



SIKKIM HERALD

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Week-long International Jagni Maha Mahotsav commences



Namchi, April 19: A week-long International Jagni Maha Mahotsav commenced with a series of religious rituals and devotional programmes at Shri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham, Namphing, drawing a large gathering of devotees and dignitaries, today.

The inaugural day was

attended by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang. He was accompanied by Ministers, Deputy Speaker SLA, MLAs, Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyaksha, APS Namchi, DC Namchi, SSP Namchi, OSDs, Heads of Offices and other dignitaries.

The seven-day Mahotsav is

being led by eminent spiritual leaders, including Shri Krishna Pranami Dharmacharya Ananta Bibhusit Jagatguru Acharya Shri Krishnamaniji Maharajshri of Nawatanpuridham, Jamnagar, Gujarat, Shri Ananta Bibhusit Jagatguru Acharya Shri Suryanarayana Das Maharajshri of Shri 5 Maha Mangal Puri Dham, Surat, Mahanta Shri 108 Sudakar Maharaj Ji of Sikkim and Shri Vidushi Usha Mataji of Kripasindhu Gurukul, Simra, Nepal.

Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the revered spiritual leaders for their gracious presence at the Mahotsav. He noted that the event serves as a profound spiritual discourse for devotees and the people of Sikkim, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and extended his wishes for prosperity and well-being. He mentioned that Sikkim is blessed with numerous sacred pilgrimage sites and is a land where people from diverse

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DC Namchi chairs various meetings to strengthen cooperative development

Namchi, April 21: A meeting of District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) along with the District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) and the District Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DLCMC) was convened under the chairpersonship of Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi at District Administrative Centre, Namchi, today.

Addressing the meeting, the DC advised the officers of the department to prioritise community-based development and growth while promoting cooperative societies, with the aim of strengthening local communities. She further directed the department to undertake extensive awareness campaigns to sensitise the public on the benefits of cooperatives and the opportunities available through them.

Highlighting the various financial assistance schemes being provided by the department, she stressed the importance of making the public aware of repayment obligations and the consequences of loan defaults.

She also urged the department to guide beneficiaries through the proper repayment process. Emphasising transparency and accountability, she called for strict monitoring of fund sanctions and regular supervision of stock management within cooperative societies.

At the outset, Additional Registrar (Cooperation) Mr Purshutam Pradhan, presented a brief overview of the cooperative societies functioning within the district. He informed that as per the National Cooperative Database, a total of 1,154 Cooperative Societies are registered across Namchi and Ravangla Sub-Divisions. Of these, 262 are functional, 726 are non-functional and 166 are under the process of liquidation.

He further stated that 12 Milk Producers Cooperative Societies Ltd. and two Poultry Cooperative Societies Ltd are registered within the district. Speaking on inter-cooperative collaboration, he mentioned that Cooperative Societies under Namchi District have subscribed to four shares of National Cooperative Organic Ltd, two shares of National Cooperative Export Ltd and 37

shares of Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd.

He also elaborated on the role of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), highlighting their operations as Common Service Centres (CSCs), Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAK), and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras (PMKSK).

He informed that during the Financial Year 2025-26, apex and primary cooperative institutions paid a total dividend of ₹155.67 lakh to the State Government against Government shareholding.

Referring to the recently launched Sikkim State Cooperative Policy, 2026, he stated that the Cooperation Department formally launched the policy on March 19, 2026, with the objective of transforming cooperatives into engines of inclusive growth and rural prosperity across the State. He further mentioned that all amendments to the Sikkim Cooperative Societies Act and Rules are expected to be completed within the Financial Year 2026-27.

Additionally, he shared that

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Completion of Home Voting for Senior Citizens (85+) at 10-Diesel Power House Ward

Gangtok, April 21: The process of home voting for senior citizens above 85 years of age in Ward No 10 DPH under the Gangtok Municipal Corporation has been successfully completed in a smooth manner.

The facility was extended to ensure that elderly voters, who may face difficulty in physically visiting polling stations, are able to exercise their franchise. The polling teams visited the residences of 2 eligible voters and conducted voting through postal ballots, strictly adhering to the SOP of the State Election Commission.

Following the completion of the home voting process, the

strong room was opened in the presence of authorised Election Agents of the contesting candidates. All collected postal ballots were duly deposited, sealed, and secured in accordance with prescribed procedures, ensuring full transparency and integrity of the electoral process.

It is informed that the poll for Ward No 10 DPH will be conducted on April 24, 2026 and the counting of votes will take place on April 25, 2026.

All stakeholders and public are requested to continue extending their cooperation for peaceful and successful conduct of election process.

Gyalshing District reviews progress of House Listing and Housing Census

Gyalshing, April 21: A review meeting on the progress of the ongoing Phase I (House Listing) of Census 2027 was held at the office of the District Collector-cum-Principal Census Officer, Gyalshing, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa District Collector Gyalshing and attended by ADC-cum-District Census Officers, respective SDM-cum-Charge Officers, MEO-cum-Charge Officer and Statistical Investigators from Directorate of Census Operations.

The DC in his address, reviewed the preparations for the ongoing census activities under the District and directed that the data collected by Enumerators is to be verified at multiple levels by Supervisors, Additional Charge

Officers and Charge Officers. He focused on the need for strict monitoring of data collection and directed the Charge Officers to conduct continuous review under their respective charges.

It may be noted that the House Listing and Housing Census commenced on April 16, 2026 and will continue until May 15, 2026. Enumeration in a total of 238 House Listing Blocks (HLBs) is currently in progress under the District. During this period, Enumerators are conducting door-to-door surveys using mobile application for data collection.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion for clarification and coordination for the successful completion of the operation.



Pearls of Wisdom

“Pursue what catches your heart, not what catches your eyes.”

- Roy T. Bennett

Week-long observance of National Fire Service Week 2026 concludes

Mangan, April 20: The week-long observance of National Fire Services Week under the aegis of Sikkim Fire and Emergency Services Chungthang, culminated with an awareness programme at Chungthang Panchayat Office, today.

The programme had the presence of senior citizens and shopkeepers of Chungthang Bazaar. Fire service personnel conducted an informative session highlighting the importance of fire safety,

prevention measures and emergency response mechanisms. The programme was held under the guidance of Sub Fire Officer, Chungthang, with participation of officers and staff of Chungthang Fire Station.

As a part of the programme, practical demonstrations on the use of fire extinguishers and basic firefighting equipment were carried out to enhance public preparedness in case of fire incidents. The initiative aimed to

sensitise the community on fire hazards and promote a culture of safety and vigilance.

The observance held from April 14 to April 20, focused on the theme 'Safe School, Safe Hospital and Fire Safety Aware Society-Together for Fire Prevention'. Participants actively engaged in the sessions and appreciated the efforts of the Fire and Emergency Services department in spreading awareness at grassroots level.

Solid Waste Management meeting held

Namchi, April 20: District Level Committee meeting on Solid Waste Management was held at District Administrative Centre (DAC) Namchi, today. The meeting was presided over by Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi wherein, she addressed the committee on the importance of effective waste segregation, collection and disposal across the district.

During the discussion, it was highlighted that nearly 80 to 90 percent of waste segregation is being successfully carried out in rural areas. It was also informed that compost bins have been handed to households so as to encourage proper waste management practices and promote sustainable disposal methods.

It was observed that in urban areas waste is not being segregated, regarding this a plan has been formulated to identify a pilot ward for hands-on training in waste segregation practices.

Additionally, an awareness programmes will be conducted in urban areas for a duration of one month, focusing on proper waste segregation and management. Following the completion of this

period, the progress will be reviewed and assessed.

DC emphasised the importance of segregation at source and suggested the introduction of a two compartment system in waste collection vehicles for separate collection of dry and wet waste. She also directed that pamphlets be distributed door-to-door to spread awareness among residents regarding proper waste management practices.

The issue of establishing a Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) in Namchi was also discussed. The project has faced resistance from local residents due to concerns that it may contaminate nearby water sources. In response, suggestion has been proposed to first conduct a joint inspection to verify whether the water sources in the area are being safeguarded. Secondly, awareness programmes will be organised to educate public about the benefits of the RRC, including its role in reducing plastic waste, composting organic materials, and preventing harmful practice of waste burning.

During the meeting, it was

discussed that a joint cleanliness drive will be conducted from Damthang Road to Temi Zero. She also highlighted the need for cleaning cremation areas near Samdruptse Road and Alley Gumpa, as to check on plastic waste.

Also, she highlighted the need to check the functionality of sanitary vending machines and incinerators in schools. She directed that incinerators should be installed in every workplace to ensure proper hygiene and effective waste management.

Further, she stated that strict action will be taken against illegal dumping of waste in both rural and urban areas and any violations, if found will result in fines. It was also mentioned that green, blue, and red dustbins will be distributed to households in both rural and urban areas of the district for the purpose of promoting proper waste segregation and effective waste management.

Also present during were ADC Namchi, SDM (Hq), ADC (Dev), CMO Namchi, CEO, MEO, ACF, AO, AE and DPO.

Sikkim Utsav 2026 Mangan concludes

Mangan, April 19: Three-day Sikkim Utsav 2026, Mangan Chapter concluded at Mangan Nagar Panchayat Hall, marking the culmination of a vibrant celebration of entrepreneurship, culture and local enterprise.

The valedictory programme was attended by Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department as the chief guest, along with host of other dignitaries, senior officials, and representatives from various departments.

At the outset, chief guest and dignitaries visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with entrepreneurs and participants, appreciating the diverse range of locally produced goods, including food products, handicrafts and traditional attire.

The Minister expressed his appreciation to the Commerce and Industries Department for successfully organising the three-day programme for Mangan District. He congratulated all participating entrepreneurs and stall owners, extending his best wishes for their continued growth and success. The Minister stated that

in the coming days, entrepreneurship will play a pivotal role in shaping a better and self-reliant future. He further highlighted the vision of 'Sunaulo, Samridha and Samarth Sikkim' under the leadership of Chief Minister, aimed at fostering inclusive growth and economic prosperity across the State.

Emphasising the importance of value addition, the chief guest noted that while Sikkim already possesses some of the best organic raw materials, there is a need to further improve packaging and presentation to enhance marketability and branding. He encouraged entrepreneurs to adopt modern marketing strategies and focus on quality packaging to compete in wider markets. He further expressed confidence that with sustained efforts and Government support, Sikkim will soon emerge as a model State in terms of economic growth and entrepreneurial development.

Earlier, three women entrepreneurs, Ms Sangay Doma Bhutia, Ms Priyanka Rai and Ms Manisha Rai shared their feedback and experiences from

the Utsav. They expressed gratitude to the organisers for providing a valuable platform to showcase their products, opportunity to interact with customers and gain meaningful market exposure. They further highlighted that such initiatives not only boost confidence but also encourage women entrepreneurs to pursue and expand their ventures with greater determination.

The programme also had an award ceremony for Best Performing Entrepreneur and Best Packaging which were conferred upon Ms Sonam Kipu Bhutia and Ms Sangay Doma Bhutia respectively, in recognition of their outstanding performance and innovation.

The concluding day was attended by Chairpersons, SP Mangan, Joint Secretary (MSME), Commerce and Industries Department, General Manager, DIC, Gangtok and Mangan, OSDs, ADC (Development) Mangan, DFO (Territorial), DFO (Social Forestry), SHO Mangan, BDO Dzongu, MEO MNP and officials from various departments, entrepreneurs and others.

Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0' conducted

Soreng, April 18: The closing ceremony of 'Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0' conducted under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) of NITI Aayog was held at Rurban Complex in Soreng, today.

During the programme, the chief guest and other dignitaries formally launched the initiative, a Niti Aayog supported effort implemented by the Soreng District Administration in collaboration with the Health and Family Welfare Department, Soreng and Mental Health Action Trust (MHAT), Kerala.

The event was attended by Mr MN Sherpa Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly as the chief guest and accompanied by Mr Aditya Golay MLA Soreng-Chakung and Mr Madan Cintury MLA Salghari-Zoom.

The Speaker congratulated the district for its achievements and lauded the initiative. He emphasised the importance of targeted awareness programmes for mental health and urged stakeholders to identify developmental gaps and address them collectively. Highlighting sustainability, he reiterated Sikkim's commitment as a plastic-free state and encouraged citizens to take ownership of public assets. In his remarks, he highlighted the 'Tithi Bhoj' concept, aimed at promoting community participation in school mid-day meals.

MLA Soreng-Chakung applauded the district administration and stakeholders for achieving programme targets. He highlighted upcoming development projects and stressed the need for systematic mechanisms to monitor public assets. Calling a unique initiative, he expressed confidence in its potential to address mental health challenges and advocated for expert led awareness

Meeting on mapping of electors of EROLL 2025

Pakyong, April 18: A meeting on mapping of electors of EROLL 2025 with the last SIR EROLL 2002 was held at Emergency Operation Center, Pakyong under the chairmanship of Mr Rohan Agawane District Collector-cum-District Election Officer Pakyong, today.

The District Election Officer reviewed the progress of elector mapping and examined polling parts where coverage remains below 80 percent. He sought explanations from the concerned Booth Level Officers (BLOs) regarding the shortfall in these areas.

Emphasising the importance of the ongoing exercise, DC directed that special focus be given to polling parts with mapping below 80 percent and called for intensified efforts to improve coverage.

Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong, provided guidance to the BLOs on resolving field-level issues and addressed their queries. He further instructed them to maintain written records of daily

programmes.

Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC Soreng presented an overview of the Abhiyan and its outcomes, praising inter departmental coordination. Additionally, he informed that the initiative is being implemented in collaboration with Mental Health Action Trust (MHAT), Kerala, focusing on community level mental health intervention.

Mr DR Bista ADC highlighted that Soreng District achieved 100% targets across all 11 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under ADP and ABP. He further noted significant progress in health, nutrition, sanitation and animal vaccination drives, all of which reached full coverage.

Dr Manoj Kumar, Clinical Director, MHAT, Kerala, elaborated on the initiative, emphasising its three pillars of care and 24x7 tele-psychiatric support. In addition, he stated that Soreng is the first district in India to implement the programme comprehensively with Government support. He further informed that the weekly clinical services are also being provided across four Primary Health Centres of the district. A felicitation ceremony was also held to honour frontline workers from various departments.

The event also featured a screening of a documentary on Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0, along with a skit on mental health presented by Don Bosco School, Malbasey.

On the occasion, Soreng District was also declared a fully literate district under the Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) programme.

Also present during the programme were Zilla Panchayats and Panchayats, SDM (Hq), BDOs, HoDs and HoOs, officers and officials from various line departments.

visits, extend necessary cooperation, and ensure steady progress towards achieving the desired mapping levels.

The BLOs were also directed to prepare a separate list of electors not reflected in the 2002 electoral roll, along with their present status and justification, and submit the same within the stipulated timeline. With regard to the queries raised by the District Collector-cum-District Election Officer seeking explanations, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) attributed the gaps to technical errors, migration, electors not residing in the respective polling parts, and other field-level challenges.

The meeting was attended by Mr Thendup Lepcha Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)-cum-SDM(Hq), Ms Sujata Subba ERO-cum-SDM Rangpo, Mr NK Bhandari ERO-cum-SDM Pakyong, officials from the Election Department, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

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

I, **Rinzing Chuden Bhutia**, daughter of Lt. Wang Dorji Bhutia, aged about 50 years, by faith Buddhist, resident of Chongay Tar Ward No. 04, Rongey, P.O & P.S Gangtok, District Gangtok, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm on Oath as follows:

1. That I am legal/biological daughter of **Lt. Wang Dorji Bhutia** and granddaughter of **Lt. Jardey Bhutia**.
2. That the actual and correct name of my grandfather is Jardey Bhutia which is found recorded in his Old Sikkim Subject Register, vide Serial No. 19, Vol. No. III, under Rongneck Block, Gangtok District, Sikkim, issued by the Joint Secretary, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Tashiling Secretariat, Block B, Government of Sikkim.
3. That however my grandfather's name has been inadvertently recorded as **Tenzing Bhutey** in my Certificate of Identification bearing Sl. No. 4948/DCE dated 30/07/1996, issued by Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok, Sikkim.
4. That this affidavit is made on oath to declare that the person by the name "**Jardey Bhutia**" and "**Tenzing Bhutey**" denotes and refers to as one identical person, i.e., my Lt. grandfather.
5. That this Affidavit is made bonafide.

VERIFICATION

I, do hereby verify and state that the statements made in above paragraphs from 1 to 5 are true to the best of my personal knowledge and belief nothing are false and concealed and I sign this affidavit on this 26th day of March, 2026 at Gangtok District, Sikkim, at around 2:32 p.m.

DEPONENT

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

I **Pezor Bhutia**, S/o Lt. Jardey Bhutia, aged about 60 years, Buddhist by faith, resident of Chongay Tar, P.O. Rajbawan & P.S. Gangtok, District Gangtok, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm on oath as follows:

1. That me and my brother, "Lt. Bhaita Bhutia" are the natural and biological son of "Lt. Wang Dorji Bhutia" and grandson of "Lt. Jardey Bhutia".
2. That the correct and official name of our grandfather is "Lt. Jardey Bhutia" as correctly recorded, the same been recorded in Old Sikkim Subject Register vide Serial No.19 Vol. No.III under Block Rongneck, East Sikkim bearing No. 53/LR & DMD dated 29.01.2024 issued by the Joint Secretary, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Government of Sikkim
3. That however, in my Certificate of Identification Vide 4947/DCE dated 30/07/1996, having Sikkim Subject Register vide Serial No.19 Vol. No. III under Block Rangyek AND my brother's Certificate of Identification Vide Sl. No. 5141/DEC dated 6/08/1996 issued by the District Collector, East, wherein our grandfather's name has been wrongly /inadvertently recorded as "Tenzing Bhutey (Bhutia) and Tenzing Bhutey instead of "**Jardey Bhutia**".
4. Thus, this affidavit made before this Oath to declare that the person by name "**Tenzing Bhutey (Bhutia) & Tenzing Bhutey & "Jardey Bhutia"** denotes & refers to as one identical person, i.e. our Lt Grandfather.
5. That this affidavit is made on oath to declare that my correct name is "**Jardey Bhutia**" and the same has been used in all official intents & purposes.
6. This affidavit is made Bonafide.

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the statements made in the above paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I sign this affidavit on this the 23rd day of February 2026, at Sichey Gangtok, East Sikkim.

DEPONENT

**In the Court of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, at Yangang, Namchi District, Sikkim
AFFIDAVIT**

WHEREAS I, **Hasta Bahadur Basnett, S/o. Lt. Man Bahadur Basnett** aged about 37 years, by faith Hindu, resident of upper Bangang P.O. & P.S. yangang, Namchi District, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and make oath as under-

- I. That my father's true and correct name is **Lt. Man Bahadur Basnett S/o. Lt. Parsuram Basnett as per COI bearing Sl. No. 15780/DCE/2017 Dated 05/06/2017.**
- II. That inadvertently my father's name has been recorded and spelt as **Mon Bdr Basnet, S/o. Lt. Persu Ram Basnett** in my late father's Death Certificate bearing Registration No. **C-09/02 Dated 7/5/02 and Man Bahadur Chhettri S/o. Parsuram Chhettri in my Late father's COI bearing Sl. No. 6110 Dated 16.4.90.**
- III. That "**Chhettri**" is our Caste & "**Basnett**" is our Sub-caste.
- iv. That the Sub Caste as recorded "**Basnett**" & "**Basnet**" are same.
- V. Therefore, the names "**Lt. Man Bahadur Basnett S/o. Lt. Parsuram Basnett, Mon Bdr Basnet, S/o. Lt. Persu Ram Basnett and Man Bahadur Chhettri S/o. Parsuram Chhettri**, indicates and means one and the same person i.e. none other than my late father.
- vi. That henceforth by virtue of this affidavit and declaration my father's name shall be read and refer as **Lt. Man Bahadur Basnett S/o. Lt. Parsuram Basnett**, for all practical purpose whatsoever.

VERIFICATION

I the above deponent do hereby verify and declare that the above paragraph 1 to 6 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed or suppressed therein.
I have signed this Affidavit on this 20th Day of March 2026 before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Yangang Sub-Division, Namchi District of Sikkim State.

Deponent

**Government of Sikkim
Buildings & Housing Department**

Memo no:417/BLDGS/PKG/25/P/21

Dated:15/04/2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Additional Chief Engineer, Buildings and Housing Department invites percentage rate Tender in single cover system from Class II-A Contractors within the district of Pakyong, enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department for participating in the e-tender "Construction of Office and Residential Complex for BIP Rongli, under SIB Gangtok" amounting to ₹5,82,16,546.00. For further details, kindly visit the website.

www.sikkimtender.gov.in

sd/-

Addl Chief Engineer (MGP)
Buildings & Housing Deptt.

(38,I)

**Government of Sikkim
Office of the Conservator of Forest (Territorial)
Forest and Environment Department**

Forest Secretariat, Deorali, Gangtok-737102.

Ref. No. GOS/FTC/FED/1.3 (167)74

Date: 20/04/2026

**Addendum to Notice Inviting Tender
vide ref. no.GOS/FTC/FED/P.file/43(ii)
dated: 13/04/2026**

Please insert **29th April, 2026** (Wednesday) time 1:30 PM onwards instead of **27th April, 2026** appeared in the above Notice Inviting Tender for leasing out Gulmohar Picnic Spot, Kumrek, Pakyong District.

**Conservator of Forest (Territorial)
Forest & Environment Department
(39)**

**Government of Sikkim
Urban Development Department
Gangtok**

No:T(2075)/UDD/459

Dated: 13.04.2026

ADVISORY

As per the records and past history, the pre monsoon showers are expected anytime now especially during the months of April-May. The change in the rainfall pattern with high intensity showers coupled with high run-off in the urban areas owing to its built form requires uninterrupted flow of the jhoras and drains. It has been observed that the jhoras and drains are often choked by dumping of garbage, household waste, construction and demolition waste etc. In order to address these issues, an advisory is being issued to the public in general for keeping the jhoras, drains and other premises clean and obstruction free enabling uninterrupted flow of runoff from the rains. This would help us to avoid any disaster endangering life and property and also gear us up for monsoon preparedness.

The public in general are hereby advised to exercise all precautions to prevent possible disasters. All Urban Local Bodies are also hereby directed to maintain strict vigil and issue appropriate public notice within their respective jurisdictions.

In addition, the public in general are requested to make use of **Weather Warning App** developed by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD):-

- 1) Mausam App
- ii) Damini App
- iii) Meghdoot Agro App
- iv) Public Observation App

sd/-

**Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS
Commissioner cum Secretary
Urban Development Department**

**Government of Sikkim
Urban Development Department
Gangtok**

No:T(1689)|UDD/458

Dated: 13.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that earth excavation for construction works in all notified areas under the Sikkim Allotment of House Sites and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) Act, 1985 and the Sikkim Municipalities Act, 2007 shall not be allowed with effect from 1st of May till 31st of August 2026 due to the onset of rainy season. Further, no Construction Orders shall be issued during this period.

Anyone found carrying out construction in contravention of the above direction shall be penalized as per provisions of the Sikkim Allotment of House Sites and Construction of Building (Regulation and Control) Act, 1985 and its subsequent amendments as well as any other relevant provisions of laws in operation. Any person found violating this notice shall also be solely responsible for loss of life and property as a result of such excavation/ construction.

However, any projects under the Central Government and the State Government, which require relaxation from prohibition shall approach the Urban Development Department with sufficient justifications and No Objection Certificate from the District Collector, Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) along with an undertaking to abide by all precautionary measures for obtaining necessary permission based on the merit of individual case.

The concerned section of the Department and all Urban Local Bodies are hereby directed to monitor and ensure strict compliance of the direction.

SD/-

**Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS
Commissioner -cum-Secretary
Urban Development Department**

READ & ADVERTISE

IN

SIKKIM HERALD

District Roads Coordination Committee reviews road infrastructure projects

Mangan, April 16: A meeting of the District Roads Coordination Committee (DRCC) was convened today at DAC Mangan, under chairmanship of Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan.

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of ongoing road construction works, identifying bottlenecks, and strengthening inter departmental coordination to ensure timely completion of key infrastructure projects in the district.

During the meeting, detailed presentations were made by various executing agencies. The Roads and Bridges Department presented the status of state-maintained roads, including updates on ongoing works, upcoming projects, and maintenance schedules aimed at improving connectivity.

Representatives from the General Reserve Engineer Force

(GREF) briefed the committee on the progress of strategic road stretches and highlighted geographical and environmental challenges affecting timelines.

The representative from Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) also shared updates on rural connectivity projects, including completion status and expected timelines for pending works.

SDM emphasised that infrastructure works often intersect with services such as Power, Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Telecommunications. In this regard, all concerned Departments were directed to ensure proper coordination prior to the execution of works, undertake joint site inspections, and avoid duplication of work or damage to existing utility lines. Stress was also laid on maintaining public safety and minimising

inconvenience during construction activities.

He reiterated that efficient road connectivity is crucial for economic development and disaster preparedness in the district. The committee resolved to hold regular review meetings to monitor progress and ensure effective implementation of the decisions taken.

The meeting had the presence of Mr LB Chettri SP Mangan, Dr Anita Bhutia CMO Mangan, Mr Karma T Bhutia Additional Secretary-cum-DPO Mangan District Zilla Panchayat, Executive Engineer Power Mangan, Engineer GREF, Deputy RTO Mangan, ACF (T) Forest, AE PHED, DE RDD, AE 107 RCC GREF, AE RDD, SDE BSNL and other officials from line departments.

Fire Service Week observed

Pakyong, April 16: In observance of National Fire Service Week 2026, with the theme 'Safe School, Safe Hospital and Fire Safety Awareness Society-Together for Fire Prevention', Pakyong Fire Station, under the aegis of the Sikkim Fire and Emergency Services, organised a community-level awareness programme at Pakyong Bazaar, today.

The programme was attended by SDM (Hq) Pakyong, Bazaar Officer Pakyong, Assistant Director, SFO; 2nd In-Charge, Pakyong Fire Station along with the Pakyong Fire Station team.

Fire Service Week is observed annually from April 14 to 20 across the country in solemn remembrance of the courageous firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944. The observance serves as a tribute to their bravery while also emphasising the

importance of fire safety awareness, prevention and preparedness among the public.

Emphasising the importance of adhering to mandatory fire safety protocols, particularly for the local business community, SDM (Hq), Pakyong urged all shopkeepers to ensure the installation of fire extinguishers in their shops to enable prompt response during emergencies. He further stated that the renewal of trade licences is subject to the submission of a valid Fire Clearance Certificate, adding that the administration will process renewals only after ensuring full compliance with the prescribed fire safety norms.

The session was designed to provide both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to the community, in line with the theme of Fire Service Week 2026, which emphasises institutional

and societal safety. Furthermore, the personnel demonstrated firefighting techniques and rescue operations to strengthen preparedness and ensure an effective response to emergencies.

A segment of the programme highlighted life saving skills such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to enhance emergency medical response within the community. These demonstrations were complemented by practical, hands-on mock drills, which were conducted to ensure that all participants are adequately equipped to handle real-world fire emergencies effectively.

The programme was led by Mr Bivek Chettri SFO and his team, under the strategic guidance of the Sikkim Fire and Emergency Services, reaffirming their commitment to public safety and community engagement.

communities.

The Chief Minister announced several initiatives aimed at promoting religious tourism, including developments at Ram Dham in Rhenock (Pakyong District), Shri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham in Tharpu (Soreng District), and the renovation of a temple at Legship (Gyalshing District). He further informed that the Athiti Sadan will be inaugurated virtually on April 28 2026 by the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, during his official visit to Sikkim.

Additionally, he stated that Vrindhavan Dham in Dodak (Soreng District) is nearing completion and will be inaugurated soon. He extended an invitation to Shri Krishnamaniji Maharajshri to visit the site and assess the progress of construction. The Chief Minister also announced that the birthplace of Shri 108 Damodardas Maharaj Ji at Ben, Temi-Namphing, will be developed as a Tirtha Sthan by the State Government.

During the programme, a sermon was delivered by Shri Krishnamaniji Maharajshri. This was followed by the Shrimad

Tartam Vani Charcha Parambha session by Mataji Vidushi Usha Ghimirey and a subsequent discourse by Mahanta Shri 108 Sudakar Maharaj Ji. Mr Gopal Chettri President of Shri Krishna Pranami Dharmasabha, Sikkim Rajya presented a comprehensive report on the history and development of Shri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham, tracing its journey from the establishment of the faith in 1977 to the construction of the Athiti Sadan in 2026.

The Chief Minister was also felicitated by the organising committee and a delegation of devotees from Nepal. Additionally, other dignitaries were also honoured with tokens of appreciation.

An album titled 'Radhey Shyam', composed by Mr S B Thapa and Ms Bina Thapa of Namphok, was officially launched by the Chief Minister during the programme.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited Shri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham, where he offered prayers and participated in the Parayan Paath Puja Archana alongside 313 Parayans.

UDD organises awareness programme under Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan

Gangtok, April 16: An awareness-cum-sensitisation programme towards a drug-free Sikkim was organised by Urban Development Department under the Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan at the State Panchayat Resource Centre, Deorali, today.

Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban Development and Food and Civil Supplies attended the programme as the chief guest, along with Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor.

In his address, the Minister stated that strong willpower and informed choices remain essential in overcoming substance dependency. He stated that the State Government continues to prioritise awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation under the Nasha Mukh initiative as part of its sustained state-wide efforts. He emphasised that awareness plays a key role and urged young people to work with purpose and contribute meaningfully to society.

He further stated that substance abuse, including alcohol dependency, is affecting human resources and weakening the social fabric.

The Minister also administered the Nasha Mukh pledge, reaffirming collective commitment towards building a drug-free society.

Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor stated that sustained awareness and collective responsibility are required to address substance abuse effectively. He elaborated on the wider impact of addiction, stating that it affects individuals, families, and society, leading to social distress and long-term consequences on community well-being. He urged all sections of society to take responsibility and support preventive efforts.

Mr Hemant Rai Special Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer (Nasha Mukh), Urban Development Department mentioned that the initiative forms part of the State Government's continued effort to create a drug-free society and strengthen awareness at all administrative levels. He outlined the objectives of the campaign and emphasised coordinated departmental action.

Mr Jitendra Singh Raje Commissioner-cum-Secretary,

Urban Development Department stated that substance abuse remains a matter of concern and called for institutional accountability and public participation.

A presentation on the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and the proposed action plan was delivered by Mr G L Meena Joint Secretary (MA), Urban Development Department. He explained key provisions of the Act, including restrictions on public smoking, prohibition of tobacco sales near educational institutions, and regulation of advertisement, and emphasised strict enforcement and field-level monitoring.

Ms Bandana Chettri Nodal Officer-cum-Special Secretary, Social Welfare Department, presented the Sahayogi Programme and outlined ongoing interventions. She stated that the programme adopts a community-based approach to address substance abuse through four components Sahayogi Karmachari (government employees), Sahayogi Mitra (students), Sahayogi Sathi (transport sector), and Sahayogi Aama (community groups). She stated that the initiative focuses on awareness, early identification, and timely support through coordinated efforts, and emphasised the role of community participation in its effective implementation.

Mr Ram Kumar Tamang Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department spoke on the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, stating that it focuses on demand reduction through awareness and outreach, particularly among youth. He stated that the initiative promotes coordination among departments and local bodies, and includes counselling, rehabilitation, and follow-up support to assist affected individuals towards recovery and reintegration.

Among those present were Chairperson, Urban Development Department, Principal Chief Architect-cum-Secretary UDDepartment, Commissioner, GMC, Municipal Executive Officers and other dignitaries.

HLB Enumeration Drive for Census 2027 commences in Soreng

Soreng, April 16: House Listing Division and 69 under Block (HLB) Enumeration Drive under Phase I of Census 2027 commenced in Soreng District and will continue till May 15, 2026.

The drive follows the successful completion of training for all Enumerators and Supervisors conducted from March 30 to April 11.

150 Supervisors and Enumerators have been deployed under Soreng Sub-

Division and 69 under Mangalbaria Sub-Division, while 7 personnel have been assigned for Soreng Nagar Panchayat.

The HLB Enumeration marks the first phase of the census exercise, focusing on listing households and housing conditions. The District Administration has urged the public to cooperate with officials to ensure smooth and accurate data collection.

Contd from front page

Week-long...

religious communities coexist in peace and harmony. He described the hosting of such a Mahotsav at Shri Krishna Pranami Mangaldham as a true blessing, emphasising the importance of spiritual teachings in guiding individuals towards moral values and a righteous way of life.

Referring to himself as the 'Chief Servant of the State', he shared that spiritual interactions have played a significant role in shaping his political journey. He reiterated his commitment to governance rooted in empathy, aiming for the holistic development of both the people and the State. Highlighting the responsibilities associated with positions of authority, he observed that such roles are transient and that individuals should strive for a peaceful and meaningful life. He further assured that the State Government remains committed to balancing infrastructural development with the spiritual growth and welfare of all

EVMs shifted to Strong Room at DAC Gangtok for Municipal Election

Gangtok, April 16: The EVMs to be used in the upcoming Municipal Election 2026 were shifted today from the warehouse at Lepcha Primitive Tribe Girls' Hostel, Burtuk, to the Strong Room located within the District Administrative Centre, Gangtok.

The warehouse was opened at 9:17 am in the presence of Mr Karma Wongyal Deputy Director, DAC-cum-EVM Nodal Officer, Mr Rajen Rai Deputy Secretary, State Election Commission Sikkim-cum-EVM Nodal Officer, Police personnel and representatives of political parties.

A total of 11 EVMs (Control Units and Ballot Units) were brought to the District Administrative Centre for commissioning. The process was carried out by officials of the Electronics Corporation of India

Ltd in the presence of Mr Tushar Nikhare District Collector-cum-Municipal Returning Officer Gangtok; Mr Tshering Norgyal Theengh Additional District Magistrate (Hq)-cum-Assistant Municipal Returning Officer, Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia Additional District Collector-cum-Assistant Municipal Returning Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Sang-Rabdag)-cum-Assistant Municipal Returning Officer; under the supervision of Secretary, Culture Department-cum-Election Observer and candidates.

Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia Additional District Collector-cum-Assistant Municipal Returning Officer stated that 10-DPH Ward is the only contested ward under the Gangtok Municipal Corporation. He informed that the ward will have three polling

stations at Paljor Namgyal Girls' School. He further stated that a team comprising a presiding officer, polling officer, police personnel, and a videographer will be constituted for home voting through postal ballots. He added that out of the total 11 EVMs, only three will be used, while the remaining eight have been kept in reserve.

A mock poll was also conducted by representatives of the contesting political parties.

Following this, the commissioned EVMs were locked in their respective storage boxes and sealed in the Strong Room in the presence of Municipal Returning Officers, officials on election duty, and representatives of the contesting political parties.

Gyalshing District conducts monthly review meeting of NCORD Committee and substance abuse among children

Gyalshing, April 16: Monthly review meeting of the Narco Coordination (NCORD) Committee and Substance Abuse among children for Gyalshing District was convened at DAC Gyalshing, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa District Collector Gyalshing accompanied by Mr Tshering Sherpa Superintendent of Police (SP) Gyalshing; Ms Tripti Hangma Subba (ADC); Mr Karma Sherpa Additional Director Agriculture and Horticulture Department; Ms NL Bhutia Additional Director Sports and Youth Affairs Department; Mr Sandesh Subba SDM Gyalshing; Mr Jitendra Joshi Second-in-Command 36 BN SSB; Block Development Officers (Gyalshing and Hee-Martam); Mr Roshan Sharma Welfare Officer (SWD), Assistant Directors from Education and BAC Dentam, Dean of Sancha Man Limboo Government Degree College, Principal ITI Gyalshing, representatives from different departments and other concerned stakeholders.

The meeting reviewed district-level interventions on narcotics control, enforcement measures, inter-departmental coordination and emerging concerns related to substance abuse, with special focus on children, adolescents and vulnerable groups.

Mr Sandesh Subba SDM Gyalshing reviewed the minutes

of the previous meeting and opened the house for departmental progress reports.

SP Gyalshing informed that convicted narcotics peddlers have been awarded stringent punishment with fines, creating a strong deterrent effect. He further reported that no SADA or NDPS cases were recorded during the month, indicating a reduction in narcotics-related cases in the district. He also stated that a coordinated activity like uprooting of cannabis will be carried out in collaboration with Agriculture and Horticulture Departments. He added that intensified surveillance and checking would be conducted in vulnerable areas in and around Gyalshing to curb illegal activities.

The Second-in-Command, 36 Battalion SSB, highlighting the importance of impactful awareness reiterated that collective vigilance is essential to keep the district safe, urging communities to report suspicious activities promptly for timely preventive action.

Welfare Officer, Social Welfare Department, apprised about awareness programmes being carried out and about other community outreach programmes.

Block Development Officers Gyalshing, Hee Martam and a representative from Yuksom BAC shared that regular monitoring and inspections of hotels and homestays have been conducted in different areas

with strict warnings issued to vendors against sale of intoxicants.

Representative from Labour Department reported about awareness and sensitisation programmes being carried out at various educational institutions and different hotels. It was informed about a roadmap for further proceedings.

Principal ITI Gyalshing highlighted sensitisation and skill development training initiatives for dropout students to ensure emotional and mental support.

CMO, Gyalshing highlighted issues related to adherence and continuity of addiction treatment facilities and informed that regular awareness programmes are being conducted in different educational institutions.

Emphasising a coordinated, preventive and enforcement-driven approach, DC directed all Departments to strengthen surveillance, intensify awareness programmes, ensure timely reporting of substance abuse trends and adopt a proactive multi-sectoral strategy to effectively address narcotics-related challenges in the district.

Reports were also presented by the Education Department, Agriculture/Horticulture Department, Forest Department and other stakeholders on enforcement drives and community-level outreach initiatives.

strengthen membership in PACS. He also informed that five PACS members from Namchi District and 35 departmental officers recently undertook exposure visits to Banas Dairy, Amul and other cooperative institutions in Gujarat.

The meeting was attended by ADC Development (Ravangla), Additional Director (AH&VS),

District Planning Officer (NDZP), Deputy Director (Agriculture), General Manager (NABARD), General Manager (Sikkim Milk), Joint Registrar (Cooperation), Assistant Registrar (Cooperation), Assistant Director (Fisheries), Audit Officer (Cooperation) and representative from SISCO Bank.

DC Gangtok evaluates PC&PNDT Act, 1994 implementation in Sikkim

Gangtok, April 16: Mr Tushar G Nikhare DC Gangtok chaired a meeting to evaluate the status of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 in the State at the office of District Collector, Gangtok, today.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 is an Indian legislation enacted to ban sex selection before or after conception and to prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex-selective abortions, aimed at reversing the declining female sex ratio. It prohibits sex determination and makes such offences cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

At the onset of the meeting, Dr Ashok Kumar Rai Director Health Services-cum-Chief Medical Officer Gangtok briefed about PC & PNDT, wherein he spoke about the history and status of the Act in the State. He apprised about the decline in the child sex ratio in the State and its causes. He stated the rise in medical technology as a chief factor in

the decline.

The CMO cited the objectives of the PC & PNDT Act and mentioned various stakeholders involved at the State and district levels. Further, he spoke about the provisions of the Act, including central and salient provisions. He also spoke at length about the implementation of the Act in Sikkim, wherein the District Committee and State Appellate Authority and their components were apprised to the DC Gangtok in detail.

The DC enquired about the number of units functioning under the PC & PNDT Act. He directed the officials to address the lapses found in the last survey. The DC concluded his review by asking about CCTV cameras and patient management systems installed in institutions wherein sex identification of the foetus is carried out.

The meeting saw the presence of Mr Mahendra Subba SP Gangtok, Mr Roshan Subba SDM Rabdag and officers of various line departments.

Directorate of Census calls for public support during enumeration exercise

Gangtok, April 16: Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim, has urged citizens to extend cooperation during the ongoing national data collection exercise.

Enumerators are engaged in collecting vital data that will form the basis for Government policies and schemes. The exercise is being conducted across the State as part of the national census process.

Directorate of Census

Operations Sikkim emphasised that a cooperative approach from residents would enable Enumerators to carry out their responsibilities with ease and ensure accurate and complete data collection.

An appeal to the public to cooperate with Enumerators, provide correct information and support the smooth conduct of the exercise was also made.

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

I, **Yog Raj Parsai**, aged about 21 years, son of Shri Guman Singh Parsai, Nationality- Indian, Hindu by faith, resident of Samlik Marchak under P.O. and P.S. Ranipool, District- Gangtok of Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows: -

1. That I am natural and legal son of Shri Guman Singh Parsai and grandson of Jang Bahadur @ Janga Bahadur Parsai (since deceased) and bonafide resident of above -mentioned address.

2. That my grandfather's name is "**Jang Bahadur Parsai**" which has been recorded in his **Old Sikkim Subject** bearing register Serial No. 47, Volume No. II under Block Namli issued by Secretary, Land Revenue Department Government of Sikkim and same has been recorded in other relevant documents.

3. That however in the **Office Record Register of COI Section** in the office of District Administrative Centre, Sichey, Gangtok Sikkim wherein my **grandfather's** name has been written as "**Janga Bahadur Parsai**".

4. That hence this affidavit is made on oath and to declare that the person by the both names i.e. "**Jang Bahadur Parsai**" and "**Janga Bahadur Parsai**" denotes and refer to the one and the same person i.e. grandfather (since deceased).

5. That this Affidavit is made bonafide.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, **Yog Raj Parsai**, the deponent before-named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the foregoing affidavit in paragraphs 1 to 5 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing in material has been concealed or suppressed there from.

Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 17th day of April, 2026.

DÉPONENT

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DC Namchi...

the department would soon launch a large-scale membership drive in convergence with the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Departments to

Rally in support of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam held

Gangtok, April 17: A large rally in support of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (Women's Reservation Bill) was held in Gangtok today, reflecting a strong commitment towards inclusive governance and enhanced participation of women in decision-making.

The rally was led by Madam Krishna Kumari Rai, along with Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor and Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA-cum-Advisor.

The rally commenced from Deorali Tata Stand and culminated at Paljor Stadium, with participation of over 30,000 individuals. Participants expressed collective support for the Act and promoted awareness on the importance of women's participation in governance, reflecting a shared vision of strengthening their role in public leadership.

Madam Krishna Kumari Rai expressed appreciation to participants from across the State for their active participation. She stated that the enactment of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, represents a significant step towards inclusive governance and acknowledged the vision of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi in advancing 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies. She further stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, the State continues to promote inclusive

policies and women-led development.

Emphasising the Act as a step towards a future led by women, Madam Krishna Kumari Rai stated that behind every successful man lies the support and contribution of a woman. She further stated that in the present context, this reflects mutual support, where the success of women is equally strengthened by men, highlighting shared responsibility in building an inclusive and progressive society.

She further stated that increased representation would ensure that women's voices are adequately reflected in legislative bodies and policy-making processes. She added that greater participation of women would bring diverse perspectives, strengthen inclusive decision-making, and contribute to balanced and sustainable national development.

Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA stated that the successful conduct of the event reflected collective effort and coordination. She further stated that women-led development is essential for balanced growth and that greater participation of women in decision-making will strengthen governance.

Ms Kala Rai MLA-cum-Advisor stated that the dedication and contribution of women continue to play a vital role in the development of family, society, and the nation. She stated that women contribute at every level, from

supporting households to participating in community and developmental activities, and therefore remain central to overall progress. She urged women to remain united and support one another, emphasising that collective strength and cooperation are essential for sustained progress. She added that empowering women and ensuring their active participation in all spheres will contribute directly to overall development.

On the occasion, Madam Krishna Kumari Rai also participated in the campaign by signing at the photo signature booth set up at Paljor Stadium, where participants registered their support for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023.

As part of the initiative, the Information and Public Relations Department launched a digital participation drive through a Google Form on April 16, ahead of the commencement of the rally, enabling citizens to register their support for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023.

The platform received an encouraging response from the public, recording 2,684 successful entries in its initial phase, with participants issued e-certificates as a mark of their support for the Act. The portal, which remains open for wider participation, has since witnessed significant engagement, surpassing 1400 entries with certificates generated till 5:00 PM, with registrations continuing to grow steadily.

participation. He also called for effective implementation to bring about improved waste management system.

During the meeting, ADC (Development) Mr Gayas Pega delivered a detailed presentation outlining the provisions of the Rules. He elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and introduced key guidelines, including the segregation of waste into four categories Wet (Organic), Dry (Recyclable), Sanitary with the addition of 'Special Care' comprising hazardous and toxic materials.

He further highlighted the introduction of an online monitoring system to be implemented from the first of October, enabling tracking and reporting of waste management practices in a centralised online portal under the new guidelines. It was also noted that landfills will be designated exclusively for residual waste.

Amid the deliberations, he emphasized the need to create awareness in the state level meeting on the importance of each district managing and disposing of

its own waste. He noted that the landfill at Sipsu, which falls under Soreng district and lies along the border, is currently being used by multiple districts. Promoting district-level responsibility in waste disposal would enable more effective and efficient management, help curb future waste-related issues, and prevent potential environmental concerns, particularly those that may arise from neighbouring state.

The meeting underscored the importance of district-level self-sufficiency in waste disposal to reduce dependency and enhance long-term sustainability. Emphasis was laid on incorporating solid waste management awareness in school curricula, segregating the four types of waste, and regulating bulk waste generators. This regulation states that entities producing over 100 kg/day of waste, must segregate waste at the source into wet, dry, and hazardous streams to ensure waste is managed at source.

Present in the meeting were ADC, ADC (Dev), SDM Soreng, SDM Mangalbaria, CMO Soreng, among others.

Field inspection of rainwater harvesting infrastructure

Soreng, April 16: Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC Soreng conducted a field visit to inspect and assess the installation and functionality of rainwater harvesting infrastructure provided to the beneficiaries at Suldung-Kamling GPU.

During the inspection, both community cluster reservoirs and individual rooftop rainwater harvesting systems were reviewed. The community cluster reservoirs installed in the area were inspected as part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen water storage and accessibility for the local population.

DC placed emphasis on individual rooftop rainwater harvesting systems installed at household level. It was verified that essential components comprising GCI sheet gutters, downpipes, first-flush diverters, and storage tanks have been successfully installed for the sanctioned beneficiaries.

Physical verification of the rooftop rainwater harvesting systems confirmed that it is being

effectively utilised to capture rainwater runoff, enabling households to access water for drinking and sanitation purposes. The DC interacted with beneficiaries to ensure transparency in distribution and to assess whether the installations meet the prescribed technical standards.

The inspection observed that both the community cluster reservoirs and rooftop rainwater harvesting systems are contributing significantly towards strengthening water security in the area for irrigation and households.

During the inspection, wherever discrepancies were observed, the DC directed Agriculture Department to take necessary measures for timely resolution of the issues.

Also present during the visit were Panchayats, SDM, Mangalbaria, Chief Accounts Officer (LR&DM), Deputy Director (Agriculture) including local residents of the area.

Rece conducted ahead of PM's visit

Gangtok, April 17: Ahead of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi's visit to the State, scheduled for April 27-28 to mark the culmination of the Golden Jubilee Year of Statehood celebrations, a rece was conducted today to assess preparedness and ensure seamless coordination across all key venues and routes.

The team comprised of ADC Gangtok, Additional Chief Engineer Roads and Bridges Department, SDM Gangtok, DE Roads and Bridges Department, Senior Bazaar Officer GMC, Deputy Director, DDMA and others.

The team first inspected Maitreya Manjari, where Mr Pratap Pradhan, Inspector General of Police, Special Branch and Ms

Karma Dolma DySP, Special Branch, briefed the members on the security protocol in place at the site.

Thereafter, the team visited the Directorate of Handloom and Handicrafts and Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College. Officials briefed to Director DHH and Dr D Purohit, Principal, NBBGC, respectively, on the live telecast arrangements for the programme scheduled to be held at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.

At MG Marg, officials of the Roads and Bridges Department briefed the inspection team on the road mapping for the Prime Minister's scheduled roadshow. The site was also inspected for the setup of the live telecast feed of the programme at Paljor Stadium.

District Solid Waste Management Committee convenes meeting

Soreng, April 16: A meeting of the District Level Committee for the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 was convened at the office of Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector-cum-Chairperson Committee.

The committee reviewed the implementation framework of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, with emphasis on deliberating the new rules which focussed on further actionable points, effective compliance and execution across the district.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC stated that the initiative marks the introductory phase of District Waste Management 2026, underscoring the importance of a structured and coordinated approach towards sustainable waste management. He emphasised that the success of the initiative depends on active collaboration among all departments and stakeholders, along with adherence to the prescribed guidelines. He further highlighted the need to build awareness through demonstrations, capacity-building initiatives and community



Before the Learned Oath Commissioner, Gangtok, Sikkim AFFIDAVIT

I, Tshering Doma Bhutia, W/o: Karma Tseten Bhutia, aged about 53 Years, Buddhist by faith, resident of Penlong Shotak, P.O & P.S. Ranipool, Gangtok, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That actual & correct name of my father in law is "**WANGEY BHUTIA**" which is recorded in the old Sikkim Subject record register vide **Sl. No. 62 Volume No. I under block Shotak**.
2. That in the Certificate of Identification of my husband bearing no. **1437/DCE, dated: 01.07.1998** issued by the Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok his father name has been inadvertently recorded as "**ONGAY BHUTIA**" instead of "**WANGEY BHUTIA**".
3. That this affidavit is made to declare that the person by the name of "**WANGEY BHUTIA**" and "**ONGAY BHUTIA**" are the name of the one and the same person i.e. my late father in law.
4. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

That I the deponent in this instant affidavit made Para 1 to 4 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing materials has been concealed and suppressed therein,

And I have sworn and signed this affidavit on this the 20th day of April, 2026, at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Identified by me:

Deponent

Dichen Zangmu Bhutia
R/o. Sichey, Gangtok, Sikkim.

1st Sikkim Cross Country Run organised

Gangtok, April 19: 1st Sikkim Cross Country Run organised by Sikkim Athletics Association, concluded at Khel Gaon, Reshithang, marking a significant step in promoting endurance sports in the region.

The event witnessed participation from across Sikkim and North Bengal, with a total of 46 teams competing in a spirited display of athleticism and teamwork. Featuring two categories-10 km Men and 10 km Women-the competition underscored the essence of cross country running as a team-based sport.

The race was ceremonially flagged off by Mr Sanjeet Kharel, MLA-cum-Advisor, who is also the patron of Sikkim Athletic Association, Mr Rinzing Chewang Bhutia Secretary, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department and Department of

Personnel and Mr Kuber Bhandari, President, Sikkim Olympic Association.

In the Men's 10 km category, Ex Gorkha Army clinched the top position, delivering a commanding performance. Kalimpong United and Khelo India Small Centre of Excellence, Gyalshing secured the first and second runner-up positions, respectively.

In the Women's 10 km category, Kalimpong United emerged victorious, while Bright Future Academy, Reshithang and Himalayan Runners finished in second and third place, respectively.

In the individual Male 10k category the Ex Gorkha Army men did a clean sweep with Mr Bikram Pradhan securing 1st, Mr Saroj Kumar securing 2nd and Mr Man Bdr Chhetry securing 3rd positions while in the female individual 10k

category, Kalimpong United with Ms Priya Tamang, Ms Tejaswini Lambakane and Ms Bandana Subba securing 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Ms Kala Rai Area MLA-cum-Advisor, Rural Development Department, as the chief guest, in the presence of Mr Prabhakar Rai, Director, State Disaster Management Authority and Mr RB Biswakarma Director Department of Sports and Youth Affairs.

Trophies along with cheques were presented to the winners. The successful conduct of the championship reflects the growing interest in athletics in the region and highlights the Sikkim Athletics Association's continued commitment to promoting endurance sports and nurturing talent at the grassroots level.

Three-day Sikkim Utsav 2026 gets underway in Mangan

Mangan, April 17: The three-day Sikkim Utsav 2026, Mangan Chapter, got underway at Mangan Nagar Panchayat hall. The three-day programme is organised by the Commerce and Industries Department in collaboration with the Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) Cell, under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) scheme.

The event was inaugurated by Mr Samdup Lepcha, Minister for Social Welfare Department-cum-Area MLA in the presence of Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister for Commerce and Industries Department.

The three-day Utsav will focused on exhibition-cum-sales featuring food processing, local handicrafts, and traditional attire, with participants from across the state. The event will also feature cultural programmes and an open mic session.

It may be recalled that the Department has successfully organised Sikkim Utsav in different parts of the country, providing entrepreneurs from Sikkim a national-level exposure, improved sales, strengthened market linkages, and generated bulk orders. The initiative has contributed to the growth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, with the department working to create a conducive environment for entrepreneurship to flourish.

The three-day event in Mangan is expected to impact local economy and encourage budding entrepreneurs to gain adequate mileage.

Approximately 25 stalls, featuring around 40 entrepreneurs and 20 aspiring student entrepreneurs, were set up at the venue, showcasing a diverse range of products.

The event commenced with a visit of the stalls by the chief guest, guest of honour and the dignitaries, followed by a welcome address delivered by the OSD to the Commerce and Industries Department and General Secretary of SEED Cell, Mr Dipen Subba.

Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister highlighted the importance of dedication, innovation and consistency in building a successful venture. Moreover, he encouraged entrepreneurs to make the best use of available resources and Government support, while stressing the need to adapt to changing trends and remain resilient in the face of challenges.

Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, emphasised that a supportive platform is being provided to nurture new and emerging talents, enabling them to showcase their ideas and grow their ventures. Further, he stated that those demonstrating excellence and strong potential will be given opportunities to expand

at the national level and take their businesses beyond the state. He also highlighted the importance of digital marketing in today's competitive landscape, urging entrepreneurs to adopt modern tools and online platforms to enhance visibility and reach wider markets.

Earlier, Mr Ravi Kumar Director, MSME, Commerce and Industries Department, elaborated on the technical aspects of the RAMP Programme and how aspiring and established entrepreneurs can benefit. He also spoke about the support provided by the MSME to start new ventures.

Mr Anant Jain, DC Mangan encouraged all local entrepreneurs to actively take advantage of emerging opportunities and remain committed to growing their ventures. He further highlighted that the Government has initiated several district level schemes aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and assured that necessary training and capacity building programmes will also be provided to enhance their skills and sustain their businesses.

Earlier, entrepreneurs Ms Mingma Doma Bhutia and Mr Santosh Ojas shared valuable insights and experiences from their respective business journeys, inspiring fellow participants.

Press Release from DAC Gangtok

Gangtok, April 18: The second round of training for officials engaged in the upcoming Municipal Election was conducted for Gangtok District, today.

The session was held under the supervision of Mr Tshering Norgyal Theeng, State Level Master Trainer-cum-ADC (Hq), and Mr Sonam Wongyal Lepcha District Level Master Trainer-cum-Joint Director, DDMA Gangtok.

The training programme was organised for Presiding Officers and Polling Officers, including Polling Officers 1, 2 and 3, with the objective of strengthening their preparedness and ensuring the smooth, efficient and error-free

conduct of the municipal elections. Participants were thoroughly briefed on election protocols, roles and responsibilities, and key operational procedures.

A key focus of the training was on the proper handling and operation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), with hands-on demonstrations to enhance practical understanding. Emphasis was also laid on troubleshooting common technical issues and adhering to standard operating procedures to ensure seamless functioning on polling day.

Officials were also sensitised on the home voting process, including eligibility criteria and procedural guidelines,

to ensure inclusivity and compliance with election norms. In addition, counting personnel underwent comprehensive theoretical and practical training on vote counting procedures, including the management of EVMs on the day of counting.

Engineers from the Election Commission of India were present during the session to provide technical expertise and address queries, further reinforcing the effectiveness of the training.

The successful conduct of the training underscores the district administration's commitment to upholding the principles of free, fair and transparent elections in Sikkim.

DDMA Namchi conducts Fire Safety awareness programme and mock drill

Namchi, April 17: In observance of the National Fire Service Week 2026, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Namchi organised an awareness programme-cum-mock exercise on fire safety measures at Kitam Senior Secondary School. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Fire and Emergency Services and the Forest and Environment Department.

The event aligned with this year's theme, 'Safe School, Safe Hospital and Fire Safety Awareness Society-Together for Fire Prevention,' and also marked the solemn remembrance of firefighters who lost their lives during the Bombay Dock Explosion 1994.

Mr Raj Kumar Pradhan, SFO Namchi, informed that similar awareness initiatives are being carried out across all Districts of the State. He stressed the importance of remaining calm during fire emergencies and urged the public to promptly inform the nearest fire station in case of any incident.

He further stressed the need for practical knowledge in handling fire extinguishers, noting that many people lack basic operational skills. He stated that proper training can play a crucial role in controlling fire outbreaks and saving lives.

He also requested the Forest Department to ensure adequate

water supply in the RCC water tank at Kitam Bird Sanctuary, pointing out that water availability is essential not only for wildlife conservation but also for tackling fire emergencies in the area.

Mr Bhupen Sharma BO (T), spoke on the adverse impact of forest fires on wildlife and demonstrated the use of various firefighting tools. He encouraged community participation and appealed to volunteers to assist during fire emergencies, particularly in the critical time before the arrival of fire services.

As part of the programme, a mock exercise was conducted showcasing the use of firefighting equipment, LPG fire control techniques, and life-saving skills such as Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Students were provided with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on training to enhance their preparedness for emergencies.

Additionally, a mock drill simulating a real-time earthquake rescue scenario followed by a fire incident was carried out, aimed at strengthening emergency response capabilities among participants.

Also present were Ms Deenisha Rai, TO Land Revenue and Disaster Management, Gram Panchayat Members, officers and staff from line department, School Principal, Teachers and students.

Consultation programme on Workplace Safety Intervention organised

Gangtok, April 18: A consultation programme on Workplace Safety Intervention was organised by Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department under Sikkim INSPIRES, with stakeholders, at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

Ms Nandita Pradhan Bhatt, Director, Martha Farrell Foundation, in her consultation session, focused on developing sector-specific modules to promote women's safety in the workplace. She began by setting the context, emphasising the importance of creating safe and inclusive work environments across all sectors.

She highlighted key concerns such as gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment, noting their impact on individuals as well as the overall workplace environment. She stressed that workplace safety is a collective responsibility. She also underscored the role of employees in maintaining appropriate workplace behaviour.

The discussion brought out how the concept of a 'safe workplace' varies across sectors such as policing, skill development and entrepreneurship, thereby

highlighting the need for context-driven and sector-specific approaches.

Ms Nandita Pradhan Bhatt further outlined a two-tier training strategy comprising Trainers, who will provide basic orientation on workplace safety and behaviour, and Master Trainers, who will be equipped for advanced capacity-building, content development, and training of additional trainers.

She emphasised that all departments must take ownership of this initiative, with the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department providing necessary support. Participants were encouraged to share feedback and inputs to ensure that the modules developed are practical, relevant, and sustainable.

The overall objective is for each Department to develop its own training modules and systems, ensuring that workplace safety becomes a sustained, institutionalised, and shared effort across all sectors.

The workshop witnessed active participation from stakeholders and officials from various Departments.

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Mini Marathon on Nasha Mukta Sikkim flagged off

Pakyong, April 21: Ms Pamin Lepcha, MLA Gnathang-Machong Constituency-cum-Advisor, flagged off a mini marathon at Linkey under Linkey-Parkha GPU, today. The event was organised as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Government Secondary School, Linkey, under the theme 'Nasha Mukta Sikkim' (drug-free Sikkim).

The marathon, themed 'Together We Run, Together We Rise,' witnessed participation from youth and elders, reflecting

community engagement across age groups.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness on the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote a healthy lifestyle, particularly among the younger generation. Participants from the locality turned out in significant numbers, indicating public support for the campaign.

The event highlighted collective efforts towards building a drug-free and socially responsible society.

Monthly NCORD meeting for Mangan District

Mangan, April 21: District-Level monthly NCORD (National Committee on Regulation of Drugs) meeting was convened at the office of DC Mangan, under the chairmanship of Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa Additional District Collector (ADC). The meeting aimed to review the current status of drug prevention measures and strengthen coordinated efforts among all concerned Departments.

During the meeting, the ADC carried out a comprehensive review of reports and data submitted by various stakeholders. The joint action plan formulated by the Committee was also discussed in detail. The district framework for drug control and prevention was thoroughly examined, with focus on the present status, existing support systems and institutional responses.

Special emphasis was placed on obtaining updated data from rehabilitation centres, including the number of individuals undergoing treatment, recovery outcomes, success rates and instances of relapse. In his address, the ADC also congratulated the Mangan Rehab Centre on completing seven years of service on April 29, acknowledging its contribution in treating 221 patients to date with a notably low rate of relapse.

The ADC further lauded District Police for their recent successful seizure of a significant quantity of drugs and cash in Mangan District, highlighting

their continued commitment to curbing illegal activities.

Mr Bijoy Subba Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), while sharing his inputs, urged stakeholders and community members to actively cooperate with law enforcement agencies by reporting any information related to drug abuse or trafficking. He also highlighted the importance of 112 emergency helpline as a crucial support system for immediate assistance.

Officials from various Departments shared updates on ongoing inspections and monitoring mechanisms being carried out across the district to ensure vigilance and compliance.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to further strengthen inter-departmental coordination, intensify awareness campaigns and ensure the effective implementation of drug prevention and rehabilitation initiatives throughout the district.

The meeting was attended by Mr Bijoy Subba ASP Mangan, Dr Anita Bhutia Chief Medical Officer (Mangan), Mr Karma Sonam Tenzing Bhutia Deputy Labour Commissioner, Mr Pintso Tashi Lepcha Deputy Director (Education), Mr Zigmee D. Bhutia Deputy RTO, Mr TB Bhandari OC Excise Department, Mr Nursesus Lepcha Founder of Mangan Rehab Centre along with officials from the Women and Child Development Department, Mangan Nagar Panchayat and Health and Family Welfare Department.

Review meeting on Tarum Road connectivity with BRO GREF officials

Mangan, April 21: Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Social Welfare Department-cum-Area MLA continues to demonstrate his commitment to the welfare and development of the people through proactive initiatives and consistent engagement on key issues.

In this regard, Minister Mr Samdup Lepcha, accompanied by Mr Sonam Gyatso Lachenpa Chairman State Medicinal Plant Board, Mr Cho Bandhu Lachenpa and Mr Khaychotak Lachenpa Pipons Lachen Dzumsa held a meeting with officials BRO GREF to deliberate on important

concerns affecting the region.

The primary focus of the discussion was the urgent restoration of Tarum road connectivity, which is vital for the residents of Lachen. The delegation emphasised the need for timely completion of the ongoing works and urged the officials to expedite the process in the larger interest of public.

Minister reiterated his commitment to ensuring improved infrastructure and connectivity, underscoring that such developments are essential for the socio-economic progress of the constituency.

DLIMC meeting on PACS computerisation held

Soreng, April 21: A meeting of the District Level Implementing and Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) on Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) was convened today at DAC Soreng, under the chairmanship of Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC Soreng.

At the outset, the DC reviewed the agenda and enquired about the status of implementation across all components of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) computerisation in the district.

The Committee deliberated on establishing a robust mechanism to ensure that all PACS declared as E-PACS consistently complete their daily transactions and day-end processes. Emphasis on the need for regular monitoring, accountability measures, and

adherence to prescribed protocols to maintain operational efficiency and transparency was discussed.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of the Document Archival and Retrieval System (DARS). It was intimated that all documents identified for digitization are uploaded in the Legacy Documents Module by the System Integrator in a timely manner. Further, the respective PACS were intimated to ensure proper verification and authentication of the uploaded documents to maintain data integrity.

A comprehensive review of the progress of computerization of PACS was undertaken. The DC enquired about current status, identified gaps, and discussed challenges affecting

implementation. The DC further suggested identifying new services to be integrated to enhance their efficiency and outreach.

Under other matters, issues related to effective implementation and monitoring were discussed, with emphasis on improved coordination among stakeholders.

The meeting concluded with directions for timely resolution of challenges and adherence to implementation timelines.

Present in the meeting were Ms Moti Rai Joint Registrar (Cooperative), Mr Rupen Lamichaney AGM (NABARD), Ms Kenzong Choden Lepcha Manager (Sisco Bank), Ms Durga Chettri ARCS, Audit Officer Cooperation Department and others.

Fourth DLAMC meeting for DISHA held

Pakyong, April 21: The fourth coordination meeting of the District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) for District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA), Pakyong District was chaired by Mr Indra Hang Subba MP Lok Sabha at the Community Hall, Pakyong, today.

Organised by the Pakyong District Zilla Panchayat, the meeting had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha Pakyong District, Zilla Upadhyaksha, DC Pakyong, Senior Superintendent of Police Pakyong, ADC (Dev) Pakyong and Additional Political Secretary to CM, Pakyong District.

During the meeting, MP Lok Sabha emphasised the need for strong inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of development projects across the State.

He urged officials to work with sincerity, adopt innovative approaches and ensure timely, quality execution, while maintaining strict adherence to timelines and standards. Stressing accountability, he called for bridging developmental gaps through effective policy implementation and greater departmental ownership.

MP Lok Sabha also highlighted the importance of engaging with public representatives to address grassroots issues and directed Heads of Offices to take active leadership in driving development initiatives.

Referring to Pakyong Airport, he informed that efforts are ongoing to resolve operational challenges and improve its functioning.

During the meeting, Mr Rohan Agawane DC Pakyong sought clarifications on the project's status, progress and challenges.

He also directed representatives to ensure their mandatory presence in review meetings for effective decision-making.

At the outset, Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong outlined to review the implementation of various schemes in the district, including Central Government schemes and to address gaps between policy and implementation.

A series of presentations were delivered by various departments and agencies, covering the status of ongoing, completed and upcoming works under various schemes.

Mr Nima Tashi Dotapha Divisional Engineer (PIU), RDD presented an overview of the PMGSY road network in Pakyong District. He shared updates on district coverage and overall progress across different phases, including works in Pakyong and Rongli sub-divisions.

The presentation also covered works under the State plan and post-DLP, along with updates on road connectivity initiatives and habitations to be covered under VVP-II. He further outlined key challenges and measures related to the maintenance of PMGSY roads.

Likewise, Mr Kiran Sharma Assistant Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department updated on the department's activities, including progress of works, monsoon preparedness, key works, pending works and projects proposed under ADB funding.

In addition, Ms Rinchen Tamang AE, Water Resources Department, informed on ongoing projects and highlighted measures undertaken to mitigate soil settlement.

Mr Balasaheb Pote Director, Pakyong Greenfield Airport, presented an overview of the airport, including updates on

operations and related data, coordination with airlines and key areas of development. He further highlighted ongoing and proposed works, along with other issues requiring attention.

Colonel AK Siddique General Manager, NHIDCL, Rhenock PMU presented an overview of works under PMU Rhenock.

Mr Apan Bhowmick General Manager, NHIDCL, Ranipool PMU, updated on National Highway works under PMU Ranipool, including projects under construction, key features, milestones and issues requiring attention, along with the status of vulnerable stretches along NH-10.

Further, Mr Sajjan Singh Joint General Manager, Railways, Rangpo, presented on the Sivok-Rangpo New Broad Gauge Railway Line Project. He outlined the alignment covering Sivok-Rangpo-Saramsa (Ranipool)-Nathu La Pass and provided the status of works, including bridges, yards and tunnels. The presentation included details on completed and ongoing components, along with the planned passenger movement and circulation area for the Rangpo station yard.

During the open discussion, the MP Lok Sabha offered suggestions on various matters. Issues pertaining to the district were also brought forward by officials, public and elected representatives, which were addressed and clarified by the concerned authorities.

Also present were Zilla Panchayat, Panchayats from various GPUs, Heads of Offices and officials from line departments under the district, Block Development Officers and representatives from banks and organisations.

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