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Governor visits Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary



Gangtok, September 8: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur, visited Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary and Sikkim Armed Police Headquarter at Pangthang, today.

Upon his arrival at Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary, the Governor was welcomed by Dr D Manjunathan Chief Wildlife Warden and Gangtok District Officers.

During the visit, Chief Wildlife Warden briefed the Governor on ecological

significance of Sanctuary and the ongoing efforts made by Forest and Environment Department for conservation of wildlife endangered species.

While interacting with the forest officials, Governor suggested for wildlife tourism stating, that wildlife tourism will get a new dimension as this Sanctuary, nestled in the lap of nature, is rich in natural wealth, biodiversity and

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State Level Teachers' Day 2025 Celebration

Gangtok, September 5: State Level Teacher's Day celebration was held at Manan Kendra, today. The programme had the presence of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as the chief guest along with Madam Krishna Rai.

The Chief Minister paid homage to Late Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, distinguished philosopher and former President of India, whose legacy continues to inspire generations. He extended warm wishes to the teaching fraternity, acknowledging their invaluable role in shaping young minds and nurturing the intellectual growth of the State. He reflected on history of education in Sikkim and remembered the sacrifices made by teachers in this journey. He congratulated Mr Karma Tenpo Ethenpa on receiving the National Teacher's Award and extended congratulations to all awardees being felicitated on the occasion.

Sharing insights from his own teaching journey, he underscored the significance and

role of teachers and highlighted the State Government's initiatives and achievements in the education sector. He also spoke about several schemes introduced by the State Government to strengthen this sector and emphasised that empowering teachers is at the heart of the State Government's vision to transform the state into an education hub.

He highlighted several key initiatives taken by the State Government to support teachers and improve the educational framework which are fair posting and transfer policy- In 2024, the State Government implemented a fair transfer policy, moving 1,063 teachers to ensure equitable distribution, establishment of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence, Ad-Hoc Teachers' Regularization Policy, Khangchendzonga State University Campus, Chief Minister's Model Schools – New schools are being established in

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Pang Lhabsol celebrated

Gangtok, September 7: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur in the presence of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended Pang Lhabsol Celebration 2025 at Tsuglakhang Royal Chapel, today.

Royal Family, revered Tulkus, Khenpos, members of the monastic Sangha, dignitaries and devotees gathered to pay homage to Mount Khangchendzonga, the guardian deity of Sikkim, and to uphold the spirit of peace, harmony and unity that Pang Lhabsol embodies.

The ceremony was organised by the Tsuglakhang Trust in collaboration with the Ecclesiastical Department and other allied organisations.

Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the sacred rituals and spiritual observances. "It was a true privilege to be part of this spiritually enriching experience and to witness the depth of our traditions being honoured with



such sincerity," he said.

Special thanks were extended by the Chief Minister to the Tsuglakhang Trust for their invitation and warm hospitality, which made the event a memorable and meaningful experience for all

in attendance.

The celebration witnessed a vibrant display of Sikkim's rich spiritual heritage, including the iconic Pangtoed Chaam (warrior dance), performed with reverence and precision.

Chief Minister announces establishment of Cultural and Heritage Centre for Newar Community

Namchi, September 6: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang announced establishment of Cultural and Heritage Centre for Newar Community and advocated for preservation of rich culture, tradition and language of every community while addressing the gathering at the State-level celebration of Indra Jatra at Kabrey, Namthang, today.

Extending his warm greetings on the occasion of Indra Jatra, the Chief Minister stated that Lord Indra is revered as the god of storms, rains, and lightning, and invoked his blessing for prosperity and a good harvest. He emphasized that the festival holds a great significance not only to the Newar community but also to the entire State, reflecting unity in diversity.

He further commended the organising committee for celebrating the State-level programme at a rural area like Kabrey, Namthang, highlighting the economic opportunities, it provides to local. Further, the CM encouraged to celebrate next year's Indra Jatra Festival on an international scale, with global participation and cultural exchange.



The Chief Minister also highlighted several initiatives of the State Government for the promotion and preservation of languages, such as the

implementation of the State Board of Indigenous Language Act, which is being enacted to facilitate

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Pearls of Wisdom

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Ringhim Rikzing Choeling Monastery hosts silver jubilee celebration of Pang Lhabsol

Mangan, September 7: Ringhim Rikzing Choeling Monastery in Mangan witnessed the silver jubilee celebration of Pang Lhabsol, an annual festival organised in honour of Mount Khangchendzonga, the guardian deity of Sikkim.

This year the event was upscaled to mark the 25 years (silver jubilee) of the Pang Lhabsol Celebration in the Monastery. The occasion had the presence of HE Lachung Tulku Rinpoche, who led the prayers in the monastery. Likewise, Lepcha head priest Lavi Sangay performed the special ritual and invoked the guardian deity through the recitation of prayers and sacred offerings.

The celebration was attended by Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister-cum-Area MLA, Mr Hishey Lachungpa former MP Rajya Sabha, Mr Kado Lepcha Zilla Adhyaksha Mangan District, Mr Nim Tshering Lepcha Chairman Sikkim Welfare Commission, Mr Pema Wongay Lachungpa Chairperson Forest and Environment Department, Mr Sonam Gyatso Lachenpa Chairperson State Medicinal Plants Board, Mr Sonam Norgay Lachungpa Chairperson Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Tshering Wangyal Bhutia OSD Lachen Mangan Constituency, Mr Sherap Bhutia Panchayat President Ringhim Nampatam GPU, Panchayat

Members, government officers, other dignitaries and locals.

Organised by the Pang Lhabsol Celebration Committee, the programme comprised special prayers, masked dances or chaam, and cultural presentations by nearby schools and organisations. One of the highlights of the programme was the Pang Toed Chaam or the Warrior Dance performed as a mark of reverence towards Mount Khangchendzonga. The elaborate costumes adorned by the dancers and the synchronised movements provided a visual spectacle and showcased the cultural richness of Sikkim.

Glacial lake expedition

Mangan, September 6: A multi-departmental team commenced a high-altitude glacial lake expedition on August 20 with members from DMG, Sikkim Police, SSDMA, DDMA, SU, CWC, GSI, NIH, NIDM, CWPRS, HPSDMA, DGRE and IPR. The team was divided into two groups: Team A successfully completed its objectives at Dolma Sampa and Sora funnel area and returned on August 26, while Team B moved towards South Lhonak Lake. From there, sub-team B1 (CWC, GSI, NIH, HPSDMA and DGRE) returned to Gangtok on August 29 and sub-team B2 (DST, SU and IPR) advanced to Changsang before returning to Thangu on September 1. On September 2, Team B2 prepared for their move towards Yulhe Kangse Lake.

This scientific expedition marked the first-ever visit to

Yulhe Kangse Lake (16,378 ft) in North Sikkim, a milestone in the study of high-altitude Himalayan lakes and glacial environments. The exploration yielded valuable baseline data, including the lake's depth profile, sediment composition and potential linkages with regional hydrology and climate change contributing to a deeper understanding of fragile mountain ecosystems in the Eastern Himalayas.

On the 15th day of the expedition (September 3, 2025), the team departed from Thangu and reached Yulhe Kangse Base Camp for an overnight stay. The next day, September 4 (Day 16), they trekked to Yulhe Kangse Lake, where a traditional puja ceremony was held before commencing the first bathymetric survey and sediment sampling.

Continuing onward, the

team left Yulhe Kangse Base Camp on September 5 (Day 17), reaching Lachung for a night halt and on September 6 (Day 18) successfully returned to Gangtok, concluding this phase of the expedition. They returned with several interesting findings, which are expected to provide new insights into the geomorphology, hydrology and climate interactions of the high-altitude lake system.

The mission's success was made possible through the dedicated support of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Indian Army, the local Zumsa community and Khangri tours and trek whose cooperation ensured safety and smooth execution of this high-altitude scientific endeavor.

Press Release from WCSC and DW Department

Pakyong, September 05: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Pakyong District, under the Women, Child, Senior Citizen, and Divyangjan Welfare Department, organised the fourth day of its awareness programme at Rhenock Block Administrative Centre today.

The event was part of the ongoing 10-Day Special Awareness Campaign under SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, aimed at promoting health education, legal literacy, and gender awareness across the district.

The programme addressed key issues such as menstrual hygiene, anaemia, cancer awareness, mental health, and the provisions of the PCPNDT Act. It witnessed active participation from Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) members, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), health and education officials, and community stakeholders.

Ms Mingma Lhamu Sherpa, Social Welfare Inspector, moderated the session and encouraged grassroots

engagement. Ms Sanchita Sharma, Accounts Assistant, delivered the welcome address, setting the tone for inclusive dialogue.

Mrs Sabena Biswakarma, Counsellor and Resource Person from Rhenock CHC, delivered a detailed session on menstrual hygiene, anaemia, and cancer. She emphasised safe menstrual practices, the importance of iron-rich nutrition to prevent anaemia, and early detection methods for breast and cervical cancer, encouraging proactive health management among women and girls.

Ms Sangita Pradhan, Counsellor from Rhenock CHC, highlighted the importance of mental well-being. Mr Alson Rai, Gender Specialist, spoke about the support services available through DHEW and urged participants to seek assistance whenever required. Ms Yanki Doma, Financial Literacy Specialist, provided insights into the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, a legislation

enacted to prevent sex-selective abortions and regulate diagnostic procedures.

Mr Jeewan Rai, Deputy Director from the Education Department, addressed the importance of student health and the need for mental health support in academic institutions, stressing the active involvement of parents and guardians.

The programme concluded with the distribution of sanitary pads to lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and women beneficiaries, reinforcing the campaign's commitment to dignity, health, and empowerment. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were also disseminated to strengthen community understanding of the topics discussed.

This initiative reflects the Government of Sikkim's continued efforts to strengthen women-centric services and promote inclusive development as part of the state's 50th year of statehood celebrations.

Review meeting on establishing Digital Nomad Village

Soreng, September 5: A review meeting on the proposed establishment of a Digital Nomad Village at Gumpa Dara, Soreng, was held today at the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng, under the chairmanship of Mr DR Bista ADC-I.

In his address, ADC-I Mr DR Bista welcomed everyone and presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Digital Nomad Village at Gumpa Dara, highlighting the potential of this initiative to diversify the local economy, create employment opportunities for youth and promote sustainable tourism in the district.

The presentation included learnings from India's first Digital Nomad Village at Yakten, Pakyong District and how a similar model could be adapted in Soreng. The presentation further, provided an overview of Soreng's natural beauty, including panoramic views of Mt Khangchendzonga, monasteries, trekking routes, rich biodiversity and homestay culture.

He outlined the project's objectives, including the establishment of high-speed internet connectivity, co-working hubs, upgraded homestays, eco-friendly pathways and community-led cultural activities. The need for departmental convergence was also emphasised, with active participation from the Departments such as Tourism, IT, Rural Development, Power, PHE, Health and Panchayats along with the private partners and homestay owners. The presentation further detailed the phased implementation plan, followed by infrastructure development, community training and pilot operations.

Additionally, the expected outcomes of the Digital Nomad Village were highlighted, including promotion of digital tourism, creation of sustainable livelihoods and support for

local entrepreneurs. The project is further complemented by its nearness to popular destinations such as Jhandi Dara, Rinchenpong Gumpa, Sai Mandir, Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Singshore Skywalk Bridge, Solophok Char Dham, Samdruptse and Tathagata Tsal Buddha Park, he added.

In conclusion, he motivated and encouraged all stakeholders to actively participate in making the Digital Nomad Village at Gumpa Dara a reality. He emphasised that with coordinated efforts, community involvement and proper planning, the initiative could serve as a model for sustainable, inclusive and digitally connected development in Soreng.

General Manager (DIC) Mrs Anula Gurung provided a comprehensive briefing on the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a scheme funded by the Central Government. She gave detailed insights into the objectives and benefits of the scheme and guided the participants through the complete process of documentation and application. Also, she assured all attendees of full support and assistance from the District Industries Centre.

The meeting also conducted an open discussion where various issues were raised and addressed, and the interactive session was effectively led by the concerned officials.

The meeting also saw the presence and participation of SDM (Hq), SDM (Soreng), Assistant Director (District Tourism Office), Assistant Director (District Tourism Office), Joint Manager (Bank of Baroda), Tourist Officer and stakeholders.

It is to be noted that, this project has been envisioned to encompass and to work in convergence with the existing schemes of the Government of India Programmes and State Government.

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Governor visits...

home to various endangered species.

He requested the official to develop some of the areas as wildlife tourist destinations to attract more visitors.

The Governor mentioned that the Forest and Tourism Departments should work together to boost wildlife tourism.

The Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary spread across approximately 51.76 square kilometers is known for its rich

biodiversity. The Sanctuary is home to the endangered Red Panda, Himalayan Black Bear, various rare bird species, as well as a wide variety of medicinal plants and herbs.

The Governor also planted Rhododendron sapling and lauded the natural beauty and biodiversity. Later, the Governor also stopped by Sikkim Armed Police (SAP) Headquarter in Pangthang, wherein, he was accorded Guard of Honour by SAP Personnel. He reviewed the functioning of the oldest armed police camp and interacted with officers, appreciating their dedication and service.

**Culture Department
Manan Kendra, Gangtok**

No. 02/2025-26/CD(GTK)

Dated:08/09/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Culture Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites **percentage rate e-tender in two bid system from Class I-AA contractors, enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department**, for execution of work as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Cost of Bidding documents (Non-Refundable)	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value	Bid value
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of Christian Community Centre at Nandok, Gangtok District.	₹5,00,000/-	₹56,25,719/-	₹22,50,28,757.00

Contractors of appropriate class may download the details and bidding documents from the e-procurement portal i.e www.sikkimtender.gov.in

**Chief Engineer
Culture Department
Manan Kendra Gangtok
(144)**

**Government of Sikkim
Social Welfare Department
5th Mile Tadong, Gangtok**

NIT NO: GOS/37/SWD/EC/2025-26/07

Dated: 28/08/2028

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Divisional Engineer (Gangtok), Social Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Lumsey, Tadong, Gangtok, 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 for the work (s) listed under:-

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 documents (₹)	Constituency/ GPU/ Ward
1	Construction of 8 R/S/B at Government Senior Secondary School, Dhajey, Gangtok District, Sikkim	1,57,83,158/-	24 months	3,94,579/-	50,000/-	Burtuk Constituency, Ranka GPU, Sangtong Ward.

Time Schedule is as follows:-

1. Date for submission of applications: 30/08/2025 to 16/09/2025 (10.00am to 4.30pm)
2. Last date for issue of tender form: 20/09/2025 (10.00am to 4.30pm)
3. Date and Time for submission of Tender: 23/09/2025 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
4. Date and Time of opening of Tender: 23/09/2025 at 2.00pm
5. Place of Tender: Gram Prasashan Kendra, Ranka GPU, Gangtok District, Sikkim.

Note: The details of conditions of contract and tender documents including tender form can be obtained from the office of the Divisional Engineer-(Gangtok) Social Welfare Department on production of receipt of deposit towards tender documents made to the respective GPU. The applicants should enclose attested copies of valid/updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate of appropriate class along with the application, attested copies of COI/SSC, valid electoral card for proof of residence of same GPU.

**Divisional Engineer (Gangtok)
Social Welfare Department
Lumsey, 5th Mile, Gangtok, Sikkim
(138, I)**

**Office of Additional Registrar
Department of Co-operation, Government of Sikkim
Namchi District, Sikkim, 737126**

Memo No.: 905/GOS/COOP/Addl.RCS (Namchi)

Date: 03/09/2025

NOTICE

As per the power conferred upon and under the provision of Rule 71 and Sub Rule (1) & (2) of Sikkim Cooperative Societies Rule 1981, it is hereby informed to all concerned, that the liquidation proceeding is initiated against the following cooperative society;

- **Upper Gom Women's Labour Co-operative Society Ltd. Bearing registration, no:S13/SOS/0016/COOP**
- **Lower Mamley Women's Labour Co-operative Society Ltd. Bearing registration, no:S13/MAK/0008/COOP**
- **Lower Mamley Civil Contractor Co-operative Society Ltd. Bearing registration, no:S13/MAK/0019/COOP**

Hence, all the stakeholders including the members, debtors, creditors, nominees, heirs and legal representatives of the deceased members are hereby informed to submit their claims and objections, if any, in respect to the aforementioned cooperative society within one month (i.e. 30 days) of the publication of this notice to the liquidators at the Cooperation Department, Namchi, South Sikkim.

**Joint Registrar
Cooperation Department
Government of Sikkim, Namchi, District
(142)**

**High Court of Sikkim
Gangtok**

Ref. No.V(13) Confdl/HCS/7970

Date:8.9.2025

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up three (03) (existing & anticipated) vacant posts of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (Grade- III), in the cadre of Sikkim Judicial Service, in the Pay Matrix J-1 (₹77840/-) of Sikkim Judicial Service Rules, 1975 (as amended up-to-date), plus other allowances, as admissible under the Rules. The Registry reserves the right to fill vacancies arising subsequent to this advertisement under this recruitment process till the validity date of the panel of recommended candidates in the main list or waiting list.

1. Eligibility conditions are as under:

- (a) Candidate must be a citizen of India.
- (b) Candidate must be a holder of a degree in law, granted by a University established by law in India.
- (c) Candidate must not be more than 35 years of age as on the last date fixed for receipt of applications.
- (d) Candidate must be able to communicate in Nepali, or any other language of the State .
- (e) Candidate must have adequate knowledge in Computer applications to be tested at the time of viva-voce.
- (t) The candidate must have practiced for a minimum period 3 years as an advocate.
- (g) The candidate shall submit a certificate of 3 years practice duly certified either by the Principal Judicial Officer of that Court or by an advocate of that Court having a minimum standing of 10 years duly endorsed by the Principal Judicial Officer of such a District or a Principal Judicial Officer at such a station.

(h) Insofar as the candidates who are practicing before High Courts or the Supreme Court of India, they shall be certified by an advocate who has a minimum standing of 10 years duly endorsed by and officer designated by that High Court or Supreme Court.

(i) The experience of the candidates which they have gained while working as Law Clerks with any of the Judges or Judicial Officers in the country shall also be considered while calculating their total number of years of practice.

2. Competitive examination shall be conducted by the High Court of Sikkim on the date and place so fixed.

3. The written examination shall be conducted as per syllabus prescribed in the Sikkim Judicial Service Rules, 1975 which is available in the High Court's website i.e. <https://hcs.gov.in>

4. All questions shall be answered in English except the vernacular paper. Answers in any language other than English shall not be considered for evaluation on any ground.

5. Viva-voce will carry 100 marks.

(i) Only such number of candidates shall be called for viva-voce as shall obtain the highest marks in aggregate of both the papers in the written examination, up to the extent of five times of the number of posts as specified, in the advertisement inviting applications.

(ii) Selection of candidates shall be made on the basis of the aggregate marks obtain in the written examination and viva-voce.

6. No person who has more than one wife living and no female candidate who is married to a person, who already has a wife living, shall be eligible for appointment to the service, unless the Governor of Sikkim, for special reasons, exempts such person from the operation of the concerned Rule.

7. Applications can be sent by speed post but must reach the office of the Registrar General on or before **10.10.2025**. Application can also be submitted in the office of the Registrar General during the office hours latest by **10.10.2025** before **4.30 pm**. The application shall be accompanied by attested copies of the following testimonials and three recent passport size photographs:

- (i) Certificate of Educational qualification, i.e. School certificates, Degree Certificate in Law.
- (ii) Proof of date of birth .
- (iii) Certificate of Practice.

8. Incomplete application(s) without the requisite testimonials and/ or other documents shall be summarily rejected.

9. The application should be submitted in the prescribed Form which is available in the website of High Court of Sikkim i.e. <https://hcs.gov.in>

10. The application received after the prescribed date and time shall not be entertained on any ground whatsoever.

11. Only those candidates found eligible on preliminary scrutiny shall be called for Written Examination. The list of candidates whose applications are accepted for taking the examination shall be uploaded in the High Court's website.

12. No T.A/D.A. shall be paid for appearing in the written examination and/or the viva-voce test.

13. The Registry of the High Court of Sikkim reserves the right to accept or reject any application, with or without any reason.

14. Examination fees of ₹600/- shall be payable in favour of the Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim, by way of Account Payee Demand Draft of any Bank, payable at Gangtok, and shall be submitted along with the application. The said amount is non-refundable.

15. Correct mobile/ telephone numbers) along with e-mail address shall be submitted by the candidates along with their applications, to be used for communication by the Registry.

**sd/-
Registrar
(Judicial Service)
High Court of Sikkim
(143)**

Workshop on Basics of ISL concludes

Gangtok, September 3: Two-day workshop on the Basics of Indian Sign Language (ISL) concluded at Soochna Bhawan, Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Gangtok, today.

Facilitated by the Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC Sikkim), Assam Lingzey, under the National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities, Kolkata, the valedictory programme witnessed the participation of special educators, special district coordinators, administrative assistants, teachers and employees from both State and Central Governments.

The concluding day began with discussions on the role of Indian Sign Language in today's education sector, particularly in the context of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). Deliberations were held on identifying children with special needs, importance of clinical psychologists, preparing Individualised Education Plans (IEP), modification of examination questions for children with special needs and methods of screening and assessment.

The technical sessions led by Mr Akhilesh Chauhan ISL

Master Trainer and Mr Vishal Biswakarma ISL Interpreter highlighted the use of technology in the field of ISL, the importance of facial expressions and body language, while addressing common misconceptions about sign language and deafness. Trainers also emphasised practical strategies to improve inclusivity in classrooms and workplaces through effective non-verbal communication. This was followed by an activity and Q&A session to further enable participants to clarify concepts and strengthen their learnings of ISL basics.

At the valedictory session, Ms Sarojini Subba Senior District Information Officer Gangtok, IPRD, lauded the workshop initiated by CRC Sikkim as a significant step towards fostering inclusive communication and accessibility for persons with special needs in Sikkim. Highlighting the efforts of the Government of Sikkim in promoting welfare of specially gifted children and inclusive education, she stressed the importance of understanding their unique needs and the role of such training in creating a more compassionate and responsive society.

Ms Pushpanjali Gupta,

Director CRC Sikkim, extended gratitude to Dr Lalit Narayan, Director NILD Kolkata for approving the programme that aimed at generating awareness among the non-disabled population and promoting inclusion.

She also thanked Ms Normit Lepcha Principal Director-cum-Secretary, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, Mr Tashi Chopel Secretary Department of Education, Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary IPRD, Mr Mainak Chatterjee News Editor Akashvani Gangtok, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Gangtok, General Officer Commanding, 19th Mountain Division, Spice Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Ayush, MSME, DFO, Gangtok, Ministry of MSME, Government of India and all other participating State and Central Government departments and organisations for their support in making the programme a success.

The valedictory function also had the presence of Mr Prem Narayan Pradhan Assistant Commissioner of Disabilities, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, and Ms Norbu Doma Bhutia Headmistress of Special School for Hearing Impaired Sichey.

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Chief Minister...

linguistic development. He urged greater community involvement to ensure larger student enrollment in language studies and achieve positive academic outcomes.

Responding to the demands put forth by the Sikkim Newar Guthi and Mr NB Pradhan and Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLAs, he shared that the State Government has extended substantial financial assistance for the completion of Newari Bhawan in Sichey, Gangtok, further one more Bhawan that is being proposed at DPH road will be finalised.

In addition, he also informed the establishment of Jas Lal Pradhan State Boxing Academy in Khamdong to honour Boxing Champion from the community. Further, Cultural and Heritage Centre established at Kabrey, Namthang was also announced. On developmental issues, the CM informed that a project will be initiated to address water scarcity in dry belts like Melli, Namchi, and Namthang. He added that the Namthang SDM Office will temporarily function from a rented building until a permanent site is finalised.

The Chief Minister also spoke on the State Government's efforts for the inclusion of 12 left-out communities in the Scheduled Tribe list. He informed that an anthropological report is being prepared under the chairmanship of Dr B V Sharma, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India, with contributions from experts nationwide, to ensure proper

documentation. He further assured government support for aspiring doctors from low-income families, taking full responsibility to finance their higher studies.

Speaking on the State's recognition by the Supreme Court for best performance in maintaining law and order, policing, and judicial procedures, the Chief Minister thanked the Police Department and its personnel for their effective service. He also addressed the misuse of police signage on private vehicles and directed the DGP to restrict such practices.

Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLA Namthang-Rateypani presented his gratitude to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support in improving the infrastructure and strengthening the governance in the constituency. He also thanked the Chief Minister for presenting with developmental projects in the constituency. The MLA also laid down the proposal for a well structured water resource and upgradation of health infrastructure at Namthang.

Mr NB Pradhan MLA Melli congratulated the Chief Minister for being nominated as the Best Performing Chief Minister by the India Today Group. The MLA stated that the celebration this year coincides with the 50 Years of Statehood celebration.

Talking about the Newar community, the MLA proposed for the inclusion of the Newar language in the CBSE curriculum in higher studies for the students. He also thanked the Chief Minister for his dedicated support for the inclusion of the 12 left out communities in the scheduled tribal status. Lastly, the MLA

presented his words of gratitude towards the committee in organising the celebratory programme.

President Sikkim Newar Guthi spoke about the celebration of Indra Jatra in Sikkim since 2000 and the community's ongoing initiatives to safeguard its art, culture, and literature. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his steadfast support and highlighted the annual Newa Ratna Samman starting from this year, being awarded to distinguished individuals for their contributions to community welfare.

During the occasion, Newa Ratna Samman was conferred upon Mr Kesav Chandra Pradhan and Mr Khagendra Pradhan for their lifelong dedication towards the society and community.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister also released the community's annual magazine, 'Smarika 2025, dedicated to celebrating Sikkim's statehood through the spirit of Newar culture and tradition. Additionally, the Chief Minister was also felicitated by the organising committee for his unwavering support and welfare of the state.

The occasion was also attended by Madam Krishna Kumari Rai, Mr MN Sherpa Speaker SLA, Ms Rajkumari Thapa Deputy Speaker SLA, Dr Indra Hang Subba MP Lok Sabha, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Political Secretary to CM, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyakshya Namchi and APS to CM Namchi, DC Namchi, SSP Namchi, HoOs from line departments, President Sikkim Newa Guthi along with other dignitaries and public.

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State Level..

various parts of the State to enhance access to education, Promotion Policy – A 30% reservation for promotions has been implemented, with 490 Heads of Institutes promoted so far, Probationary Teacher Policy, Sanchaman Limboo Government College, Geyzing 2022, NIT Khamdong, Apatan Fellowship, NB Bhandari Fellowship for world top 20 universities, Chief Minister's Charter School, Yoga for Mental Health, Exposure trips for awardee teachers, Sanskrit Teacher Regularization, Government in partnership with Thompson Digital, launched the Lakshya Center of Excellence for free coaching for competitive exams like IIT-JEE and NEET and Chief Minister's Mentorship Programme – launched in 2024, this programme will help guide and mentor students to success.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress made so far, with students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds aspiring to become doctors, engineers and pilots. He mentioned several upcoming initiatives and the mission to make Sikkim 100% literate by 2027.

Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department congratulated the Chief Minister for being recognised as the best-performing Chief Minister among the small states. He extended his appreciation to the Education Department for implementing Education Management and Monitoring Information System (EMMIS) and commended teachers for achieving commendable student pass-out rates. He urged teachers to adopt a student-centric approach to teaching highlighted the key initiatives of the Department. He also mentioned the schools recognised under the CM SHRI scheme and stressed the importance of introducing students to organic and sustainable farming practices.

Mr Raj Yadav, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, congratulated on receiving the Most Popular Chief Minister Award and stated that the programme was organised to celebrate the dedicated efforts of educators who play a vital role in shaping the state's future. He highlighted the positive transformation made in the education sector and the significant improvement in pass results. He also commended the Chief Minister's vision in achieving a fully literate State by 2027 and expressed his gratitude to the teachers for their

contribution in transforming the education sector in Sikkim.

At the outset, the celebration commenced with the offering of flowers to the portrait of Late Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. This was followed by a welcome song presented by the students of Chief Minister's Model School, Assam Lingzey.

A video presentation showcasing the progress and achievements of Education Department was screened. A poster of Sikkim Teachers' Association was also unveiled by Chief Minister. The programme also saw the presentation of the docudrama Paila Shiksha Tarfa.

Subsequently, the Chief Minister launched several key initiatives, including 12 Schools adopted by the Governor, CM SHRI Schools, Connect to Mother Earth Mission 2025, CM Disha Career Counselling Programme, Life Skills Education in Schools and the release of PM e-Vidya videos.

On the occasion, teachers were honoured in recognition of their commitment and dedication, with awards, certificates and trophies presented by the Chief Minister.

National Awardee Teacher 2024 Ms Yankila Lama also Head Mistress of Modern Senior Secondary School, Gangtok was honoured with cash award for her dedication to education.

The prestigious State Award were also presented to 13 recipients, including Headmasters and Teachers.

Furthermore, a certificate representing the state for National Awards 2025 was presented to Graduate Teacher (Arts), Tumlabong Junior High School, Ms Sulekha Rai.

It may be mentioned that Principal Senior Secondary School, Mangan, Mr Karma Tempu Ethenpa was conferred as the National Awardee Teacher 2025.

Trophies were presented to the topper schools in CBSE Exams (Class X and XII) 2025. Certificates of Appreciation were given to 36 schools securing 98% and above in the Class X CBSE Board Exams 2025.

At the outset, the Chief Minister was felicitated by officials from the Education Department, Sikkim Teachers' Association, State and Commendation Awardee Teachers 2024, Sikkim Probationary and Regular Teachers' Association (SPARTA) and Association of Heads of Government Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools.

Also present were Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, MP Lok Sabha, Advisors, Chairpersons, Deputy Mayor, Zilla Panchayats, Chief Secretary, HoDs, officers from various departments, teachers and students.

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SICUN organises 14th Annual General Meeting

Pakyong, September 5: Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN) organised its 14th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at SICUN Auditorium Hall, today marking its journey of strengthening the cooperative movement in Sikkim. The AGM was chaired by Dr Mangaljit Rai, Chairman SICUN.

Present during the meeting were Mr Purna Sharma Vice Chairman SICUN, Mr Yam Kumar Sharma Chairman Sikkim Milk Union-cum-President Ratomatey Thanhshing Milk PCS Ltd, Mr Sudip Pradhan Chairman CSR NRL-cum-President Central Pendam MPCs, Mr BB Chettri Chairman Panchayati Raj-cum-President Sumin Lingzey MPCs, Mr KP Sharma Registrar Cooperation Department, Dr Tilak Ghatani MD Sikkim Milk Union, Mr RL Sharma General Manager SISCO Bank, Mr Premjit Rai AGM SIMFED, Mr Zeepa Sherpa Under Secretary Planning Department, Bimal Century AO Finance Department and members of the societies of SICUN.

Chairman presented a comprehensive report for FY 2024-25, underscoring its efforts to strengthen the cooperative movement in Sikkim.

He highlighted that 68 new societies were enrolled, taking the total membership to 320 societies. In addition, 19 training programmes were organised, benefitting more than 1,400 participants across various cooperative sectors.

Among the landmark initiatives of the year were the launch of the SICUN Web Portal and E-Market Portal, inaugurated by the Chief Minister. The Union also established Business and

Marketing and Social Media divisions to widen its outreach and strengthen market linkages.

On infrastructure front, the SICUN hostel underwent significant upgrading, with the mess facility handed over to a member society for better management. The Union also introduced a monthly cleanliness drive, issued staff identity cards, and carried out IT system upgrades.

He noted that SICUN has secured important national-level recognitions through its registration under UDYAM, Unique ID, CSR certification, and empanelment under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and MSME Division.

The financial performance of SICUN reflected robust growth, with a turnover increase of 55.77%, rising from ₹1.16 crore in 2023-24 to ₹1.81 crore in 2024-25. Adding to its laurels, the Union was honoured with the Nepal Sahakari Ratna Award by the Government of Bagmati Province, Nepal.

Expressing gratitude, he thanked the Chief Minister for his cooperative-centric policies and unwavering guidance. He also acknowledged the support of the Minister, Cooperation Department, Board Members, officials from the Cooperation and Finance Departments, apex cooperative institutions, and member societies. Special mention was made of the dedicated commitment of SICUN officials and staff in steering the Union's growth and efficiency.

Likewise, Mr Phadung Bhutia CEO SICUN presented the agenda of the meeting, annual report, audited statement of accounts, and highlighted

initiatives from various SICUN divisions.

To recognise the unwavering service, three employees Mr Buddha Hang Subba, Mr Rajen Barai and Mr Sandesh Subba were specially felicitated during the programme for their sincerity and commitment.

Mr KP Sharma, spoke on the need to assess the outcomes of training programmes conducted by SICUN, stating that proper evaluation was essential for ensuring qualitative growth and tangible results in the cooperative sector. He further emphasised the importance of creating measurable impacts from such trainings so that the long-term goals of capacity building and self-reliance could be fulfilled.

Among notable discussions, the proposal for nominal membership and issuance of membership cards was welcomed as a step towards inclusivity and strengthening SICUN's organisational base. Members also suggested ways to enhance financial support mechanisms, optimise resource utilisation, and encourage youth participation in cooperatives.

The meeting also highlighted the significance of cooperation among different societies and institutions. Several participants offered their suggestions and recommendations for further strengthening the cooperative model in Sikkim, with particular focus on improving financial support mechanisms, ensuring better resource utilisation, and encouraging youth participation in cooperative activities.

Awareness programme on State and Central Government schemes

Gangtok, September 4: An awareness programme on State and Central Government schemes was organised by Commerce and Industries Department in collaboration with Sikkim Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Cell (SEED CELL) under Raising and Accelerating MSMEs and Performance (RAMP) programme, at PM SHRI Samdong Senior Secondary School, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Samdup Tshering Bhutia MLA-cum-Chairman STCS as the chief guest.

The MLA highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship and skill development in shaping the future of Sikkim. He stated that State Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister has been working to create opportunities for youth to become self-reliant. He encouraged students and participants to take full advantage of various State and Central schemes, stating that these initiatives were designed not only to provide financial help but also to guide and mentor budding entrepreneurs. He urged the

youths to change their outlook from job-seekers to job-creators, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the state.

He also commended the efforts of the Commerce and Industries Department and SEED CELL for organising such programmes at the grassroots level and expressed hope that the knowledge shared would inspire innovative ideas among the stakeholders.

Mr Dipen Subba OSD, Commerce and Industries Department-cum-General Secretary, SEED CELL, stated that SEED CELL was set up under the leadership of Chief Minister to promote entrepreneurship in the state and encourage youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

He added that SEED CELL is working towards building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem and act as a bridge between entrepreneurs and the Government. He reiterated the Chief Minister's vision of One Family, One Entrepreneur and advised people not to depend only on Government for jobs but to focus on generating employment

through business.

He shared that schools would soon have entrepreneur clubs with workshops, seminars and bootcamps to promote self-reliance. He cited the example of Dr Verghese Kurien, founder of Amul, a successful entrepreneur who contributed greatly to the nation's GDP.

Following the event, presentations were made on various Central Government schemes such as Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, UNNATI Scheme, PM Vishwakarma Scheme and Udyam Scheme. Presentations also covered topics such as FSSAI, Digital Marketing, ONDC, GeM and the process of onboarding products on Amazon and Flipkart. The session included an interactive discussion between representatives of the Commerce and Industries Department, SEED CELL and the stakeholders.

Also present were Zilla Adhakshya Gangtok, Zilla Panchayats, Panchayats, BDO Rakdong-Tintek, Deputy Director DIC Gangtok and others.

Training programme on NDPS Act and SADA

Gangtok, September 5: A two-day training programme on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and the Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act (SADA), 2006 for Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers commenced at Sikkim Police Headquarters, here today.

The training programme, being organised by the Law Department, Government of Sikkim in coordination with Home Department and Sikkim Police, aims at strengthening the professional capacities of law enforcement officers and prosecutors in effectively dealing with the complex challenges of narcotics-related crimes.

The inaugural session was attended by Mr Akshay Sachdeva, Director General of Police, Sikkim as chief guest, Mr Suraj Chettri LR-cum-Secretary, Law Department, Mr M Bharani Kumar Secretary Home Department, and Ms Rohini Pradhan, Additional Secretary-cum-Project Director, Sikkim INSPIRES.

DGP congratulated the Law Secretary and departmental team for curating training programme in coordination with the Home Department and Police Department describing it as a timely and relevant initiative in view of the growing challenges posed by the alarming rate of drug abuse cases in the state.

He expressed concern over the conviction rates in narcotics-related cases in the State, observing that while the criminal justice system is meant to ensure accountability, its credibility is weakened when offenders do not receive due penalties.

Acknowledging the challenges posed when pitted against seasoned defence lawyers, he stressed that it is the collective responsibility of investigating officers and prosecutors to build strong cases that can withstand scrutiny in court and ensure that those involved in drug-related crimes are held accountable.

DGP further stressed that investigating officers and prosecutors are the two wheels of the justice system, and their synergy is crucial to the success of cases under the NDPS Act and the SADA Act.

He expressed hope that the training would foster healthy debate, equip participants with sharper knowledge, and improve coordination between field investigation and courtroom prosecution.

Calling for a spirit of collective responsibility, he urged participants to set aside egos and work as a team to address the narcotics menace. He emphasised that while perspectives may differ, the overarching goal must remain the same, that is protecting society from the harms of drug abuse menace and ensuring Nasha Mukta Sikkim.

Earlier, LR-cum-Secretary, Law Department, highlighted the importance of equipping officers with legal and investigative expertise to effectively curb the growing menace of drug abuse in the state.

He underscored the alarming shift from softer to harder drugs among the youth, while highlighting the severe social impacts of substance abuse, including suicides and declining fertility rates.

Emphasising the Chief Minister's vision of a Nasha Mukta Sikkim, he called for stronger investigation techniques and an iron-fist approach in tackling the issue.

The training programme had the presence of Senior Police Officers, Investigating Officers, Public Prosecutors and resource persons from the Directorate of Prosecution, Narcotics Control Bureau, and Health Department.

The first day of the training featured a series of technical sessions covering various aspects of narcotics law and related issues.

The Directorate of Prosecution highlighted the salient features of SADA Act, 2006, including the classification of controlled substances, offences and penalties, and the powers of police officers.

This was followed by sessions from the Narcotics Control Bureau on the NDPS Act, 1985 and on emerging drug trends, which examined trafficking methods such as the use of courier services, darknet operations, crypto-funded logistics, organised crime networks, and the shift from soft to hard drugs.

Experts from Health and Family Welfare Department discussed mental health concerns linked to substance use, stressing the need for rehabilitation and psychological support.

The day concluded with an open discussion, wherein participants engaged with resource persons for clarifications and shared field-level experiences.

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

Chief Minister congratulates National and State-Level Teacher Awardee

Gangtok, September 5: On the occasion of National Teachers' Day, Mr Karma Tempo Ethenpa Principal PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School Mangan was conferred with National Teacher Award by President of India Mrs Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi, today.

Congratulating the awardee, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang expressed deep pride and joy, stating, "This is a moment of great honour, not just for Principal Mr Karma Tempo Ethenpa, but for every educator and student in our state. It reflects the high standards of dedication and service that

Sikkim's teachers continue to uphold".

The Chief Minister congratulated the Principal, faculty and students of PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Mangan and Department of Education.

Sikkim National Law University inaugurated

Pakyong, September 4: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang and Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim and Chancellor, Sikkim National Law University, Mr Justice Biswanath Somadder jointly attended the opening of the Sikkim National Law University at SICUN, Assam Lingzey, today.

Also present were Ms Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, Mr Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan Judges, High Court of Sikkim, Mr Raju Basnet Minister for Education Department-cum-MLA Namcheybong, Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Labour Department, Ms Pamin Lepcha MLA Gnathang-Machong constituency-cum-Advisor Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, Dr Achina Kundu Vice Chancellor, Sikkim National Law University.

The University has been set up with the objective of providing opportunities to aspiring students from Sikkim and across the country, in the field of legal education. It lays particular emphasis on supporting meritorious students of Sikkim who wish to pursue a career in law but are often constrained by financial hardship and unable to study outside the state. The Sikkim National Law University offers BA LLB (Honours) and LLM programmes and commenced its first academic session 2025-26 on September 1, 2025 with the inaugural batch of students.

Marking a milestone in the field of legal education and justice delivery, the Chief Minister in his address described the establishment of the University as not just the opening of an educational institution, but a historic step in strengthening justice, knowledge, and empowerment in Sikkim. He said the University would fulfil a long cherished dream of the people by enabling students to pursue quality legal education closer to home, nurturing a new generation of legal professionals who will contribute to the State and the nation.

He emphasised that the institution would serve as a hub of legal excellence, research and community service, instilling in students not only knowledge of law but also values of integrity, compassion and public service. 'This University should produce lawyers and scholars who have the courage to speak for the voiceless and uphold the Constitution in letter and spirit,'

he remarked.

The Chief Minister also expressed gratitude to Chief Justice and the judiciary for their guidance in turning this vision into reality. He acknowledged the contributions of Law Department, officials, and stakeholders whose efforts ensured successful establishment of the University.

It was announced that Prof Dr Achina Kundu has assumed charge as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University from August 1, 2024, while Ms Sonam Denka Wangdi has been appointed Registrar. Academic operations formally commenced from September 1, 2025, at Sikkim Judicial Academy, while the permanent campus has been identified at Assam Lingzey, with provisions made in the State Budget 2025-26 for its development.

Along with the launch, the Chief Minister announced several new measures to strengthen Sikkim's justice delivery system. These include the establishment of the Directorate of Prosecution and the Kanooni Sahyog Abhiyan, a campaign aimed at bringing legal services directly to people's doorsteps. He further emphasised the significance of Nari Adalat, introduced in August 2025, as a women-led forum offering community-based and accessible justice.

The initiative aligns with the vision of building a Sunaulo, Samridha ani Samartha Sikkim and Nasha-Mukta Sikkim, with a strong focus on empowering women, uplifting rural communities, and supporting youth and farmers. The campaign seeks to raise awareness on basic legal rights, educate citizens about key legislations such as POCSO, Anti-Drugs, and Domestic Violence laws and offer free legal consultations and affidavit services.

The Chief Minister informed that the campaign was first launched at Rorathang, Rhenock Constituency, on August 29, 2025, where over 100 beneficiaries were served. The programme organised by the Office of the Legal Consultant to the Government of Sikkim, is set to be expanded across all constituencies in the coming days. He expressed pride in Sikkim's No. 1 ranking among small States in India. Justice Report 2025, which assessed policing, women's representation, prison management, and judiciary. He credited this achievement to the dedicated efforts of the

judiciary, police, prison authorities, and legal services institutions. Concluding his address, the Chief Minister called upon the youth of Sikkim to seize the opportunity, dream big, and dedicate themselves to the cause of justice. "Together, we shall build a State where justice is accessible, rights are protected, and the rule of law remains our guiding principle," he said.

Chief Justice reflected on the significance of the institution for Sikkim. Drawing inspiration from Neil Armstrong's words, he described the establishment of the University as one small step for the University and one giant leap for the State of Sikkim. He emphasised that the University has given particular focus to students of Sikkimese origin, enabling them to excel in the legal profession and contribute meaningfully in any capacity they serve. He envisioned Sikkim National Law University as an institution of excellence, committed to imparting the highest quality of legal education, nurturing socially underprivileged students, and inspiring innovative thinking beyond conventional precedents.

He expressed confidence that the University would one day emerge as a model for other National Law Universities in the country, maintaining uncompromised quality and strength of character, reflected in the skills and expertise of its graduates.

The occasion also marked the official launch of the University's website and the unveiling of the plaque by the Chief Minister and the Chief Justice, Chancellor of Sikkim National Law University.

Also present were former Judge, High Court of Sikkim, and Chairperson of the Sikkim Lokayukta; former Judge of the High Court of Sikkim, Chairperson of the Sikkim Police Accountability Commission; Chief Secretary; Zilla Adhyaksha, Zilla Upadhyaksha; Chief Secretary; Director General of Police; Chairman SICUN; Registrar General, High Court of Sikkim, Secretaries and Officers from various departments along with Judicial Officers; Advocate General; Vice President, General Secretary, and Executive Members of BAR Association of Sikkim and Members of Governing Council and Members of Executive Council, Sikkim National Law University.

Chief Secretary chairs departmental meeting on Sewa Pakhwada

Gangtok, September 4: Mr R Telang Chief Secretary, chaired a departmental meeting with respect to the planning of Sewa Pakhwada at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, falling on September 17 2025, will mark the beginning of Sewa Pakhwada, a fortnight of service-oriented initiatives and will conclude on October 2, 2025. It is aimed at promoting public welfare activities, cleanliness drives, and community service initiatives across various states in India.

The Chief Secretary made necessary changes to the programme schedule, and discussed the distribution of benefits under various schemes implemented by Social Welfare, Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan, Panchayati Raj Institution, Commerce and Industries, Rural Development, Urban Development, Cooperation,

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Health and Family Welfare and Ecclesiastical Departments.

The Heads of Departments provided valuable suggestions and raised pertinent enquiries to incorporate their respective benefits and releases into the programme.

The Chief Secretary also headed discussions regarding departmental responsibilities, floral decoration, stage and shelter arrangements, audio visual and event management, stall allocation, traffic management, and more. He instructed Department Heads to develop a comprehensive event calendar for Sewa Pakhwada, facilitating its widespread reach to every district and block in Sikkim.

The meeting was attended by HoDs of line Departments, DC Gangtok, ASP Traffic and officials of concerned departments.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Department holds press conference

Gangtok, September 7: Mr CS Rao Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Tourism and Civil Aviation Department along with Mr Neeraj Pradhan PCE-cum-Secretary, Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary and Mr Tenzing Gelay Bhutia Additional Director addressed a press conference at the Mini Conference Hall of the Department, today.

ACS informed that Mangan District had remained closed to tourists since the end of May due to natural calamities. He stated that in coordination with the BRO, the Sanklang bridge had been inaugurated to restore connectivity to Dzongu. He added that the diversion reduces travel time by about one and a half hours for visitors going towards Chungthang. He confirmed that North Sikkim will reopen for tourists from September 8 and that online permits are being issued. He further informed that tourists can visit Lachung, Yumthang Valley and Zero Point, while Lachen will reopen in the next tourist season.

He said that tourists must cross the Sanklang bridge checkpoint by 1:00 pm while proceeding and the Toong bridge by 2:00 pm while returning. He added that permits will be available online from Mangan or temporarily from the Chungthang SDM office.

He said that Union Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh had

announced battlefield tourism on January 15, 2025. He added that Sikkim has three destinations under this initiative: Nathula, Chola and Doklam. He informed that after a meeting with the Chief Secretary, departmental Secretaries, Army officials and BRO officials, it was decided to open Chola and Doklam for domestic tourists from September 27, with an initial limit of 25 vehicles per day.

He further mentioned that on September 4, 2025, the North East Minister's Civil Aviation Conference-cum-3rd North East Aviation Summit took place at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu. He said the meeting provided an opportunity to raise concerns about operations from Pakyong airport, to which Mr Naidu assured improved air connectivity. He added that the Government plans to bring in Boeing or Airbus aircraft, which will require extending the runway length by one kilometre, from 1.75 km to 2.75 km. He further stated that the Toong-Naga road is expected to be ready within two months. He concluded his address with gratitude to stakeholders of the tourism industry in the state for their cooperation.

