



SIKKIM HERALD

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State-level commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram



Gangtok, November 7: State-level commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram was held at Manan Kendra, Gangtok, today.

Organised by Culture Department in collaboration with Home Department, the event celebrated the legacy of India's National Song as a symbol of freedom, unity and devotion to the Motherland.

The occasion marked the formal launch of a year-long nationwide celebration from November 7, 2025 to November 7, 2026, commemorating 150 years of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's composition that inspired India's freedom movement and continues to resonate with the nation.

The programme was attended by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur who inaugurated

the Vande Mataram Exhibition at the outset. Joining virtually from the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi described Vande Mataram as not merely a song but a mantra and an expression of national unity that has inspired generations. He recalled how the verses, written in 1875, became a rallying call during the Swadeshi Movement. He urged the youth to carry forward the message of patriotism and national pride embodied in the song.

The Governor said that Vande Mataram is deeply rooted in the national consciousness and has inspired leaders including Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Recalling the words of Dr Rajendra

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Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Government SSS Bariakhop

Soreng, November 7: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the concluding day of the ten-day long Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Government Senior Secondary School, Bariakhop accompanied by Madam Sarda Tamang.

To mark the occasion, the Chief Minister unveiled the Platinum Pillar and subsequently inaugurated the digital classroom under Smart School Programme initiated by the Art of Living and funded by Schneider Electric Foundation India.

He also participated in the inaugural ceremony commemorating 150 years of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' via video conferencing from the school playground. The event was led by Prime Minister Mr Narendra

Modi from the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister congratulated everyone on the occasion of the 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', urging all to work collectively in alignment of the vision of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi. He congratulated the school fraternity and the Organising Committee for successfully hosting the celebration. Further, the Chief Minister recalled being a part of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the same school as a member of the Organising Committee. Remembering the founders of the school, he expressed deep gratitude for their contributions.

The Chief Minister

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Chief Minister attends Bharat Parv

Gujarat, November 10: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, attended the Bharat Parv 2025, a grand national celebration organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.

Marking a historic milestone, this year's Bharat Parv commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of India's unity and integrity. For the first time, the annual festival is being hosted outside Delhi at the very site that stands as a living symbol of national integration.

In his address, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang expressed profound pride and joy on being a part of this historic occasion. He said, "Bharat Parv is not merely a cultural event but a celebration of India's soul, a reflection of unity in diversity and the collective spirit that binds the nation together". He highlighted that the event beautifully showcases the country's rich cultural heritage, traditional arts,



crafts, cuisine, and tourism potential, representing every corner of India on one vibrant platform.

The Chief Minister commended the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, under whose

guidance Bharat Parv has evolved into a grand national celebration of unity, culture, and pride. He also extended gratitude to Chief Minister of Gujarat Mr Bhupendra Patel and Deputy Chief Minister

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Finale of Lt LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup

Soreng, November 8: Final day of Late LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup was attended by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang accompanied by Madam Sarda Tamang.

The Chief Minister recalled his long association with the region, having been elected by the people of Chakung from 1994 to 2009, and acknowledged their continued faith in his leadership.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, he highlighted that the Lt LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup was inaugurated in 2008 as a tribute to the Late LD Kazi, the first Chief Minister of Sikkim and a visionary leader whose contributions to the State remain an inspiration.

He briefly recounted the history and legacy of the tournament, emphasising how it has evolved into a prestigious sporting event that fosters unity, sportsmanship, and youth participation across the State. He appreciated the Organising Committee for their dedication and efforts in successfully hosting this year's edition of the Gold Cup.

He also extended his thanks to the MLA (Soreng-Chakung) and also the patron of the event, Mr Aditya Golay, and to the members



of the Lt LD Kazi family for their continued support and commitment to preserving the legacy of the late leader.

The Chief Minister further

commended the Organising Committee for introducing the 'Chakung Run' half marathon,

Contd.on page 4

Pearls of Wisdom

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

- Maya Angelou

One-day training on AI tools for DPR preparation

Mangan, November 12: The Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology (SSCS&T), under the Department of Science and Technology in coordination with Mangan District Administration conducted a one-day training programme of the first batch of government officials on 'AI Tools for DPR (Detailed Project Report) Preparation' at the District Administrative Centre, Mangan, today. The second batch will be trained from November 13, 2025.

The training is being conducted under the theme 'Smart Proposals, Smarter Governance', highlighting the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in enhancing efficiency, accuracy and innovation in government project formulation and implementation.

The session was facilitated by Dr Prativa Rai Assistant Scientific Officer, SSCS&T and

the Master Resource Person, who led the participants through practical demonstrations and discussions on the use of AI-based tools for data analysis, report generation, proposal drafting and project monitoring. She was joined by officers of DST and other officials of the Department. The programme aimed to equip officers with digital competencies to streamline the preparation of DPRs and improve governance outcomes through technology-enabled decision-making.

The AI workshop for Government officials has been conceptualised by Dr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, DST, and coordinated by Technology Transfer (IT) Division of Department of Science and Technology.

Government officials from various departments participated in the training, gaining valuable

insights into how AI applications can simplify complex administrative tasks, reduce time in project development cycles and foster evidence-based planning.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Prativa Rai emphasised on the integration of AI tools in DPR preparation, a step toward smarter governance enabling data-driven decisions, improving transparency and enhancing the quality of public projects.

The programme reflects the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology's commitment to building digital literacy and promoting technological innovation within the State's governance framework. Participants expressed appreciation for the hands-on training and encouraged similar capacity-building initiatives in the future.

DC Gyalshing chairs review meeting on State-Level Mock Drill

Gyalshing, November 12: A review meeting to discuss the preparations for the upcoming State-Level Mock Drill, scheduled to be conducted on November 17, 2025, at various locations across Gyalshing District was held at the Conference hall of District Administrative, Gyalshing, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa, DC-cum-Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). In his address, he emphasised the importance of the mock exercise in strengthening the district's disaster preparedness and response capabilities. He urged all concerned departments and stakeholders to ensure seamless coordination for the successful

execution of the drill.

He further directed departments to conduct awareness activities at the local level to sensitise the public about purpose of the mock drill and to prevent unnecessary panic during the exercise.

During the meeting, Mr Suresh Rai ADC presented the organisational structure of the response teams, outlining the roles and responsibilities of operations, logistics and planning sections.

Further, Mr Ganesh Kumar Rai DPO provided a detailed briefing on Disaster Management System, focusing on Incident Response System (IRS) and its activation mechanisms during emergencies.

During the interactive

session, discussions focused on community awareness initiatives, alternative communication systems and the significance of public participation during disaster situations.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmed commitment from all participating agencies to ensure the successful execution of State-Level Mock Drill Exercise 2025 in Gyalshing District.

The meeting was attended by ADC (Development), CMO, AD, Agriculture, DFO (Territorial), Joint Director Education, SDM (Hq), SDM Gyalshing, SDM Dentam, RO-Cum-Deputy Director Yuksom, officers from SSB 36th and 72nd Bn, and officials from various line departments.

District level awareness programme on PMMSY, FIDF & LIFIC organised

Mangan, November 10: A district level awareness programme on PMMSY, FIDF & LIFIC was organised by National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)-LINAC Regional Centre, Kolkata in collaboration with Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and Fisheries Department, Government of Sikkim at PM SHRI Senior Secondary School, Mangan, today.

Mr Am Prasad Sharma Advisor encouraged the farmers to take up fishing and stated that the main objective is not only to supply fish within Mangan District but also to ensure its availability across the entire State. He stressed on the economic value of high altitude fish and encouraged the people of Mangan District to realise the potential and become the leading district in fish production.

Mr Yowa Raj Sharma Assistant Director Fisheries Department, Mangan, highlighted the objective of organising the programme was to create awareness among the

people about the existing schemes and their respective benefits.

Mr Pema Wangchuk Bhutia, Assistant Registrar Cooperation Department spoke about the role of cooperation in the fisheries sector. He highlighted the importance of cooperative values and principles.

Mr Roshan Subba Block Officer, Fisheries Department Mangan, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and its implementation in Mangan District. He provided insights onto the objectives and progress of the scheme, emphasising its role in promoting fisheries development and improving the livelihood of local fish farmers. He also showcased different species of fish, explained the nutritional and economic benefits of fish consumption and elaborated on the various Government schemes available to support the fisheries sector.

Mr Sanjeev Karmakar Senior Assistant, NCDC delivered a detailed presentation on the

Livelihood and Fisheries Investment for Competitiveness (LIFIC) programme, highlighting its importance and objectives. He explained that anyone involved in fish related businesses can become a part of LIFIC to enhance their skills and knowledge. The programme, he noted, not only provides support to strengthen the fisheries sector but also offers training on business management, innovative business ideas and practical planning strategies to help individuals build sustainable and profitable ventures within the fisheries industry.

Mr Yowa Raj Sharma Assistant Director gave a brief note on NFDP and KCC, and subsequently delivered the vote of thanks for the second session.

Also present were Mr KK Shrestha Director Fisheries, Mr Sonam Tshering Bhutia RO, Mr Tshering Palzor Bhutia and Mr Wangchuk Lachungpa BOs, officials from organising Departments, farmers and students of PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School.

Mangan celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram

Mangan, November 7: District Administration Mangan, joined the nationwide observance of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram with a mass singing programme, today.

The celebration was conducted in accordance with the Cabinet's approval on October 1 for country-wide commemoration aimed at reconnecting citizens especially students and youth with patriotic and revolutionary spirit of the iconic National Song.

Officers and staff of the DAC participated in the singing, using the official audio version issued by the Ministry of Culture through the platform vandemataram150.in. Similar mass singing activities were simultaneously carried out across all Sub-Divisional Offices in the District, ensuring widespread involvement.

The programme underscored the historical and cultural significance of Vande Mataram, a song that inspired unity and courage during India's freedom movement. The observance sought to honour this legacy and reinforce its message of national pride, unity, and collective identity among the present generation.

The event was led by Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa ADC Mangan accompanied by Mr Sandeep Kumar SDM Mangan and Heads of Departments.

On the occasion, SDM Mangan delivered a brief historical overview, highlighting that Vande Mataram originally a Sanskrit poem composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in the 1870s and included in his 1882 novel Anandamath.

The commemoration reaffirmed the song's enduring

legacy in fostering a shared sense of devotion to the motherland and emphasised the importance of preserving such cultural heritage in the hearts and minds of future generations.

Similarly, to mark the commencement of the yearlong commemoration of the 150 years of Vande Mataram, the national song of India, in Gyalshing District mass singing was held at the premises of DAC Gyalshing.

On the occasion, the District Administrative Centre (DAC) Gyalshing led by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, accompanied by Mr Sonam Wangdi Bhutia Additional SP Gyalshing, ADC Gyalshing, SDM (Hq) Gyalshing, SDM Gyalshing, Heads of Offices and officials assembled at the DAC premises to sing the National Song.

DC Gyalshing termed the commemoration a significant milestone for the independent India. It is that on January 24, 1950, Dr Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly, declared 'Vande Mataram' the National Song of India, having played a historic role in the freedom struggle, he added.

He also mentioned that Bankimchandra Chatterji wrote 'Vande Mataram' during the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Navami, which was on November 7, 1875. Vande Mataram first appeared in his literary journal 'Bangadarshan' as part of Chatterji's novel 'Anandamath' in a serialised manner and later as a standalone book in 1882. During that period, India was undergoing major social, cultural and political changes and there was a growing consciousness of national identity and resistance to colonial rule.

DC Namchi chairs DTFI meeting

Namchi, November 6: Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi chaired the quarterly DTFI meeting with the Committee Members at DAC, today.

During the meeting, the DC was briefed about the performance of the District till the 2nd quarter 2025-26, where it was highlighted that district has achieved around 50 % at par with annual target in child immunisation. It was also highlighted that till 2nd quarter District has recorded zero maternal death and 99.2 % institutional delivery underscoring the quality of the medical services in the district.

Further, the Committee was also briefed on the PC-PNDT report, where it was mentioned that a total of 6 ultrasound clinics- 1 Government clinic at District Hospital Namchi and 5 private clinic are operational within the District. She was also briefed on the recommendations of the State Advisory Committee, which are as follows:

- Discontinuation of Existing inter- State practitioners (Ultrasound Users).
- Restriction on the Registration of inter- State Users.
- Regular monitoring visits to clinics by District Monitoring

Team. Strict compliance must be ensured and violation must be acted upon promptly by DAA.

Further, a NQAS report of the District was also presented to the DC where it was stated that various HWC PHCs and HWC SHCs have been certified under NQAS certification and various other institutes are under the targeted certification process. Additionally, four HWC-SHC certified NQAS under Aspirational Block.

Prior to the meeting, the DC assessed about the present workforce strength and infrastructural capacities of the newly constructed District Hospital Namchi and also lauded the team for the smooth functioning of the hospital and advised them to further provide quality service to the public. She also advised all the members to provide correct data assessment of the reports and further adhere to the responsibilities towards their work.

The meeting also had the presence of Dr SN Adhikari CMO (Namchi), Dr BK Chauhan DRCHO Namchi, Mr Laxman Tamang CDPO (Namchi), CNO, Paediatrician (DHN), US (DHN), AD (Education) and other officers.

Office of the Sr. Dy. Accountant General (A&E) Sikkim
Lekhapariksha Bhawan, Deorali, Tadong, Gangtok-737102

No.PAO/Press Notification/25-26/116

Date:13/10/2025

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified that during the month ending 30.09.2025 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 LekhaPrakshaBhawan, 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 despatc to State Government
1	Nagaland	No. Pen/NL-DR/2023-25/227 Date: 15.05.2025	Enhancement of Dearness Relief to the Nagaland State Government pensioners 's and family Pensioners' w.e.f 01.01.2025.	01.01.2025	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/57 Date: 03.07.2025
2	Manipur	No Pen-1/MAN-DA/DR 2024/76-112 Date: 02.05.2025	Payment of Dearness Relief to the Maipur government Pensioner/Family Pensiners.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/57 Date:03.07.2025
3	Chhattisgarh.	No. PA/Chhattisgarh relief order/181 date:30.06.2025	Revised rate of Dearness Relief of Chhattisgarh government pensioners.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/79 Date:31.07.2025
4	Andhra Pradesh.	No. PAG(A&E)/AP/OGP/2025-26/167 844/894 Date: 19.06.2025.	Recovery in Compliance with Court orders-Resumption and recoupment of CVP amounts-Recovery-Instruction-Issued-Reg.	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/79 Date:31.07.2025
5	GUJARAT	No. Pension/G.R./Special Seal/Guj./D Date: 30.06.2025	1. Grant of Temporary Increase (Dearness Relief) to State Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners @ 55% of the basic pay with effect from dated:01.01.2025(&7 th pay Commission) 2. Grant of Temporary Increase (Dearness Relief) to State Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners @252% with effect dated: 01.01.2025 Revision of Pay Rule, 2009,6 th pay commission)	01.01.2025	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/79 Date:31.07.2025
6	Directorate of Accounts, Goa	DA/PA-I/Pens. (5)/25-26/DR619/TR-318 Date: 11.07.2025	Grant of Dearness Relief to goa State Freedom Fighter Pensioners of Government of Goa -Revised rate effective from 01.01.2025 @ 55% from 53%.	01.01.2025	Date: 19.08.2025-26/79 Date:31.07.2025
7	Bihar	Letter No.PEN-III/Jharkhand/DR/2018-19/3491 Date: 03/01/2018.	Enhancement of Dearness Relief of State Government pensioners/ Family Pensioners w.e.f 01.01.2025.	01.01.2025	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/89 Date: 19.08.2025
8	Tripura	No. PM/G3/2018-19/SS 14688/344 Date: 20.02.2019.	Grant of total quantum of Dearness Relief @33% w.e.f. 01.04.2025 over the basic pensioner/basic family pension to the Tripura Government pensioners/Family pensioners.	01.04.2025	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/89 Date: 19.08.2025
9	J&K, Srinagar.	No.P19/II/DRSSA-186/JUDICIAL/2018-19/3466. Date:07.02.2019.	Payment of Dearness Relief to Pensioners/Family Pensioners on revised rate w.e.f 01.01.2025.	01.01.2025	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/89 Date: 19.08.2025
10.	Chandigarh	No. Pen-12 Imp. Order/24-25/33644-678 date: 29.07.2025	Retirement benefits, revision of pension/family pension in r/o judicial officers as per order dated: 19.05.2023 of Hon'ble Supreme court of India in Writ Petition (CIVIL) No. 643 of 2023 titled as "All India Judges Association Vs Union of Inda and Others."	As per order	PAO/PO/Diff.States/2025-26/89 Date: 19.08.2025

Pay Account Officer
O/o the Sr. Dy. A.G. (A&E)
Sikkim, Gangtok
(170)

Government of Sikkim
Department of AYUSH, Gangtok Sikkim

NIT No. 163 /NIT/2025-26

Dated: 3/11/25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Ayush Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok District, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tender in two cover system on Item Rate Basis from the eligible class of contractors of appropriate class/Area within Sikkim State for the work listed as under:-

(Amount in ₹)

SI No	Name of work	Value put to tender Exclusive of taxes	Completion Time, (in months)	Earnest Money in form of TDR/FDR @2.50%	Bank Receipt/Challan for cost of tender documents (₹)
1	Construction of 30 Bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital, near Wellness Park, Gangtok District, Sikkim	16,98,24,486.00	24 months	42,45,612.00	3,00,000.00

The date and time of submission of completed bid documents are as under:-

i) Publishing of e-tender bid: 05/11/2025

ii) Online bid submission start date: 06/11/2025

iii) Pre-Bid Meeting date: 07/11/2025

iv) Bid submission closing date: 05/12/2025

v) Bid opening date: 06/12/2025 (after 2pm)

vi) Submission of hard copies of challan/ TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents: 06/12/2025 (10am to 2pm)

Tender documents and other details may be downloaded from the Sikkim Government E-portal www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Sikkim Government E-portal www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

2. The above Tender Value is exclusive of GST &CESS and same is payable to the Contractor as applicable on the date of Tender.

3. The following document in hard copies must be submitted on 06/12/2025 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

I. Earnest Money in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt/Fixed Deposit Receipt in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer/ Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok.

II. Cost of Tender document in the form of Bank Receipt or Challan

III. Validated/Certified copy of the Enlistment Certificate from SPWD of the appropriate Class.

IV. If the hard copies of above documents are not received within the specified time as indicated above, the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered as non-responsive and shall not be evaluated.

4. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

5. Uploading of tender documents in e-portal is mandatory.

Submission of hard copies only will not be considered as a valid bid and shall summarily be rejected.

Chief Engineer (Civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
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Finale of...

describing it as a commendable initiative to promote health, fitness, and youth engagement through sports. He assured that the State Government is fully committed to supporting activities that empower and uplift the youth of Sikkim. He reiterated that the State Government continues to prioritise development in key sectors such as sports, health, education, and social welfare to build a stronger and more inclusive Sikkim.

During his address, he also announced that the Chakung Run Sikkim would be upgraded to an international-level event in the coming years. He stated that the event will be organised as part of the Lt LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup and monitored by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs ensuring its professional execution and global recognition. Highlighting the ongoing development projects in Soreng District, he mentioned several key initiatives, including the establishment of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose University of Excellence, renovation of the historic Chakung Dak Bungalow, development of Guru Gyandil Das Dham at Gelling, and upcoming LD Kazi Memorial Adventure and Cultural Centre. He stated that these projects reflect the State Government’s vision of promoting education, culture and tourism in the region while creating opportunities for local communities.

He also announced that the State Government will provide an educational fund for the winners

of Sikkim Idol in the junior category, as part of its ongoing efforts to encourage young talent and promote the arts among the youth. He reaffirmed the Government’s steadfast focus on women empowerment and inclusive development. He stated that empowering women socially, economically, and politically remains one of the state’s top priorities. Furthermore, he urged the people of Soreng District to focus on establishing and enhancing homestay facilities, as the region is witnessing rapid progress in several infrastructure development projects, many of which are nearing completion. He remarked that once these projects are operational, Soreng is expected to experience a significant rise in tourist inflow. To ensure that visitors have a comfortable and authentic local experience, he encouraged individuals and families to prepare their homes to accommodate tourists, thereby contributing to sustainable and community-based tourism.

He encouraged the people of Sikkim to continue working together in harmony for the progress and prosperity of the State, emphasising that collective effort and community spirit are the true strengths of Sikkim.

Mr Aditya Golay MLA Soreng-Chakung Constituency proposed that a state-level marathon be institutionalised as an annual calendar event, highlighting that such initiatives not only encourage physical fitness and community participation but also serve as a platform to showcase the district’s scenic beauty and vibrant culture to visitors from across the State

and beyond.

As a token of appreciation, the Organising Committee of the 18th Lt LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup, Family of Lt LD Kazi and CRWA Raigoan presented souvenirs to the chief guest and guest of honour.

Following the conclusion of the Half Marathon, the chief guest presented the prizes to the winners across various categories. Awards were distributed for the 21-kilometre, 10-kilometre, and 5-kilometre races, with separate divisions for both men’s and women’s participants. The event saw enthusiastic participation from runners of diverse age groups, reflecting the growing interest in fitness and sports among the youth of Sikkim.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to society, Letters of Appreciation were presented to Mr Premius Bhutia, social activist and Ms Phurba Tamang. The final match of 18th Lt LD Kazi Memorial Gold Cup Football Tournament, 2025 were played between Singling SC (Soreng) vs Yangthang United (Gyalshing) where the former emerged victorious with two goals.

The event also had a presence Mr MN Sherpa Speaker SLA, Mrs Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Political Secretary to CM, Advisors, Chairpersons, Former MLAs, Zilla Adhyaksha, Upadhyaksha, Deputy Mayor (GMC), Councillors, Panchayat President and Members, Vice President (ITS), DC Soreng, SP Soreng, APSs, OSDs, Officers, HoDs, Ex-Servicemen and Family members of Lt LD Kazi.

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Platinum Jubilee...

highlighted the transformative strides made in the education sector, stating that the State Government has given top priority to education, detailing several major infrastructure developments across the State. He shared his vision that each and every constituency will soon have one university, which will lead towards the overall development. He mentioned the formation of an Indigenous Language Board, which will work towards the preservation and promotion of local languages. In addition, he informed about the Government’s efforts to revive cardamom farming with the involvement of the Department of Science and Technology.

Speaking about women’s welfare, he elaborated on the ‘Aama Yojana’ also highlighting other initiatives aimed at empowering women. He also announced that the ‘Bahini Yojana’ will soon be implemented in colleges as well.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister mentioned several flagship schemes, such as the CM Model School, CM Merit Scholarship, Lakshya Centre of Excellence, assuring that the State Government will continue to support and assist deserving students. He also spoke about the

new education policies in education sector focused on the welfare and professional development of teachers.

Speaking about the health sector, the Chief Minister mentioned that the Government has equipped all District and State hospitals with best medical facilities, urging everyone to avail treatment within the State.

In addition, he announced that starting April 2026, girls aged 14 years will receive the cervical cancer vaccine free of cost, and vaccines will be available in all Government hospitals. Also, the government will provide self-testing kits for women aged 30-65 years.

The Chief Minister further highlighted new and recent initiative ‘Pink City Runner’ and will be renamed as ‘Aama, Didi, Bahini, Bus Seva’, a women-centric transportation service offering 50% fare concessions. He mentioned that these buses will have women drivers, conductors, and passengers only, reflecting the state’s commitment to women empowerment and safety.

Further, the Chief Minister responded to the demands raised by the MLA, with an assurance from the State Government that they would be addressed.

While concluding his address, the Chief Minister informed the gathering about the ‘Connect to CM’ initiative, assuring that public grievances will be addressed promptly and

transparently through proper verification by the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO).

In his address, Mr MN Sherpa Speaker-cum-Area MLA Daramdin Constituency outlined several key proposals aimed at the holistic development of the constituency. Among the major proposals, he suggested the conversion of Rodhi Bazar into a college to enhance educational opportunities in the region. He emphasised the need for a Veterinary Centre at Bariakhop, highlighting that the area is known for its significant cattle production. Speaker-cum-MLA further proposed the extension of the Panchayat Ghar to include a meeting hall, allowing it to accommodate more people.

Additionally, he called for improvements to approach roads leading to monasteries. He also mentioned the potential for establishing agriculture or horticulture farms within the constituency. Also, he underscored the importance of expanding the school infrastructure including the addition of a library and a greenhouse.

During the programme, the Chief Minister was presented with a token of love by the organising committee. Also, a special felicitation ceremony was conducted where the school recognised the contributions of its former principal, retired teacher and students by presenting them with

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Chief Minister...

Mr Harsh Sanghavi for their leadership in hosting the event at the Statue of Unity. The Chief Minister further acknowledged the Government of India’s commitment to honouring the great personalities who have shaped the nation’s identity, including Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, Maharshi Aurobindo, and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

Evening of Bharat Parv 2025 came alive with spectacular performances from Rajasthan’s Maand and Kerala’s Kathakali to Assam’s Bihu, Punjab’s Bhangra, and Sikkim’s traditional Singhi, Yak, and Maruni dances symbolising the harmonious confluence of India’s diverse traditions.

Special attractions such as the ‘Bharat Darshan’ Pavilion, thematic food and craft stalls, and a dedicated presentation on Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti added grandeur and depth to the festival. The serene surroundings of Ekta Nagar, featuring the Jungle Safari, Cactus Garden, Butterfly Garden, Arogya Van, Children’s Nutrition Park, and Vishwa Van further reflected the seamless blend of nature, culture, and development.

He also paid glowing tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, reaffirming the collective resolve to uphold the ideals of unity,

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State-level...

Prasad, he noted that despite historical debates, the song has remained a steadfast source of inspiration. He also paid tribute to Sikkim’s freedom fighters Late Trilochan Pokhrel and Late Helen Lepcha, acknowledging their contributions to India’s struggle for freedom. He appealed to schools to include the singing of Vande Mataram in morning assemblies to instill patriotism in students. The Governor concluded his address by leading the gathering in a pledge to uphold unity, strive for excellence and contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Mr GT Dhungel Minister for Culture Department said that Vande Mataram was a movement that awakened the spirit of the nation. He noted that the song’s later stanzas, which express compassion and devotion, also deserve recognition and that the 150th anniversary is a tribute to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay’s visionary work.

letters of appreciation.

The much-anticipated final of the Men’s Open Football Tournament was held, wherein Singling Sporting Club clinched victory in a penalty shootout against Red Panda FC.

At the outset, Mrs Binita Basnett Principal Government Senior Secondary School, Bariakhop shared an overview of the school, highlighting its establishment and the valuable contributions of several individuals. She also mentioned about the school’s notable

integrity, and brotherhood. He emphasised the need to build India where ‘every culture is respected, every community contributes, and every citizen lives with dignity and pride’.

The Chief Minister extended heartfelt appreciation to the Organising Committee, participating states, artistes, artisans, and the Ministry of Tourism team for their dedication in making Bharat Parv 2025 a resounding success. He also conveyed special thanks to Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Mr Vishnu Deo Sai, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Mr Vinai Kumar Saxena, Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Mr Arun Sao Ji, Minister for Tourism, Art & Culture, Delhi Mr Kapil Mishra and Minister for Tribal Development, Primary, Secondary and Adult Education of Gujarat Ms Rivaba Jadeja for their presence that enriched the national celebration.

Concluding his message, he expressed deep admiration for the land of Gujarat, the sacred soil of Lord Shri Krishna, the karma-bhoomi of Mahatma Gandhi and the veera-bhoomi of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, describing it as a source of divine energy and inspiration for all Indians. He remarked, “It is indeed a matter of great fortune to witness this sacred land and be part of such a historic celebration that embodies the timeless spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”.

The programme featured a mass rendition of Vande Mataram by students of Modern Senior Secondary School and artistes of the Culture Department, followed by a patriotic song by students of West Point Senior Secondary School. Dance performances were presented by artistes of the Culture Department and Tapashree Dance Academy.

A talk on the historical and cultural significance of Vande Mataram was delivered by Dr Rajen Upadhyaya, Assistant Professor (History), Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Tadong.

During the initial segment of the programme, the Information and Public Relations Department (IPR) presented a photography exhibition highlighting the brief history of the National Song, ‘Vande Mataram: Clarion Call for India’s Freedom Struggle’.

The event was attended by Deputy Speaker SLA Ms Raj Kumari Thapa, Cabinet Ministers; MP (Lok Sabha), senior government officials; dignitaries; teachers and students from various schools and officers and staff of the Government of Sikkim.

academic achievements and its commitment to maintaining academic integrity.

Also present during the event were Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department, MLAs, Political Secretary to Chief Minister, Vice Chairman Institute for Transforming Sikkim (ITS), Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyaksha, Up-Adhyaksha, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, Secretaries, DC (Soreng), SP (Soreng) and others.

Government of Sikkim
Social Welfare Department
Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Tadong, Lumsey

NIT NO:- 26/GOS/SWD/EC/2025-26

Dated: 03/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Assistant Engineer (Mangan-I), Social Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Lumsey, Tadong, Gangtok District, Sikkim on behalf of Governor of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders in percentage Rate basis from the eligible contractors of appropriate class Vide Notification No. 21/RSB/PWD/Secy/2023-24. Dated 18.10.2023 and Notification No. 35/SECY dated 19/09/2024 for the works listed below:

SL. No	Name of Work	Value put to Tender (in)	Completion Time, (in months)	Amount of Earnest Money @2.5% For issue of tender form (₹)	Amount of Bank receipt for cost of tender document (₹)	Constituency/GPU/ Ward
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Toilet at Manul Secondary School in Mangan District.	₹12,35,939.00	12 months	₹30,898.00	₹1,000.00	14 Toong Naga GPU, Lachen-Mangan Constituency

Time Schedule is as follows:-

1. Date for submission of application with Bank Receipt

-4th November 2025-10th Oct 2025(10am-4:30pm) (within office working hours)

2. Last date for issue of tender form.

-14th November 2025 (within office working hours)

3. Date and Time for submission of Tender.

-15th November 2025 (10.00 hrs. to 13:00 hrs.)

4. Date and Time of opening of Tender

-15th November 2025 (14:00hrs onwards).

5. Place of Tender

-14 Toong-Naga GPU, Lacher-Mangan Constituency

Note: The details of tender documents including tender form can be obtained from the office of the Assistant Engineer-(Mangan-I) SWD on production of receipt of deposit made to 14 Toong-Naga GPU, Lachen-Mangan Constituency.

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer (Mangan-I)

Social Welfare Department

(168, A)

Government of Sikkim
Social Welfare Department
Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Tadong, Lumsey

NIT NO:- 25/GOS/SWD/EC/2025-26

Dated: 03/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Assistant Engineer (Mangan-I), Social Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Lumsey, Tadong, Gangtok District, Sikkim on behalf of Governor of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders in percentage Rate basis from the eligible contractors of appropriate class Vide Notification No. 21/R&B/PWD/Secy/2023-24 Dated 18.10.2023 and Notification No. 35/SECY dated: 19/09/2024 for the works listed below:

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Toilet at Ringhim Secondary School in Mangan District.	₹12,35,065.00	12 months	₹30,877.00	₹1,000.00	Ringhim-Nampatam GPU, Lachen-Mangan Constituency

Time Schedule is as follows:-

1. Date for submission of application with Bank Receipt

-4th November 2025-10th Oct 2025(10am-4:30pm) (within office working hours)

2. Last date for issue of tender form

-14th November 2025 (within office working hours)

3. Date and Time for submission of Tender

-17th November 2025 (10.00 hrs. to 13:00 hrs.).

4. Date and Time of opening of Tender

-17th November 2025 (14:00hrs onwards).

5. Place of Tender

-Ringhim-Nampatam GPU, Lachen-Mangan Constituency.

Note: The details of tender documents including tender form can be obtained from the office of the Assistant Engineer-(Mangan-I) SWD on production of receipt of deposit made to Ringhim-Nampatam GPU, Lachen-Mangan Constituency.

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer (Mangan-I)

Social Welfare Department

(168,B)

BEFORE THE OATH COMMISSIONER OF SIKKIM AT GANGTOK

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Langdhen Lepcha**, aged about 20 years, son of Late Naku Lepcha, Buddhist by faith, resident of Tumin, Namrang under P.O. Tumin & P.S. Singtam, District - Singtam, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows: -

1.That I am natural and Legal Son of Late Naku Lepcha and grandson of Late Jingku Lepcha @ Chingku Lepcha @ Angrup Lepcha and bonafide resident of above-mentioned address.

2. That my grandfather" name "Jingku Lepcha" which has been recorded in his Old Sikkim Subject bearing Register Vide Sl. No. 360, Volume No. I under Block Tumin issued by the Secretary Land Revenue Department Government of Sikkim.

3.That in the Office Record Register of Old Sikkim Subject in the office of District Administrative Centre, Sichey, Gangtok, Sikkim wherein my grandfather's name has been recorded as "Chingku Lepcha"

4. That in the Landed Parcha of my grandfather bearing Khatiyen No. 120 under Block Tumin, Elakha Samdong, Revenue Circle Gangtok issued by Land Revenue Department Government of Sikkim Government of Sikkim his name has been recorded as "Angrup Lepcha".

5. That hence this affidavit is made bonafide and to declare that the person by all names i.e."Jingku Lepcha", "Chingku Lepcha" and "Angrup Lepcha" denotes and refer to the one and the same person i.e. my grandfather (since deceased).

VERIFICATION

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

Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 6" day of November, 2025.

Identified by

Phurkit Lepcha

Tumin Sikkim

Deponent

Langdhen Lepcha

Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok

No.(378-II)/IPR/09-10/341

Date: 12.02.2010

CIRCULAR

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

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

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

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

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

This issues with the approval of the Government.

Sd/-

Secretary

3rd Creative Economy Forum: Shaping Creative Bharat through Policy, Innovation and Cultural Enterprise

New Delhi, November 7: Sikkim marked a strong presence at the third edition of the Creative Economy Forum (CEF Season 3), which was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, today.

The Creative Economy Forum serves as a confluence of leading voices from India's creative industries, policymakers, innovators, and global thought leaders, who come together to deliberate on the future of the country's Orange Economy, also known as the Creative Economy.

The Sikkim delegation, comprising Mr Sanjay Dinpali Rai, Chairman, Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Development Board; Ms Annapurna Alley, Secretary, Information and Public Relations Department; Mr Yougan Tamang, Press Secretary to Chief Minister, Mr Bishal Khawas Additional Director, Information and Public Relations Department and other department officials, is undertaking an intensive two-day schedule of B2B meetings aimed at building institutional and industry linkages within the national creative economy ecosystem. These engagements aim to advance Sikkim's strategic priorities in creative development, animation and digital heritage, design entrepreneurship, and the growth of cultural enterprises.

The agenda includes targeted sessions with key

representatives from Government, industry, media, and investment sectors, focusing on critical areas such as securing venture funding for establishing national media partnerships for Sikkim's creative narrative, developing policy frameworks for animation and archive digitisation, outlining residency MoUs with global cultural institutions, and strengthening creative monetisation pathways.

It may be highlighted that Sikkim had two participants in the panel discussions of the Creative Economy Forum. Mr Rohan Agawane DC Pakyong, presented the Digital Nomad Village Model developed under the Nomad Sikkim initiative at Yaktan, Pakyong India's first Digital Nomad Village. Similarly, Mr Dewakar Basnet Founder and CEO of 24 Hrs Inspired, gave a presentation titled Creative Sikkim: Building Enterprises from the Himalayas, focusing on the animation and manga sectors. He expressed optimism for Sikkim to emerge as the animation capital of India.

As part of these engagements, the team also held meetings with key industry leaders, including Mr Harman Baweja of Baweja Studios and Mr Sanjay Nigam, founder of Fashion Entrepreneur Fund, during which they conveyed and advocated the vision of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang to foster creativity, promote innovation and attract

investment into Sikkim's growing creative economy.

Building on the momentum generated at the forum, the Department will formally initiate proposals to position Sikkim as a potential host state for a future edition of the Creative Economy Forum. The proposal explores two models merging the forum with the iconic Maghey Mela, or hosting a standalone CEF Sikkim Edition both designed to establish Sikkim as a leading hub for culture commerce convergence and creativity led economic growth.

For Sikkim, such engagements hold significant value as the State continues to develop its creative infrastructure and explore new frontiers within its cultural and innovation landscape. These interactions also aim to establish a replicable model for creative economy development across other Himalayan states.

Reflecting the growing recognition of cultural and creative industries as key contributors to the vision of Viksit Bharat, the Creative Economy Forum is structured around three central pillars Policy, Business, and Creativity. The two-day forum seeks to position India's rapidly digitalising creative industries as a major driver of national economic growth, in line with the country's aspiration to evolve into a Creative Superpower by 2047.

Press Release from SICUN

New Delhi, November 6: Dr Mangal Jit Rai, Chairman Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN) and Chief Coordinator of the North East States Cooperative Unions' Forum (NESCUF) called upon Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Mr Amit Shah in Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi on November 5.

During the meeting, Dr Mangal Jit Rai apprised the Union Minister about the ongoing progress and notable achievements of the cooperative movement in Sikkim under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang whose guidance has played a vital role in strengthening cooperative education, entrepreneurship and institutional capacity building across the State. He also highlighted the involvement and continued support of Mr Arun Upreti Minister for Rural Development and Cooperation and Ms Jabi Thapa Secretary-cum-PRCS in advancing the cooperative movement in Sikkim.

He further emphasised how the vision of Prime Minister and Union Home Minister's 'Sahakar Se Samridhhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) has been effectively implemented in Sikkim through community based and inclusive cooperative development models that foster self-reliance and sustainable growth at grassroot level.

Referring to recent

developments, Chairman briefed the Union Minister on the successful conduct of the 1st North East States Cooperative Unions' Forum (NESCUF) held recently in Sikkim. The forum brought together cooperative leaders and representatives from all eight North Eastern states Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim on a common platform to deliberate on cooperative development, policy coordination and inter-state collaboration.

He also presented a detailed report on the NESCUF proceedings, outlining the forum's key resolutions aimed at strengthening regional cooperation through shared training, resource pooling and joint initiatives in cooperative education, governance and marketing. Furthermore, he submitted a formal proposal for the establishment of a North East Cooperative Excellence Training Centre (NECTC) in Sikkim. He explained that the proposed NECTC would function as a Centre of Excellence dedicated to cooperative leadership development, digital governance, value addition, financial management and entrepreneurship training for the North-Eastern region. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed Centre was also presented, highlighting its alignment with the Ministry of Cooperation's vision and Viksit

Bharat @2047 national development agenda.

He also extended an official invitation to Union Minister to attend the upcoming Rashtriya Sahkari Sammelan and Maila Samvad as the chief guest. The national event, organised by SICUN with financial support from the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India in collaboration with the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) is scheduled to be held in the second week of December 2025 in Gangtok. The final date will be confirmed by the Minister's office in due course.

The Union Minister accepted the invitation and expressed his keen interest in attending the forthcoming National Cooperative Event. Commending the progress of the cooperative sector in the region, he praised Dr Mangal Jit Rai and his team for their unwavering dedication and visionary leadership in strengthening and revitalising the cooperative movement in Sikkim and the North Eastern region. He also lauded the efforts of the Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN) and the North East States Cooperative Unions' Forum (NESCUF) for their proactive initiatives in aligning regional cooperative activities with the National Cooperative Development agenda envisioned by the Ministry of Cooperation.

Coordination meeting for upcoming Mock Drill for disaster preparedness

Soreng, November 12: A coordination meeting regarding the upcoming mock drill on disaster preparedness was held at District Administrative Centre, Soreng, today.

The meeting was chaired by DC Soreng Mr Dhiraj Subedi and had the presence of Panchayats, SP Soreng, ADC-I Soreng, ADC (Dev), Additional SP Soreng, SDMs, HoDs, HoOs, officers and officials, representatives from SSB, IRBn (Pipalay) and NHPC (Sikkim).

ADC Soreng Mr DR Bista provided an overview of the upcoming mock drill scheduled for November 17, informing that this time, the exercise will feature two scenarios, one in the morning and another in the evening.

The meeting finalised ten different locations across the district to simulate earthquake triggered incidents of 6.4

magnitude richter scale.

During the meeting, the DC urged all departments to actively participate and extend full cooperation to ensure success of the exercise. He emphasised on maintaining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enhance coordination and overall efficiency during the exercise. The DC further instructed to ensure effective communication at every level, outlining the specific duties and responsibilities of officials from various departments.

The meeting further deliberated on the roles and responsibilities of Incident Response Team (IRT) and site incident commanders in detail and comprehensive arrangements, including, logistics and resources mobilisation and inter-departmental coordination.

Sikkim participates in CEF

New Delhi, November 8: Sikkim participated in the Creative Economy Forum (CEF) held in Delhi, which concluded with a renewed focus on innovation and collaboration to bolster the State's Orange Sector in line with the national aspiration.

On the forum's opening day, the Sikkim delegation comprising Mr Sanjay Dinpali Rai Chairman Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Development Board, Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary Information and Public Relations Department; Mr Yougan Tamang, Press Secretary to Chief Minister, Mr Bishal Khawas Additional Director Information and Public Relations Department and other officials engaged in a series of strategic Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings.

Their discussions with prominent figures, including Telugu Film Director and Cinematographer Mr Jasti Dharma Teja, Mr Gautam Thakkar CFO and

Founder of Every Media Technology and Mr Abhishek Kumar, Manager at the Management and Entrepreneurship and Professional Skill Council, provided a platform for meaningful dialogue. These exchanges were pivotal in exploring potential collaborations and gathering insights to build a more inclusive and resilient creative economy in Sikkim.

The deliberations powerfully underscored the necessity of an integrated ecosystem that nurtures artisans and local enterprises while bridging the gap between government initiatives and creative industries. The participants collectively affirmed their commitment to fostering policies and partnerships that will empower Sikkim's creative community and contribute to the broader national vision of a vibrant Orange Economy.

Press Release from UDD

New Delhi, November 9: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, organised the National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi on the theme 'Sustainable Urban Development and Governance' on November 7 and 8, 2025.

The Sikkim delegation was led by Mr Bhoj Raj Rai, Minister for Urban Development Department. The Conclave brought together Ministers, senior officials, and experts from across the country to deliberate on innovative approaches for sustainable urban growth, inclusive governance, and resilient infrastructure. Also present were Mr Jitendra Singh Raje, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Urban Development Department and officers from the Department.

Minister Mr Bhoj Raj Rai chaired two significant breakout sessions: Urban Livelihoods, focusing on strengthening employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in urban areas, and Circular Economy, emphasising sustainable waste management

and resource efficiency.

He informed about the various initiatives taken by the State Government for the urban poor. He also spoke about the efforts made by the urban local bodies in managing the municipal waste in Sikkim.

The sessions witnessed discussions on models for promoting local livelihoods, capacity building of urban local bodies and strategies for transitioning towards circular, low-waste urban systems. The participation of the Sikkim team reflected the State's commitment towards advancing sustainable and inclusive urban development.

During the Conclave, the Ministry also announced the creation of Hill and Himalayan Cities Funds in view of the challenges faced by the region in waste management, particularly in the urban sector. The Conclave concluded with a shared vision to further strengthen collaboration between the Centre and States for achieving sustainable, resilient, and citizen-centric urban growth across India.

Cultural programme under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada celebrations

Namchi, November 11: As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada celebrations commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a three-day cultural programme was conducted at Gangchung, Rukum Taar under the Temi-Namphing Constituency, today.

The community based tourism programme, which commenced on November 9 was organised as part of 15-day Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada celebration that began on November 1 and will continue till November 15, 2025.

The aim of the programme was to highlight the vibrant tribal heritage and culture, while also promoting the spirit of patriotism and unity. The event was organised by Social Welfare Department in collaboration with Tourism and Civil Aviation Department under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

Mr BS Pant Area MLA, Temi-Namphing Constituency, attended the programme along with Chairman Science and Technology Department, Chairman Tourism

and Civil Aviation Department, Chairperson Water Resources Department, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare Department, CDPO Namchi, WO Social Welfare Department, Namchi along with officials from SHGs, Anganwadi Workers, participant delegates from Nepal and other parts of India and public.

Area MLA highlighted the pivotal role of tribal leaders in shaping the social and cultural fabric of the nation. He recalled invaluable contributions of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and emphasised the need to uphold the ideals of unity, resilience, and cultural identity exemplified by him. He also emphasised the vast potential of tourism sector in villages like Gangchung, which possess immense prospects for the promotion of community-based tourism. He encouraged the youth to actively participate in tourism-related activities and develop homestays to attract visitors, assuring that the government would extend full support to such initiatives.

Ms Bandana Chettri Additional Secretary informed that

the year-long Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada began on November 15, 2024, and will continue till November 15, 2025. She stated that the celebration aims to honour Bhagwan Birsa Munda for his role in promoting tribal unity and resistance against colonial rule and to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of tribal communities across the country.

At the outset, the chief guest also visited traditional stalls set up by tribal communities and local artisans and craftsman to showcase their arts, crafts, handicrafts and cuisine. The event also featured traditional dance and music performances by various local tribal groups, winners of video making were also felicitated on the occasion.

Additionally, a health camp was organised by Social Welfare Department in collaboration with Namchi District Hospital to provide free medical check-ups and health consultations for the locals as part of the community outreach initiative, ensuring their well-being on the occasion of Jan Jatiya Varsh Pakhwada.

Sikkim State Basketball Open Tournament 2025 concludes

Gangtok, November 11: Sikkim State Basketball Open Tournament 2025, organised by the Basketball Association of Sikkim concluded at Paljor Stadium, today.

In the final matches of the tournament, EMRS Gangyap (Girls), TNA (Boys), Mavericks (Women's Open) and Times Club Nepal (Men's Open) emerged as the champions.

Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Department attended the finals as the chief guest accompanied by Mr Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha, Additional Political Secretary (Gangtok District) as the guest of honour.

Also present were Mr Tenzing Dorjee Bhutia, Chief

Patron of Basketball Association of Sikkim-cum-Chairman SIMFED and Mr Sonam Chopel, Chairman Student Welfare Board.

Mr Jigmela Wazilingpa General Secretary BAS, acknowledged the commitment and teamwork of all involved in making the tournament a successful sporting showcase.

Following the matches, a grand award ceremony was held to celebrate the champions and outstanding performers. The winners in various categories were; inter-school Girls: EMRS Gangyap, inter-school Boys: Tashi Namgyal Academy (TNA), Women's Open: Mavericks and Men's Open: Times Club Nepal.

It may be noted that the

Most Valuable Player (MVP) cash awards of '8,000/- each were sponsored by Mr Tashi Norbu Tobden and family, in honour of the Late Yap Wangyal Tobden.

This year also marked the introduction of a new category, the Most Disciplined Team Award, aimed in promoting fair play and sportsmanship. The winning team under this category will receive a refund of their registration fee, serving as an encouragement to foster respect, teamwork and positive conduct among the participating teams.

In the Women's and Men's Open category, the Runners-up and Champions were awarded with cash prizes.

Capacity-building programme concludes

Namchi, November 7: Three-day capacity-building programme titled 'Smart Proposals, Smart Governance' concluded at DAC Namchi, today.

Held from November 5 to 7, the training aimed to equip Government officials with practical knowledge of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to enhance the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and to promote technology-driven governance across departments.

The initiative was conducted under the direction of Dr Sandeep Tambe, Principal Secretary, Department of Science and Technology. It was jointly organised by District Administrative Centre, Namchi, and the Sikkim State Council of

Science and Technology, operating under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Over the course of three days, three batches of sessions were organised, benefitting more than 120 officials representing various departments across Namchi District. The sessions emphasised hands-on experience with advanced AI platforms aimed at streamlining project formulation, data management and report preparation.

Participants were introduced to a range of AI-based tools, including ChatGPT, Gamma, Napkin AI, Google NotebookLM, Canva AI, Mistral AI and Suno AI. These platforms were demonstrated for their capabilities in generating project

concepts, drafting DPRs, creating visual and multimedia content and fostering innovative administrative practices.

The valedictory ceremony was attended by Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi and Mr Nim Pintso Bhutia Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Hq). Certificates of participation were presented to all attendees, recognising their successful completion of the training programme.

The resource team for the programme were Dr Prativa Rai (Master Resource Person), Mr Nabeen Sharma (Team Coordinator), Mr Kishore Sharma (Technical Resource Person), Ms Ninaj Sharma and Mr Ujjal Gautam (Supporting Resource Personnel).

Inaugural session of SUN TALKS PAILA

Gangtok, November 6: Inaugural session of SUN TALKS PAILA (Programme for Aspiring Innovators and Local Achievers), a collaborative initiative of the District Administrative Centre Gangtok and CSR Department of Sun Pharma was held at the Conference Hall of Tourism Department, today.

The programme, implemented by Stats of Hope, aims to nurture young entrepreneurs and innovators in the region.

Mr Tushar Nikhare DC Gangtok attended the event along with Mr Abhijeet Patil SDM Gangtok, Mr Anand Singh Sun Pharma Head, Mr Wasif Ali CSR Head, entrepreneurs, participants and students from various institutions.

DC said that the role of the District Administration is to serve as a facilitator, connecting young aspirants with experienced achievers. He stated that the programme focuses on building an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurial development. To ensure wider participation, he informed that forthcoming sessions will be conducted on weekends so that students from outside Gangtok can also attend.

He highlighted that while Government jobs offer stability, entrepreneurship drives long-term community growth. He noted that local entrepreneurs from Sikkim are currently participating in a national workshop in Delhi and further shared that DC Pakyong will be invited to future sessions to speak on the Digital Nomad initiative. He assured that the Administration and designated officials will continue to support participants through guidance in preparing detailed project reports and

through linkages with relevant skill development training programmes.

Sun Pharma Head expressed gratitude to the State Government and the District Administration for fostering platforms, such as SUN TALKS and SCOPE. He explained that SUN TALKS - 'Speaking to the Society' focuses on addressing local needs through local solutions. He highlighted Sun Pharma's ongoing CSR efforts in healthcare, education, climate change and sustainable livelihoods, including AI based eye screening services through the Mobile Medical Unit initiative. He also informed that a national cancer care and screening programme will soon be launched.

CSR Head remarked that their contributions were modest in comparison to the broader developmental needs but stressed the importance of collective and sustained effort. He acknowledged the support of Sun Pharma Plant Head and also recognised the contributions of other pharmaceutical units working in similar developmental areas.

During the programme, entrepreneurs Ms Shova Rai Cutting Edge Parlour, Mr Abhimanyu Dhakal of UUNCHAI Himalayan Food Pvt Ltd, and Ms Deevika Gurung of Fidgety Finger shared their entrepreneurial experiences, speaking about challenges, learning processes and the sense of purpose derived from contributing to society. They encouraged the students to utilise social media effectively and to remain resilient in their pursuits.

An interactive session was held during which participants engaged with the guest entrepreneurs and sought clarifications on various aspects of entrepreneurship.

Press Release from SLA

Nagaland: Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly (SLA) along with Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA, Ms Kala Rai Member SLA, Ms Pamin Lepcha Member SLA, accompanied by Secretary, Principal Director, Senior Officers of SLA attended the second day of Plenary Session of 22nd Annual Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region Zone III at Assembly Hall of Nagaland Legislative Assembly, today.

The second day of the Conference also deliberated on the topic 'Climate Change-In the light of recent cloudburst and landslides in some North East Region'.

Speaker SLA highlighted that the Legislators and policy makers must resolve to reduce carbon footprint by transitioning to renewable energy sources,

increasing energy efficiency and adopting sustainable land use practices. He also urged for disaster preparedness and early warning systems to protect communities from the impacts of climate change.

He said for adoption of climate-resilient infrastructure design of roads, bridges, drainage systems in hilly areas. Furthermore, he highlighted the climate resilient, green environment and sustainable development initiative taken up by the Government of Sikkim.

The delegates also participated in the plantation drive at the Botanical Garden, premises of Nagaland Legislative Assembly to commemorate 22nd Annual CPA India Region Zone III Conference. The House adopted 9 resolutions reaffirming the commitment to Parliamentary Democracy, inclusive development and regional cooperation.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN & GREEN**

Finale of Jhoom International 2025

Gangtok, November 9: The grand finale of 'Jhoom International 2025', India's first international talent hunt for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) was organised at Manan Kendra, Gangtok, today.

The event was hosted by Shantidham Foundation in collaboration with Sarathi (Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya), with support from Sikkim State Cooperative Union and Saiyata Foundation.

Minister for Women, Child Senior Citizens and Divyanjan Welfare Department Mr Samdup Lepcha expressed delight at the talent and confidence displayed by the participants, commending on their performances and acknowledging the inspiring spirit they brought to the stage. He also highlighted various State initiatives aimed at supporting Persons with Disabilities.

The programme commenced with a welcome song presented by students of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute, Namchi.

Mr Sanyasi Behera, Deputy Secretary, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD), Government of Odisha also the first visually impaired officer of the Odisha Administrative Service, highlighted the efforts of the Shantidham Foundation in

promoting inclusion and empowerment. He stated that the organisation has been working consistently since the year 2000 to support underprivileged children and Persons with Disabilities through various developmental activities.

The event featured cultural performances by differently-abled artistes from across the country, showcasing talents in dance, singing, instrumental music and poetry. All participants were felicitated with certificates and awards in recognition of their contribution.

A felicitation ceremony was held to honour the recipients of the Social Excellence Awards, namely; Mr Rabindra Kumar Sahu, Retd. AGM, SBI, Odisha, Ms Jyoti Ranjan Das, Professor and Dean (Students' Welfare), SOA University, Odisha, Ms Chumsey Roma Bhutia, Sikkim and Mr Indra Narayan Pradhan, President, Sanjeevani Rehab Society. A separate felicitation ceremony recognised the recipients of the Jhoom International Excellence Awards, namely; Ms Roma Neopane, Nepal, Mr Arow Azor CT, Manipur, Ms Lilamaya Chhetri, West Bengal, Mr Rahul Rai, Sikkim, Mr Ranveer Singh Saini, Haryana, Mr Cheyang Kuenchap, Bhutan and Ms Rajani Gopal Krishna,

Karnataka.

Mr Sahadev Sharma, Chief Patron of the Jhoom Organising Committee, expressed gratitude to Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, for his support in enabling the successful organisation of the event.

On the occasion, the chief guest also launched Sarathi Magazine and Samarth Magazine.

The programme was also attended by Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor, Food and Civil Supplies Department and Urban Development Department, Ms Tshering Palden Bhutia Deputy Mayor GMC, Ms Normit Lepcha Secretary Women, Child, Senior Citizens and Divyanjan Welfare Department, Mr Tashi Chopel Secretary Education Department, Ms Karma D Youtso Secretary Commerce and Industries Department, Mr Saubhagya Rautrey Founder Shantidham Foundation, Mr Sahadev Sharma Chief Patron Shantidham Foundation, Mr Pawan Prasai President Shantidham Foundation, Mr Suryaranjhan Mohanty Advisor, Ms Lillu Raut Ray Executive Director, Shantidham Foundation, members of the organising committee, officials from various departments and students from various universities.

Awareness programme on State and Central Government MSME Schemes

Gangtok, November 9: District Industries Centre (Gangtok), under the Commerce and Industries Department in collaboration with Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (SEED) Cell organised an awareness programme on State and Central Government MSME Schemes at the Community Hall, Kabi Block, today.

The programme aimed to create a supportive ecosystem for unemployed youth, aspiring entrepreneurs, and existing business owners by providing access to government resources, funding avenues, online marketing platforms, and expert guidance to help them pursue their entrepreneurial goals.

Mr Thinlay Tshering Bhutia, Area MLA-cum-Advisor highlighted several developmental initiatives in the area, including the construction of 117 stalls at Khangchendzonga View Point to promote local business and self-employment. He stressed the need for clarity and transparency in disseminating scheme-related information to youth and women entrepreneurs of the region who are actively engaged in commercial activities.

He appreciated various entrepreneurship and welfare schemes initiated under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, noting that the Chief Minister's vision remains strongly women-centric and

entrepreneurship-driven, enabling financial independence and inclusive growth. He added that platforms such as the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland and Sikkim Utsav 2025 in Siliguri are providing opportunities for local entrepreneurs to showcase and market their products.

He also highlighted ongoing tourism and connectivity initiatives including the Chola and Doka La Pass routes, City Runners, and the Pink Bus service aimed at improving mobility and public convenience. He commended the promotion of Traditional Wear Work Day for strengthening cultural identity and expressed hope that entrepreneurship-linked schemes would help sustain livelihoods during off-seasons. He further suggested conducting a focused meeting with the women entrepreneurs of JN Road to address their business-related concerns.

Dr Raj Lama President, SEED Cell, encouraged participants to take advantage of schemes such as the Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme, Mukhyamantri Yuva Udhamsheelta Vikas Yojana (MYUVY), and the Skilled Youth Startup Scheme. He noted that the tourism-oriented nature of JN Road and blocks under the Vibrant Village Programme offer immense potential for enterprise development. He assured continued guidance and

mentorship from SEED Cell.

Officials from the Commerce and Industries Department, SEED Cell, and District Industries Centre presented detailed insights on various government initiatives designed to support entrepreneurship and promote self-employment in Sikkim.

The event witnessed active participation from local youth, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders who engaged in interactive sessions and consultations with experts from different departments.

A briefing on the roles and functions of the District Industries Centre was presented by Mr Prakash Rai, General Manager, DIC-Gangtok, followed by a keynote address by Mr Dipen Subba, OSD, Commerce and Industries Department and General Secretary, SEED Cell. He highlighted the Chief Minister's vision for a Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samartha Sikkim and stressed the importance of embracing self-employment along with emerging market linkages through Sikkim Utsav, supported by export facilitation, subsidies, and logistics assistance.

The technical session in the programme also included presentations on various Government initiatives and schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Delegation from Sikkim participates in high-level strategic meetings

New Delhi, November 10: In a significant move to catalyse its creative and knowledge economy, the delegation from Sikkim who are presently in New Delhi held a series of high-level strategic meetings with leading national and international organisations in New Delhi.

The State delegation comprises of Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary Information and Public Relations Department; Mr Yougan Tamang Press Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mr Bishal Khawas Additional Director Information and Public Relations Department and other officials from the department.

The Sikkim delegation engaged in discussions with key industry players including Charuvi Design Labs Private Limited, the creators of the popular 'Shri Hanuman Chalisa' animation, heads of Enterprise Strategy, and Strategic Alliance from the fashion incubator Fashion Entrepreneur Fund (FEF), and Officials from the British Council,

British High Commission.

The meetings served as a pivotal platform to discuss a comprehensive roadmap for establishing Sikkim as a nucleus for innovation. The discussions focused on building long-term partnerships across sectors such as animation, media, fashion, and cross-cultural exchange. The goal is to develop a robust project pipeline and create a world-class ecosystem designed to nurture and export Sikkim's exceptional human capital.

Key outcomes include the formulation of strategic alliances aimed at skill development, intellectual property creation, and global market access. These collaborations are poised to set new benchmarks and open up significant avenues for Sikkim's talent and unique cultural heritage.

The engagements underscore the state's commitment to positioning itself as a leader in the creative economy through strategic, high-value partnerships.

Battle of Pipe Bands dazzles TNA Ground in Gangtok

Gangtok, November 12: State Level Inter School Band Competition 2025 was held at the school ground of Tashi Namgyal Academy, Gangtok, today. The chief guest for the event was Mr Tashi Chopel Secretary, Education Department.

A total of six schools participated in the competition, which featured four Girl Pipe Bands and two Boy Pipe Bands. The participating schools were PM SHRI Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School, Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School, Tashi Namgyal Academy, PM SHRI Mangan Government Senior Secondary School, Paljor Namgyal Girls Senior Secondary School, and PM SHRI Chakung Girls Senior Secondary School.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary Mr Tashi Chopel congratulated the students of all six schools for their impressive performances and expressed appreciation for their participations.

The Secretary also encouraged the winning teams who will go on to represent the State at the Zonal and National levels, reminding them of their greater responsibility in carrying

the name of Sikkim forward.

In his concluding remarks, he commended the Organising Committee for conducting the event and hoped to witness the same enthusiasm and dedication in future competitions.

In the results, Tashi Namgyal Academy Girls Pipe Band was adjudged the Best Female School Pipe Band Team, while Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School was declared the Best Male School Pipe Band Team. The winners and participants were awarded trophies, certificates, and cash prizes. The winning teams will represent Sikkim in the upcoming Zonal competition in Guwahati.

It may be noted that Mr P B Gurung Sub-Inspector, Sikkim Police Pipe Band and Mr Abner Darnal Culture Department served as judges for the competition.

The event also saw the presence of Principal Director Education Department, Additional Director, Deputy Director-cum-Nodal Officer, Inter School Band Competition, Principal-cum-Director Tashi Namgyal Academy, Retired Brigadier and officials of the Education Department and Samagra Shiksha.

