



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 69 No. 47

Gangtok (Wednesday) November 19, 2025

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

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister meets Chief Minister of Sikkim



Gangtok, November 15: Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Mr Pema Khandu paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence, Mintokgang, today.

Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, who was in Sikkim to attend the 13th International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the Northeast region, took time out of his busy schedule to offer his support and best wishes to the Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang following his recent health concerns. Chief Minister extended his heartfelt appreciation for Mr Pema Khandu's genuine care and concern, reflecting the strong bond of friendship between the two leaders.

During his visit, Chief Minister Mr Pema Khandu shared his admiration on International Tourism Mart, which he described as a significant event for the promotion of tourism in the Northeast. He also expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the people of Sikkim.

The two leaders engaged in a constructive discussion about the future development of their respective states and the broader Northeast region.

The conversation highlighted a shared vision for regional growth, with both leaders emphasising the importance of collaboration with the Centre to drive progress and ensure a brighter future for all.

Sikkim Fish Festival 2025 banner unveiled

Gangtok, November 13: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang unveiled the official banner for the Sikkim Fish Festival 2025, which is scheduled to be held on November 21-22, 2025 at Vega Circle, Siliguri. The grand event is being organised by the Fisheries Department to commemorate World Fisheries Day and to showcase the strides made by the State in aquaculture and fisheries development.

The unveiling ceremony took place at the official residence of the Chief Minister at Mintokgang. Present on the occasion were Mr Puran Kumar Gurung, Minister for Fisheries, Mr Am Prasad Sharma Advisor, Fisheries Department, Mr Roshni Rai Secretary Fisheries Department, Mr KK Shrestha Director and Mr Lobsang Tamang

Joint Director Fisheries Department.

The Sikkim Fish Festival 2025, themed 'Discover the Himalayan Freshness—Experience Sikkim's Fish', aims to promote the Himalayan Rainbow Trout, locally farmed fish species, and a range of value-added fish products from Sikkim. The festival will serve as a unique platform to connect local fish farmers with consumers, entrepreneurs, and traders from neighbouring regions, while also raising awareness on sustainable fisheries and the nutritional importance of fish.

The two-day event will be held in the bustling commercial hub of Siliguri to ensure wider outreach and visibility for Sikkim's fisheries products and farmers. The festival

Contd.on page 5

Foundation stone laying ceremony of District Court complex in Soreng

Soreng, November 16: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang and Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Mr Justice Biswanath Somadder, jointly laid the foundation stone for the new District Court complex at Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court premises in Soreng, today.

The ceremony was held in the presence of Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Mr MN Sherpa Speaker (Sikkim Legislative Assembly) and Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Buildings and Housing Department.

Chief Minister described the occasion as a momentous event for the people of Soreng District. He extended his gratitude to Chief Justice for his guidance in strengthening the judiciary in Sikkim. Highlighting the significance of the new complex, he stated that the residents from remote areas would no longer need to travel long distances in



search of justice. Calling the ceremony a significant milestone, the Chief Minister expressed his pride on being part of the event and noted that it evoked a deep sense of belonging, particularly because he himself hails from

Soreng. Further, he reiterated the State Government's commitment to ensuring that justice remains accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic background.

Contd.on page 5

Pari Prakashan celebrates 5th Foundation Day

Gangtok, November 15: State-level Literary Function commemorating the 5th Foundation Day of Pari Prakashan was held at Manan Kendra, today.

The event was organised by Pari Prakashan, Soreng, to honour and recognise distinguished authors, poets and literary figures for their contributions to literature and to further promote literary development in the State.

The programme commenced with a tribute to Padma Shri Late Gadul Singh Lama (Sanu Lama) in recognition of his remarkable contributions to literature.

Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, who also serves as the Chief Patron of Pari Prakashan, attended the programme as the chief guest along with Mr Saru Bhakta Shrestha, a celebrated Nepalese playwright, novelist, songwriter and poet and Mr Madan Cintury MLA.

In his address, Chief Minister highlighted the primary objective behind the establishment of Pari Prakashan, which aims to support neglected writers and poets who face challenges in publishing their works. He stated that the organisation has encouraged



emerging voices while also recognising celebrated authors and poets. He congratulated the award recipients and expressed gratitude to all writers, poets, readers, supporters, dignitaries and the Pari Prakashan team.

Mr Saru Bhakta Shrestha,

expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and acknowledged the Chief Minister's commitment to the growth of literature and the arts in the State. He praised Sikkim's rich artistic talent and emphasised the

Contd.on page 7

Pearls of Wisdom

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

- Maya Angelou

Forest and Environment Department launches Watershed Mahotsav 2025

Pakyong, November 17: Forest and Environment Department launched Watershed Mahotsav 2025 in the presence of Mr Puran Gurung Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture Department and Mr LB Das MLA-cum-Advisor at the Integrated Processing Facility, Rangpo, today.

The programme also had the presence of Chairperson Agriculture Department; Chairperson Horticulture Department; Deputy Mayor, GMC; Councillor, Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department; Secretary Agriculture Department; Secretary, Horticulture Department, along with Principal Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture Department.

The programme scheduled from November 11-16, aims to promote Janbhagidari and make watershed development a people-led movement. It also marks the commencement of several key activities across the State under PMKSY-WDC 2.0, including Bhumi Pujan for new watershed works, Lokarpan of completed assets, Jan Bhagidari Cup 2026, Mission Watershed Punarutthan, social media competitions on IEC, Shramdaan activities with community involvement.

Mr Puran Gurung Minister emphasised the critical role of community participation in safeguarding watershed assets and strengthening agriculture-based livelihoods, particularly for

small and marginal farmers. He added that horticulture plantations have enabled a shift to high-value fruit crops, while bench terracing has expanded cultivable land and reduced erosion. Adding to it, he mentioned that spring-shed development and roof rainwater harvesting have improved water availability for year-round farming and have helped sustain the kitchen gardens. He noted that these combined efforts have enhanced productivity, diversified incomes, and improved resilience of rural communities.

The Minister called upon all communities to actively participate and make the Watershed Mahotsav 2025 a collective effort towards sustainable water management, improved agricultural productivity, and enhanced rural livelihoods.

With a series of events in the Watershed Mahotsav 2025, under the Jan Bhagidari Cup 2026, communities would be contributing through shramdaan, and non-governmental resources will compete for a reward of ₹20 lakh. Through the Mission Watershed Punarutthan, existing watershed assets will be revived using Watershed Development Funds, and this will continue until March 2026.

Adding to it, through the Social Media Competition, individuals can upload 30-60 second reels (i) Two (02) reels related to Water harvesting structures created under WDC-

PMKSY 1.0 & 2.0. (ii) One (01) reel related to water harvesting structure created under any other Centre/State Watershed Development Scheme. (iii) One (01) reel related to Agroforestry/Horticulture/Plantation under WDC-PMKSY and photographs (i) 35 Photographs related to water harvesting structures created and Agro-forestry/Horticultural Plantation under WDCPMKSY 1.0 & 2.0. (ii) 15 Photographs related to water harvesting structures created under any other Centre/State Watershed Development Scheme.

It may be noted that entries must be posted on social media using two hashtags [#watershedmahotsavindia](https://www.watershedmahotsavindia.org) and [#watershedmahotsavSIKKIM](https://www.watershedmahotsavSIKKIM.org), followed by registration on the official portal <https://wdcpmksy.dolr.gov.in/registerMahotsav>. After completion of competition duration, by January 31, 2026, 6.00 PM, participants have to submit a screenshot of reach (View) and engagements (Comments & Likes).

The reels will be evaluated on reach, engagement, relevance, creativity and technical quality. 4 reels will be awarded ₹50,000/- each, and 50 photographs will receive ₹1,000/- each.

Prior to it, the programme also witnessed the flagging off ceremony of the first certified organic consignment of large cardamom from Sikkim.

reviewed the overall progress of anti-drug initiatives under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan and Sarathi 1.0. All Departments and stakeholders reaffirmed their collective commitment to sustaining awareness programs, promoting community involvement and enhancing inter-departmental coordination to achieve a drug-free society.

The Committee also felicitated and awarded the winners of various competitions, acknowledging their creativity and active participation in promoting the message of a drug-free society.

Competition Winners, School-Level Drawing Competition was given to 1st position Sumiran Chettri (Mangsari SS), the 2nd position was given to Sanit Tamang (Sawaligaon SS) and the 3rd position was awarded to Tanuja Chettri (Gelling SSS).

In College-Level Slogan Writing Competition the 1st position was given to Pritam Karki, 2nd position was given to Saroj Limboo and 3rd position was given to Simon Manger (all from Sikkim Government Science College, Chakung).

In Block-Level Rangoli Competition the 1st position was secured by Soreng BAC, 2nd position was given to Chumbung BAC and 3rd position was given to Baiguney BAC.

The NCORD meeting

Sikkim marks milestone with first Organic Large Cardamom export consignment

Pakyong, November 17: The first certified organic consignment of large cardamom from Sikkim, produced by Sikkim IFFCO Organics Limited (SIOL), Agriculture Department, Government of Sikkim, was officially flagged off today by Mr Puran Gurung Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture Departments along with MLA-cum-Advisor Mr LB Das at the Integrated Processing Facility, Rangpo.

The milestone marks a significant step in promoting Sikkim's organic produce in national and international markets, while furthering efforts to support farmers, enhance export opportunities, and showcase the premium quality of Sikkim's large cardamom to the world.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Mr Puran Gurung, shed light on the various initiatives undertaken by the Department to strengthen and empower progressive farmers across the State. He stated that the successful dispatch of the first certified organic consignment of large cardamom, facilitated by Sikkim IFFCO Organics Limited (SIOL), marks a significant milestone in Sikkim's agricultural journey, opening new avenues for farmers in the international export market.

He added that this achievement reflects the State's expanding capability in premium organic produce and apprised that the export consignment would not only elevate the market value of large cardamom but also enhance the visibility of Sikkim's products on a global platform, thereby generating greater economic opportunities for local farmers, further emphasising the importance of involving the younger generation in agriculture, urging them to understand modern farming practices and explore agriculture as a sustainable source of livelihood.

Additionally, MLA-cum-Advisor commended the collaborative efforts of the Sikkim IFFCO Agriculture Department for successfully dispatching the first certified organic consignment of large cardamom from the State. He emphasised the need to enhance awareness at the grassroots level to ensure that progressive farmers fully benefit from such initiatives. He further assured to provide full support in uplifting the farming community and promoting the the state's agricultural productivity.

Dr S Anbalagan Managing Director, SIOL, highlighted that the export of Sikkim's organic large cardamom marks a moment of pride for the state and informed the that Sikkim IFFCO Organics

Limited (SIOL) has identified four major cash crops Ginger, Turmeric, Buckwheat and Large Cardamom for value addition, promotion and market expansion, to enhance productivity across Sikkim while empowering local farmers.

Likewise, Mr TT Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture Department, extended his congratulations and underscored that this milestone reflects broader achievements in the sphere of organic farming in Sikkim, noting that the initiative will not only benefit farmers but also elevate the global presence of the state's cash crops.

Mr Jigme Dorjee Bhutia, Secretary, Agriculture Department, highlighted that the primary objective of the initiative is to deliver high-quality certified organic products for export markets, further urging the stakeholders to widely disseminate information regarding the organisation's recent accomplishment to ensure maximum outreach and awareness.

Furthermore, Dr Pradeep Kumar, PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, Agriculture and Horticulture Department, IFS, emphasised on the long-term impacts and value of organic certification for cash crops. He stated that the initiative would benefit a large number of people and contribute to increased production. He informed on the commencement of the Watershed Mahotsav from November 11, celebrating community participation in sustainable watershed management.

Likewise, Mr RK Basnett Chairman, SIOL, shed light on the declining rate of large cardamom production over the years and mentioned that the new collaborative approach in marketing, branding and value chain development would offer more opportunities to the farmers and stakeholders, while encouraging the younger generation in the field of agriculture.

The ceremony also had the presence of Chairperson Agriculture Department, Chairperson Horticulture Department, Deputy Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Councillor, Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, Principal Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture Department; Additional Directors from Agriculture and Horticulture Department; DFO Social Forestry along with officers from various line departments, members from Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, stakeholders and farmers.

Review meeting of NCORD convened at DAC Soreng

Soreng, November 13: Monthly meeting of Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) was convened at District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng, which was chaired by Mr DR Bista ADM.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by SDM (Hq), who outlined the agenda and objectives of the session and provided an overview of the ongoing district-level initiatives under the NCORD framework.

During the proceedings, ADM reviewed and discussed the progress of various initiatives being implemented under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) and NCORD action plan. He highlighted the importance of collective and coordinated departmental efforts in strengthening awareness, outreach, and rehabilitation programme aimed at curbing substance abuse across the District.

The house held extensive discussions on awareness and outreach activities, including the Sarathi 1.0 initiative and its effective implementation at both educational institutions and grassroots level. Members reviewed the impact of several community-driven events such as Bike Rallies, Sarathi Run, Mass Pledge Ceremonies, Inter-School, Inter-Departmental, and Block-Level Competitions, which have played a crucial role in promoting

drug prevention and encouraging a healthy lifestyle among the youth.

Students were shown visuals highlighting the initiatives undertaken, followed by interactive sessions to assess their understanding and participation. The Committee further informed that the existing suggestion boxes have been redesigned as Companion Boxes, intended to provide students with a safe and supportive medium to express their concerns and seek help when needed.

The Committee also deliberated on upcoming activities, including a skit competition under the Sarathi 1.0 campaign, aimed at further enhancing public engagement and community awareness. Departmental representatives presented updates on their respective activities, shared ground-level experiences and offered constructive suggestions focusing on awareness creation, rehabilitation measures and strengthening community participation in combating drug abuse.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of Sarathi 1.0 volunteers and workers, whose extensive outreach and awareness campaigns have made a significant impact throughout the district.

Government of Sikkim
Department of AYUSH, Gangtok Sikkim

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

Dated:17/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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

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

i) Publishing of e-tender bid

26/11/2025

ii) Online bid submission start date

27/11/2025

iii) Pre-Bid Meeting date

05/12/2025

iv) Bid submission closing date

03/01/2026

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

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

vi) Bid Opening Date

06/01/2026 (after 2pm)

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

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

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

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

I. Earnest Money in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt/Fixed Deposit Receipt in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer/ Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.

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

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

IV. If the hard copies of above documents are not received within the specified time as indicated above, the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered as non-responsive and shall not be evaluated.

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

5. Uploading of tender documents in e-portal is mandatory.

Submission of hard copies only will not be considered as a valid bid and shall summarily be rejected.

Addl. Chief Engineer (Civil)

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Sikkim

(171, iii)

Government of Sikkim
Department of AYUSH, Gangtok Sikkim

NIT No. 163 /NIT/2025-26

Dated: 3/11/25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

(Amount in ₹)					
SI No	Name of work	Value put to tender Exclusive of taxes	Completion Time, (in months)	Earnest Money in form of TDR/FDR @2.50%	Bank Receipt/Challan for cost of tender documents (₹)
1	Construction of 30 Bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital, near Wellness Park, Gangtok District, Sikkim	16,98,24,486.00	24 months	42,45,612.00	3,00,000.00

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

i) Publishing of e-tender bid: 05/11/2025

ii) Online bid submission start date: 06/11/2025

iii) Pre-Bid Meeting date: 07/11/2025

iv) Bid submission closing date: 05/12/2025

v) Bid opening date: 06/12/2025 (after 2pm)

vi) Submission of hard copies of challan/ TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents: 06/12/2025 (10am to 2pm)

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

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

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

3. The following document in hard copies must be submitted on 06/12/2025 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

I. Earnest Money in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt/Fixed Deposit Receipt in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer/ Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.

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

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

IV. If the hard copies of above documents are not received within the specified time as indicated above, the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered as non-responsive and shall not be evaluated.

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

5. Uploading of tender documents in e-portal is mandatory.

Submission of hard copies only will not be considered as a valid bid and shall summarily be rejected.

Chief Engineer (Civil)

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Sikkim

(167, i)

Government of Sikkim
Public Health Engineering Department, Gangtok-737101

No:2(558)WS&PHE/1104

Dated: 16/10/2025

NOTICE

Shri. Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Office Attendant, Public Health Engineering Department is absenting himself from his duty w.e.f. 18.07.2025 without any information & leave application.

Therefore, a NOTICE is hereby issued directing him to report to the undersigned within 20 days of the publication of this NOTICE failing which action will be initiated against him as per relevant rules.

All the family members, friends and well wishers of Shri. Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Office Attendant, Public Health Engineering Department are requested to inform him.

Deputy Secretary

Public Health Engineering Department

Government of Sikkim

(157, ii)

Training on AI Tools for Mangan District officials concludes

Mangan, November 13: The valedictory session of the One-Day Training for Government Officials on AI Tools for DPR (Detailed Project Report) Preparation for Batch-II was successfully conducted today at the District Administrative Centre, Mangan, today. The programme was jointly organized by Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology (SSCS&T) under Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of Sikkim and District Administration, Mangan.

The training was conceptualized under the visionary guidance of Dr. Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, with the objective of empowering government officials with digital skills and introducing AI-based solutions for effective governance.

The valedictory programme

was graced by Dr Sonam R Lepcha ADC (Dev), Mangan and Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan.

ADC (Dev) in his brief address appreciated the Department of Science and Technology for organising such an innovative and practical training programme to strengthen digital governance capabilities among officials.

Likewise, the SDM interacted with the participants and obtained their feedback on the training. The officials shared that the session had greatly enhanced their understanding of AI tools and their applicability in streamlining DPR preparation and improving administrative efficiency.

During the interaction, Dr. Prativa Rai Assistant Scientific Officer, briefed the dignitaries on the objectives and key highlights of the training. She elaborated on how the session provided hands-on exposure to Artificial

Intelligence-based tools for DPR preparation, project formulation and data-driven decision-making.

The technical sessions were facilitated by Dr. Prativa Rai as Master Resource Person, assisted by Assistant Scientific Officer (Team Coordinator) Mr Nabeen Sharma along with Mr Niraj Sharma, Mr Kishore Sharma and Mr Ujal Gautam as Technical Resource Persons from Department of Science and Technology.

After the training, certificates were distributed to the participating officials.

The event reaffirmed the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology's commitment to fostering digital literacy, promoting innovation and integrating Artificial Intelligence in governance under the theme "Smart Proposals, Smarter Governance".

Gyalshing District convenes meeting on PMDDKY

Gyalshing, November 13: The first meeting on the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) was held at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Centre, Gyalshing, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa, DC, Gyalshing-Cum- Chairman, PMDDKY. He was accompanied by ADC (Development), Additional Director Agriculture/ Horticulture Departments, Joint Director Cooperation Department, Deputy Director Agriculture Department, DPO(Zilla), ALM-DD(NABARD), along with Bank Heads and officers from various line departments.

DC Gyalshing emphasised the importance of collaborative planning and timely implementation of the PMDDKY to strengthen the agricultural sector at the grassroots level. He encouraged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure that Gyalshing District

emerges among the top three districts in the country under the scheme's performance parameters. He further extended his appreciation to all departments for their proactive participation and assured continued administrative support for the effective realization of the scheme's objectives.

Addressing the gathering, Additional Director, Agriculture/ Horticulture Departments, elaborated on the Scheme Implementation Strategy for effective execution at the district level. He outlined the key components of the scheme, which include convergence of schemes: integration of various schemes across Ministries to ensure coordinated planning and optimal resource utilization.

Preparation of District Plans: Identification of factors contributing to low productivity and formulation of targeted agricultural interventions.

Mentoring and

Partnerships: Collaboration with technical institutions such as ICAR and SAUs, as well as private sector partners, to provide expert guidance and promote innovation. Monitoring and Review: Regular evaluation by Central Nodal Officers (CNOs) and District Committees through a dedicated digital dashboard to track progress and outcomes. National-Level Oversight: Two national committees will oversee key performance indicators for the 100 selected districts under the PMDDKY framework.

During the meeting, Deputy Director (Agriculture), briefed the house on the objectives and implementation framework of the scheme. He informed that the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 with the primary aim of transforming the agricultural sector through a multi-dimensional and technology-driven approach.

Awareness and sensitisation programme on Cybersecurity under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

Pakyong, November 13: The Department of Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare, Pakyong District, conducted an awareness and sensitisation programme for the students of Pachey Senior Secondary School on the theme "Tech-based Self-defence." The programme was held under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at the DDMA Hall, DAC Pakyong, today.

The main objective of the event was to inform students about online safety, cyber threats, and methods to protect themselves from online harassment.

During the programme, Deputy Director-cum-Social Welfare Officer, spoke about digital literacy and explained the

goals of the BBBP scheme. She discussed the importance of creating awareness among students, especially girls, to stay safe in the online space.

Assistant Director, Information Technology Department, served as the resource person for the awareness and sensitisation programme. He gave a session on various aspects of cybersecurity and explained different types of cybercrimes such as identity theft, social media-related attacks, online banking fraud, psychological manipulation, threats through mobile applications and virus and malware attacks on computers.

He also demonstrated the use of the online platform "Have I Been Pwned" to check email breach history and explained how

individuals can secure personal data.

Students were informed about the process of reporting cyber incidents through the nearest police station, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>), the helpline number 1930 for immediate support

The session concluded with an open discussion where students asked questions and shared their opinions on cybersecurity issues.

The programme focused on building awareness and a basic understanding of cybersecurity and reporting mechanisms, encouraging students to use digital platforms responsibly and securely.

NCPCR holds State-Level Conference on Child Rights issues

Gangtok, November 13: National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) organised a one day state level conference on key child rights issues in collaboration with Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department, at Chintan Bhavan today.

Secretary, Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department, Ms Normit Lepcha, in her address, highlighted that the Judiciary has shown keen interest in monitoring and ensuring compliance with issues related to child rights and protection.

Acknowledging the presence of participants actively engaged in the field of child rights, she noted that the state continues to face several challenges requiring constant attention and collaborative efforts.

She expressed that the technical session during the programme would greatly benefit all participants, empowering them with valuable knowledge and insights to further strengthen their efforts in ensuring the rights, safety, and well-being of children.

Furthermore, Ms Deepa Khatri Chairperson, Sikkim SCPCR, expressed her gratitude to the NCPCR for organising the programme in Sikkim this year.

She noted that Sikkim has not faced challenges as severe as in many other parts of the country, owing to the government's prompt and effective action in matters related to child rights. Issues such as child labour and sexual offences against children have always been treated with utmost priority, ensuring that such concerns are resolved efficiently and do not escalate further.

Earlier, the Ms Manisha Cintury Joint Secretary-cum-Programme Manager, Women, Child, Senior Citizen & Divyangjan Welfare Department, delivered the welcome address, extending a warm welcome to all the senior officials and dignitaries present at the programme.

Subsequently, addressing the programme, Mr Paresh Shah Senior Technical Expert- Division

Head, Juvenile Justice, Law relating children, North East and Special Cells of NCPCR, elaborated that NCPCR was established in March 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. It is a statutory body that was set up to protect and promote child rights in India.

Similarly, he underscored a few initiatives undertaken by the NCPCR. The Commission constantly strives to leverage advanced technological tools to make its work more transparent, efficient, and child-centered.

The NCPCR in collaboration with the Education Department and other stakeholders, has been addressing critical issues in the education sector. They are organizing state-level workshops on education, juvenile justice, and the protection of children from sexual offences, ensuring that these conversations lead to concrete action.

During the programme, a technical session was held where various speakers presented and discussed various impactful topics.

DCPO, Namchi, and DCPO, Mangan, respectively, spoke on the topic, 'Issues and Gaps in Implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012.'

Similarly, Mr Paresh Shah JJ, LRC, NE and Special Cells of NCPCR, gave a presentation on the topic 'Safety & Security of Children in School.'

Furthermore, Ms Chezum Lepcha, and Mr Paresh Shah, Deputy SP, AHTU put forth issues related to prevention of child trafficking.

Thereafter, an open house discussion was held on challenges faced by the line department with regard to the topics presented, under the supervision of the NCPCR.

The conference also saw the attendance of Mr Tushar G Nikhare DC Gangtok along with officials from the Sikkim Police, State Commission and Education Department.

DAC Gyalshing observes Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

Gyalshing, November 15: District Administration Gyalshing, observed Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas today in honour of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the sacrifices of tribal heroes who played a pivotal role in India's freedom struggle.

The year 2025 also marks the culmination of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, being commemorated across the nation through various programmes.

A solemn floral tribute ceremony was held at the Conference Hall, DAC Rabdentse today. The event was attended by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa, DC-cum-District Magistrate, along with Heads of Offices of various departments functioning within the DAC premises.

The programme began with the offering of khadas and garlands to the portrait of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, followed by a brief reflection on his legacy as a revered tribal freedom fighter and social reformer.

Mr Roshan Sharma Welfare Officer, Social welfare Department Gyalshing emphasised the importance of remembering and honouring the contributions of tribal leaders who laid the foundation for social justice, cultural identity and resistance against colonial rule. The observance concluded with the attendees paying their respects, marking the district's continued effort to honouring the legacy and cultural contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in spirit and practice.

13th International Tourism Mart highlights Northeast’s cultural integrity

Gangtok, November 14:13th International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the North East Region commenced at Sikkim Armed Police Ground, Pangthang, today drawing together delegates from all eight Northeastern states. This event is among India’s foremost platforms for regional tourism promotion, which has placed Gangtok at the heart of national attention.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Mr Pema Khandu Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh; Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Mr PD Sona Minister of Tourism, Government of Arunachal Pradesh; Mr Ranjeet Kumar Dass Minister of Tourism, Government of Assam; Dr Indra Hang Subba MP Lok Sabha and Ms V Vidyavathi Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

The evening opened with the vibrant Northeast Bazaar, where dignitaries explored stalls showcasing indigenous crafts, traditional weaves, herbal products and cultural artefacts. The exhibition set a festive tone, highlighting the cultural diversity and entrepreneurial strength that define the region. This was followed by a ceremonial lamp-lighting, symbolising renewed regional cooperation and a shared vision for establishing the Northeast as a world-class tourism destination.

Addressing the gathering, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Mr Pema Khandu described it as a proud moment for the region and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism for its visionary initiative. He encouraged stakeholders to fully utilise the opportunities offered by the ITM, noting that thematic discussions would pave the way for future collaborations.

Referring to Northeast as a mosaic of cultures, identities and landscapes, he highlighted the region’s immense untapped potential. He said tourism stands as a unifying force for the Northeast, calling for policies that

encourage innovation and sustainability. Acknowledging the transformation of the region under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, he cited major improvements in connectivity and infrastructure brought about initiatives such as UDAN, Border Tourism, Vibrant Villages and Digital India.

He expressed optimism that ITM would attract increased investment into the region and recognised the efforts of Northeastern states in positioning it as a global tourism hub. Citing Arunachal Pradesh’s upcoming Frontier Highway, he emphasised the importance of enhanced mobility and inter-state connectivity for tourism growth. He further urged states to collectively focus on sustainable tourism, convergence planning and youth upskilling to achieve shared regional aspirations.

In her welcome address, Ms V Vidyavathi Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India emphasised the rising global appeal of the Northeast and reaffirmed the Ministry’s commitment to enhancing accessibility, strengthening infrastructure and promoting sustainable tourism frameworks to unlock the region’s vast potential.

Additionally, Mr Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Union Minister of Tourism and Culture addressed the gathering via video message. He said the Northeast is not merely a region but an emotion rooted in natural beauty and spiritual heritage. Calling Sikkim a land “where Nature smiles,” he highlighted the cultural richness, festivals, homestays and spiritual traditions that are driving local entrepreneurship and generating livelihoods. He underscored that under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, the region has seen significant progress in highways, railways, digital connectivity and tourism infrastructure. Stressing sustainability, he called for plastic-free initiatives, community involvement and eco-friendly travel, expressing confidence that

the ITM would open new markets and opportunities for the region.

Sikkim’s Minister for Tourism Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, described ITM as a celebration of unity and a platform to project the Northeast as a globally sought-after destination. Speaking of Sikkim’s exceptional biodiversity home to nearly 26% of the world’s floral species he said the state has consistently upheld sustainable tourism practices and warm hospitality.

He highlighted the State Government’s initiatives to promote rural tourism and emerging tourism hotspots under the Chief Minister’s vision. Citing major connectivity projects such as the Bhaleydhunga Skywalk, the upcoming railway line and the Burtuk heliport, he said that improved access will significantly boost Sikkim’s tourism prospects. He sought central support for an all-weather highway along NH-10 to ensure uninterrupted connectivity for the State.

Calling the Northeast a land of pristine beauty and rich culture, he said the region is undergoing a transformative journey and ITM serves as a pivotal platform for elevating its global presence.

Delegates were later treated to a grand cultural showcase reflecting the rhythms, colours and traditions of Sikkim, followed by a dinner reception that fostered interaction and collaboration.

Also present at the event were Mr R Telang Chief Secretary; Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Mr Suman Billa Additional Secretary and Director General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; Mr Neeraj Pradhan Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department; Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary Tourism & Civil Aviation Department; Mr Binod Sharma Principal Director Tourism & Civil Aviation Department along with senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism, the Government of Sikkim and the Northeastern states.

Justice stressed the need to ensure that marginalised communities have equal access to justice, emphasising the judiciary’s commitment.

A comprehensive technical report on the upcoming District Court complex in Soreng was presented by Ms Asha Gurung Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary Buildings and Housing Department. She also informed that the infrastructure will be developed on 2.6 acres of land along with all necessary facilities planned within the project.

The new District Court complex, Soreng, will span 2.6 acres and cover 1, 13,952 square foot of built up area. The facilities will include the District Court building, an annexe block, existing CJM court complex, proposed District and Sessions Judge’s bungalow, the existing bungalow, as well as proposed residential

quarters for the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) and Judicial Magistrate (JM).

Also present at the ceremony were Madam Madhumati Somadder, Mr Aditya Golay MLA (Soreng-Chakung), Mr Madan Cintury MLA (Salghari-Zoom), Former Judges, High Court of Sikkim, Mr Justice AP Subba and Mr Justice Sonam Pintso Wangdi, Presidents and members of BAR Association, Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyaksha (Soreng), Upadhyaksha (Soreng), Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, Secretaries, DC (Soreng), SP (Soreng), OSDs, ADCs, SDMs, BDOs, Head of Departments, Head of Offices, officers, officials and students.

The ceremony concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

Press Meet for 13th International Tourism Mart

Gangtok, November 14: A press meet for the 13th International Tourism Mart for the North East Region was held at a hotel in Pangthang, today.

Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Mr Pema Khandu, Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation and Commerce and Industries Department, Mr PD Sona Minister of Tourism Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr Ranjeet Kumar Dass Minister of Tourism Government of Assam, Dr Indra Hang Subba MP Lok Sabha and Ms V Vidyavathi Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Government of India attended the meet.

Chief Minister in his address said that this is the second time Sikkim is hosting the International Tourism Mart. He said that the North East Region possesses cultural diversity in its own unique way and requires a common platform to showcase its strengths. He said that the Mart has created scope for the States to showcase their tourism potential to wider audiences and to build networks with stakeholders from India and abroad.

He added that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi the North Eastern States were expanding their role in the tourism sector and informed that the growth of local enterprise and the increase in visitor flow had contributed to the local economy. He added that the presence of hotel chains and the participation of international and domestic guests would support economic activity and benefit all North Eastern States.

He emphasised that hosting the 13th International Tourism Mart held importance for Sikkim and strengthened State’s engagement with the tourism networks of North East Region. He articulated that Sikkim continues its efforts to preserve culture and promote tourism in a sustainable manner through community involvement and coordinated planning and highlighted that the Mart has created a platform for the North Eastern States and stakeholders to exchange ideas on tourism management and outreach.

Further, he underscored that the event also focused on eco-

conservation and Sikkim’s role in national tourism.

Dr Indra Hang Subba MP Lok Sabha spoke on connectivity issues in Sikkim and the steps being taken to address them and referred to projects sanctioned under NHIDCL and the Railways and said connectivity issues would be resolved once the sanctioned works were completed.

Ms V Vidyavathi Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, expressed gratitude for being part of the 13th International Tourism Mart in Sikkim. She briefed that the event was organised by the Ministry of Tourism and hosted by the Government of Sikkim and added that the International Tourism Mart is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

She added that Sikkim is endowed with rich natural features such as diverse flora, fauna and the Khanchendzonga range. The Mart aims to bring business to the region. She added that the event has seen participation from 39 international travel stakeholders from 19 countries and about 90 domestic tour operators from across India. She further informed that the programme includes panel discussions, B2B engagements and sessions on homestays.

Also present during the meet were Mr R Telang Chief Secretary Government of Sikkim, Mr C S Rao Additional Chief Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Government of Sikkim, Mr Suman Billa Additional Secretary and Director General Ministry of Tourism Government of India, Mr Neeraj Pradhan Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Government of Sikkim, Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Government of Sikkim, Mr Binod Sharma Principal Director Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Government of Sikkim and senior officials from the Ministry of Tourism Government of India, State Government and North Eastern Region.

The press meet concluded with an interactive session with local and national media representatives.

Contd. from front page

Foundation stone...

Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim underscored the importance of the three pillars of the Constitution while addressing the gathering. He mentioned the India Justice Report (IJR) prepared by the Tata Trusts, noting with pride that Sikkim continues to lead among India’s small states in justice delivery system. Speaking about the state’s judicial system, he commended the strong support and cooperation extended by the State Government. He further acknowledged the progress made in judicial infrastructure across the state and expressed gratitude to the Government and all other stakeholders involved in strengthening the system. Concluding his address, Chief

Justice stressed the need to ensure that marginalised communities have equal access to justice, emphasising the judiciary’s commitment.

A comprehensive technical report on the upcoming District Court complex in Soreng was presented by Ms Asha Gurung Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary Buildings and Housing Department. She also informed that the infrastructure will be developed on 2.6 acres of land along with all necessary facilities planned within the project.

The new District Court complex, Soreng, will span 2.6 acres and cover 1, 13,952 square foot of built up area. The facilities will include the District Court building, an annexe block, existing CJM court complex, proposed District and Sessions Judge’s bungalow, the existing bungalow, as well as proposed residential

quarters for the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) and Judicial Magistrate (JM).

Also present at the ceremony were Madam Madhumati Somadder, Mr Aditya Golay MLA (Soreng-Chakung), Mr Madan Cintury MLA (Salghari-Zoom), Former Judges, High Court of Sikkim, Mr Justice AP Subba and Mr Justice Sonam Pintso Wangdi, Presidents and members of BAR Association, Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyaksha (Soreng), Upadhyaksha (Soreng), Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, Secretaries, DC (Soreng), SP (Soreng), OSDs, ADCs, SDMs, BDOs, Head of Departments, Head of Offices, officers, officials and students.

The ceremony concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

Contd. from front page

Sikkim Fish...

will feature exhibition-cum-sale stalls set up by progressive fish farmers, self-help groups, and entrepreneurs from all six districts of Sikkim. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience and purchase freshly harvested rainbow trout, smoked and dried fish products, fish pickles and other processed varieties unique to the State. Live cooking counters featuring trout-based delicacies will also be set up to introduce consumers to the taste and versatility of Sikkim’s trout.

The Sikkim Fish Festival

2025 will not only promote Sikkim’s aquaculture potential but also serve as a marketing and branding platform to enhance consumer awareness about the purity and freshness of Himalayan fish. It is expected to attract visitors from Siliguri and adjoining regions of North Bengal, thereby expanding market linkages and promoting cross-border trade in fish products.

The Fisheries Department expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his continued guidance and support towards strengthening Sikkim’s fisheries sector and unveiling the banner, symbolising the official launch of the promotional campaign for the event.

Namchi DDMA conducts multi-hazard mock exercise to enhance disaster preparedness

Namchi, November 17: Namchi District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in coordination with the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) under the aegis of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), carried out a large-scale mock exercise to assess preparedness for multi-hazard scenarios across Namchi, Ravangla, Namthang, Yangang, and Jorethang, today.

The mock drill was conducted under the supervision of Ms Anupa Tamling, District Magistrate also the Responsible Officer (Namchi), supported by Mr Subash Ghimiray Incident Commander / ADC Namchi, Mr Karma Gyamtso Bhutia Operations Chief/SSP Namchi, Ms Tirsang Tamang Planning Chief / ADC, Ms Benita Rai Logistics Chief/Accounts Officer and Nodal officers from various Departments.

The exercise was also attended by DIG Namchi Range and Deputy Commandant from the

SSB, who served as Chief Observers for Namchi District.

To initiate the exercise, a 7.2-magnitude earthquake with its epicentre 15 km from Ravangla was simulated. An emergency siren was sounded to alert the public.

The RO/DC and district officials assembled at the District Control Room established at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC). From there, they coordinated damage assessment and oversaw rescue operations led by the respective Incident Commanders in each area.

The daytime scenarios were enacted at multiple locations, including: Central Park residential area, Namchi District Hospital, Navodaya Vidyalaya, Ravangla, Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat Building, Alkem Pvt. Ltd, Mamring and other identified vulnerable zones. Medical Response at Namchi District Hospital; Stampede and Rescue Operation at Central Park; Building Collapse at Navodaya Vidyalaya,

Ravangla; Landslide and Road Blockage at Ravangla; Road Obstruction at Yangang; Chemical Spill at Alkem Pvt. Ltd, Mamring and Fire Incident at Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat Building.

Later, DM/RO (Namchi) along with district officials, participated in a debriefing session conducted by SSDMA, Gangtok. She presented a comprehensive report on the rescue and relief efforts and offered suggestions to further strengthen the district's disaster response capacity. It is to be noted that a night-based disaster scenario will also be conducted by the DDMA.

The primary aim of the mock drill is to enhance coordinated decision-making among district authorities, emergency responders, and stakeholders, while minimising loss of life and property in alignment with the Incident Response System (IRS) under NDMA guidelines.

DDMA Soreng participates in State Level Mock Exercise to strengthen disaster preparedness

Soreng, November 17: To enhance disaster preparedness, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in collaboration with the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India successfully conducted a comprehensive District-Level Multi-Scenario Mock drill, simulating ten high-intensity disaster situations occurring across different locations of the district, today.

The aim of the drill was to assess the preparedness, coordination and real-time response of line departments, frontline responders and community groups during simultaneous disaster scenarios. The exercise involved SDRF, Police, Fire Services, PWD, Forest, Health, IRBn, SSB, QRTs, Aapda Mitras, NGOs, Panchayats and local volunteers, all operating under the unified command of designated Site Incident Commanders.

The drill was monitored by District Emergency Operation

Centre (DEOC) headed by the Responsible Officer Mr Dhiraj Subedi and carried out in accordance with the Incident Response System (IRS) guidelines.

As per the exercise, real-time disaster simulations were initiated at various locations comprising of scenarios such as;

Major Landslide at Zoom, uprooting of trees and road blockage at Soreng-Zoom Road, fire incident at Singling Petrol Pump, fire outbreak at Old BAC Building, partial section of DAC Building collapses (day and night scenario), partial dam collapse at DANS & Energy Pvt. Ltd, bridge collapse at NTPC Budang, partial collapse of Soreng Police Station (Night Scenario), electrocution and collapse of under-construction Haat Ghar, Mangalbaria Bazaar.

Following the mock drill, Responsible Officer-cum-DM along with the Incident Response Team (IRT) of Soreng district, participated in a debriefing session held through video conference conducted by the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA).

During the session, the

SSDMA sought feedback from all Responsible Officers. In his remarks, the Responsible Officer Soreng Mr Dhiraj Subedi elaborated on the experiences and challenges encountered throughout the mock drill. He highlighted that the coordination and performance of the IRT during the exercise were acknowledged. The Responsible Officer further proposed the inclusion of drone technology to assist in assessing damages and identifying casualties more efficiently during real disaster situations.

The SSDMA reiterated that the primary objective of conducting such mock drills is to strengthen the capacity of districts to effectively respond to emergency scenarios in the future.

Additionally, the Responsible Officer along with the Incident Response Team (IRT), engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding the site-wise challenges highlighted by the respective Site Incident Commanders, presented by the Incident Commander-cum-ADC (I) Mr DR Bista.

72nd All India Cooperative Week Celebration held in Gangtok

Gangtok, November 14: Cooperation Department observed the 72nd All India Cooperative Week at Community Hall, Deorali with Mr Arun Upreti Minister for Cooperation Department graced the celebration as the chief guest.

The programme commenced at Sahakari Bhawan Complex, Tadong, where chief guest hoisted the Cooperative Flag. This was followed by a rally from Tadong to Community Hall, Deorali, joined by Ms Jabi Thapa Secretary, Cooperation Department, along with Advisor, Chairperson and OSD of the Department, reaffirming collective support for the cooperative movement.

In his address, the Minister, stressed the vision of Atmanirbhar Sahakari Andolan, calling for a societal shift towards cooperative-led development. He highlighted the farsighted leadership of Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, under whose guidance cooperatives across farming, dairy, skill development, and rural-urban sectors have been revitalised. He reiterated the State Government's commitment to strengthening cooperatives in every district through dedicated Cooperative Bhawans that provide training platforms, schemes, and grassroots interventions. He also emphasised the crucial role of youth and women in shaping the future of cooperatives.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Shyam Pradhan Advisor, Cooperation Department, underlined the importance of unity, cooperation, and the challenges faced by farmers and cooperative societies.

Ms Bidya Bishwakarma Chairperson, Cooperation Department, highlighted the nationwide resurgence of the cooperative sector under the leadership of the Prime Minister and expressed gratitude to the

Chief Minister for the development in the sector and to Mr Amit Shah Union Home Minister, for boosting cooperative initiatives.

Ms Jabi Thapa Secretary, Cooperation Department, outlined the progress of the Department, achievements under E-Pax, and thanked the State Government for continuous support through schemes, subsidies, and grants benefiting MPSC and the Department. She also informed that the wrap-up programme for the International Year of Cooperatives will be held soon, and added that SICUN is also celebrating Cooperative Week in other districts and further acknowledged the support and guidance of the Minister.

Also present were Advisor Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union, Chairman, Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union, Vice Chairman, Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union, Chairman, Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Ltd., Advisor, SIMFED, Chairperson, Sikkim Consumer Cooperative Society, Secretary, Fisheries Department, OSD, officers and officials from the Cooperation Department.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Regional Awards for Cooperative Excellence and Merit to ten cooperative societies across various categories, recognising outstanding contributions to strengthening cooperative values and community development. The Denzong Awards for winners of the Inter Senior Secondary School Essay Competition conducted by Agriculture Cooperative Society Limited under the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025 were also presented by the chief guest.

Press Release on District Planning Committee meeting

Soreng, November 18: The District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting of Soreng was held at the Conference Hall of the Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, chaired by Zilla Adhakshya in the presence of Upadhakshya, Zilla Panchayat Members and officials.

The meeting was convened following the receipt of the 1st and 2nd quarter grants under the 6th State Finance Commission to review and approve the Annual Development Plans of the Zilla Panchayat Members for the financial year 2025-2026.

DPO, highlighted the agenda of the meeting and stressed the importance of collaborative and coordinated efforts.

Zilla Adhakshya underscored the need for enhanced coordination among members and officers to ensure the effective implementation of development projects emphasising transparency, quality, and people

centric governance.

Assistant Engineer presented a brief report on the recent partition and remodeling of Zilla Members' offices to which members expressed their appreciation. The members also deliberated on strategies for mobilizing district resources and generating own revenue through the development of local assets, highlighting this initiative as a key requirement for long term sustainable development.

Following comprehensive discussions, the Annual Development Plans were unanimously approved marking a significant milestone in the district's developmental journey.

The DPC reaffirmed its commitment to coordinated, inclusive and sustainable development guided by the vision and encouragement of the Chief Minister and the leadership of Zilla Adhakshya.

NABARD Sikkim and SISCO Bank Host Cooperative Conclave

Gangtok, November 18: Cooperative Conclave commemorating the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 themed Cooperatives Build a Better World was organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Sikkim Regional Office, Gangtok, in collaboration with SISCO Bank, at a local hotel, today.

The programme had Mr Arun Kumar Upreti Minister, Cooperation Department, as the Chief Guest along with Mr Ajay Kumar Sinha General Manager, NABARD.

In his address, Minister, underscored the objective of the conclave, which is to bring all

cooperative stakeholders under one roof. Appreciating NABARD's contributions, he stated that the conclave provides a platform for ideas that will further reinforce the cooperative ecosystem in the State.

General Manager, NABARD emphasised that the event aims to strengthen community-driven cooperative movement. Highlighting the role of cooperatives in empowering households and fostering inclusive growth across the State, he stated that true development is possible only when people remain at the centre of progress.

In his remarks, Managing Director, Sikkim Milk Union,

presented an overview of the Union's functioning. He informed that more than 540 village-level cooperatives are affiliated with the Union and reported a significant rise in production and turnover.

The Chief Guest then handed over micro ATMs to various Dairy Cooperative Societies. The event also featured exhibition stalls set up by different cooperative societies, including Ralong Dairy Cooperative Society, Samdung Dairy Cooperative Society, Regu FFPO, SRK FFPO, SMU, SIMFED, SISCO, Sirwani MPACS/ VDKV, Nandok MPACS/ VDKV Samdong Kambal MPACS/ VDKV, PACS.

13th International Tourism Mart concludes

Gangtok, November 15: 13th International Tourism Mart (ITM) for the Northeast Region concluded with a cultural extravaganza at the Sikkim Armed Police Ground, Pangthang, marking the end of a three-day celebration of tourism, culture and regional collaboration.

The closing ceremony was attended by Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, along with Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor.

A key highlight of the evening was the felicitation of representatives from all eight Northeastern states; Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram for their presentations delivered during an earlier session of the Mart. Those felicitated included:

- Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim, Mr CS Rao.

- Arunachal Pradesh Director Tourism and Special Secretary Land Management, Ms

Yashaswini B.

- Tripura Secretary, Tourism Department, Mr Uttam K Chakma.

- Nagaland Secretary, Cabinet Cell and Tourism Department, Mr Nchumbemo Lotha.

- Manipur Joint Secretary Tourism, Ms Elangbam Sonia.

- Meghalaya Assistant Director, Tourism Department, Mr Philip F Tariang.

- Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Mr Diganta Barah.

- Deputy Director, Tourism Department, Government of Mizoram, Ms Rachel Lalrinhlui.

The evening featured a grand cultural showcase presented by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, with performances that highlighted the distinctive rhythms, colours and traditions of the Northeastern region. The programme celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the eight states, reflecting unity in diversity.

Mr Gyan Bhushan, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Tourism, expressed gratitude to all participants and stakeholders. He

stated that the Mart had been highly productive, with fruitful B2B interactions and valuable insights emerging from the sessions. He extended special thanks to the Government of Sikkim for its exemplary hospitality and seamless coordination, noting that the success of the ITM would not have been possible without the state's dedication and warmth.

Also present were Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Mr Neeraj Pradhan Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Ms Hondala Gyaltzen Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, along with senior officers from the Ministry of Tourism, the Government of India and the Government of Sikkim.

The event also witnessed participation from officials of the Ministry of Tourism, representatives of Tourism Departments from all eight Northeastern states, industry partners and invited delegates.

Gangtok District gears up for second District-Level Ekta Padyatra

Gangtok, November 13: A coordination meeting was convened at DAC Gangtok to discuss the preparations for the upcoming second district-level 'Ekta Padyatra' event to be held under the direction of the Government of India in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tshering Norgyal Theengh Additional District Magistrate (Hq) Gangtok and attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Hq) Gangtok, along with officials from various allied departments.

As part of this nationwide initiative, seven Padyatras are to be organised across the State. Accordingly, each district has been directed to constitute a District-Level Organising Committee to ensure effective coordination and

implementation in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Government of India. The committee will function as a collective platform involving the District Administration, Government departments, youth organisations, and educational institutions. It was emphasised that the initiative should not be viewed as the responsibility of a single department but as a collaborative effort reflecting the spirit of unity and participation.

The deliberations focused on the proposed route for the Padyatra, starting and culminating at designated points, along with associated activities such as cultural performances, band displays, talks highlighting the life and contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and the message of national integration. In addition,

youth icons and eminent personalities from the fields of sports, culture, and social service are expected to join as special guests to encourage wider public engagement. Suggestions were sought from the officials present to ensure the successful and meaningful execution of the event in alignment with the national framework.

The Education and Sports Departments have been entrusted with key roles in mobilising participation, particularly among students. Each district aims to ensure the active involvement of students and youth representatives from schools, colleges, and various organisations.

The Ekta Padyatra will be organised by My Bharat/NYKS in coordination with the District Administrative Centre, Gangtok.

Contd. from front page

Pari Prakashan...

importance of preserving and promoting the State's literary heritage.

In his welcome address, Mr C P Sharma, President, Pari Prakashan, elaborated on the organisation's journey and the work it has undertaken. He acknowledged the consistent support of the Chief Minister in promoting literature and expressed hope that students would continue to carry forward the literary tradition. He also outlined the sequence of events for the programme.

This was followed by the playing of the Pari Prakashan theme song.

Thereafter, the dignitaries

conferred the 2nd Pari Prakashan Awards to Mr Santosh Kumar Alley and Ms Deepa Rai.

In his address, Mr Santosh Kumar Alley expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition and reflected on his literary journey, emphasising the significance of language.

Ms Deepa Rai, in her address, extended her gratitude to the Chief Minister for his continued encouragement and highlighted various initiatives of the State Government to uplift art and literature.

Subsequently, Dr Uday Chettri presented an overview of a newly released guidebook for UPSC aspirants, written in Nepali. He explained that the book aims to assist candidates opting to write the exam in Nepali and aligns with the Chief Minister's vision of Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth

Sikkim.

Following this, the Chief Minister and Mr Saru Bhakta Shrestha released books authored by writers from Sikkim and felicitated the 13 contributors of the UPSC guidebook. The official Pari Prakashan website was also launched by the Chief Minister.

The Srijanshil Sahitya Lekhan Manch, Jorethang felicitated the Chief Minister, after which Dr Homnath Luitel, HoD, Physics Department, NBBDG College, was honoured for his contributions.

Also in attendance were literary personalities from various districts of the State and neighbouring State, members of Pari Prakashan, Soreng and students from different institutions.

Namchi marks National Unity Day

Namchi, November 15: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, a Padyatra (Unity March) followed by a formal programme was organised at Town Hall, Namchi, today.

The event was conducted by My Bharat Kendra under Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with the Namchi District Administration.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Satish Chandra Rai MLA -cum-Chairman (DACS) spoke on the significance of National Unity Day and reflected on the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the integration and unification of the nation.

He highlighted about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's enduring role in the freedom struggle and urged individuals to cultivate a sense of unity to collectively propel the State and the Nation towards progress.

The MLA also advocated for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, acknowledging the State Government's initiatives to maintain cleanliness and hygiene across the district. He stressed the importance of community participation in sustaining a clean environment, noting that improved cleanliness contributes to sustainable tourism and enhances revenue generation.

He concluded by expressing gratitude to all attendees and

commended My Bharat Kendra and the District Administration for successfully hosting an event that strengthened the spirit of unity among citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, APS (Namchi) Mr Bishnu Sharma reiterated that National Unity Day should not only honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's legacy but also serve as a reminder of unity, courage and shared responsibility in advancing the nation.

He called upon individuals to uphold harmony within and among communities, adding that the teachings of the Iron Man of India remain relevant in unifying society today.

In his concluding remarks, the APS highlighted the role of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in India's freedom struggle, describing him as a hero who dedicated his life to resisting injustice. He encouraged people to draw inspiration from Birsa Munda's courage and commitment to safeguarding society from atrocities.

As part of the celebration, a painting competition was held with participation from 13 students representing various schools in Namchi.

The programme was graced by the presence of Advisors, Panchayats, Councillors, Chairpersons, Sr SP Namchi, ADC Namchi, SDMs, Heads of Offices, BDOs, Police personnel, Ex-Servicemen, NCC, NSS, students and other distinguished guests.

Cooperative Week 2025 inaugurated

Namchi, November 14: 72nd All India Cooperative Week Celebration was inaugurated at Namchi Government College Auditorium by the Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN), in collaboration with the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Sikkim and Cooperation Department, Namchi District.

The programme opened with a tribute to mark 150 years of the National Song Vande Mataram. The chief guest, Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA stressed the importance of empowering youth to strengthen the cooperative movement, noting that digital literacy among young people can significantly enhance the sector's competitiveness. She acknowledged the support of the State Government in the growth of the cooperative sector and appreciated CRC and the Welfare Department for providing assistive devices to beneficiaries.

Dr Mangal Jit Rai Chairman SICUN highlighted that Cooperative Week will be observed from November 14 to 20 across all districts, aligning with the International Year of Cooperatives. He underscored the national theme 'Cooperatives as

Vehicles for Atmanirbhar Bharat' and reiterated SICUN's commitment to building a resilient cooperative ecosystem.

Ms Puspanjali Gupta CRC Director presented an overview of CRC's rehabilitation services and initiatives for Persons with Disabilities, emphasising the need for inter-departmental collaboration for inclusive progress.

Assistive devices to 550 Divyangjan and senior citizens of Namchi District were distributed. The aids included mobility devices, hearing aids, vision-support tools and other essential assistive equipment.

Mr Phadung Bhutia SICUN CEO, outlined the national and district-level themes for the week, focusing on cooperative governance and digital transformation. Mr Sidhant Rai ARCS Namchi, delivered the day's sub-theme on digitalisation and highlighted key achievements of cooperative societies in the district.

Messages from the Governor, Chief Minister and the Minister Cooperation Department were read out during the programme.

**READ & ADVERTISE
IN
SIKKIM HERALD**

Gangtok District Administration conducts multi-hazard disaster Mock Exercise

Gangtok, November 17: District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), under active supervision of Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) conducted a day-long, full-scale disaster mock exercise across Gangtok and Rabdang Sub-Division, today.

The extensive exercise, covering multiple strategic zones, aimed to reinforce emergency protocols, test communication systems and strengthen a district-wide culture of preparedness and resilience. Designed to replicate real-life situations most relevant to Gangtok and its surrounding regions, the mock drill focused on multi-hazard scenarios including earthquakes, landslides, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) emergencies, fires, evacuations and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

As per the exercise, the scenarios executed were Building Collapse due to Earthquake at Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School.

Earthquake and rescue at civic offices at Gangtok Municipal Corporation and the adjacent transport hub.

Residential Area Response: the Sai Organisation and NCC conducted evacuation drills in residential blocks at Vajra.

Urban Market Area Scenario (Lall Bazaar) wherein NDRF coordinated an evacuation of a high-rise building at Lall Bazaar.

Fire Emergency Events, the Fire Department led drills at Singtam Bazaar (commercial premises) and Deorali Petrol Pump.

CBRN Disaster at Glenmark Pharmaceuticals (Samlik Marchak, Ranipool), a hazardous material incident was staged at Glenmark

Pharmaceuticals.

Landslide Operations on Key Roadways at Sriwani Road, Tsomgo, and the 13th, 15th and 17th Mile stretches.

Relief Camp Deployment, a temporary relief camp was established at Paljor Stadium.

The staging area at Ridge Park and STNM premises at Singtam facilitated the coordinated mobilisation of earthmovers, SAR teams, ambulances, and paramedics. The Incident Command Post at MG Marg served as the central node for communications and inter-agency coordination. Incident Commanders at each site submitted preliminary reports outlining strengths such as rapid mobilisation, inter-departmental synergy, and proactive public cooperation.

Officials and volunteers from NDRF, SDRF, BRO, Fire and Emergency Services, Forest Department, CEO, Education, Police Department, Power Department, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Medical team from STNM, Manipal, CRH, Roads and Bridges Department, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, other officials and municipal stakeholders participated in direct action. Media and documentation teams ensured comprehensive coverage for post-event analysis.

Residents, students, traders, and local volunteers played an essential role, adding realism to the scenarios and reinforcing the importance of community-led preparedness and collective responsibility in disaster risk reduction.

Outcomes and

recommendations, the full-scale mock exercise reaffirmed Gangtok's growing capabilities in disaster response, resource mobilisation, and multi-agency coordination. Key recommendations include enhancing real-time data sharing, further refining evacuation maps for high-density zones, and increasing the frequency of specialised drills to ensure long-term readiness.

The entire operation was overseen by Lead Consultant (ME & IRS), NDMA, Major General Sudir Bahl (Retd), accompanied by Mr Ringzing Tshewang Bhutia Relief Commissioner-cum-Secretary Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Mr Tushar Nikhare District Magistrate Gangtok, Incident Commander, Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia ADC Gangtok and other district officials visited the incident site for inspection, assessing the operational efficiency, coordination among responding agencies and adherence to disaster response protocols during the mock exercise.

The successful execution of the multi-hazard disaster mock exercise reflects the district's unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives and strengthening resilience. By uniting agencies, institutions and the community under a shared preparedness framework, Gangtok continues to build a robust disaster management ecosystem, one that is proactive, coordinated, and capable of responding effectively to future emergencies.

It may be mentioned that a night-time multi-hazard evacuation mock drill was conducted in the district.

and attendants.

A fire incident at the NIC server room of DAC Rabdentse was also demonstrated.

The mock exercise assessed inter-agency communication, search and rescue efficiency, mass casualty management, relief camp activation, emergency medical response and overall functionality of the Incident Response System (IRS). Community hall, Gyalshing was designated as the main relief camp, where affected individuals from different incident sites were brought for immediate treatment. Adequate arrangements for food, drinking water, shelter, medical care and essential supplies were ensured.

Health and Welfare Department implemented a colour-coded triage system categorising casualties as Black (dead), Red (critical), Yellow (moderately injured) and Green (discharged after first aid).

Following the district-level mock exercise, the DC-cum-RO and concerned officials attended a virtual debriefing session conducted by SSDMA.

It may be mentioned that a night-time multi-hazard evacuation mock drill was conducted in the district.

State-Level Mock Drill on Earthquake and GLOF conducted across Pakyong District

Pakyong, November 17: A comprehensive State-level mock drill on Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and earthquake preparedness was carried out today across multiple locations in Pakyong District. The exercise was organised by Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

As part of the drill, a simulated 7.1 magnitude earthquake was staged, depicting extensive damage and disruption across the district. Immediately following the simulated quake, District Magistrate Pakyong-cum-Responsible Officer, Mr Rohan Agawane, activated the Immediate Response System (IRS) from the District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC) to coordinate district-wide emergency actions.

Thereafter, the staging area for the deployment of resources and personnel was set up at St Xavier's Ground, from where medical teams and response units were mobilised to various affected locations.

Mr Sangay Gyatso Bhutia, ADC Pakyong-cum-Incident Commander, led the overall Incident Command for Pakyong District, with the SDMs of Pakyong, Rongli, and Rangpo overseeing Sub-divisional operations. They coordinated efforts with teams comprising officials from various line departments, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Police personnel, Fire Services, ITBP along with volunteers from Sai Samiti.

Multiple scenarios were executed within Pakyong.

The first scenario, a landslide below Pakyong Airport, was reported, where three vehicles were shown buried.

The second scenario

involved damage to the Market Building (Haat Ghar).

The third scenario was reported at Dikling Senior Secondary School, where the school building was shown as damaged due to the earthquake.

The fourth scenario simulated the collapse of Aho-Yangtam Panchayat Bhawan due to a landslide.

At Rangpo, two scenarios were carried out.

The first scenario simulated damage to the Atal Bridge at IBM Rangpo due to a flash flood, resulting in blockage of NH-10 and 15 vehicles stranded.

The second scenario involved a fire incident at Indchemie Health Science, Kumrek, following a chemical spill, resulting in 02 injured persons.

Additional scenarios were conducted across Rongli and Rhenock Sub-Divisions.

At Rongli, a dam burst affected the school area and agricultural fields, resulting in 03 deaths and a total of 61 injured persons.

At Rhenock, a landslide occurred at Society BDO due to the earthquake.

A relief camp was set up at the Community Hall in Pakyong, as well as in other Subdivisions, providing comprehensive facilities and support for those affected.

The State-level mock drill aimed to enhance inter-departmental coordination, improve community preparedness, and strengthen Sikkim's resilience against natural disasters. Authorities stated that such exercises are crucial for refining response strategies, ensuring that frontline agencies remain vigilant and prepared for real-life emergencies.

It may be mentioned that a night-time multi-hazard evacuation mock drill was conducted in the district.

Namchi celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

Namchi, November 15: Commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, under the aegis of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada commenced from November 1 to 15, also the day for Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, a formal programme was organised by Social Welfare Department under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with District Administration Namchi at Town Hall Namchi, today.

The programme was graced by Mr Satish Chandra Rai MLA-cum-Chairman (DACS).

A key highlight of the occasion was the live broadcast of the address by Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi was screened.

Five outstanding Tribal Achievers from various tribes of Sikkim were felicitated during the event. Recognised for their contributions towards the

upliftment and empowerment of their communities, each achiever received a felicitation letter and financial assistance presented by the chief guest to Mr Ugen Palzor Bhutia-PRT, Government Senior Secondary School, Temi, Dr Dina Subba-Librarian, NBBDC, Tadong, Ms Nim Doma Sherpa-Florist, Jaubari, Namchi, Mr Sonam Dawa Lepcha - T u n g b u n g Instrumentalist, Kewzing, Mr Tenzing Tamang-Author of Tamang Manuscript, Upper Boomtar, Namchi.

Earlier, a Padyatra (Unity March) was flagged off by the chief guest. Councillors (NMC), APS to CM Namchi, Advisors, Chairpersons, OSD to MLA, Sr SP Namchi, ADC Namchi, SDMs, Heads of Offices, BDOs, officers from various line departments, police personnel, ex-servicemen, NSS and NCC volunteers, students, and members of the public participated in the march.

Gyalshing District conducts District-level Mock Exercise on multi-hazard disaster scenarios

Gyalshing, November 17: A comprehensive District-Level mock exercise on landslide, earthquake, fire outbreak and GLOF-related disaster scenarios was conducted across nine locations in Yuksom, Dentam and Gyalshing Subdivisions. The exercise was organised by District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Gyalshing in coordination with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India.

The exercise aimed at testing disaster preparedness, inter-departmental coordination and on-ground response capabilities of various line departments in managing simultaneous multi-hazard emergencies. It was carried out as per the guidelines of the Incident Response System (IRS) under NDMA to minimise potential loss of life and property.

The Mock Exercise was conducted under the supervision of Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa, Responsible Officer-cum-District Magistrate Gyalshing alongwith ADC Gyalshing/Incident Commander, SP Gyalshing-cum-Operation Section Chief, CMO/ Safety Officer, DPO (DDMA)/ Liaison Officer and all nodal

officers from various departments.

The drill commenced with the activation of emergency sirens at all identified points. The District Magistrate, along with the Incident Management Team, assembled at the District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC), Rabdentse, which was designated as the control room and functioned as the central hub for receiving field inputs, coordinating responding agencies, monitoring the evolving situation and facilitating timely action.

Thereafter, real-time disaster simulations were initiated at various locations: a landslide scenario was executed near Yuksom School. A fire outbreak simulation was conducted at the Tashiding Forest Office. At the SDM Office Dentam, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake scenario was created. A fire scenario caused by an electrical short circuit was also simulated at Dentam PHC and a large-scale landslide along Gyalshing-Sakyong Road. A major fire incident was enacted at a petrol pump near Upper Pelling.

At the District Hospital, Gyalshing, a simulated 7.2 magnitude earthquake caused partial roof collapse in the emergency and surgical blocks, trapping approximately 40 patients

Employees oriented on statutory safeguards under POSH Act and digital reporting via SHE-Box

Gangtok, November 15: Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department conducted an awareness and sensitisation programme for all officers and staff of the Information and Public Relations Department on POSH Act, 2013 (Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace-Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) and the She-Box (Sexual Harassment Electronic Box) Portal at the Conference Hall of IPR Department, today.

The resource persons were Mr Sushant Subba High Court Panel Advocate, Mr Nirmal Manger High Court Advocate

Research and Training Specialist, Mr Stephen Rai SHE Box Operator and Ms Bhawana Pradhan Gender Specialist (State Hub for Empowerment of Women).

During the session, various case-based scenarios related to the POSH Act were presented, followed by an interactive discussion on its implications across different workplace situations. The participants were also briefed on SHE-Box Portal, a dedicated and secure platform for reporting incidents of workplace harassment.

The initiative is being organised in compliance with the

directions of the Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 2482: Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa and Others, which calls for the strengthened implementation of POSH Act and enhanced awareness of the mechanisms available for prevention and redressal of sexual harassment at the workplace.

The programme aims to foster a safe and secure working environment and to familiarise employees with statutory frameworks, procedures and online redressal facilities provided under POSH Act and She-Box Portal.

Coordination Meeting for Super Car Rally in Sikkim

Gangtok, November 18: The first coordination meeting for the upcoming Super Car Rally, an event supported by the Black Cat Division under the aegis of Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army and the Government of Sikkim, was held at the mini hall of the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Gangtok today.

The joint meeting was co-chaired by Mr Tushar G Nikhare DC Gangtok, APS, Gangtok, and the representative of the Indian Army. Scheduled from 11 to 15 December, the rally will be flagged off from Sukna, West Bengal, before traversing through Siliguri, Gangtok, the Cho La Pass, Natu La, and Gnathang–Zuluk stretch. The route is designed to showcase Sikkim’s beauty, its border landscapes, and the state’s exceptional road infrastructure.

The rally, led by the Mumbai-based Super Car Route

group, will feature high-performance vehicles including Lamborghinis and Porsches. Organised as a self-funded and self-driven initiative, the event aims to position Sikkim as one of India’s most scenic and premier driving destinations.

The Trishakti Corps is supporting to promote Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan, an initiative developed by the Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism. The programme offers citizens immersive access to India’s iconic battlefields and military heritage. Among these is Cho La, a historic mountain pass standing at 5,420 metres (17,782 ft) and remembered for its role in the 1967 Indo-China skirmishes.

During the meeting, organisers sought administrative and logistical support on several fronts, which the DC assured,

would be facilitated. The APS also suggested integrating state government schemes into the rally’s digital promotion campaigns to further amplify outreach.

It was also highlighted that the entire event will be fully funded by the participating car owners, who will be bringing their own vehicles.

In his vote of thanks, OSD to HCM Mr Rewaj Chettri expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their cooperation and conveyed confidence that the rally would not only promote Sikkim but also generate positive visibility for the state’s highways and road networks.

The meeting also had the presence of SP Gangtok, OSD to HCM, Seed Cell President, officials, and representatives from Trishakti Corps, SAMSA, and Brothers.

Commemoration of Five Years of NMBA in Soreng

Soreng, November 18: In commemoration of the successful five-year journey of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a commemorative programme was jointly organised by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the District Administrative Centre (DAC), at the office of the ADM (I), today.

The programme was graced by the presence of the Mr TB Subba (Panchayat President) chief guest, the commencement of the programme in observing the five-year milestone of NMBA was formally introduced by felicitating the chief guest.

ADM (I) addressed the gathering and focused on the NMBA’s operational aspects and community commitment. He briefly acknowledged the invaluable contribution and active involvement of the Chief Guest and intimated the importance of taking the NMBA Pledge by

reviewing the positive impact and relevant statistics (stats, facts, and figures) available on the NMBA official portal. He also felicitated Police Personnel for their relentless efforts in combating drug abuse and mentioned the distribution of breath analysers (or similar equipment) to aid law enforcement.

Senior Welfare Officer (Social Welfare), delivered a comprehensive overview of the NMBA and highlighted the significant milestones achieved over the last five years. She detailed the reason for felicitating the Chief Guest, acknowledging his active and devoted service, and his continued active participation in social causes even after retirement. She also underscored the critical importance of the Abhiyan in tackling the menace of substance. Thereon she highlighted the

serious challenges faced by victims of drug abuse and intimated about the widespread implementation of various awareness activities and programmes in schools and institutions. Further, she informed the gathering about collaborative efforts to improve the district’s social fabric and mentioned the importance of taking the Nasha Mukht Bharat Pledge and obtaining corresponding certificates.

Also present in the meeting were: Deputy Director (LR&DM), Deputy Director (S&YA) and Officers and staff of Social Welfare Department Officers and officials of DAC Soreng.

Similarly, the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan pledge was read by officer and officials in their respective offices across the district ensuring maximum participation.

Pakyong observes NMBA Pledge

Pakyong, November 18: Pakyong joined the nationwide observance marking the culmination of five years of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) by conducting a coordinated pledge-taking ceremony across various departments. This initiative aims

to reinforce the national commitment towards building a drug-free society.

The district-wide programme witnessed active participation from officials, staff, and community representatives, who collectively took the Nasha

Mukht Bharat pledge, with a collective resolve to work towards a safer, drug-free Pakyong district, aligning with the national vision of a healthier and more responsible India under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Two Day State Level School Games concludes

Gangtok, November 17: State Level School Games 2025, organised by Sports and Youth Affairs Department concluded at Reshithang, Khel Gaon, today.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department as the chief guest along with Ms Kala Rai MLA as the guest of honour.

In his address, Minister congratulated Sports and Youth Affairs Department for organising the event and applauded the students for their participation. He emphasised the opportunities provided by the State Government as vital platforms for young athletes to showcase their talents. He also reiterated the Chief Minister’s vision of strengthening the sports ecosystem in the State and expressed hope that participants would aim to compete at national and international levels.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Yangchen D Tamang Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department gave an overview of the activities conducted during State Level School Games. She highlighted the objectives and explained that the students were selected through a three-level screening process and outlined the seven disciplines. She also put forth the department’s requirements and expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his continued support to the sports fraternity.

Following that the results for State Level School Games for various discipline were declared as follows:

The overall medal tally for the Boys’ Category, recorded a total of 25 gold, 23 silver and 17 bronze medals.

Among the participating districts, Gangtok emerged as overall champion, securing 12

gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals, with a total of 30 medals and 175 points.

Namchi followed with 6 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze medals, totalling 17 medals and 125 points.

Pakyong secured 1 gold, 7 silver, and 4 bronze medals, earning 12 medals and 94 points.

Gyalshing won 2 gold, 6 silver, and 2 bronze medals, totalling 10 medals and 72 points.

Mangan secured 2 gold, 2 silver, and 4 bronze medals for a total of 8 medals and 55 points.

Soreng earned 1 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze, receiving 3 medals and 22 points.

Gangtok was declared the Overall Champion District (Boys) of the State Level School Games 2025.

The overall medal tally for the Girls’ Category at the State Level School Games 2025, recorded a total of 23 gold, 22 silver, and 30 bronze medals.

Gangtok emerged as the leading district, securing 10 gold, 8 silver, and 4 bronze medals, with a total of 22 medals and 176 points.

Namchi followed closely with 11 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals, totalling 21 medals and 170 points.

Gyalshing earned 2 gold, 5 silver, and 10 bronze medals, making up 17 medals and 105 points.

Pakyong secured 1 gold and 7 bronze medals, achieving 8 medals and 45 points.

Soreng won 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals, totalling 13 medals and 82 points.

Mangan secured 2 silver, 1 bronze medals with 3 medals and 19 points.

With its highest overall score, Gangtok was declared the Overall Champion District (Girls) of the State Level School Games 2025.

IEC campaign on Dharti Aaba DA-JGUA observed

Pakyong, November 15: An IEC Campaign under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) was organised by the Social Welfare Department, Pakyong on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, commemorating 150th birth anniversary of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda at DDMA Control Hall, Pakyong.

The programme was attended by Panchayat, Sr SP Pakyong, ADC Pakyong, SDM (Hq) Pakyong and Social Welfare Officer.

Addressing the gathering, ADC Pakyong reflected on Birsa Munda’s contributions, emphasising that programmes like this serve as a meaningful way to commemorate his legacy, efforts for social upliftment and the enduring impact of his leadership on tribal society.

Furthermore, the Social

Welfare Officer briefed on the significance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, observed on November 15 each year, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. She outlined his role as a tribal freedom fighter, religious leader and folk hero who spearheaded the Munda Ulgulan movement against colonial rule. She also outlined the key objectives of celebrating Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

As part of the observance, a rally was conducted to pay tribute to his contributions and a short video on his life and struggles was screened during the programme.

Additionally, a skit performance by students of Eklavya Model Residential School, Parakha, was presented at their school.

Chief Minister meets GOC 33 Corps

Gangtok, November 13: Lieutenant General Man Raj Singh Mann, SM, General Officer Commanding, 33 Corps, called on Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang at Mintokgang, today.

During the courtesy meeting, the Chief Minister and GOC discussed matters of mutual interest pertaining to the security, development and welfare of the border areas of Sikkim. The Chief Minister appreciated the dedication and service of the Indian Army in safeguarding the

nation's frontiers and acknowledged their vital role in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

Lieutenant General Mann conveyed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for the continued support and cooperation extended by the State Government towards the Army and reaffirmed commitment of the Army in maintaining harmony and assisting the civilian administration in times of need.

Chief Minister meets DIG SSB Gangtok to strengthen border coordination

Gangtok, November 13: Chief Minister of Sikkim Mr Prem Singh Tamang, met DIG Manish Kumar, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Gangtok, at his official residence, Mintokgang, today. The meeting was held as part of a courtesy visit following DIG Kumar's recent assumption of charge at the SSB Sector Headquarters, Gangtok.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister extended a warm welcome to the DIG and discussed various aspects of coordination between the State Government and the Sashastra Seema Bal, with a special focus on the safety, security, and welfare of residents in the Indo-Nepal border areas.

The Chief Minister

expressed his sincere appreciation for the SSB's dedicated service in maintaining peace, vigilance, and goodwill across Sikkim's border regions. He lauded the force's commitment and close cooperation with the State Government, which have ensured stability and public confidence in these sensitive zones.

DIG Manish Kumar thanked the Chief Minister for the continued support extended to the SSB by the Government of Sikkim. He also expressed the force's commitment to work in close coordination with the civil administration for the welfare and development of border communities.

Chief Minister attends Lightlogue - Decadal Journey of Radiance

Gangtok, November 13: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended Lightlogue - A Decadal Journey of Radiance, a special event celebrating ten remarkable years of Amitabha School, held at Manan Kendra, today. The Chief Minister was accompanied by his spouse Madam Krishna Rai.

In his remarks, the Chief Minister expressed his delight at witnessing the school's inspiring journey of growth and excellence. He shared that it was a moment of immense joy and pride to watch his daughter perform on stage alongside her friends, seniors, and juniors. He commended the students for their confident, creative, and graceful performances across various art forms, describing them as both heartwarming and inspiring.

The Chief Minister observed that the enthusiasm and

dedication displayed by the students reflected the nurturing environment that Amitabha School has built over the past decade.

Extending his heartiest congratulations to the Principal, teachers, students, and parents, Chief Minister lauded the school for completing ten glorious years of meaningful learning and holistic development. He noted that this milestone reflects the institution's steadfast dedication to academic excellence, values-based education, and overall student growth.

The Chief Minister conveyed his best wishes to the entire Amitabha School fraternity, expressing confidence that the institution will continue to illuminate young minds and inspire future generations with knowledge, compassion, and excellence.

Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh visits Yangang

Namchi, November 16: Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Mr Pema Khandu visited Dhappar-Bhalaydhunga Ropeway Project and the upcoming Bhalaydhunga Skywalk Project at Yangang, today.

Upon his arrival, he received a warm reception from Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA and Area MLA, Mr Bikash Basnet Political Secretary to CM, Mr RK Basnet IFFCO Chairman, Mr CL Gurung Advisor, Mr CS Rao ACS Tourism, OSDs, MD-SBS, SDM Yangang, BDO Yangang,

along with Zilla Panchayats, Panchayat President and local stakeholders.

Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh visited the project sites and received a detailed briefing on the engineering marvels under progress. He commended Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for envisioning and initiating such transformative projects, stating that these developments will significantly boost the tourism potential of Yangang and Sikkim as a whole.

The technical specifications and progress details were presented by Mr Neeraj Pradhan PCE-cum-Secretary Tourism Department and the project team.

During the visit, the Chief Minister was also presented with local organic products and traditional handloom items as a token of love and respect from the people of Sikkim. He also visited the serene tourism attraction 'Tig Day Cho' Lake.

Sikkim executes multi-hazard Mock Drill across six districts

Gangtok, November 17: Simulated multi-hazard disaster mock drill on earthquake, landslides and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) was conducted across all six districts of Sikkim, today. The exercise was organised by the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Chief Secretary-cum-Responsible Officer Mr R Telang monitored the exercise from the SSDMA Control Centre along with Mr Rinzing Chewang Bhutia Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department cum Relief Commissioner, Mr Tenzing Kaelon Secretary, Home Department and Heads of Departments of various line departments.

The statewide drill was supervised by Retired Major General Mr Sudhir Bahl, in the presence of Major General Mr Mahipal Singh Rathore, GOC, 17th Mountain Division and officials from NDMA, NDRF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, BRO, senior officials of the Army, HoDs from line departments and SSDMA personnel.

The exercise commenced with the simulation of an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the richter scale, striking the state at 9:03 AM with its epicentre at 27.5°N, 88.3°E, approximately 45 km from Gangtok, at a focal depth of 15 km. The event was declared a 'Disaster' under Section 22(2)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Emergency meetings were convened across all districts, activating the Incident Response System (IRS) to coordinate rescue and relief operations. Essential Support Functions were placed on high alert to ensure rapid mobilisation of personnel and resources. District hospitals were put under emergency response mode, providing immediate medical services. Search and rescue operations were initiated and closely monitored across affected sites.

Due to severe disruption in telecommunication networks, BSNL and private telecom operators were directed to expedite restoration work. District administrations simultaneously worked to restore vital services, including electricity, drinking

water, health services and roadway access.

A significant aftershock measuring 5.7 on richter scale was later reported at 4:51 PM, 32 km northwest of Gangtok, confirmed by National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The secondary tremor further stressed already compromised infrastructure and heightened the operational load on responding agencies.

A total of 20 relief camps have been set up, accommodating 3,152 individuals. Animal loss has been reported at 1,469. Additionally, 272 houses have been fully damaged and 164 houses severely damaged. Infrastructure damage includes 6 roads and bridges, 16 power stations, 1 hospital/PHC, 1 school, and 13 drinking water supply systems across districts.

Reports from the Army stationed at Muguthang indicated a rise in the water level of Lachen Chu river basin due to a moraine breach at Sako Chu, posing an imminent GLOF threat to the Teesta river basin. This development may impact Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi Districts.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) also reported rising water levels in Rangit Basin from Tikip Lake, Bhalay Pokhari, and Dudh Pokhari potentially affecting Soreng and Gyalshing Districts.

In response to the escalating seismic and hydro-meteorological threats, SSDMA has been continuously monitoring the situation across all districts. Three additional columns of NDRF have been requisitioned from West Bengal and will be airlifted directly to critical locations starting 18 November 2025 from Bagdogra Airport.

The Food Department and Rural Development Department have been instructed to mobilise additional food stocks and relief materials.

The Indian Air Force has begun sorties to deliver essential supplies and evacuate stranded tourists from Mangan District via Chaten heliport. Medical evacuations for local residents are being prioritised.

The Transport Department has arranged additional transport services for affected citizens and

tourists, ensuring movement between Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Siliguri, West Bengal. All essential departments have been instructed to restock critical supplies and ensure last-mile delivery under challenging conditions.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has been assigned to lead search and rescue operations across districts with coordinated support from NDRF teams. SSDMA is maintaining continuous communication with the National Centre for Seismology and issuing public advisories through the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for timely dissemination of information.

During the exercise, Chief Secretary-cum-Responsible Officer R Telang advised the public to switch their mobile devices to Intra Circle Roaming (ICR) mode to maintain communication during temporary network outages. ICR enables mobile phones to connect automatically to another available network within the same telecom circle, when the primary network becomes weak, ensuring uninterrupted access to essential communication.

Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority played a central and critical role in ensuring the seamless execution of the multi-hazard mock drill across all six districts. The Authority coordinated inter-departmental communication, mobilised emergency response teams, ensured timely activation of district-level Incident Command structures, supervised the involvement of specialised agencies such as NDRF, SDRF, and Armed Forces, and monitored real-time field reports from the State Control Centre. SSDMA facilitated uniform implementation of IRS protocols, enabled uninterrupted information flow, synchronised emergency resource deployment and ensured that each district executed its hazard-specific scenario effectively.

Through its strategic direction and integrated coordination framework, SSDMA ensured that the mock drill achieved its objectives of strengthening preparedness, enhancing inter-agency synergy, and assessing operational readiness at scale.

