



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 70 No. 39

Gangtok (Wednesday) September 2, 2026

Delegation from Shri Shakti Peeth Rajasthan call on Governor



Gangtok, August 27: A delegation from Shri Shakti Peeth, Jamdoli, Jaipur, Rajasthan paid a courtesy call on Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today. The delegation is in Gangtok as part of the 'Rashtriya Raksha Bandhan Yatra 2026'.

During their engagement, the Governor was briefed about the Rashtriya Raksha Bandhan Yatra which is being conducted by Peeth

under the guidance Didi Maa Sadhvi Ritambhara under the initiative of Pujya Sadhvi Samadarshi Giri Didi. It was informed that for the past 14 years, the Yatra was being taken by the students from different states to the Indo-Pakistan and India-China border areas.

Through the Rashtriya

Contd. on page 5

Chief Minister flags off team under Sikkim for Nepal



Gangtok, August 31: In an endeavour to extend solidarity with Nepal and its people, Sikkim has come forward to provide essential relief materials and medical assistance to those affected by the tragedy.

In furtherance of this initiative, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang flagged off a dedicated team under the banner of 'Sikkim for Nepal', carrying essential relief supplies and medical aid for those in need.

The Chief Minister said that

the initiative reflects the spirit of compassion, humanity and brotherhood that binds us together.

"In times of adversity, we must stand united and extend a helping hand to those in need. Our prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones, our thoughts are with those who are suffering and our heartfelt solidarity remains with the people of Nepal as they begin the difficult journey of recovery and rebuilding", he added.

Sikkim celebrates Pang Lhabsol

Gangtok, August 28: Pang Lhabsol was celebrated with fervour at Tsuklakhang Palace, Gangtok in the presence of Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, today.

The occasion was also attended by Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical and PHE Departments, Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa MLA-cum-Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, members of the Royal Family, revered Tulkus and Khenpos, members of the Sangha, dignitaries and devotees.

The celebration commenced with the traditional Thrulsey Ceremony after which the Chief Minister was escorted to the Royal Palace Ground, where he attended the Rumfaat ceremony.

The ceremonial procession thereafter proceeded towards Tsuklakhang, accompanied by sacred prayers and ceremonial flags. The dignitaries were escorted to the ceremonial venue, where the religious observances continued with Shelen Ceremony and offering of khadas to the Kusabs (effigies).

The Governor was received by Tsuklakhang Trust and Organising Committee, following which the traditional Chhaam was performed by the monks.

A major highlight of the celebration was the sacred Pangtoed Chaam, the traditional warrior dance associated with Pang Lhabsol. The Pang toed or warrior dance, is traditionally believed to have been introduced



and choreographed by the Third Chogyal, Chagdor Namgyal (Chakdor Namgyal), based on a visionary dream. With the incorporation of Pang toed Chaam into the festival, the personification of Khangchendzonga as the Warrior God was also formalised.

The elaborate costumes, intricate movements and symbolic representation of deities reflected the deep spiritual significance and rich Buddhist cultural heritage of Sikkim.

Pang Lhabsol is among the most historically significant festivals of Sikkim. Celebrated annually on the fifteenth day of the seventh month of the Tibetan calendar, corresponding to late August or early September, the festival commemorates the

consecration of Mount Khangchendzonga as the Guardian Deity of Sikkim.

The festival also commemorates the historic blood brotherhood between the Lepcha and Bhutia communities at Kabi Longchok, solemnised under the witness of Mount Khangchendzonga. The occasion continues to symbolise unity, peace, harmony and brotherhood among the communities of Sikkim.

The celebration at Tsuklakhang concluded with prayers for lasting peace, harmony, wellbeing and continued progress and prosperity of Sikkim and its people. The programme also included felicitation of former Trustees and the release of a commemorative book.

Chief Minister chairs meeting with various Departments

Gangtok, August 27: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang held a meeting with Principal Chief Engineers-cum-Secretaries, Principal Chief Engineers and Chief Engineers of various line departments at Samman Bhawan, today.

The Chief Minister took stock of the ongoing works and reviewed the overall progress and status of projects under the respective departments and also directed for better coordination, effective monitoring and timely implementation of ongoing works.

He also called upon all concerned officials to remain committed and work collectively towards advancing development and delivering better outcomes.



Pearls of Wisdom

*"You're something between a dream and a miracle."
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

Pang Lhabsol celebrated at all Districts

Mangan, August 28: Pang Lhabsol was celebrated at Ringhim Rikzing Choeling Gonpa, Mangan, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department, Mr Tshering Wangyal Bhutia OSD Lachen-Mangan Constituency, Mangan Nagar Panchayats along with monks, devotees and locals.

The celebration featured traditional prayers conducted by Ship Rinpoche and the Lamas, seeking peace, harmony and well-being. The programme also included Special Cham, a traditional masked dance performed as a sacred ritual to ward off negative and evil forces and invoke protection and blessings.

The programme concluded with the distribution of holy water and blessings by Rinpoche, marking the auspicious occasion with prayers for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

Similarly, the Pang Lhabsol Celebration 2026 culminated at Udhra Che-Sum Mani Chokerling Gumpa, Ravangla, with religious fervour and devotion. The annual celebration is dedicated to Mount Khangchendzonga, revered as the guardian deity of Sikkim and holds deep spiritual and cultural significance.

The occasion also commemorates the sacred bond of brotherhood between the Bhutia and Lepcha communities,

symbolising unity and harmony in Sikkim.

The celebration was organised by All Sikkim Bhutia Association and Pang Lhabsol Gumpa Committee under the patronage of Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia Area MLA Barfung.

At the onset, the gathering observed a two-minute silence in solidarity with the families affected by the devastating flood in Nepal.

The concluding day witnessed traditional Buddhist rituals and the vibrant Pangtoed Cham (Masked Warrior Dance), reflecting Sikkim's rich spiritual and cultural heritage. Thereafter, the devotees also received the Tsewang (Long-Life Blessing) from 10th Sangay Nygpa Rinpoche, seeking blessings for longevity, good health and peace.

Likewise, Yuksom in Gyalshing District celebrated Pang-Lhabsol (Neysol) with a week-long series of cultural and religious events from August 21-28. The grand celebration concluded with the final of the five-a-side futsal tournament and vibrant cultural programmes.

Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister-cum-Area MLA of Yuksom-Tashiding attended the concluding programme as the chief guest, while Her Eminence Khando Tashi Tshimtsho as the guest of honour.

The festival was organised by Pang-Lhabsol Festival Celebration Committee, Yuksom under the chief patronage of Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister-cum-Area MLA. The

celebration was supported by the Khangchendzonga National Park Division of the Forest and Environment Department and the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

Earlier, participated in the annual Riwoasang ritual offering ceremony held at the historic Norbugang site, Yuksam on the occasion of Pang-Lhabsol (Neysol).

One of the major highlights of the day was Pangtoed Chaam, a sacred warrior masked dance performed during the annual Pang-Lhabsol festival.

On the occasion, a documentary film titled 'Echoes of Heritage: Cultural Sites of Khangchendzonga National Park' was released by Minister. The documentary seeks to highlight the rich cultural heritage, traditions and sacred landscapes associated with Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim. The documentary showcases the deep-rooted relationship between nature, culture and heritage within the Khangchendzonga landscape.

Several local NGOs, contributors and individuals were also felicitated with appreciation letters in recognition of their social contributions and community welfare initiatives.

A spiritual run was also organised as part of the celebration. Twelve professional runners, led by Sikkim's Marathon Man Amar Subba, undertook a run to Dzongri and back to Yuksom, covering approximately 25 kilometres.

UDD Namchi conducts inspection

Namchi, August 29: Urban Development Department (UDD), Namchi, conducted an inspection following the complaint regarding the operation of a commercial establishment without the required trade licence, today.

During the inspection, Domino's Namchi was found to be operating without the required licence. Accordingly, UDD issued a challan to the establishment under the applicable rules and regulations.

DC Namchi chairs meeting on Rehabilitation and Empowerment of PwDs

Namchi, August 26: The initial meeting on the Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and monitoring of the implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, was chaired by Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi at her office, today.

During the meeting, the DC briefed on the key provisions and objectives of the RPwD Act, 2016, which seeks to safeguard the rights, dignity and equal opportunities of PwDs and to promote their inclusion and accessibility.

DC laid emphasis on facilitating the Unique Disability Identity (UDID) card for PwDs, stressing on the need for a simplified process ensuring that eligible persons, particularly children with disabilities, are not left out. She also highlighted that access to several government benefits and welfare schemes is linked to proper disability certification and UDID registration, for which she directed all the concerned stakeholders to ensure wider coverage and timely assistance.

Further, the DC highlighted the importance of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute for visually impaired located at Boomtar, Namchi, as a valuable institution in providing support and services to children with special needs. She further stressed that the institution should receive due attention and should not be neglected, and stated that regular awareness programmes and activities should be facilitated within the institution and urged its representatives to sensitise concerned parents and guardians about the training opportunities, including relevant online training programmes that are being made available to their wards.

DC also briefed on various measures for improving existing services and addressing gaps in the delivery of disability-related welfare and support mechanisms.

Ms Sonam Dolma Bhutia, Sr SP Namchi, suggested that

The establishment was further directed to apply for the requisite trade licence within one week and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements, failing to do so, strict measures will be taken by the authorities.

The inspection was led by Mr Santa Kumar Rai Deputy Director UDD, who was accompanied by Mr Santosh Rai, Mr Bijay Rai, Mr Gyalsen Sherpa and Ms Pranisha Rai Inspectors.

the representatives of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute for the Blinds consider conducting periodic police verification of employees, particularly temporary staff members, as a precautionary measure to strengthen the safety and security of children. Further, she highlighted the need for appropriate coordination among committee members while addressing various issues related to the welfare and protection of PwDs.

Accordingly, Mr Shyam S Pradhan, Social Welfare Officer (SWO) Namchi, briefed on the ongoing efforts towards the rehabilitation and empowerment of PwDs and the monitoring of the implementation of the RPwD Act, 2016, laying emphasis on inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of disability-related welfare programmes. The SWO further highlighted the importance of participation from health authorities, police, legal services, NGOs, representatives of PwDs and other stakeholders to address the diverse needs and requirements of PwDs.

Further, he also highlighted provision where a grant award of 2 lakh shall be provided to eligible non-disabled individual who enters into a lawful marriage with a person with disability.

Likewise, the SWO also laid emphasis on creating awareness among PwDs about the importance of proper documentation to avail benefits and opportunities in transportation, employment, education, and other sectors.

The meeting also discussed measures for coordinated efforts among departments and stakeholders to ensure that no person with disability, especially children, is left behind in accessing their rights, services and entitlements under the RPwD Act, 2016.

Also present were Mr Nim Pintso Bhutia SDM Namchi (Hq), Ms Junita Yonzon CMO Namchi, Ms Pema W Bhutia DCPO Namchi and officers from the concerned department.

Awareness programme on Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 held

Gyalshing, August 26: An awareness programme on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 was organised by District Administrative Centre, Gyalshing, in collaboration with ADC(D), Rural Development Department, Gyalshing and Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat, at Community Hall Gyalshing, today. The main objective of sensitising stakeholders and the public on responsible solid waste management and the importance of source segregation.

The programme was attended by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, Ms Paru Ruchal Senior Superintendent of Police, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Panchayats, Councillors of Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat, HoOs, BDO Gyalshing, MEO Gyalshing and others.

DC shared his observations and provided valuable feedback on measures to further improve

sanitation and solid waste management in the district. Additionally, he emphasised that effective waste management requires the collective participation of government departments, local bodies, businesses, reside shopkeepers and the wider community to keep Gyalshing clean, healthy and environmentally sustainable.

DSP Mr Bimal Gurung elucidated on Cyber Crime and related precautions, adding an important dimension to the public awareness programme.

Ms Yangchenla Bhutia, Resource Person, highlighted the importance of segregation at source and individual responsibility in moving towards a cleaner and more sustainable Gyalshing. She provided an overview of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, with emphasis on how the new provisions apply to everyday waste management practices in

medical guidance are also being provided to the students.

The camp aims to facilitate early identification of vision-related concerns and promote awareness of eye health among students. Regular screening can help detect vision problems at an early stage, which is important as undetected issues may affect reading, classroom participation and academic performance.

SDM Mangan Mr Sandeep Kumar also visited the camp and interacted with the students, taking

both rural and urban areas. Particular focus was placed on four-stream segregation at source wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste, stressing that proper segregation at the point of generation is the foundation of effective waste management. Participants were also sensitised on the responsibilities of bulk waste generators, the 'Polluter Pays' principle, restrictions on indiscriminate landfilling, scientific management of existing legacy waste and the need to reduce the amount of waste ultimately reaching landfills. She also emphasised that effective implementation of the Rules is not solely the responsibility of local authorities, but requires the active participation of households, shopkeepers, hotels, restaurants, institutions, tourists and the wider community. The Rules, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, came into effect from 1 April 2026.

an overview of the screening activity.

Also present were Senior Welfare Officer Mr Ganesh Thapa, Principal EMRS Ms Sonam Yangzum Bhutia, Panchayats of the concerned wards, teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students of the school.

The initiative provides students with access to preventive eye care and timely guidance, supporting their health and well-being.

Eye Screening Camp conducted at EMRS Swayem

Mangan, August 25: An Eye Screening Camp for students of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Swayem, commenced at the school today in collaboration with the Health Department as part of a student welfare and healthcare initiative. The camp is being conducted over two days, August 25 and 26, 2026.

The screening is being conducted by Dr Tenzing Yangchen Bhutia, Ophthalmologist and Opto Albin Rai (Optometrist). Basic eye care and necessary

Government of Sikkim
Agriculture Department, Krishi Bhawan
Gangtok, East Sikkim 737102

Ref No.535/IT/AGRI/2026-27

Dated:31/8/2026

The Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Sikkim invites bids for the work mentioned below. The RFP document can be purchased from office of Joint Director (IT) Agriculture Department.

SL. No.	Description	RFP Fee (Tender Document Fee)	EMD (Earnest Money Deposit)	Date (T) and time from which Bid Document is available offline	Last date & Time for Offline Bid Submission	Date & Time for Technical Bid Opening/ Evaluation	Date & Time for Financial Bid Opening/ Evaluation
1	Supply of Android Smart Mobile Phone	₹100000/-	₹1040,000/-	FROM 9/9/2026, 10:00 AM TO 4: 00 PM OF 10/9/2026	16/9/2026 TILL 1:00 PM	16/9/2026 AT 3:00 PM	16/9/2026 AT 3:00 PM

Note: RFP publication date 2/9/2026

The RFP document is available with office of Joint Director (IT), Agriculture Department, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim. The Bidder should compile the documents as per the RFP.
No deviation will be permitted from the RFP.
However, the bidder shall have to pay RFP Fee/Tender Document Fee of ₹100,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Only) through BR/BC in head 0401-00.800-01.00.00AGRICULTURE (COST OF TENDER DOCUMENT) IN FAVOUR OF SECRETARY, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
The bidder shall have to pay EMD in form of FDR/DR only, amounting to ₹1040000/-(Rupees Ten Lakh forty thousand only) from any nationalised bank in favour of Additional Director, Accounts, Agriculture Department.
The Agriculture Department reserves the right to reject all or any of the bid(s) without assigning any reason at any stage.
Bidders shall note that any corrigendum issued regarding this Tender/bid notice/RFP will be published in the local newspapers.

Joint Director (IT)
Department of Agriculture,
Government of Sikkim
(83, II)

ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids
Dikling road, Pakyong, Sikkim -737106, India
Tel: 0359-2267031 Email-director.nrc@icar.org.in, nrcorchids96@gmail.com
F. No: NRC(O)NMHSPProject/2026-27/158
Date: 31/08/2026

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Director, ICAR- National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim invites online open tenders under two bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) through GeM as detailed below:

Sl. . No	Name of Items	Item Qty:	GeM Bid No	Bid end date/ time
1.	Construction of Polyhouse Under NMHS Grants	16 nos.	GEM/2026/B/7970597 Dated: 31-08-2026	22-09-2026 14:00

For more details Interested Bidders may visit GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in> or NRCO website: <https://nrco.icar.org.in/> for more enquire please mail to ao.urcorchids@email.com
(Rajendra Kumar Meena)
Administrative Officer
(79)

ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids
Dikling road, Pakyong, Sikkim -737106, India
Tel: 0359-2267031 Email-director.nrc@icar.org.in, nrcorchids96@gmail.com
F. No: NRC(O)/S/44/2026-27/162
Date: 31/08/2026

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Director, ICAR- National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim invites online open tenders under two bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) through GeM as detailed below:

Sl. . No	Name of Items	Item Qty:	GeM Bid No	Bid end date/ time
1	Repairing of Polyhouse (Area 13477 sq. ft.)	13477 sq. ft.	GEM/2026/B/7970183 Dated: 31-08-2026	22-09-2026 10:00

For more details Interested Bidders may visit GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in> or NRCO website: <https://nrco.icar.org.in/> for more enquire please mail to ao.urcorchids@email.com
(Rajendra Kumar Meena)
Administrative Officer
(80)

Government of Sikkim
Department of Co-operation
Office of Additional Registrar
Namchi District, Sikkim
737126
Memo No.: 742/GOS/COOP/Addl.RCS(Namchi)
Date 25/02/2026

NOTICE

As per the power conferred upon and under the provision of Rule 71 and sub-Rule (I) & (II) of Sikkim Co-operative Societies Rule 1981, it is hereby informed to all concerned that the liquidation proceeding has been initiated against:
UPPER SUNTALEY LABOUR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
Hence all stakeholders including the members, debtors, creditors, nominees, heirs and legal representatives of the deceased members are hereby informed to submit their claims and objections, if any, in respect of the above Cooperatives Society within one month (i.e.30 days) of the publication of this notice to the liquidator at the Co-operation Department, Namchi District.

Additional Registrar
Cooperation Department,
Namchi District
(82)

Government of Sikkim
Cooperation Department,
Namchi, South Sikkim.
Memo No:764/GOS/COOP/Addl.RCS (S)
Dated. 31/08/2026

NOTICE

As per the power conferred upon and under the provision of Rule 71 and Sub Rule (1) & (2) of Sikkim Cooperative Societies Rule 1981, it is hereby informed to all concerned, that the liquidation proceedings is initiated against the following cooperative society;
• UPPER TINGRITHANG CIVIL CONTRACTOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
Hence, all the stakeholders including the members, debtors, creditors, nominees, heirs and legal representatives of the deceased members are hereby informed to submit their claims and objections, if any, in respect to the aforementioned cooperative society within one month (i.e. 30 days) of the publication of this notice to the liquidators at the Cooperation Department, Namchi, South Sikkim.
**JRCS cum Liquidator
Co-operation Department.
(81)**

Before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at
Gangtok, Sikkim
AFFIDAVIT

I, Sonam Tshering Lepcha, son of Lt Dawa Lepcha, aged about 40 years, by faith Buddhist, resident of Rey, Gangtok District, P.O. & P.S. Ranipool, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:
1. That I am a bonafide citizen of India.
2. That my father's correct and official name is "Dawa Lepcha", which is duly recorded in father Sikkim Subject Certificate issued by the Land Revenue Department, Government of Sikkim, bearing Serial No. 198, Volume No. II, under Block Ray. The name "Dawa Lepcha" is also recorded in my other relevant official records and documents.
3. That, however, in the old records of my Sikkim Subject Certificate, my father's name has been recorded as "Nim Dawa Lepcha".
4. That the names "Dawa Lepcha" and "Nim Dawa Lepcha" refer to and denote one and the same individual, namely my Late father, and there is no difference in identity between the said names.
5. That I hereby declare that "Dawa Lepcha" shall be used for all official and legal purposes.
6. That this affidavit is made bonafide.
VERIFICATION
I, Sonam Tshering Lepcha, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 6 of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that no material fact has been concealed therefrom.
Verified and signed at Gangtok, Sikkim, on this 2nd day of September, 2026.
DEPONENT

District Level NCORD Committee meeting held

Namchi, August 26: A District Level Narcotics Coordination and Enforcement Committee (NCORD) meeting was held at the office of the District Collector Namchi to review the prevailing drug trafficking and substance abuse situation in the district and deliberate on coordinated measures for effective narcotics control, prevention, enforcement and demand reduction, today.

The meeting also reiterated the objective of contributing towards a Drug-Free India in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, which envisages a developed, prosperous, healthy and empowered India, with communities and youth playing an active role in nation-building.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Anupa Tamling District Collector Namchi accompanied by Ms Sonam Doma Bhutia Sr SP Namchi.

The Committee reviewed the prevailing drug trafficking situation in the district, with identification and regular review of vulnerable areas and drug trafficking hotspots accorded as top priority. Discussions also focused on identifying inter-state suppliers, peddlers and trafficking networks, strengthening intelligence-sharing and intelligence-led operations, improving surveillance and enforcement, and ensuring effective coordination among the Police, Special Branch and other concerned agencies.

Addressing the meeting, DC Namchi stressed the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach involving all concerned departments and stakeholders. She emphasised the importance of identifying vulnerable areas, strengthening preventive interventions and creating greater awareness among youth and the community regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse. She called for active participation of educational institutions, My Bharat Volunteers and NSS under the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyaan, including awareness activities and random testing wherever required.

The DC further underscored the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration of persons affected by substance abuse and discussed the need for regular inspection of rehabilitation centres by the District Level NCORD Committee. She also stressed for concerted efforts to identify and eliminate the illicit cultivation of cannabis in the district.

She entrusted all concerned departments with clear responsibilities towards strengthening community-based participation and preventive interventions, emphasising that narcotics control required sustained involvement beyond enforcement agencies. She further directed the Sports Department to prepare a three-year sports-based intervention roadmap for 2026-2029, aimed at engaging youth in positive, constructive and healthy activities and leading them towards improved physical and mental wellbeing.

Ms Sonam Doma Bhutia Sr SP Namchi in her address, stressed that identification and continuous review of drug hotspots would remain a top operational priority, with vulnerable locations to be systematically assessed for emerging patterns, trafficking routes and changing methods of drug supply. She emphasised the need for stronger intelligence operations, timely sharing and verification of inputs and controlled coordination among the Police, NCB and other concerned agencies for effective enforcement.

She highlighted the need to strengthen enforcement against inter-state suppliers, peddlers and trafficking networks, with greater focus on building watertight cases and improving investigation and prosecution so that offenders involved in narcotics-related activities could be brought to conviction. She stressed that effective action should not end with seizure and arrest, but should extend through investigation, evidence collection, prosecution and follow-up to strengthen conviction outcomes.

Sr SP further called for enhanced precautions and intelligence-led measures for the control of synthetic and emerging forms of narcotic substances, particularly in view of their changing patterns of availability and distribution. She emphasised the need for continuous capacity building and specialised training of personnel to improve intelligence gathering, investigation, detection, handling of narcotics cases and overall enforcement capabilities.

She also highlighted the importance of coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) wherever required, particularly in matters involving inter-state linkages, intelligence inputs, trafficking networks and specialised narcotics enforcement. At the same time, she stressed that enforcement must be complemented by counselling, awareness, rehabilitation and reintegration, with timely support and referral of persons affected by substance abuse to appropriate counselling and rehabilitation services.

The Committee deliberated on the preparation of a District-Level Road Map for Narcotics Control to ensure structured, coordinated and time-bound action by all concerned departments. The roadmap, along with the proposed 2026-2029 interventions, was discussed as a means to sustain enforcement, prevention, awareness, youth engagement, rehabilitation and community participation through clearly defined departmental responsibilities and measurable outcomes.

The Committee also reviewed the need for activation of the Drug Disposal Committee and timely disposal of seized narcotic substances in accordance with prescribed procedures, ensuring that disposal mechanisms remained systematic, timely and compliant with the applicable guidelines.

The meeting was attended by SDM (Hq), CMO Namchi, ASP Namchi, CEO Education, DFO (T), Assistant Labour Commissioner, DCPO, SWO, Deputy Director along with other committee members of NCORD.

District-Level NCORD-NMBA meeting organised

Pakyong, August 25: The monthly district-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD), along with the Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), was chaired by Ms Pari Bishnoi, District Collector, Pakyong in the presence of Mr Tshering Sherpa, Superintendent of Police, Pakyong District at the conference hall of the District Administrative Centre, Pakyong, today.

The meeting reviewed the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting, with officials and representatives from concerned departments apprising the house of the initiatives and activities undertaken by their respective departments and activities carried out under NMBA.

During the meeting, the District Collector emphasised the need to strengthen backward linkages in enforcement efforts to facilitate effective tracing of the sources and supply channels of narcotic substances.

Calling for greater monitoring, she discussed matters related to the Financial Investigation Mechanism, Nasha Mukat Bharat Campaign and random testing.

She stressed the importance of awareness and preventive interventions to address substance abuse and encouraged the concerned department to incorporate the Nasha Mukat Bharat Pledge in programmes and public events. She underlined that such messages should be reinforced regularly through coordinated and sustained inter-departmental efforts.

She further emphasised the need for an evidence-based assessment mechanism to evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of programmes undertaken for prevention and control of substance abuse.

During the meeting, SP Pakyong, presented an overview of the latest findings and enforcement activities in the district. He also highlighted the ongoing efforts of the department towards strengthening narcotics control.

In addition, he suggested coordinated action with the Forest Department for the destruction of cannabis plants found in forest reserve areas.

The meeting also deliberated on strengthening public awareness through positive and constructive narratives, intelligence units, de-addiction facilities, IEC activities, and adopting proactive approach towards awareness and prevention initiatives in educational institutions.

Various ideas and initiatives proposed by departments and organisations were discussed, with members sharing their views and recommendations for strengthening collective efforts against substance abuse.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Collector, Pakyong; Chief Education Officer, Deputy RTO, ACF (T), Welfare Officer, Assistant Commandant, 69 BN, SSB Pakyong, MO AYUSH, DCPO, WC&DWD, Assistant Commissioner, Excise Department; Agriculture Development Officer; and members of Samaritan Rehab and SARATHI organistaion.

DC Namchi reviews functioning of District De-Addiction Centre

Namchi, August 25: Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi conducted a routine visit to the District De-Addiction Centre (DDAC) at Kitchudumra on August 25, 2026, to review its functioning, facilities and overall management.

During the visit, the DC held a meeting with the Centre In-charge and representatives of Revive Heaven Foundation, the NGO entrusted with the management of the DDAC. The Centre In-charge briefed the DC on the admission procedures and the overall functioning and management of the facility.

The DC directed the NGO to ensure that all admissions under the charity category are made only with prior permission from the District Administration, and that the prescribed procedure is followed uniformly for all eligible beneficiaries. The Centre currently has an intake capacity of 60 inmates, including five females, with the remaining inmates being male.

The District Collector also enquired about the availability and deployment of staff at the Centre, particularly from the Health and Social Welfare Departments, and stressed the need for adequate staffing to ensure effective care and rehabilitation services.

She further inspected the DDAC premises and appreciated the cleanliness, upkeep and maintenance of the Centre by the NGO.

Simultaneously, a joint survey was conducted to ascertain the exact extent and status of the land under the Social Welfare Department, as directed by the District Collector. The survey was carried out by officials from the concerned departments, including the Land Revenue team.

The visit was attended by Addl Director SWD, SDM (Hq) Namchi, Joint Director SSWD, Welfare Officer Namchi, Senior AO, SWD, AE/JE and officials from the Land Revenue Department.

Sikkim State Aids Control Society

Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim

Gangtok, Sikkim

SSACS/PV/510/110/2026-27

31/08/2026

ADVERTISEMENT / NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Walk-in Cooler

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed, experienced and eligible firms/agencies/manufacturer for the Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of a Walk-in Cooler for the Sikkim State AIDS Control Society (SSACS), Gangtok.

The broad technical requirement is as follows:

- * Type: Walk-in Cooler / Cold Room -01 unit
- * Temperature Range: +2°C to +8°C
- * Approximate Size: 20 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft
- * Supply and installation of complete refrigeration and cooling system.
- * Insulated PUF panels, insulated door, flooring and other necessary accessories.
- * Temperature monitoring/control system.
- * Electrical and refrigeration accessories required for complete commissioning.
- * Testing and commissioning of the system at site.
- * Warranty/after-sales service as per applicable terms.

Interested and eligible firms may submit their quotations along with complete technical specifications, GST registration, PAN, firm registration documents, experience credentials and other relevant documents. The detailed specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained from the office of the Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, Gangtok, Sikkim, during office hours.

Last date for submission of quotation: 15/09/2026

Date & time of opening of quotation: 15/09/2026 & 2:30 pm

Place of submission: Office of the Sikkim State AIDS Control Society, Gangtok, Sikkim.

SSACS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

S/d Project Director

Sikkim State AIDS Control Society

Sikkim, Gangtok (78, II)

19 SGAY houses inaugurated in Yuksom-Tashiding

Gyalshing, August 29: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister-cum-Area MLA inaugurated 19 newly constructed houses under the Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana (SGAY) at different GPUs in Yuksom-Tashiding, today. Of the 19 houses, four are located in Tashiding GPU, two in Arithang-Chongrang GPU and 13 in Gerethang-Labing GPU under Chongrang BAC.

Following the formal inauguration, Minister, accompanied by Officials and Engineers, conducted a detailed inspection of the newly constructed houses. After the inspection, the houses were formally handed over to the

respective beneficiaries.

Minister congratulated the beneficiaries on receiving their new homes. He highlighted the significance of SGAY scheme, which was conceptualised and initiated by Chief Minister with the objective of providing pucca houses to economically weaker sections and improving their living conditions. He also highlighted various welfare-oriented and pro-people initiatives of the State Government aimed at the upliftment of economically weaker sections. He assured that no deserving family would be left out of the schemes and stated that SGAY allotments in the constituency would be

completed by 2027.

The Minister also inspected various public infrastructure projects and SGAY houses, which are under construction in the area. He directed the concerned officials and implementing agencies to expedite the ongoing works while ensuring quality construction.

The SGAY beneficiaries of Yuksom-Tashiding expressed gratitude to the State Government and Chief Minister for introducing the housing scheme and for prioritising welfare-oriented initiatives for economically weaker sections.

State Government fulfils long-awaited road connectivity demand of remote Tofrok village in Yuksom-Tashiding

Gyalshing, August 30: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Commerce and Industries-cum- Area MLA of Yuksom-Tashiding, today inspected the newly constructed road connecting Lethang village with Tofrok village under Yuksom-Tashiding constituency, today.

The newly constructed road has brought much-needed connectivity to Upper Lethang and Tofrok villages, which previously had no motorable road.

The road was constructed earlier this year under the initiative of the State Government led by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, as part of the State Government's efforts to improve rural connectivity and strengthen access to remote settlements.

Accompanied by locals, Minister inspected the constructed road and assessed the quality of the construction work and its feasibility for further development.

The Minister also interacted with villagers,

particularly the elderly and enquired about their health and well-being. He also engaged with local youths and discussed their aspirations, future plans and proposals, encouraging them to pursue opportunities in diverse sectors.

The Minister also assured the villagers that their genuine concerns and developmental requirements would be taken up on priority and conveyed his commitment to working towards the overall development of the village.

District coordination meeting to strengthen Solid Waste Management Rules 2016

Pakyong, August 25: A coordination meeting on compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, was chaired by Ms Pari Bishnoi, DC Pakyong, in the presence of Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong at DAC Pakyong, today.

The meeting aimed to review the implementation of waste management measures across the district, strengthen coordination among departments, and develop a practical framework for effective and sustainable waste management in urban and rural areas.

DC stressed that effective waste management is a shared responsibility across all departments. She directed the preparation of an area-wise inspection involving concerned officers and line departments to undertake field verification of existing waste management practices and identify visible problem areas requiring intervention.

District Collector called for practical and innovative approaches to waste management and encouraged departments to explore feasible solutions for the productive utilisation and recycling of waste, particularly plastic waste.

Furthermore, she directed all concerned departments to maintain regular monitoring and

ensure compliance with prescribed waste management practices.

ADC Pakyong, briefed the participants on the responsibilities of various departments in connection with the proposed inspections and called for coordinated efforts in carrying out the assigned responsibilities. He stated that effective waste management could also contribute to improved disaster preparedness and management and urged all concerned departments to work collectively towards sustainable waste management practices in the district.

The meeting further discussed the identification and monitoring of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), including commercial establishments and other premises generating substantial quantities of waste. The criteria discussed for classification included buildings with a floor area of 20,000 square metres or above, water consumption of 40,000 litres per day or more, or solid waste generation of 100 kilograms per day or above. Concerned departments were directed to identify establishments meeting these criteria during field inspections and assess the waste management systems in place.

The meeting also reviewed

waste management arrangements at tourist destinations. Concerned officials were directed to assess the existing arrangements at such locations and identify gaps requiring attention. The need for appropriate signage and measures to promote responsible waste disposal and public participation was also discussed.

Issues relating to waste collection and disposal, availability and utilisation of collection vehicles, disposal practices and other commercial establishments were also discussed. The meeting also reviewed the need for proper segregation and handling of different categories of waste, along with measures to facilitate greater public participation in responsible waste management.

The functioning and requirements of Material Recovery Centres (MRCs) in Pakyong District were reviewed, with emphasis on ensuring their effective utilisation and strengthening waste processing and resource recovery mechanisms.

The meeting was attended by officials ADC (Hq) Pakyong, ADC (Dev), Pakyong, SDM, Pakyong, SDM Rongli, MEO, Rangpo & Pakyong, BDOs, along with officers from various departments.

Scholarship awareness and NSP application training held

Pakyong, August 25: An awareness programme on scholarship schemes under the Social Welfare Department, available through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), was organised by the Social Welfare Department, Pakyong District, at the conference hall of the District Administrative Centre, Pakyong, today.

The programme was aimed to create awareness among concerned departments and Institute Nodal Officers (INOs) about the various scholarship schemes implemented by the Social Welfare Department and facilitating wider outreach to eligible students.

The programme had the presence of Ms Pari Bishnoi District Collector, Pakyong along with Ms Pari Bishnoi, Mr Sabindra Rai Additional District Collector (Headquarter), Mr Sangay Gyatso Bhutia ADC (Development) and Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong.

During the session, Ms Sunita Dahal, Welfare Officer, briefed the participants on the scholarship schemes available under the department. She provided detailed information on the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students, PM YASASVI Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC and EBC students, scholarship rates, eligibility criteria, documents required and the application process.

She informed that the National Scholarship Portal will remain open for applications until August 31, 2026.

The session further covered the process of applying for scholarships through the NSP, including the requirement of the NSP OTR App and Aadhaar Face RD App, the details required for registration,

generation of the One-Time Registration ID and completion of the scholarship application form.

Suggestions were also shared by officials from various departments on strengthening awareness and outreach for the scholarship schemes.

Discussions were held on the action taken since the last meeting regarding scholarship for the children of Safaikarmacharis and sanitation workers across various departments.

Addressing the session, District Collector, Pakyong, emphasised the need for focused awareness among children of Safaikarmacharis and sanitation workers to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are able to avail themselves of the available scholarship opportunities.

She stressed the importance of maintaining proper data and records related to the scholarship schemes and directed the District Nodal Officer to ensure regular tracking of awareness and registration.

A video demonstrating the process of applying for scholarships through the NSP was also screened during the programme.

Following the session, a hands-on training on the NSP login and application procedures was conducted for Institute Nodal Officers from various schools to familiarise them with the online application process.

The programme was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrates from Pakyong and Rongli, Joint Director, Education Department, Block Development Officers from various blocks, MEO Rangpo, MEO Pakyong, RO/AD and officials from Social Welfare Department.

Contd. from front page

Delegation from...

Raksha Bandhan Yatra initiative, Shri Shakti Peeth aim to turn Raksha Bandhan into an occasion to express gratitude, affection and respect for the soldiers guarding the nation's borders.

As part of this year's Yatra, students will visit Nathu La Pass on August 28, where they will tie Rakhis to Indian Army Personnel deployed along the India-China border.

On the occasion, Pujya Sadhvi Samadarshi Giri and the students of the Peeth tied Rakhi to the Governor.

The Governor lauded the initiative which symbolises the bond between young children and the brave soldiers guarding the nation's border fostering a sense of patriotism among children.

He further said that it embraces and promotes the core values embodied by Raksha Bandhan, including love, peace, mutual respect, unity and communal harmony.

He also highlighted the 1967 Indo-China clashes in which Indian soldiers successfully defended border against aggression.

The officials and students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Governor for his encouragement.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

MIB organises National conference with States/UTs IPR Secretaries

New Delhi, August 25: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) organised the national conference with the Department of Information and Public Relations (IPR) Secretaries of State/UTs at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today.

The conference was chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Mr Chanchal Kumar. Also present were Senior officers from MIB, alongwith Secretaries from other States/UTs and representing Sikkim were Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary IPR, Mr Sunil Mothay Director IPR and officials from IPR, Government of Sikkim.

Speaking about India's creative capabilities, Secretary, MIB highlighted the Prime Minister's vision of positioning

India as the 'Creative Capital of the World' in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He stated that this initiative would further strengthen India's soft power and global presence. He also underscored the importance of active participation and collaborative actions required by the respective State Governments in translating this vision into reality and achieving the goals envisioned by the Prime Minister.

The conference deliberated on several key agendas including Right of Way (RoW) mechanism for cable operators by State Government, Roadmap for WAVES 2027, Strengthening WAVES Bazaar and market access, Operationalisation of WaveX State Ecosystem, State Partnership for Create in India Challenge (CIC)-Season 2, Expansion of public

service broadcasting infrastructure, Two-Way integration of Indian Cine Hub (ICH)/FilmFacilitationOffice(FFO) portal, Adoption of the Single Window India Cine Hub (ICH) portal for Film Shooting and Live Events Permissions amongst others.

The participating states and UT officials shared their experiences and concerns regarding the implementation of various initiatives and discussed ways to further strengthen coordination and engagement with the Ministry. The officials also expressed their willingness to collaborate more closely with the Ministry and actively participate in strengthening Orange Economy.

Stakeholders' meeting held to finalise arrangements for Tourism Fest 2026

Gangtok, August 26: A stakeholders consultation meeting to discuss and finalise arrangements for the upcoming Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026 was held under the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim.

The meeting was held in the presence of Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation and Commerce and Industries Departments, Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Raj Yadav Commissioner-cum-Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Lukendra Rasaily Chairperson STDC, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairperson Tourism, Mr Abhijit Patil, Joint Secretary Planning and Development (Sikkim INSPIRES), officials of the department and representatives of various tourism stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, Minister underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders for the successful organisation of Tourism Fest 2026. He called for effective coordination, preparedness and timely execution of responsibilities to ensure a well-managed event. The Minister while welcoming the stakeholders highlighted the significance of Sikkim Adventure Festival 2026, scheduled from November 1 to 7 at Linkhim Tar, Namthang. He said the festival was conceived to promote Sikkim's adventure tourism potential while creating greater livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The Minister said tourism remains a key pillar of Sikkim's economy, with communities ranging from hoteliers and homestay operators to farmers, artisans and local entrepreneurs closely connected to the tourism

ecosystem. He emphasised the need to diversify tourism through nature, culture, heritage, local cuisine, wellness and adventure experiences.

He stated that the festival would seek to integrate all six districts and connect the State's constituencies through activities such as paragliding, river rafting, mountain biking, trekking and motor rallies, converging at Linkhim Tar as the central venue. He added that local homestays and nearby tourism circuits would also be incorporated alongside tented accommodation.

The Minister stressed that safety, sanitation, drinking water, site management and local coordination would be given priority, with detailed site inspections and consultations with local administration, tourism stakeholders and adventure operators being undertaken.

He further highlighted the festival's alignment with Chief Minister's 'One Family, One Entrepreneur' vision, stating that adventure tourism could provide direct livelihood opportunities for educated youth and women through skill development, entrepreneurship and digital promotion under initiatives such as Sikkim INSPIRES.

The festival will also feature local cuisine, agro-products, handlooms and handicrafts, along with heritage storytelling and wellness activities including yoga, Vipassana and AYUSH-based practices. The Minister said the objective was to showcase Sikkim's natural and cultural strengths while ensuring that local communities benefit directly from tourism.

Calling for active participation from all stakeholders, he emphasised that the successful

implementation of the initiative by the Tourism Department would also require the support and cooperation of tourism organisations, local communities, operators and other partners, and called for constructive suggestions during the planning process.

He expressed confidence that with collective ownership, the festival could develop into a major annual event on Sikkim's tourism calendar.

Earlier the meeting commenced with the welcome address by Ms Hondala Gyaltsen, Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, followed by an overview of Tourism Fest 2026 presented by Mr Kazi Sherpa Principal-cum-Joint Director, IHCAE. He presented a comprehensive promotion plan, content pillar strategy and media and public relations framework. The festival is expected to strengthen Sikkim's adventure tourism profile by diversifying its tourism offerings and promoting lesser-known destinations through trekking, paragliding, rafting, mountain biking and other outdoor activities. It will also provide an opportunity to showcase the State's pristine Himalayan landscapes, remote villages and natural heritage while encouraging visitors to explore destinations beyond the established tourist circuits.

Detailed discussions were held on venue management and event management, with emphasis on logistical support from line departments. The meeting also discussed the distribution of slots to various stakeholders through their respective associations and committees, with a view to ensuring systematic participation and smooth conduct of the fest.

SICUN conducts training programme on IT, GST and financial compliance for Cooperative Societies

Gangtok, August 27: Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN) conducted a training programme on IT and GST compliance, stocktaking, cash and RD statements and financial management for Managers and Secretaries of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Milk Primary Cooperative Societies (PCS) and Cooperative Inspectors.

The programme was chaired by Dr Mangal Jit Rai Chairman, SICUN. Among those present were Mr Shailesh Rai Executive Officer, SICUN; Assistant RCSs, Assistant Cooperative Inspectors (ACIs), Cooperative Inspectors and Project Assistants of the Cooperation Department, Pakyong District; Mr Shamee Kapoor CA of Michel Chandak & Company, Gangtok along with representatives of various cooperative societies.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Ms Sashikala Rai, Cooperative Educator, SICUN wherein highlighted the importance of strengthening grassroots level cooperatives as instruments for rural development, employment generation and economic empowerment.

In his keynote address, Chairman emphasised the importance of regular training and capacity building for cooperative societies to ensure sound governance, transparency, accountability and effective financial management. He stated that cooperatives must continuously upgrade their knowledge of statutory requirements, taxation, accounting practices and institutional management to remain strong and sustainable.

He urged all cooperative societies affiliated with SICUN to actively participate in the various capacity building and training programmes organised by the Union. He highlighted that SICUN is committed to providing technical guidance, exposure visits, policy advocacy, capacity building initiatives and institutional support services for the overall growth and strengthening of the cooperative movement in Sikkim.

He further encouraged cooperative societies to make effective use of the support and opportunities available through SICUN and to work collectively towards building stronger, professionally managed and financially sustainable

cooperatives.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Shailesh Rai, Executive Officer, SICUN, highlighted the important role of cooperative societies in strengthening the local economy and empowering communities. He appealed to cooperative societies to enrol in SICUN's 12-year membership programme, emphasising that membership would enable societies to benefit from regular training programmes, technical guidance, capacity-building initiatives and other institutional support extended by the Union.

The technical session was conducted by Shamee Kapoor, CA Michel Chandak & Company, Gangtok, who delivered an informative and detailed presentation on statutory, taxation and financial compliance applicable to cooperative societies.

The session covered important areas including: Income Tax framework for cooperative societies; Income Tax Return (ITR) filing and compliance; Penalties and consequences of non-compliance; Cash and financial transaction compliance; Income Tax notices and the assessment process; Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) responsibilities; Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance; Accounting statements and their linkage with taxation; Stocktaking and maintenance of financial records and Enhanced compliance responsibilities of Cooperative Inspectors for the financial year 2025-26.

The interactive session provided participants with an opportunity to seek clarification on various taxation, accounting and statutory compliance matters and to understand the practical requirements involved in maintaining proper financial records and ensuring timely compliance.

The programme had the participation from representatives of cooperative societies and officials of the Cooperation Department. The interactive discussions enabled participants to exchange views and seek clarification on taxation, compliance requirements, cooperative governance, financial management and available support mechanisms.

The programme reiterated SICUN's commitment to advancing the cooperative movement in the State in line with the national vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi'.

Sikkim receives recognition at PMFME Conclave 2026

Gangtok, August 27: Sikkim received national recognition for its efforts in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme during the two-day PMFME Conclave 2026, organised by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on August 24-25, 2026.

Gangtok District was recognised as the best performing district from Sikkim.

The award for the best performing District Nodal Officer (DNO) was received by Ms Navita Pradhan Joint Secretary, Department of Food Processing Industries during the award ceremony held on the concluding day of the Conclave.

The Sikkim delegation comprised of Ms Navita Pradhan Joint Secretary, Department of Food Processing Industries; Mr Bibek Sharma Marketing Manager,

PMFME Scheme and Mrs Sangay Doma Bhutia Proprietor, Taste of Sikkim and a PMFME beneficiary. The participation provided an opportunity for Sikkim to showcase its emerging food-processing ecosystem, entrepreneurial potential and locally produced value-added food products on a national platform.

The two-day Conclave brought together more than 500 stakeholders from across the country, including representatives of States and Union Territories, State Nodal Departments and Agencies, District Nodal Officers (DNOs), District Resource Persons (DRPs), banks and financial institutions, technical institutions, industry bodies, incubation centres and PMFME beneficiaries.

The Conclave was inaugurated by Mr Chirag Paswan Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, who also inaugurated the PMFME Bazaar

and emphasised the need to strengthen the micro food processing ecosystem through financial assistance, technology, capacity building, quality assurance, branding and market access. The programme also witnessed the launch of a Coffee Table Book featuring 30 PMFME success stories and FoodNova, the Ministry's quarterly magazine. MoUs were also signed with APEDA, ONDC and NABKISAN to strengthen market and institutional linkages for PMFME beneficiaries.

The concluding session featured PMFME Awards, recognising high-performing States and Union Territories, banks, SRLMs/SULMs, DNOs and DRPs for their contribution towards effective implementation of the scheme. The recognition received by Sikkim, therefore, represents an important milestone for the State's PMFME implementation efforts.

Crematorium construction site near Rikzing Choeling Monastery inspected

Mangan, August 29: Mr Samdup Lepcha, Minister-cum-Area MLA Lachen-Mangan, today inspected the ongoing construction of a crematorium near Rikzing Choeling Monastery in Chungthang. He was accompanied by Zilla and Ward Panchayat members of the concerned ward.

During the inspection, the

Minister interacted with the contractor, Mr Chedup Lepcha, and stressed the need to finalise a proper layout and design for the facility. He said the main cremation centre should have a 20-metre clearance on all sides and highlighted the need for a dedicated shed for monks.

The Minister also urged the

local community and stakeholders to come together and work collectively to make the project a success. He called for the facility to be developed as a unique, well-planned and community-oriented project that meets the needs of the people.

Online Registration and Renewal System for Tourism establishments launched

Gangtok, August 26: Tourism and Civil Aviation Department launched the Online Registration and Renewal System of Tourism Establishments, aimed at simplifying and streamlining tourism-related services for stakeholders across the State, today.

The portal was launched in the presence of Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Raj Yadav Commissioner-cum-Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Lukendra Rasaily Chairperson STDC, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairperson Tourism, officials of the department and representatives of various tourism stakeholders.

The launch marks a significant step towards digitalising tourism services and realising the vision of Chief Minister of providing 'Administration at the Doorstep' through technology-enabled public service delivery.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the new system brings key tourism related services online, enabling stakeholders to access government services conveniently without the need for repeated visits to government offices. He stated that the initiative has been developed in

collaboration with the Information and Technology Department to enhance accessibility, efficiency and convenience for tourism stakeholders across all six districts of Sikkim.

Under the new system, six categories of tourism establishments have been brought online, namely Hotels and Resorts, Homestays, Bed & Breakfast establishments, Service Apartments, Holiday Homes and Restaurants. Eligible establishments can apply for fresh registration and annual renewal, complete fee payments digitally and download their certificates online.

Providing the technical details, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, informed that the services are integrated with the Sikkim Single Sign On (SSO) platform, allowing users to access Tourism Department services through a single login. Applicants can submit their applications online from home or through a cybercafe and receive SMS notifications at different stages of the application process. Following approval and online payment, the registration or renewal certificate can be downloaded directly to the applicant's mobile device.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary further informed that registration services for Travel Agents, Adventure Tour

Operators, Outdoor Photographers and Tourist Guides, which are presently being provided offline, will be brought under the online system in the second phase within the next two to three months. With the completion of the second phase, all services of the Tourism Department are expected to be made available online.

He also highlighted the department's internal digital transformation, stating that physical file processing has been discontinued and internal administrative processes are being managed through the e-Office system.

The applicant can apply from <https://sso.sikkim.gov.in/> or [h t t p s : / / tourismregistration.sikkim.gov.in](https://tourismregistration.sikkim.gov.in) and avail all benefits.

The launch of the portal marks a significant step towards making tourism services more accessible, transparent and efficient. By bringing registration, renewal, payment and certificate issuance online through the Sikkim Single Sign-On platform, the initiative reduces the need for physical visits and enables tourism stakeholders to access essential services from the convenience of their homes. The initiative is expected to further strengthen ease of doing business and advance the Government's vision of 'Administration at the Doorstep'.

Team led by ADC (Dev) Pakyong visit Waste Treatment Facility at Martam

Pakyong, September 1: Mr Sangay Gyatso Bhutia ADC (Development), Pakyong, along with the District Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Coordinator and Block Coordinators visited the Waste Treatment Facility at Martam to study the functioning and waste management practices adopted at the facility. The President of Pakyong Nagar Panchayat and Municipal Executive Officer (MEO), Pakyong Nagar Panchayat, also joined the visit.

The visit was undertaken to gain a practical understanding of overall functioning of the waste treatment facility, including the processes involved in the collection, segregation, processing, treatment and disposal of different categories of waste.

During the visit, the team observed various stages of waste management and examined how biodegradable,

recyclable, non-recyclable and other categories of waste are segregated and scientifically handled. The team also reviewed the systems and procedures followed at the facility for processing waste and reducing the quantity of waste ultimately sent for disposal.

The visit provided an opportunity for the district and block-level officials, along with representatives of Nagar Panchayat, to understand operational aspects of scientific waste management and identify practices that could be adopted or strengthened within Pakyong District.

The visit also focused on strengthening coordination among the concerned departments and local bodies for effective implementation of solid waste management measures and promoting scientific and sustainable waste management practices across the district.

DLMC conducts bimonthly inspection of MBPCL

Pakyong, September 1: District Level Monitoring Committee Pakyong District led by Mr Sabindra Rai Additional District Collector (Hq), conducted its bimonthly inspection of Madhya Bharat Power Corporation Limited (MBPCL) in Rangpo, today.

The inspection was aimed at reviewing the safety mechanisms and preparedness measures in place to minimise risks to public safety and property.

The inspection commenced with a meeting at the power house, where Committee reviewed the measures undertaken following the previous inspection. MBPCL officials, thereafter, briefed the Committee on the status of project operations and safety measures being implemented at the plant.

The officials provided an overview of Flood Monitoring Sensor and siren network installed under Rongnichu Hydroelectric Project. The committee was briefed on the monitoring and operational procedures, including data collection, monitoring and analysis, alert levels, dissemination of alerts, response mechanisms and post-event actions.

The officials also informed of Early Warning System and the locations of sensors installed at various points and that water levels are regularly monitored as part of the project's

safety and preparedness measures.

It was further informed that a dedicated team from MBPCL conducts checks every fifteen days to ensure the proper functioning of siren system. The officials also stated that awareness programmes are conducted annually before the onset of monsoon to sensitise about the siren system and other safety measures. Regular inspections are also conducted to check for any signs of water leakage and other safety-related concerns.

Discussions were also held on the coverage of the siren network, including the villages and population covered under the system.

During the inspection, ADC (Hq) sought details regarding risk-prone points at different locations and information pertaining to the tunnels and other areas associated with the project.

The Committee subsequently inspected various areas of the power house, including switchgear room and turbine floor and reviewed the fire safety arrangements in place. The Early Warning System was also tested during the inspection to verify its functioning and audibility.

The inspection was also attended by SDM Rangpo, Joint Director, Mines and Geology, DPO Pakyong, AE, Water Resources Department, BDO Duga and others.

**Read and Advertise
in
Sikkim Herald**

State-level consultative meeting on conservation plan of Ratey Chu watershed

Gangtok, August 27: State-level consultative meeting on conservation plan of Ratey Chu watershed was convened at Tashiling Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr R Telang Chief Secretary, today.

The meeting coordinated by Forest and Environment Department was attended by representatives from various line departments, scientific institutions and Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The agenda of the meeting was to prepare a comprehensive conservation plan for the Ratey Chu watershed which is the vital source of drinking water for Gangtok town. Presentations were made by Forest Department, GB Pant Institute (GBPIHE), PHE Department and DAC Gangtok, highlighting key issues and ongoing initiatives in watershed management.

The Chief Secretary commended the efforts already underway, particularly those supported by field data and



emphasised the need for a micro-level, future-oriented conservation plan. He stressed that the plan must incorporate public participation and awareness-building on water conservation across the State.

Underscoring the urgency

of the matter, the Chief Secretary directed the departments to closely monitor progress with measurable indicators. He further instructed the departments and institutions to pool technical expertise, knowledge and machinery to address the challenges effectively.

National Seminar on export promotion and E-Commerce 2026 held

Pakyong, August 27: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, through the MSME Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Gangtok, organised National Seminar on Export Promotion and E-Commerce 2026 at a local hotel in Rangpo, today. The programme was held in association with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and other stakeholder organisations.

The seminar aimed to familiarise Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Sikkim with export opportunities, e-commerce platforms, market linkages and institutional support to expand the reach of local products in national and international markets.

Ms Pari Bishnoi, DC Pakyong, who attended the programme as the chief guest emphasised the need to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and improve market access for local entrepreneurs and artisans. She also highlighted the potential of e-commerce and export channels to promote Sikkim's traditional and locally produced goods.

Mr N Chowdhury, Assistant Director and Head of Office, MSME-DFO, Gangtok, outlined the objectives of the seminar and stressed on the importance of institutional coordination in helping MSMEs navigate export procedures, identify market opportunities and adopt digital commerce.

Mr Manoj Singh, Assistant DGFT, Kolkata, briefed participants on DGFT's role in export facilitation, including the procedures and compliance requirements for accessing

international markets.

Mr Kesang Namthak Tenzing, Regional PF Commissioner, Gangtok, spoke on enterprise formalisation and institutional compliance during business expansion.

Mr Padam Prasad Sharma, Chairman, Farmers Welfare Board, Sikkim, highlighted the need to strengthen market linkages for farmers and producers and promote value addition in agricultural products.

During the inaugural session, Mr Akshay Murkute, Assistant Director (Gr-I), MSME-DFO, Gangtok, acknowledged the participation and support of government departments, officials, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders.

The technical session began with a presentation by Dr Saju Adhikary, Business Development Manager, APEDA, on the organisation's role in export facilitation. He discussed initiatives to promote agricultural and processed food exports and encouraged eligible enterprises to explore international markets.

Mr PT Lepcha, Deputy Director, IC, Spices Board, Gangtok, outlined the Spices Board's export promotion initiatives and discussed opportunities for spice growers, processors and exporters. He also emphasised the importance of quality standards and market-oriented production.

Mr Sameer Pradhan, Marketing Executive, India Post, delivered a presentation titled "Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra (DNK) from Sikkim to World". He explained how the postal network and Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras can support small entrepreneurs in

sending products to overseas customers.

The seminar also featured sessions on e-commerce and digital market access. Senior Manager, Government Affairs, Ideas to Impact, Walmart Vriddhi, Mr Anish Pradhan, conducted a session titled "Boosting MSMEs through E-Commerce and Export". He highlighted the role of digital marketplaces and the need for MSMEs to become digitally enabled and market-ready.

Mr Abhishek Rana, Associate, CSR and Training, Meesho, spoke on the use of e-commerce platforms to help MSMEs reach customers beyond geographical boundaries and develop sustainable digital businesses.

As part of the programme, 14 entrepreneurs were onboarded onto Meesho, while 10 potential entrepreneurs were identified for further onboarding and market-linkage opportunities with Walmart and Flipkart. The SLPMU team coordinated the onboarding process and facilitated interaction between participating agencies and entrepreneurs.

The chief guest also visited stalls set up by local artisans and entrepreneurs at the venue and interacted with participants. She encouraged them to focus on e-commerce, branding, packaging and market expansion to enhance the visibility and reach of their products.

The seminar focused on enabling Sikkim's MSMEs to access digital platforms, strengthen market linkages and explore opportunities in national and international markets under the theme 'Empowering Sikkim MSMEs for Global Markets.'

Minister-cum-Area MLA inaugurates Taramchu road

Mangan, August 29: After four months of disruption, Mr Samdup Lepcha, Minister for Social Welfare Department-cum-Area MLA Lachen Mangan Constituency, inaugurated the vital road near Taramchu Bridge. He inaugurated the reconstructed stretch and formally opened it for public use. A brief religious ritual was carried out at the site to mark the occasion.

The road had earlier been restored on February 26, 2026 following damage caused by the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in October 2023, but was cut off again on April 5, 2026. Since then, GREF has worked continuously for four difficult months to restore connectivity.

The Minister was accompanied by Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan, Mr Sonam Gyatso Lachenpa Chairman State Medicinal Plants Board, Brigadier Mr Amit Sakhre Chief Engineer, Project Swastik and senior officers of GREF, Mr Hem Sagar Kaphley ADC Development Chungthang, Mr Johna Targain BDO

Chungthang, Mr DP Limboo SHO Chungthang, Mr Khaya Shotak and Mr Cho Bandhu Pipons of Lachen, along with officials of concerned departments and Zilla and Ward Panchayat members of the concerned ward.

Minister Mr Samdup Lepcha expressed his gratitude to GREF for their tireless efforts. He also thanked the Lachen Dzomsa and local community for their cooperation and support throughout the restoration work.

He assured the gathering that the Government would continue making every effort to keep vital routes open despite the challenges posed by natural calamities.

Speaking on the technical aspects, Brigadier Amit Sakhre said that further reinforcement work would begin in October along the entire 80-100 metre vulnerable stretch. The work will include rock bolting, retaining walls, high-tensile ropes and rock-fall barriers, besides strengthening the abutment of nearby Taramchu Bridge.

DC Namchi inspects various centres

Namchi, August 31: Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi, inspected Material Recovery Facility (MRF), Organic Waste Composter Plant (OWCP) and Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) at Jorethang, commending the efforts of the Nayabazar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat (NJNP) towards promoting sustainable and scientific waste management, today.

The three facilities, functioning under the supervision of NJNP, are aimed at effective waste segregation, recycling and resource recovery, while promoting the reuse of recyclable materials and production of organic compost for gardening, plantation and town beautification.

During the inspection, DC was briefed on the functioning of the facilities. The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) primarily processes recyclable plastic bottles, which are segregated, crushed and processed for further utilisation.

The Organic Waste Composter Plant (OWCP) processes wet waste collected from households and other

establishments through a composting machine to produce organic compost. The compost is utilised for plantation, gardening and beautification of the town and is also available for purchase to individuals for personal use.

The Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) focuses on recovering reusable textile materials, including clothes, shoes and other discarded items. These materials are processed and recycled into useful products, such as bags and other amenities, thereby reducing the volume of waste sent for disposal.

The DC was also informed that, in addition to NJNP, two Self-Help Groups (SHGs), namely, Ekta SHG and Jagriti SHG have been engaged in waste collection and in supporting the functioning of the three facilities.

The initiative reflects a concerted effort towards sustainable waste management, resource recovery and environmental conservation, while contributing to a cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing Jorethang town.

State Trading Corporation of Sikkim

(Government of Sikkim Undertaking)

Deorali, Gangtok - 737102

Phones: 03592 - 281955, 281956, 281957. Fax - 03592-281954

e-mail: stcs1972@gmail.com

NIT NO: STCS/RATES/01/26-27

Dated: 31/08/2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The STCS is in the process of establishing rates of different stock materials for the financial year 2026-2027.

Accordingly, sealed quotations are invited from Manufacturers/ Authorized Distributors/ Authorized Dealers only for supply of different stock/ construction materials to reach the office of the undersigned on or before 16/09/2026 by 11.00 AM.

For detailed list of items along with the terms and conditions please visit our website at www.stcsikkim.in

Sd/-
Managing Director
(77)