurung Senior Journalist, Bureau Chief, Sikkim, Himalaya Darpan, was conferred the Ram Patro Memorial Award for

Excellence in Journalism for the year 2025-26.

Furthermore, Ms Sarikah Atreya received the Best Journalist Award of Sikkim Express and Himali Bela for the year 2025-26.

The programme also included the felicitation of Mr A K Srivastava former Chief Secretary for his literary contributions to Sikkim Express and Mr Tek Bahadur Gurung, Layout Designer (DTP), Sikkim Express, for his dedicated service to the publication.

In his address, Mr Amit Patro Editor of Sikkim Express highlighted that the programme, organised annually since 2005, has become an important platform to honour excellence in journalism. He further noted that the occasion was especially significant as Sikkim Express celebrates its Golden Jubilee year, marking 50 years of dedicated service since 1976.

Speaking on the Ram Patro Memorial Award, he stated that the award was instituted to encourage deserving journalists and was later expanded to recognise journalists from neighbouring regions, including Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong and Siliguri.

Addressing the gathering, Ms Sarikah Atreya Best Journalist Award recipient reflected on the changing media landscape from print to digital platforms while emphasising the importance of responsible and ethical journalism. She also expressed gratitude to her family, mentors, colleagues and the Ram Patro Memorial Award Committee for their continued support and recognition.

Mr Amber Gurung Ram Patro Memorial Award recipient expressed heartfelt gratitude to his colleagues, seniors, friends and media fraternity for their constant support throughout his 22-year journey in journalism. He described receiving the award as a matter of great honour and reaffirmed his commitment to responsible journalism.

Governor interacts with HoDs and Panchayats

Gyalshing, May 21: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur held an interaction session with Heads of Departments (HoDs), Zilla Panchayats, Gram Panchayats and members of Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat (GNP) at the Conference Hall of Gyalshing District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Kyongsa, today.

The interaction programme was attended by Mr Indra Hang Subba Lok Sabha MP, Zilla Adhyaksha (GDZP), Zilla Up-Adhyaksha, District Collector Gyalshing, SP Gyalshing, HoD, Zilla and Gram Panchayat members and members of the Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by DC Gyalshing, who presented an overview of the district and highlighted the developmental activities and initiatives being undertaken across various sectors. He also apprised the Chair of certain infrastructure works under NHIDCL which have remained stagnant for a prolonged period despite repeated reminders and representations from the district administration. In this regard, he sought the intervention of the Governor for expediting the matter and facilitating necessary follow-up at the appropriate level.

This was followed by an introductory session of officers, Zilla and Gram Panchayat members and GNP members.

Addressing the gathering, Governor stated that officers and Panchayat representatives play a vital role in ensuring effective implementation of Government policies and welfare schemes at the

grassroots level. He urged all stakeholders to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and sincerity so that government benefits reach every deserving citizen.

The Governor further emphasised the collective responsibility towards achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047, as envisaged under the national developmental roadmap of the Government of India. He called upon officials and Panchayat representatives to work in close coordination for inclusive and efficient implementation of welfare and developmental programmes. He also stressed the need for identifying and extending benefits to left-out beneficiaries through proper intervention and monitoring mechanisms.

He expressed satisfaction over the developmental progress and ongoing initiatives being undertaken in Gyalshing District. He further assured that matters and developmental proposals requiring his intervention would be taken up at the appropriate level and necessary follow-up would be pursued for their consideration and approval.

During the interaction, the Governor reviewed the status and implementation of various Centrally Sponsored and State Government schemes being executed in the district. Heads of Departments presented departmental reports and apprised the Governor of the progress achieved under their respective schemes and programmes.

The Governor sought detailed information on

implementation and coverage of schemes such as PM-KISAN, Jal Jeevan Mission, healthcare facilities including Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Ayushman Bharat cards, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Skill India Mission, Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II and other welfare initiatives. He emphasised the importance of ensuring timely and effective delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries and reviewed the overall progress of the schemes in the district.

Zilla and Gram Panchayats also apprised the developmental works being implemented under the 15th Finance Commission grants and various developmental activities being carried out within their respective jurisdictions in coordination with concerned departments.

During the interaction, Zilla Adhyaksha Gyalshing highlighted the importance of proper maintenance and improvement of the Legship-Pelling road considering its significance for tourism and public connectivity in the region.

The Governor visited the developing Kyongsa Stadium, which is undergoing major infrastructural upgradation through the combined support of the Khelo India Scheme and State Plan interventions. The integrated development aims to strengthen the region's sports infrastructure and promote multi-sports activities in the district. Officials from the Sports and Youth Affairs Department briefed the Governor on the progress of the project and the proposed facilities planned under the development initiative.

Discover Temi team call on Governor

Gangtok, May 19: A team from Discover Temi, led by Mr Amrit Sharma President called on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today.

Discover Temi is a community-based initiative from Namchi District that works towards promoting eco-tourism, local homestays, and creating opportunities for local communities through tourism-related activities.

During the meeting, Mr Amrit Sharma briefed the Governor

on the various initiatives and activities being undertaken by Discover Temi to promote tourism and generate employment opportunities for local youth. The discussion also focused on reviving idle and non-functional homestays in the region by utilising local resources and existing infrastructure to promote experiential tourism. The initiative is expected to support sustainable tourism development in the State.

The team further apprised the Governor about the upcoming

international event titled Agro-Tourism Celebration, scheduled to be held from 13 to 15 June across three constituencies of the State. The event will feature agricultural and cultural exchange programmes involving neighbouring countries, namely Nepal and Bhutan, with the aim of providing a wider platform for Sikkim's agro-tourism sector.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of Discover Temi in promoting agro-tourism and sustainable tourism initiatives in the State.

Sikkim pays solemn tribute as sacred 'Kudung' of HH Dodrupchen Rinpoche reaches its ultimate resting place

Gangtok, May 24: The final journey of the sacred 'Kudung' of the Fourth Dodrupchen Rinpoche, H H Kyabgon Dodrupchen Jigme Thupten Trinley Palzangpo from the Tsamkhang at the Lukshyama Royal Crematorium campus to Deorali Chorten took place, this morning. The enshrinement was coordinated by Ecclesiastical Department, under the aegis of the Government of Sikkim.

Mr Om Prakash Mathur Governor along with Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical and PHE Departments, MLAs, Secretary Ecclesiastical and officials of Ecclesiastical

Department paid their respects at Lukshyama Meditation Centre.

The holy retinue consisted of HE Tinkey Gonjang Rinpoche, HE Lachung Rinpoche, HE Gyurmey Yeshey Dorjee Tulku, HE Chogtul Pema Kundol Tulku, HE Serta Khyentse Tulku, HE Lachung Tulku (Rongyek), HE Khachoe Tulku Rinpoche, Sherdup Dungzin Rinpoche, Khenpo Lha Tshering, Omdze Yap Tenpa Gyatso, along with the Duchi of various monasteries across Sikkim.

The conveyance of the sacred 'Kudung' was conducted with full religious protocol, featuring a grand 'Serbong'

procession and traditional receptions by various monasteries and communities of Sikkim.

Monks from various monasteries and institutions and devotees lined the way from Lukshyama to Deorali Chorten paying their respect and adding to the grandeur of the cortège.

Following the counsel of eminent Lamas, a Golden Reliquary Stupa has been prepared at the Deorali Chorten Gonpa. This site has been designated as the ultimate resting place of Rinpoche to ensure the continued spiritual upliftment of all sentient beings.