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NCW Chairperson calls on Governor with NCW and SSCW members



Gangtok, December 10: Ms Delina Khongdup Member, National Commission for Women (NCW) paid a courtesy visit to Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur at Lok Bhavan, today. Ms Delina Khongdup was accompanied by Chairperson and members of the Sikkim State Commission for Women (SSCW).

During the interaction, delegation briefed the Governor on the Commission's ongoing initiatives to safeguard and promote women's rights.

The discussion touched on various issues including drug

addiction, suicide cases among youth in the State, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts to address the raising issues.

Governor highlighted the need to create awareness on domestic violence, suicide, drug issues and underscored engaging students, Self Help Groups and other stakeholders to curb these rising issues.

The Governor expressed his concern on alarming figures on suicide and drug cases in the State. He emphasised the

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Chief Minister attends Sikkim Akademi Purashkar 2025

Gangtok, December 8: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, attended the Sikkim Akademi Purashkar 2025 and the Book Release ceremony held at Samman Bhawan, in the presence of scholars, writers, artists, and cultural contributors.

The Chief Minister highlighted that Sikkim Akademi has begun conferring the Sikkim Akademi Purashkar annually to recognise and encourage creators excelling in language and literature, music, painting, and various art forms. This year's honour was presented to master craftsman Mr Bharat Rai of Jarong, Ravangla Sub-Division, widely acclaimed for his traditional bamboo craftsmanship. He congratulated him and his family, stating that his dedication and perseverance continue to inspire the people of Sikkim.

He further noted that since 2019, the State Government has

remained committed to supporting Sikkimese citizens striving for excellence across sectors including education, health, tourism, sports, technology, literature, music, and art. He added that these efforts extend deep into rural areas, where the Government continues to identify, uplift, and acknowledge talent in both contemporary and traditional fields, an initiative that has yielded encouraging results.

Describing the ceremony as a vibrant celebration of Sikkim's creative spirit, the Chief Minister remarked that the creators, litterateurs, scholars, musicians, researchers, and innovators present are shaping the cultural identity of the State and inspiring future generations. Their contributions, he said, continue to elevate Sikkim's heritage across India and the world.

Addressing the role of

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Key legislative proposals passed on Third Session of Eleventh SLA

Gangtok, December 12: Third Session of the eleventh Sikkim Legislative Assembly (SLA) commenced at the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat presided over by Speaker SLA, Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa, today.

The session began with obituary references and the observance of two minutes' silence by the House on the passing away of former Member of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Late Athup Lepcha.

The obituary references were participated by the Speaker, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang and Minister Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha.

Late Athup Lepcha was born on July 18, 1943 to Late Chala Lepcha (Mondal) and Late Nangkit Lepcha at Lingthem, Upper Dzongu. He passed away on September 10, 2025 at STNM Hospital, Gangtok at the age of 84. He is survived by three sons, two daughters and grandchildren.

Late Athup Lepcha served in various capacities under the State Government prior to entering public life. He was elected as the

Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Dzongu constituency in 1979 from the Sikkim Janta Parishad Party. Over the course of five years of his tenure as the elected representative, he worked with unwavering commitment for the welfare and development of the people of Dzongu.

He was remembered in the House as a visionary leader, a dedicated environmentalist and a towering personality from Sikkim. His lifelong efforts towards the protection of Sikkim's forests, rivers and mountains earned him deep respect across generations. He was lauded as a figure of integrity, humility and exceptional public service.

Thereafter, the House took up the legislative business, wherein eight Bills were passed. The Bills were;

1. The Sikkim Goods and Services (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 18 of 2025) introduced by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department.

The statement of objects and

reasons of the Bill states that "The Sikkim Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 was enacted and implemented from July 2017. The Act was amended in 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023 for making the tax administration effective and making tax compliance easy.

It is found necessary to amend certain provisions of the Act for improvement of tax administration and mainly for making the return to be filed by deducting authority mandatory for every calendar month whether or not any deductions have been made during the said month and to consolidate the provisions of Sections 73 and 74 by introducing new Section 74A to establish clear time frames for issuing demand notice and to provide relief in penalty for cases where no intentional fraud or wilful misrepresentation is involved.

The Goods and Services Council constituted under Article 279A of the Constitution of India has approved and recommended the amendments. Accordingly, the

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Sikkim Manipal University observes 25th Convocation Ceremony

Gangtok, December 3: Governor and also the Chancellor of Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) Mr Om Prakash Mathur presided over the 25th Convocation of Sikkim Manipal University held at SMU auditorium, today.

The chief guest of the programme was Dr Anil Kakodkar, Chancellor of Homi Bhabha National Institute and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India.

At the onset of programme, Governor declared Convocation open, followed by citation of University and presentation of key facts and figures about graduating students. This was followed by the release of the Annual Report and awarding of medals and conferring of Doctorate degrees.

In his address, the Governor extended warm greetings to the newly graduated students and applauded Sikkim Manipal University for being a beacon of development in the State through education.

Addressing the students, Governor urged them to carry forward the vision of Prime

Minister Mr Narendra Modi to make India a Vishwaguru by 2047. He added that the graduates are the torchbearers who will help realise India's aspiration to emerge as a global superpower in the near future.

The Governor advised the students not to rest on the laurels of earning a degree but to strive for the progress of the State and the nation by actively contributing to positive societal change with the knowledge gained through education. In his concluding remarks, he expressed gratitude to the faculty members of SMU for their valuable contribution to the development of society.

The chief guest, Dr Anil Kakodkar, in his address, expressed that it was a privilege to participate in the Convocation ceremony and extended warm congratulations to the graduating

students.

He advised the students to be responsible citizens as they step into new phases of life and encounter fresh challenges. He urged them to pursue excellence in their work, identify key issues to address, minimise disparities in society, and nurture a mindset of creativity and contribution.

Dr Kakodkar highlighted the contributions of the Manipal Group to education and healthcare in India and paid tribute to the late founder of SMU, Dr TMA Pai, and his son Dr Ramdas Pai.

He also apprised the gathering about the concept of "Cillage", an innovation ecosystem aimed at rural development, in which students play a pivotal role. He expressed hope that the outgoing students

Contd.on page 5

Pearls of Wisdom

"It's only after you've stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform."

- Roy T. Bennett

Awareness programme on Central and State Government Schemes organised

Mangan, December 8: District Industries Centre (DIC) Mangan, under the Commerce and Industries Department, in collaboration with the Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) Cell, organised an awareness programme on Central and State Government schemes at GPK Chungthang, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister-cum-Area MLA. Also present were SDM Chungthang, OSD Commerce and Industries Department and General Secretary, SEED Cell, BDO Chungthang, Zilla Panchayat Chungthang, Lachen Pipon, along with officers and staff of DIC and SEED Cell led by Deputy Director, DIC, Gangtok and Mangan.

The programme was conducted to raise awareness and enhance support systems for unemployed youth, aspiring entrepreneurs, and existing business owners. Participants were informed about various Central and State Government schemes, financial assistance options, digital platforms, and mentorship opportunities designed to promote entrepreneurship and foster livelihood generation.

Minister Mr Samdup Lepcha applauded the efforts of the Department and the SEED CELL for turning the vision of Chief Minister's 'Samarth Sikkim' into a mission and delivering the programme in remote, hard-to-reach regions. He also addressed the concerns of local entrepreneurs regarding various schemes, budgets, implementation processes, and available subsidies. He further emphasised that aspiring entrepreneurs must remain committed and develop a strong understanding of financial management.

Mr Dipen Subba underscored the vital role of the SEED Cell in guiding and mentoring young aspirants and

emerging entrepreneurs. He stressed the need to foster a positive mindset among students and youth, reaffirming the State Government's commitment to strengthening local industries, promoting entrepreneurship, and generating employment under the vision of 'One Family, One Entrepreneur'. He noted that the SEED Cell, in coordination with the Commerce and Industries Department, is working to create an enabling ecosystem for aspiring entrepreneurs serving as an incubation platform for the youth.

Mr Janak Chettri gave comprehensive presentation on the functions of District Industries Centre and UNNATI scheme focusing on skill training, capacity building and financial support for youth-led business.

Junior Engineer DIC Gangtok delivered his presentation on the PMEGP scheme, highlighting eligibility norms, subsidy provisions and loan procedures.

Associate Consultant (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Mr Prem Chettri presented detailed presentation on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

The programme also witnessed an interactive session where aspiring entrepreneurs and existing businesses owners placed their queries to the panel.

Similarly on December 7, District Industries Centre (DIC) Mangan, under Commerce and Industries Department, in collaboration with Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) Cell, organised an awareness programme on Central and State Government Schemes at Lachung Dzumsa.

The programme was attended by Pipon, Lachung Dzumsa, OSD, Commerce and Industries Department and General Secretary, SEED Cell, along with officers and staff of DIC and SEED Cell led by Deputy Director, DIC, Gangtok and Mangan.

The programme was organised with the objective of creating awareness and strengthening support systems for unemployed youth, aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners. The participants were briefed on various Central and State Government schemes, financial assistance programmes, digital platforms and mentorship opportunities aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and livelihood generation.

Pipon highlighted the importance of discipline, courage and perseverance in achieving success. He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and the Minister-cum-Area MLA of Lachen-Mangan Constituency for introducing people-oriented and entrepreneur-friendly schemes. He stated that such awareness initiatives would greatly benefit the people of Lachung, especially those engaged in tourism and allied activities, and informed that many local entrepreneurs have shown keen interest in centrally sponsored schemes like UNNATI.

Additionally, Mr Dipen Subba emphasised the role of SEED Cell in guiding and mentoring young aspirants and emerging entrepreneurs. He highlighted the importance of cultivating a positive mindset among students and youth and reiterated the State Government's continued efforts to strengthen local industries, promote entrepreneurship and generate employment under the vision of 'One Family, One Entrepreneur'.

Presentations on various schemes were delivered by Deputy Director, DIC, Gangtok and Mangan, on UNNATI scheme, Inspector DIC Gangtok, on the functioning of District Industries Centre, and Inspector, DIC Gangtok on the PMEGP scheme, highlighting eligibility norms, subsidy provisions and loan procedures.

Minister attends virtual inauguration of infrastructure projects

Mangan, December 7: Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, Minister-cum-Area MLA Dzongu, attended the virtual inauguration of several vital infrastructures by Union Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh, today.

Among 125 projects, the newly constructed Sangkalang

Bridge was one of the key infrastructures inaugurated today.

DC Mangan, SP Mangan, SDM Dzongu, HoDs and officers from various line Departments of Mangan District, and senior officers of the Army and BRO were also present.

Co-ordination meeting on Sikkim-the Silk Route Drive

Pakyong, December 8: A co-ordination meeting regarding the upcoming 'Sikkim-the Silk Route Drive' programme concluded at the working room of Pakyong District, today.

Mr Rohan Agawane DC Pakyong, Additional District Collector Pakyong, Additional Political Secretary to Chief Minister, ASP of Chief Minister, SDM Pakyong and SDPO Pakyong were present.

Additional Political Secretary Gangtok presented the key points of the programme to be held from December 12-15, a total of 17 high-class vehicles from iTeam Super Car Route' will be participating in the event. The

Awareness workshop on NAPS

Mangan, December 3: Niyukti Kendra, Skill Development Department (SDD) organised an awareness workshop on the special pilot initiative under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) at Mangan DAC Hall, today.

The event was attended by Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department as the chief guest.

The Minister encouraged the youth to explore wider possibilities, highlighting that the programme offers chances to go abroad and learn new, in-demand skills that can shape their future. He also advised the students and participants to positively use mobile phones as tool for learning and growth.

Mr DD Sharma, Deputy Director, Skill Development Department gave an overview of the concept and importance of apprenticeships. He highlighted how such initiatives contribute to skill enhancement and future employment opportunities for the youth. This was followed by the screening of a short video on Niyukti Kendra, SDD.

Ms Sushma Pradhan Joint Secretary-cum-CEO, Niyukti Kendra, delivered a presentation focusing on both youth and employers, explaining the various benefits of the NAPS programme, including career opportunities, stipend details, financial incentives for industries and the overall process of onboarding apprentices. She also highlighted key provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961, and emphasised that the certificates

main objective of the drive is to present Sikkim as the suitable destination for specialised motoring programmes, increase visibility at the national level, encourage tourism-related activities and detail the geographical diversity of Sikkim through the historic racom route.

Moreover, the caravan of participating vehicles will reach Rangpo on December 12 and the coordinator committee will be welcomed at Atal Bridge. The meeting also saw discussion on topics related to road preparation, beautification of special places, traffic management and materials necessary to make the event a success.

Awareness workshop on NAPS

awarded after completion of training are globally recognised.

She further mentioned that apprentices receive paid training, and that this special benefit has been extended by the Government of India specifically to support and encourage people from the northeast. She added that successful trainees may also receive opportunities to work abroad, opening doors to wider career prospects.

Following this, Mr Pritam Shah provided a clear, step-by-step explanation of how to register on the apprenticeship portal for both candidates and establishments, covering account creation, profile setup, document submission and the overall onboarding process.

Mr Anant Jain DC-cum-Chairman, encouraged the students to register and take advantage of the opportunities offered through the programme. He urged local companies in Mangan to register on the portal, explaining that this would create more avenues for local youth and residents to gain employment and apprenticeships within their own hometown. He added that participating in the scheme would not only open doors to job opportunities but also allow individuals to learn new skills and build a stronger foundation for their future careers.

Later, participation certificates were distributed to attendees. This was followed by hands on session for establishments, where they were guided through the practical use of the apprenticeship portal.

Department of Information & Public Relations Government of Sikkim Soochana Bhawan, 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

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SRLM launches Nayi Chetna 4.0 Campaign

Gangtok, December 6: The Government of Sikkim formally launched the state component of the 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' National Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence. Organised by the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), Rural Development Department (RDD) is themed 'Women Leading the Way: Economic Empowerment for Inclusive Growth towards a Viksit Grameen Bharat'.

The State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) Steering Committee Meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Mr Anil Raj Rai, Secretary RDD. The programme commenced with an overview of the Campaign by Ms Rajani Sharma, Chief Executive Officer - SRLM, followed by a briefing on the departmental roles and the detailed State Rollout Plan by Ms Yashna Gurung, Deputy Project Manager - SI&SD.

The launch reinforced the State's commitment to a 'Whole of Government' strategy, bringing together representatives from all 11 line departments, including the

Social Welfare Department, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyanjan Welfare Department, Education Department, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Women Commission, and the Police Department.

The campaign is positioned as a powerful 'Jan Andolan' (People's Movement) designed to address the systemic causes of gender inequality, such as economic dependency, lack of recognition for women's labour, and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work.

The Sikkim State Rollout Plan features a series of ground-level activities, including Organising various awareness programmes at Block level, organising financial literacy camps, linking women farmers to departments through Kisan Mela,

organising activities at schools to create an awareness on gender equality, and facilitating visit to One Stop Centres by CLF/ VO leaders.

Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyanjan Welfare Department pledged active involvement, assuring the committee that information about essential women-centric services Sakhi Niwas (One Stop Centre), Saksham Anganwadi, and Shakti Sadan (Working Women's Hostel) will be effectively percolated to the community level. In a major public awareness initiative, the department announced a street play on gender-based violence to be staged at MG Marg on December 10.

A key recommendation was also put forth by the Department to expedite mass Aadhar authentication for scheme beneficiaries to ensure efficiency and equitable distribution of support.

A Pledge was also administered by Mr Anil Raj Rai Secretary.

Before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Sikkim at Gangtok AFFIDAVIT

I, Geeta Darnal daughter of late Hari Prasad Darnal and wife of Suraj Darjee, aged about 50 years resident of Namchi Bazaar, under P.O. & P.S. Namchi, presently residing at Tadong sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

- That I am the legal and legally wedded wife of Shri Suraj Darjee.
- That my actual and correct date of Birth is 5. 2. 1974 which is recorded in my Birth certificate bearing registration No 1993/71 and Date of registration is 11. 2. 93 Issued by The Government of Sikkim Chief Registrar of Births And Deaths Bureau of Economies and Statistics.
- However my date of Birth has inadvertently recorded as 25. 3. 1974 which is recorded in my husband's service documents BRO II 86/ 65/97 Issued by The Unit 17AR.
- Hence this affidavit is made on to oath to declare that my actual and correct date of Birth is 5. 2. 1974 instead of 25. 03. 1974
- That this affidavit is made bonafide.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify and declare that the statements made in above paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed therefrom and I sign this affidavit on 8th Day of May, 2025 at Gangtok Sikkim.

Deponent

Government of Sikkim Social Welfare Department 5th Mile Tadong, Gangtok

NIT No: 30/GoS/SWD/EC/2025

Dated: 8/12/2025 .

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Divisional Engineer (Pakyong), Social Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Lumsey, Tadong, Gangtok District, Sikkim on behalf of Governor of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders in percentage Rate basis from the eligible contractors of appropriate class Vide Notification No. 21/R&B/PWD/Secy/2023- 24. Dated 18.10.2023 Notification No. 104/R&B Dated 08.10.2020 for the works listed under: -

SL.No	Name of work	Value put to Tender (in ₹)	Completion Time, (in months)	Amount of Earnest Money @2.5% For issue of tender form (₹)	Amount of Bank receipt for cost of tender documents.(₹)	Constituency/ GPU/ Ward
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Constit. Of 50 bedded Boys Hostel at Govt. School in Assam Lingzey.	1,77,62,100/-	24 Months	4,44,053/-	50,000.00	Within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat.

Time Schedule is as follows:-

1. Tender Publishing Date : 9/12/2025.
2. Start date for submission of application With Bank Receipt for issue of Tender Form : 17/12/2025 (11.00 hrs)
2. Last date for issue of tender form : 14/01/2026 (11.00 hrs).
3. Date and Time for submission of Tender : 21/01/2026 (10.00am to 1.00pm).
4. Date and Time of opening of Tender: : 21/01/2026 at 2.00 pm.

**Divisional Engineer (Civil)
Social Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(174, A, II)**

Government of Sikkim Social Welfare Department 5th Mile Tadong, Gangtok

NIT No: 31/GoS/SWD/EC/2025

Dated: 8/12/2025 .

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Time Schedule is as follows:-

1. Tender Publishing Date : 9/12/2025.
2. Start date for submission of application With Bank Receipt for issue of Tender Form : 19/12/2025 (11.00 hrs)
2. Last date for issue of tender form : 16/01/2026 (11.00 hrs).
3. Date and Time for submission of Tender : 22/01/2026 (10.00am to 1.00pm).
4. Date and Time of opening of Tender: : 22/01/2026 at 2.00pm.

**Divisional Engineer (Civil)
Social Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(174, B, II)**

Sikkim celebrates International Day of PwDs

Gangtok, December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities was organised by Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department with the theme 'Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress', at MG Marg, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department along with Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA-cum-Advisor.

Minister urged the people to consider Persons with Disabilities highlighting their abilities and potential. He mentioned the example of a hearing-impaired performer who danced with confidence and grace, showing that disability does not limit talent. He appreciated the teachers and trainers for their efforts in preparing the performers. He acknowledged under the leadership of Chief Minister the State is progressing with harmony and unity. He also thanked the Chief Minister for his contributions in sectors such as health and education.

Press Release from Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union

Gangtok, December 9: Sikkim Milk Union conducts comprehensive training programme on Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Dairy Farmers and inaugurated Bulk Milk cooler and Society House respectively at Assamlingzey and Pastanga.

Sikkim Milk Union successfully conducted an extensive full-day training programme on Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for dairy farmers at the Naitam Community Hall. The programme aimed at strengthening clean milk production at the grassroots level and enhancing the technical capacity of dairy farmers. The entire training initiative was funded under the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD/SK/07K) of the Government of India.

The event witnessed the gracious presence of Mr Yam Kumar Sharma Chairman Milk Union, Mr Purnahang Subba Advisor, Dr TB Managing Director Ghatani, Mr Thendup Gensapa BDO Nandok, Deputy Registrar of the Cooperation Department, Panchayat and several other esteemed officials and dignitaries.

Delivering the keynote technical address, Dr TB Ghatani Managing Director highlighted the functioning, objectives, and ongoing initiatives of Sikkim Milk Union. He provided an insightful overview of the cooperative strength because of which an uninterrupted milk market with timely milk payment is granted to the registered Dairy farmers along with numerous benefits and support systems extended to milk producers. Dr Ghatani encouraged farmers to remain intact against the exploitative activities of the private

Ms Urvashi Poudyal Director, ICDS, WCSC and DWD emphasised that Person with Disabilities should be recognised not as recipients of charity but as individuals with rights, aspirations and capabilities.

Dr Rajesh Saini CEO, Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital and Vision 2020 President, India, shared insights on disability inclusion and eye health and highlighted the progressive steps of the State Government, including the establishment of a dedicated Department for Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department.

Earlier, the programme began with a pipe band presentation by the students of Paljor Namgyal Girls School. This was followed by cultural performances by children with disabilities, students from Special Schools and participants from PDCS.

During the event, a one time grant of ₹2 lakh to support the marriage of disabled couples was announced. A grant in aid was also handed over to Halfway Home, Deorali Mayalmu Sangh, Assam Lingzey. Caregivers of Persons

with Disabilities were felicitated with cash awards in recognition of their dedicated service.

Mementos were also presented to officials, participants and medallists of the Second Para Sports Meet held at Guwahati, Assam from November 27-29, 2025 with each recipient receiving a cash award of ₹50,000/-.

The programme was attended by Mr Nell Bahadur Chettri Mayor, Ms Tshering Palden Bhutia Deputy Mayor, Ms Teny Doma Bhutia Chairperson Sikkim State Women Commission, Ms Deepa Khatri Chairperson SCPCR, Mr Nim Tshering Lepcha Chairperson Sikkim Welfare Commission, Advisor Inclusive Health Initiative CBM International, Secretary Education Department, Principal Director Health and Family Welfare Department, Director Technical Para Sports, DC Gangtok, Councillors and officials of Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department.

Press Release from Sikkim Cooperative Milk Producers Union

players. He motivated dairy farmers to maintain consistent milk supply to their respective milk societies for sustaining dairy as a trusted engine of the rural economy and emphasized the importance of regular care, nutrition, and clean milking practices for milch animals. He further motivated the youth to consider dairy farming as an assured investment for a viable and respectable profession, noting that the increasing market demand for quality milk presents significant opportunities for sustainable income and livelihood enhancement.

In his address, Chairman Mr Yam Kumar Sharma highlighted various welfare measures, government schemes and developmental initiatives being implemented for dairy farmers. He reiterated the Union's commitment to working at the grassroots level in alignment with the national vision of Viksit Bharat, ensuring that the benefits of dairy development programmes reach every farmer in the state.

A focused technical session was conducted by Dr Gyalpo Bhutia, Manager (P&I), Gangtok, who provided a detailed presentation on scientific methods of clean milk production. He stressed the importance of hygienic milking procedures, proper animal management, and safe handling practices to ensure the production of high-quality milk.

Dignitaries including the BDO of Nandok and the Deputy Registrar of the Cooperation Department also addressed the gathering. They spoke about various government programmes, cooperative development initiatives and support mechanisms available to

strengthen the dairy sector and empower.

One of the major highlights of the event was the handing over of the allotment letter for the new milk society building to Naitam Milk PCS by the Chairman, marking a significant milestone in the society's infrastructure development.

Two progressive dairy farmers Mr Ongdi Sherpa of Pabyuk Milk PCS and Mr Dal Bahadur Rai of Naitam Milk PCS were felicitated for their outstanding dedication, consistent milk supply and valuable contributions to the cooperative dairy movement in Sikkim. As part of the training support, each participant received a packet of mineral mixture and deworming tablets to promote better cattle health and improved milk productivity.

Before the commencement of the training programme, two inaugural ceremonies were conducted - one for a 500-litre Bulk Milk Cooler installed at Assam Lingzey Milk Producers Cooperative Society and the other for the newly constructed Milk Collection Centre building of Pastanga Milk Producers Cooperative Society. These facilities were inaugurated by Chairman Mr Yam Kumar Sharma, Advisor Mr Purnahang Subba and Managing Director Dr T B Ghatani under the NPDD project.

During the field visit, the Chairman and Managing Director interacted with progressive dairy farmers of the region, listened to their concerns and encouraged them to adopt modern technologies, scientific cattle management and hygienic dairy practices to enhance productivity and profitability.

Srijunga Yuma Sam Manghim inaugurated

Pakyong, December 4: Mrs Pamin Lepcha MLA-cum-Advisor for Social Welfare Department and Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department attended 321st Teyongsi Srijunga Sawan Tongnam 2025 and the inauguration ceremony of Srijunga Yuma Sam Manghim in North Karthok, Yakten, Pakyong, today.

The event was organised by Srijunga Yuma Sam Manghim Samiti, Pakyong.

Teyongsi Srijunga Sawan Tongnam is observed by the Limboo community to mark the birth anniversary of Te-ongsi Srijunga Singh Thebe, the 18th century scholar who revived the Limboo tradition, culture, script, and religion in the state of Sikkim. The day is observed annually in recognition of his role in preserving the cultural heritage and identity of the Limboo community.

On the occasion, MLA unveiled the plaque, marking the official inauguration of the Srijunga Yuma Sam Manghim, followed by Mangsewa (prayer). She expressed gratitude to the participants and acknowledged the contributions of spiritual leaders and the organising committee towards the success of the event. She also thanked the Chief Minister and the MP Rajya Sabha for their support and guidance throughout the construction.

She noted that the Manghim is a valuable asset for the community and emphasised that maintaining it is the collective responsibility of the people, urging participation with unity. She also emphasised the importance of preserving and promoting customs, traditional attire and cultural practices for future

generations.

She further commended District Administrative Centre, Pakyong, and Sarvahitey NGO for their joint initiative, Nomad Sikkim. She also offered suggestions to enhance tourism in Yakten village, highlighting the potential of cultural and heritage-based initiatives.

At the outset, Mr BB Subba Chief Advisor of the organising committee provided information on Teyongsi Srijunga Sawan Tongnam, marking the birth anniversary of Te-ongsi Srijunga Singh Thebe and his contributions to the Limboo community in Sikkim.

He also mentioned the efforts that went into the construction of the Manghim and acknowledged the support received from the MP Rajya Sabha and MLA Gnathang-Machong constituency.

The programme also featured cultural presentations, including traditional Limboo performances such as Dhan Nach, Yarakma, Chyabrun and Yeba dance, as well as Nepali dance, showcasing the Limboo heritage and community participation.

During the event, citations were presented to the chief guest and the land donors, and the Manghim committee members were also felicitated.

Present at the occasion were Zilla Adhyaksha, Pakyong District, alongside panchayat members from Pakyong Yakten GPU, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Hq); SDM Pakyong and BDO Pakyong along with Officials from various line Departments, members of Limboo community, Police personnel and public.

Minister Tourism and Civil Aviation attends Teyongsi Srijunga Sawan Tongnam

Gyalshing, December 4: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation department-cum-Area MLA attended the spiritual programme (Mang Sewa) held at Yuma Manghim, Bhirkuna Labing under Yuksom-Tashiding constituency, today.

Teyongsi Srijunga Sawan Tongnam commemorates the birth anniversary of the eminent 18th century scholar Teyongsi Srijunga, revered for his pivotal role in reviving and preserving the rich traditional heritage of the Limboo community. This year marks the 321st birth anniversary of the great scholar, a festival celebrated with deep devotion, cultural pride and joy by the Limboo tribe.

The day-long spiritual event was organised by Yuma Manghim

Management Committee Labing, on the auspicious occasion of Teyongsi Srijunga Sawan Tongnam. Also present were Advisor to Chief Minister, Advisor to State Medicinal Plants Board, SDM Yuksom, Panchayats, devotees, locals and dignitaries.

Minister took part in the Mang Sewa rituals and offered prayers alongside the devotees.

On behalf of the State Government, Minister extended his warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion.

Earlier, Minister also attended the Annual Puja (prayer offering) of the sacred Khechuperi Lake. The main ceremony was held at Chojo village under the Yuksom-Tashiding constituency.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND
GREEN**

DAC Gyalshing conducts series of comprehensive inspections of Government infrastructure

Gyalshing, November 9: In an initiative to guarantee fair allocation of progress and administration, District Collector Gyalshing Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa along with officers and representatives, from major departments of District Administration Gyalshing undertook an extensive tour of Karzi-Mangnam Gram Panchayat Unit(GPU), highly remote area of Gyalshing District.

The main purpose of the visit was to examine the infrastructure and assess the departmental projects that have been effectively carried out along, with those nearing completion throughout the highly remote GPU of the district.

On the first day of the two-day outreach programme DC Gyalshing was engaged with the department staff present at each location and the local community. Throughout the visit the DC listened to grievances and assured fullest assistance from the District Administration and urged Zilla Panchayats and local partners to

work together for the welfare of the public.

The outreach programme began at New Reepbum Academy (Upper Gangyap) with DC Gyalshing engaging with the academy's teachers and students. He moved on to visit PAA Khola Bridge located at Naku, Health and Wellness Centre Kongri, Government Junior High School Kongri and Government Secondary School Labdang. At Lower Dhuppidara, DC Gyalshing held discussions with the Panchayats and landowners, about the landslide problem resulting from the road construction of the Kuntal Hydro Power Project. Subsequently, he arrived at the Dhuppidara Police Picket Post. Carried out an examination of Government Junior High School Dhuppidara. DC Gyalshing extended ₹15000/- for taking students for excursion.

During the engagement event conducted at the Dhuppidara Narkhola GPK Hall, the DC in his brief address highlighted to the participants the

primary goal of the outreach effort was to provide direct and approachable governance at the doorstep. The DC additionally emphasised the necessity of collaboration between Zilla Panchayats and the District Administration to achieve an efficient and coordinated method, in delivering public services.

Subsequently, the District Collector Gyalshing provided aid to the recipients by handing out blankets and pressure cookers thereby concluding the day of the outreach programme.

The inspection team included SP Gyalshing, SDM Yuksom, CEO Education Department Gyalshing, Deputy Director Education, DPO DDMA (LR&DMD) Gyalshing, DE Power Department Gyalshing, BDO Chongrang Block, Aspirational Block Fellow Chongrang, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats and other officials.

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Sikkim Manipal...

would make meaningful contributions to their families, society and the nation.

The Hippocratic Oath for MBBS graduates was administered by Dr Keerthilatha M Pai, Controller of Examinations, SMU. The oath outlines the fundamental obligations and proper conduct expected of medical practitioners as they enter professional practice. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Governor declared the convocation closed.

A total of 1,096 degrees were conferred in this convocation, of

which 558 were awarded in person and 538 in absentia.

Similarly, 670 undergraduate degrees were conferred, of which 330 were awarded in person and 340 in absentia.

Likewise, total of 405 postgraduate degrees were conferred, of which 212 were awarded in person and 193 in absentia.

A total of 21 PhD degrees were conferred, of which 16 were awarded in person and 5 in absentia.

A total of 13 Gold Medals and 8 Silver Medals were awarded. Out of these, 10 Gold Medals and 3 Silver Medals were awarded in person, and 3 Gold Medals and 5 Silver Medals will be received in

absentia.

All the graduating candidates from various disciplines, programmes and specialisations represent the nine constituent institutions and teaching departments of Sikkim Manipal University.

The event was attended by Mr GT Dhungel and Mr Raju Basnett Cabinet Ministers, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Secretaries, senior officers of various line departments, Chairman Manipal Group, Vice Chancellor SMU, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean SMIMS, senior officials and faculty members of SMU, parents and students.

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Key legislative...

amendments have been incorporated in the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 by enactment of the Finance Act, 2024 (No. 8 of 2024) and by enactment of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024 (No. 15 of 2024).

In view of the above, it has become necessary to have the Sikkim Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 amended. The proposed amendments aim to strengthen the tax administration and simplify compliance process.

With these objectives in view, this bill has been framed".

2. The Sikkim Land Revenue Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 19 of 2025) introduced by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "The laws governing land surveys, assessment and collection of land revenue, maintenance of land records and administration of Government and community lands in Sikkim have remained scattered across multiple enactments, some of which are outdated and

inadequate to meet present-day administrative and technological requirements.

With a view to consolidate, amend, and modernize the land revenue laws in the State, it has become necessary to enact a comprehensive legislation providing for a uniform and efficient system of revenue administration.

The Sikkim Land Revenue Act, 2025 seeks to provide a consolidated legal framework for the survey and settlement of land, classification of lands, assessment and collection of land revenue, digital maintenance of land records, management of Government and community lands and establishment of revenue courts for adjudication of revenue-related disputes.

The proposed legislation further aims to ensure transparency, accountability and accessibility in the land revenue system through digitization, procedural codification and establishment of specialised mechanisms for fair and speedy resolution of revenue disputes. It also seeks to repeal the Sikkim Agricultural Land Ceiling and Reforms Act, 1977 (Act No. 14 of 1978), thereby harmonising

revenue administration under one comprehensive statute.

This Act is thus intended to modernize Sikkim's land revenue system in alignment with current socio-economic conditions and technological advancements, while safeguarding traditional community rights and ensuring equitable access to justice for all stakeholders.

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

3. The Sikkim Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 20 of 2025) introduced by Mr Sonam Lama, Minister-in-Charge of the Public Health Engineering Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "The Sikkim Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Bill, 2025 seeks to consolidate and amend existing law relating to sewerage and sewage disposal in the State of Sikkim. The primary aim of the Bill is to establish an effective, sustainable sewerage and sewage disposal system across the State of Sikkim for improved urban sanitation and wastewater management.

It provides for compulsory connection to Government sewer mains within 100 (one hundred) meters of the premises. The Bill

Awareness programme for ST fish farmer beneficiaries

Namchi, December 6: An awareness programme for Scheduled Tribe fish farmer beneficiaries under the Tribal Sub-Plan for the financial year 2025–26, was organised by the Fisheries Department, Namchi District, at the Officers' Club, today.

The primary objective of the programme was to disseminate information about the recent advancements in fish farming technologies and best management practices that can be adopted by local farmers, further creating awareness about various central and state schemes.

ADC Hq (Namchi) Mr Subash Ghimire graced the programme as the chief guest, who was accompanied by Panchayat (Rabitar) Ms Prabina Limboo, Panchayat (Manghim) Mr Asman Limboo, Joint Director (LRMDD) Mr Karma Choda Bhutia.

The programme also had the presence of Assistant Director (Fisheries) Mr Ugen Tsheten Bhutia, Officials and staff members of Fisheries Department and ST beneficiaries at large.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC commended the Fisheries Department for undertaking the key initiative to help tribal communities sustain their livelihoods. Calling for a collective effort between the department and the public to curb unethical fishing practices that harms the ecosystem, he stressed about the importance and the impact of conserving local fish species that dwells in the local river bodies of the State.

Reassuring about the assistance to market the produce and support from the District Administration, the ADC further encouraged the fish farmers to proactively adopt necessary measures that enhances their production rate.

Further, citing the successful launch of the weekly Prayas Haat at the premises of DAC Namchi, he underscored the Administration's commitment of supporting the vocal for local moto and also announced about future plans to launch and introduce similar haats at block levels.

Panchayat (Manghim) Mr Asman Limboo, expressed his gratitude to the department for organising the programme, stating that such initiatives play a crucial role in supporting beneficiaries engaged in fish farming. He added that the awareness, technical guidance, and scheme-related

empowers the Government to authorize inspections, fix service charges based on annual value or sewage flow and frame rules for its implementation.

The Bill's objects include regulating sewage disposal to prevent pollution and to empower the Public Health Engineering Department to inspect properties.

Additionally, it seeks to mitigate environmental risks

information shared during the event would significantly assist farmers in strengthening their livelihood activities and enhancing production.

Earlier, AD (Fisheries) Mr Ugen Tsheten Bhutia, in his welcome address, apprised the gathering of the key initiatives undertaken by the department towards the identification, conservation, and preservation of indigenous fish species and also highlighted the department's ongoing efforts in disseminating scheme-related information and ensuring the smooth implementation of various programmes for beneficiaries engaged in fish farming across the state.

He further presented a detailed account of the activities carried out under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) during the period 2020–21 to 2024–25, in addition to outlining the features of the State's flagship fisheries scheme, the Mukhya Mantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana (MMUY).

He further informed that multiple fish-farming establishments, including 100 trout farming units, 25 ornamental fish farming units, and trout and carp hatcheries, are presently functional within Namchi District. He also elaborated on the implementation of the Group Accident Insurance Scheme, along with other Central and State-sponsored schemes, all of which continue to operate effectively for the welfare and security of the beneficiaries.

He also briefed the participants on indigenous fish species and informed them about upcoming Central and State schemes designed to enhance the fisheries sector.

A technical session on Best Management Practices for fish farming, that outlined key technical components and demonstration of value-addition methods, was facilitated by Block Officer Ms Nirmala Thapa.

Subsequently, Fisheries Guard Ms Tshering Bhutia provided an overview of major Central Government initiatives, including the PM-Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), Aquaculture Insurance, and the National Fisheries Development Programme (NFDP).

arising from urban growth and generate revenue through service charges, thereby, supporting long-term infrastructure development in the State of Sikkim.

Since the House of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly was not in session and immediate action was required to be taken in this regard, the Governor of Sikkim

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Key legislative...

had promulgated the Sikkim Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Ordinance 2025 on September 26, 2025.

The Bill now seeks to replace the said Ordinance.

With the above objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

4. The Sikkim Water Supply and Water Charges Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 21 of 2025) introduced by Mr Sonam Lama Minister-in-Charge of the Public Health Engineering Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "The urban population of Sikkim depends on Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) for drinking water supply. The main objective of this Sikkim Water Supply and Water Charges Bill 2025, is to provide every person with safe water for drinking and domestic needs. The PHED has been providing piped drinking water supply in urban, semi-urban and some rural marketing centres. The Sikkim Water Supply and Water Tax Act, 1986 was enacted by the Government of Sikkim in the Thirty Seventh year of the Republic of India which was repealed by the Sikkim Water Supply and Water Charges Ordinance 2025. During the intervening period there have been improvements in the infrastructure, including extension of services to new town/township and also capacity augmentation of the existing systems and water use. With increasing population and increased demand, there is a need to provide reasonable distribution of drinking water to the citizens. It is necessary to discourage misuse and tampering of the public assets and effectively penalize anti-social activities in the best interest of the public.

The Bill also has provision for installation of water meters to ensure scientific supply and billing and frame rules for its implementation.

Since the House of the SLA was not in session and immediate action was required to be taken in this regard, the Governor of Sikkim had promulgated the Sikkim Water Supply and Water Charges Ordinance 2025 on September 26, 2025. The Bill now seeks to replace the said Ordinance.

With the above objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

5. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Sikkim Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 22 of 2025) introduced by Mr Raju Basnet, Minister-in-Charge of the Law Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "The Central Government is committed to make India the most preferred global investment destination by boosting investor confidence. The fear of imprisonment for minor offences had become a major hurdle hampering the growth of the business ecosystem and individual confidence. In order to tackle with this hurdle, the main initiative undertaken by the Central Government was the introduction

of Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023. Realising the fact that most of the Acts belonged to the British Era when state mistrusted its citizens and those Acts was adversely affecting the development in the Country, the Central Government by enacting the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 proposed for decriminalisation of large number of minor offences by replacing them with monetary penalties. The endeavour undertaken is not only to make lives and business easier but also to reduce judicial burden.

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Sikkim Bill, 2025 has been framed in similar lines for the purpose of ease of living and ease of doing business.

With the above objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

6. The Sikkim Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 23 of 2025) introduced by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of the Transport Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "Whereas the Supreme Court in W.P. (C) No. 83 of 2010, Federation of Lepy.Organe (FOLO) & Anr vs. Union of India & Ors, the Supreme Court directed all the State Government to constitute a three members Committee, comprising three officers from the Law and Justice Department, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court to identify all the pre and post Constitution State Laws and to recommend to the State Government to make suitable amendment where the discriminatory expressions in respect of leprosy affected or cured persons are still part of the Statute.

The Committee constituted in Sikkim accordingly identified a provision in the Sikkim Motor Vehicle Act, 1957 which needs to be amended in compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court.

Therefore, the State Government in compliance of the recommendations made by the said Committee deems it expedient to remove the discriminatory provision existing in Schedule II of the Sikkim Motor Vehicles Act, 1957.

With the above objectives, this Bill is being framed."

7. The Sikkim Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 24 of 2025) introduced by Mr Bhoj Raj Rai, Minister-in-Charge of the Urban Development Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "The Sikkim Town and Country Planning Act, 2024 was enacted to provide a comprehensive legal framework for planned urban and rural development, preparation of development plans, regulation of land use and implementation of development schemes across the State. During the initial phase of implementation, certain provisions of the Principal Act were identified as requiring refinement to ensure greater clarity, administrative efficiency and alignment with contemporary planning practices.

Clause 58 of the Principal Act presently contains a marginal heading that does not fully reflect

the intended scope and applicability of development schemes as envisaged under the Act. In order to bring the heading in conformity with accepted planning terminology and practice and to provide clearer guidance for the preparation and execution of development schemes, it has become necessary to amend the marginal heading by substituting it with the expression "Scope of Development Scheme."

Clause 122, dealing with procedural matters, has been reviewed and it has been found that its continued retention is no longer required in view of subsequent legal and administrative developments. Its omission will help streamline the statute and avoid potential overlaps or ambiguities within the legislative framework. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives."

8. The Sikkim Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025 (Bill No. 25 of 2025) introduced by Mr Raju Basnet, Minister-in-Charge of the Education Department.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "Whereas, several private Universities are already functioning or have been established by separate enactments, requiring incorporation within a unified statutory framework to secure uniformity of standards, proper regulation and effective oversight;

And whereas, the Supreme Court of India in Prof. Yashpal & Another vs. State of Chattisgarh & Others (2005) 5 SCC 420 has unequivocally held that the creation and regulation of Universities must rest upon stringent legislative control, robust statutory safeguards and meaningful Governmental supervision and that Universities cannot be permitted to operate as mere degree-distributing entities without adequate infrastructure, academic rigour and quality assurance;

And whereas, the said judgment obligates every State to enact a comprehensive legal regime ensuring that private Universities conform to national standards of academic excellence, avoid commercialisation of education and function only within the territorial and regulatory limits prescribed by law;

And whereas, it is imperative to protect the interests of students, promote quality higher education, prevent malpractices and ensure that all private Universities operate in conformity with the norms of the University Grants Commission and other statutory regulatory bodies;

And whereas, it is the policy vision of the State Government to attract credible and reputed Private Higher Educational Institutions, ensure that they are distributed equitably across constituencies and function as engines of local development, thereby contributing towards Sikkim's long-term goals of becoming a knowledge-driven, research-led state;

Therefore, with the objectives to give full effect to the direction of the Supreme Court of

India and to establish a uniform, transparent, accountable and enforceable statutory mechanism for private Universities in Sikkim, the Bill has been framed."

Thereafter, the House also passed the Government Resolution (Resolution No. 1 of 2025) seeking "Ratification of the Final Report of the Sikkim State High-Level Committee (SSHLC) on the inclusion of the Twelve Left-out Indigenous Communities of Sikkim in the Scheduled Tribe List by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly", moved by Minister for Social Welfare Department, Mr Samdup Lepcha.

During the discussion on the Government Resolution, the Chief Minister and Leader of the House expressed his sincere appreciation to the Members of the High-Level Committee for their extensive and scholarly work in preparing a comprehensive report on each of the left-out communities. He also thanked the Minister for Social Welfare Department for placing the Resolution before the House.

The Chief Minister stated that the Final Report of the Sikkim State High-Level Committee is a rigorous and comprehensive document, prepared through extensive field research, community-level consultations and expert inputs from scholars and practitioners across various institutions.

He further stated that the Report not only details the ethnographic profiles of the twelve left-out indigenous communities but also places them within the broader context of Sikkim's unique history, its mountainous borderlands and the longstanding contributions of Sikkimese communities to national security, peace and stability since the State's merger with the Indian Union.

The Report, he remarked, reflects the essence of the term "Sikkimese" and acknowledges the historical tribal identity recognised both during the Chogyal period and under the special provisions of Article 371F of the Constitution.

Reiterating the State Government's commitment, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that such a detailed, evidence-based submission would provide strong and adequate grounds for consideration by the Registrar General of India and the Government of India, thereby receiving due appreciation at the national level.

While briefly referring to certain observations circulated in the public domain, the Chief Minister clarified that the engagements undertaken by the Committee with various stakeholders formed an essential part of its mandated consultative process. He reiterated that all procedures were carried out with due diligence, transparency and in accordance with established norms and emphasised that the focus must remain on the substantive and comprehensive work reflected in the Committee's Report.

He also placed on record the State Government's gratitude to all communities including those outside the twelve left-out groups for their unity, support and

collective goodwill in this endeavour.

The discussion on the Government Resolution was also participated by Ministers, Mr NB Dahal, Mr Arun K Upreti and Mr Raju Basnet and MLA Mr Lok Nath Sharma.

Subsequently, the Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department presented the following Audit Reports:

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on State Finances for the year 2023-24, (Report No. 1 of 2025), Government of Sikkim.

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit on Functioning of State Bank of Sikkim for the year ended March 2023, (Report No. 2 of 2025) Government of Sikkim.

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Social, Economic, Revenue and General Sectors and Local Bodies for the year ended March 2023 (Report No. 3 of 2025) Government of Sikkim.

(iv) Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of Sikkim Power Investment Corporation Limited for the year ended 31 March 2022 and

(v) Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of State Bank of Sikkim for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Speaker, thereafter, announced the laying of the following Annual Reports of the Departments and Commissions:

(i) Annual Report of the Sikkim Information Commission for the year 2024-2025.

(ii) Annual Report of the Police Accountability Commission, Sikkim for the year 2024-25.

(iii) Annual Report of the Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim for the year 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-2025.

(iv) Annual Report of the Sikkim State Food Commission for the year 2024-2025.

In his valedictory remarks, Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of the House for their involvement in the day's proceedings. He stated that the House completed the introduction, consideration and passing of the Bills and the Government Resolution placed before it and also appreciated for the presentation of the Audit Reports and annual reports. He also acknowledged the press and media fraternity for their coverage of the proceedings and the staff of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat for their support in the conduct of the session.

In his valedictory address, the Speaker expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Deputy Speaker and Members of the House for their participation.

The valedictory session also had the participation of Member of Legislative Assembly Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha.

The session was adjourned Sine Die by the Speaker.

Sikkim hosts two-day consultation on aftercare practices with UNICEF

Gangtok, December 6: Second day of the two-day programme on 'State Consultation on Learning and Sharing of Aftercare Practices in India', organised by Women, Child, Senior Citizens and Divyangjan Welfare Department in collaboration with UNICEF India, was held at Chintan Bhawan, today.

The programme was attended by Mr R Telang Chief Secretary, Mr MT Sherpa Secretary Planning and Development Department, Mr Yougan Tamang Press Secretary to CM, District Collectors and SDMs from various districts of the State.

Chief Secretary highlighted the need for a holistic and sensitive approach towards children residing in Child Care Institutions, particularly those transitioning out of institutional care. Stressing the emotional challenges faced by care leavers, he underlined the importance of ensuring continuous emotional, social and practical support during this transition. He advocated for strengthening peer networks and support systems centered around care leavers themselves, noting that individuals who have undergone similar experiences are best placed to guide and support others. He emphasised that empowering care leavers and placing them at the centre of aftercare ecosystems would enable more responsive, sustainable and effective interventions.

He stressed that the social sector demands sensitivity and a human centric mindset, unlike other administrative domains, and appreciated the commitment of officers working in this field while underscoring the need for continuous improvement.

Mr Nandalal Chaudhary Joint Director, Women and Child Development Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, delivered a presentation on aftercare in Chhattisgarh, focusing on the continuation of care and the reintegration of children ageing out of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). He highlighted several innovative initiatives implemented under Mission Vatsalya, structured around the 6U's.

During the programme, Mr Prabhat Kumar conducted a session focused on strengthening coordinated responses for adolescent and youth development, wherein officials from various departments outlined the key provisions of the guidelines and elaborated on their roles in effective implementation.

Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi, highlighted the Mission for Adolescent and Youth Advancement (MAYA), a coordinated, child-centric intervention aimed at identifying, preventing and addressing school dropout. She explained that the mission delivers holistic and tailored support for rehabilitation and reintegration, strengthens

stakeholder accountability and creates sustainable education and skilling pathways for vulnerable adolescents through robust inter departmental collaboration.

Mr Samdup Bhutia Additional Secretary, Skill Development Department, outlined the State's efforts to enhance employability and livelihood opportunities for adolescents and youth through demand driven skilling programmes, vocational training and industry linked courses. He emphasised the alignment of skills with market demands, promotion of entrepreneurship and creation of sustainable employment pathways, particularly for care leavers and other vulnerable groups, through departmental convergence and partnerships.

At the outset, Ms Leena Prasad, Director (Advocacy, Research and Training), Udayan Care, highlighted the organisation's core focus on family strengthening, emphasising that all its programmes, including child protection and alternative care, education, skilling and employability, are designed to enable children and youth to thrive within strong and supportive families.

Representatives from Aide et Action, Ms Nupur Pande and Mr Pranab Pangding, also spoke on aftercare and alternative care practices, sharing field-based experiences and emphasising the need for structured transition planning and sustained support for care leavers.

Similarly, caregivers Mr Girish Mehta and Mr Rajkumar Sharma highlighted the importance of stable caregiving, emotional connection and life skills support in enabling children to transition towards independent and dignified living.

Ms Rohini Pradhan Additional Secretary, Planning and Development Department-cum-Programme Director, Sikkim INSPIRES on the inaugural day underscored Sikkim INSPIRES as a flagship socio economic initiative of the State Government, developed with support from the World Bank to create better economic opportunities for women and youth.

With technical support from UNICEF, the state organised its first ever consultation to shape this intervention, guided by inputs from care leavers, caregivers and experts. A core principle of INSPIRES is participatory planning, ensuring that interventions are based on the real needs expressed by beneficiaries rather than assumptions. The consultation promoted open communication, providing language support and offering participants the option to share feedback verbally or in writing.

During the programme, Child Protection Specialist Mr Prabhat Kumar delivered a presentation on 'Listening, Learning and

Reflecting: Experiences of Care Leavers.' He outlined the key aspects of aftercare, emphasising that it supports the transition from care to independent adulthood, and that care leavers have a right to support, not merely goodwill.

He highlighted the key entitlements of care leavers including a personalised aftercare plan tailored to their goals, designated functionary for regular guidance and check ins, housing support and others.

The first session focused on amplifying the voices of youth and understanding their journey from care to independence, under the theme 'Listening, Learning and Reflecting: Experiences of Care Leavers.' It aimed to deepen awareness of the challenges, strengths and aspirations of young people transitioning out of care. The session highlighted the importance of listening to their lived experiences, learning from their insights and reflecting on how support systems can be strengthened. By centring their perspectives, the session underscored the need for responsive aftercare services, empathetic guidance and policies that empower care leavers to build confident, stable and self-reliant futures.

The second session engaged participants in small group discussions using participatory tools such as journey mapping, problem tree analysis and appreciative inquiry. These methods encouraged active engagement and helped participants reflect on the realities faced by care leavers. Through journey mapping, groups explored key milestones and challenges in the transition to independence. Problem tree analysis helped identify root causes and consequences of the issues experienced, while appreciative inquiry highlighted strengths, successful practices and opportunities for positive change.

The third session brought all groups together to present the key findings and priorities emerging from the youth focused discussions. Each group shared insights gathered through the participatory exercises, highlighting common challenges, support gaps and opportunities to strengthen aftercare systems. The presentations emphasised youth driven recommendations, reflecting their aspirations for accessible guidance, stronger emotional and financial support, and policies that recognise their unique needs.

The programme had the presence of representatives from Aide et Action, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF, Joint Director, Government of Chandigarh, Udayan Care, care leavers, child protection officials and functionaries and NGO representatives from both local and national organisations.

Press Note

Gangtok, December 11: The Chief Mr R. Telang.-IAS officially released the Government of Sikkim Almanac for the year 2026. The Almanac printed by Printing & Stationery Department will be despatched to all offices as per the demand placed by them. Others can purchase the Almanac from single window of Printing & Stationery Department by producing SBS B.R. of ₹20/- (Rupees twenty) only per Almanac

IPR's Creative Hub and Sikkim Odyssey AR Mobile Game qualifies for SKOCH Award 2025

Gangtok, December 10: Information and Public Relations Department brought laurels to the State by emerging as a semi-finalists at the SKOCH Award 2025, for its two innovative initiatives, 'Creative Hub' and 'Sikkim Odyssey AR Mobile Game, initiated to commemorate 50 years of Statehood.

In recognition of this accomplishment, the Department was awarded the prestigious SKOCH Order of Merit, joining other semi-finalists across genres throughout the country. The recognition was virtually presented by Dr Gursharan Dhanjal, Vice-Chairman, SKOCH Group from New Delhi.

Addressing briefly to the jury and the audience, Mr Sunil Kumar Mothay Director IPR Department expressed his gratitude

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NCW Chairperson...

necessity of a comprehensive approach in tackling drug trafficking through community efforts. Recognising the pivotal role of women in this movement, he called them the strongest force to lead the fight against drug addiction. He said that the campaign against drug abuse and for healthy lifestyles should be at mass level through sports, arts and recreational activities which

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Chief Minister...

creativity in the modern age, he underscored that in an era dominated by rapid technological advancement and Artificial Intelligence, it is essential for writers and litterateurs to create with depth, emotion, and human insight. "Technology may offer information, but literature preserves wisdom and safeguards the soul of society," he said.

The event also featured the release of several publications, including the collective work Role and Contribution of Indian Nepali / Nepali-Speaking Indians in the Making of Modern India. The Chief Minister also extended gratitude and congratulations to all authors, scholars, and contributors involved.

The Chief Minister expressed his sincere thanks to the organisers, guests, participants, and the creative community for making the event meaningful.



under Revenue Head 0058-00-200-Printing & Stationery Department. Almanac shall also be made available at M.G.Marg and one day sale and display at all District Headquarters on 5th Jan 2026. All are requested to uphold the past legacy, Sikkimese identity and socio-cultural and religious sanctity while selling, hanging and displaying the same. Overpricing, if reported shall be dealt with severely.

to the SKOCH Group for the honour. He briefly outlined the initiatives, acknowledging the strong support of the Government of Sikkim. He conveyed his sincere thanks to the Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, for his consistent guidance and encouragement.

The SKOCH Award is a prestigious national recognition presented by the SKOCH Group to honour exemplary achievements in governance, innovation, public service delivery and citizen centric initiatives across India. Regarded as a benchmark of excellence, the award acknowledges impactful and scalable projects implemented by government departments, public institutions and organisations that contribute meaningfully to inclusive and transparent development.

should be intensified.

The Governor urged the members of the Sikkim State Women Commission to actively contribute to the cause, including seeking police support against drug abuse. He suggested to the members to adopt all six districts of the State.

He said that the use of drugs was a major evil in society and everyone has a part to play in protecting the youth from these illicit substances.

Ms Delina Khongdup also briefed the Governor about her visits to various places of the State.

The event also featured the release of several publications, including the collective work Role and Contribution of Indian Nepali / Nepali-Speaking Indians in the Making of Modern India. The Chief Minister also extended gratitude and congratulations to all authors, scholars, and contributors involved.

The Chief Minister expressed his sincere thanks to the organisers, guests, participants, and the creative community for making the event meaningful.

Chief Minister attends ceremony to mark three major milestones



Gangtok, December 6: The Traya Jayanti Samaroha-Anugraha ko Yatra, marking three significant milestones, the 50 Years of Statehood of Sikkim, the Silver Jubilee of St Paul the Apostle Church, Tadong and the Universal Jubilee of the Roman Catholic Church 2025 was celebrated at Holy Cross School, today.

The event was graced by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as the chief guest.

The programme began with unveiling of the Jubilee Plaque by the Chief Minister, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamps alongside His Lordship Bishop Stephen Lepcha and Parish Priest Rev Fr Yozan David Rai at St Paul's the Apostle Church, 5th Mile Tadong.

In his address, Chief Minister highlighted the significance of the three Jayanti celebrations, the Silver Jubilee of St Paul the Apostle Church, Tadong, the Universal Jubilee of the Roman Catholic Church 2025, and the 50 years of Statehood of Sikkim. He acknowledged the Catholic Church's valuable contribution to the social, educational, and spiritual development of the State. Emphasising unity and equality, he underscored the need for collective effort in building a better society.

The Chief Minister further

elaborated on the State Government's initiatives to showcase Sikkim's achievements at the national level and the progress made across various sectors. He reiterated the importance of unity and adherence to rule for a harmonious society. He also highlighted the upcoming pre-Christmas celebration to be held at Jorethang and encouraged everyone to participate.

In his address, His Lordship Bishop Stephen Lepcha, reflected on the theme of the celebration, emphasising its spiritual significance and the message of hope and unity. He acknowledged the Chief Minister's vision for fostering harmony across communities and appreciated his compassion and consistent support for those in need. He also commended several initiatives of the State Government that have contributed to the welfare and upliftment of the people. Additionally, he shared insights into the history and growth of the Catholic community in Sikkim.

In his address, Rev Fr Yozan David Rai, elaborated on the programme and the three significant reasons for the celebration. He underscored that the Catholic community is united under a single Church with one administrative body, and that all other units function as integral

parts of this unified structure. He also highlighted the Chief Minister's vision of Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim and acknowledged him as one of the most popular Chief Minister. He welcomed all the attendees who had come from different parts of the State and neighbouring state.

Thereafter, students of Holy Cross School presented a Prayer Dance, invocation of God's name followed by Dance Drama on the Jubilee theme Pilgrims of Hope, performed by Christ the King Church, Pakyong, and St John's Church, Basilakha.

The cultural performance featured vibrant Nepali, Lepcha, and Bhutia dances presented by Catholic communities from South West Sikkim and students of St Joseph's School, Martam, presented a special dance highlighting 50 Years of Sikkim's Statehood.

Subsequently, a felicitation ceremony was held to honour priests, religious leaders, notable achievers from the Catholic community, as well as land donors who have donated land for building churches and educational institutions.

This was followed by choir performance by St Paul's Church, Tadong, and St Thomas Church, Gangtok and a short video documenting the works and contributions of the Catholic Church in Sikkim was screened.

Following that, the Chief Minister released the Jubilee Journal 'Anugraha ko Yatra' along with the book 'Connect to Earth'.

Also present were Bishop Stephen Lepcha, Mr GT Dhungel, Minister Culture Department, Health and Family Welfare Department, Mr Raju Basnet, Minister Education Department, Law Department, Mr Jacob Khaling Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, Ms Tshering Palden Bhutia Deputy Mayor officers of the departments, clergy members from various churches across the State and other dignitaries.

High Court of Sikkim holds full Court Reference to bid farewell to Chief Justice

Gangtok, December 12: The High Court of Sikkim held a Full Court Reference to bid farewell to Chief Justice of High Court of Sikkim Mr Justice Biswanath Somadder on his superannuation, today.

The ceremonial sitting was convened in the Court of the Chief Justice with the Full Court comprising Mr Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice, Mrs Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judges of High Court of Sikkim.

Mrs Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Judge and Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, Judge also

offered their references, placing on record their appreciation of the Chief Justice's contributions to the administration of justice in Sikkim.

References from the Bar were presented by Mr A Moulik Senior Advocate and Mr Zangpo Sherpa Additional Advocate General, Dr Doma T Bhutia (Senior Advocate) President, Sikkim High Court Bar Association and Mr Tashi Rapten Barfungpa President Bar Association of Sikkim (High Court and Subordinate Courts).

Responding to the Full Court Reference, Chief Justice expressed gratitude to members of the Bar,

officers and staff of the High Court for their cooperation and support during his tenure. He reflected on his experiences in Sikkim and extended his best wishes for the continued growth and progress of the judiciary.

The ceremony was attended by former Judges, sitting Judges, the Senior Registrar General, Registrar, Senior Advocates, Advocates, Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, dignitaries, family and friends of the Chief Justice and Officers and staff of the High Court of Sikkim.

Trade Fair for PM Vishwakarma Scheme beneficiaries inaugurated



Gangtok, December 12: MSME-DFO (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises-Development and Facilitation Office), Gangtok launched a three-day exhibition-cum-trade fair dedicated to registered beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. The initiative aims to uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople who continue to practise age-old, family-inherited skills. The exhibition-cum-trade fair commenced this afternoon at MG Marg with its inaugural session.

The proceedings continued with the National Anthem and a presentation of the National Song by Mr Nirmal Chowdhury, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO.

Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister for Commerce and Industries Department attended the event as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that exhibitions of this nature are vital as they provide local artisans an opportunity to showcase their craftsmanship at MG Marg, a venue that draws a significant number of national and international tourists. He commended MSME for organising an excellent platform for young artists and progressive entrepreneurs and praised the artisans for their commitment to preserving the art, culture and heritage passed down through generations.

Minister further highlighted the Prime Minister's vision for prioritising artisans and their craft through the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. He added that the Chief Minister has also extended support to artisans by providing financial assistance under the CMSEAS scheme.

He underscored the flagship initiatives of the Commerce and Industries Department including RAMP and various onboarding and incubation programmes. Through these initiatives, organisations such as Alsisar and the National Institute of Design have guided and mentored groups, enabling them to refine their products for national and international markets.

He urged MSME to expand awareness of the PM

Vishwakarma Scheme at the Block, Panchayat and Constituency levels for wider public understanding and assured full support from the Commerce and Industries Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr TM Jamang Regional Director, RBI, commended MSME for its efforts and highlighted the crucial link between banks and artisans. He emphasised the importance of access to capital and encouraged artisans to approach the RBI whenever assistance is required.

Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia ADC Gangtok informed on the significance of PM Vishwakarma Scheme, particularly for rural artisans. He stated that enrolling in the scheme and receiving certification from MSME not only acknowledges an artisan's craft but also broadens their opportunities for work and encouraged the bankers present to revisit and review PM Vishwakarma applications so that more artisans may benefit from the scheme.

Mr Birendra Chettri Director, NIC pointed out the scope for strengthening marketing and highlighted the importance of e-commerce in improving financial prospects and ensuring fair pricing for artisan products.

Earlier, Mr Nirmal Chowdhury Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, briefed on PM Vishwakarma Scheme and the ongoing work of MSME-DFO across the six districts of Sikkim.

The inaugural session concluded with the presentation of mementos to the dignitaries.

The dignitaries also visited the stalls and interacted with the artisans to learn more about their products and craftsmanship.

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme is designed to safeguard the nation's rich handicraft traditions, while enhancing the skills, competitiveness and market reach of artisans.

For Sikkim's artisans, the scheme offers a vital opportunity to showcase their unique crafts, expand market linkages and explore greater economic prospects through increased visibility and engagement with buyers and stakeholders.

The exhibition-cum-trade fair will be held from December 12 to 14 at MG Marg, Gangtok.