



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 69 No. 13

Gangtok (Tuesday) March 31, 2026

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2023-2025

Rajasthan Statehood Day celebrated under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative



Gangtok, March 30: Lok Bhavan, Sikkim celebrated the Statehood Day of Rajasthan at Ashirvad Bhavan under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', initiative. Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur graced the celebration.

The programme was attended by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim, Mr Justice A Muhamed Mustaque, Speaker SLA Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Judges of High Court of Sikkim, Mrs Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Minister of Forest and Environment, Government of Rajasthan, Mr Sanjay Sharma, Deputy Speaker Mrs Raj Kumari Thapa, MLAs, senior Government officers, poets from Rajasthan, Mr Vineet Chauhan and Mr Sidarth Deval, along with other dignitaries and invitees.

Governor extended his greetings and highlighted that the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme, spearheaded by Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, aims to preserve and promote India's rich cultural diversity. He stated that showcasing one's own culture while learning about others helps build mutual understanding and brotherhood. He added that the initiative fosters unity and awareness of India's diverse art, culture, traditions, and heritage.

The Governor mentioned that the forts of Rajasthan stand as enduring symbols of valour and resilience. He also referred to the contribution of Major General Sagat Singh for his role

during the 1967 India-China clash at Nathula Pass. He further appreciated the courage and valour of women in Rajasthan.

He called for efforts to make India a 'Vishwa Guru' once again, stating that the country must strive to regain its past glory.

Chief Minister highlighted that the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, envisioned by the Prime Minister, strengthens the spirit of unity in diversity through the celebration of State Formation Days. He appreciated Lok Bhavan for organising the Rajasthan Statehood Day celebration in Sikkim under the guidance of the Governor.

Mr Sanjay Sharma, Minister of Forest and Environment, Government of Rajasthan, spoke about Rajasthan's natural resources, desert landscape, and rich historical heritage. He also appreciated traditional environmental conservation practices and stressed the need for greater cooperation between states in addressing climate change and environmental protection.

During the programme, Jazz Band of SSB Siliguri presented a patriotic musical performance, followed by Ghoomar dance performed by artists of Sikkim Marwari community.

Earlier, the programme commenced with a welcome address by Mr Jitendra Singh Raje, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, and concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr Diwas Gautam Joint Secretary.

Fourth Session of 11th SLA concludes; Vote on Account passed

Gangtok, March 26: Fourth Session of the Eleventh Sikkim Legislative Assembly, presided over by Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Speaker commenced at Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat, today.

The session began with the address of Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur, wherein he presented a comprehensive roadmap for 'Sunaulo, Samridhdha ani Samarth Sikkim', while maintaining a fair environment for the upcoming municipal election. The Governor announced a Vote on Account to keep the State Government running and ensure essential services continue without interfering with the fairness of the electoral process.

At the outset, on behalf of the House and the people of Sikkim, the Governor expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India for announcing a specialised scheme to develop Buddhist Circuit in the Union Budget. He stated that for a state like Sikkim, whose history and



identity are deeply rooted in Buddhist traditions, the initiative holds immense significance. The Governor's address further detailed a massive transformation in public infrastructure and social welfare in the State.

In healthcare, the expansion of the New STNM Hospital into a

specialised tertiary hub and the launch of a comprehensive 2025-2030 Mental Health Strategy, were cited as major achievements. Education remains a top priority with a target to achieve 100% literacy by the end of 2026, he

Contd. on page 4

SEC Sikkim declares dates for Sikkim General Municipality Election 2026

Gangtok, March 23: Mr KC Lepcha Commissioner, State Election Commission (SEC) declared the dates for the upcoming Sikkim General Municipality Election 2026 at the Conference Hall of SEC, Gangtok, today.

Mr KC Lepcha apprised about the readiness of his team along with the District Heads, following the completion of the preliminary processes leading up to the Municipal Election. He also stated that the First Level Checking (FLC) of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) has been completed in the presence of political parties.

During the press briefing, the Commissioner urged first-time voters to come forward and participate in the democratic process guaranteed by the Constitution of India. It was informed that a home voting facility will be provided, wherein senior citizens above the age of 85 and differently-abled persons (with 40% disability) will be eligible to cast their votes through this medium.

The Commissioner also apprised attendees of the roles and



responsibilities of various line departments to ensure free and fair elections. A total of eight Election Observers have been appointed, of which, six Observers have been

designated for six districts, while two have been kept in reserve to monitor and ensure that the entire

Contd. on page 5

Pearls of Wisdom

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

- Mark Twain

Training of Enumerators and Supervisors for Census 2027 commences in Soreng

Soreng, March 30: The training programme for Enumerators and Supervisors for Census 2027 in Soreng District commenced on March 30, 2026, at Rurban Complex, Soreng will continue until April 11, 2026.

The first phase of the Census 2027 House Listing Operation (HLO) training was inaugurated by Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector (DC) Soreng.

Addressing the gathering, DC Soreng Mr Dhiraj Subedi highlighted the importance of the census in ensuring inclusive development. He elaborated on the criteria for selecting Enumerators and Supervisors, who have been carefully handpicked for this crucial task. He explained the two phases of the census House Listing and Population Enumeration and emphasised that, for the first time, data will be collected digitally through a dedicated application. He stressed the importance of accuracy,

dedication, and seriousness during the training, and assured full support from the District Administration. He also extended his best wishes to all trainees.

Mr Ratnagar Barik, Statistical Investigator from the Directorate of Census Operations, delivered a detailed presentation on session objectives and various aspects of the digital census. His presentation covered topics such as the benefits of digital data collection, its role in development planning, house listing and housing census, population enumeration, methods of data collection and validation, and self-enumeration in Census 2027. He also discussed workflow processes, core duties of Enumerators and Supervisors, structured chain of command, legal provisions under the Indian Constitution, roles of census authorities as public servants, and penalties

and responsibilities associated with census operations.

Ms Pramila Gurung, BDO Baiguney, presented on the preparation of House Listing Blocks (HLB), including their objectives, administrative structure, and definitions related to buildings, census houses, and households. She also explained the identification process for buildings and census houses, types of households including institutional and houseless households and guidelines for numbering buildings and houses.

The training programme was attended by Mr Prem K Subba SDM (Hq), Ms Sakchum Lepcha SDM Soreng, Mr RK Gurung BDO Chumbung, Ms Pramila Gurung BDO Baiguney, Ms Marigold Lucksom Bazar Officer, Mr Amir Bhandari AD (IT), Mr Ratnagar Barik Statistical Investigator and trainees.

Awareness Campaign under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan

Namchi, March 26: Namchi District Police organised an awareness campaign under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan at Tendong Hill, Namchi District, today.

The campaign was supported by the District Administrative Centre (DAC) and Alkem Laboratories Ltd., aimed to spread awareness on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse while promoting a healthy and responsible lifestyle among the public.

The initiative encouraged people to adopt healthier habits while fostering appreciation for the region's natural heritage. It also sought to boost rural tourism by highlighting the district's religious and cultural sites.

A key focus of the campaign was to revive the traditional practice of trekking to Tendong Hill, particularly during Ram Navami, when large numbers of people from Namchi and surrounding areas would historically participate in the hike.

The campaign was flagged off at Damthang Bazaar by Ms Sonam D Bhutia Senior Superintendent of Police, Namchi, alongside Mr Bikash Tiwari Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Namchi. The trekking activity was carried out under the guidance and supervision of Ms Sonam D Bhutia Sr SP Namchi.

During the first half, participants undertook a hike from Damthang Bazaar to Tendong Hill, spreading the message: 'Say No to Drugs and Live a Healthy Life', reinforcing the importance of a drug-free society. A cleanliness drive was carried out along the route, and direction boards were installed

by the Namchi District Police to assist the visitors.

Sr SP Namchi, commended the participants for their commitment to community welfare and expressed gratitude to the supporting organisations. She also emphasised the importance of safe hiking practices and personal well-being.

She encouraged the participants to take up the hike with confidence, noting that such challenges help build mental resilience and determination. She urged them to promptly report any discomfort, assuring them that medical support was readily available. Emphasising teamwork, she motivated participants to stay positive, support one another, and uphold discipline and perseverance as key to successfully achieving their goal.

The event was held under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, a nationwide initiative aimed at combating substance abuse and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. During the programme, participants took a pledge to avoid drugs and actively work towards creating awareness about their adverse effects.

In the second half, an awareness programme focusing on cybercrime and a commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, was held at the premises of the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE), Chemchey, Namchi District.

Sr SP, Namchi, highlighted the growing threat of cybercrime in today's digital era. Noting that with rapid

technological advancements, cybercriminals are increasingly targeting individuals, businesses, and government institutions. Emphasising the need for vigilance and awareness, she urged the gathering to adopt strong cyber hygiene practices to prevent fraud, hacking, identity theft, and online scams. She also underlined the crucial role of law enforcement agencies in combating cybercrime and encouraged the public to promptly report any suspicious activities.

This session was attended by local Panchayat members, dignitaries, and participants of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. The programme concluded with a cultural presentation by Police personnel of Namchi District.

It may be noted that the programme saw participation from around 100 individuals, including students from the PM SHRI Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, Namchi, and PM SHRI Senior Secondary School, along with officials and representatives from all line departments under NCORD, Principal and staff from Police Training Centre (PTC) Yangang, ASP SB, Namchi, representatives from regional press and media stakeholders, members of Anti-Drugs Scout units from Melli and Jorethang, local NGOs, and Police personnel including SDPOs and SHOs from all six Police Stations of Namchi District.

The initiative successfully combined awareness, environmental responsibility, and cultural revival, delivering a strong message of health, and heritage while promoting rural tourism and fostering community engagement.

Masterclass on Filmmaking and Music in Mangan concludes

Mangan, March 28: A two-day masterclass on 'Understanding Filmmaking and Music-Level Zero', organised by the District Administration Mangan under Sikkim INSPIRES initiative concluded at the Conference Hall of DAC Mangan, today.

The session was conducted by Mr Anmol Gurung, filmmaker and singer-songwriter along with Mr Tashi Tseten Lepcha Founder of 'The Tashi Show' and Ms Sonam Ongmu Ethenpa singer.

The second day's session was attended by Mr Anant Jain, DC Mangan along with Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan, Mr Umesh Thapa Accounts Officer and Mr Muksam Limboo ADIT.

The masterclass was attended by students, art and music professionals, content creators and film and music enthusiasts.

DC Mangan Mr Anant Jain in his address expressed his gratitude to filmmaker and singer-songwriter Mr Anmol Gurung for conducting the two-day session on 'Understanding Filmmaking and Music - Level Zero'.

He stated that the film and music enthusiasts who attended the session were truly fortunate to have access to such a valuable platform and mentorship for learning and refining their skills.

He further added that such learning programmes will help in developing and enhancing skills, enabling individuals to create sustainable livelihoods through their talents.

Concluding his address, he assured that the Government will continue to organise more such impactful programmes and encouraged participants to actively take part in future initiatives.

The second day of the masterclass continued with an engaging workshop on filmmaking and music. Participants were divided into three groups and were assigned the task of performing a skit, which will later be developed into a short film.

On the concluding day, an additional session on podcasting and YouTube content creation was conducted by Mr. Tashi Tseten Lepcha.

Likewise, local Artiste Ms Sonam Ongmu Ethenpa elucidated on the nuances of music creation.

Later, the participants were presented certificates by Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan.

A two-day masterclass organised by the District Administrative Centre Mangan under the Sikkim INSPIRES initiative, commenced at the

Conference Hall, DAC Mangan on March 27.

The session is being held as part of Sikkim INSPIRES, following the District Administration Mangan's Phase-I initiative, Mr Anant Jain 'Lights, Camera, Mangan (The Ultimate Content Creation Challenge)', which facilitates mentorship, market linkages, government support, and recognition for aspiring creators.

The masterclass is being conducted by Mr Anmol Gurung, filmmaker and singer-songwriter, who is guiding participants through the fundamentals of filmmaking and music.

The inaugural session was graced by DC Mangan.

Also present were Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa ADM Mangan, Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan, Mr Muksam Limboo ADIT, students, art and music professionals, content creators and film and music enthusiasts.

DC Mangan urged the participants to make the most of the opportunity, aimed at equipping and empowering them with valuable skills.

ADC Mangan highlighted the initiative of the district administration under the Sikkim Inspires programme.

Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan stated that the initiative of the District Administration Mangan under Sikkim Inspires, 'Lights, Camera, Mangan', will promote local areas and showcase local talent.

Mr Anmol Gurung, during his session, began by tracing the roots of filmmaking and cinematography. He engaged participants through shared stories, emphasising visualisation, creative expression, and the recognition of one's own value. He also introduced the fundamentals of filmmaking, including basic cinematography techniques, shot taking, story boarding and elements of acting, in an accessible and engaging manner.

Additionally, he touched upon Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) and conducted an interactive presentation on sound and music recording, as well as the process of song creation. He had brought his entire studio setup to the venue to provide the participants a hands-on experience.

It may be noted that, on the first week of April, Phase - II initiative: Content Creator's Challenge will be conducted. The aim of the two-day Masterclass is to equip the participants with skills to make the most of the Content Creators Challenge.

**READ & ADVERTISE
IN
SIKKIM HERALD**

**Department of Mines and Geology
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok**

Ref No:1274/DMG/25-26

Date:07/03/2026

**Notice for Registration and Empanelment of Recognized
Qualified Person (RQP)**

Applications are invited from eligible individuals for registration and Empanelment as Recognized Qualified Person (RQP) under Sikkim Minor Mineral Concession Rules (SMMCR) 2025 for preparation of mining plans.

Eligibility: Degree in Mining Engineering or Post Graduate in Geology from a UGC-recognized university with minimum 3 years of supervisory experience in mining/minerals administration.

How to Apply: An application collected from the Single Window System from the Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Sikkim or can be downloaded with relevant documents along with non-refundable fee of ₹1,000/-deposited in the Revenue Head 0853- Non-Ferrous Mining and Metallurgical Industries 102-Mineral Fees, Royalty and Rent. Applications are subject to verification.

Registration is valid for 10 years, renewable for another year which may be revoked in case of misconduct under the SMMCR-2025.

Mining plans for minor minerals shall be prepared only by RQPs recognized by the Government.

**Sd-
Principal Director
Department of Mines & Geology Government of Sikkim
Gangtok-737101
(31, 1)**

**Before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at Gangtok, Sikkim
AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Nari Bhutia**, s/o Late **Kami Bhutia**, aged about 66 years, by faith Buddhist, resident of Middle Tumin, under P.O Tumin, P.S. Singtam, do hereby solemnly and declare on oath as follows:

1. That I am bonafide citizen of India.
2. That my father name has been recorded as **Kami Bhutia**, in his death certificate bearing reregistration no. **31/DD/2008/SPHC** issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, Department of Health care, Human Services and Family Welfare, Govt. of Sikkim on **29/07/2008**, and in my Parcha bearing Khatiyon no. **927** of Tumin of Sang Rabdang. Gangtok District issued by Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Govt. of Sikkim, and in my COI bearing Serial no. **13403/DCE/2016** dated 22/07/2016 issued by Office of District Collector, East District, Gangtok, and in my Age Proof Certificate bearing **Memo no. 107/DCG/2026** dated 25/03/2026 issued by Office of the District Collector, District Administrative Centre, Sichey, Gangtok, Sikkim and in all of my relevant documents.
3. That, however inadvertently in my father's true copy of his Old Sikkim Subject register bearing no. **05/LR&DMD** and **Serial No 316 Vol. no. I** under block Tumin, East Sikkim, issued by Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Gangtok, East Sikkim, his name has been recorded as **Bhotey Kami Bhutia**.
4. That this affidavit is made on oath to declare that person by the name "**Kami Bhutia**" and "**Bhotey Kami Bhutia**" denotes and refers to the one and the same identical person i.e. my father.
5. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify that the statements made in paragraphs from 01 to 05 of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and beliefs and nothing has been concealed and falsified there from. And I sign this verification on this the 25th day of March, 2026 at Gangtok District, Sikkim

IDENTIFIED BY:-

Pema Bhutia Tumin

DEPONENT

**Before the Oath Commissioner, at Gangtok, Sikkim
AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Tshering Palmu Bhutia**, daughter of Late Mingma Tshering Bhutia, aged about 26 years, resident of Sangtong Busty, Ranka, Gangtok District, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That my actual and correct Date of Birth is **13.12.1999 (Thirteen December Nineteen Hundred Ninety Nine)** and the same has been recorded in my Birth Certificate bearing Registration No. 2000/1961, date of registration: 08.09.2000 issued by the Department of Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare, Birth and Death Cell, Government of Sikkim and the same has been recorded in my Passport bearing Passport No. **S1911558**, issued by the Regional Office, Kolkata and the same has also been recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. **7477 0008 2635** issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India.
2. That my Date of Birth has been recorded as **13.08.1999** in my Class X Marksheet Certificate bearing Roll No. **3152852** of 05421- PNG SR SEC School, Gangtok, Sikkim issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education.
3. That I am swearing this Affidavit to state and declare the date of Birth **13.12.1999** and **13.08.1999** are the date of birth of one the same person i.e. myself and further swearing this Affidavit to state and declare that my actual and correct date of birth is **13.12.1999 (Thirteen December Nineteen Hundred Ninety Nine)**.

That the statements made hereinabove are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed there from and I have signed and verified this Affidavit on this the 18th day of March, 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Deponent



**Press Release from Cooperation
Department**

Gangtok, March 30: A delegation from the Government of Uttarakhand led by Secretary Cooperation Department called on Minister for Cooperation as part of their official exposure visit to the State.

During the meeting, the delegation held discussions with the Minister on various aspects of the cooperative sector. The interaction focused on sharing experiences, best practices and institutional approaches adopted by both States in strengthening the cooperative movement.

The delegation also apprised Minister of their visit to Temi Tea Employees Welfare Cooperative Society, Lamaten Tingmoo Organic Cooperative Society, SIMFED and SISCO Bank Ltd.

The Minister welcomed the delegation and highlighted the

initiatives taken by the Government of Sikkim to promote transparency, modernization, and community participation through cooperatives.

The delegation also shared insights from Uttarakhand on the functioning and expansion of cooperative institutions. Emphasising the importance of mutual learning, the Minister suggested fostering greater collaboration between the two States through exchange of ideas, exposure visits, and sharing of work culture and administrative practices in the cooperative sector.

The meeting also had the presence of Pr RCS-cum-Secretary, Cooperation, Registrar and officials of Cooperation Department, Government of Sikkim.

**Government of Sikkim
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department
Parayatan Bhawan
Tadong - 737101, Gangtok (Sikkim)
Ph: 03592 - 232218 / FAX: 03592 - 232216;
e-mail: secy tourism@yahoo.com**

Ref No: 469/T&CVD

Dated: 26/03/26

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO:
174/TD For
PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS**

In continuation of expression of Interest Dated: 08.03.2026, for pre-qualification of Bidders for the Passenger Ropeway from Pelling to Sangacholing Monastery Gyalshing District, West Sikkim, It is hereby informed that the last date for submission of pre-qualification documents has been extended upto 25.04.2026.

All other terms and conditions of the EOI shall remain unchanged.

**Secretary
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Paryatan Bhawan,
Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim
(34)**

**Before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at
Gangtok, Sikkim
AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Tika Ram Sharma**, about 64 years of Late Ram Prasad Sharma, Hindu by faith and permanent resident of Martam under P.O. Upper Martam and P.S. Singtam and presently residing at Pani House under PO. & P.S. Gangtok, District-Gangtok of Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on path us follows:-

1. That I am natural and legal son of **Late Ram Prasad Sharma @Ram Prasad Bahun @Ram Prasad Oli** and bonafide resident of above-mentioned address.
2. That my name and caste "**Tika Ram Sharma**" which has been recorded in my **Electoral Identity Card** bearing EPIC No. BPV0091272 issued by Election Commission of India and same has been recorded in my other relevant documents like "**Aadhaar Card, PAN Card** and in **all documents of my children**" etc.
3. That in my "**Old Sikkim Subject**" bearing Register Serial No6, Volume No. II Under Block Martam issued by Secretary, Land Revenue Department, Government of Sikkim wherein my and caste has been recorded as "**Tika Ram Bahun** son of Ram Prasad Bahun".
4. That in my "**Landed Parcha**" bearing Khatiyon No. 531, Plot No. 928, 2386, 2459, 2477 und 2478/3063 under Block Martam, Elakha Sang, Revenue Circle Gangtok, Sikkim wherein my name and caste has been recorded as "**Tika Ram Oli**" son of Ram Prasad Oli.
5. That "**BAHUN**" and "**SHARMA**" both are synonymous of our same caste and "**OLI**" is my/our sub-caste/sub-title which come under same community.
6. That hence this affidavit is made on oath and to declare that person by the both castes, sub-caste i.e. "**Tika Ram Sharma** son of Ram Prasad Sharma", "**Tika Ram Bahun** son of Ram Prasad Bahun" and "**Tika Ram Oli** son of Ram Prasad Oli" denotes and refer to the one and the same person i.e. myself.
7. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, **Tika Ram Sharma**, the deponent before-named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the foregoing affidavit in paragraphs 1 to 7 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing in material has been concealed or suppressed there from. Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 25th day of March 2026.

DEPONENT

Contd from front page

Fourth Session...

mentioned. The Governor also highlighted significant rural reforms, specifically the transition from MGNREGA to VB-GRAM G Act, which enhances the employment guarantee to 125 days per rural household and strengthens transparency and worker entitlements, alongside the Vibrant Village Programme, which is now expanding to border areas adjoining Nepal and Bhutan. He further stated that significant progress has been achieved in housing, rural connectivity, drinking water coverage, and livelihood promotion through various central and state schemes.

Reflecting on the State's rural development approach, he added that participatory district planning under the Sikkim INSPIRES programme is guiding local economic development. On the economic front, the Governor emphasised on 'Organic 2.0', shifting focus from certification to global market linkages for crops like large cardamom and ginger. This is supported by a new wave of industrial policies, including the Sikkim Startup Policy 2025 and the Jan Vishwas Act, which collectively aim to attract investment and foster a culture of innovation among the youth. Through these integrated efforts in high-tech healthcare, sustainable tourism, and rural empowerment, the Governor reaffirmed Sikkim's commitment to advancing steadily towards the vision of a 'Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim' and contributing meaningfully to a Viksit Bharat @2047.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister, also the Leader of the House, moved the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address, which was seconded by Mr Sanjeet Kharel Member of the House.

In response to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address by Ms Kala Rai, Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba, Mr Erung Tenzing Lepcha, Mr Aditya Golay (Tamang) and Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa MLAs, the Leader of the House expressed his gratitude for their valuable observations and constructive suggestions.

The Chief Minister, informed the House that in view of the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct for the upcoming Sikkim Municipal Election, only the Vote on Account has been placed during the present session. He shared key details relating to the elections, including the number of polling stations and expected public participation, while also placing on record updated demographic data of the State. Highlighting the State Government's focus areas, he stated that priority continues to be accorded to sectors such as health, education, and sports. Elaborating on the health sector, he reiterated key initiatives, including the establishment of a guest facility, Aama Ko Godh, in Siliguri to support patients from Sikkim undergoing treatment outside the State.

He further informed that the upcoming Helen Lepcha Medical College will significantly strengthen medical education and healthcare services and added that kidney transplant services are expected to commence within the State by mid-year.

On infrastructure development, he stated that district roads across all 31 constituencies are being taken up for carpeting, with additional road projects to be tendered in the near future. He also highlighted various development initiatives in Soreng District, including improvements in water supply, compensation support for landslide-affected families in areas such as Daramdin and Bojek, and the ongoing Nayabazaar-Zoom road extension.

He further stated that focused development is underway around the Chewabhanjyang Border Outpost along the Indo-Nepal border, aimed at strengthening connectivity, improving local infrastructure, and promoting economic opportunities in the region.

In conclusion, the Leader of the House welcomed the Governor's Address and reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to inclusive development and responsive governance. Thereafter, the Sikkim Assembly passed the motion of thanks to the Governor's address.

During the legislative business, Mr Bhoj Raj Rai, Minister, Urban Development Department, moved the Sikkim Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No 3 of 2026). The statement of objects and reasons states that the Sikkim Municipalities Act, 2007 (Act No 5 of 2007) was enacted to provide a comprehensive legal framework for the constitution of municipalities, rationalisation and reorganisation of the existing wards within the framework of the Act, and for the conduct of General Municipal Election across the state. The Act was passed by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly after receiving the assent of the Governor on 16 April 2007.

In exercise of the powers conferred under Sections 3 and 8 of the Act, the State Government has deemed it necessary to rationalise and reorganise the existing wards of the Gangtok Municipal Corporation from 19 to 21 by amending Sections 8 and 13 of the Principal Act, and seeks to place the above Bill for consideration of the House. This will enable effective governance for the urban population residing within the corporation.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

The Sikkim Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No 3 of 2026) was thereafter unanimously passed by the House. Subsequently, Mr Raju Basnet, Minister, Education Department, moved the withdrawal of the Scholars University of Skills and Innovation Bill, 2025 (Bill No 17 of 2025), which was unanimously agreed by the House.

A Government Resolution seeking renaming of Pakyong Airport as Trilochan Pokhrel Airport was also adopted by the House. This Resolution was

proposed by Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, which was seconded by Mr Aditya Golay MLA.

This proposal sought the renaming of Pakyong Airport, a Greenfield Airport located at an altitude of 4,848 feet, inaugurated by Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, in 2018 as the 100th airport of the country. It serves as a symbol of national integration and the primary air connectivity for the State. The proposal recommends renaming it as Trilochan Pokhrel Airport.

Late Trilochan Pokhrel, also known as 'Bande Pokhrel' or 'Gandhi Pokhrel', was born in Tareything, East Sikkim, and is widely regarded as the first Indian independence activist from the State. He was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in key national movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. He also promoted Gandhian ideals of simplicity, self-reliance, and non-violence, encouraging the use of khadi and local industries across Sikkim.

The resolution emphasises his role in linking Sikkim to the broader Indian freedom struggle, preserving regional history and inspiring future generations. The Sikkim Cabinet approved the proposal on 19 March 2026, and the Assembly has formally recommended to the Government of India that the airport be officially renamed as a lasting tribute to his legacy.

During the Financial Business, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, also the Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department presented the First Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2025-26. The first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2025-26 includes 39 grants and one Appropriation Bill. Approval of the Legislative Assembly was sought to authorise gross additional expenditure of ₹113619.70 lakh comprising ₹40967.74 lakh on Revenue Account and ₹72651.96 lakh on Capital Account. Of this, the proposals involving net cash outgo aggregates to ₹38010.05 lakh.

The Sikkim Assembly passed the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2025-26. The House also passed the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, (Bill No. 1 of 2026) for the First Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2025-2026, moved by the Leader of the House.

The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, (Bill No. 1 of 2026) is introduced in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 204 read with Article 205 of the Constitution of India to provide for the appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim of the money required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged in the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim and Supplementary Grants made by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim for the remaining part of

the financial year 2025-26.

This was followed by the passing of the Vote on Account 2026-2027, presented by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department.

The Chief Minister has noted, 'The preparation of Demands for Grants and other relevant documents for the financial year 2026-27 would take some more time.'

Therefore, in pursuance of clause (1) sub-clause (a) of Article 206 of the Constitution of India, the Vote on Account for six months starting April to September, 2026 has been prepared for presentation to the Legislative Assembly pending consideration of the detailed Demand for Grants for the year 2026-27.

The total fund requirement is of the order of ₹832331.04 lakh comprising of ₹569976.37 lakh on Revenue Account and ₹262354.68 lakh on Capital Account, worked out based on the Budget Estimate for 2025-26 after excluding spill over one time provisions and taking into account the latest available figures of salary and wages and pension payments.

The Vote on Account is intended for disbursement of salaries, wages etc. and shall not be used for incurring expenditures on new items or new services.

The House also passed the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, (Bill No.2 of 2026) for the Vote on Account for the Financial Year, 2026-2027.

Thereafter, the Assembly took up the election of the Committee on Public Accounts and Committee of Estimates for the Financial Year 2026-2027.

Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa and Mr Aditya Golay MLAs were elected as members of the committee on Public Accounts for the Financial Year 2026-27. Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa MLA was elected as the Chairman of the Committee.

Similarly, Mr Aditya Golay and Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa MLAs were elected as members of the committee of Estimates for the Financial Year 2026-27. Mr Aditya Golay was elected as the Chairman of the Committee.

Likewise, the Speaker made the following nominations for various Committees for the Financial Year 2026-2027.

1. Committee on Government Assurances: Mr Lok Nath Sharma, Mr Nar Bahadur Pradhan and Mr Erung Tenzing Lepcha were nominated as members of the Committee on Government Assurances. Mr Lok Nath Sharma was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee.

2. Rules Committee: Mr Samdup Tshering Bhutia and Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLAs were nominated as Members of the Committee. The Speaker is the Ex-officio Chairman of the Committee on Rules.

3. Library Committee: Mr Thenlay Tshering Bhutia, Ms Kala Rai, Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa and Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia MLAs were nominated as Members of the Committee. The Deputy Speaker of Sikkim Legislative Assembly is the Ex-officio Chairman of the Library Committee.

4. House Committee: Mr Lall Bahadur Das, Mr Thenlay Tshering Bhutia and Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLAs were nominated as members of the Committee. Mr Lall Bahadur Das MLA was nominated as the Chairman of the Committee

5. Committee of Privileges: Mr Bedu Singh Panth, Mr Madan Cintury and Ms Pamin Lepcha MLAs were nominated as Members of the Committee, with Mr Bedu Singh Panth as its Chairman.

Subsequently, Mr Bedu Singh Panth, Mr Sanjeet Kharel and Mr Aditya Golay MLAs were nominated as the Panel of Chairmen for the Financial Year 2026-2027.

This was followed by the presentation of the following Audit Reports by the Chief Minister, also the Minister-in-charge, Finance Department:

i) The Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of State Trading Corporation of Sikkim for the year ended 31st March 2023,

ii) The Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of the State Trading Corporation of Sikkim for the year ended 31st March 2024,

iii) The Annual Consolidated Audit Report on the Accounts of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities for the Financial Year 2024-2025, and

iv) The Annual Technical Inspection Report on Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies for the year ended March 2022.

The Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department presented the Half Yearly Review Report, 2025-2026, Review of the Trends in Receipt and Expenditure in relation to Budget 2025-2026 to the House.

Thereafter, Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, presented the following reports to the House:

i) 136th Report on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March 2016.

ii) 137th Action taken report on 116th PAC Report for the year ended 31st March 2012.

iii) 138th Action Taken Report on 119th PAC Report for the year ended 31st March, 2013.

iv) 139th Action Taken Report on 126th PAC Report for the year ended 31st March, 2014.

v) 140th Action Taken Report on 130th PAC Report for the year ended 31st March, 2015.

Mr Lok Nath Sharma, Chairman, Government Assurances Committee, also presented the following reports to the House:

i) 21st Report on Further Action Taken Report on 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Reports of the Government Assurances Committee.

ii) 22nd Report on Action Taken Report on 20th Report of the Government Assurances Committee.

iii) 23rd Report on Implementation of Fresh Assurances by the State Government pertaining to various

Contd. on page 5

Lampokhari Festival 2026: day two focuses on culture and tourism promotion

Pakyong, March 27: 13th Lampokhari Tourism Festival 2026, organised by Aritar Dalapchand Lampokhari Lake Tourism Development Society (ADLDS) themed 'Experience Heritage, Celebrate Culture, Discover Nature', entered its second day at Lampokhari Lake, Aritar, today.

The event was attended by Mr Raju Basnet, Minister for Education Department as the chief guest in the presence of Mr Puran Gurung Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture Departments-cum-Chief Patron of the event; Mrs Pamin Lepcha MLA and Advisor for Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, Ms Laden Lhamu Bhutia Zilla Adhyaksha and Ms Prabha Pradhan Zilla Updhyaksha.

Also present were Zilla Panchayats, Advisor, Sports and Youth Affairs Development, SDM Rongli, OSD Water Resources Department; OSD to MLA, Chujachen constituency, Deputy Director, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, along with dignitaries from various line departments, police personnel, members of the organising committee and public.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest, Mr Raju Basnet emphasised that improved road connectivity and quality homestay experiences can enhance the growth of tourism sector in the State, while sharing suggestions to promote local tourism enterprises and strengthen business opportunities.

He also stated that initiatives such as the Mega Homestay will transform the rural tourism landscape and facilitate more entrepreneurship for the local community, further advising to utilise assistance provided by various departments in the field of agriculture and tourism for self reliance.

During the event, Minister and Chief Patron, highlighted on the developmental initiatives being undertaken in the region including improvements in road infrastructure, promotion of tourism and various projects aimed at uplifting the area. He also lauded the establishment of Rongli Permit Office, which facilitates permits to Nathula for domestic tourists, thereby creating greater opportunities to utilise the route.

Encouraging stakeholders and local residents, he underlined the need to expand tourism-related activities, stating that a tourism sector not only supports local businesses but also strengthens the livelihood opportunities for the community.

Further, he shared suggestions to promote rural tourism and advised the younger generation to prioritise health and education to excel in life.

He mentioned the vast potential of the state's agricultural produce in the global market, highlighting its organic status as an advantage, further mentioning on various initiatives being undertaken by the Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries Departments to uplift the farmers and stakeholders associated with these fields.

Likewise, Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, highlighted the immense potential of the tourism sector in the State and informed that Sikkim has witnessed the participation of approximately 17 lakh tourists in the current year. He emphasised on the initiatives of the State Government to strengthen tourism infrastructure through the improvement of road connectivity and implementation of various tourism initiatives.

He also appreciated the organising committee for reviving

the festival and showcasing the natural beauty of the lake, urging the stakeholders to maintain the homestays in proper condition to ensure a comfortable experience for both domestic and international tourists.

He apprised on the rich flora, fauna, culture and heritage of the state and stressed that its preservation must remain a utmost priority for each individual, further assuring to provide necessary support towards strengthening the tourism sector in the region.

Similarly, Mr Bibek Rai, General Secretary ADLDS, stressed on the significance of the 13th Lampokhari Tourism Festival 2026 and informed that the event is a revival of a legacy, tourism, culture and community development with the collaborative effort from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim.

He mentioned the cultural and spiritual significance of Lampokhari Lake and called upon the preservation of its sanctity and the promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism.

Prior to it, the dignitaries participated in a ritual to invoke prayers to mark prosperity and gratitude, followed by the official inauguration of zip-lining adventure sport.

The event also featured stalls set up by various departments, including Fisheries, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Forest and Environment and Agriculture and Horticulture along with ATMA.

The programme also showcased cultural performances by students from various schools, followed by ramp walk presentation, showcasing the diverse communities of the State.

Gangtok Municipal Corporation-21 wards, 69 polling stations

Singtam Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 6 polling stations

Pakyong Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 9 polling stations

Rangpo Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 7 polling stations

Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 5 polling stations

Namchi Municipal Council-7 wards, 9 polling stations

Naya Bazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 6 polling stations

Soreng Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 5 polling stations

Mangan Nagar Panchayat-5 wards, 5 polling stations

District-wise statistics of wards, polling stations and total voters are as follows:

Gangtok District-21 wards, 69 polling stations, 58806 voters

Gyalshing District -5 wards,

5 polling stations, 2,662 voters

Mangan District-5 wards, 5 polling stations, 2,043 voters

Namchi District-7 wards, 9 polling stations, 7069 voters

Pakyong District-5 wards, 9 polling stations, 3883 voters

Soreng District-5 wards, 5 polling stations, 1,850 voters

The total number of voters stands at 93,800.

New changes have been introduced in Gangtok District, wherein, Burtuk Ward has been bifurcated into two wards. Similarly, Lower Sichey Ward has also been bifurcated into two wards. Additionally, the outer boundaries of Pipal Dara Ward has been rearranged under the Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

The briefing was attended by Ms Gloria Namchu Secretary, SEC Sikkim and Mr Sandesh Moktan Additional Secretary, SEC Sikkim.

Tareythang MPCS diversifies business activities; launches first-of-its-kind Beauty Salon in State

Pakyong, March 30: In a pioneering initiative, Tareythang Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) has diversified its business portfolio with the launch of a Beauty Salon marking it as the first-of-its-kind initiative by a cooperative society in the State.

The MPCS is already actively engaged in a range of services including consumer retail business, Cash Kendra (banking services), Public Distribution System (PDS) and the operation of a Common Service Centre (CSC). The addition of the Beauty Salon reflects the society's innovative

approach towards meeting evolving community needs while promoting self-reliance and local enterprise.

This newly launched facility is expected to greatly benefit the women of the area by providing convenient access to grooming and wellness services within their locality. Furthermore, it opens up new avenues for skill development and employment generation, particularly for local youth and women, thereby contributing to economic empowerment at the grassroots level.

P.U.L.S.E. initiative provides seed funding to selected entrepreneurs

Pakyong, March 30: P.U.L.S.E. (Pakyong Unified Launch Support for Entrepreneurs) 2026 initiative of the District Administrative Centre, Pakyong under Sikkim INSPIRES, seed funding was disbursed to selected entrepreneurs at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Pakyong, today.

The initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship by supporting innovative and promising ventures through financial assistance and mentorship. Following a structured selection process, shortlisted candidates presented their business pitches before a panel comprising Mr Rohan Agawane District Collector,

Pakyong and Mr Pulkit Additional District Collector, Pakyong.

Based on predefined evaluation criteria, the participants were categorised into two groups Innovation and Scale Oriented Ventures and Promising Ventures. Under Category I, four selected entrepreneurs were awarded seed funding of ₹2 lakhs each, while under Category II, seven entrepreneurs received ₹1 lakh each.

It may be mentioned that all selected participants will also be provided with mentorship support through collaboration with digital nomads at Yakten Village, Pakyong, to further strengthen their business initiatives and ensure sustainable growth.

Contd from page 4

Fourth Session...

Assembly sessions held on 29th July to August 2, 2019, 1st April, 2022 and 20th May 2023.

This was followed by the laying of the Annual Reports of the Commissions and Government Departments and the Sikkim Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026 on the table of the House.

In his valedictory remarks, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Governor for his address and all the Members for their active participation and constructive deliberations during the session. He reiterated the State Government's resolve to address the concerns raised by the Members and to continue working

with dedication for inclusive growth and good governance. He further thanked the Speaker for the smooth conduct of the proceedings and expressed his appreciation to the Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Heads of Departments, and the press and media for their support and contributions.

The Speaker also thanked the Members of the House for their cooperation in ensuring the orderly and productive conduct of the session. He also acknowledged the efforts of the officers and staff of the Assembly Secretariat for their support in the successful conduct of the session.

The Fourth Session of the Eleventh Sikkim Legislative Assembly was adjourned Sine Die by the Speaker.

Contd from front page

SEC Sikkim...

election process is conducted smoothly and effectively.

The SEC Sikkim announced the following schedule for the upcoming Municipal Election:

30.03.2026-Last date for filing nominations (11:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

01.04.2026-Date for scrutiny of nominations (11:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

04.04.2026-Last date for withdrawal of nominations (11:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

24.04.2026-Date of poll (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

25.04.2026-Counting of votes and declaration of results (from 8:00 AM onwards).

The election will be held in nine Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats. The number of wards and polling stations under each are as follows:

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**



Election Observers arrive in Districts

Gangtok, March 30: For Gangtok District, Mr Basant Kumar Lama, Election Observer for General Municipality Election 2026 also Secretary, Culture Department visited the District Election Office to assess the ongoing nomination process for the 21 wards under the Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) and five wards under the Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

Upon his arrival at the office of the Municipal Returning Officer, Gangtok, he was received by Mr Tushar Nikhare Municipal Returning Officer-cum-District Magistrate, Gangtok. The visit was also attended by Additional District Collector (ADC), Gangtok, and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gangtok.

During the visit, the Election Observer inspected various sections of the office and reviewed the arrangements in place for the nomination process. He interacted

with officers and staff to ensure that all procedures are being carried out efficiently and in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

Likewise, Ms Kincho Doma Lepcha Election Observer for Mangan Nagar Panchayat General Municipal Election 2026, undertook a visit to the Election Office of the District today, to oversee the nomination filing process.

The Observer was accompanied by Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan. Upon her arrival at the Office of the Municipal Returning Officer, Mangan, she was accorded welcomed by Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa Additional District Magistrate and Mr Karma Sherpa Joint Secretary Election.

Similarly, Ms Roshni Rai, Secretary, Fisheries Department also the appointed Election

Observer for the Municipal Election 2026 in Pakyong and Rangpo Nagar Panchayats, arrived in Pakyong District, today. On her arrival, she was received by Mr Sonam Zangpo Bhutia District Planning Officer (DPO), Zilla.

She was briefed on the preparedness and ongoing arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Municipal Election in Pakyong District. For any election-related queries or concerns, she can be contacted at 9933326444.

Likewise, Mr Dushyant Pariyar, Election Observer for Soreng Municipal Election 2026, Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, arrived in Soreng District.

Upon his arrival, the Observer was welcomed by Mr Dhiraj Subedi, Returning Officer Soreng at the District Administrative Centre.

Sikkim Slam 3x3 hosts Interactive Panel Discussion on careers in Basketball

Gangtok, March 26: Organisers of the Sikkim Slam 3x3 tournament, (District Administrative Centre of Gangtok and the Gangtok District Police, in association with Freedom Rehabilitation Facility and Ravens Basketball Club), powered by Sikkim INSPIRES, hosted an interactive and educational seminar titled "The Business of Basketball: Careers Beyond the Court" at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

The panel discussion included prominent and distinguished figures from the sports and aimed to be an educational and informative session for players, students, sports enthusiasts, association members and coaches/physical education teachers.

Mr Tashi Chopel, Secretary, Education Department, lauded the seminar as highly educational and noted that basketball is reaching new heights across the State. He highlighted that Mr Aditya Golay MLA Soreng-Chakung and Chief Patron has been a steadfast supporter of the sports, advocating for its importance on the Assembly floor.

Mr Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha, Patron and Additional Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, welcomed the esteemed panel and highlighted that the upcoming 3x3 basketball tournament marks a historic first for Sikkim.

Mr Vishu Lama, President of Basketball Association of Sikkim, commended the initiative and congratulated the organisers, particularly Tournament Secretary, Mr Paljor Rilon Wangdi, and panelists. Describing the session as highly informative for aspiring basketball professionals, he encouraged the state's youth to actively participate in the learning experience.

During the panel

discussion, Mr Jigmee Wazilingpa, General Secretary for Basketball Association of Sikkim outlined the story of basketball in Sikkim. He spoke about the history of the sport in the State, formation of BAS, the struggles, achievements and the roadmap of Sikkim basketball.

Mr Andrew Suting, Meghalaya State Coach and Founder of Touchline Basketball Academy, provided insight on coaching, technical direction and building basketball programmes. He outlined coaching opportunities and highlighted the importance of having a clear roadmap driven by specific micro-objectives. He also identified exposure camps as key developmental tools and stressed that the future of the sport relies on both senior player mentorship and dedicated training for under-12 athletes.

Ms Leandra Monteiro Sports Journalist for Ekalavyas, shared her personal journey into the world of basketball journalism, tracing her path from its inception to her current role. She highlighted the rapid growth of the sport and underscored the necessity of a professional storytelling approach to elevate its profile. Furthermore, She addressed the importance of formal professional courses and provided insights into managing the backlash and challenging situations often encountered in the sports media industry.

Mr Sandy Singh, Founder of Indian Live Sports Hub, delivered a presentation highlighting the critical lack of documentation during past tournaments and the urgent need for a systematic record. He emphasised that professional success in the industry is unattainable without determination and grit. Detailing the rapid growth of his YouTube channel, he explained how live telecasts are transforming the

sport, particularly when implemented at the grassroots level for local tournaments. Additionally, he noted that live broadcasting serves as a vital tool for officials, motivating them to analyse and refine their officiating calls with greater accuracy.

Mr Vishal Yadav, Creative Director at Sportscast India, shared his expertise on live streaming, broadcast production, and the evolving landscape of careers in sports technology. While noting the current lack of formal academic courses in the field, he emphasised that a deep understanding of production processes and a commitment to teamwork are essential to overcoming industry challenges. He also provided a roadmap for aspiring professionals, discussing how to enter the industry and the technical steps required to elevate production quality to international standards.

Mr Ryan James, Sports Lawyer, Presenter, and Commentator, shared insights into his career journey and the distinct responsibilities of his dual roles. He defined the work of a sports lawyer as essential for governance, safeguarding player interests, managing contracts and resolving complex league and media disputes. Speaking about his work as a commentator, he described the role as mastering the art of storytelling, requiring a unique flair to bring any narrative to life for the audience.

India's only certified FIBA 3x3 referee, Mr Mohan Kumar and Referee Instructor for Basketball Federation of India, Mr James Bamon spoke about the interconnectedness between players, referees, officials and media. They discussed the careers and pathways in developing referees, the reality of the career and the importance of officiating.

The session came to a close with an interactive session.

Sikkim Slam 3x3 Tournament concludes with finals in Gangtok

Gangtok, March 29: Three-day Sikkim Slam 3x3 Open Basketball Tournament concluded today, with the final matches held at the Indoor Basketball Court, Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.

Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa, MLA-cum-Advisor, Urban Development Department, attended the programme as the chief guest, while Gyalsey Palden Gyurmed Namgyal and Princess Hope Leezum Namgyal attended the occasion as the guests of honour.

In the women's final, Budhanilkanta, Nepal, faced Alley Oop, Uttar Pradesh, with Alley Oop emerging victorious by 20-14.

In the men's final, Kurseong took on SYM (Salesian Youth Movement), Shillong, where SYM secured the title with a close 17-15 win.

Ms Raj Kumari Thapa, Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, handed over trophies and cash prizes to the winning teams.

The organising committee also felicitated the guests and

sponsors, and presented mementos in appreciation of their support and contribution to the successful conduct of the tournament.

Also present on the occasion were Mr Aditya Golay Chief Patron and MLA Soreng-Chakung; Mr Erung Tenzing Lepcha MLA-cum-Advisor, Roads and Bridges Department; Mr Phurba Wangdi, Managing Director, State Bank of Sikkim, along with officers, officials, members of the organising committee, players, and other dignitaries.

The tournament was organised by the District Administrative Centre, Gangtok, and Gangtok District Police in association with Freedom Rehabilitation Facility and Ravens Basketball Club.

Earlier, a band display was presented by Tashi Namgyal Academy.

The tournament concluded with the prize distribution ceremony, following which the chief guest formally declared the event closed.

13th Lampokhari Festival 2026 concludes with B2B Meet

Pakyong, March 28 : 13th Lampokhari Tourism Festival 2026, organised by the Aritar Dalapchand Lampokhari Lake Tourism Development Society (ADLDS), concluded at Lampokhari, Aritar with a Business-to-Business (B2B) Meet, today.

The festival, themed "Experience Heritage, Celebrate Culture, Discover Nature," aimed to promote tourism while creating entrepreneurial opportunities for local community through business engagement.

The concluding day was graced by Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department as the chief guest.

Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa highlighted the Chief Minister's vision of strengthening the tourism sector and emphasised on the need of coordination between the stakeholders and departments to promote tourism initiatives in the State.

He also stressed on developing a strong Unique Selling Proposition (USP) for building a successful business and encouraged the stakeholders to leverage the local traditions and heritage to create an authentic experiences for visitors.

Further, he highlighted on the training and capacity-building programmes aimed at enhancing skills and empowering the local population being implemented under Sikkim INSPIRES, further urging the stakeholders and young generation to actively participate and improve the service standards of the tourism ecosystem.

Ms Sushma Pradhan Deputy Director, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, appreciated the participation of women

entrepreneurs in the business sector and emphasised the need to revive the region's hidden heritage treasures to attract more tourists.

She urged stakeholders to register on the Althiya JIS portal to ensure better visibility and access to information, while further congratulating the organising committee for successfully conducting the festival.

Mr Lalit Rai President ADLDS, highlighted that the B2B meet is the first of its kind to be organised as part of such a festival in the State bringing together stakeholders from diverse tourism sectors. He touched upon the state's tourism tagline 'Land Where Nature Smiles' and assured to establish the festival as a calendar event in the future.

During the event, various B2B stalls representing different tourism sectors showcased their services, insights into their businesses, achievements, challenges and areas for development.

In response, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman acknowledged the concerns of the tourism stakeholders and engaged in conversation, while offering suggestions to enhance the overall tourist experience. He further assured to provide support from the department to strengthen and upgrade their businesses.

Earlier, the dignitaries also visited the Mankhim and the Old Route Muke trekking trail.

The programme also featured cultural performances by students from various schools, followed by an experience-sharing session by representatives from the Rhenock Tourism Development Society.