



SIKKIM HERALD

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Gangtok (Tuesday) September 23, 2025

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Sikkim observes Disaster Risk Reduction Day



Gangtok, September 18: Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) under Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department (LRDM), observed the commemoration of September 18, 2011 Earthquake and State Disaster Risk Reduction Day at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok, under the theme 'Empowering Communities, Safeguarding

Sikkim', today.

The programme was attended by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, who is also the Chairperson of SSDMA.

He was accompanied by Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Public Health Engineering Department, Mr LB Das MLA-cum-Advisor LRDM, Mr R Telang Chief Secretary-cum-Chairperson of

State Executive Committee (SEC), Mr Manish Bhardwaj Secretary National Disaster Management Authority, Professor VK Sharma Vice Chairman SSDMA, and Mr MT Sherpa State Relief Commissioner-cum-Secretary LRDM.

The Chief Minister highlighted the significance of observing September 18 as State Disaster Risk Reduction Day, recalling the devastating earthquake of 2011 and the South Lhonak Lake Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) of October 3-4, 2023 that not only tested the strength but also revealed the resilience of the people of Sikkim.

He stated that this day carries emotional significance and serves as a reminder to strengthen collective preparedness.

The Chief Minister underlined Sikkim's unique geographical vulnerabilities, including earthquakes, landslides, and glacial risks, which demand a

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Sikkim launches Sewa Pakhwada Campaign



Gangtok, September 17: As part of nationwide initiative, Sewa Pakhwada, commemorating the 75th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi was observed in Gangtok, today.

The programme was attended by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur along with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang.

A video conference was held with the Prime Minister, wherein, he extended his greetings and

called upon all to actively contribute towards the mission of cleanliness, health, and social welfare.

In his address, Governor conveyed birthday wishes to Prime Minister and lauded the visionary leadership under which the nation has made remarkable progress across diverse sectors. He reflected on some of the key initiatives spearheaded by the Prime Minister that have brought

transformative change and urged all present to uphold the pledge administered during the occasion. He further called upon every citizen to contribute towards the collective goal of strengthening the nation and advancing its development.

In his address, Chief Minister extended greetings to the Prime Minister on his 75th birth anniversary, on behalf of the Government and the people of Sikkim. He informed that the State would be celebrating the 15-day Sewa Pakhwada in a grand and meaningful manner, reflecting the spirit of service and collective responsibility. The Chief Minister highlighted the initiatives of the Prime Minister and reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to supporting his vision across various sectors of development. He further outlined the activities undertaken during the Sewa Pakhwada, emphasising the importance of unity and collaborative effort under the banner of 'Team Sikkim'.

In his address, Chief Secretary Mr R Telang gave a

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Chief Minister flags off participants for Ziro Festival 2025



Gangtok, September 22: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang flagged off the participants for Ziro Festival 2025 from Ridge Park, today.

The annual outdoor music and culture festival will commence from September 25 and culminate on September 28, 2025 at Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.

The participants include officials from Departments of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Culture, Information and Public Relations, and Commerce and Industries, along with entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups,

and members of various biking clubs.

The ceremony was attended by Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation and Commerce and Industries Departments, Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Ms Hondala Gyaltzen Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman Tourism and Civil Aviation Department along with officers from line departments.

Chief Justice lays foundation stone for construction of Sub-Divisional Court Complex

Namchi, September 20: Mr Justice Biswanath Somadder Chief Justice High Court of Sikkim laid the foundation stone for the construction of Sub-Divisional Court Complex at Yangang, today.

Mrs Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judges of the High Court of Sikkim, were also present as the guests of honour.

At the outset, Chief Justice in the presence of the Judges of the High Court of Sikkim, unveiled the foundation stone laying plaque and was briefed on the designs and features of the building project.

It may be mentioned that the proposed Court Complex spans 0.9

acre and will consist of a four-storey modern judicial facility with inclusive features. The building will include one courtroom with a seating capacity of 40 persons, along with the Judge's Chamber, litigants' waiting area, and staff rooms. It will also accommodate essential facilities such as record and malkhana rooms, prosecution offices, BAR room, library and dedicated spaces for digitalisation and e-Sewa services.

The building also provides separate entry points for Judges, public, accused persons, and vulnerable witnesses. The complex will further be equipped with

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Pearls of Wisdom

"If what you have done yesterday still looks big to you, you haven't done much today."

-Mikhail Gorbachev

Block Level Orientation Programme for Village Master Trainers concludes

Namchi, September 20: Block Level Orientation Programme for Village Master Trainers under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan concluded today at PM SHRI Girls' Senior Secondary School, serving as the Block Process Lab-Namchi, today.

The programme was organised under the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, empowering individuals and strengthening institutions towards achieving comprehensive tribal development.

Ms Tirsang Tamang ADC Namchi directed the trainers to implement the two-day programme plans in the tribal villages. She instructed the VMTs to ensure that tribal schemes are effectively benefiting the tribal communities and that the intended support reaches the rightful beneficiaries.

She also emphasised the importance of disseminating information about the two-day campaign to all tribal villages.

Mr Upendra Rai BDO Namchi urged the trainers to raise awareness about the initiative among wider community.

He highlighted that the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan (AKA), is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which aimed at strengthening grassroots governance and planning in tribal areas. The AKA programme focuses on building the capacity of VMTs to prepare village-level action plans through participatory methods, ensuring inclusivity and respect for tribal traditions and sentiments.

He informed that by addressing gaps in development plans and promoting community-driven solutions, the Abhiyan strives to achieve inclusive tribal transformation and sustainable development.

Also, he provided a briefing on the 'Pradhan Mantri

Jan Dhan Yojana', a national financial inclusion scheme aimed at ensuring access to basic banking services for all, especially the tribal communities.

Moreover, he explained that the scheme provides savings accounts, direct benefit transfers, insurance coverage, and access to credit, helping tribal families become financially empowered. The campaign under this scheme is intended to promote overall community development, enabling the tribal population to access government benefits efficiently, manage their finances, and improve their livelihoods.

Ms SM Tamang Block Master Trainer (BMT) reviewed the sessions and activities conducted on the previous day. The discussions covered several important aspects, including leadership, formation of inter-groups for activities and reflective exercises.

Ms Sangita Pradhan Junior Facility, SIRD & PR delivered a detailed presentation on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), highlighting its significance as a planning and processing tool for tribal villages.

She elaborated on PRA tools, including social mapping, transect walks, household surveys, venn diagrams, resource mapping, focus group discussions, and seasonal calendars, emphasising social and resource mapping as key tools.

Further, she explained that Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan launched in 2024, aims to work towards the vision of tribal villages through 2047.

Mr Sonam Dadul Bhutia Social Welfare Officer-cum-Nodal officer Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan briefed on the initiative under which 22 villages in Namchi District are included. He emphasised the importance of inclusivity, ensuring that every tribal community is equally represented and involved.

Also, he instructed VMTs to visit the concerned villages directly to prepare these plans, ensuring that all members of tribal communities are treated equally.

He further stressed that the sentiments of tribal communities must be safeguarded, and that the teams should function collaboratively. Village action plans are expected to be submitted by October 2, with planning and execution taking place within the respective villages.

He also mentioned that if necessary VMTs may directly consult with the relevant departments to incorporate their inputs into the village plans.

The concluding day saw a mock Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) activity, which was the highlight of the second day programme during which the VMTs prepared village maps. These maps were categorised into resource maps and social maps, serving as a practice exercise to prepare, refine and simulate the actual PRA process before conducting it in the field.

This exercise helps strengthen the VMTs' skills, ensures methodological clarity, builds confidence, and enhances the effectiveness of their engagement with the community, ultimately leading to better outcomes.

The orientation programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to the Village Management Trainers (VMTs) in recognition of their successful participation.

The programme was also attended by Mr Ramesh Chand Chandrawal Under Secretary Ministry of Tribal Affairs and District Prabhari Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan for Sikkim, Mr Arun Kumar Rai AEO, Ms Bandana Rai Principal PM SHRI GSSS, Ms Seden Ongmu Bhutia AEO Namchi Education Deptt/DMT and others.

Jorethang Rural ICDS project observes 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah

Namchi, September 19: Following the launch of 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month) on September 17, a month long campaign dedicated to promote and advocate awareness on nutrition and health and wellness to the community, a Poshan Walk event was organised by the Jorethang Rural ICDS Project, under Women, Child, Senior Citizens and Divyangjan Department at Jorethang, today.

During the event, Mr Samten Moktan Panchayat NJNP emphasised the critical need for every individual to adopt a healthy lifestyle. He also highlighted the State Government's commitment in strengthening the health sector, referencing Chief Minister vision and various initiatives, schemes and infrastructure projects.

Further, he urged all Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), ASHA workers and other health personnel to work with utmost

dedication. He encouraged them to promote nutrition and wellness among the public through broader outreach programmes.

He stated that the Panchayat, as a governing body, is always prepared to support the department in future campaigns.

In her address, Ms Uma Portel Panchayat NJNP, emphasised the need to adopt and advocate the oaths taken during the pledge at individual levels and also creating awareness among the mass for health and wellness and adopting nutritional diet consumptions. She also stated that the message being proclaimed during the period of the month-long Poshan Maah should have a positive impact through larger awareness and outreach campaigns.

She urged to work in tandem with line departments to develop and lead the rural areas towards healthy environment.

Earlier, Mr Prabin Silal CDPO Jorethang briefed about the present Poshan Maah's

themes under the mission to improve nutritional outcomes and holistic developments leading to healthy community and environment.

He also highlighted the themes, stating that the mission aims to address key focus areas such as combating obesity targeted to reduce sugar and oil consumption, Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) where nutrition is integrated with early learning under Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB), Infant & Young Child Feeding (IYCF) that promotes breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, men-streaming that encourages active involvement of male in nutritional care and health practices, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam plantation campaign and Vocal for Local endorsing local produce and traditional cuisine.

Earlier, Mr Samten Moktan administered the Poshan Pledge. A signature campaign was also observed during the event.

Mangan District organises Rashtriya Poshan Maah

Mangan, September 20: As part of the Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2025, Mangan District organised a series of community-based activities under the theme 'Poshan Walk' aimed at promoting awareness around nutrition, health and early childhood care.

The walk was conducted at village level, involving local stakeholders, AWWs, AWHs, Supervisor, CDPO, SHGs and community members.

The walk served as a platform to disseminate crucial information on good nutrition emphasising the importance of a

healthy, balanced diet, especially for pregnant and lactating mothers, children, and adolescents.

The objective of the 'Poshan Walk' was to generate awareness and mobilise the community towards achieving the goals of POSHAN Abhiyaan, which seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The grassroots-level outreach ensured that messages reached every household, reinforcing the importance of health, nutrition, and education from the early years.

Stakeholder training on enforcement of COTPA 2003 organised

Pakyong, September 20: A one-day stakeholder training on the enforcement of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 was organised by Health and Family Welfare Department, Pakyong District, at Rurban Community Complex, today.

The objective of the programme was to strengthen the implementation of COTPA by enhancing awareness among stakeholders, ensuring effective enforcement of its provisions and protecting the public.

Highlighting the correlation between tobacco use and tuberculosis, Dr Madanmani Dhakal, Chief Medical Officer Pakyong, explained the different types of TB and serious health risks associated with smoking. He elaborated on how smoking weakens the lungs, increasing susceptibility to TB and explained the role of nicotinic receptors in tobacco addiction. He stressed that the enforcement of COTPA is crucial to safeguard passive smokers from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke.

Dr Pema Doma Sherpa, AD Sanitation, District Hospital Singtam, delivered a detailed presentation on the harmful effects of tobacco use, including the risks to passive smokers. She also explained key legal provisions relevant to tobacco control, highlighting the Juvenile Justice Act, Section 77, which prohibits giving or causing a minor to consume addictive substances, including tobacco, with violations punishable by a fine of up to ₹1,00,000/- and imprisonment for up to seven years. She further referred to the Indian Penal Code, Section 268, which defines creating a public nuisance that endangers or annoys the public and carries a fine of ₹200/-, and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which incorporates restrictions related to tobacco products. In addition, she explained the regulations for designated smoking zones in establishments with a seating capacity of 30 or more or with 30 or more rooms.

She further elaborated on the key provisions of the

COTPA Act, explaining that Section 4 prohibits smoking in public places, while Section 5 restricts all forms of tobacco advertisements.

She highlighted that Section 6(a) bans the sale of tobacco products to or by minors and Section 6(b) prohibits the sale of such products within 100 yards (91 meters) of educational institutions. She also spoke on Section 7, which places restrictions on the production, supply and trade of tobacco products and Section 8, which mandates the display of health warning labels on all tobacco packaging.

Dr DP Koirala, District Nodal Officer, NTCP Cell, emphasised the importance of COTPA in reducing tobacco consumption and its associated health risks. He explained how nicotine leads to addiction and highlighted the severe health threats posed by tobacco use.

Furthermore, Dr Digcha Shree Rai, Programme Coordinator, NTCP Pakyong, gave a presentation on the objectives, provisions, and enforcement mechanisms of the COTPA Act, 2003. She spoke about strategies such as public awareness campaigns and enforcement by police, health, and municipal authorities. She also presented case studies on COTPA violations in Sikkim, highlighting both success stories and ongoing challenges.

Dr Chogyal Bhutia, President, gave an overview of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) and Sikkim's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. He explained the symptoms of pulmonary TB, differences between TB infection and TB disease, modes of transmission, and diagnostic methods. He also detailed treatment regimens for drug-sensitive TB (DS-TB) and TB infections.

The programme was attended by officials from Forest and Environment Department, Health and Family Welfare Department, teachers and stakeholders from Pakyong.

Government of Sikkim
Rural Development Department
Gangtok

N.I.T No. 02/SE(zilla)/plg/stores/RDD/HQ

Dated: 19/09/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (SW, Zilla), Rural Development Department, invites sealed tenders from the eligible registered contractors of APPROPRIATE CLASS (II A) enlisted under SPWD within the District and having experience in such works for the work listed as under:-

Sl. No	Name of work	Value put to tender (in Lakhs)	Completion time (In months)	Amount of Bank receipt for cost of tender documents (in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money @2.50% for issue tender of form (₹) in lakhs	Territorial Jurisdiction
1	Construction of Block Administrative Centre (BAC) at Baiguney under Soreng District	557.53	30 months	1.00	13.94	Within the District

TIME SCHEDULE

I. Date of issue of NIT

: 22/09/2025

II. Date for submission of application with Bank receipt upto 3.00PM for issue of Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form)

: 13/10/2025 & 14/10/2025 from10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

III. Date of issue of Tender Form.

: 17/10/2025 & 18/10/2025 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 pm

IV. Date and Time of submission of Tender.

: 27/10/2025 from 10:00AM to 1:00 P.M.

V. Date and Time of opening of Tender.

: 27/10/2025 from 1.30PM.

CONDITION OF CONTRACT

1. Tender is open only to eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.

2. The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.

3. The application should enclose attested copies of the (a) latest GST clearance certificate as per the Indian Income Tax Act and (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate, and Professional Tax Clearance Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification.

4. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the tender form) can be obtained during the period specified in from the office of the Superintending Engineer (S/W, Zilla), Rural Development Department on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (non-refundable) UNDER THE RECEIPT HEAD 0515-800-01 (sale of tender documents & other Misc) "Cost of Tender Form" to the Chief Accounts Office concerned.

5. Earnest money deposited @2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of temporary Deposit receipt of schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts to fixed deposit receipts in favor of Chief Accounts Officer of the Department. Tender form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts to that contractors/firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.

6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender form with quoted offer should be placed in the sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted in it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No (a), (b) and (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.

7. Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Chief Engineers, Rural Development Department on the date and within the time indicated above.

8. The Tender should sign on every page of the Tender Documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Condition of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and other taxes and levies. Over writing and correction should avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tender shall be rejected forthwith.

9. In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender document, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer/Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

10. The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.

11. The contractor shall engage a Graduate/ Diploma Civil Engineer(s) at the project site during the period of execution of work as per the norms prescribed in the Enlistment Rules and grade of contractors as well as requirement site determined by Engineer-in-charge.

12. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.

13. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order

14. All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @5% of the value of work done.

15. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

16. In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.

17. The Contractors are required to register themselves for the applicable GST With the income and Commercial Tax Division of Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department, having valid Pan Card and GSTIN number. The Contractors are also required to submit PAN No as per provision of Indian Income Tax Act, wherever applicable.

18. In case of carriage of Non Stock Materials, if these materials are available at site or are actually transported from a lesser distance than indicated in the schedules, the department shall pay the carriage as per actual proof of carriage supported by permit issued by Forest department indicating the quarries which is required to be submitted by contractor with bill.

19. Mobilization advance shall be given as per paragraph 24.6 of the Sikkim Public Works Department manual and general condition of contract subject to availability of resource.

20. Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

21. Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.

22. It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.

23. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.

Superintending Engineer, Zilla/Plg/Store)
Rural Development Department
(153, ii)

Government of Sikkim
Sports & Youth Affairs Department
White Memorial Hall, Gangtok-737103

Memo No. 503/SYA/EC/2021/1713

Dated: 19.09 2025

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF TENDER

Reference is invited to the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) No 503/SYA/EC/2025/1704 dated 27.08.2025 issued for the work titled "**CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERNATE PLAYGROUND AT BOOMTAR IN NAMCHI DISTRICT**".

It is hereby informed to all concerned that the said tender stands cancelled, owing to revision in the project cost and scope. A fresh tender shall be floated in due course based on the revised estimate.

All prospective bidders are requested to kindly take note of the same.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Sports & Youth Affairs Department
Government of Sikkim
(152)

Read and
Advertise
in
Sikkim
Herald

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority
Development Area, Gangtok
Phone No: 03592-207753, Fax:03592-207753

Ref. No.8458/SLSA/52

Dated:11/09/2025

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The Sikkim State Legal Services Authority Sikkim (SLSA) invites sealed Quotations from registered local printing firms for printing of 46 (Forty-Six) stickers conveying the message of 'Persons Eligible for Free Legal Aid' as per the specifications provided below. These stickers shall be affixed and displayed in pre-installed metal frames of size (8ft x 6ft) across various locations in Mangan District:

1.	Product	Best quality stickers (Eco Vinyl with varnish)
2.	Message of the sticker	To be provided by Sikkim SLSA
3.	Quantity	46
4.	Size	8 ft x 6 ft
5.	Taxes	Rates must be inclusive of all applicable taxes and transportation charges
6.	Ceilinglimit	₹5500/- per hoarding

7.	Last date and time for submission of quotation	27.10.2025
8.	Date and time of opening of sealed quotation	30.10.2025
9.	Date and completion of the work	3 months from the date of issue of work order ie 05.02.2026
10.	Venue	Office of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok.

Terms & Conditions:

1. The quoting party must have experience in printing stickers and a proven track record of supplying high-quality materials.

2. Only those bidders having their own established printing press may apply.

3. The selected bidder shall collect a sample copy of the sticker message from the Office of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area, Gangtok, within two (2) days of receiving the work order.

4. Final layouts (as per the message provided by Sikkim SLSA) must be submitted for approval to this Authority within one (1) week of order placement. A smaller size proof maybe submitted for this purpose.

5. The Sikkim SLSA shall not be liable for payment if the stickers do not meet the approved specifications.

6. The selected party must ensure thorough cleaning of existing hoarding frames in Mangan District prior to the installation of new stickers.

7. Bidders must submit the following documents along with the quotations:

- Registration Certificate,

- Valid Professional Tax Clearance Certificate,

- GSTIN Number.

8. Failure to execute the work within the stipulated timeline shall attract a penalty of 5% of total quoted value.

9. Quotation shall be evaluated by a Committee constituted by the Sikkim SLSA based on sealed quotations and selection of lowest bidder among eligible firms

10. Payment shall be made only after inspection and satisfactory completion of the work, as per the specified terms and conditions.

11. Documents submitted must be properly signed and dated. Rates quoted must be clearly mentioned in both words and figures.

12. The Sikkim SLSA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason

Interested firms may submit their sealed quotations addressed to the Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Development Area Gangtok.

Member Secretary

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority

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Sikkim observes...

culture of safety and sustainable practices.

He further informed that under SSDMA, significant strides have been made in integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning.

In partnership with NDMA and other national and international institutions, initiatives such as multi-hazard risk assessments, landslide studies, and scientific monitoring of glacial lakes have been undertaken.

Early warning systems, high-altitude expeditions, and capacity-building programmes are strengthening the State’s preparedness and response framework.

Through the Aapada Mitra scheme and induction of disaster management coordinators, supervisors, and assistants at various levels, disaster preparedness has also been ensured at the grassroots.

Notably, 1,185 officials have been inducted into SSDMA and trained through rigorous exercises

to serve as the backbone of Sikkim’s disaster management network.

Recalling the South Lhonak Lake Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) of October 2023, which had a severe impact on lives, infrastructure, and the tourism sector, he stated that following a post-disaster assessment, the Government of India has extended substantial financial support for relief and reconstruction, with restoration works underway.

He added that while progress is being made, Sikkim’s fragile Himalayan ecosystem demands sustained attention and resources, and the State continues to seek further assistance from the Government of India to strengthen its disaster response capacity.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, Government of India, NDMA, SDRF, NDRF, armed forces, various State Government Departments and civil society organisations for their continued support to Sikkim in times of disaster, the Chief Minister stated that disaster preparedness is a shared responsibility.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the State

Government’s commitment to building a disaster-resilient Sikkim and called for collective action to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and the environment.

Mr Manish Bhardwaj, in his address lauded Sikkim’s resilience and disaster preparedness. He stated that Sikkim has prepared district-level and state-level disaster management plans that reflect strong institutional readiness of the state.

Referring to the South Lhonak Lake GLOF of October 2023, he said recovery is guided by the principle of ‘building back better’ with a focus on restoring livelihoods, strengthening early warning systems and protecting ecosystems.

He highlighted initiatives like the National Landslide Risk Management Programme, National Glacial Lake Risk Mitigation Programme, earthquake retrofitting of infrastructure, and training of engineers and artisans in safety techniques.

He also noted NDMA’s support to Sikkim in expanding fire services, strengthening early warning systems, and engaging youth volunteers under NCC, NSS,

Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok
No.(378-II)/IPR/09-10/341

Date: 12.02.2010

CIRCULAR

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

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

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

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

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

This issues with the approval of the Government.

Sd/-

Secretary

and NYKS for disaster preparedness.

Chief Secretary stressed on the importance of preparedness and community participation in disaster management. He highlighted the State’s vulnerability to earthquakes, landslides and climate-induced changes, noting the shift in rainfall patterns due to climate change.

Referring to the 2011 earthquake and the GLOF of 2023, he said Sikkim has learned from past disasters to strengthen its resilience, including disaster-resilient housing, school safety, and village-level volunteer training.

Stressing that personal safety must become a habit, he called for building a culture of preparedness through education, data collection, and community engagement.

Professor VK Sharma, emphasised that since the 2011 earthquake, Sikkim has steadily strengthened its disaster preparedness through annual observance of State Disaster Reduction Day and innovative resilience initiatives.

He highlighted the State’s pioneering steps in disaster-resilient housing, health and school infrastructure, and training of community-level volunteers.

Stressing the importance of scientific monitoring, local data collection, and youth engagement, he added that Sikkim today stands as a model of community-driven disaster resilience for the nation.

Mr MT Sherpa Relief Commissioner-cum-Secretary highlighted Sikkim’s vulnerability to disasters and outlined State initiatives such as trained disaster personnel, early warning systems and integration of risk reduction in development planning. Stressing collective responsibility, he called for building resilience at every level of society.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister was felicitated for the formation of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Service cadre, marking a significant milestone in strengthening disaster management architecture.

The felicitation ceremony also honoured six best disaster management trainees from each district of the State for their exceptional performance during

their 12-days residential training on ‘Basics of Disaster Management’.

As part of the felicitation ceremony, winners of the Inter-College Quiz Competition on ‘Disaster Risk Reduction’ were also awarded.

The programme also featured a video presentation, highlighting Sikkim’s journey in disaster management over the years. Another presentation showcased the training activities of disaster management officials.

It may be mentioned that in line with the Chief Minister’s vision of building a dedicated disaster management team across Sikkim, 1,185 disaster management officials have been recently inducted into SSDMA.

These officials have undergone intensive capacity-building programmes, including simulations and specialized training at the Mountaineering and Adventure Institute of Sikkim, Yuksom, and the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Ecotourism, Chemchey, equipping them to respond swiftly and effectively during crises.

A key highlight of the programme was the release of a comprehensive document titled ‘Road Map for Resilient Health Infrastructure of Sikkim’, prepared by Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim and WHO.

Further, the event featured the virtual inauguration of an Automatic Weather Station at the State Emergency Operation Center, SSDMA, in collaboration with Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS India).

The programme was also attended by Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, DGP, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries of line departments, District Collectors, representatives of NDRF, SDRF, and the Indian Army, Aapada Mitras and officials.

Earlier, as part of the commemoration, a live demonstration on disaster response and preparedness was carried out by disaster management personnel and Aapada Mitra at the premise of Chintan Bhawan to showcase effective techniques in rescue and emergency management.

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Sikkim launches...

comprehensive overview and informed that the celebration would continue till October 2, 2025. He underscored the Prime Minister's vision of elevating India onto the global stage, while also outlining the State Government's initiatives across various sectors. Further, he provided a summary of the day's proceedings and elaborated on the forthcoming activities to be undertaken as part of the 8th Poshan Maah.

Ms Normit Lepcha Secretary Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Department provided an overview of the programme, outlining its objectives and its relevance in promoting social welfare, child development, and community empowerment.

At the outset, Governor along with Chief Minister flagged off 16 Resource Recovery Vehicles along with 22 vehicles of the Transport Department, marking a significant step towards strengthening the State's infrastructure and services. Subsequently, the dignitaries visited the Utsav Plaza Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari, where they released a specially designed QR code entry system.

The Governor formally announced the roll-out of Swachhata Hi Sewa, 2025 and administered the Swachhata Pledge.

As part of the celebrations marking 75th birth anniversary of the Prime Minister, a special distribution programme under various departments was also held.

During the Sewa Pakhwada Celebration held at the Utsav Plaza in the Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari Park, the Governor and the Chief Minister distributed various benefits to beneficiaries of the following departments:

Under, Urban Development Department, felicitations were given to Safai Mitra working in seven Urban Local Bodies, 75 Safai Mitras from seven Urban Local Bodies were nominated for felicitation programme on the occasion of the rollout of Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign-2025, with the following receiving felicitation, namely Mr Krishna Lal Sharma- Namchi Municipal Council, Mr Shyam Babu- Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Mr Dinesh Rawat- Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, Mr Datempa Sherpa- Singtam Nagar Panchayat, Mr Tej Bahadur Gurung- Nayabazaar Jorethang Nagar Panchayat, Mr Bal Krishna Sanyasi- Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat and Mrs Purna Kumari Gurung- Gangtok Municipal Corporation.

Handing over of desludging vehicle keys to MEOs, the desludging vehicles have been procured and handed over to the Urban Local Bodies under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). The vehicles will not only provide desludging service to the households, but they will also bring revenue to ULBs. The keys were handed over to Mangan Nagar Panchayat- received by Mr

Karzong Bhutia, Municipal Executive Officer, Mangan Nagar Panchayat and Namchi Municipal Council- received by Mr Rajiv Rai, Municipal Executive Officer, Namchi Municipal Council.

Handing over of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya cards - under NAMASTE Scheme of Urban Development Department, PMJAY Insurance cards to three Sewer line and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) enabling them to avail health benefits upto ₹5 lakh to Mr Bhakta Bahadur Chettri- Rangpo Nagar Panchayat, Mr Karna Bahadur Kami- Rangpo Nagar Panchayat and Mr Deo Krishna Sharma- PHE Department.

Handing over of blueprints and keys to the completed units under Sikkim Urban Garib Awas Yojana (SUGAY) amounting to ₹19,37,000/-. The following received the benefits namely Mr Kalu Rai- Arithang Ward, Ms Doma Bhutia- Shyari- Tathangchen Ward, Mr Lakpa Tenpa Sherpa- Development Area, Ms Bina Rai- Shyari- Tathangchen Ward and Ms Rebecca Lucksom- Development Area

For, Panchayati Raj Department; handing over of cheques of ₹1,11,111 to the best performing Gram Panchayat Units in the nine themes of Sustainable Development under Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village- Darap Singpheng GPU, Gyalshing, Healthy Village- Sangkhu Radukhandu GPU, Gyalshing, Child-Friendly Village- Bermiok Tokal GPU, Namchi, Water Sufficient Village- Arithang Chongrang GPU, Gyalshing, Clean and Green Village- Gelling Baiguney GPU, Soreng, Village with Self- Sufficient Infrastructure- Lower Fambong GPU, Soreng, Socially Just and Socially Secured Village- Budang GPU, Soreng, Village with Good Governance- Ringhim Nampatam GPU, Mangan and Women Friendly Village- Yuksom GPU, Gyalshing.

Labour Department; a total of 10,000 workers benefited from financial assistance under the BOCW Welfare Scheme. During the ceremony, 10 workers from the Roads and Bridges Department were handed cheques of ₹10,000 each, representing the larger distribution, the cheques were given to Ms Chandra Maya Rai- Gyalshing District, Ms Nimje Bhutia- Namchi District and Mr Ram Kumar Kami- Soreng District

Similarly, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Department saw handing over of cheques to 990 beneficiaries from Gangtok and Shyari Constituencies and 121 from Sangha under Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana. Following received the benefits, namely; Ms Diki Lepcha- Shyari Constituency, Ms Meena Rai- Shyari Constituency. Ms Lalita Tamang- Shyari Constituency, Ms Kiran Darnal- Gangtok Constituency and Ms Renu Gurung- Gangtok Constituency. Handing over of cheques of ₹2,00,000/- for Marriage with Divyangjan. The following received the benefits, namely; Mr Dharma Raj Sharma and Ms Sarita Chettri- Pakyong District, Mr Ramesh Kumar Chettri and Ms Jog Maya Chettri- Gyalshing District. Handing over of Scholarships to

Meritorious Divyangjan students, Class X/XII toppers were Mr Ayush Gurung- Class XII, Namthang SSS receiving ₹50,000/- for securing 1st position, Ms Angila Sherpa- Class XII, VCGL SSS, Rabong receiving ₹35,000/- for securing 2nd position, Ms Nim Diki Sherpa- Class X, PM SHRI Biraspati Prasai SSS, Ranipool receiving ₹50,000 for securing 1st position and Ms Roshni Kumari Prashad- Class X PM Shri Samdong SSS receiving ₹35,000 for securing 2nd position.

Likewise, for Social Welfare Department; handing over of cash prize to awardees under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Award- in May 2025, the Social Welfare Department conducted an 'essay and poetry competition' (open category) in both Nepali and English as well as 'Healing through Talent Competition' for the patients of Rehab Centres under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Each winner of the Poem and Essay competition in each category were handed over a cash prize of ₹10,000/- each and a certificate. The winners are in English Essay Category: Ms Tshering Choden Bhutia, in English Poem Category: Mr Tilak Sharma, in Nepali Essay Category: Ms Mamta Rai and in Nepali Poem Category: Ms Lalita Sharma.

Handing over of token/ certificates and water purifiers to awardees of Rehab Talent Competition in 1st place was Jagriti, Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) Upper Sichey, in 2nd place was Freedom Rehab Centre, Tathangchen and in 3rd place was Centre for Addiction Medicine, Chuwatar, Singtam.

Under Rural Development Department handing over of cheques of ₹4,400/- to avail 4 full LPG cylinders per year under Sikkim Aama Sahayog Yojana was held. The cheques were presented to Ms Labi Tamang, Ms Bishnu Maya Subba and Ms Kaushalya Mangrati.

C o o p e r a t i o n Department saw handing over of Cheques for transport and marketing subsidy. The following received the benefits namely Makha MPCS- ₹1,65,600/-, Nandok MPCS- ₹1,57,600/- and Mangsari Mangarjung MPCS- ₹77,000/- as an initial one time grant for newly registered MPCS.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department saw handing over of 120 litres of Milk Can Coolers under State Sikkim Milk Union Fund to Daragaon Doling Milk PCS, Poklok Kamrang GPU received by Mr Tarun Rai and Sangmoo Milk PCS received by Mr Rinchen Bhutia.

Also handing over of Motor Driven Chaff Cutter under Central National Dairy Development Programme was handed to Mr Binod Chettri- Ben Namprik GPU.

In Health and Family Welfare Department, the handing over of Government Grant of ₹1,00,000/- to NGOs under TB Elimination Programme was given to Stars of Hope Gangtok with State TB cell, Amardeep Club, Namchi District, Northern Riders Motorcycle Club, Mangan District, West District NGOs Federation Soreng, Sikkim State TB survivor Welfare Association,

Gangtok District, Heavenly Nirvana Path, Gyalshing District and Federation of Consumer Association Sikkim, Pakyong District.

Handing over of Nutritional Food Basket under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, the benefits was received by Mr Pujan Chettri, Ms Rita Rai.

Distribution of Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards enabling senior citizens above 70 years of age to avail treatment of ₹5,00,000. The Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards fall under the Ayushman Bharat Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana. The following people received the cards; Mr Chandra Bahadur Tamang and Mr Man Bahadur Tamang.

Under Ecclesiastical Department, distribution to cheques to Gumpa and Mandirs were given to Ngagyur Tsungon Ogyan Chokorling (Taktse ani Gumpa) Gangtok receiving ₹10,00,000/-, Shing Chit Ngadak, Mangan District receiving ₹4,00,000/-, Shri Sansari Mandir, Lingdok, Gangtok receiving ₹3,00,000/- and Patuk Tarkeshwar Shiva Mandir, Gangtok receiving ₹2,00,000/-.

For Education Department the PM Poshan Yojana-Distribution of coupons for LPG Gas to 368 schools was given to Government Primary School, Nimthang, Gangtok District and Uchatam Sanskrit Pathshala, Pakyong District.

Science kits to PM SHRI Schools were handed over to PM SHRI Deorali Girls SSS, Gangtok District and PM SHRI Government Sir TNHSS, Gangtok District.

The Forest and Environment Department saw distribution of Fixed Deposits under Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana receiving ₹10,800 for their participation in the State Government's initiative, 'Mero Rukh, Mero Santati' where the beneficiaries plant 108 trees in the name of their children. The benefits was received by Ms Brijeshika Chettri, daughter of Mr Bed Prakash Chettri and Ms Puspa Chettri, Gyalshing Division, Ms Lenora Lepcha, daughter of Mr Nim Tshering Lepcha and Ms Sumitra Rai (Lepcha), Gangtok Division.

Harvesting Tank under PMKSY-WDC 2. 0 SLNA was given to Mr Dik Bir Baraily, son of Mr Agam Singh Baraily, Social Forestry Pakyong Division.

This was followed by a series

of releases and virtual inaugurations of key projects and products under various departments.

The event highlights the government's focus on service and development initiatives.

Cooperation Department: PM Van Dhan Yojana Herbal Tea- Simik Lingzey Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK). Produced by the women of Simik Lingzey VDVK, the herbal tea uses locally grown spices such as ginger and turmeric. It offers a comforting brew rooted in the traditional flavours of 'Kadha.' Sikkim Van Dhan Lakadong Turmeric- Arithang-Chongrang VDVK; Lakadong turmeric, a rare high-curcumin variety (7-12%) native to the hills of Meghalaya, is now cultivated in Sikkim from authentic seeds. Traditionally processed by the Arithang Chongrang VDVK, it is valued for its potency, purity, and health benefits, including support for immunity, digestion, and skincare. Malbasey Turmeric- Malbasey Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK); Launched at Soreng District, its first product, pure turmeric powder, is made from locally grown turmeric cultivated by Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Additionally, a total of 23 SHGs with 92 trainees (four from each SHG) successfully completed a four-day training programme on processing, value addition, and packaging. The training has empowered members to transform traditional minor forest produce into market-ready products.

Health and Family Welfare Department on the occasion, virtually laid foundation stone for the new building of Sikkim Government College of Nursing at Sochakgang and a new Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Melli, Namchi District.

Transport Department: Common Service Centre, Gangtok Booking Office was virtually inaugurated. Rural Development Department: The Operation and Maintenance Policy for sanitation facilities and assets under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), as well as water supply assets under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), for rural areas of Sikkim were released.

Also present were Madam Krishna Rai, Cabinet Ministers, MP Lok Sabha, MLAs, Former Legislators, Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhakshya, Up- Adhakshya, Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretary, DGP, Heads of Departments, officers and



Press Release from WCSC& DW Department

Tirupati, September 16: Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA Gnathang-Machong-cum-Advisor attended the first National Conference of Parliamentary and Legislative Committees on Empowerment of Women held at the Rahul Convention Centre, Tirupati. The two-day conference began on September 14 and was inaugurated by Mr Om Birla Speaker Lok Sabha.

The conference was convened to provide a common platform for Committees on Empowerment of Women from Parliament and State/UT Legislatures to exchange views, share experiences, and deliberate on the role of these committees in strengthening women’s participation in governance. It also aimed at identifying challenges, exploring mechanisms for better coordination between parliamentary and legislative institutions, and studying the impact of existing policies and programmes related to women.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Mr Harivansh, Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha, Mr Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, Speaker Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Mr Payyavula Keshav, Minister of Legislative Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Mr K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Dr. D. Purandeswari, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women, Ms Gowru Charitha Reddy, Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Women, Children,

Disabled and the Old Aged, Andhra Pradesh Legislature; along with Chairpersons and Members of Committees on Empowerment of Women from both Houses of Parliament and from various States and Union Territories.

During the inaugural session, Mr Om Birla highlighted the role of women in India’s freedom struggle, social reform movements, and democratic institutions. He recalled the contributions made by women members of the Constituent Assembly in ensuring that equality and justice were enshrined in the Constitution. He stated that the participation of women in governance continues to provide perspectives that strengthen legislative functioning.

Sessions were held on a range of subjects concerning women, including their representation in political and administrative structures, measures for social and economic inclusion, challenges related to health, education, and employment, and the mechanisms available for addressing gender-related issues through legislative committees. The sessions also discussed the need for coordination between State Legislatures and Parliament to ensure uniformity in approach and effective implementation of policies.

The conference served as a forum for participants to share examples of initiatives undertaken in their respective States and at national level. It also enabled members of different committees to

exchange ideas on strengthening institutional frameworks and to explore avenues for ensuring accountability in the implementation of schemes relating to women.

The valedictory session, held on September 15 was attended by Mr Abdul Nazeer Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Mr Om Birla, Speaker Lok Sabha, Mr Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Mr Harivansh, Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha, Mr K Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Deputy Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Dr D Purandeswari, Chairperson Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women; and Ms Gowru Charitha Reddy, Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Women, Children, Disabled and the Old Aged, Andhra Pradesh Legislature. MLAs, officials and delegates from across the country were also present.

The valedictory session included remarks from dignitaries on the importance of continued dialogue between parliamentary and legislative committees, the monitoring of Government initiatives for women, and the role of legislatures in ensuring gender-sensitive governance.

The conference concluded with gratitude to Andhra Pradesh Legislature for hosting the event and to the participating members and officials for contributing to the deliberations.

Mangan holds VPRP Training

Mangan, September 22: A training programme on the Village Prosperity and Resilience Plan (VPRP) was organised today by the Block Mission Management Unit (BMMU), Mangan, under the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), Rural Development Department.

The initiative, guided by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), aims to foster convergence with various line departments to strengthen support services for Self Help Groups (SHGs) across Sikkim.

The session was conducted by Assistance Project Manager (SRLM/RDD) and Deputy Director (Education). Also present were the Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats and Block-Level Coordination Committee of VPRP.

As part of the programme, a

house discussion was also held, allowing participants to engage in meaningful dialogue on local issues, opportunities and strategies for enhancing SHG initiatives through effective convergence and resilience planning.

The training emphasised the role of the State and Block-level Steering Committees in monitoring and reviewing field-level activities, thereby ensuring the holistic development and prosperity of rural communities.

The event concluded with a shared commitment among participants to actively support SHGs and strengthen community-led planning, marking another significant step towards achieving inclusive and sustainable rural development in the District.

PM Vishwakarma awareness programme for marketing support

Gangtok, September 16: A day-long awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma Scheme was conducted at Seminar hall of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, today.

The programme was organised by MSME-Development and Facilitation Office under Ministry of MSME Government of India in collaboration with Office of District Collector Gangtok.

The objective of programme was to impart knowledge on taking local products outside the State for export through marketing, packaging, and branding.

Mr Tushar G Nikhare, DC Gangtok, expressed gratitude to MSME officials for conducting awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma Scheme, aligning with the Chief Minister’s ‘One Family, One Entrepreneur’ vision. He highlighted the DAC initiative to support entrepreneurs to overcome challenges.

Drawing inspiration from success stories like Dhirubhai Ambani, Infosys, Tenzing Sherpa, Edmund Hillary, Thomas Edison, and KFC, he encouraged entrepreneurs to start small with big visions. The DC assured support, inviting entrepreneurs seeking assistance to approach his office.

Mr Milan Rai ADC Development Gangtok, spoke on the effort of Government of India, Government of Sikkim and various line departments to assist entrepreneurs to make them self reliant. He called artisans of various fields as an integral part of the society and take full advantage of PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Mr Monojit Chandra, Deputy Superintendent

Department of Post Sikkim State Postal Region and Mr Sameer Pradhan Marketing Executive Department of Post Sikkim State Postal Region, in their address, apprised about features of Speed Post, Transit Time, Road Transport Network, Special Measures of India Post and Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra.

Mr Joydeep Chakravorty, Team Lead SLPNU PM Vishwakarma Scheme Commerce and Industries Department (C and ID) said that most of the artisans in Sikkim have registered under PM Vishwakarma Scheme and applauded Gram Panchayats on their huge contribution towards large inclusion of the population. He spoke on the objective of the programme to impart knowledge of taking local products to global stage towards ‘Sunaolo, Samriddha and Samartha Sikkim.’

Mr Amit Tamang MSME Consultant SLPNU C and ID gave a detailed report on PM Vishwakarma Scheme, its progress report and complete process of PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Mr PK Das Assistant Professor Sikkim University explained at length the online selling, Finding Market Trends and Building Digital Literacy, Branding and Packaging, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and selling strategies.

An interactive session also took place between concerned Officers and the stakeholders.

The day saw the presence of Deputy Commissioner GMC, officers of concerned line departments, entrepreneurs and artisans from Gangtok district.

SREDA meeting charts new course for renewable energy in Sikkim

Gangtok, September 16: The Sikkim Renewable Energy Development Agency (SREDA) convened an important board meeting at SREDA Bhawan, DPH Complex, Gangtok, today.

Chaired by the Mr Bikash Deokota Chairman-cum-Secretary Power Department, the session focused on strengthening infrastructure, streamlining administration, and charting a roadmap for future activities. While routine operational requirements were deliberated, the meeting placed special emphasis on expanding renewable energy awareness and implementation in the State.

Mr Jeevan Thapa, Director, SREDA, briefed the Board members about the administrative functioning of the SREDA, highlighting measures being undertaken to improve efficiency and ensure smooth delivery of its programmes. The Board also advised SREDA to maintain detailed records of its budget, thereby reinforcing transparency

and accountability in its operations.

Among the key highlights was a discussion on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, underscoring SREDA’s commitment to bringing clean energy to households and communities.

The Divisional Engineer enriched the deliberations with a detailed technical PowerPoint presentation on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna and the Model Solar Village. The presentation highlighted plans for awareness programs and outreach strategies, underscoring SREDA’s proactive commitment to embedding renewable energy into everyday life. It showcased key achievements while outlining a clear roadmap for future initiatives, demonstrating readiness and setting an optimistic tone for the path ahead.

The deliberations concluded with a strong sense of shared optimism and resolve, addressing both immediate operational

concerns and embodying a broader vision to establish Sikkim as a regional exemplar in renewable energy development.

The meeting was attended by the officials from the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Power Department, Planning and Development Department, Accounts, Finance Department, representatives from allied departments along with the officers and staff from Sikkim Renewable Energy Development Agency (SREDA).

With a dedicated clear strategy, and renewed momentum, SREDA stands poised to accelerate Sikkim’s clean energy journey one that balances sustainability with progress, and innovation with tradition.

Citizens are encouraged to take part in renewable energy initiatives and schemes. For enrolment under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, interested applicants may apply online (www.pmsuryaghar.gov.in).

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Chief Justice...

inclusive amenities such as toilets for Persons with Disabilities, gender-neutral and child-friendly toilets, as well as a creche and nursing pods, in accordance with the guidelines of the Supreme

Court of India. In addition, the complex will include parking facilities and residential quarters for the Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate, along with guest accommodation.

Ms Asha Gurung PCE/ Secretary Buildings and Housing Department presented technical reports on the building’s

construction.

Also present during the event were Registrar General, Director (Sikkim Judicial Academy), Principal District & Sessions Judge (Gangtok), Registrar, Registrar (Judicial Service), Central Project Coordinator, Member Secretary, SSLSA, Secretary, Law

Department, District & Sessions Judge (Special Division Gangtok), Sr. Advocates, Additional Advocate General.

Present amongst others were Mr Justice SP Wangdi, Former Judge of the High Court of Sikkim and Chairperson of Police Accountability Commission, Ms Asha Gurung PCE/Secretary of the Buildings and Housing

Department, along with judges from the Namchi and Pakyong District and Sessions Courts, members of Bar Association of Sikkim, ADC (Namchi) Mr Subash Ghimiray and ASP (Namchi) Ms Tashi Lenday Bhutia, Mr Sayshay Hang Subba Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate Yangang, and other officials from various departments

Awareness programme on State and Central Government Schemes

Namchi, September 16: An awareness programme on State and the Central Government Schemes for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative for Rangang-Yangang Constituency was organised at PM SHRI Senior Secondary School Lingmoo, today.

The awareness programme was organised by the District Industries Centre (DIC) Namchi under Commerce and Industries Department in collaboration with Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) Cell.

The programme was aimed to create a supportive ecosystem for unemployed youths, aspiring entrepreneurs and existing entrepreneurs by facilitating access to Government resources, funding opportunities, online marketing platforms and expert guidance to help them realise their business and career aspirations.

Mrs Raj Kumari Thapa, Deputy Speaker SLA-cum-Area MLA attended the event as the chief guest.

Present amongst other were Advisor Food Processing Industries, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, SDM Yangang, General Manager DIC Namchi, alongwith OSDs, members of Namchi and Gangtok SEED Cell, Principal PM SHRI Senior Secondary School Lingmoo, teaching faculties, local entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups and youth.

Addressing the gathering, Area MLA commended the Department and SEED Cell for their dedicated efforts in organising awareness programmes on various subsidised schemes of State and Central Governments at grassroots level. She remarked that such initiatives play a vital role in boosting entrepreneurship among aspiring individuals, encouraging them to establish businesses under subsidised schemes, while also generating employment opportunities for the local population.

In addition, she urged the gathering to recognise the advantages of owning

businesses, which, unlike Government jobs, can be passed down through generations. She further highlighted State Government schemes such as the Skilled Youth Start-Up Scheme, aimed at providing financial assistance to unemployed educated youth for setting up enterprises, and encouraged beneficiaries to make the most of these opportunities.

She also informed the participants about PM Vishwakarma Scheme, which extends holistic support to local artisans by offering skill training, financial assistance, and marketing support. In this regard, she requested the Commerce and Industries Department to provide specialised training and marketing skills to interested individuals, enabling them to access resources that would enhance their productivity and support growth of their businesses.

In his address, OSD Commerce and Industries said SEED Cell acts as a bridge between the Government and entrepreneurs, helping them access loans, subsidies, and schemes, while also assisting with project reports and financial linkages. He added that it plays a key role in fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem by connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with government resources and opportunities.

He further mentioned that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, key schemes such as Mukhyamantri Yuva Udhysheelta Vikas Yojna, One Family One Entrepreneur, and Skilled Youth Start-Up are being implemented to promote entrepreneurship, self-employment, and innovation, thereby fostering self-reliance and sustainable growth in the state.

Citing the Chief Minister's vision of Sunaulo Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim, he stated that the initiatives are designed to create an environment where every household develops an entrepreneur, thereby contributing to the state's economic advancement. He further underlined the need for

a constructive shift in mindset to nurture entrepreneurial values among citizens.

He announced the upcoming initiative Entrepreneurs Club, a school-based programme designed to nurture entrepreneurial thinking among students from an early age. The initiative will particularly target students from Classes 8 to 12, focusing on developing entrepreneurship skills. He further informed that the club will be supervised by SEED Cell in collaboration with School Management Committee (SMC), with the aim of motivating young minds to explore opportunities in business sector, understand its vast potential, and build confidence to transform ideas into viable enterprises.

General Manager DIC Namchi underscored the department's role in linking people with various State and Central schemes, and pointed out the benefits, potential, and other key aspects of each subsidised programme. He informed that Inspectors have been assigned to every constituency to assist individuals in understanding and accessing these benefits, and encouraged participants to make full use of the schemes to enhance their livelihoods and support community development.

During the programme, departmental officials and consultants delivered presentations on Central Government schemes, outlining incentives, eligibility, documentation, sectors, and coverage. Inspectors DIC Namchi, spoke on the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and UNNATI scheme.

Moreover, Senior Consultant RAMP, outlined Prime Minister Vishwakarma Scheme and the RAMP initiative, including capacity-building training. He also provided guidance on Udyam Registration, FSSAI licensing for online food products, Digital Marketing, ONDC, and GeM, and explained the process of listing products on e-commerce platforms.

Preparatory meeting for State-Level Gandhi Jayanti celebration held

Gangtok, September 17: A preparatory meeting for State-level Gandhi Jayanti Celebration 2025 chaired by the Mr R Telang Chief Secretary, was convened at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The meeting featured an in-depth discussion on arrangements for the upcoming celebration, including programme schedule and allocation of tasks to ensure that each department contributes effectively.

The Chief Secretary

emphasised the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination and instructed all Heads of Departments and Secretaries to remain engaged and ensure a smooth and successful celebration.

It was further noted that October 2, 2025 marks the culmination of the Sewa Pakhwada. In this regard, the Rural Development Department and Urban Development Department are to present awards to Safai Mitras and other

contributors as part of the observance.

The Chief Secretary urged all officials to maintain close communication and adhere to the timeline so that the State-level Gandhi Jayanti Celebration 2025 is conducted with the dignity and precision befitting the occasion.

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

ACS CS Rao flags off excursion for students of Sikkim

Gangtok, September 20: Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department flagged off an excursion for students of Sikkim Happiness Home, Syari under Taraloka Foundation, from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, today.

As part of 50 year of Statehood and Sewa Pakhwada, the excursion is organised by Tourism and Civil Aviation Department in collaboration with Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE), Chemchey, and supported by Institute of Hotel Management (IHM).

ACS stated that the two-day tour would cover Namchi District, which include visits to pilgrimage and cultural sites such as Char Dham, Sai Mandir, Buddha Park and Temi Tea Garden. He added that the students would also visit Chemchey to observe and learn about adventure tourism activities.

22 students, led by Mr Gyatso Bhutia, Director-cum-Founder of Sikkim Happiness Home, are taking part in the tour. The group will halt overnight at Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE) Chemchey, and return by September 21.

DC Namchi interacts with Under Secretary Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Namchi, September 20: DC Namchi Ms Anupa Tamling interacted with Under Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and District Prabhari of the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan for Sikkim, Mr Ramesh Chand Chandrawal, today at District Administrative Centre (DAC).

The meeting focused on initiatives and future plans under Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

Under Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, highlighted objectives of the Abhiyan and

emphasised the importance of involving Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure effective implementation and better outcomes. He also discussed plans for its effective implementation in the district.

DC Namchi, also shared her insights and assured positive support towards the Abhiyan, acknowledging its significance for the district.

Also present were ADC Namchi, SDM (Hq), SDM Namchi and others.

Election Cell Pakyong holds preparatory meeting

Pakyong, September 19: Election Cell Pakyong, held a preparatory meeting at DDMA Control Hall, Pakyong, on mapping of Electoral Roll 2002 with the current Electoral Roll 2025 and the implementation of the Special Intensive Revision exercise, today.

The purpose of the meeting was to assign specific responsibilities to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of Pakyong district for the Special Intensive Revision as to ensure smooth execution and adherence to the timeline.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Rohan Agawane DC Pakyong, wherein, he apprised that the entire exercise is being carried out under the close supervision of Election Commission of India (ECI) and is a time-bound activity to be completed within a week.

ADC (Hq), Mr G L Meena, provided a detailed overview of the Special Intensive Revision, explaining its preparatory stages, mapping procedures, and overall timeline. He highlighted the submission of enumeration forms, house-to-house verification by BLOs, and publication of draft electoral roll. He also underlined that breach of official duty in this exercise would be taken seriously.

He further elaborated on

the roles of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs), BLO Supervisors and Booth Level Agents (BLAs), emphasising their collective responsibility in ensuring transparency and accuracy. He reminded that BLOs, through household visits, play a pivotal role in reaching every eligible voter, while BLAs from political parties are expected to assist in strengthening the verification process.

The Special Intensive Revision is being undertaken after more than two decades, with the last such revision in 2002. The exercise aims to update and streamline the electoral rolls by mapping earlier records with the present rolls of 2025, ensuring inclusiveness, removing discrepancies, and maintaining the integrity of the electoral process. With the qualifying date set, the process involves enumeration, verification, draft publication, and final roll preparation.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pakyong, SDM Pakyong, SDM Rangpo, SDM Rongli, along with BDOs Rongli, Parakha, Regu and Pakyong and BLOs Pakyong District.

Governor and CM inaugurate QR-based entry system at Orchidarium

Gangtok, September 17: The Orchidarium at Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari took a significant step towards modernization with the launch of a QR-based ticketing and automated gate system. The new facility was inaugurated by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, today.

The Orchidarium, a one-of-a-kind destination dedicated to the world of orchids, is spread across two lower levels of the Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari. It features a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled environment housing a rich and diverse collection of orchids. Approximately 70% of the exhibit comprises live orchid specimens, while the remaining 30% consists of detailed botanical

models, showcasing species from across the globe.

Visitors can explore the Wonderland Orchid Hall, an engaging display area, along with a museum that provides in-depth insights into orchid biodiversity, conservation, and cultivation. Among the highlights are native orchids from Sikkim, including the state flower *Dendrobium Nobile*, *Cymbidium Namo*, and a rare orchid variety named in honour of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi.

The newly introduced QR-based ticketing and automated gate system is aimed at enhancing the visitor experience by enabling smooth, contactless entry. The Orchidarium is officially open to the public starting today.

Outreach programme on GST reforms

Gangtok, September 21: The outreach programme for dissemination of new generation GST reforms, jointly organised by CGST and Central Excise Commissionerate, Siliguri, Government of India and Commercial Taxes Division, Finance Department was held at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Dr Nirmal Joy Joint Commissioner CGST Siliguri Commissionerate made a presentation on the next generation of GST reforms by the 56th GST Council Meeting, highlighting key changes and their implications. He informed that the Council Meeting was held in New Delhi on September 3, under the chairmanship of Ms Nirmala Sitharaman Union Finance Minister, Government of India and in accordance to the Independence Day 2025 address of the Prime Minister, the 'Next Generation GST Reforms' were announced.

The goals of these reforms include rationalisation of GST slabs to reduce burden on citizens and ease compliance. The detailed presentation covered an overview of reforms, major structural changes in GST rates, sectoral overview on rate changes, highlights on rate reforms, and relief in health, insurance and agriculture. GST has been exempted on all individual life and health insurance policies. Rates on 33 lifesaving drugs have been reduced from 12% to nil and 3 from 5% to nil. Medical devices and apparatus have been reduced to 5%. GST has also been reduced from 12% to 5% on tractors and farm equipment. A slide was also presented on how these reforms empower the MSME sector. Items moved to higher tax slabs were also discussed.

He spoke on procedural reforms for trade facilitation, which included GST refunds for low-value export consignments,

risk-based provisional refunds (zero-rated supplies), risk-based refunds for inverted duty structure, simplified registration GST scheme for small and low-risk businesses effective November 1, 2025, amendment in place of supply for intermediary services, clarifications on post-sale discounts, annual return exemption for small taxpayers, and GST Appellate Tribunals. He concluded with the expected impacts and benefits of the new reforms. Public notice no. 06/2025 issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Central Goods and Service Tax, listing nodal officers under Siliguri Commissionerate to assist trade, was also shared.

Mr Dorjee Wangchuk, Joint Commissioner, Commercial Tax Division presented a PPT on the rationalisation of rates and its implications on ITC. He explained that manufacturers, packers or importers of pre-packaged commodities are permitted to declare revised sale prices (MRP) on unsold stock due to the change in GST rates of goods and services. The advisory issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs on September 18, 2025, superseding the earlier advisory dated 9th September 2025, was also discussed.

This was followed by an open interaction among stakeholders, moderated by Mr Manoj Rai Commissioner Commercial Tax Division, and Dr Nirmal Joy Joint Commissioner CGST Siliguri Commissionerate.

The programme had the presence of Mr PK Das Assistant Commissioner CGST, Mr Abhimanyu Maji Superintendent, Mr Pushkar Kumar Inspector CGST Commissionerate Siliguri, along with Chartered Accountants, Advocates, Tax Practitioners, officials from various corporations, trade associations, and stakeholders.

DAC Gangtok wins National e-Governance Award for AMS

Gangtok, September 22: District Administrative Centre (DAC) Gangtok, bagged national recognition to Sikkim by winning the Silver Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2025 for its flagship initiative, the Amin Management System (AMS) under the theme 'Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation'. The ceremony was held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh attended by Mr Jitendra Singh Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Mr N Chandrababu Naidu Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The award was conferred under the category 'Grassroot Level Initiatives for Deepening/Widening of Service Delivery with focus on initiatives by District Level/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)'.

AMS, conceptualised and implemented by Gangtok District, is now being scaled across Sikkim in line with Chief Minister's vision of Governance at Doorstep.

The system enables citizens to seamlessly book Revenue Surveyors (Amins) online through the AMIN App (both Android and iOS) or by visiting www.dacgangtok.in for land spot



verification services and to receive their reports digitally. Offline requests are also digitised, ensuring transparency, accessibility and record preservation for posterity and legal use.

Key highlights of AMS are Integrated Mobile and Web Platform, where citizens can book surveys and access reports anytime, anywhere.

Digitisation of Records where offline applications are converted online for future reference and legal use.

The feature of AMS include

North East NSS Festival 2025 concludes in Gangtok

Gangtok, September 19: North East NSS Festival 2025 concluded at Manan Kendra that marked the end of five days of youth service, cultural exchange and regional unity, today.

The programme was graced by Ms Yangchen D Tamang Secretary Department of Sports and Youth Affairs (SYA) as chief guest and Chief Engineer of SYA, Ms Milan Kumari Pradhan as guest of honour.

Ms Lalita Chettri State Nodal Officer, delivered the welcome address and presented the festival report, outlining the week's activities and achievements.

In her address, Secretary extended greetings to participants and guests, expressing pride in the successful conclusion of the festival and active engagement of volunteers. She referred to wide range of programmes conducted during the event, noting that such exchanges provide opportunities to develop leadership qualities. She described the volunteers as future leaders and change-makers of the nation, affirming her confidence in country's future and congratulated NSS staff for planning and managing the event. She congratulated to Mr Arjun Pradhan, recipient of the My Bharat-NSS Award, who will be honoured by the President of India.

The Secretary urged participants to regard the festival not as an end but as a milestone towards new beginnings in volunteering. She concluded by

thanking the Government of India for granting Sikkim the privilege of hosting the event.

Mr Jangjilong Regional Youth Officer, conveyed greetings on behalf of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and said he felt privileged to participate in the closing of the festival. He spoke about the Government of India's efforts to expand the outreach of the National Service Scheme and to strengthen its volunteer base in the coming years.

He encouraged young people of the North East to step beyond their comfort zones, referring to the region's talent and potential. He stated that the journey towards Viksit Bharat requires collective energy and spirit of youth from all parts of the country, and that interaction across states and cultures nurtures unity and broadens perspective.

Mr Jangjilong said the festival provided volunteers with an opportunity to align themselves with national goal of building a developed India. He emphasised that transformation begins within oneself and creates a ripple effect at grassroots, thereby strengthening the nation. He concluded by urging participants to embrace a sense of purpose and set clear goals, affirming that Viksit Bharat is fundamentally about empowering youth to shape the country's future.

During the ceremony, Programme Officer of PM SHRI Sichey Senior Secondary School, Mr Arjun Pradhan, recipient of My Bharat-NSS Award, received

strict accountability, improved transparency and accountability and other highlights.

The award was received on behalf of Gangtok District by Mr Tushar Nikhare DC Gangtok, Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia ADC Gangtok, Mr Girdhari Lal Meena ADC Pakyong and Mr Sital Sharma AD/IT, Gangtok.

It may be mentioned that the National Awards for e-Governance are India's highest recognition for excellence in e-Governance, with 589+ applications received from across the country this year.

felicitation from the chief guest. The gathering also observed a minute's silence in memory of music maestro Mr Zubeen Garg, who recently passed away in an accident.

The event included a series of felicitations and prize distributions. Certificates were presented to Mr Naresh Chettri for his contribution as resource person. All 11 programme officers of Sikkim received mementoes and certificates, while Mr Puran Chettri received recognition for his contribution to the success of the festival. Each of the eight North Eastern states received mementoes and certificates in acknowledgement of their participation.

The cultural exchange competitions displayed exceptional talent, with Arunachal Pradesh securing first place, Mizoram second, and Assam third. In quiz competition, Manipur came first, followed by Nagaland and Mizoram in the second and third positions, respectively. In the PowerPoint competition on flora and fauna, Sikkim secured the first place, with Mizoram standing second and Manipur in the third position.

The award for Best Contingent of North East NSS Festival 2025 went to Team Tripura.

The festival, held from September September 15-19, 2025 was organised by the Sikkim State NSS Cell with support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN & GREEN**