



# SIKKIM HERALD

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## Chief Minister inaugurates Hamro Gauley Bazaar



**Gangtok, February 8:** Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the 'Hamro Gauley Bazaar' at Reshithang under Upper Burtuk Constituency in the presence of Ms Kala Rai Area MLA-cum-Advisor, today.

The multi-village, community-driven organic

marketplace enables farmers to sell their homegrown produce directly to customers.

Chief Minister expressed gratitude to contributors who facilitated the establishment of the Bazaar without Government expenditure. He said that the Bazaar has been conceptualised to

allow farmers to market agricultural produce directly from the fields. He emphasised the vision of developing it into a hub of rural economic activity and stressed the need for verification mechanisms to ensure stall holders possess agricultural land, safeguarding the concept of the Bazaar.

He announced that a new township would be developed at Ranka by the Urban Development Department to decongest the capital. He further announced relocation of Burtuk Degree Law College to Mangkhim, after which the Education Department will shift to the existing college premises. Highlighting the impact of development, he said that the progress in one area uplifts surrounding regions. He also announced development of a paragliding landing spot in Upper Burtuk as the previous site has been allocated to Khelo India.

He informed that 24.67

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## Chief Minister calls on Union Finance Minister



**New Delhi, February 9:** Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang called on Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman Union Finance Minister and held a detailed and constructive discussion on key developmental issues concerning the State in New Delhi, today.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister expressed his sincere gratitude on behalf of the people of Sikkim to the Union Finance Minister and the Central Government for the Union Budget's special focus on the North-Eastern region, particularly the

announcement of the Scheme for Development of Buddhist Circuits.

He stated that the Budget's recognition of the North-East as a civilizational confluence of the Theravada and Mahayana/Vajrayana traditions has been widely welcomed in Sikkim. The Chief Minister noted that the proposed initiatives for the preservation of Buddhist sites and monasteries, improvement of connectivity, and enhancement of pilgrim amenities closely align with

*Contd. on page 5*

## State Level Workshop reviews planning for Vibrant Villages programme II in Sikkim



**Gangtok, February 9:** State Level Workshop on Vibrant Villages Programme II was held at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The workshop was organised by Planning and Development Department in collaboration with Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The meeting was attended by Mr R Telang Chief Secretary, in the presence of Mr Pradeep Kumar Pandey Deputy Commandant, Government of India Vibrant Villages Programme II. Heads of Departments, Secretaries, District Collectors, State Nodal Officers for the programme and

representatives of SSB, ITBP, Black Cat Division, 17<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and other officials participated in the meeting.

Chief Secretary stated that the implementation framework under the programme must be designed efficiently to ensure systematic processes and smooth coordination across departments and districts. He emphasised that projects should prioritise livelihood generation as a core objective and noted that the programme aims to strengthen basic amenities, infrastructure, economic activities and living conditions in border villages. He stated that projects must deliver

measurable outcomes proportionate to funds allocated and observed that focused initiatives at Dok La and Cho La would provide impetus to programme implementation in the State. Stressing coordination, he directed District Collectors to take the lead role with line departments.

He expressed gratitude to the Government of India for launching the programme and stated that it has provided a valuable platform for supporting development and livelihood initiatives. He also thanked Mr Pradeep Kumar Pandey, Deputy

*Contd. on page 7*

## Union Minister chairs review meeting of NHIDCL Projects in Sikkim

**Gangtok, February 7:** Mr Harsh Malhotra Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Corporate Affairs chaired a project review meeting of projects executed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) at a local hotel, today.

The meeting was organised by NHIDCL Regional Office, Gangtok.

During the meeting, Mr Ashok Kumar Saha Executive Director (Technical), NHIDCL, Mr Basant Kumar Tamang Principal Chief Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Mr Binod Adhikari Chief Engineer (NH), Roads and Bridges Department, Mr Sonam Dadul Additional Chief Engineer (NH), Roads and Bridges Department, Ms Kalka Rai Superintending Engineer (NH), Roads and Bridges Department and Mr Mayur Sindekar Executive Director (Projects), NHIDCL

Regional Office, Siliguri presented project-wise progress reports.

Mr Harsh Malhotra Union Minister of State reviewed the status of ongoing NHIDCL projects and works being executed by the Roads and Bridges Department. He took stock of physical and financial progress and sought explanations for delays in certain stretches. He instructed the concerned agencies to resolve land, utility and coordination-related issues within stipulated timelines.

Union Minister emphasised that road infrastructure projects in hilly and border States required close monitoring and planning. He directed officials to strictly follow prescribed safety norms and ensure that all cautionary and protective measures were in place at construction sites to safeguard road users and workers.

*Contd. on page 5*

### Pearls of Wisdom

*"We have to dare to be ourselves, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be."*

*- May Sarton*

### Girl child awareness programme held

**Mangan, February 6:** An awareness programme on sex-selective practices, prevention of child marriage and environmental legal literacy, under Pan-India initiative titled "Protect Today, Secure Tomorrow", was organised at the DAC Conference Hall, Mangan, today. The programme was organised by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Mangan, under the aegis of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority.

The programme was attended by Prajwal Khatiwada, District Judge-Chairperson, DLSA, Mr Lall Bahadur Chettri SP Mangan, Mr Pema Wangchen Namkarpa Additional District Magistrate, Mr Sandeep Kumar Sub-Divisional Magistrate along with resource persons, Heads of Offices and officials from various departments.

Resource persons delivered presentations highlighting important

legislations that protect the rights of the girl child, including the Right to Education Act, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. The role of Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department was also emphasised, particularly the district-level support systems available for women and children in need of care and protection. These included Child Care Institutions that provide shelter and protection to vulnerable children, and One Stop Centres that offer legal aid, counselling and temporary shelter to survivors of domestic violence and sexual offences. Various welfare schemes aimed at empowerment and protection were also highlighted.

Environmental concerns relevant to Sikkim were also discussed during the

programme. The speakers drew attention to the growing impact of environmental pollution, including an increase in respiratory diseases and skin infections, and outlined key state environmental policies and sustainable development initiatives implemented by the Forest and Environment Department. Citizens were encouraged to actively support conservation efforts and adopt responsible practices in their daily lives.

Mr Prajwal Khatiwada Chairperson DLSA stated that the programme, conceived under the guidance of NALSA is aimed not only at spreading awareness but also at sensitising the masses towards their collective duties. He observed that awareness of rights must go hand in hand with responsibility, urging individuals to exercise their rights, support one another and contribute to the protection of the environment.

### Awareness programme on Transgender Issues

**Soreng, February 5:** Social Welfare Department, Soreng organised an awareness programme on Transgender Issues, Social Inclusion, Rights and Welfare of Transgender Persons and the Harmful Effects of Substance Abuse to sensitise participants on legal provisions, welfare measures and social responsibilities at Rurban Complex, BAC, Soreng, today.

Mr Eras Lepcha Additional Political Secretary (Soreng), addressed emphasised on the importance of mutual respect, equality and acceptance of diversity to build an inclusive society. He stated that awareness programmes play a crucial role in changing mindsets and fostering sensitivity towards transgender persons and other marginalised communities.

He encouraged students and youth to develop empathy, respect differences and contribute positively to their families and society. Highlighting the State Government's commitment, he referred to the Chief Minister's vision of 'Sunaulo, Samridhdha ani Samarth Sikkim', underlining inclusive growth, social justice and empowerment for all.

Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC elaborated on the evolution of transgender rights in India. He highlighted constitutional safeguards under Articles 14, 15, 16 and 21, right to self-identification recognised by the Supreme Court, and key provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. He informed that certification of gender is issued by the District Magistrate without requiring medical examination and emphasised the readiness of the registration portal for convergence of services.

Earlier, Mrs Prativa Tamang briefed on the objectives of the programme, emphasising equality, inclusion and the importance of transgender representation. She highlighted State Government's support

extended to transgender persons and informed about the official portal for registration to avail welfare schemes. She also intimated about an upcoming skit competition under the Nasha Mukth Bharat Abhiyan and spoke on the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Mr Abhinam Mangar, (Resource Person) from Rainbow Hills Welfare Association, addressed on transgender issues in the context of social inclusion, welfare and state support. He discussed challenges such as social stigma, implementation gaps and limited access to healthcare, particularly the lack of gender-affirming care facilities in rural areas. He highlighted gaps arising from Sikkim's predominantly paternal lineage system, especially concerns about eligibility for Certificates of Identification (COI).

He emphasised the importance of community organising, grassroots awareness and support networks, and the role of legal aid in helping transgender persons access rights and certification. Referring to the State Government's outlook, he highlighted initiatives such as reservation in educational institutions and public appointments, 100% sponsorship up to graduation, and various financial allowances for transgender persons. He informed that 31 transgender persons were officially registered in Sikkim as of 2023, and noted that several districts are yet to establish Transgender Protection Cells. Sensitisation in government and private institutions, and the need to expedite the issuance of gender identity certificates.

Mr Sanjay Basnett, (Resource Person) from Rainbow Hills Welfare Association and Sikkim's first third-gender voter, shared her personal experiences and perspectives on transgender identity and inclusion. She highlighted the importance of self-identification, dignity and

equal opportunities, while drawing attention to challenges arising from stigma, discrimination and lack of awareness. A short video showcasing participation of her as a transgender person across various platforms was also screened.

Ms Tashi Doma Bhutia, Resource Person and Advocate (District & Sessions Court), highlighted the objectives of the Nasha Mukth Bharat Abhiyan. She stressed the harmful impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and society, and shared a rehabilitation success story to motivate the audience. She also outlined legal provisions under the NDPS Act, along with related laws including POCSO and SADA, and explained the categorisation of offences.

Mr Tanchok Subba, (Resource Person and Advocate) addressed on legal aspects of transgender rights, explaining the definition, self-identification process and inclusion as a third gender. He elaborated on provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, including the application process under Section 6 (Form-1) and Section 3, and highlighted various Government schemes available for welfare and empowerment.

Mr Narayan Rai, Police Inspector, addressed the rising incidence of cyber crime and highlighted the importance of awareness in preventing online offences. He sensitised participants on common cyber threats such as sextortion and online love traps, and advised responsible and cautious use of digital platforms. He informed participants that cyber crimes may be reported through the national cybercrime helpline number 1930 for assistance.

Also present were Panchayats, DC Soreng, ADC (Development), Joint Director (SWD Gangtok), Deputy Director (SWD Gangtok), CMO, Deputy Director (S&YA), SWO (SWD), BDOs and others.

### Awareness-cum-Registration Drive on PMSYM held

**Pakyong, February 9:** Awareness-cum-Registration Drive under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PMSYM) scheme was conducted at Namcheybong GPK, Pakyong, with the objective of sensitising unorganised sector workers about the benefits and importance of the Government of India's flagship pension scheme.

The programme was attended by Ms Shakila Rai Panchayat President Namcheypung GPK, Mr Tashi Pintso Mapen Deputy Commissioner Labour Department, Mr Suresh Rai Assistant Director (PRI) and others.

During the programme, Deputy Labour Commissioner elaborated on the key features of PMSYM scheme, highlighting the eligibility criteria, age-based

contribution structure and provision of an assured minimum monthly pension of ₹3,000/- after attaining the age of 60 years. He emphasised that the scheme aims to provide social security and financial stability to unorganised workers in their old age. Participants were encouraged to take advantage of the scheme to secure a dignified and financially independent life after retirement.

The attendees were also briefed on the monthly contribution requirements based on age, with special emphasis on equal matching contribution by the Government of India, making the scheme affordable and beneficial for workers from economically weaker sections.

On-the-spot registration assistance was provided through Common Service Centre (CSC) to facilitate hassle-free enrollment.

### Awareness-cum-Walkathon Programme for Senior Citizens under AVAY

**Mangan, February 6:** Awareness-cum-Walkathon programme from DAC premises to the Community Hall, for senior citizens of Mangan District was organised at the Community Hall, Mangan, under Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVAY), with the objective of promoting active ageing, health awareness and dissemination of information on various Government welfare schemes for senior citizens, today.

The programme was graced by Ms Tshering Doma Bhutia Councillor, Mangan Nagar Panchayat as the chief guest and Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan as the special guest.

Resource persons from various departments delivered informative sessions during the programme. From Health Department, Mr Ongyal Tshering Lepcha, ABDM Project Coordinator, along with officials from the District Hospital, including Ms. Chusong Lepcha, created awareness on ABHA ID, PMJAY, and the benefits of the ABHA Card. On-the-spot generation of ABHA Cards was also facilitated for the participants.

Mr Sonam Namgyal Bhutia Nutrition Inspector sensitised the senior citizens on the importance of balanced nutrition

and healthy dietary practices in old age. Ms Choden Bhutia, Social Welfare Officer (SWO) highlighted various schemes for senior citizens under the Social Welfare Department. Ms Sonam Lhaden Lachungpa, DD cum CDPO, elaborated on the objectives of Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana and shared useful tips for maintaining good health, safety, and security of senior citizens.

Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan, highlighted the welfare schemes available for senior citizens and explained the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 in detail. He urged senior citizens to remain active, informed, and healthy.

Ms Tshering Doma Bhutia Councillor Mangan Nagar Panchayat expressed her gratitude to the organising department for conducting a meaningful programme. She encouraged the senior citizens to lead a healthy lifestyle, consume nutritious food, and make effective use of Government welfare schemes.

The programme also featured recreational activities, including games for senior citizens, followed by distribution of gifts.

### Press Release from WCSC&DW Department

**Mangan, February 5:** Beti Janmohatsav and Annaprashan programme was celebrated, today at Tangtang Anganwadi Centre (AWC) under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

The programme aimed to promote the importance of the girl child, early childhood nutrition, and awareness on maternal and child welfare schemes. A total of 10 mothers were felicitated as a mark of encouragement and support.

During the event, awareness sessions on complementary feeding, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, proper handwashing techniques, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

(PMMVY) were imparted by CDPO, Mangan.

The session emphasised the importance of nutrition, hygiene, and utilisation of Government schemes for the well-being of mothers and children.

Gender Specialist (HUB) highlighted important information regarding Women's Helpline and Child Helpline numbers, and briefed the participants about the HUB and its role in addressing issues related to women and children.

The programme witnessed active participation from the Anganwadi Worker, local community members, and beneficiaries.

## Gyalshing District conducts meeting-cum-training on 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Population Census 2027

**Gyalshing, February 9:** A meeting-cum-training on the first phase of the Population Census 2027 for Gyalshing District was held at Zilla Bhawan, Kyongsa, today.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Karma R Bonpo, Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim and attended by Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa, District Collector-cum-Principal Census Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrates-cum-Charge Officers, Additional Charge Officers and officers from the Directorate of Census Operations.

Director Mr Karma R Bonpo gave an overview of the upcoming census process. He highlighted key components, including the updated status of administrative units as of June 30, 2025, challenges in villages with more than one Gram Panchayat Unit, the rollout of digital tools for self-enumeration, and strategic planning for house-listing and charge register preparation. He also elaborated on the use of mobile applications for data collection, digital layout mapping,

data security protocols, pre-test operations, and the preparation of the District Census Handbook (DCHB).

He emphasised the importance of accurate data collection and active cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure the successful conduct of Census 2027 in the district.

DC Gyalshing stressed in the importance of meticulous planning and flawless execution of the census process. He underlined that the quality of data collected would directly influence the implementation and funding of future centrally sponsored schemes in the state. He urged all concerned officials and departments to approach the task with utmost seriousness and ensure accuracy at every stage.

Dr B Das Gupta, Joint Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim, highlighted Sikkim's proactive approach in gearing up for Census 2027. He informed that the upcoming census will be the country's first fully digital census and will also include

a Caste Census, marking a significant shift in India's data collection and management system. Further he stated that the programme marked the formal initiation of preparations for the decennial census exercise, which is being conducted after a gap of nearly 16 years. He added that the census activities are being undertaken in accordance with Notification No. 66/Home/2025 issued by the Home Department on August 2, 2025.

A hands on training on the Census Monitoring and Monitoring System: a real time web based portal used to manage, monitor and coordinate activities for digital census including tracking functionaries, training, logistics and fieldwork progress was also conducted by officials from Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim.

An open discussion followed the presentation, during which various operational issues and challenges were deliberated upon by the participants.

### Health and Family Welfare Department STNM Hospital, Sochakgang Government of Sikkim

Ref. No.05/STORE/STNMH/2026

Dated.28/01/2026

#### **NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION**

The sealed quotation are invited from the local reputed registered medical shop located at Gangtok operating 24X7 throughout the year for the supply of JSSK (Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram) drugs and consumables for STNM Hospital, Sochakgang, under Maternal and Child Health, for the year 2026-27.

#### **Terms & Condition:**

1. The Medical shop/firm should be within the radius of 500 Meter from STNM Hospital, Sochakgang, Sichey.
2. The quotation forms can be collected from the office of Sr. Accounts Officer (STNM Hospital, Sochakgang) on production of Original Bank receipt/Challan from SBS of ₹5000/- credited under revenue head 0210-01-800 other receipt from 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 from 11 AM to 3PM.
3. The firm shall deposit TDR of ₹100000/-(one Lakh) in favor of Sr.AO, STNM Hospital, Sochakgang for the supply of drugs and consumables under JSSK, form State Bank of Sikkim along with the sealed quotation. The department will not liable to pay the interest on the said amount.
4. The duly filled up Tender form should reach the office of Medical Superintendent, STNM Hospital, Sochakgang within 12:00 P.M. of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Tender received after 12 Noon of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 will not be entertained.
5. The sealed quotation will opened on the same day at 2.00 PM in the office of Medical Superintendent, STNM Hospital, Sochakgang.
6. Terms and condition shall be applicable as per the general purchase condition and details will be indicated in the tender form.
7. The department committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons thereof.
8. For further information visit the office of the undersigned.

**PCC cum Medical Superintendent  
STNM Hospital, Sochakgang.  
(17)(i)**

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### Chief Minister...

kilometres of roads comprising eight roads have been sanctioned for Upper Burtuk and announced approval of a 450-kilometre road carpeting tender under the Roads and Bridges Department. The first phase will cover National, State and District Highways followed by feeder roads in the second phase. He also announced construction of a hands-on training institute for engineers.

Under the Forest Department's 'Mero Rukh, Mero Santati' initiative, passbooks were distributed to five child beneficiaries. Six shops each for Kabi-Lungchok and Upper Burtuk were allotted in Bulbulay with scope for expansion, while

clarifying that sub-letting would not be permitted.

Regarding operations, the Chief Minister advised that the Bazaar function twice weekly and reiterated that middlemen would not be allowed. He announced construction of a truck stand and suggested departmental expos be organised at the premises. He further directed the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department to include the Bazaar among the capital's tourist points to expose the rural economy to outside markets and provide visitors opportunities to experience local cuisine and arts.

Ms Kala Rai MLA expressed appreciation for the Chief Minister's leadership and reiterated the vision of a 'Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samartha Sikkim'. She said strengthening the rural economy

through adequate platforms is essential for achieving prosperity and highlighted the struggles of the farming sector. She informed that there would be no permanent stall ownership to ensure equitable participation and that the Bazaar would also function as a cultural platform for cuisine, performances and artisan crafts. Envisioning it as a future tourist attraction, she stated that an eco-friendly park is under construction for recreational use, particularly for senior citizens. She encouraged youth to pursue entrepreneurship and informed that a dedicated website has been developed to enhance outreach and accessibility.

Upon arrival, the Chief Minister interacted with stall holders and farmers. He released a magazine titled 'Hamro Gauley Bazar' outlining its concept and

### Government of Sikkim Office of the Dy. Inspector General of Prison State Central Prison, Rongyek Gangtok

Memo No.794/GOS/PRISON/2026

Dated: 28/01/2026

#### **TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed quotations are invited from registered firms of Sikkim for Supply of ration, grocery, hardware and electrical items to the State Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi for the period with effect from 01/04/2026 to 31/03/2027. The rates quoted by the firms shall be inclusive of all transportation/ carriage charges upto point of delivery i.e. the Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi as and when the items are requisitioned shall be final for all purpose.

The quotations addressed to the Additional Director General of Police, State Prison, Rongyek should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 10 A.M. on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Tender Selection Committee shall open the tenders in the office of the undersigned at 11 A.M. on the same day in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized agents.

The quotation shall be accompanied by a state Bank of Sikkim, T.D.R. for ₹50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) only for made in favour of the Dy. Inspector General of Police/Prison for along with certified copies of the concerned firms registration, valid Trade License, GST registration etc. The failure to submit incomplete documents shall be rejected.

The Tender Selection Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned between 10.00 A.M. to 3.00 P.M. on all working days with effect from the publication of Tender Notices.

**Dy. Inspector General of Police  
State Central Prison, Rongyek.  
(18, II)**

### Urban Development Department Government of Sikkim Circle Office Jorethang

Ref. No. 624/GOS/UDD/JRTH

Dated: 05/02/2026

#### **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

This is for information of all concerned that sealed tenders are invited from individuals having SSC/COI and Registered Organizations for the award of Bazaar Contract of Ravangla Bazaar and Melli Bazaar and Car Parking Contract of Melli Bazaar for the Financial year 2026-2027.

The tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Special Secretary/Deputy Secretary, Urban Development Department, Jorethang on payment of prescribed fee of ₹1000/- for Bazaar Contract and ₹500/- for Car Parking Contract per Tender Document (non-refundable) in the following Revenue Head.

**Bazaar Contract: 0045 OTD-800-02**

**Car Parking Contract: 0217-60-800-03**

- 1) Date of Issue of forms: 16/02/2026 to 19/02/2026 from (11 AM to 2 PM) on working days.
- 2) Date of Dropping/Submission of sealed tender forms: 20/02/2026 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- 3) Date of opening of Sealed Tender: 21/02/2026 at 11:00 A.M.
- 4) The rate quoted below the offset price will be rejected out rightly and the TDR amount will be forfeited.
- 5) The detailed terms and conditions may be seen in the tender documents.
- 6) The Department reserves the right to accept or reject the tender documents without assessing any reason thereof.

**Sd/-  
Special Secretary  
Urban Development Department  
Circle Office Jorethang  
(23)**

objectives and attended screening of a documentary showcasing its development and participation of villages. Stakeholders were felicitated for their contributions.

The programme highlighted the 'Mero Rukh, Mero Santati' initiative under which 108 trees are planted to celebrate each newborn, while the Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana deposits ₹10,800/- in the child's name withdrawable at 18 years. Passbooks were distributed and the initiative commended for its showcase at COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. 'Mero Bato Mero Bot' initiative for roadside

plantation was also appreciated. Eco-friendly stalls in Bulbulay and a bio-digester machine for waste management and organic farming were handed over to stakeholders.

The programme was attended by Speaker SLA, Deputy Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyakshas and Upa-Adhyaksha, Mayor GMC, Panchayats, ACS Tourism Department, PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary Forest Department, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, DC Gangtok, Officers on Special Duty, HoDs, senior officers, SHGs and stakeholders.

**Government of Sikkim  
Roads & Bridges Department  
Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok**

Memo No: 793/01/R&amp;B/MD/2025-26

Dated 23/01/2026

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (Mangan), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders on percentage rate basis under single bid system from the eligible contractors enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 21/R&B/PWD/Secy/2023-24 dated 18.10.2023, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Gram Panchayat/ Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed.

The details of work and time schedule are as under:

Sl No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (bid value) (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of tender Documents (₹)	Grade of Contractor	Jurisdiction
1	Construction of road from St. Joseph School to Malling Pakshep in Sikkim (2.00 km)	1,41,28,713/-	3,53,218/-	50,000/-	Registered Class III Contractors (Civil) under SPWD	Competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the GPU where the work is to be executed

**TIME SCHEDULE:-**

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form)	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2026 (10:00am to 4:00pm)	Office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan District, Sikkim
2	Date of issue of tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest money).	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 (10:00am to 4:00pm)	Office of the Divisional Engineer. Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan District, Sikkim
3	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender Documents.	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 (10:00am to 1:00pm)	Office of the Gram Panchayat Unit, 13-Singhik Sentam GPU Mangan District, Sikkim
4	Date and Time for Opening of Tender.	25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 (2:30 pm)	Office of the Gram Panchayat Unit, 13-Singhik Sentam GPU Mangan District, Sikkim

**CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:**

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors Firms of appropriate Class/Area
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.
- The application should enclosed attested copies of (a) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate, (b) Certificate of Identification, (c) PAN Card, (d) Voter Identity Card where the work is to be executed. It is mandatory to produce the original validated Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above from the Office of the Divisional Engineer (Mangan), Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form (Roads & Bridges).
- Earnest money deposit 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Divisional Engineer (Mangan), Roads & Bridges Department. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of Temporary Deposit Receipts of 2.50% earnest money.
- The Earnest Money Deposit in the case of Enlisted Women Contractors shall be governed vide Notification No. 104/R&B dated 8/10/2020.
- The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No.3 (a), (b), (c), and (d) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the venue and on the date and within the time as indicated above
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed vide **Notification No:21/R&B/PWD/Secy/2023-24 dated 18/10/2023** in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time as indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of all Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary Head of the Department will be final in the regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days form the issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @5% of the value of work done.
- The defect liability period for the pavement work shall be a period of five (05) years which shall not cover the damages due to natural calamities, formation sinking, landslides, etc.
- The payment for the work executed work shall be done only after obtaining sanction from the Government and no claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained before the sanction.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof
- The contractor with the lowest bid and whose bid is accepted by the tender committee is required to register themselves and produce a GST certificate prior to receipt of work order.
- The recoveries of Income Tax, Value Added Tax and Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of sender shall be acceptable.
- In case of carriage of non-stock materials, if these materials are available at site or are actually transported from a lesser distance than indicated in the scheduled, the department shall pay the carriage as per actual proof of carriage supported by permits issued by Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department indicating the quarries which required to be submitted by contractor with bill, nor exceeding the rates as incorporated in these schedules. The contractors are required to submit necessary documents to fulfill the claim of payment for carriage of non-stock materials.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:  
(a) Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.  
(b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage, handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor,
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.
- Quarrying of stones shall be allowed only from designated approved quarries. Where work of Water bound Macadam is involved, binding materials shall strictly be in accordance with the specification, both in quality and quantity. Works such as compaction, consolidation and stabilization etc. will be required to be done on trial stretches to ensure the materials, procedure and equipment's are producing the desired result.
- Damage of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc. at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The amount put to tender is exclusive of GST and Labour cess and the rate quoted by the lowest bidder/contractor should be inclusive of all taxes and duties etc. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials and bridge parts supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.
- In case when the mentioned dates of tender specified in the NIT is a holiday, then the immediate subsequent date will be considered for the tender.
- All bidders must compulsory hold an account in the State Bank of Sikkim, Government of Sikkim.

**Sd/-  
Divisional Engineer (Mangan)  
Roads & Bridges Department  
(15, I)**

## District-level awareness programme on Transgender Issues held

**Pakyong, February 6:** A district-level awareness programme on Transgender Issues organised by Social Welfare Department, Pakyong District was held at the RDD Community Complex, RURBAN at Pakyong, today.

The session focused on creating awareness on social inclusion, rights and welfare of transgender persons, along with discussions on the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The programme had the presence of Mr Sabindra Rai ADC (Hq); Mr Bikash Rai SDPO Pakyong; Ms Sujata Subba SDM Rangpo; Ms Poonam Pradhan Joint Director, Education Department and Mrs Dikit Lepcha Deputy Director, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department-cum-Social Welfare Officer.

During the awareness programme, Mr Pempa Norbu Sherpa Joint Director, Social Welfare Department (Hq) briefed participants on the roles and responsibilities of the department.

He highlighted that the transgender community is comparatively small in Sikkim and emphasised the need for wider sensitisation among the public. Addressing students, he underlined their role as the next generation in eliminating myths and reducing social stigma, and shared information on the rights of transgender persons and welfare schemes implemented by the department.

Mr Ram Kumar Tamang Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department (Hq) briefed the participants on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, an initiative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aimed at addressing substance abuse through awareness, prevention and rehabilitation.

He covered preventive approaches, awareness measures, and community participation to address substance abuse. He further highlighted the department's role as nodal agency for Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and emphasised collective efforts towards building a Nasha Mukh

Sikkim. Retracing the vision of a Sunaulo, Samriddha, and Samarth Sikkim, he highlighted that building a drug-free state is a shared responsibility.

Further, he discussed ongoing efforts to address substance abuse under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Nasha Mukh Sikkim, such as organising awareness programmes, providing rehabilitation support and promoting community participation, highlighting measures implemented through the Sahayogi programme, which consists of four components: Sahayogi Karmachari, Sahayogi Mitra, Sahayogi Sarathi, Sahayogi Aama.

Ms Sunita Dahal Welfare Officer, Social Welfare Department provided an overview of the department and issues addressed under its mandate. She informed that transgender issues fall under Social Welfare Department and briefed participants on activities and initiatives undertaken by the Government for the welfare of transgender persons. She also shared information on quarterly district-level meetings on transgender issues and role of the district-level committee in addressing concerns and implementing welfare measures.

Briefing participants on the objective of the programme, she emphasised its focus on raising awareness on transgender issues and urged participants to take key learnings from the session, while encouraging acceptance and respect for the transgender community.

Likewise, Mr Nirankush Dahal Advocate, Sikkim Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Gangtok briefed participants on the Supreme Court judgment in National Legal Services Authority vs. Union of India (2014), which recognised transgender people as the 'third gender' and highlighted key provisions of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, along with related Government initiatives for their protection and welfare.

Resource person and guest

speaker from Rainbow Hills Welfare Association Mr Avinam Manger spoke on LGBTQIA+ and transgender issues. He briefed participants on the work of Rainbow Hills Welfare Association, since registration and engagement in programmes supporting gender minorities (LGBTQIA+) in Sikkim. He explained LGBTQIA+ identities as a gender spectrum and discussed social stigma, attributing it largely to a lack of awareness and understanding.

He further elaborated on the concept of transgender persons, referring to individuals whose gender identity or expression differs from the sex assigned at birth and highlighted the constitutional recognition of transgender persons in India following the 2014 Supreme Court judgment, with reference to Articles 14, 19 (1) (a) and 21 of the Constitution. He also outlined key provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, including aspects related to protection, rights and penalties.

He further shared information on welfare schemes and benefits provided by the Government of India and the Government of Sikkim for transgender persons, and discussed prevailing challenges at the societal level. Emphasising acceptance and inclusion, he urged participants to remain open to learning, understanding and supporting access to welfare measures, noting that social acceptance plays a crucial role in addressing stigma.

Additionally, Resource person and guest speaker from Rainbow Hills Welfare Association, Mr Sajan Basnet, shared his personal experiences and journey, outlining both challenges and positive aspects from his school years onwards. He spoke about issues faced in education and society, as well as gradual changes in acceptance and recognition and highlighted his milestone of becoming the first registered transgender voter in Sikkim.

## Joint inspection team checks commercial establishments in Gangtok

**Gangtok, February 6:** As part of the ongoing weekly inspection drive of local commercial establishments, a joint inspection team led by Mr Sisum Wangchuk Bhutia ADC Gangtok, along with Mr Mingyur Tempo Nadik SDPO Gangtok, Mr Mahendra Chettri SDM Gangtok and officers from allied departments, conducted an inspection in various parts of Development Area, today.

During the inspection, various establishments including hotels, restaurants and shops were checked, with primary focus on food safety and compliance with the guidelines of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The team examined hygiene practices, sanitation standards and safe food handling procedures.

In addition to food safety measures, the team also reviewed

compliance with the provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. Business owners and staff were sensitised about the mandatory display of 'No Smoking' signage, restrictions on the sale of tobacco products to minors and importance of maintaining smoke-free premises to safeguard non-smokers from exposure to tobacco smoke. Emphasis was laid on strict adherence to COTPA norms in public and commercial spaces.

Officials urged vendors and business owners to prioritise consumer health and safety by maintaining high standards of hygiene, ensuring that goods sold are within their expiry period and strictly complying with trade licence conditions and food safety regulations.

The inspection was undertaken with the objective of

ensuring adherence to regulatory norms and consumer protection measures. Parameters such as display of valid licences, adherence to prescribed price rates, expiry dates of consumable items, availability of valid labour certificates and other statutory requirements under the respective departments were thoroughly verified.

Vendors found non-compliant with the specified standards were issued necessary directions and asked to rectify the shortcomings within the stipulated timeframe.

The inspection was conducted in coordination with the Food Safety Cell of Health and Family Welfare Department, STCC, GMC, Sikkim Police, Excise Department, WCSC & DW Department and Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA).

## Screening of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026' held

**Gangtok, February 6:** The screening of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026' was held at PM SHRI Deorali Senior Secondary School in the presence of Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department and Mr Arun Upreti Minister-cum-Area MLA.

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is an annual event organised by the Government of India since 2018, where Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi interacts with students, teachers and parents to discuss exam-related stress and life beyond academics. The platform highlights the importance of holistic learning and overall development.

The ninth edition held at the Prime Minister's official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi, saw the Prime Minister share anecdotes with students on academics and value of pursuing extracurricular activities and holistic learning. He stressed the importance of practical knowledge, such as life and professional skills, which should be given equal importance to theoretical knowledge. Addressing exam-related stress, he stated that examinations are only a part of life that test a student's preparation. He also encouraged reading biographies of public figures to learn how to deal with setbacks and make a comeback.

Among the 37 participating students in this year's edition, Ms Shriya Pradhan, a Class X student and School Prefect of Government New Secondary School, Namchi, represented the State.

In his keynote address, Minister shared details about the registration process for 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', stating that registrations open in December, followed by scrutiny and selection of participants. He emphasised that skill-based learning is as important as theoretical knowledge in today's context. He informed that the State Government will soon introduce practical and professional skills through workshops at PM SHRI Schools

in the initial phase. He added that NEET and JEE coaching classes have already been introduced by the Government to promote professional education. Since 2025, the Chief Minister's Mentorship Scheme has focused on improving Class X Board examination results through intensive mentoring.

He commended PM SHRI Deorali Senior Secondary School for achieving an excellent pass percentage of 98.55 percent in Class X and 98.86 percent in Class XII last year. Emphasising the importance of creativity leading to innovation, he highlighted the role of youth in realising vision of Viksit Sikkim se Viksit Bharat 2047. He reiterated the Prime Minister's advice on managing exam stress and learning from setbacks.

Speaking on Chief Minister's Model School, Assam Lingzey, which has been operational for a year, he stated that the institution focuses on inculcating and strengthening one life skill, one vocational skill and one sport of the student's choice from a very young age so that students are equipped with necessary skills later in life.

Scholarships under the Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme were also presented, for which 90 students were selected for the current batch.

Total of 90 students, 65 have been admitted to Chief Minister's Model School, Assam Lingzey, 5 to TNA, 10 to Scindia Kendra Vidyalaya, Gwalior and 10 students of Class IX and above to Pinegrove School, Himachal Pradesh.

The programme was also attended by Chairman, Student Welfare Board, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Secretary, Higher Education, Education Department, Director, Chief Minister's Model School, senior officers from the Education Department; teaching and non-teaching staff of various schools and parents of the scholarship awardees.

*Contd. from front page*

### Chief Minister...

the State's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. The discussions also covered various developmental priorities and issues of significance to the State.

The Chief Minister reiterated Sikkim's appreciation for the Central Government's continued attention and guidance on matters critical to the State's

*Contd. from front page*

### Union Minister...

He further stated that coordination among NHIDCL, the State Government and executing agencies was essential for timely completion of projects. He instructed officials to hold regular reviews, strengthen inter-

progress, prosperity, and overall welfare. He further conveyed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, for his visionary leadership and sustained support, under which Sikkim continues to receive encouragement for holistic and people-centric development.

Mr VB Pathak Chief Administrator-cum-Cabinet Secretary, Mr AK Chand Principal Resident Commissioner and Mr Karma Namgyal, Secretary CMO were also present during the meeting.

departmental coordination and adhere to approved timelines, while maintaining prescribed quality standards.

Senior officers from NHIDCL, officials of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, officials of the Government of Sikkim, representatives of executing agencies and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

## Road Safety Programme focuses on Drivers' Role in Tourism and Safety

**Gangtok, February 7:** The Motor Vehicle Division, Transport Department in collaboration with Tourism and Civil Aviation Department organised a road safety awareness rally as part of the '37<sup>th</sup> National Road Safety Month 2026'. The rally was flagged off by Mr Roshan Pradhan Additional Transport Commissioner at Ranipool near Syari Junction, today.

Following the rally, a programme was held at the Central Agricultural University (CAEPHT), Ranipool themed 'Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha', graced by Mr Mahendra Chettri SDM Gangtok as the chief guest.

SDM (Gangtok) Mr Mahendra Chettri highlighted the vital role of drivers in the tourism sector, noting that they are often the first point of contact for tourists. From pick up to reaching the hotel, drivers play a crucial role in shaping visitors' experiences. Unlike many other states or countries where drivers and guides are separate, in the State drivers often serve as both. Therefore, their conduct, communication and sense of responsibility significantly influence a tourist's first impression of the destination.

He also urged drivers and Associations to actively support the Nasha Mukta Sikkim initiative by remaining vigilant, sharing timely information and ensuring responsible engagement of drivers. He emphasised the need for basic background checks, mental health awareness and collective responsibility to curb substance abuse and safeguard society.

Earlier, Mr Dilip Sharma RTO, Motor Vehicle Division in his welcome address emphasised road safety as a collective responsibility of every individual who drives a vehicle. While traffic rules, such as avoiding drunk driving, overspeeding and maintaining disciplined behaviour are widely known, the programme highlighted the importance of implementing

this knowledge in daily life.

Mr Sonam Norbu Bhutia MVI, Motor Vehicle Division in his session on 'Nasha Mukta Sikkim Sahayogi Sarathi Scheme', emphasised collective responsibility in tackling substance abuse in Sikkim. He highlighted the growing impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and communities and underscored the role of legal frameworks, awareness, counselling and community support.

Subsequently, Mr Gyurme Bhutia Tourism Officer, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department focused on the importance of professional conduct, tourist etiquette and local knowledge among drivers. He highlighted punctuality, personal grooming, courtesy, patience and honest communication as key factors shaping tourists' experiences and reflecting the image of Sikkim. He said that ethical and responsible behaviour by drivers strengthens trust, enhances visitor satisfaction and supports the sustainable growth of the tourism industry.

Mr Ugen Tshering Sherpa MVI, Motor Vehicle Division delivered a presentation on post accident support schemes and emphasised the Cashless Treatment Scheme, informing that road accident victims are entitled to cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh at PMJAY empanelled hospitals, irrespective of identity or insurance status.

He also elaborated on Good Samaritan and Rahaveer Schemes, which encourage timely assistance to accident victims during the golden hour. Good Samaritans are provided legal protection under Section 134A of Motor Vehicles Act, may remain anonymous, and are eligible for a cash reward of ₹20,000/- along with a certificate of recognition from the Government of India.

Additionally, he briefed participants on the Integrated Road Accident Data (IRAD) system and advanced EDAR (Electronic Detailed Accident

Report), formally notified in 2023. The system enables real time accident reporting, coordinated data sharing among agencies and supports faster response and improved road safety planning.

Dr Kishor Sharma Ecologist, The Mountain Institute, India in his session on animal protection and hit and run cases in high altitude areas, underscored the need to safeguard wildlife in ecologically sensitive regions. He spoke on global commitments under Convention on Biological Diversity and national responsibilities under the Fundamental Duties of the Indian Constitution.

He underlined the attention required to address roadkill incidents caused by speeding, increased traffic and difficult mountain terrain and stressed mitigation measures such as awareness campaigns like 'Be Kind to Animals' directive, improved infrastructure design, and coordinated on ground action to promote safer coexistence between road users and wildlife.

Mr Thakur Nath Guragai Motor Vehicle Division official, in his session spoke on the role of technology in road safety and enforcement, with special emphasis on AI based challan systems and other technical interventions. He explained how automated enforcement through cameras and digital monitoring improves compliance, reduces human error and enhances transparency.

He also highlighted the growing importance of electric vehicles, noting their role in promoting sustainable transport, reducing emissions and supporting environmentally responsible mobility through the use of advanced technology.

The programme was attended by Mr Karma Zimba Joint Director, Transport Department, officials from the Motor Vehicle Division and representatives of Taxi Drivers Associations from all districts.

## Sheep distribution programme under Rainfed Area Development Programme organised

**Pakyong, February 7:** Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department (Small Ruminant Sector), in convergence with the Agriculture Department, conducted a sheep distribution programme under Rainfed Area Development Programme 2024-25 (Phase II), a scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) at Pachey and Melatar, Rongli, today.

The programme aims to enhance livelihood opportunities, ensure food security and minimise the risk of crop failure in rainfed areas.

A total of 10 beneficiaries from Gnathang-Machong constituency and 21 beneficiaries from Chujachen constituency under Pakyong District received Banpala Cross breed sheep. Altogether, 62 Banpala Cross

breed sheep were distributed. Each beneficiary was provided with one male and one female sheep for breeding purposes.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of Chief Minister and initiated by Mr Puran Kumar Gurung Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department along with Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA. The distribution was carried out to strengthen livestock development and support farmers' livelihoods in the district.

During the programme, Dr Tashi Chozang Additional Director (SR), AH&VS Department stated that the initiative provided beneficiaries with an opportunity to strengthen their livelihoods through livestock rearing.

She informed that the distributed sheep were insured and

explained the procedure for claiming insurance in case of any eventuality. She also stated that all sheep has been vaccinated and urged beneficiaries to take proper care of them.

Dr Chozang further highlighted that the sheep were distributed to strengthen livelihood opportunities through breeding and population growth. She also explained the multiple benefits of sheep rearing, including wool and other by-products and briefed beneficiaries on product utilisation and marketing opportunities.

The programme had the presence of Panchayats, Additional Director AH&VS, Joint Director, AH&VS, Deputy Director, AH&VS Department and along with Veterinary Officers, AH&VS staff of Pakyong District.

## SEC conducts preparatory meeting for upcoming Municipal Elections 2026

**Gangtok, February 7:** Mr KC Lepcha State Election Commissioner, Sikkim chaired a preparatory meeting regarding upcoming Municipal Elections 2026 at the Conference Hall of Fisheries Department Gangtok, today.

The preparatory meeting was organised by the State Election Commission Sikkim with the objective of taking preliminary stock of preparedness by the districts for upcoming Municipal Elections 2026.

At the commencement of the meeting, Ms Gloria Namchu Secretary State Election Commission gave an overview of the upcoming Urban Local Body elections, wherein she apprised about the increase in the number of Polling Stations in the State and inclusion of the areas of Soreng and Pakyong as Nagar Panchayats. The number of Polling Stations in the districts was also apprised.

Mr KC Lepcha State Election Commissioner Sikkim in his address spoke about the role of State Election Commission in Municipal Elections and informed about the important dates pertaining to preparation of electoral rolls. Further, he cautioned that State has entered election mode and advised the District Officers to take stock of preparedness before the declaration of elections.

Furthermore, the Commissioner informed that the electoral rolls of the Municipalities will be prepared in coordination with National Informatics Centre by converting the relevant parts of the electoral rolls of Legislative Assembly Constituencies into Municipal Wards, for the time being, by the Municipal Electoral

Registration Officers of the districts in the following manner:

1. Preparedness of electoral rolls preparation of software and draft electoral rolls: February 9, 2026.
2. Segregation of ward wise electoral rolls from Assembly electoral rolls: February 10 to 17, 2026.
3. Data entry of manuscripts in the districts: February 18 to 24, 2026.
4. Draft publication of electoral rolls: February 25, 2026
5. Filing of claims and objections: February 26 to March 2, 2026.
6. Disposal of claims and objections: March 3 to 9, 2026.
7. Printing and final publication of electoral rolls: March 18, 2026.

The Commissioner also briefed about new changes brought in Gangtok District, wherein Burtuk Ward has been separated into two wards. Likewise, Lower Sichey Ward will be bifurcated into two distinct wards. It was further informed that the outer boundaries of Pipal Dara Ward have been rearranged in the Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

In addition, the Commissioner informed that the number of Polling Stations has increased from 89 to 120 and the number of wards has increased from 51 to 63 in the State.

An interactive session between the Heads of the Districts and Senior Officers of the State Election Commission was held wherein preparedness of the districts in conducting Municipal Elections was discussed.

The meeting was attended by DCs, SP, ADCs, SDMs, MEOs and senior officers from various line departments.

## Ananta Theatre Gangtok announces launch of Sikkim Comedy War

**Gangtok, February 9:** Mr Tashi Tshering Bhutia Chairman Sikkim Music, Drama, Dance and Film Board and Chief Patron announced the launch of 'Sikkim Comedy War', a comedy talent competition initiative at the Press Club of Sikkim, Metropoint, Gangtok, today.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of providing a platform for the youth of Sikkim and stated that the initiative aims to encourage creative expression through comedy. He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang for supporting initiatives that motivate content creators to showcase their talent.

Highlighting the relevance of culturally rooted humour, he described comedy as an effective medium for communication and awareness. He also appreciated Ananta Theatre Gangtok for creating a structured and meaningful platform for young artistes across the State. He invited content creators and youth to participate in the event and contribute in strengthening the State's entertainment sector.

Mr Bhupal Siwa CEO

Ananta Theatre Gangtok, reiterated Chairman's views and informed that 'Sikkim Comedy War' is being organised under the guidance and inspiration of Chief Minister. He stated that the competition is open to comedians from across the State and will include online and physical auditions, mono and duo performances, professional workshops, semi-finals and a grand finale. Online auditions will commence from February 10, 2026.

Mr Biren Pradhan Head of Sikkim Comedy War and Semifinalist of Comedy Champion Nepal informed that the theme of the event is 'Laughter with a Purpose'.

He assured transparency, professional mentorship and fair evaluation throughout the competition. He added that the themes of performances would reflect social realities of Sikkimese society, with the event aiming to empower young voices, revive local humour and promote meaningful cultural content that blends entertainment with social responsibility.

## Tourism Minister inaugurates 15-day Digital Marketing Training under Sikkim INSPIRES

**Gyalshing, February 9:** A 15-day capacity building training programme on digital marketing for women-led homestay operators commenced today at Yuksom. The programme is being organised by the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation under the Sikkim INSPIRES project in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology-Patna (IIT-Patna).

Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department attended the inaugural function as the chief guest and officially launched the training programme.

Also present were Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Tenzing Gelay Additional Director, Mr Kazi Sherpa Joint Director (Adventure Cell), Mr Vikash Rai Senior CHA, Assistant Director, District Tourism Office, Gyalshing, officials from the Technical Support Agency under the Sikkim INSPIRES Project, and representatives from IIT-Patna including Dr Arijit Roy Nodal Officer, Dr Rishav Singh Coordinator and Mr Vijay Kumar Deputy Registrar.

A large number of women homestay operators and youth have registered and are participating in the training programme.

The training has been designed to empower women entrepreneurs and enhance their digital skills aiming to strengthen digital skills of homestay operators

through modules on basic website designing, content creation, social media promotion, and digital advertising. Both theoretical and practical sessions will be conducted during the 15-day course.

During the programme, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Sikkim, and IIT Patna to provide digital marketing training to tourism stakeholders across the state in a phased manner.

The training will be conducted in three levels such as Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. Participants completing the 15-day programme will be shortlisted for higher-level training.

Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister spoke about the vast tourism potential and unique selling points (USP) of Sikkim. He highlighted Yuksom's historical and cultural importance, the presence of the Khangchendzonga National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the nearby Khecheopalri Lake (Ramsar Site) as major attractions.

He also outlined various initiatives under the Sikkim INSPIRES programme, aimed at skill development, entrepreneurship, employment generation, and socio-economic upliftment of the people, particularly educated youth. Emphasising digital promotion, he urged stakeholders to utilise social

media and online platforms for tourism marketing.

The Minister further encouraged homestay operators to maintain professionalism, honesty, and quality service with the spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'. He also informed about upcoming infrastructure improvements, including road maintenance and blacktopping works across the state, including the Yuksam-Tashiding constituency.

Highlighting the State Government's vision of 'Sunaulo, Samriddha and Samarth Sikkim' under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, he called upon youth to take advantage of skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary DoT&CVn emphasised on the importance of digital marketing for women and youth in the tourism sector. She highlighted the significance of community-based tourism, sustainable practices, promotion of local culture, and serving authentic local cuisine at homestays.

Earlier, Mr Tenzing Gelay Additional Director briefed on objectives and overview of the training programme. Following the inaugural session, technical training was conducted by resource persons from IIT Patna.

It is to mention that the training programme commenced today will conclude on February 23.

livelihoods through cooperatives, Self Help Groups and tourism linked activities. He added that it seeks to integrate border communities as stakeholders in national security and ensure saturation of eligible welfare schemes. Implementation will be driven through Village Action Plans prepared by district administrations in coordination with Gram Panchayats and supported by the PM Gati Shakti platform for convergence and avoidance of duplication.

During the technical session, Senior Technical Director, National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Deepak Kumar, provided virtual training on implementation processes and digital platforms including preparation and submission of Village Action Plans, real time geo tagged monitoring and inter departmental convergence for transparency.

In the course of the workshop, a presentation on the implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme I was made by Mr Tushar G Nikhare District Collector, Gangtok. He informed that the programme covers Tsomgo, Gnathang and Thegu villages. Projects sanctioned include creation of an Eco Park under eco tourism at Gnathang Forest Block and construction of a Community Hall at Gnathang ward. He further informed that projects under consideration include a high altitude rhododendron conservatory and

restoration of an old British guesthouse at Gnathang. Other proposed projects include development of ski and adventure tourism facilities, construction of a war memorial and establishment of a high altitude sports training centre. Recently proposed projects include an ice hockey rink near Gnathang Lake, improvement of water supply systems, development of sewerage systems at Gnathang and Dok La, and tourist infrastructure at the Dok La border. Highlighting programme impact, he stated that the programme has resulted in regular visits by senior officials and implementation of activities such as Swachhata Pakhwada, awareness camps and Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.

Later, a virtual presentation on the implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme I was made by Mr Anant Jain DC Mangan. He informed that forty two villages across four blocks have been identified, with thirty eight projects sanctioned to date. He stated that livelihood generation projects are being prioritised, including a nettle fern fabric processing plant in Dzongu, a handicraft centre at Lachung and revival of apple orchards in Lachung. He added that sports infrastructure projects have been proposed and trekking circuit planning is being undertaken to integrate eco trails with supporting infrastructure.

As part of the district presentations, a presentation on

## Minister Tshering Thendup Bhutia inspects tourism infrastructure

**Gyalshing, February 9:** Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department conducted a preliminary inspection of key tourism infrastructure at Yuksom, today.

He was accompanied by Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Tenzing Gelay Additional Director, Mr Kazi Sherpa Joint Director (Adventure Cell), Mr Vikash Rai Senior CHA, Mr Gyamtso Tshering Bhutia, Assistant Director, District Tourism Office, Gyalshing, along with other officials, Panchayats and local stakeholders.

The Minister along with a team of officials visited the Coronation Park site where statues of three Lamas and first Chogyal of Sikkim are being installed and the project is nearing its completion. He also reviewed the office setup of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at

Yuksom, which is likely to be operational soon. Once functional, trekking permits for the Khangchendzonga trek including the Dzongri-Goechala route, will be issued directly from the TIC, Yuksom.

He further inspected the proposed outreach centre of the Indian Himalayan Centre for Ecotourism and Adventure (IHCEA), which will operate alongside the TIC. The centre will provide training in adventure activities, mountaineering and allied sports for tourists as well as local youth.

Highlighting the importance of the projects, the Minister stated that the State Government is committed to bring every corner of Sikkim onto the global tourism map. He added that these initiatives will boost the local economy, promote sustainable tourism and contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the people of the State.

the implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme II was made by Mr Rohan Agawane DC Pakyong. He informed that five villages namely; Phadamchen, Lingtam, Premlakha, Singaneybas and Aritar have been identified under the programme. He stated that village specific proposals and existing assets have been mapped to support livelihood generation and tourism. In Premlakha, a proposal has been identified for a food processing unit based on cardamom cultivation, while the hanging bridge at Ghatta Khola was highlighted as a tourist attraction. In Phadamchen, Que Khola Falls was identified as a tourism site along with proposals for revival of the old Silk Route and creation of trekking amenities. He further informed that the Buddhist monastery at Lingtam, the sunrise and sunset ridge and existing cable ropeway at Singaneybas, and the Dak Bungalow, Aritar Monastery and British graveyard at Aritar were highlighted as existing cultural, historical and religious assets.

This was followed by a presentation on the implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme II by Mr Suresh Rai Additional District Collector, Gyalshing. He informed that a saturation based approach is being followed through convergence with existing central schemes and that Village Action Plans are under preparation for the five identified villages. He outlined village wise focus areas covering road connectivity, solar street lighting, market access, irrigation, cold storage, telemedicine, school infrastructure, women led Self Help Groups, border connectivity and logistics based livelihoods. He also informed that focused development is being planned

around the Chewabhanjyang Border Outpost along the Indo Nepal border supported by digital monitoring tools.

Later, a presentation on the implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme II was made by Mr Dhiraj Subedi District Collector, Soreng District. He informed that Ribdi and Bhareng villages have been identified, with sector wise planning undertaken through a saturation based approach. He stated that proposals include agriculture and horticulture based livelihoods, storage and supply chain infrastructure, solar and wind energy solutions, upgradation of mobile and digital connectivity and establishment of banking facilities as the nearest bank branch and ATM are located around 30 kilometres away.

A presentation on the role of the Sashastra Seema Bal under Vibrant Villages Programme II was made by Mr Sunil Kumar Second in Command, SSB Sector Headquarters, Gangtok. He informed that the SSB provides security coverage in border areas and undertakes regular community interaction. He stated that Medical Civic Action, Veterinary Civic Action and awareness programmes are conducted in coordination with district administrations. He further informed that the 69 Battalion, SSB, has undertaken activities in Pakyong District while the 36 Battalion, SSB, Gyalshing, has carried out similar activities in Soreng District during 2025 to 26, including solar lighting, sports activities, medical camps and livelihood support initiatives.

This was followed by an interactive session providing participants an opportunity to seek clarifications and exchange views on programme implementation.

*Contd. from front page*

### State Level...

Commandant, Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs for his presence.

Earlier, Mr MT Sherpa, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Planning and Development Department stated that the programme aims to improve living conditions, infrastructure and livelihood opportunities in border villages. He informed that twelve villages in Sikkim have been identified under the second phase. Referring to the first phase, he stated that forty projects were sanctioned in the State, with thirty eight implemented in Mangan District and two in Gangtok District. He added that the workshop was organised to strengthen inter departmental coordination and discuss planning and implementation issues.

A video report on the implementation of the first phase was screened by the Planning and Development Department.

Mr Pradeep Kumar Pandey Deputy Commandant, Government of India Vibrant Villages Programme II presented the objectives of the programme. He informed that it is a fully funded Central Sector Scheme forming part of the national vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047. He stated that the programme aims to strengthen land border areas by improving quality of life, discouraging out migration and generating sustainable

**Save Water & Stay Green**

## RBI observes Financial Literacy Week in Gangtok

**Gangtok, February 9:** The inaugural ceremony of Financial Literacy Week from February 9-13, 2026, on the theme 'KYC Your First Step to Safe Banking', organised by the Reserve Bank of India, was held at a local hotel in Gangtok in the presence of Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Tourism Department, today.

ACS stated that Financial Literacy Week was conceptualised in 2016 and reiterated the importance of the 'Jan Dhan Yojana' launched by the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi in 2014 to ensure universal access to banking services, financial literacy, and access to credit, insurance and pensions. He informed that 18 crore bank accounts were opened within a year of its launch. He observed that the rural population in the State remains hesitant to avail loans but the trend is expected to improve with increased financial awareness.

He explained the importance of Know Your Customer (KYC) as a security measure to prevent fraudulent activities and informed that high risk accounts require KYC updates once in two years, medium risk accounts once in eight years, and low risk accounts once in ten years. He stated that absence of KYC complicates beneficiary verification as Government benefits are digitally transferred. He added that Self Help Groups assist citizens unfamiliar with digital transactions and informed that bank branches in the State have increased from 79 in 2010 to over 200 at present. He encouraged awareness on

## Education Department addresses Press Conference

**Gangtok, February 10:** Education Department addressed a press conference regarding grievances of students associated with Asha Para Medical and Nursing Institute, today.

Mr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Education Department informed that the Chief Minister had directed the department to verify the situation immediately and take necessary measures to protect the interests of the affected students.

In compliance, a fact-finding team was deputed headed by Mr Sonam Chopel Chairperson, Student Welfare Board and comprising Mr Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha Additional Political Secretary to Chief Minister; Mr Ujwal Rai Special Secretary, Education Department and Mr Jigme Bhutia Law Officer, Education Department.

The team visited the concerned location held meetings with students and stakeholders and assessed the matter on site.

Chairperson, Student Welfare Board stated that the institute reportedly issued certificates to 10-12 final-year students without specifying the courses promised at admission. First and second-year students were also concerned about the

asset growth through mutual funds, stock market investment and financial literacy.

Mr Thotngam Jamang Regional Director Reserve Bank of India stated that Financial Literacy Week has been observed annually since 2016 and emphasised the theme promoting safe banking practices. He highlighted the importance of re KYC in preventing misuse of accounts such as money mule accounts facilitating laundering. Stressing financial literacy among senior citizens, he urged bankers to remain vigilant regarding unusual fund movements and cautioned against fly by night operators. He concluded by urging banks to ensure a safe banking environment in the State.

The event witnessed the flag-off of the Financial Literacy Week awareness van covering all six districts of the State. Informative videos and a podcast on KYC were screened and posters carrying financial education material were unveiled. Bankers from nine banks operating in the State were felicitated for their outreach initiatives. The session concluded with a play highlighting the importance of financial literacy.

Among those present were Secretary-cum-Controller of Accounts, Finance Department; Secretaries, Principal Director-cum-Secretary, Principal Director; Director, Finance Department, Registrar of Cooperative Societies Cooperation Department, senior officers, bank officials, students and stakeholders.

validity and recognition of their certificates. Preliminary inspection revealed several discrepancies, and the institute is affiliated with NCVRT, which provides skill-based certification. A detailed report will be submitted to the Chief Minister for further direction, and the department is exploring solutions for the affected students.

The team also met the Commissioner of Siliguri and the case has been registered with arrests made. Chairperson urged students to remain cautious and advised all institutions and NGOs to seek prior permission from the Education Department before conducting career counselling, coaching, or similar sessions.

Mr Jigme Bhutia Law Officer stated that the department is coordinating with the Government of West Bengal to verify the institute's operations and ensure proper legal action.

Principal Secretary reiterated that the matter is being taken seriously and efforts are underway to accommodate affected students in suitable institutions within Sikkim, wherever feasible. He appealed parents and students to exercise caution and approach Education Department directly for guidance and clarification.

## Chief Secretary chairs State-level meeting on Census 2027

**Gangtok, February 7:** Mr R Telang Chief Secretary chaired a State-level meeting on Census 2027 at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The meeting was attended by Mr Tenzing T Kaleon Secretary, Home Department-cum-State Nodal Officer for Census, Mr Karma R Bonpo Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Heads of Departments from various line departments, DCs of all six districts, ADCs, SDMs, Principal Census Officers, officers from the Directorate of Census and officials from various departments.

Chief Secretary stressed that cooperation between the State Government and District Administration is vital for building public confidence. He added that public trust plays a key role in encouraging citizens to willingly provide accurate information. He further stated that stakeholders at the district level, including cultural and community organisations, should be involved in awareness generation.

Highlighting the advantages of self enumeration, he said that it would reduce the workload of enumerators, improve data accuracy, and enable faster compilation of Census results. He added that Government employees may also avail themselves of the self enumeration facility, which has been aligned with the Census schedule.

Emphasising the role of District Administration, the Chief Secretary said that effective supervision by District Collectors is crucial to ensure high quality data. He stated that minimal supervision through weekly monitoring meetings would significantly improve data quality. He further stressed the importance of comprehensive training for enumerators and supervisors, as the success of Census Operations ultimately depends on field level execution.

Earlier, Mr Tenzing T Kaleon Secretary, Home Department-cum-State Nodal Officer for Census stated that the meeting was convened to deliberate on the modalities and procedures for conducting Census 2027. He informed that the Census will be conducted entirely in digital mode using mobile based applications and, for the first time, will include the provision for self enumeration. He further informed that the self enumeration process will

commence from 1 April. Considering the limited time available, he urged all concerned officials to prepare promptly for this important national exercise.

Mr Karma R Bonpo Director stated that although Census is a subject under the Union List, its conduct requires active participation of both the Central and State Governments, reflecting the federal structure of India. He said that the Census is conducted on a collaborative basis and the data generated is shared not only with the Centre but also with States and other agencies for developmental planning and policy formulation. He informed that the Census is undertaken every ten years. However, the 2021 Census could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the forthcoming Census will be conducted after a gap of nearly 16 to 17 years, making it especially significant.

Highlighting the importance of the Census, he stated that population data plays a crucial role in determining political representation in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies. He further said that the allocation of funds and resources by the Finance Commission and various Government of India schemes is largely based on Census data, making it imperative to ensure accurate and reliable data collection.

He also emphasised that Census data holds historical value as it reflects progress across various socio economic indicators over time and serves as an important resource for research and documentation. He stated that Census 2027 will be entirely digital, enabling faster data processing and timely availability of results. He mentioned that unlike earlier censuses, where data compilation took more than a year, the digital format is expected to make data available within four to five months. He added that the upcoming Census assumes added importance as it will be followed by the delimitation exercise, making the accuracy of data even more critical.

A presentation on 'Strategy for Census 2027-Period, Process, Questions, Overview of Digital Tools, Progress of Work in Sikkim and Inter agency Coordination and Publicity' was delivered during the meeting. The Director

highlighted the importance of public cooperation and trust in ensuring the success of the exercise. He said that concerns regarding privacy and sharing of personal information may affect data collection. While the Census Act provides a legal framework, greater emphasis must be placed on coordination and support from various agencies at the ground level.

He stated that most preparatory fieldwork for census operations has already been completed and the State is largely ready, subject to formal legal notification. Household Listing Blocks have been created and estimation work carried out by incorporating population data from Census 2011 and verifying it with Panchayat records. The data will now be routed through the portal. Maps will then be generated for field operations and enumerators will visit the mapped locations to capture the required data. He noted that while preparations at the administrative level are nearly complete, the actual work will be carried out by enumerators and supervisors, and any gap at that level could affect the outcome. He therefore urged District Collectors to actively monitor and guide field staff.

He also highlighted the long term utility of census data for district administration, particularly for young officers and Sub-Divisional Magistrates. He stated that accurate population data would facilitate better governance by providing insights into population distribution, sanitation conditions, and other socio economic indicators, thereby aiding future planning and implementation of Government schemes.

Furthermore, a PowerPoint presentation on self enumeration and monitoring through the CMMS Portal was also presented.

The Director of Census concluded the meeting by reiterating that public awareness, institutional coordination and effective use of digital platforms are essential for the smooth conduct of Census operations and for ensuring the collection of reliable and high quality data. He thanked all participants for their cooperation and valuable inputs during the deliberations.

## Meeting on preparation of Electoral Rolls for new Municipal Wards

**Pakyong, February 10:** A meeting to discuss the preparation of electoral rolls for newly created Municipal Wards under Pakyong was held at the DDMA Control Hall, Pakyong, today.

The meeting was attended by Mr Sabindra Rai ADC (Hq), Mr Pulkit ADC Pakyong; SDM (Hq), Deputy Director, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Bazar Officer, Urban Development Department along with Block Development Officers from various blocks of the district.

The primary objective of the meeting was to apprise Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from different constituencies about the process of identifying eligible electors and understanding the demarcated areas under the newly formed Municipal Wards.

A detailed information on five Municipal Wards under Pakyong was shared with the BLOs alongwith its boundaries of each ward to ensure uniform understanding and accurate field-level implementation.

Mr Sabindra Rai ADC (Hq) highlighted the crucial role of BLOs in preparation of error-free electoral rolls and stressed the importance of accuracy, thorough verification and adherence to prescribed guidelines, while identifying electors and mapping demarcated areas.

The meeting was also attended by Panchayats and BLOs, ensuring coordinated efforts at the grassroots level for the effective preparation of electoral rolls.