SIKKIM HERALD

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Yonex-Sunrise 49th Junior National Badminton Championships conclude



Gangtok, November 21: Yonex-Sunrise 49th Inter-State and Inter-Zonal Junior National Badminton Championships 2026 concluded at the Indoor Badminton Hall of Paljor Stadium Complex, Gangtok, today.

The championship witnessed participation from young badminton players representing States and zones across the country. Over the course of the tournament, players showcased remarkable talent, determination and sportsmanship, making the event a memorable sporting occasion.

The closing ceremony was attended by Governor Mr Dushyant Kumar Gautam, accompanied by First Lady Mrs Laxmi Gautam.

Ms Yangchen D Tamang Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, congratulated the organisers, athletes and officials on the successful completion of the championship. She highlighted the significance of the tournament, which was declared a State event bringing together over 450 participants and 100 technical officials from 28 States and five Union Territories, marking a major milestone in Sikkim's sporting landscape.

She also applauded the all-women panel of 17 chair umpires, describing it as an inspiring example of women's leadership in sports. She expressed gratitude towards Governor, the Chief Minister for their unwavering support, Mr Jacob Khaling Political Secretary to CM and also BAS President Badminton Association of India, various line departments, technical officials, volunteers and

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Governor visits Pakyong District



Pakyong, November 19: Governor Mr Dushyant Kumar Gautam, accompanied by First Lady Mrs Laxmi Gautam visited Pakyong District as part of his district tour programme, today.

He was received by Ms Prabha Pradhan Zilla Upadhyaksha, Ms Pari Bishnoi DC Pakyong, Mr Tshering Sherpa Senior Superintendent of Police, Pakyong, Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong, Dr SP Das Director ICAR-NRCO and Mr Thendup Lepcha SDM Hq and Mr Sonam Pintso Bhutia DFO (T).

The Governor was accorded a Guard of Honour by the Sikkim Police upon his arrival.

As part of his first engagement, the Governor visited the ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids (ICAR-NRCO), wherein presentation from various line department were showcased highlighting the progress of various flagship schemes and key departmental initiatives being implemented across the district.

Presenting an overview of the Rural Development Department (RDD), Mr Sangay Gyatso Bhutia ADC (Development), briefed on the implementation of Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM-G), Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana (SGAY), SBM-G, JJM and other centrally sponsored schemes. He also highlighted the progress in terms of coverage, completion of projects and challenges of the department.

Dr Pallavi Pariyar representing Health Department, District Nodal Officer, provided an overview on the National Health Mission (NHM), ANC registration and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and other schemes, and also informed on the public health issues of the district, outreach initiatives, service delivery and health outcomes.

Mr Narayan Mishra Chief Education Officer, Pakyong District, presented the progress of the department with emphasis on the implementation of PM Poshan, PM SHRI schemes, CSR initiatives and LEP initiatives. He also highlighted the measures undertaken to strengthen school infrastructure, introduce smart boards and digital learning facilities, improve enrolment and provide educational support and various initiatives under Samagra Shiksha.

Likewise, Ms Rebecca Gurung Deputy Director, Agriculture Department, highlighted the implementation of key schemes for agriculture and horticulture departments, including PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card Scheme, NFSM and crop insurance initiatives. She also briefed on irrigation coverage, farmer outreach, agricultural

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Chief Minister announces Best Performing School Award



Gangtok, November 22: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang today announced the introduction of the Best Performing School Award from 2027, with the award to be presented across four categories namely, Senior Secondary, Secondary, Junior High and Primary.

The award will recognise the first, second and third-ranked schools in each category, with an equal cash prize to be awarded irrespective of the level of the school.

The award aimed at recognising and encouraging excellence in school education and motivating schools to strive for improved performance, was announced during the Shiksha Sammelan 2026 - Sikkim Education Leadership Summit, organised by the Education Department, Government of Sikkim, at Manan Kendra in Gangtok.

The Sammelan brought together Heads and representatives of 736 Government schools and education officials from across the State for a two-way dialogue on key issues, priorities and strategies for strengthening school education.

Addressing the Sammelan, Chief Minister said that the vision behind the event was to create a platform for a two-way conversation between the Government and those at the forefront of school education.

Education is the backbone of society, with school heads and teachers playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of students and the State, he added.

Expressing happiness at the participation of Heads of various Government Schools from across Sikkim, the Chief Minister said

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

- Mark Twain

Minister Pintso Namgyal Lepcha visits Rimbi landslide-affected area and temporary relief shelter

Gyalshing, November 21: Under the direction of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department visited the temporary relief shelter at Sedang, Rimbi, wherein he interacted with the affected families and took stock of their well-being, concerns and immediate requirements, today.

The Minister was accompanied by Mr Udai Gurung CCF (Wildlife), Mr Blen Tshering Lepcha Additional CEO, CAMPA, Mr Jigme Tsewang Sharnngoe DFO (Territorial), Gyalshing, Mr Joseph Lepcha DFO (E&SC), Soreng and Gyalshing, Mr Arun Gurung DFO (Social Forestry), Gyalshing and Mr Pradeep Limboo ACF (Territorial), Gyalshing.

A brief interaction programme was organised at the temporary relief shelter, during which the Minister, along with senior officials of the Forest and Environment Department, interacted with the landslide-affected families and enquired about their needs. As part of the Department's support initiative, essential items, including water purifier filters, water storage tanks and other relief materials, were distributed to the affected families.

The Department has also constructed toilet and bathroom facilities at the temporary relief shelter to improve basic amenities for the displaced families. The facilities were developed through funds voluntarily contributed by officials and employees of the Forest and Environment Department under the initiative of Mr Pintso Namgyal Lepcha Minister for Forest and Environment Department and Mr Pradeep Kumar ACS-cum Secretary. The Minister inspected the newly constructed facilities during his visit.

Minister said the Forest and Environment Department had collaborated with other departments of the State Government to extend necessary relief and rehabilitation assistance to the affected families. He stated that the construction of toilet and bathroom facilities at the temporary relief shelter was undertaken with the objective of ensuring basic facilities and improving the living conditions of the displaced families. The Minister assured the families of continued support from the Department and stated that the State Government is proactively working towards their permanent relocation and rehabilitation.

He reiterated that under the Chief Minister's direction, the Department had mobilised its resources and personnel to extend necessary support in the landslide-affected area.

Earlier, Mr Udai Gurung CCF (Wildlife) highlighted the Department's contribution to the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts. He also spoke about flagship initiatives such as Mero Rukh Mero Santati and Mero Bato Mero Rukh, while seeking public cooperation for their effective implementation.

Mr Jigme Tsewang Sharnngoe DFO (Territorial) Gyalshing briefed the Minister on the various initiatives undertaken by the department to support the affected families.

On the occasion, Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana passbooks under the Mero Rukh Mero Santati (MRMS) campaign were also distributed to beneficiaries. Under the scheme, an interest-bearing Green Fixed Deposit (FD) account of ₹10,800/- is opened in the name of every eligible newborn child.

Later, Minister accompanied by senior departmental officials, visited the landslide-affected site at Rimbi to assess the extent of damage.

APEDA and MSME-DFO promote export potential of Sikkim's agricultural and horticultural produce

Mangan, November 19: An awareness programme on the Export Potential of Sikkim's Agricultural and Horticultural Produce, APEDA Financial Assistance Scheme and Organic Certification was organised by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), in collaboration with MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Sikkim, at MNP Hall, Mangan.

The programme commenced with the singing of National Anthem, followed by a brief introductory address by Mr Nirmal Chowdhury (IEDS) Assistant Director and Head of Office, MSME-DFO, Gangtok, who highlighted the objectives of the programme and various opportunities available under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

The programme aimed to familiarise participants with various government schemes, incentives, financial assistance, skill development initiatives and support facilities available under the Ministry of MSME. It also sought to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs, farmers, growers and local producers to explore business opportunities, establish enterprises and expand their existing ventures.

Mr Tshering Wangyal Bhutia chief guest encouraged participants to make effective use of the opportunities and benefits offered through various government schemes. He emphasised the importance of awareness, participation and initiative in translating available support into sustainable livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Similarly, Dr Saju Adhikary Business Development Manager, APEDA, delivered an informative session on MSME-related initiatives, financial assistance and various government schemes. He also highlighted the potential of Sikkim's agricultural and horticultural produce in the export market and the importance of exploring avenues for value addition and market expansion.

Mr TT Lepcha General Manager, District Industries and Commerce Department, Mangan highlighted the importance of financial awareness and responsible credit management. He also explained the significance of credit scores, particularly CIBIL scores, and their role in accessing institutional loans and financial assistance.

Subsequently, Mr Migmar Lepcha Joint Director, Horticulture Department, highlighted the importance of agricultural and horticultural sectors in promoting local entrepreneurship and economic development.

The initiative provided a valuable platform for participants to gain first-hand knowledge of available institutional support, financial assistance and export-related opportunities, while encouraging local stakeholders to explore the commercial potential of Sikkim's agricultural and horticultural produce.

Before the Oath Commissioner at Gangtok, Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Pintso Gyaltsen Bhutia**, son of late Choden Lama, aged about 81 years. resident of Rongyek. Gangtok District, Sikkim and under P.O. Raj Bhawan & P.S. Gangtok, Gangtok District, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare an oath as follows:

1. That my correct name is **"Pintso Gyaltsen Bhutia"** which has been recorded in my Elector Photo Identity Card bearing No. CBS0099200 issued by the Election Commission of India and in my other relevant documents.

2. That, however in Old Sikkim Subject record bearing Serial No. 209, Volume No. III, under Rongyek Block, issued by the Land Revenue Department. Government of Sikkim my name has been inadvertently recorded as **"Phuncho Glachen Bhutia"** instead of **"Pintso Gyaltsen Bhutia"**.

3. That, this affidavit is sworn by me to declare on oath that my correct name is"Pintso Gyaltsen Bhutia" and the person by the two different names i.e. **"Pintso Gyaltsen Bhutia"** and **"Phuncho Glachen Bhutia"**refers and denote to the one and the same person i.e. my Myself.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify and states that the statements made hereinabove paragraphs 1 to 3 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been conceled there from, And I have signed this affidavit on this the **23rd day of July, 2026** at Gangtok, East Sikkim.

DEPONENT

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Yonex-Sunrise...

security personnel and commended the young athletes for their discipline and sportsmanship.

She reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and positioning Sikkim as a destination for hosting major national and international sporting events.

The event also had the presence of Indian archers Mr Tarundeep Rai, Mr Dhiraj Bommadevara, Ms Simranjeet Kaur and Mr Ojas Pravin Deotale.

The under-19 competitions concluded with finals across all five categories, with gold and silver medals awarded to the finalists and bronze medals shared by the semifinalists.

In Boys' Doubles, Pavan S and Punith S of Karnataka clinched the title with a 16-14, 15-9 victory over Divyansh Agarwal and Amarjit Singh Khwairakpam of Chhattisgarh/Manipur.

In Girls' Doubles, Diva Bheemajaiah B. and Baruni Parshwal of Karnataka/Haryana overcame Aanya Bisht and Angel Punera of Uttarakhand, winning 10-15, 15-12, 15-12 in a three-game final.

Divyansh Agarwal and Varna Prabhuanand of Chhattisgarh/Tamil Nadu secured the Mixed Doubles crown, defeating Amith Raj Natraj and Suhina Roy of Karnataka 15-12, 15-8.

In Boys' Singles, Tankara Gnana Dattu Talasila of Telangana emerged champion after defeating fellow state player Akhil Reddy Bobba 19-17, 15-11, while Shaina Manimuthu of Karnataka won the Girls' Singles title with a 15-10, 15-12 victory over fellow Karnataka player Lakshya Rajesh.

The semifinalists in all five categories were also awarded bronze medals.

The U-19 semifinalists who secured bronze medals included Aanayan Borah and Bjorn Jaison, and Rishav Ngangom and Mangsuan Vemai Kyoveio in Boys' Doubles; Ishita Negi and Varna Prabhuanand, and Ananya Arun and Deepika Devanaboina in Girls' Doubles; Punith S. and Deepak Raj Aditi, and Showrya Kiran J. and Keerthy Manchala in Mixed Doubles; Bornil Akash Changmai and Rudhar Partap Singh Rana in Boys' Singles; and Parul Choudhary and Diksha S. R. in Girls' Singles.

The Yonex-Sunrise 49th Inter-State and Inter-Zonal Junior National Badminton Championships 2026 was formally declared closed by the Governor of Sikkim.

Also present were Speaker SLA, Minister for Education; Zilla Adhyaksha Gangtok, Managing Director State Bank of Sikkim, Press Advisor to the Chief Minister, Chairpersons, HoD, OSDs, distinguished dignitaries, senior government officials and representatives of Badminton Association of India and Badminton Association of Sikkim.

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Governor visits...

productivity and soil health management initiatives.

Providing an overview of National Highway projects, Colonel KA Siddique General Manager, NHIDCL, PMU Rhenock and Mr Apan Bhaumik General Manager, NHIDCL for PMU Ranipool briefed on the status of the ongoing national highway projects and sanctioned funds, physical and financial progress, execution timelines and completion status. They also highlighted road safety measures, implementation challenges and execution-related issues during their presentation.

Highlighting the District's vision under Sikkim INSPIRES, Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong, outlined the potential of the State in sectors such as organic farming, tourism and entrepreneurship. He also elaborated on various strategies and proposed action plans to promote business opportunities through organic agriculture, with emphasis on product branding, value addition and effective marketing to strengthen the district's economic prospects.

Following the departmental presentations, the Governor also participated in a plantation drive and interacted with orchid farmers, enquiring on their cultivation practices, production, marketing opportunities and the challenges faced by them.

As part of his district tour, the Governor visited Greenfield Pakyong Airport, wherein he was briefed on the ongoing developmental works and operational aspects of the airport by Mr Balasaheb Pote Director, Airports Authority of India (AAI). The Governor inspected the airport premises and was apprised on various operational challenges and infrastructure-related issues concerning the functioning of the airport.

Thereafter, the Governor proceeded to the India AI Lab at NIELIT, Pacheykhani, where he was received by Mr Khagendra Sharma Director-in-Charge.

During the visit, the Governor was briefed on the institution's initiatives, ongoing projects and various programmes being undertaken at the centre.

The Governor also interacted with the students and enquired about their learning experiences, exposure to Artificial Intelligence and career opportunities in the field. He took an overview of the activities and learning initiatives being undertaken at the centre and encouraged the students to remain focused and make the most of the opportunities offered by emerging technologies.

Concluding his tour programme, the Governor visited the Digital Nomad Village at Yakten, where he was familiarised with the initiative and its potential to promote digital connectivity, remote working and tourism-based livelihood opportunities in the region.

State Council of Educational Research and Traning
Education Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

Advertisement No: 01/GOS/SCERT/EDN/26 **Date 21/11/2026**

Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up the following 7 (seven) contractual posts for PM eVidya programme in SCERT, Education Department, Government of Sikkim. The appointments shall be purely on a contractual basis, subject to the applicable guidelines issued by CIET-NCERT for the Financial Year 2026-27.

1. Distribution of vacancies and Educational Qualifications

Sl.No	Name of Post	No. of Post(s)	Essential qualifications	Monthly Remuneration
1	Sound Recordist	1	**Educational Qualification:** Bachelor's/Master's Degree in Physics/Mathematics along with PG Diploma in Sound Engineering/Sound recording. **Experience:** 3 years of relevant work experience in reputed organizations/industry; active engagement with the operation and maintenance of relovant hardware/TV broadcast equipment. **Desirable Qualification:** Experience of working with a wide range of ICT based media equipment in production and broadcast environments.Experience in working with a wide range of Operating Systems and relevant applications, along with troubleshooting skills, particularly in the field of TV communication. Age Limit: Not more than 45 years as on the date of issue of the advertisement.	50,000/-
2	Editor	2	**Educational Qualification:** Post Graduation Degree in Mass Communication and Journalism with 55% marks **OR** A Graduate Degree with 55% marks and a Post Graduate Diploma in Video Editing with 55% marks **Experience:** At least one year of relevant work experience is required. **Desirable Qualification:** Experience in editing of educational video content Age Limit: Not more than 45 years as on the date of issue of the advertisement.	50,000/-
3	Graphic Designer	1	**Educational Qualification:** Graduation in Fine Arts/Graphic Design/Design/Animation/ applied arts or equivalent **OR** A Graduate Degree in any discipline with a one year Diploma in Graphics/Animation /Computer Application/Media Production Management/Mass and Communication from a recognized institution. **Experience:** Minimum three years of relevant work experience. **Desirable Qualification:** • Experience in development and dissemination of media/ IT content. • Experience in the use of media and ICT for children's cducation. • Experience of Computer Graphics, Book, Interface design, etc. **Age Limit:** Not more than 45 years as on the date of issue of the advertisement.	50,000/-
4	Cameraman	1	**Educational Qualification: A** Graduate Degree in any discipline and Diploma from a recognized institute, with the course of study covering the critical aspects of still photography, videography, cinematography, film production or performing arts. **Experience:** Minimum three years practical experience in different aspects of motion picture photography, such as shooting, developing,printing, editing, dubbing, cameras operation, video production and educational video programme production. **Desirable Qualification:** Experience in shooting educational videos/ dramas/ documentaries. **Age Limit:** Not more than 45 years as on the date of issue of the advertisement.	40,000/-
5	Computer Assistant/ Data Entry Operator	1	**Educational Qualification:** 12 Pass/Graduate. Knowledge of computer applications and typing in Hindi/Nepali/English **Experience:** Minimum one (I) year of work experience in computer -related work. **Desirable Qualification:** Computer Proficiency:Proficiency in MS word, Excel and Power Point, Canva, etc. **Age Limit:** Not more than 45 years as on the date of issue of the advertisement.	15,000/-
6	Floor Assistant	1	**Educational Qualification:** Class 12 Passed or equivalent from a recognized board. **Experience:** Minimum 1 year of experience working on a television or film studio room. **Desirable Qualification:** i. Strong communication skills to accurately relay instructionsbetween the Production Control Room (PCR) and the studio room. ii. Physical stamina to move props,teleprompters, and other set materials. **Age Limit:** Not more than 45 years as on the date of issue of the advertisement.	15,000/-
	Total	7	-	-

2. Important Dates:

1. Commencement of the application process	23.11. 2026
2. Last date for submission of applications	03.12.2026
3. Walk-in-interview	12th to 13th January 2027 (subject to change)

3. Other qualifications:

Candidates must fulfill the following additional requirements:

a) Must be able to read, write and speak at least one of the official languages of the State.
b) Must be conversant with local customs and traditions of Sikkim.

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4. Screening-cum-Interview: Shortlisted Candidates shall be called for a Walk -in - Interview based on their qualifications and eligibility. Preference shall be given to the eligible local candidates possessing relevant qualification and experience

Notes and General Instructions:

1. The appointments to the above-mentioned posts shall be purely contractual up to **31 March 2027** and shall not confer any right to regular or temporary appointment in any department of the Government of Sikkim or any autonomous body under the Government of Sikkim.

2. Applicants claiming local status must possess either a Sikkim Subject Certificate or a Certificate of Identification issued by the competent authority, in accordance with the applicable orders of the Government of Sikkim, at the time of submission of the online application.

3. In the event that a sufficient number of eligible local candidates are not available, the unfilled vacancies maybe filled by non-local candidates, subject to approval of the competent authority.

4. Eligible candidates are required to submit their applications through the prescribed Google Form, accessible by scanning the **QR Code** provided below.

5. Incomplete applications and applications submitted by candidates who do not fulfill the prescribed eligibility criteria shall be summarily rejected.

6. Admit cards shall not be issued to shortlisted candidates. Candidates shall follow the instructions issued by SCERT regarding the screening-cum-interview.

7. Candidates shall bring a valid government-issued photo identity proof, original educational qualification certificates, experience certificates, wherever applicable, and other relevant documents for verification.

8. For any assistance or clarification, candidates may contact SCERT through email at pmevidyaskkim@gmail.com.

9. Any further instructions, corrigenda, or addenda relating to this advertisement shall be published only on the official website of the SCERT, Sikkim.

10. No travelling allowance or daily allowance shall be admissible for attending the screening-cum-interview.

11. Admission to the screening-cum-interview shall be provisional and subject to fulfillment of the prescribed eligibility conditions. If, at any stage of the selection process, it is found that a candidate does not fulfill the prescribed eligibility criteria or has furnished incorrect information, the candidature shall be liable to cancellation without prior notice.

Director, SCERT
Education Department
Government of Sikkim
(107)

Before the Sub Divisional Magistrate at Gangtok, Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Champa Lepcha**, aged about 57 years, Son of Late. **Pema Choden Lepcha,** by faith Buddhist, R/o Rakdong Tintek, under P.O. Rakdong and P.S. Singtam, Gangtok- District, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm on oath and state as follows;

1. That I am a Bonafide citizen of India and the deponent herein.

2. That I am the legitimate and biological son of **Pema Choden Lepcha.**

3. That my father's correct name is **Pema Choden Lepcha** which is recorded in my electoral Identity Card bearing **Epic No. YVJ0023028** issued by Election Commission of India.

4. That however in my father's death certificate bearing registration **No. 24/2012, dated 16.04.2012** issued by Registrar of Births and Deaths Sang P.H.C, Government of Sikkim his name has been recorded as **Pema Choden Lama.**

5. That however in my father's Sikkim Subject Certificate bearing memo No.**132/DCE, Dated19/9/2014,** issued by Office of the District Collector, East District, Government of Sikkim, his name has been recorded as **Tsyoden Lepcha.**

6. That I hereby declare that the names **"Pema Choden Lepcha", Pema Choden Lama** and **"Tsyoden Lepcha",** refers and denotes to one and same person, i.e. **my father** (since deceased).

7. That this affidavit is made Bonafide.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent do hereby verify that the statements made in above affidavit from paragraph nos. 01 to 07 are true to best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

And I sign this verification on this the 1st of September, 2026, at Gangtok, District, Sikkim.

DEPONENT

Office of the Sr. Deputy Accountant General (A&E), Sikkim, Lekha Pariksha Bhawan, Deorali, Gangtok-737 102 Phone: 03592 280465

NO.PAO/PRESS NOTIFICATION/26-27/119 **12TH OCT 2026**

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified that during the month ending 30.09.2026 the following State Government have increased the Dearness Relief on pension to the Pensioners drawing pension in other state from the date noted against each Pensioners of the respective state drawing pension in the state of Sikkim may contact the Pension office, Finance Department, Government of Sikkim or Office of the Sr. Dy. Accountant General (A&E), Sikkim Lekha Pariksha Bhawan, Deorali. Tadong, Gangtok 737102 for further information.

Sl. No	Name of State	Order No. and date	Name of the Relief/D.A. Granted and their percentage	Effective date	Letter No. and date of despatch to State Government
1	West Bengal, Kolkata	No. Pen, Co-ordn/93 Vol. V1/70 Dated: 07.07.2026	Regarding Information for pensioners Family pensioners drawing pension from the West Bengal	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/81 Date: 06.08.2026
2	Haryana, Chandigarh	Pen.-12/Imp. Order/2026-27/50188-222 Date15.07. 2026	Regarding Payment of Leave ravel Concession to Punjab Government Employees and travel concession t the Punjab Government Pensioners. No.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/81 Date: 06.08.2026
3	Uttar Pradesh	No. Pen Misc. /25919 Date: 29.06.2026	Grant of Dearness Relief to the State Government's Civil/Family pensioners.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/81 Date: 06.08.2026
4	KARNATAKA	No. PM/G-3/2026-27/DA /SS-14640/80 Date: 18.06.2026	Grant of Dearness Allowance to pensioners of Karnataka State with effect from 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/81 Date: 06.08.2026
5.	Madhya Pradesh.	Pen./886 Dated: 04.07. 2026	Release of an additional instalment of Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners/Family pensioners-Revised rate with effect from 01.01.2026.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/81 Date: 06.08.2026
6	Bihar	No PEN-09/26-27/298 Date:10.07.2026	Grant of Dearness Relief /Medical Allowance/Revision of Pension /amendment of pension rules of State Government pensioners/family pensioners.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/84 Date: 11.08.2026
7	Meghalaya	No. PEN-(M)Date: 10.07. 2026/T-/DR.MEG./26-27/ 808	Dearness allowance/Dearness Relief.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/84 Date: 11.08.2026
8	Uttarakhand	No. PA/Pension/UTKD /DR/26-27/510 Date: 29.07.2026	Revision in the rate of dearness relief (effective from 01.01.2026) regarding grant of dearness relief @58% from 01.01.2026 such employee of the State government whose pension has been revised in accordance with the recommendation of 7th Pay.	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/84 Date: 11.08.2026
9	Uttarakhand	-No. Pen/NL-DR/2026-27/452	Enhancement of Dearness Relief to the Nagaland State Government pensioner's ad family Pensioners w.e.f 01.01.2026 No. Pen/NL-DR/ 2026-27/452	01.01.2026	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/84 Date: 11.08.2026
10	Maharashtra	No. PA-1/govt/GR26-27 /70170266 Mah. Date: 23.07.2026	1. Dearness Relief Increase to 58% on Pension/Family pension w.e.f 01.11.2025 to 31.01.2026 2) Dearness Relief Increase to 257% for the Pensioners/Family pensioners being drawn in the pre-revised scale (Sixth Pay) w.e.f 01.11.2025 to 31.01.2026 3) Dearness Relief Increase to 474% for the Pensioners/Family pensioners being drawn in the pre-revised scale Fifth Pay) w.e.f 01.11.2025 to 31.01.2026	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff. States/2026-27/84 Date: 11.08.2026

Sr. Accounts Officer/PAO
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Chief Minister...

that the State Government, in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, had undertaken several initiatives and schemes, the positive outcomes of which were increasingly visible in the academic performance of students.

He attributed these achievements to the dedication and efforts of school heads and teachers, noting that a significant number of students who have qualified NEET in recent years are from government schools.

He said that the performance of a school rests substantially on its leadership and, therefore, described school heads as the core of the Sammelan's discussions on strengthening school education and improving learning outcomes. He called upon them to work in close coordination with Chief Education Officers, Assistant Education Officers and district-level officials, and suggested that similar Sammelans be organised regularly at the district level to facilitate continuous dialogue and address local challenges.

The Chief Minister also stressed in the need for greater coordination among schools and education officials to address teacher availability and ensure the effective deployment of teaching resources.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the growing demand for admission to Chief Minister's Model School, Assam Lingzey, stating that payment seats had been introduced alongside government-sponsored scholarship seats to accommodate the increasing number of applicants.

Referring to initiatives such as the Chief Minister's Special Numeracy Programme, AI Fun Zone, Kuzu Phonics and CM SATHEE, the Chief Minister commended the efforts being undertaken through these programmes and acknowledged their contribution towards improving learning opportunities for students.

He also assured that the ground-level challenges raised during the Sammelan had been seriously noted and urged the school heads and education officials to place their suggestions and recommendations before the Education Department for further consideration.

The Chief Minister further called for collective responsibility and teamwork among school leaders and education officials to ensure that the initiatives of the State Government translate into improved learning outcomes and stronger school education across Sikkim.

Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education recalled the Education Sammelan held in April 2026, where the Chief Minister had expressed the vision enhanching quality of education in Government schools, that they become the first choice of parents.

The Education Department had continued to accord priority to this vision and work towards strengthening the quality of school education, he stated.

Highlighting the importance of school leadership, the Minister said that the success of reforms, policies and departmental initiatives depends on the commitment and leadership at the school level.

He commended school heads and teachers who have continued to serve their institutions with dedication, irrespective of their place of posting, and congratulated them on the improvement in academic results.

Referring to the changing and increasingly unpredictable nature of the job market, he stressed the need to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and adaptability required to navigate future career opportunities and challenges.

He further stated that the improvement in Government Schools has led to instances of students shifting from private schools to government schools, reflecting growing confidence in the quality of education being provided.

The Minister reiterated that students remain at the centre of the education system and that every effort must be directed towards helping them realise their potential.

Mr R Telang Chief Secretary spoke of his long association with the Education Department during his career in the State, having served in various capacities.

Reflecting on the role of those working in the teaching sector, he said that the profession offered a unique opportunity to contribute directly to society and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people.

He urged educators to value this responsibility and approach their work not as a profession, but also as an opportunity to serve and contribute to the welfare of society.

He encouraged teachers and school leaders to inspire students to become better human beings, stressing that education should go beyond academic achievement.

The Chief Secretary also underlined the importance of wisdom over intelligence and said that effective leadership at the school level could bring about significant transformation.

A single committed and inspired school leader could change the face of an institution, he stated.

Speaking on the qualities of effective leadership, he outlined the 'ABCDs' of leadership: Awareness, Balance, Compassion and Discipline and urged school leaders to embody these qualities in guiding their institutions and students.

Earlier, Dr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Education Department said that the Sammelan was conceived as a platform for consultation and collective discussion on issues impacting the education sector.

He said that while Government policies and programmes provide direction, their effective implementation depends on the commitment and leadership of teachers, Headmasters and Principals.

Highlighting the progress made by the department, he referred to Sikkim being declared fully literate on May 27, 2026, and noted the improvement in Class X results from 62% in 2024 to 84% in 2026, with Class XII results crossing 90 per cent.

He also highlighted ongoing initiatives in foundational literacy and numeracy, Artificial Intelligence-enabled learning, English language development and coaching support for competitive examinations such as JEE and NEET.

The Sammelan also featured presentations by school heads and education leaders showcasing various initiatives and innovative practices being undertaken in Government schools.

Colonel Ujwal Khatiwada Director, Chief Minister's Model School (CMMS) presented on CMMS-Hee Gyathang, while Ms Trinity Grace Namcho Headmistress, Middle Syari Primary School shared an overview of the Chief Minister's Scholarship Programme (CM-SNP).

Likewise, Mr Bunit Basnett Headmaster, Tumlabong JHS presented the AI Fun Zone initiative for primary school children, while Ms Rinchen Z Bhutia Headmistress 4th Mile JHS, presented the Kuzu Phonics initiative, highlighting efforts towards strengthening foundational language and literacy skills among young learners.

Subsequently, Ms Tenzing Tshedame Bhutia Headmistress, Lumsey SSS presented the Ground Challenges in School Education, highlighting issues and practical concerns from the perspective of school-level implementation.

This was followed by an Open Floor Reflections and Two-Way Samvaad, providing school heads and education officials a platform to share their experiences, observations and suggestions and engage in an open discussion on issues concerning school education.

Video presentations were also screened on initiatives including CM SATHEE, Life Saving Skills in schools of Sikkim and vocational skills at PM SHRI schools.

Sikkim's DIET faculty and Block Officers complete exposure visit to leading schools in Delhi-NCR

Gangtok, November 22: A 40-member delegation of Education Officers from the Block Administrative Centres (BACs) and faculty of the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) of Sikkim has returned after a six-day exposure visit to schools and resource institutions in New Delhi and Gurugram. The visit held from November 15 to 20 was organised by SCERT, Education Department, under the Chief Minister's Special Numeracy Programme (CMSNP) and was led by Mr Rajiv Philip Deputy Director, SCERT.

The delegation included the Principals and faculty of DIET Gangtok, DIET Gyalshing and DIET Namchi, along with Block Level Officers (Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, Assistant Education Officers and Block Resource Coordinators) from all six districts of the State: Gangtok, Gyalshing, Mangan, Namchi, Pakyong and Soreng.

During the course of the visit, the delegation observed classroom teaching from the pre-primary to the upper-primary stage at Shiv Nadar School, Gurugram, Jodo Gyan Kendra, New Delhi, Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurugram and The Heritage School, Rohini. The delegation paid particular attention to child-centred and activity-based teaching of foundational numeracy and literacy, and held discussions with school Heads, mentor teachers, and curriculum leads on teacher mentoring, reflective practice, and school-level transformation.

On November 19, DIET faculty along with Block-level Officials attended a special session on DIET curriculum conducted by Dr Usha Menon, Founder of Jodo Gyan. They also took part in a critical review of State-level and school-level transformation processes with Mr Manit Jain, Founder and Director, Heritage Xperiential Learning Schools. Discussions were held on how an evolving curriculum like CMSNP can sustain when teachers are supported at the school level by the Block-level officers. On November 20, Col Gopal Karunakaran, Founder-CEO, Shiv Nadar Schools shared his vision of establishing the ground for a curriculum where children learn without fear and teachers are given the autonomy to involve the interest of the learners by asking questions that make them think rather than memorise and recall. Coming from an Army background, he explained that the idea of working in the Education Department should be replaced by the motto that we all serve the Education Department. The idea of change can only come when one inherit a programme rather than do a programme. Mr E K Shaji of Jodo Gyan facilitated a group discussion on assessment by Ms Jazcinth of Jodo Gyan and the objectives and methodology of CMSNP.

The visit concluded with a combined session of the full delegation, in which members compared practices observed in Delhi-NCR with those in Sikkim's schools, discussed field-level academic and administrative support and drew up district- and block-level action plans to carry the learnings forward.

The visit gave them a first-hand look at how strong schools build numeracy and literacy in the classroom and support their teachers. The action plans prepared by each district will now guide how to take these practices to the schools.

The district and block action plans will be consolidated by SCERT, and their implementation will be followed up through the ongoing monitoring of CMSNP and the State Academic Achievement Survey (SAAS).

High Court of Sikkim
Gangtok

Memo No.15209/ Confal./ HCS **Dated. 24/11/26**

CLARIFICATION

In continuation of this Registry's Employment Notice bearing Memo No. **V(13) Confdl./HCS/32, dated 17.09.2026,** it is hereby clarified, for information of all concerned applicants, that Law Graduates who graduated in the year **2025 and were enrolled as Advocates only in the year 2026** shall **not be eligible** to appear in the said examination in view of the direction passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in **Bhumika Trust v. Union of India & Ors (2026 SCC online SC 1687)** and further clarified vide Order dated 19.22.2026 in **Satyala Anjanapriva v. the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, at Amaravati 8 Ors. SLP (C) No. 40139/2026.**

Further, applicants who have graduated in the current year, i.e., **2026**, shall also **not be eligible** to appear in the said examination. Clause (c) of the Eligibility Conditions of the aforesaid Employment Notice shall hence be read as under:

"(c) Must be a holder of a degree in law, granted by a University established by law in India, who has graduated in the year 2025 and enrolled as an Advocate in any Bar Council before the year 2026."

All concerned applicants are, therefore, advised to take note of the above clarification.

By order,

Sd/ -
Registrar (Recruitment), High Court of Sikkim
(108)

KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN

World Fisheries Day celebrated

Gangtok, November 21: Fisheries Department celebrated World Fisheries Day at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Mr Puran Kumar Gurung Minister for Fisheries Department graced the occasion as the chief guest.

World Fisheries Day is observed annually on November 21 to highlight the importance of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, support fishing communities and protect aquatic ecosystems.

In his address, Minister commended the Fisheries Department for its tireless fieldwork across rural areas and thanked the fishermen and representatives who travelled from all six districts of the State to attend the event. He noted that as a newly established department with limited manpower and increased responsibilities, it previously functioned under the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department. He advocated for organic aquaculture, highlighting the ongoing Organic Fisheries Cluster development in Soreng District, and drew attention to the department's cadre review, emphasising the need for qualified professionals with specialised degrees.

Addressing the marketing of local produce, he also urged hoteliers and restaurateurs to procure and promote locally sourced fish, such as trout.

In her keynote address, Ms Roshni Rai Secretary, Fisheries Department, highlighted the sector's growth since becoming the department in 2024. She noted that annual fish production has surged from 405 metric tonnes in 2020-21 to 1,070 metric tonnes in 2025-26, bringing over 2,500 farmers into the fold. She noted that under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the department has established 852 trout raceways, 150 ornamental units, seven hatcheries, and key infrastructure like the Amur Carp Brood Bank in Soreng and a State-of-the-Art Fish Market in Burtuk. Furthermore, the State's Mukhyamantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana provides 60% subsidies on fingerlings and equipment. Emphasising ecological conservation alongside development, she highlighted statewide river-cleaning drives and awareness campaigns with Buddhist monasteries to protect endangered indigenous fish species, envisioning Sikkim as a model fish-producing State.

Videos showcasing the week-long activities organised by the Fisheries Department to mark World Fisheries Day 2026, along with status updates on the Organic Fisheries Cluster initiative in Soreng District were screened.

A special unveiling was also held for the promotional video and banner of the upcoming Fish Festival, scheduled to take place from December 4 to 6 at Vega Mall, Siliguri.

Dr Karma Doma Bhutia Additional Director, Fisheries Department, provided a brief overview of the Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Aquaculture.

Best Progressive Trout Fish Farmer-Chabi Lall Dhakal (Gangtok District)-₹51,000/-

2. Best Progressive Carp Fish Farmer- Bal Bahadur Mangar (Soreng District)-₹51,000/-

3. Best Ornamental Fish Farmer- Khem Kumar Chettri (Pakyong District)-₹51,000/-

4. Best Fisherman- Suraj Limboo (Namchi District)-₹51,000/-

5. Best Fish Cooperative Society- Chujachen Fish Farmers Society (Pakyong District)-₹51,000/-

6.Best Employee-Wangchuk Lachungpa-₹11,000/-

In addition, beneficiaries under the MMMUY were also felicitated:

1. Gangtok- Mr Shekarnath Pandey (₹48,000/-)

2. Pakyong- Mr Leela Dhar Dulal (₹18,000/-)

3. Soreng- Mr Albert Lepcha (₹18,000/-)

4. Gyalshing- Mr Pulling Lepcha (₹18,000/-)

5. Mangan- Mr Passang Lepcha (₹18,000/-)

6. Namchi- Mrs Mandira Chettri (₹96,000/-)

As part of the week-long celebrations leading up to World Fisheries Day, school art competitions were held across six districts of the State. The winners of these competitions were also felicitated.

A reel making competition was also held as part of the celebrations, with the People's Choice Award being awarded to Ms Nimkit Lepcha and the Jury's Choice being presented to Sikkim Vlogs 15.

Certificates of recognition were awarded to Mr Ramesh Lakhotia of Hotel Tashi Delek for promoting locally produced trout, Mr Khechung Bhutia, UDC, for his lifetime dedication and dedicated service to the Department and Incharges of Melli and Rangpo Fisheries Checkposts for their valuable contribution towards monitoring fish consignments and departmental revenue generation.

The second half of the programme featured technical sessions.

During the programme, presentations were given by Mr Nitesh Gurung Deputy Director Fisheries Department on 'Organic Fisheries Cluster Development at Soreng District', Dr Karma Doma Bhutia Additional Director Fisheries Department on 'Fish and It's Nutritional Value', Mr Rochak Subba Deputy Director Fisheries Department on 'Fish as Career', Mr Surencha Bhandari Assistant Director Fisheries Department on 'Insurance and Adding Value to Fish Products'and Mr Umasankar SarkarAssistant Regional Manager for Growel Feeds Pvt Limited on 'Fish Feed and Business.'

National Ranking Archery Tournament commences

Gangtok, November 22: National Ranking Archery Tournament, an eight-day national-level competition scheduled from November 22 to 30, 2026, commenced at Khel Gaon, Reshithang in the presence of Mr MN Sherpa Speaker SLA as the chief guest, today. The tournament was organised by the Sikkim Archery Association.

The event was had the presence of Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical Department and also President of the Sikkim Archery Association, Mr Lobzang Bhutia MD, STCS, Joint Secretary-cum-Staff Officer to the Chief Secretary, CAO, Power Department, World Champion archer, Asian Gold Medalist, members of the Sikkim Archery Association and Archery Association of India, participating athletes and other stakeholders.

The tournament features three categories Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior with competitions in Recurve Men, Recurve Women, Compound Men and Compound Women in each category.

The qualification round for the Senior category, featuring the top 16 archers across the respective eventswas held with the elimination rounds scheduled for November 23.

NIT Sikkim celebrates academic excellence at 9th Convocation

Ravangla, November 21: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Sikkim held its 9th Convocation today at the Conference Hall of Tathagata Tsal, Ravangla, marking a significant milestone in the academic journey of 196 graduates.

The occasion was attended by Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education as the chief guest. Among those present were Mr Bishnu Prasad Sharma APS to CM, Namchi, Mr Wangyal Sherpa SDM Namchi, Prof Mahesh Chandra Govil Director, NIT Sikkim, Mr Ugyen Chopel Member, Board of Governors, Mr Tseten Bhutia OSD Tathagata Tsal and Mr Vinod Kumar Jain Director, Shantinath Detergents Pvt Ltd, along with faculty members, graduating students and their parents.

Mr Ramesh Kumar Saraogi Chairperson, Board of Governors, NIT Sikkim also joined the ceremony virtually.

Addressing the gathering, Minister described NIT Sikkim as a premier educational institution and congratulated the graduating students on their academic achievements, extending his best wishes for their future endeavours.

Reflecting on the changing global landscape, he observed that the world is gradually transitioning from a qualification-based economy towards a creativity-driven economy, where innovation, critical thinking and adaptability would assume greater significance.

Emphasising the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, he encouraged students to focus on four key areas: developing lifelong learning skills, strengthening independent and critical thinking, cultivating creativity and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. He further stressed the importance of adapting to emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), and urged students to become creators and innovators who harness technology as an instrument of progress.

He also highlighted the potential for NIT Sikkim to collaborate with the State Government in exploring new avenues of economic development, while ensuring the sustainable development and conservation of Sikkim's fragile ecosystem.

In his address, Prof Mahesh Chandra Govil Director, NIT Sikkim presented a comprehensive overview of the Institute's academic achievements, institutional growth, research initiatives and future roadmap. He informed that a total of 196 students were awarded degrees at the 9th Convocation, comprising 145 BTech, 18 MTech, 14 MSc, 18 PhD and one Postgraduate Diploma graduate. The occasion also witnessed the conferment of the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.), Honoris Causa, upon Mr Vinod Kumar Jain distinguished entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Highlighting the Institute's placement performance for the academic year 2025-26, Prof Govil stated that NIT Sikkim had achieved a placement rate exceeding 91 per cent, with students securing 141 job offers. The average annual package stood at ₹8.32 lakh, while the highest package reached ₹33.46 lakh.

He further outlined the Institute's initiatives towards implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 through enhanced academic flexibility, digitisation of the Academic Credit Bank, adoption of APAAR IDs and facilitation of international admissions.

He informed that the Institute had signed more than 20 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with reputed institutions, including IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad and Gifu University, Japan, to strengthen academic partnerships, collaborative research and student mobility.

Underscoring the importance of research, innovation and entrepreneurship, he highlighted the Institute's achievements during the year, which included 106 journal publications, 117 conference papers, 21 sponsored research projects and 16 national workshops.

He also spoke about the initiative to establish an Incubation and Innovation Centre, registered in Siliguri, to promote entrepreneurship and nurture innovative ideas among students. Regular hackathons and capacity-building programmes are also being organised to foster a culture of innovation and encourage start-up ventures.

With regard to infrastructure development, the Director informed that construction of the Institute's permanent campus at Dung Dung, Khamdong, spread across 100 acres and sanctioned at an estimated cost of over ₹600 crore, is B progressing. The project is targeted for completion by December 2027, with first-year students expected to move to the new campus by August 2027.

He further stated that in alignment with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, NIT Sikkim continued to place emphasis on the holistic development of students through initiatives promoting mental health and well-being, annual cultural and technical festivals, participation in flagship Government campaigns and the organisation of the inaugural All-India NITs Administrative Conclave.

Concluding his address, he reflected on the rapidly evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence, drawing attention to its ecological and ethical implications. He urged the graduating students to exercise independent judgement, maintain human oversight in the application of emerging technologies and remain committed to lifelong learning. He emphasised that technological advancement must always be guided by human values, ethical principles and a strong sense of social responsibility.

A significant highlight of the ceremony was the conferment of the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.), Honoris Causa, upon Mr Vinod Kumar Jain, Director, Shantinath Detergents Pvt. Ltd., in recognition of his distinguished contributions to entrepreneurship, philanthropy, entrepreneurship education and animal welfare.

Expressing his gratitude for the honour, Director reflected upon his journey from humble beginnings to entrepreneurial success and encouraged the graduating students to look beyond professional accomplishments. He urged them to embrace compassion and social responsibility and to utilise their knowledge, skills and achievements to uplift communities and make meaningful contributions to society.

The convocation also recognised outstanding academic performance, with seven students receiving medals for their achievements, comprising two Gold Medals at the postgraduate level and five at the undergraduate level.

The degree recipients subsequently took the convocation oath, reaffirming their commitment to upholding the values of knowledge, integrity and responsibility in their respective professional and personal journeys.

Two-Day Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair 2026

Gangtok, November 21: The first edition of the two-day Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair 2026, organised by Tourism and Civil Aviation Department in collaboration with Panda Event Management, commenced in Gangtok, today. Dr Shankar Ghosh, Minister for Tourism and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal attended the inaugural occasion as the chief guest.

In his address, Minister Dr Shankar Ghosh Minister highlighted the immense tourism potential of Sikkim and West Bengal and emphasised the need for greater cooperation between the two states to strengthen tourism circuits and promote regional tourism. He assured that West Bengal and Sikkim would work together to facilitate tourism and harness the region's untapped potential. He underscored the importance of improved connectivity, seamless movement of tourist vehicles across state borders and data sharing to better understand tourist preferences and facilitate organised tourism development.

He also proposed exploring cross-border tourism opportunities with neighbouring countries, including Nepal and Bhutan and announced plans to organise a Look East Summit in January, 2027. The proposed summit will bring Eastern and North-Eastern States together, including West Bengal, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha to explore opportunities for collaborative tourism development and integrated regional tourism circuits.

Emphasising a collective approach to tourism promotion, he stated that the West Bengal Tourism Department would participate in tourism fairs across the country as well as international tourism fairs to showcase the State's tourism potential. He also highlighted the sector's potential for revenue generation and employment creation, urging stakeholders from the hospitality, skill development, transport, travel and tour operations sectors to actively contribute towards its growth.

Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister forTourism and Civil Aviation Department highlighted the significance of Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair as a platform for fostering partnerships, exploring business opportunities and strengthening collaboration among tourism stakeholders from across the country and neighbouring nations. He expressed confidence that the fair would enhance Sikkim's visibility in national and international tourism markets, while providing local stakeholders with opportunities to build networks, develop innovative tourism products and strengthen their competitiveness.

He stated that, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, the State Government has accorded priority to tourism through infrastructure development, destination diversification, community participation, skill enhancement, digitalisation and promotion. He noted that ongoing tourism projects, circuit development and destination-development initiatives would further expand the State's tourism offerings.

Highlighting Sikkim's immense potential in adventure tourism, he referred to activities such as trekking, mountaineering, mountain biking, paragliding, river rafting and cycling. He also highlighted initiatives such as Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026, Sikkim Riders Meet and North East Riders Meet (NERM) aiming in promoting adventure, experiential and offbeat tourism, while creating opportunities for local operators and entrepreneurs.

He further emphasised the promotion of rural tourism, homestays, heritage walks, village trails, spiritual tourism and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism to diversify the State's tourism offerings beyond conventional sightseeing. Stressing the need to position Sikkim as an all-season tourism destination, he called for greater diversification of tourism products. He also underscored the importance of active participation by the private sector and local communities.

He highlighted the importance of skills, professionalism and hospitality in ensuring quality visitor experiences. He urged tourism stakeholders to uphold quality standards, adopt fair business practices and maintain a strong spirit of hospitality, while encouraging visiting delegates to explore Sikkim's lesser-known destinations. He also called upon participants to utilise the fair as an opportunity to establish long-term business relationships and explore new avenues for collaboration.

Reaffirming the State Government's commitment to building a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable tourism economy, he highlighted tourism's significant role in economic development, employment generation and community empowerment. He expressed hope that the fair would foster lasting partnerships and strengthen regional cooperation, particularly with neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bhutan.

Mr Neeraj Pradhan PCE-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department stated tha the State Government's continued efforts towards innovation and improvement of services in the tourism sector. He recalled the introduction of Digital Travel Card system in October 2020, which facilitated tourist access to Sikkim and received recognition from the Government of India. He also highlighted the Department's proposed Online Permit System for restricted areas, stating that the initiative would streamline the permit issuance process and provide greater convenience to tourism stakeholders.

Emphasising the promotion of rural tourism, he stated that the Department was focusing on developing infrastructure and improving services to harness the potential of rural destinations, particularly in the post-pandemic context. He stressed that such initiatives would ensure that the benefits of tourism reach rural communities and contribute to local economic development. He further highlighted the importance of moving beyond isolated efforts and fostering stronger partnerships among tourism stakeholders to strengthen the sector.

Highlighting the scope for collaboration between Sikkim and West Bengal, he observed that tourists visiting the region often wish to explore destinations such as Darjeeling and Kalimpong alongside Sikkim. This, he noted, presents opportunities for integrated tourism packages that would benefit both regions and their stakeholders. He further emphasised that better coordination could promote joint tourism circuits, improve connectivity, facilitate seamless travel and encourage longer tourist stays, boosting economic activity and employment opportunities across the region.

He also appreciated Panda Event Management for providing a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, establish partnerships and explore new business opportunities.

At the outset of the programme, Minister Dr Shanker Ghosh visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with the participating exhibitors. This year's edition features 45 stalls representing the hotel industry, tour and travel operators, logistics, aviation, agriculture and tourism boards from across India and neighbouring countries, including Nepal and Bhutan.

The Business-to-Business (B2B) segment also attracted participation from over 100 buyers from across India and neighbouring countries.

The chief guest also unveiled the theme and venue for the second edition of Sikkim Travel and Tourism Fair, scheduled to be held next year in Soreng District. The second edition will be organised under the theme 'Engage, Exchange and Expand'.

This year's edition also featured an award ceremony recognising achievements and contributions in the following categories:

1. Largest Hotel Chain in Sikkim: Summit Hotels and Resorts,

2. Best Cab Service Company in Sikkim: Sharing Cab Sikkim,

3. Fastest-Growing Hotel, Restaurant and Catering (**Ho.Re.Ca**) Promoter of the Northeast: Agnira **Ho.Re.Ca,**

4. Fastest-Growing Kitchen Solutions Provider in the Northeast: SAMTA Industries and

5. Youngest Hotelier in Sikkim: Baizus Hotels and Resorts.

The inaugural programme was followed by Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) meetings, providing opportunities for networking, business interactions and collaboration among participating stakeholders.

During the programme, Dr Shankar Ghosh Minister also visited the Orchidarium at the Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari Complex. The visit also highlighted the State's efforts towards biodiversity conservation, preservation of natural heritage and promotion of eco-tourism and sustainable tourism development.

The inaugural programme was attended by Mr Rinzin Jamtsho former Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Bhutan, Mr Damcho Rinzin Director, Tourism Department, Royal Government of Bhutan, Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Chairmen STDC, Chairman, Rural Development Department, Chairman, SIMFED, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, Government of West Bengal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, officials of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and tourism stakeholders.

Sikkim receives SVANidhi Samman Award 2026 for Best Performance in Loan Disbursement

Gangtok, November 20: Sikkim has been conferred SVANidhi Samman Award 2026 for its performance in the category of "Best Performance-Loan Disbursement" among the North Eastern and Hilly States, today.

The award ceremony was held at Bhim Auditorium, Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi in the presence of Mr Manohar Lal Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs as the chief guest and Mr Tokhan Sahu, Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India as the guest of honour.

Sikkim was represented by Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban Development Department, Mr Jitendra Singh Raje, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Urban Development Department, Mr GL Meena, State Mission Director, PM SVANidhi, Mr Yogen Syangden Municipal Executive Officer, Namchi Municipal Council, Mr Dilip Dong, Municipal Executive Officer, Nayabazar-Jorethang Nagar Panchayat and Mr Bishnu Thapa, Sr Bazar Officer, GMC.

The award reflects the vision of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang in recognising street vendors as key contributors to grassroots economic empowerment, the local economy and sustainable urban development.

The award recognises the State's performance in loan disbursement under the PM SVANidhi Scheme among the North Eastern and Hilly States, highlighting its efforts towards financial inclusion and inclusive growth.

Before the Sub Divisional Magistrate at Gangtok, Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Kumar Subba**, Son of Late Damber Das Subba, aged about 57 years, by faith Hindu, resident of Chandmari, Gangtok, P.O. Raj Bhawan & P.S. Gangtok, Gangtok District, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That I am the natural son of Late **"Damber Das Subba".**

2. That the actual and correct name of my late father is **"Damber Das Subba"** which has been recorded in all my relevant documents, including my Aadhaar Card bearing No. **"4075 7809 9500"** issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Government of India, and my Voter Identity Card bearing Card No. **NMX0044040** issued by the Election Commission of India.

3. That inadvertently, in the Order passed by the Office of the Secretary to the Chogyal of Sikkim bearing Order No. **27/S.C.** dated **27/June/1969,** the name of my late father has been recorded as **"Kancha Limbu"** issued by the Secretary, The Chogyal of Sikkim.

4. That I am swearing this affidavit to state and declare on oath that the persons bearing the names **"Damber Das Subba"** and **"Kancha Limbu"** are the names of one and the same person, i.e., my late natural father.

5. That this affidavit is made *bonafide.*

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the statements made herein above in paragraphas1 to 5 are true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom. Signed and varified thisday of 23rd November, 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Identified by: **DEPONENT**
Mangali Tamang

READ AND ADVERTISE IN SIKKIM HERALD

Labrang Palden Phuntsok Phodrang Monastery celebrates Bicentenary

Mangan, November 19: Labrang Palden Phuntsok Phodrang Monastery marked 200 years of spiritual legacy, Buddhist heritage and cultural significance with a bicentenary celebration at Tumlong, Mangan District, today.

The programme was graced by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as the chief guest. Upon his arrival, he was accorded a Guard of Honour by Phodong Police. The programme was followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, consecration ceremony, marking the commencement of the bicentenary celebration.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt greetings on the historic occasion of bicentenary celebration of Labrang Palden Phuntsok Phodrang Monastery. In his address, he highlighted the monastery's rich spiritual legacy, religious significance and invaluable contribution to preservation and promotion of Buddhist traditions, culture and heritage over the past two centuries. He also acknowledged the dedication of monks, devotees and the local community in safeguarding the monastery's historical and spiritual importance for future generations.

Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical Department highlighted the profound spiritual and historical significance of Labrang Palden Phuntsok Phodrang Monastery. He spoke about the importance of preserving and promoting the rich Buddhist heritage, religious traditions and cultural values that have been passed down through generations. He also emphasised the need to uphold the teachings of Buddhism and ensure that the monastery continues to serve as an important centre of spiritual learning, peace and harmony for future generations.

Earlier, Mr TT Bhutia Area MLA Kabi-Lungchok Constituency-cum-Advisor highlighted the significance of the bicentenary celebration.

Following this, Labrang Dunzin, Mr GR Gyatso, delivered a brief presentation highlighting the historical background and evolution of Labrang Palden Phuntsok Phodrang Monastery. He elaborated on its rich historical origins, spiritual significance and religious importance, tracing its journey over the past 200 years and underscoring its enduring role in preserving Buddhist teachings, traditions and cultural heritage.

The programme was followed by cultural performances presented by the Culture Department, local artistes and students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), showcasing the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the region.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Forest and Environment Department, DC Mangan, Zilla Adhyaksha, Upadhyaksha, ADC Mangan, ADC Development, DGP Gangtok, SP Mangan, ASP Mangan, OSDs, officials from various departments and public.

This was followed by the Nangten Jekha ceremony involving a sacred object, marking the formal conclusion of the programme.

Sikkim State Commission for Women celebrates 25th Foundation Day

Gangtok, November 21: Sikkim State Commission for Women (SSCW) commemorated its 25th Foundation Day at Manan Kendra, Gangtok, marking 25 years of its dedicated efforts towards the protection of women's rights, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women in the State, today.

The programme was attended by Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA as chief guest along with Ms Tany Doma Bhutia Chairperson, SSCW.

Also present were former Chairpersons and Members of Commission, Zilla Panchayats, members of Self-Help Groups, Anganwadi Workers, officials and students, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Speaker SLA congratulated Sikkim State Commission for Women on completing 25 years of its establishment, stating that the occasion is significant not only for Commission but for the wider community of women in the State.

She acknowledged the State's continued focus on women's safety, welfare and empowerment and appreciated for various initiatives undertaken by the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister towards supporting women.

She also highlighted the changing challenges confronting the younger generation in an increasingly digital world, particularly the growing risks of cybercrime, online fraud and other forms of digital exploitation.

Referring to the youth, she highlighted their role in shaping the future of the State and encouraged them to make constructive and responsible use of technology and the opportunities available to them.

She emphasised that education should extend beyond the attainment of academic qualifications, stressing the importance of knowledge, discipline, sound priorities and resilience in navigating contemporary society.

The Deputy Speaker further stressed the importance of creating an environment in which young women are equipped to make informed and confident choices, with families playing an important role in fostering resilience and self-belief.

She stated that Sikkim State Commission for Women has evolved as an institution of trust and continues to serve as an important platform for addressing issues concerning women and advancing their rights and welfare.

During the programme, a brief presentation was made by Ms Yousa Lachenpa Member Secretary, SSCW highlighting key activities, achievements and milestones of Commission over the years, tracing its work in addressing issues concerning women and contributing towards creating a more supportive and equitable environment in the State.

A documentary chronicling the establishment, evolution, achievements and contributions of the Commission over the past two and a half decades was also screened, offering an overview of its journey and various initiatives undertaken towards strengthening mechanisms for women's rights and welfare.

A commemorative publication documenting the Commission's journey, achievements and significant initiatives over the past 25 years was also released.

As part of the Foundation Day observance, former Chairpersons and Members of the Commission were felicitated in recognition of their valuable contributions to its functioning and development. The felicitation acknowledged the collective contributions of those associated with the Commission through its 25-year journey.

Notably, among those felicitated was Padma Shri Ms Kipu Lepcha who had served as a former Member of the Commission.

On the occasion, the official website of Sikkim State Commission for Women was also launched as a step towards strengthening the Commission's digital outreach, facilitating grievance redressal and making information on its activities and initiatives more accessible to the public.

Earlier, Ms Tany Doma Bhutia, Chairperson, Sikkim State Commission for Women, who reflected on the Commission's 25-year journey and acknowledged the valuable contributions of all former Chairpersons and Members towards its growth and development.

Sikkim Cherry Festival 2026 highlights Cinema, Culture and Tourism potential of Temi-Tarku

Namchi, November 23: Exploring the potential of cinema as a medium of cultural representation and a catalyst for tourism development, a special panel discussion on 'Cinema, Culture, Identity and Tourism in Sikkim' was held at Temi Bungalow as part of ongoing Sikkim Cherry Festival 2026, today.

With particular focus on Temi-Tarku as a prospective film-shooting destination and tourism hotspot, the discussion examined economic and cultural significance of cinema in shaping a destination's identity and promoting its tourism potential.

The programme was organised by the Temi-Tarku Tourism Development Committee under the supervision of Mr Tashi Tshering Bhutia, Chairman, Sikkim Music, Drama, Dance and Film Board in collaboration with the Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim.

At the outset, Mr TT Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and Mr GT Dhungel Minister for Culture Department, jointly declared the Sikkim Cherry Festival as an Annual State-Level Festival of the Government of Sikkim, to be organised every year at Temi-Tarku by the Temi-Tarku Tourism Development Committee. The declaration aims to promote tourism, preserve cultural heritage, encourage local entrepreneurship and generate sustainable livelihood opportunities, while positioning Temi-Tarku as a prominent destination for cultural and nature-based tourism.

The programme featured two panel discussions, bringing together policymakers, tourism stakeholders, cultural representatives and members of the film fraternity.

The first panel comprised Mr TT Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department; Mr GT Dhungel, Minister for Culture Department, Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Tashi Tshering Bhutia Chairman, Sikkim Music, Drama, Dance and Film Board and Mr Lukendra Rasaily Chairperson, STDC.

During the deliberations, the Ministers suggested measures to enhance Sikkim's visibility through cinema and digital platforms, emphasising the promotion of its cultural heritage, community traditions and distinctive local narratives. The panellists stressed the value of showcasing authentic stories reflecting the State's identity, while recognising hospitality as a key attraction for visitors. They also underscored the potential of a strengthened film industry to promote tourism, generate employment and create wider economic opportunities.

Second panel featured Ms Annapurna Alley, Secretary, Information and Public Relations Department, Mr Sanjay Dilpali, Chairperson, Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Development Board, Ms Yangchen Tongden Lepcha General Secretary North-East India Tourism Confederation, Mr Chunilal Ghimirey and Mr Prashant Rasaily Filmmakers and Ms Radha Pradhan Managing Director Temi Tea Estate.

The discussion focused on the policy framework, administrative facilitation and support mechanisms required to encourage film production in the State. Secretary, IPR, Ms Annapurna Alley, outlined various Government policies, subsidy provisions and initiatives aimed at promoting Sikkim as a film-friendly destination. She also spoke about proposed single-window clearance mechanism to streamline permissions for film shoots, the eligibility criteria for State Government subsidies and accessibility of available incentives for filmmakers.

The panellists further examined the State's existing strengths and resources that could be leveraged to attract film productions, including its diverse landscapes, culturally significant locations, skilled human resources and supporting infrastructure. Emphasis was placed on strengthening local technical capabilities, encouraging greater participation of local artists and professionals and developing an enabling ecosystem for film-related activities. The filmmakers also shared their perspectives on the practical requirements of film production, the promotion of local stories and talent and the need for sustained institutional support in facilitating film projects in the State.

The discussion also explored the potential of Temi Tea in enhancing Sikkim's global recognition, while identifying opportunities to promote tea tourism and integrate Temi Tea Estate into the State's broader tourism development initiatives.

Later, Minister for Culture, attended the ongoing Sikkim Cherry Festival 2026 at Temi wherein, he underscored the complementary role of culture and tourism in shaping the identity and development of a region. He called for greater opportunities to foster creativity, cultural expression and tourism-related activities, enabling young people to nurture their talents, develop skills and pursue meaningful livelihoods. Referring to the vision of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, 'Sunaulo, Samriddha Ani Samarth Sikkim', he stressed the need to create an enabling environment for youth to excel in creative, sporting and tourism-related pursuits.

The Minister also congratulated the Organisers for successfully hosting the festival and encouraged continued efforts to strengthen Temi-Tarku's tourism potential through such initiatives.

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