



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 70 No. 38

Gangtok (Tuesday) August 25, 2026

Stakeholders' Consultative meeting on Integrated Online Permit System held



Gangtok, August 18: A stakeholders' consultative meeting on Integrated Online Permit System under Sikkim INSPIRES, chaired by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang was organised by Tourism and Civil Aviation Department at Manan Kendra, today.

In his address, the Chief Minister highlighted that the State

Government has reiterated its commitment to introducing a transparent, technology-driven and Integrated Online Permit System aimed at streamlining tourist permit issuance, strengthening revenue collection and ensuring greater benefits for local tourism stakeholders.

He stated that the proposed AI-based Integrated Online Permit

System is intended to simplify the permit process, eliminate unnecessary movement and paperwork, prevent revenue leakage and improve transparency in the tourism sector. He emphasised that preventing such revenue leakage would ultimately benefit the people through increased Government revenue and development programmes.

The proposed system will also seek to strengthen the role of Sikkim-based registered tour operators, with permits proposed to be issued only through authorised local operators, he added.

The Chief Minister further clarified that the agency engaged for developing or operating the proposed system would function only as a service provider and not as a contractor. The State Government and the concerned department would retain ownership, authority and control over the system.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated approach, the Chief

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Tourism and Civil Aviation Department receives Award of Excellence

Mumbai, August 22: Sikkim Tourism received the Award of Excellence at Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF), Mumbai for promoting Rural and Sustainable Tourism. The recognition highlights Sikkim's continued commitment to responsible, community-based and sustainable tourism development.

Sikkim participated as a Partner State at TTF Mumbai under Sikkim INSPIRES held from August 20 to 22, providing a significant platform to showcase the State's rich tourism potential, diverse destinations, unique cultural experiences, rural tourism initiatives, nature-based tourism products and hospitality offerings to Mumbai and wider tourism market.

The Sikkim Tourism pavilion witnessed strong visitor footfall, travel trade representatives, tourism professionals and tourism enthusiasts and encouraging engagement throughout the fair.

The participating stakeholders actively interacted with visitors and business representatives, highlighting Sikkim's diverse tourism products, destinations, accommodation facilities and travel experiences.

The Sikkim Tourism team was led by Ms Dipti Rai Assistant Director DTO, Namchi District, accompanied by Ms Ruth Rai Tourist Officer, DTO, Namchi District. The pavilion was further strengthened by the participation of more than 15 plus tourism stakeholders, including representatives of prominent Tourism Stakeholder Associations, VTDC members from Rabong and Pakyong, representatives from Buddha Park, Ravangla, hotel owners and travel agencies.

The participation at TTF Mumbai also enabled Sikkim's

tourism stakeholders to establish new business contacts, strengthen existing trade relationships and explore potential collaborations with travel agencies, tour operators and tourism partners from Maharashtra and other States.

The strong visibility generated by Sikkim's participation at TTF Mumbai reflected the State's growing presence in the prominent tourism and business network, providing valuable opportunities to position Sikkim as a preferred destination for responsible, sustainable, experiential and rural tourism.

The Award of Excellence for Promoting Rural and Sustainable Tourism further reinforces Sikkim's distinctive position as a destination committed to balancing tourism growth with environmental conservation, local community participation and sustainable livelihoods.

The participating tourism stakeholders expressed their sincere gratitude to Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department for providing a valuable and effective platform to showcase the immense tourism potential of Sikkim at a major national tourism forum. They appreciated the support and facilitation extended to the tourism fraternity, enabling stakeholders from different parts of the State to connect with a wider national tourism market.

The stakeholders further noted that such platforms are instrumental in promoting Sikkim's tourism products, creating new business opportunities, strengthening market linkages and bringing the State's unique tourism experiences to a wider audience.

1st Governor's Archery Gold Cup (Compound) Tournament 2026 begins

Gangtok, August 22: The inaugural of 1st Governor's Archery Gold Cup (Compound) Tournament 2026 commenced at the Tathangchen Archery Field, Gangtok, organised by Sikkim Archery Association to promote archery and provide a competitive platform for talented archers from across the State, today.

A total of 19 teams are participating in the tournament.

The tournament was inaugurated by Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa Speaker SLA in the presence of Mr Sonam Lama Minister-cum-President, Sikkim Archery Association, Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Kunga Nima Lepcha Advisor to Chief Minister, Ms Lhassey Doma Councillor, Tathangchen, Prince Palden Gyurmed Namgyal, Mr Rinzing Chewang Bhutia Secretary, Department of Personnel and Mr Tshewang Gyachho Secretary, Health Department among other dignitaries, officials, members of the Association and locals.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sonam Lama Minister-cum-



President of Sikkim Archery Association said that the inaugural Governor's Archery Gold Cup as a significant step towards strengthening archery and sports development in Sikkim.

He said the Governor's Gold Cup, carrying prize money of ₹5 lakh for the winner and ₹3 lakh for the runner-up, would provide greater encouragement and

recognition to archers.

The Minister said that the Association is committed in taking archery competitions across all districts to identify and nurture young talent.

Citing the achievements of archers including Sonam Bhutia of Rhenock and international archer

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**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

Pearls of Wisdom

"Creativity is knowing how to hide your sources"

- C.E.M. Joad

First stakeholder meeting on TMRS

Mangan, August 19: First stakeholder meeting on Traffic Management and Mobility Resilience Strategy (TMRS) for the upcoming peak tourist season was organised by Mangan District Police in collaboration with District Administration at the Election Hall, DAC Mangan, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan as the chief guest.

Mr Bijoy Subba ASP Mangan in his welcome address highlighted the major traffic challenges likely to arise during the tourist season and called upon all stakeholders to contribute practical suggestions and strengthen coordination for effective traffic and mobility management.

DC Mangan highlighted the need for advance planning and coordinated action at critical road stretches. He informed about the latest developments concerning the Taram Chu road and stressed the identification and prioritisation of major choke points. Appreciating the initiative of the Mangan District Police, he suggested preparing sector-wise road maps in coordination with road agencies for effective monitoring and integration with the proposed Traffic Command and Coordination Centre.

The DC emphasised better management of the Integrated Online Permit System and appropriate timing regulations for heavy vehicles during the peak season to avoid conflict with tourist and light-vehicle movement. He called for identification of suitable parking and vehicle-holding areas at Lachen and Lachung in coordination with Pipons and the Administration. He further stressed the need to make existing roadside washroom facilities functional through coordination with Panchayats, noting that user charges could be considered for their sustainable operation and maintenance.

DC also highlighted the importance of professional and responsible conduct by tourist vehicle drivers to ensure a safe experience for visitors. Recalling the natural calamities of the past three years, particularly in Lachen and Lachung, he appreciated the collective efforts of the Dzumsa, local communities and the administration in evacuating stranded tourists and drivers. He urged all stakeholders to maintain the same spirit of cooperation in traffic management and emergency response. He further emphasised that the RUMI-S application should be made simple and accessible for effective public use.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Rinzing Chopel Rai SP Mangan District emphasised the importance of establishing a unified mobility ecosystem involving all stakeholders. Referring to W.P. (PIL) No. 06 of 2026 concerning tourism infrastructure and traffic management in Sikkim, he stressed the need to shift from reactive responses to preventive and proactive mobility management.

He outlined the objectives of TMRS, including smooth and safe tourist movement, reduction of congestion on vulnerable stretches, regulation of heavy and commercial vehicles, establishment of parking and vehicle-holding mechanisms, protection of emergency access and improved coordination during landslides, accidents, blockages and diversions.

During the meeting, detailed presentations on the Traffic Management and Mobility Plan were subsequently made by the SHOs of Chungthang, Lachen, Phodong, Lachung and Mangan, covering jurisdiction-wise congestion points, vulnerable road stretches, major challenges and proposed management measures.

Mr DP Limboo SHO Chungthang highlighted congestion-prone locations around the old Toong Check Post, ADMH Pegong, Toong Check Post and Shipgyer-Saffu-Sankalang road. He pointed out that narrow roads, landslides, road-cutting activities, inadequate parking and traffic diversions frequently affect smooth movement in these areas.

Representing ASI Mr CB Bhujel Lachen Police Station highlighted the limitations of NH-310A towards Gurudongmar Lake and Thangu Valley, where the narrow single-lane carriageway makes the movement and crossing of heavy vehicles difficult. Major congestion-prone locations identified included Chaten, Lachen Check Post, Lachen Bazaar, Thangu Higher Secondary School area, Thangu Valley and Zema-I.

PI Mr Vicky Sundas SHO Phodong highlighted congestion near the North Sikkim Bridge and Seven Sisters Waterfalls, where heavy tourist movement and roadside parking frequently reduce the available carriageway. The need for continuous monitoring of vulnerable stretches during the monsoon was also emphasised.

PI Mr Tilok Chettri SHO Lachung presented the traffic situation in Lachung sector, covering major tourist destinations including Yumthang, Yumesamdong, Zero Point and Shiv Mandir. Congestion-prone locations identified included Bheuma Waterfall, SBI Singring, Sharchok Bridge-Lachung Monastery stretch, Upper Fakha, Y-Junction, Lachung Chu Bridge, Shiv Mandir, Zero Point and Yumesamdong.

The presentation highlighted narrow and single-lane roads, heavy tourist inflow, inadequate parking, roadside stopping for sightseeing and photography, heavy-vehicle movement, adverse weather, snowfall, black ice, vehicle breakdowns and restricted road widths at bridges and bends as major causes of congestion.

The Lachung Police also shared details of major incidents experienced in recent years, including the 2024 and 2025 landslides and road blockages that stranded large numbers of tourists and required coordinated

evacuation efforts. Vulnerable stretches around Bop Waterfall, Maltin, Namdasa, Phooni, Poom and avalanche-prone areas between Lachung, Yumthang and Zero Point were also highlighted.

PI Mr Prashant Rai SHO Mangan presented the district-level Traffic Management and Mobility Plan, stating that the significant increase in tourist and vehicular movement during the peak season places considerable pressure on the district's narrow and mountainous road network. Critical locations such as Zero-Rangrang, Saffu-Shipgyer Road and Toong-Naga Road were highlighted, along with the need for better vehicle holding, parking, traffic regulation and emergency response.

The presentation also emphasised responsible driving, adherence to prescribed travel timings, proper vehicle maintenance and cooperation with traffic personnel. It was stressed that vehicle breakdowns, speeding, unsafe roadside parking and stopping at vulnerable locations for photography can significantly increase congestion and safety risks.

Mr Muksam Limboo Assistant Director, IT presented Road Updates Management and Information System (RUMI-S), describing it as an important step towards integrated disaster management and real-time road information. The proposed system will provide verified road-condition updates through an interactive map, including road closures, incidents, GPS-based locations, photographs, travel advisories and alternative routes. It will also facilitate coordination among citizens, disaster-management officials, line departments, GREF/BRO and the Police.

The proposed Traffic Command and Coordination Architecture will use real-time information on road conditions, congestion, landslides, diversions, construction activities and weather conditions to support location-specific traffic controls. The meeting also discussed a proposed 'Marg Rakshak' volunteer initiative involving hotels, restaurants, local communities, taxi drivers and tour operators to support traffic guidance, tourist information and safe-driving awareness.

A phased action plan comprising a seven-day pilot, 15-day readiness phase and peak-season activation was also discussed, with the system to be reviewed and improved based on field-level experience.

The meeting concluded with discussion, during which Pipons, representatives from Army, GREF, ITBP, CRPF, BRO, Tourism Department, Motor Vehicles Department, driver associations and other stakeholders actively shared their concerns and suggestions on parking, road safety, heavy-vehicle movement, tourist management, emergency response and inter-agency coordination.

Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme on Mission LiFE and Nasha Mukh Bharat held

Pakyong, August 19: Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Gangtok, organised an Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and Nasha Mukh Bharat at Sumin Lingchey Secondary School, today.

The aim of the event was to create awareness among students on adopting environmentally responsible lifestyles, promoting sustainable practices and preventing substance abuse.

The programme was attended by Mr Lochan Adhikari Vice Principal, ATTC, Mr Manas Pratim Sharma Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau, Gangtok, Mrs Wooser D Bhutia Headmistress, Sumin Lingchey Secondary School and Ms Deeki D Bhutia District Information Officer, Information and Public Relations Department.

Vice Principal, ATTC, conducted a career counselling session, providing students with information on various career pathways and opportunities. He encouraged them to develop curiosity, identify their strengths and

interests, acquire relevant skills and make informed decisions about their future. He also sensitised the students on the importance of staying away from substance abuse and highlighted the psychological and social consequences of drug and substance addiction.

Addressing the gathering, DIO IPRD, emphasised the importance of developing good habits and discipline from an early age to lead a healthy and successful life. She informed about Mission LiFE and encouraged the students to adopt sustainable and environmentally responsible practices in their daily lives.

She highlighted the importance of individual participation in environmental conservation and urged the students to contribute through simple practices such as reducing waste and conserving natural resources. She also emphasised the significance of Vocal for Local, encouraging students to value and promote local products, languages and traditions to preserve the region's identity and heritage for future generations.

The programme also saw the quiz competition.

DC Soreng chairs coordination meeting for Intensified IEC Campaign 3.0

Soreng, August 18: A coordination meeting to discuss the two month Intensified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign 3.0 on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Prevention and Control, spearheaded by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) was held at the District Administrative Centre, Soreng, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector Soreng.

Addressing the meeting, DC highlighted the objectives and key focus areas of the campaign. Emphasising the crucial role of the Block Development Officers (BDOs) and the District Administration, he urged all BDOs to extend full support and coordinate closely with the AIDS Control Society for effective implementation of the campaign.

The DC further directed the concerned officials to coordinate with the AIDS Control Society and utilise every

possible platform to disseminate awareness on HIV/AIDS and STIs among the community. He stressed the importance of reaching out to people at the grassroots level to ensure wider participation and effective communication of key messages related to prevention and control.

Dr Smriti Rai CMO, Soreng highlighted the three key targets under the 95-95-95 strategy, namely, Sangharshsheel, Saksham and Surakshit and informed that Soreng District has already achieved the second 95 target, Saksham.

She further briefed on the integrated action plan for the campaign and called upon all BDOs to actively mobilise community participation and ensure coordinated efforts for successful implementation of campaign across the district.

The meeting was attended by BDOs of the district, AD (IT), DPC (NTEP), DHEO, Counsellor (ICTC) and Lab Technician (ICTC).

Lost

I, Santosh Basnett (Chettri) s/o Shri Bauta Bahadur Chhettri (Basnett) resident of Thingling, Gyalshing District have lost my **Certificate of Identification (COI) bearing serial No. 141, Vol. No. X** under block Thingling, West Sikkim on August 1st, 2026 at about 11:00 am, while travelling from Thingling Khecheopalri to Gyalshing Bazar. **If found kindly contact :- 74792050519**

Government of Sikkim
Health & Family Welfare Department
Gangtok

No:-12/PDHS/H&FWD/2026-27

Date-11/08/2026

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB)

Engagement of a Catering / Mess Service Provider for Namchi District Hospital, Namchi District, Sikkim

Sealed bids are invited from eligible, validly registered, and experienced local mess service operators, food canteen operators, catering service providers, or catering firms for the supply of nutritious and balanced diets to indoor patients of Namchi District Hospital, Namchi District, Sikkim. The bidder shall be a valid voter of 11-Namchi Singhithang Assembly Constituency only. The details of the schedule are as under:-

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Time
Issue of Bid Documents Commences	14 th August, 2026	11:00 A.M. onwards
Issue of Bid Documents Closes	29 th August, 2026	Upto 2:00 P.M.
Last Date for Submission of Bids	31 st August, 2026	Upto 1:00 P.M.
Opening of Bids	31 st August, 2026	2:00 P.M. onwards
Venue for Opening of Bids	Office of the Principal Director-III, Health & Family Welfare Department, Gangtok	

The Bid Forms, Terms and Conditions of Contract, and prescribed Diet Menu may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Accounts Officer-I (CAO-I), Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, on production of a non-refundable Bank Receipt of ₹50,000/-, credited under Major Head 0210-01-800-Other Receipts (Sale of Bid Document), for the diet supply contract of Namchi District Hospital.

Principal Director-III
Health & Family Welfare Department,
Government of Sikkim,
Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok.
(76, I)

Before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Gangtok, Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Lok Maya Thapa**, aged about 57 years, daughter of Late Nar Bir Thapa and legally wedded wife of Shri Buddhi Dass Burathoki, Hindu by faith, resident of Raley Khasey under P.O. Samdong and P.S. Singtam District-Gangtok, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:
1. That amnatural and legal daughter of **Late Nar Bir Thapa** and legally wedded wife of **Shri Buddhi Dass Burathoki** and bonafide resident of above-mentioned address.
2. That my actual caste is "**Lok Maya Thapa**" which has been recorded in my **School Transfer Certificate** of Lingee Sec. School bearing Sl. No. 12051/07 issued by Human Resource Development Department Government of Sikkim and same has been recorded in other relevant documents like "**Marriage Certificate**" etc.
3. That however in my **Electoral Identity Card** bearing EPIC No. MRX0085316 issued by Election Commission of India wherein my caste has been recorded as "**Lok Maya Burathoki**".
4. That in my **Aadhaar Card** bearing No. 8922 3004 6067 issued by Unique Identification Authority of India wherein by caste has been recorded as "**Lok Maya Chettri**".
5. That "**THAPA**" is my maiden caste and **CHETTRI**" is my in-laws caste and "**BURATHOKI**" is my in-laws sub-caste which I adopted in virtue of marriage with **Mr. Buddhi Dass Burathoki**.
6. That this Affidavit is made on oath and declare that both the person by the castes i.e. "**Lok Maya Thapa**", "**Lok Maya Burathoki**" and "**Lok Maya Chettri**" denotes and refers to the one and the same identical person i.e. myself.
7. That henceforth my I shall be called, known and written by the caste as "**Lok Maya Thapa**" for all practical purpose and purport whatsoever.
8. That this Affidavit is made bonafide.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, **Lok Maya Thapa**, the deponent before named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 8 of the foregoing affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge. Nothing in material has been concealed or suppressed there from.
Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 21st day of August, 2026

Deponent

Before the Oath Commissioner, of Sikkim at Gangtok

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Lok Bahadur Cintury**, aged about 62 years, son of Late Man Bahadur Cintury, Hindu by faith, resident of Lower Sichey near Banjakri falls under P.O and P.S. Gangtok, District- Gangtok Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows: -
1. That I am natural and legal son of **Late Man Bahadur Cintury** and bonafide resident of above-mentioned address.
2. my name and caste "**Lok Bahadur Kami**" which has been recorded in my Old Sikkim Subject vide Serial No. 158, Volume No II under Block Mendu issued by Secretary of Land Revenue Department Government of Sikkim.
3. That in my **PAN Card** bearing No. BWWPC9274R issued by Income Tax Department Government of India wherein my name and caste has been recorded as "**Lok Bahadur Cintury**" and same has been recorded in other relevant documents like "**Aadaar Card**", **Electoral Identity Card** etc.
4. That **KAMI** is my/our caste and **CINTURY** is my/our sub-caste which comes under our same community.
5. That this affidavit is made on oath and to declare that the person by the caste/sub-caste i.e. "**Lok Bahadur Cintury**" and "**Lok Bahadur Kami**" denotes and refer to the one and the same person i.e. myself.
6. That this Affidavit is made bonafide.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, **Lok Bahdur Cintury**, the deponent before named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of paragraphs I to 6 of the foregoing affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge. Nothing in material has been concealed or suppressed there from.
Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 7th day of July, 2026.

DEPONENT

Before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim at Gangtok

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Pempa Lepcha**, son of Late Dorji Tenzing Lepcha, aged about 33 years, by faith Buddhist, resident of Tumin, P.O. and P.S. Singtam, East Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under-
1. That I am the natural son of "**Late Dorji Tenzing Lepcha**".
2. That the name of my father has been recorded as "**Dorji Tenzing Lepcha**" in some of my relevant documents including in my Certificate of Idenfication bearing Sl. No. 26579/DCE dated 23.10.1989 issued by the Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok.
3. That the name of my father has been recorded as "**Dorjee Tenzang**" in my Scheduled Tribe Certificate bearing No. 132/DCE dated 15.04.2003 issued by the Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok.
4. That the name of my father has been recorded as "**Dorjee Tenzong Lepcha**" in my Class X Pass Result bearing Roll No. 180004112021 issued by the National Institute of Open Schooling
5. That the name of my father has been recorded as '**Dorjee Thenzang Lepcha**' in my my Birth Certificate bearing registration no 949 dated 1.6.1986 issued by the Chief Registrar of Births & Deaths, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim
6. That i am swearing this Affidavit to state and declare that "**Dorji Tenzing Lepcha**", "**Dorjee Tenzang**". **Dorjee Tenzong Lepcha** and "**Dorjee Thenzang Lepcha** are the name of one and same person i.e. my father.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the abovenamed deponent do hereby verify and states that the statements made hereinabove are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed or suppressed there from and I have signed this Affidavit on this the 09th day of August, 2018 at Gangtok, East Sikkim

Deponent

Before the Oath Commissioner, Gangtok Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Chhunki Lhamu Bhutia**, wife of Pem Hissey Bhutia, aged about 63 years, Buddhist by faith, resident of Barapathing, Pakyong District, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirms and state as follows:-
1. That my correct name is **Chhunki Lhamu Bhutia** which is recorded in my Certificate of Identification bearing SL. No 215, Volume No. VI under Block Chochen, issued by office of District Collector, East District, Gangtok.
2. That however my name has been recorded as **Chungkey Lamu Bhutia** in my Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No. 4948 9268 2925, issued by Unique Identification Authority of India.
3. That this affidavit is made bonafide and to state and declare on oath that the person by the names of "**Chhunki Lhamu Bhutia**" and "**Chungkey Lamu Bhutia**" denotes and refer to the one and the same identical person i.e myself.
4. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do herein hereby stated that the statements made in the above paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing materials has been concealed and suppressed therein. And I signed this affidavit on this the 17th day of May 2022, at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Deponent

Before the Oath Commissioner Gangtok Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Bikash Thatal** son of Late Bhim Bahadur Darjee residing at, Tintek-Marchak, P.O Dikchu, P.S Singtam Sikkim, aged about 37 years, do hereby solemnly affirm on oath as follows:-
1 That "**Thatal**" is our sub caste and "**Darjee**" is our caste.
1. That in my grandfather Sikkim Subject Registration under Sikkim Subject Registration No.515 Volume Number I Under Block Rakdong, issued by Land Revenue Department, Government of Sikkim the name of my grandfather has been recorded as "**Bahagat Bahadur Darjee**".
2. That in tire Certification of Identification of my father vide Sl. No 83/DCE Dated 27/1/2003 my father name has been recorded as "**Bhim Bahadur Darjee**"
3. That I hereby swear an oath that the surname "**Darjee**" and "**Thatal**" denotes to be same.
4. This affidavit is made bonafide.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I the deponent named hereinabove do hereby verify and state that the statements made in paragraphs No. 1 to 4 of this affidavit are true to the best of my personal knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed thereform.
I have signed and verified this Affidavit on this the 17th day of December, 2025 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Deponent

Training on GCR Assessment Toolkit

Mangan, August 19: A training programme on Green and Climate Resilient (GCR) Assessment Toolkit under National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) and IPHS Assessment Toolkit was conducted at District Hospital Mangan, today.

The training was conducted with the guidance and participation of the State Programme officials, namely, Dr Salona Mukhia Additional Director-cum-SNO, Miss Anusha Tewari Programme Coordinator, NPCCHH and Dr Divya Trikhatri, Programme Coordinator, IPHS. Also officials and staff from the five PHCs of Mangan District and District Hospital Mangan participated.

During the session, an overview of climate change and its impact on human health was provided. The participants were sensitised on how changing climatic conditions, rising temperatures, extreme weather events, changes in rainfall patterns, water-related issues, air pollution and other environmental changes can affect public health and increase the risk of various climate-sensitive diseases and health emergencies.

The importance of preparing health facilities to respond effectively to such challenges and ensuring continuity of essential health services was also highlighted.

The participants were also briefed about National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), its objectives

and the importance of developing a climate-resilient health system. The role of health facilities in identifying climate-related vulnerabilities, implementing appropriate adaptation measures, maintaining preparedness and strengthening reporting mechanisms under the programme was explained.

A detailed orientation was subsequently provided on Green and Climate Resilient (GCR) Assessment Toolkit and participants were explained the purpose of toolkit and its application for assessing health facilities in terms of their vulnerability, preparedness and resilience to climate-related risks. Emphasis was given to assessing infrastructure, water and sanitation, energy use, waste management, emergency preparedness, environmental sustainability and other relevant components.

The session also covered reporting and documentation requirements under the programme. Participants were briefed on the importance of accurate and timely data entry, proper documentation of the assessment findings, identification of gaps, reporting of identified vulnerabilities and submission of required information through the prescribed reporting mechanisms. The importance of maintaining supporting records and ensuring follow-up action on identified gaps was also emphasised.

The participants were further oriented on IPHS

Assessment Toolkit, including assessment of infrastructure, human resources, equipment, drugs and diagnostics, service delivery, quality assurance, infection prevention and control and other essential standards. The importance of systematic assessment, identification of deficiencies and preparation of appropriate action plans for gap closure was discussed.

The participants included Medical Officers, District Programme Manager, District Data Manager, MLHPs and staff nurses/ANMs of HWCs, Pharmacists, Laboratory Technicians, Nodal Person for Solarisation, personnel engaged in HRI/ARI data entry, Emergency Department Medical Officer and MRT personnel, as applicable.

The training also provided an opportunity for participants to clarify their queries regarding the assessment tools, reporting formats, data requirements and implementation of corrective measures. The State Programme officials provided necessary guidance and clarification during the session.

The programme concluded with emphasis on regular assessment, accurate reporting, proper documentation, timely identification of gaps and implementation of corrective measures to strengthen health facilities in accordance with IPHS standards and make them more green, sustainable and climate resilient.

Awareness programme on branding and marketing under PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Gangtok, August 18: A one-day awareness programme on branding and marketing under PM Vishwakarma Scheme organised by MSME-DFO, Gangtok, under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India was conducted at NHPC Seminar Hall, Lower Samdong, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Balaram Adhikari Zilla Adhyaksha Gangtok as the chief guest and Ms Tila Rupa Pandey Panchayat President as the guest of honour.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme launched on September 17, 2023, with a financial outlay of ₹13,000 crore. The scheme provides end-to-end support to traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 family-based trades. Key benefits include collateral-free credit of up to ₹3 lakh, skill training with a daily stipend of ₹500/- and a toolkit incentive of ₹15,000/-.

The 18 trades covered under the scheme are wood and metal workers carpenter (suthar/badhari), boat maker, armourer, blacksmith (lohar), hammer and tool kit maker, locksmith. In clay, stone and precious metal artisans are goldsmith (sonar), potter (kumhaar), sculptor (murtiakar/stone carver) and stone breaker. For leather and construction Workers are Cobbler (Charmakar/shoesmith/footwear artisan), mason (rajmistri). In weaving, craft and decor artisans are basket/mat/broom maker and coir weaver, doll and toy maker (traditional), garland maker (malakaar). In personal service trades are barber (naee), washerman (dhobi), tailor (darzi) and fishing net maker.

Mr Balaram Adhikari Zilla Adhyaksha, Gangtok emphasised the importance of effective branding and marketing in enhancing the value and reach of products. He urged participants to make full use of the capacity-building opportunities provided by the State Government to become self-reliant and secure sustainable livelihoods.

He stressed that dedication, persistence and patience are essential for success in entrepreneurship and encouraged participants to consider entrepreneurship as a career option for strengthening household incomes and contributing to the economic upliftment of society. He also urged aspiring entrepreneurs to leverage Sikkim's organic identity and highlighted examples of entrepreneurs from the State who

have successfully transitioned from job seekers to job creators. He further underscored the importance of converting sales pitches into actual sales through consistent efforts and effective customer engagement.

Panchayat President cited the example of a local woman entrepreneur from Patuk-Singbel GPU and encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to draw inspiration from such pioneers. She urged to enroll in training programmes aimed at enhancing their skills and capabilities and to make use of such opportunities to become self-reliant and earn sustainable livelihoods.

Mr Janak Chettri, General Manager, District Industries Centre, stated that the programme was organised as part of the 'Governance at the Doorstep' initiative, with the objective of facilitating the onboarding of aspiring entrepreneurs under the scheme and guiding them towards self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods. He urged participants to make the most of capacity-building opportunities available through various Government schemes. He also encouraged artisans to incorporate elements of local culture and attractions into their crafts to develop a distinctive identity and enhance the appeal of their products.

The inaugural session also featured an experience-sharing session by local artisan Ms Geeta Rai.

The second half of the programme comprised technical sessions covering a range of topics relevant to PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries. These included a session on empowering PM Vishwakarma artisans through strategic branding, packaging and pricing, delivered by Dr PK Das Assistant Professor, Sikkim University, a step-by-step guide to PM Vishwakarma loans by Mr Tara Prasad Ghimirey Senior Associate, State Bank of India, Rakdong-Tintek and a concluding session on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for design, marketing and growth in PM Vishwakarma trades by Mr Sukram Rai Associate Consultant, MSME.

As part of the programme, two beneficiaries also received certificates for sanctioned loans amounting to ₹1 lakh each under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

The programme was attended by Panchayats, State Level Banking Committee, officials from the Commerce and Industries Department and other stakeholders.

Nikon India organises Photography and Videography competition and workshop

Gangtok, August 19: Nikon India in association with Information and Public Relations Department, Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Development Board, Khangser Picture Company and Photography Club of Sikkim, organised a Photography and Videography competition and workshop at SPRC, Deorali with Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor as the chief guest and Mr Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha Additional Political Secretary to CM as the guest of honour, today.

MLA-cum-Advisor congratulated the winners, runners-up and participants and appreciated the initiative for providing a platform for local photographers and videographers to showcase Sikkim's cultural, natural and social heritage through visual storytelling. He encouraged young talents to continue nurturing their creativity by participating in such platforms.

Similarly, Additional Political Secretary to CM highlighted the role of photography and

videography in documenting Sikkim's heritage, traditions, natural beauty and everyday life. He encouraged young and emerging creators to make the most of such opportunities.

Mr Sanjay Dillipal Rai Chairman, Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Board, appreciated the initiative and emphasised the importance of visual documentation in preserving Sikkim's diverse cultural heritage for future generations.

Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary, IPR Department said that the competition as a significant initiative, being organised at this level for the first time, bringing photography and videography enthusiasts together on a common platform. She appreciated the overwhelming response to the initiative and hoped that it would provide greater opportunities for local creative talent, encourage wider participation and help emerging artists showcase their skills on broader platforms.

The award ceremony

followed with winners and runners-up felicitated across four categories. In the Culture of Sikkim category, Mr Zigme Bhutia was adjudged winner and Mr Pokhraj Rai runner-up. In Nature, Mr Pokhraj Rai secured the winner's award, while Mr Sunil Pradhan was runner-up. In Wedding, Mr Kusong Limboo emerged winner and Mr Kunal Gurung runner-up. In the Video category, Mr Narmad Rai was declared winner, while Mr Benzamin Rasaily secured the runner-up position. Mr Yongden Sherpa was declared the Grand Winner across all categories.

A creator talk show featuring Naturalist Photographer Mr Kallol Mukherjee, Travel and Documentary Photographer Ms Tania Chatterjee, Independent Filmmaker Mr Abhishek Nandi and Visual Arts Educator Mr Karma Tempo and Creative Director, Mr Aaditya Cintury was conducted by Nikon India team and hosted by Mr Soumyajit Maitra Technical Manager, Nikon.

Navey Shotak and Sheraboo, with latter's team emerging victorious in the opening tie.

The inaugural Governor's Gold Cup is expected to further strengthen Sikkim's sporting culture, encourage greater participation in archery and provide a platform for emerging archers to pursue competitive opportunities at the State, national and international levels.

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1st Governor's...

Tarundeep Rai of Namchi, he urged young athletes to aspire for national and international excellence. He also highlighted the Government's investment in sports infrastructure and hope for a dedicated archery academy in Sikkim in the future.

The tournament has drawn participation from archery clubs and teams from across the State, with 19 teams competing for the inaugural Governor's Gold Cup. The competition is being conducted in a knockout format, with teams progressing through successive rounds towards the championship.

The first match of the tournament was played between



State-Level workshop on Food Processing and Value Addition organised

The session concluded with a presentation on packaging and labelling techniques by Dr Bidhan Das Joint Director, Indian Institute of Packaging, Ahmedabad, followed by an interactive session and feedback.

Officials from various department, along with language experts from the Education Department attended the workshop.

Sd/-
Secretary

Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas celebrated

Namchi, August 20: Pratibha Sangam Sahitya Samiti, Kewzing, celebrated 'Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas' commemorating 35 years of recognition of Nepali language at the Community Hall, Ravangla, today.

Mr Arun Upreti Minister for Rural Development Department attended the occasion as the chief guest, whereas Mr TT Bhutia Chairman Land Revenue and Mr Tashi Gyalpo Bhutia Government Contractor/Social Activist as the guests of honour.

Also present were Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia Area MLA-cum-Patron, Ms Tenny Doma Bhutia Chairperson Sikkim State Commission for Women, Mr NT Bhutia Chairman Science and Technology, Mr Bishnu Prasad Sharma APS to CM Namchi, SDM Ravangla, SDM Hq, SDM Namchi, CEO Education, OSDs alongwith officials from line departments, literary figures, teachers, students and public.

Minister extended his warm greetings on the occasion and expressed his appreciation to the Organising Committee for commemorating the significant achievement, which he described as a historic milestone and a boon for Nepali-speaking people.

He recalled the invaluable contributions of former Chief Minister Late Nar Bahadur Bhandari, former Member of Parliament (MP) Mrs Dil Kumari Bhandari and other eminent personalities whose tireless dedication and commitment played a significant role in the recognition of Nepali as one of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India on August 20, 1992.

The Minister stated that the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule remains an important chapter in the history and collective identity of the Nepali-speaking community.

He further emphasised that the preservation and promotion of local languages of the State are equally important for safeguarding its rich cultural heritage and ensuring that these linguistic traditions are carried forward to future generations.

Urging the younger generation to learn, speak, read and write in Nepali, the Minister called

upon the community to take collective responsibility for preserving and promoting the language. He encouraged the younger generation to explore creative avenues such as literature, films, music, songs and other forms of artistic expression to give Nepali language a stronger presence in contemporary society.

The Minister also said that the survival of any language depends on its continued use and transmission from one generation to another and he called upon all to work together towards nurturing the local languages and creating greater opportunities for its use in future.

Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia Area MLA and Patron in his address highlighted the importance of preserving Sikkim's rich linguistic heritage and said that the State's diverse local languages are an integral part of its cultural identity.

He expressed concern over the gradual decline of local languages, particularly as their use within homes is diminishing. He emphasised that the responsibility of preserving every mother tongue lies with the community itself and urged people to speak, teach and practise their respective languages in their daily lives. He also noted that globalisation and changing lifestyles have posed challenges to the preservation of indigenous languages.

Acknowledging the efforts of the State Government in promoting and protecting Sikkim's linguistic heritage, the MLA urged syounger generation to take pride in their mother tongue and promote it through literature and cultural activities.

Mr Bishnu Prasad Sharma APS to CM Namchi informed that the Organising Committee would also felicitate former MP Ms Dil Kumari Bhandari at her residence in recognition of her invaluable contribution towards the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

During the occasion, the Pratibha Sangam Sahitya Samiti, Kewzing presented tokens of appreciation to Ms Ripsong Lepcha of PM SHRI Government SSS Singtam, Mr Rakesh Sharma of PM SHRI GSSS Samdong, Mr Deepak Dungal of PM SHRI Tashi

Namgyal SSS, Ms Suhana Pradhan of PM SHRI Bal Krishna Kasaju SSS Namthang, Ms Manisha Kharel of PM SHRI Bal Krishna Kasaju Senior Secondary School Namthang and Ms Adrina Sewa of PM SHRI Chandralal Sharma Government SSS Chujachen from different districts who secured 100 marks in Nepali in the CBSE Examination for the academic year 2025-26.

Similarly, Samiti also presented token of appreciation to Ms Kursangmit Lepcha of PM SHRI Yangyang Government SSS and Mr Jorden Sherpa of PM SHRI Lingmoo-Kolthang Government SSS, Lingmoo for securing 100 marks in Lepcha and Bhutia for the academic year 2025-26.

On the occasion, eminent individuals and personalities of the State were also felicitated by the Minister with Bhasa Gaurav Samman to Former MP Mrs Dil Kumari Bhandari, Dr Gopal Dahal, Mr Joseph Lepcha, Dr Puspa Sharma, Ms PC Thomas Lepcha and Dr Namdol Bhutia.

During the programme, a special panel discussion was moderated by journalist Mr NB Ghimirey with Mr Neeraj Adhikari, Member ITS, Dr Pushpa Sharma and Dr Gopal Dahal as panellists. The discussion focused on the struggle for the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, as well as the promotion and preservation of Nepali and other indigenous languages.

The occasion featured a array of poetry recitations, cultural performances and skits presented by students from various schools, along with traditional madal performances by Kala Kalam Sangam, Bermiok.

An ode dedicated to former MP Ms Dil Kumari Bhandari was also presented, honouring her invaluable contribution towards recognition of the Nepali language.

A video showcasing the historic struggle for the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule was also screened.

Textbook Officers representing various languages were also felicitated by the Organising Committee for their contribution towards the promotion and preservation of languages.

aimed to encourage creativity among students and promote collaboration alongside competition. He added that the comic brought together the work of 20 students who collaborated during the three-hour session.

The names and photographs of all 20 contributing students have been included in the comic. AAMA plans to showcase the comic at various events across the country in the coming months.

The programme concluded with the release of the Manga comic and the poster for AAMA's next Manga comic, scheduled for release in September 2026.

Press Release from Health and Family Welfare Department

Gangtok, August 21: Mr R Telang Chief Secretary led an inspection and comprehensive review meeting at Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College (HLSGMC) to assess the final readiness and operationalization of the inaugural MBBS academic session for the academic year 2026-27, scheduled to officially commence on September 8, 2026. The visit focused on verifying overall preparedness and ensuring full compliance with the statutory norms notified by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Mr Tshewang Gyachho Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, alongside Principal Director of Medical Education, AMS-I (STNM Hospital), Dean, Associate Dean, Heads of Departments, and faculty members.

The Principal Chief Engineer and technical team from the Buildings and Housing Department, Chief Engineer and engineering team from the Health Department, Special Secretary, Joint Secretary, Joint Director of Medical Education and representatives from CEEPL were also present.

During the extensive walkthrough and subsequent review, the Chief Secretary

inspected the academic block, lecture theatres, laboratories, and instruments and equipment for teaching purposes.

The Dean presented an overview of seat readiness across key operational parameters, covering faculty deployment, the academic calendar, laboratories, teaching resources, and student amenities.

Addressing the gathering, the Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, reviewed on-ground logistics and urged collective participation from faculty and staff. He emphasized key operational priorities, including hostel management and supervision, timely completion of mess facilities by the engineering wing and dedicated transportation arrangements.

Concluding the visit, Chief Secretary interacted with the administrative leadership and faculty members, urging seamless inter-departmental coordination to complete all remaining activities well ahead of schedule. Extending his best wishes and blessings to the entire team, the Chief Secretary noted that the operationalisation of HLSGMC marks a historic milestone in elevating medical education and healthcare delivery across Sikkim.

Contd. from front page

Stakeholders' Consultative...

Minister stated that tourism development must be aligned with traffic management, infrastructure development, environmental protection and carrying capacity of the State.

The proposed Integrated Online Permit mechanism, therefore is aimed not only at improving revenue collection but also at creating a more efficient and transparent tourism management framework, while safeguarding the interests of local tourism stakeholders and promoting sustainable tourism in Sikkim.

In his address, Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department highlighted that tourism is a vital sector of the State and emphasised the need for an online permit system in view of the long-standing demands of tourism stakeholders. He stated that the proposed system would benefit all stakeholders by making the permit process efficient and accessible. He further assured that the Department would identify and address the existing shortcomings and strengthen the system to ensure its effective implementation.

In his welcome address, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department highlighted the key features and objectives of the Integrated Online Permit System, focusing on revenue generation, curbing overcharging, strengthening tourist safety and security and safeguarding the interests of tourism entrepreneurs.

In his presentation on the

Integrated Online Permit System, Mr Raj Yadav Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department gave a detailed overview of the proposed AI-driven smart permit management system. He highlighted tourist footfall analysis, revenue projections, potential revenue leakages, the chronology of existing permit process, current procedures and key friction points, as well as the roles and responsibilities of authorities involved in permit issuance.

He further elaborated on the proposed digital transformation and institutional framework, emphasising the principle of 'One Permit, One Agency'. He outlined various categories of permits to be issued, portal users and their access rights, including those of registered tour operators, permit-approving officers and the core rules governing permit issuance.

He also explained the processes for application creation and validation, stating that permit applications would be routed exclusively through registered tour operators, thereby, ensuring a structured, transparent and accountable permit issuance mechanism.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also launched Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026, scheduled to be held from November 1 to 7, 2026, unveiling its official logo and promotional video.

Thereafter, an open discussion with stakeholders and representatives from different association raised questions suggestions, concerns and issues regarding the Integrated Online Permit System.

Sikkim's first student collaborative Manga Comic released

Pakyong, August 20: Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department-cum-Area MLA Namcheybong released 'The Frozen Pulse', a student collaborative Manga comic produced by the Asian Anime and Manga Academy (AAMA), Namcheybong.

The Manga comic was developed as part of the district-level competition, Mangaka 2026, in which, 242 students from schools across Pakyong District participated in an online competition. Among them, 20 students were selected for a three-hour live competition at AAMA, where each student created two

pages of Manga art. The contributions were compiled to produce the final comic, 'The Frozen Pulse'.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister congratulated the participating students and encouraged them to pursue their interests in various fields. He also highlighted the efforts of State Government to support and encourage students and extended his wishes to AAMA for its future initiatives.

Mr Dewaker Basnet Founder of AAMA stated that the comic is the first student collaborative Manga comic of its kind in Sikkim. He said the initiative

35th Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas celebrated

Gangtok, August 20: 35th Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas and Kanchenjunga Agam Smriti Puraskar Alankaran Samaroh was organised by Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim at NESAP Bhavan, Gangtok, today.

The programme was attended by Mr SR Subba former President, Sikkim Academy as the chief guest and Mr KB Nepali litterateur from Assam as the distinguished guest.

Also present were Mr Rudra Poudyal President, Sikkim Chapter, International Nepali Sahitya Samaj, Mr SD Dhakal Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mr Pemba Tamang critic and writer, officials from the State Government, writers, literary personalities, scholars and language enthusiasts, executive members of Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim, along with other invitees and dignitaries.

Litterateur from Assam, Mr KB Nepali was honoured with the Kanchenjunga Agam Smriti Puraskar in recognition of his contribution to Nepali literature, marking a special moment in the celebration of the 35th Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr SR Subba former President, Sikkim Academy, expressed his gratitude and said that the recognition of Nepali language was the result of collective efforts. He also acknowledged the contribution of those who worked for the cause in different capacities.

He said that August 20 is significant not only because the Nepali language received constitutional recognition, but it marked an important milestone for the community.

He said that the present generation had a responsibility to guide young people in the right direction and urged elders to share their knowledge and experience and build a strong foundation for future generations.

He stressed that language, literature, culture, traditions and social values must be preserved and passed on to younger generations. He said that language is closely linked to identity and urged people to understand its importance and make efforts to preserve it.

He also expressed concern over the declining use of the mother tongue among children and emphasised that language learning begins at home.

He called for greater efforts to preserve traditional vocabulary and expressions, saying that indigenous words and expressions should continue to be used and

passed on to younger generations.

Referring to the present age of Artificial Intelligence, he said that people today had greater access to information than ever before. He said that the challenge is now to use the knowledge and information available in a meaningful and constructive manner.

He also appreciated the State Government's efforts to promote Nepali in official communication and through initiatives such as the observance of a traditional day every Thursday.

He stressed that preserving language and culture was essential to preserving identity and urged the community to remain united and conscious of its linguistic and cultural roots.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr KB Nepali litterateur from Assam, expressed gratitude to the Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim for conferring Kanchenjunga Agam Smriti Puraskar on him and said that the recognition is deeply meaningful to him.

Referring to Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas, he said that August 20 commemorated the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India in 1992 and held special significance. He stressed that the day should not only be celebrated but should also remind people of their responsibility to preserve and strengthen the language.

He emphasised the importance of unity among Nepali-speaking people and called for collective efforts to protect the language, literature, culture and traditions.

Recalling the efforts for constitutional recognition, he acknowledged the contributions of leaders and language activists. He said that language is an important part of a community's identity and heritage and encouraged people from different communities to learn languages as a means of building greater understanding and connection.

He also spoke about the historical development of the language and referred to the views of scholars on the subject. He described August 20 as a day of great significance and called for renewed efforts towards the development and enrichment of the language.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Hari Dhungel President, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim, acknowledged the presence of writers, language enthusiasts, officials and awardees. He highlighted the contribution of Mr

KB Nepali to language and literature and congratulated him on receiving the Kanchenjunga Agam Smriti Puraskar.

Mr Hari Dhungel President, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim said that Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim is committed to the development, promotion, preservation and enrichment of Nepali language and literature, while also working to safeguard local languages and the region's linguistic diversity.

He also acknowledged the encouragement received from literary personalities and well-wishers from the State and neighbouring states. He said that the support from writers, artists, scholars, language enthusiasts and the wider public demonstrated the importance of work being carried out by Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim, in promoting Nepali language and literature.

He expressed gratitude to Mr Prem Singh Tamang Chief Minister for his continued support and encouragement towards the preservation and promotion of language and literature. He said that such support provided encouragement to Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Sikkim, in carrying forward its literary and cultural activities.

Ms Usha Sharma Executive Member, NESAP, delivered an address on 'Constitutional Recognition of Nepali Language and the Current Situation'. She highlighted the significance of constitutional recognition and said that continued efforts were needed to promote and strengthen the language in contemporary society.

She emphasised that constitutional recognition has provided an important foundation for the development of the language. She stressed the need to encourage younger generations to learn and use the language and underlined the collective responsibility of families, writers, institutions and the wider community in preserving its literary and cultural richness.

As part of the programme, Miss Rachana Rai was presented with the Prem Lall Smriti Shaishik Puraskar for securing the highest marks in Nepali in the final semester examination of Sikkim University for the year 2025.

The programme also featured the launch and introduction of literary works, along with other literary activities, followed by the distribution of certificates to students who participated in various competitions organised during the 212th Bhanu Jayanti celebrations.

Mrs Sushma Tamang by President of India on September 5, 2026 at New Delhi on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

The Education Department extends its heartfelt congratulations to Mrs Sushma Tamang on this distinguished national recognition, which brings pride and honour to Sikkim and its teaching fraternity.

Relief materials and ex-gratia assistance provided to landslide-affected families

Gyalshing, August 23: Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister-cum-Area MLA accompanied by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing visited the landslide-affected area and relief camp at Rimbi-Singlitam to take stock of situation and assess the condition of affected families.

During the visit, ex-gratia assistance and relief materials were handed over to 25 affected families whose properties, agricultural crops and land have sustained damage, while some residential structures have also been exposed to potential danger due to the landslide.

Addressing the affected families, Minister-cum-Area MLA stated that the State Government is deeply concerned about the situation and is closely monitoring the developments in the affected area. He assured the families of continued support and assistance from the Government and District Administration.

He further informed that necessary preventive and protection measures would be initiated at the earliest to mitigate the risk of further damage. He also urged the affected families to remain alert and follow the advisories issued by the District Administration, particularly in view of the prevailing ground conditions.

DC Gyalshing informed that ex-gratia assistance was released following field verification and assessment conducted by Land Revenue team led by the Revenue Officer Yuksom, along with verification and recommendations received from the concerned

Panchayats, in accordance with the applicable SDRF/NDRF norms and guidelines.

The DC informed that a detailed inspection of the affected area was conducted to assess the extent of damage to properties, agricultural crops and land, particularly in areas where damage has been reported and where there was a potential threat to human life and property. He stated that the District Administration has been maintaining continuous communication with the affected families and monitoring the situation closely.

He further informed that measures are being taken to prevent further damage, including the construction of necessary protective structures and measures for proper drainage and management of the jhora. He also informed that the existing relief camp would be relocated to a safer and more suitable location, if required, keeping in view the safety of the affected families.

The ex-gratia assistance was provided as part of the immediate relief measures undertaken by the District Administration for families affected by the landslide. The assistance was extended following assessment of damage and identification of eligible beneficiaries as per the prescribed norms.

Sikkim Vir Gorkha Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association also extended humanitarian support by handing over relief materials, including blankets and essential groceries to the affected families at the relief camp.

National Sports Day Celebrations commence in Mangan

Mangan, August 21: Department of Sports and Youth Affairs Mangan, commenced the block-level observance of National Sports Day 2026, today. The week-long programme, with the theme 'Khelega Bharat Jeetega Bharat', will continue from August 21 to 29, culminating on the birth anniversary of legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

Ms Janim Lepcha Additional Director, Sports and Youth Affairs briefed on the significance of National Sports Day and the activities scheduled during the observance.

The opening day featured a Zumba session led by Ms Reenamit Lepcha Yoga Instructor and Physical Education Teacher, followed by the CM One Mile Run for under-15 boys and girls. An exhibition futsal match was also held between PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School and Girls Senior Secondary School, with PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School securing a 4-2 victory.

In the Under-15 boys' category of the CM One Mile Run, Abhishek Chettri of North

Sikkim Academy (NSA) secured first position, followed by Prajal Chettri and Asutosh Sharma of PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School in second and third positions, respectively. In the girls' category, Tshering Lepcha of Mangan Girls Senior Secondary School secured first position, followed by Yangkit Lepcha of the same school in second position and Rachana Limboo of Ringhim Secondary School in third position.

Five schools participated in the sporting activities: NSA, Mangan Girls Senior Secondary School, Little Flower School, Ringhim Secondary School and PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School.

Certificates of participation were also distributed to all participants in recognition of their active involvement in the sporting activities.

The National Sports Day observance will continue with various sporting and fitness activities aimed at promoting physical fitness, discipline, sportsmanship and active participation among young people.

Press Release from Education Department

Gangtok, August 22: As per the communication received from Ministry of Education, Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India, Mrs Sushma Tamang Post Graduate Teacher (Chemistry) of PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Dikling, Sikkim has been selected for the prestigious National Teachers

Awards 2026.

The selection of Mrs Sushma Tamang is a matter of great pride for the State and recognises her dedication, exemplary contribution to school education, commitment to academic excellence and sustained efforts towards the holistic development of students.

The National Teachers Award 2026 will be conferred upon

Consultative meeting with Forest and Environment Department held



Gangtok, August 24: Members of Institute of Transforming Sikkim (ITS) led by Vice Chairman Mr CP Sharma, held a consultative meeting with senior officials of the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat, today.

Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha MLA-cum-Advisor in his address emphasised the importance of checks and balances and highlighted the need for sustainability and proper maintenance of created assets, cautioning that failure to maintain them could eventually turn them into liabilities.

Mr Tushar Nikhare Secretary, Planning and Development Department in his welcome address, informed that the objective of holding a series of consultation meetings with various departments is to discuss their respective visions for Viksit Sikkim @2047 and gather inputs and suggestions from different departments.

Dr D Manjunatha Chief Wildlife Warden and Chief Conservator of Forests (Environment/Hq), Forest and Environment Department in his presentation, highlighted Sikkim's rich biodiversity and the importance of strengthening landscape-based conservation, climate resilience and human-wildlife coexistence. He identified human-wildlife conflict, climate change and habitat fragmentation as key challenges and outlined the five strategic goals under the Sikkim Wildlife Sector Vision 2047, focusing on biodiversity conservation, climate-resilient ecosystems, human-wildlife coexistence, green livelihoods and smart wildlife governance.

He further highlighted flagship programmes on wildlife connectivity, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, red panda and high-altitude species recovery, smart wildlife monitoring and the promotion of a green wildlife economy. The Vision targets a 75 percent reduction in crop damage and livestock losses and near-zero human fatalities by 2047, while strengthening community participation and technology-

enabled wildlife management.

Mr Nischal Gautam Additional Director (Planning), Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department in his presentation briefed state's initiatives and achievements in forest conservation and biodiversity management.

He highlighted that forest cover accounts for 47.33 percent of Sikkim's geographical area, representing an increase of approximately 17.37 sq. km between 2021 and 2023, compared with the national average of 21.76 percent. He further stated that 5,841 sq. km, or more than 82 percent of the state's geographical area, is classified as Recorded Forest Area (RFA), while an additional 1,297.77 sq. km lies outside the RFA.

Despite accounting for only around 0.2 percent of India's geographical area, Sikkim supports approximately 26 percent of the country's biodiversity. The state also has a Protected Area Network covering 30.77 percent of its geographical area, the highest percentage of protected-area coverage among Indian states, compared with the national average of approximately 5.3 percent.

Highlighting significant achievements in wildlife conservation, Additional Director noted the first camera-trap capture of a snow leopard near Goru Jurey in Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary at an elevation of 9,583 feet. Remarkably, the same location had earlier yielded Sikkim's first photographic record of a Royal Bengal Tiger on December 6, 2018.

He also highlighted the sighting of a rare and significant herd of Mishmi takin in Sikkim in 2026, describing it as one of the largest documented sightings of the species in the state in recent decades.

The presentation also covered the department's ex-situ conservation efforts and its major awards and recognitions. Mr Gautam elaborated on several key government initiatives and programmes, including 'Mero Rukh, Mero Santati', Sikkim Shishu Samridhi Yojana, the 'My Child from Wild' initiative, revenue and

policy implementation measures, and efforts to promote rural livelihoods and enhance farmers' incomes through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component 2.0 (PMKSY-WDC 2.0).

He further briefed the gathering on the implementation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (VSSA, 1980), as well as the Nagar Van initiative.

He also outlined the state's performance against Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, while highlighting key challenges and the way forward. He emphasised several critical areas requiring further strengthening to ensure the sustainable management of the state's forests, wildlife and natural resources.

Concluding his presentation, he elaborated on the State Government BiPaSa policy, aimed at the development of three core infrastructure sectors—Bijuli (electricity), Pani (drinking water) and Sadak (roads). He highlighted 'Pa' as a key component and explained how initiatives such as Mission Million Oak, Springshed Development, Pokhari Samrakshan and Roof Rainwater Harvesting contribute towards achieving the policy's objectives.

Presentations were also made on the Territorial Circle; Forest Clearance Procedure as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980; Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA); Environment and Soil Conservation Circle; Silviculture Circle; Working Plan Circle; Survey and Demarcation Circle; and Research and Education Circle.

In his concluding remarks, Mr James Saring Lepcha Member, ITS, also provided his inputs and suggestions to the department.

The IT Cell of the department also showcased the forest.sikkim.gov.in website, highlighting the department's digital governance initiatives.

Earlier, prior to the commencement of the meeting, Mr Rosen Sharma Sector Expert (Economics and Finance), Planning and Development Department spoke on composition and functioning of the Institute for Transforming Sikkim.

The meeting was attended by Members of ITS Ms Namrata Thapa Dr Neeraj Adhikari, Dr Bharat Chandra Basista, Dr Sangay Dorjee Bhutia and Dr Shiva Kumar Sharma; Special Secretary-cum-CEO, SOFDA, Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Conservator of Forests (Environment and Soil Conservation), Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), CEO CAMPA and Member Secretary, Conservator of Forests (T) and other senior officials.

Orientation workshop on report writing for 'Vision Sikkim 2047' Document

Gangtok, August 21: Planning and Development Department organised an orientation workshop on report writing for 'Vision Sikkim 2047' document at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Mr MT Sherpa Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Planning and Development Department highlighted the background and rationale behind the preparation of the document, stating that it aligns with 'Viksit Sikkim se Viksit Bharat 2047' vision.

Referring to the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog held on May 24, 2025, on the theme 'Viksit Rajya se Viksit Bharat 2047', Commissioner-cum-Secretary noted that Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi has emphasised that a developed India could only be achieved through the development of its states and urged all States and Union Territories to prepare their respective Vision 2047 documents in alignment with the national goal.

He also presented the State's current economic outlook, highlighting the projected GSDP of ₹62,973 crore for 2026-27, per capita income of ₹9 lakh and projected GSDP growth of 13 percent, along with the targets envisaged for 2047.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary further briefed on the composition of the Steering Committee constituted for the preparation of Sikkim Vision 2047, chaired by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang and Executive Committee chaired by Mr Mahendra P Lama Emeritus Chief Economic Advisor to Chief Minister.

He also outlined the five key pillars identified to guide the State's development strategy, along with the recommended priority areas under North-East Vision 2047. He concluded his presentation by outlining the way forward towards developing a future-ready roadmap for a prosperous and self-reliant Sikkim by 2047.

Mr Tushar Nikhare Secretary, Planning and Development Department emphasised the need for a realistic, evidence-based and implementable vision for the preparation of 'Viksit Sikkim se Viksit Bharat 2047' document.

He highlighted the importance of learning from best practices and innovative initiatives from other States and regions, while adapting them to Sikkim's unique geographical and socio-economic context. He stressed the need to identify solutions suited to the State's diverse terrain, including high-low-altitude areas and to strengthen interventions related

to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), clean water, sanitation and essential public services.

Secretary emphasised the need to move beyond departmental silo and promote greater convergence across sectors. He identified nature and culture based tourism, along with the service and green economy, as key areas of potential for Sikkim's future growth, while ensuring environmental sustainability and tangible benefits for local communities.

He also highlighted the importance of youth, skilling and digital inclusion, stressing that training initiatives should be followed by tracking outcomes and employment or livelihood opportunities for trained individuals. He called for greater use of expertise and successful models from different sectors and regions, while building upon and strengthening initiatives already underway in Sikkim.

On planning and monitoring, Secretary emphasised the use of reliable data from sources such as the Census, Union and State surveys to establish clear baselines and measurable targets. He stressed that the vision should be assessed in terms of scalability, financial sustainability, budgetary requirements and institutional capacity, ensuring that ambitious goals remain realistic and achievable.

He further underscored the importance of continuous monitoring, outcome-based planning and periodic course correction to ensure that the vision translates into tangible results. He noted that the long-term aspirations under India@2047 should be supported by clear pathways and realistic economic and development targets.

He further emphasised that Viksit Sikkim is an integral part of Viksit Bharat and that the 2047 vision should provide a clear, measurable and sustainable roadmap for the State's long-term development.

During the technical session, Mr Ghanashyam Kharel Team Lead, State Support Mission, Planning and Development Department made a detailed presentation on the framework proposed by Mr Mahendra P Lama. Dr Tsheten Chokki Bhutia Sector Expert, Health and Education, State Support Mission, Planning and Development Department also presented the framework for the vision for the health sector.

The workshop was attended by senior officers from line departments and other stakeholders.