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Three-day State-Level coordination meeting commences



Gangtok, November 26: The three-day State Level Coordination Meeting commenced at Manan Kendra under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, today.

Present among others were Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary and officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above.

A total of 26 departments presented their progress reports and action plans on Day 1 of the meeting.

The session began with the presentation by Mr Jigme Dorjee Bhutia Secretary Agriculture Department wherein he gave an overview of the department, outlining its vision and mission. He highlighted the review of ongoing schemes and projects, elaborated on the schemes currently being implemented and discussed the department's priorities for the upcoming financial year.

Mr Jitendra Singh Rajee Commissioner-cum-Secretary,

Urban Development Department reviewed the initiatives undertaken since the last coordination meeting and shared an overview of the schemes in progress. He elaborated on the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment and outlined the department's progress and achievements.

Ms Devika Rani Sharma (Chettri) Director General, Directorate of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation (DESME) spoke on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) sensitisation and the ongoing survey of industries. She highlighted the structure and strengthening of the SDG framework and discussed the department's future course of action.

Dr Sharman Rai Principal Director-cum-Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department highlighted the livestock population and the department's human resources. He provided an overview of the

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National Press Day 2025 Celebration



Gangtok, November 25: National Press Day 2025 celebration organised by Information and Public Relations Department was celebrated to commemorate the significant role of media in safeguarding democracy and upholding the values of a free and responsible press at Manan Kendra, today.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as the chief guest.

In his address, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang,

expressed his appreciation for the press fraternity and elaborated on the importance and responsibilities of media. He also extended congratulations to all the awardees. He reflected on the history of press, recalling the contributions of several prominent journalists, and emphasised the media's crucial role in safeguarding credibility. The Chief Minister reiterated the State Government's commitment to empowering the press community and highlighted various initiatives

undertaken for their welfare. He also spoke about the need for responsible reporting and storytelling that positively influences society. In addition, he outlined some of the State Government's key schemes. He also announced Creatorpreneur scheme starting from 2026, which aims to empower young content creators and influencers by providing them with an opportunity to monetize their talent.

The Chief Minister also visited the photo exhibition set up outside the main hall, curated by the Information & Public Relations Department showcasing the department's key activities and achievements.

In his address, Mr Ashit Rai Chairperson Information and Public Relations Department highlighted that the programme served as a platform to translate the department's vision into reality. He spoke about the significance of the celebration and highlighted the theme of the event, elaborating on the essential role of the media in society. He also outlined various initiatives

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Chief Minister leads Samvidhan Diwas Observance



Gangtok, November 26: The state observed Samvidhan Diwas with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang leading the celebrations and calling for a deeper commitment to constitutional values at Manan Kendra, today. Joining the people of the state in honouring the Constitution of India, the Chief Minister highlighted that the nation's guiding document stands on the pillars of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

As part of the programme held at Manan Kendra, the Chief Minister led the reading of the Preamble and participated in

activities aimed at strengthening public understanding of the Constitution and its ideals.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister urged citizens especially the youth to uphold constitutional principles in their daily lives and contribute to building a stronger and more inclusive society. He further highlighted the need to renew the collective resolve to follow the vision of Dr BR Ambedkar and the framers of the Constitution, as the state continues to work toward progress and national development.

Chief Minister attends Swearing-In Ceremony of Bihar Leadership



Patna, November 20: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, attended the swearing-in ceremony at Gandhi Maidan, joining senior leaders and a large gathering as Bihar's newly formed government assumed office.

The ceremony marked the Swearing-in ceremony of Mr Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, with Mr Samrat Choudhary and Mr Vijay Sinha taking oath as Deputy Chief Ministers. The event drew an

impressive gathering and was further highlighted by the presence of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, underscoring its historic importance.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt wishes to the newly sworn-in leadership, expressing hope that their collective vision and commitment would pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the people of Bihar.

INSPIRES framework gains momentum with collaborative district action

Gyalshing, November 25: Gyalshing District conducted a Needs Assessment and Orientation programme under the flagship Sikkim INSPIRES initiative at Pelling. The programme brought together senior officials, technical support teams and departmental representatives to reinforce District-level convergence and streamline coordinated implementation of the Integrated Economic Inclusion Action Plans (IEIAP).

The programme was attended by Mr Narayan Khatiwada Chairman (RDD) along with Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC-cum-Chairman, IEIAP Committee and Mr Bishal Mukhia Director (SIRD). Proceedings commenced with a welcome address and presentation of the agenda by Mr Surat Gurung ADC (Development)-cum-Member Secretary (IEIAP Committee) setting the tone for structured

deliberations.

A detailed Needs Assessment and Orientation Session was delivered by Technical Support Agency (TSA) through a comprehensive presentation outlining key findings, emerging district requirements and proposed strategic interventions under the INSPIRES framework. The session focused on strengthening clarity of institutional roles, improving inter-departmental coordination and promoting evidence-based planning to drive impactful outcomes.

An interactive discussion forum enabled participants to share field-level insights, identify operational gaps and recommend actionable measures to enhance programme effectiveness. During the programme, District and Block Level Work Implementation Committees were officially constituted to ensure streamlined execution, improved

monitoring and robust multi-tier coordination across Gyalshing District.

DC - cum - Chairman emphasised the significance of collective effort, structured planning and timely implementation to achieve the intended outcomes of Sikkim-INSPIRES. He reiterated the State Government’s vision of ‘One Family, One Entrepreneurship’, encouraging its alignment with IEIAP strategies to maximise opportunities for youth aspiring to establish sustainable enterprises. He highlighted key developmental initiatives of the District and urged all Departments to work with utmost accountability and transparency, ensuring inclusive and result-oriented progress.

He assured full cooperation and administrative support for the successful rollout of IEIAP interventions to drive holistic and sustainable development.

Gyalshing District organises Unity March

Gyalshing, November 24:To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the ‘Iron Man of India’, a padyatra titled Sardar @150 Unity March was organised in Gyalshing District under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, in coordination with the Govt. ITI Gyalshing and My Bharat, Sikkim.

The programme saw participation from students, youth organisations, government officials and local residents, showcasing the collective spirit of national unity and integration inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Unity March commenced from Gyalshing Bazaar in the presence of Mr Shekhar Sewa Chairman Scheduled Caste Welfare Board, who was accompanied by Mr

Hari Narayan Subedi OSD Road and Bridges, Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC Gyalshing, Mr Tshering Sherpa SP Gyalshing, Mr Sagar Sharma Zilla Member Gyalshing-Omchung, Mr Mangal Jakhar Deputy Director, My Bharat/NYKS, Mr Devendra Pd Sharma President Gyalshing Nagar Panchayat, Mr Bhim Bahadur Chauwan Principal Govt ITI Gyalshing along with senior officials from various departments.

At the beginning of the programme, a Unity Pledge was administered by the DC urging all participants to uphold the values of national integrity, unity and brotherhood. Following this, the Chief Guest flagged off the Unity March which proceeded through Nayabazar-Pelling Fatak-Dzoomsa Fatak-Kyongsa S-Turning (near Forest Check Post) before culminating at the

Community Hall, Gyalshing.

Mr Shekhar Sewa reflected on the remarkable leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, particularly his role in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union. He highlighted that his vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat continues to inspire citizens to work together towards a strong and united nation.

Upon arrival at the Community Hall, a garlanding ceremony on the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was held as a mark of respect to the visionary leader who played a pivotal role in national integration.

Additionally, certificates were awarded to the winners and participants of the essay writing competition held as part of the commemorative events.

Unity March held in Soreng District

Soreng, November 25: As part of the observance of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the revered ‘Iron Man of India’, the Sardar @150 Unity March was organised in Soreng District by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, in collaboration with District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng and My Bharat, Sikkim.

The programme began with the Padyatra being flagged off by the chief guest Mr PK Subba Chairman (Tribal Welfare Board), followed by the administration of the National Unity Pledge to officials and participants. The march from the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng, to the Rurban Complex concluded with a programme honouring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s enduring legacy and the spirit of unity.

The programme was attended by Mr PK Subba Chairman (Tribal Welfare Board) as the chief guest. Accompanied by Mr CN Sharma Advisor (SISCO) as the guest of honour. They were joined by Zilla Panchayats, Panchayat, OSDs, DC (Soreng), ADC (Dev) and ASP.

Chairman (Tribal Welfare Board) Mr PK Subba acknowledged the enthusiastic participation in the Unity March, noting the Vande Mataram chants in unison and sharing that the energy of the students had been particularly inspiring. Describing them as the future of the nation, he encouraged the young participants to continue demonstrating such spirit.

He spoke on the significance of the day and highlighted the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel towards the nation. He emphasised the immense impact of Patel’s work and urged everyone to draw

inspiration from his legacy, ensuring that future generations continue to recognise and value his contributions.

Earlier, Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC (Soreng) elaborated on the significance of the Unity March and the enduring legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He highlighted Patel’s visionary leadership, his role in unifying the nation and his contributions to building a strong administrative framework, notably as the Founder of the ‘All India Services’. He also spoke about his emphasis on equal employment opportunities, the essence of cooperative federalism and how these principles have shaped the modern concept of competitive federalism among states.

He further, reflected on how Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s values continue to influence the nation’s governance and social fabric.

Mr Mangalram Jakar Deputy Director (My Bharat, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India) highlighted the purpose behind the Sardar@150 Unity March. He spoke about the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the values of oneness and unity that defined his vision and purpose. He emphasised that such events help create an atmosphere that strengthens the spirit of unity. He added that these efforts support the larger goal of nation building and contribute towards the vision of a Viksit and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The programme also featured traditional and cultural dance performances and songs.

Ms Renuka Rai was recognised as the ‘Icon of the Day’ and was felicitated with a memento for her remarkable achievement as a Silver Medalist in Kick-boxing at the Asian Games.

Awareness Programme on Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child and Adolescent Labour

Gyalshing, November 18: Labour Department in coordination with District Task Force (DTF) for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child and Adolescent Labour, commenced a District-wide awareness programme through miking across all Gram Panchayat Units (GPUs).

The initiative aims to declare Gyalshing District a Child and Adolescent Labour Free District through extensive public outreach and community participation.

The miking campaign was flagged off by Mr Dhan Singh Limboo Zilla Adhyaksha, Gyalshing Distric in presence of gram panchayat representatives, members of the general public and DTF officials, including SDM and BDO Yuksom, BDO Chongrang, Assistant Labour Commissioners, Labour Inspectors and Police Personnel.

Following the inaugural ceremony, two miking teams were dispatched, one for Chongrang Block, led by Mr Sanman Subba, ALC covering six GPUs and another for Yuksom Block, led by

Mr Tilak Chand Sharma, ALC covering five GPUs.

During the programme, gram panchayat members were sensitised on the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, along with the overarching objectives of the ongoing awareness drive. Panchayat executives were also urged to conduct thorough verification of child and adolescent labour cases within their respective wards before submitting the final declaration certificates to the District Task Force.

The public was appealed to report any instance of child labour found in households, construction sites, workshops/garages, petrol pumps, shops or commercial establishments through the toll-free helpline number 1098.

The awareness drive will continue until November 27 , 2025, covering all 33 Gram Panchayat Units and one Nagar Panchayat Unit under Gyalshing District, ensuring comprehensive outreach across the District.

Before the Court of Sub-Divisional Megistrate, at Pakyong District of Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

WHEREAS, I, **SHRI PANCHABAHADUR SUBBA**, s/o Late Suk Bahadur Subba, aged about 64 years, by faith Hindu, by Occupation farmer, permanent resident of Upper Aho, P.O Changey & P.S Pakyong, District Pakyong, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and Oath as under: -

1. That I am the natural/legal son of LATE SUK BAHADUR SUBBA, permanent r/o Upper Aho, P.O Changey & P.S Pakyong, Pakyong Dist. of Sikkim.

2. That my father was belong to the caste "**SUBBA**" which is also known as the caste "**LIMBU**" refer and denote the same title, hence I am also belong to the same caste i.e. "**SUBBA/LIMBU**".

3. That in the SIKKIM SUBJECT CERTIFICATE of my father LATE SUK BAHADUR SUBBA, his/my father's name/caste/maiden name/surname has been recorded as "**KAINLA LIMBU**", vide Sikkim Subject Registered under Sikkim Subject Register Serial No. 136 Volume Number III Under Block Aho, issued by the Secretary, Land Revenue Department, Government of Sikkim.

4. That in my CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION, my father's name/caste/maiden name/surname has been recorded as "**SUK BAHADUR SUBBA**", bearing SI. No. 24236/DCE, Date: 11.4.1985, issued by the District collector, East District, Gangtok, Sikkim.

5. That in my VOTER IDENTITY CARD, vide Voter ID. Card No. BDR0042705, issued by the Election Commission of India, spelling of my father's name/caste/maiden name/surname has been recorded as "**SUK BDR. SUBBA**".

6. That in my AADHAARCARD, bearing Aadhaar Card No. 7480 9293 2561, issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India, Government of India, spelling of my father's name/caste/ maiden name / surname has been recorded as "**SUK BAHADUR SUBBA**".

7. That in the land document i.e. PARCHA/KHATIYAN, spelling of my father's name/caste/maiden name/surname has been recorded as "**SUK BAHADUR LIMBU**", bearing Khatiyan No.: 66/206, issued by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Pakyong Sub-Division, East Sikkim.

8. That I swear this affidavit to declare that the person by name of "**SUK BARADUR SUBBA**", **SUK BDR. SUBBA**", "**SUK BAHADUR LIMBU**" & "**KAINLA LIMBU**" refer and denote the same/identical person i.e. my father Lt. Suk bahadur Subba, henceforth my father's correct/official spelling of name/caste/maiden name/ surname shall be "**SUK BAHADUR SUBBA**" and my father was belong to the caste "**SUBBA**" which is also known as the caste "**LIMBU**" refer and denote the same title, hence I am also belong to the same caste for all purpose and purpote.

9. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

VERIFICATION

I the above named Deponent do hereby verify that the statements made in paragraphs 1 to 9 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been conceled and suppressed there from.

And I sign this affidavit on this the 12th day of July, 2023, at Pakyong Dist.of Sikkim.

Identified by:

Chandra das Rai

Deponent

Pancha Bahadur Subba

Government of Sikkim
Department of AYUSH, Gangtok Sikkim

NIT No. 180/EC/NIT/2025-26

Dated:17/11/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

(Amount in ₹)					
Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender Exclusive of taxes	Completion Time, (in months)	Earnest Money in form of TDR/FDR @ 2.50%	Bank Receipt/Challan for cost of tender document (₹)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Upgradation of SOWA RIGPA Educational Institute at NIT Deorali,Sikkim	6,43,94,422.00	24 months	16,09,861.00	1,00,000.00

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

i) Publishing of e-tender bid

26/11/2025

ii) Online bid submission start date

27/11/2025

iii) Pre-Bid Meeting date

05/12/2025

iv) Bid submission closing date

03/01/2026

v) Submission of hard copies of challan/TDR in original and certified photocopies of other documents.

06/01/2026 (10am to 2pm)

vi) Bid Opening Date

06/01/2026 (after 2pm)

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

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

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

3. The following document in hard copies must be submitted on 06/01/2026 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Addl. Chief Engineer (Civil)
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim
(171, ii)

In the Court of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at
Soreng District State Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, Chandra Bahadur Chettri S/O Ratna Bahadur Chettri aged about 40 years, by faith Christian, by occupation Farmer, Permanent resident of Siktam P.O. Tikpur and P.S. Sombaria, Soreng District, State Sikkim presently residing at Lungchok Salangdang, P.O. Lugchok, and P.S. Sombaria, Soreng District, State-Sikkim do solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That, my correct name is "Chandra Bahadur Chettri, Sajuna Chettri is my Natural Daughter and Aita Raj Chettri is my Brother in Law and the same has been recommended and verified by 30-Lungchok Salangdang GPU in the Panchayat Recommendation bearing Memo No. 559/4S/GPU Dated 07/08/2025.

2. That, my true and correct name is "Chandra Bahadur Chettri" and the same has been recorded in my Certificate of Identification bearing Sl. No. 502/DC(W)/2016, Dated 29/02/2016, Sikkim Subject Register vide Serial No. 32, Volume No. VXi under Block Siktam, issued by Additional District Collector, West District, Gyalshing.

3. That, my name has been recorded as "Chandra Bahadur Chettri" in my Daughter's (Sajuna Chettri) Birth Certificate bearing Registration No. 75/08 Dated 11/2/10 issued by Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Sombaria P.H.C., Govt. of Sikkim.

4. That, however due to inadvertence in place of my name (Chandra Bahadur Chettri) my brother in law's name has been found recorded as "Aita Raj Chettri" in my Daughter's (Sajuna Chettri) Academic Testimonials of Class IX bearing Serial No. RN/002642, Index No. M1-048 Dated 3rd September, 2024 issued by Secretary, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

5. That, however due to inadvertence in place of my name (Chandra Bahadur Chettri) my brother in law's name has been found recorded "Aita Raj Chettri in my Daughter's (Sajuna Chettri) Admit Card of Madhyamik Pariksha (Secondary Examination) bearing Serial No. Roll No 203382N, Registration No. 1242-001405, issued by Secretary, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

6. That, this affidavit is made Bonafide to declare that I, (Chandra Bahadur Chettri) am the Natural father of Sajuna Chettri and Aita Raj Chettri is my Brother in Law.

VERIFICATION

I do hereby verify and set forth in the above paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed or suppressed therein. Sworn and nsigned by me in the Open Court of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Soreng District, State-Sikkim on this 13 day of August, 2025 in the presence of the following witnesses.

Identified by:
Tulshi Tamang

Deponent
Chandra Bahadur Chettri

Health Tips

* **Eat a healthy diet:** Eat a combination of different foods, including fruit, vegetables,legumes, nuts and whole grains. Adults should eat at least five portions (400g) of fruit and vegetables per day. By eating healthy, you will reduce your risk of malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

* **Cosume less salt and sugar:** Reduce your salt intake to 5g per day, equivalent to about one teaspoon. On the other hand, consuming excessive amounts of sugars increases the risk of tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain.

* **Reduce intake of harmful fats:** Fats consumed should be less than 30% of your total energy intake. This will help prevent unhealthy weight gain and NCDs. There are different types of fats, but unsaturated fats are preferable over saturated fats and trans-fats.

* **Avoid harmful use of alcohol:**There is no safe level for drinking alcohol. Consuming alcohol can lead to health problems such as mental and behavioural disorders.

* **Don’t smoke:** Smoking tobacco causes NCDs such as lung disease, heart disease and stroke.

* **Be active:**Physical activity is defined as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure. This includes exercise and activities undertaken while working, playing, carrying out household chores, travelling, and engaging in recreational pursuits.

Government of Sikkim
Public Health Engineering Department,
Gangtok-737101

No:2(558)WS&PHE/1104

Dated: 16/10/2025

NOTICE

Shri. Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Office Attendant, Public Health Engineering Department is absenting himself from his duty w.e.f. 18.07.2025 without any information & leave application.

Therefore, a NOTICE is hereby issued directing him to report to the undersigned within 20 days of the publication of this NOTICE failing which action will be initiated against him as per relevant rules.

All the family members, friends and well wishers of Shri. Tshering Dorjee Bhutia, Office Attendant, Public Health Engineering Department are requested to inform him.

Deputy Secretary
Public Health Engineering Department
Government of Sikkim
(157, i)

Before the Sub Divisional Magistrate Sang
Rabdang, Gangtok District, Sikkim

AFFIDAVIT

I, Naresh Nepal S/o Shri Lall Bahadur Nepal aged about 44 years resident of Martam under Martam/Nazitam PO & PS Singtam, Gangtok District do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That I am a bonafide citizen of India.

2. That I am a bonafide holder of Certificate of Identification issued by the Office of the District Collector, Gangtok District vide serial no. **916/DCE** dated **08/06/2004** wherein my name has been recorded as **Naresh Nepal**.

3. That I am a biological son of Shri Lall Bahadur Nepal.

4. That as per the Certificate of Identification of Shri Lall Bahadur Nepal (my father) S/O Ratna Bahadur Chhetri his father caste has been mentioned as **Nepal** whereas as per the Sikkim Subject issued by the Sikkim Subject Registered under Sikkim Subject Register vide serial no **240** volume no **II** under block Martam, my great grandfather and my grandfather's caste has been mentioned as **Chhetri**.

5. That the names of my great grandfather **Dataram Chhetri** and my grandfather **Ratna Bahadur Chhetri** and **Ratna Bahadur Nepal** refer to one and the same identical person.

6. That this affidavit is made bonafide to declare on oath that the statements above mentioned are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

VERIFICATION

I, Naresh Nepal, do hereby affirm that the statements made herein above Para 1-6 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed there from. I have signed this affidavit on this 20th Day of November 2025 at Sang Rabdang SDO Gangtok, Sikkim.

Identified by:
Harka Bahadur Chettri

Deponent
Naresh Nepal

Agriculture Department Mangan organises School Soil Health Programme

Mangan, November 20: A school soil health programme was organised by Agriculture Department at PM SHRI Mangan Senior Secondary School, aiming to promote scientific awareness among students on soil health, fertility management and modern testing practices.

The programme had the presence of Mr Pranit Gurung Deputy Director Agriculture, Ms Chimi Yonzon Lepcha Deputy Director, ADO, Mr T Palden, SMS (Soil Science), Mr Kessang Bhutia Vice Principal, teachers, students and staff of Agriculture Department.

Mr Pranit Gurung Deputy Director underscored the importance of introducing soil science at the school level, noting that early exposure to scientific agricultural practices empowers

students with practical knowledge vital for sustainable farming. He highlighted the need for young learners to understand soil as a living system that sustains life.

Ms Chimi Yangzom Lepcha ADO explained the procedure for correct soil sampling and emphasised the importance of determining elemental composition for assessing soil health. She encouraged students to cultivate curiosity and adopt scientific methods in their approach to agriculture.

SMS (Soil Science) Mr T Palden delivered a detailed presentation on the significance of soil sampling, soil health and fertility management. He stressed that healthy soil acts as a natural filter, purifying and storing water, thus playing a crucial role in sustaining ecosystems.

Students were introduced to the role of soil testing in sustainable agriculture, including the functioning of the Digital Soil Testing Mini Lab and the importance of soil-test-based fertiliser recommendations. Resource Persons elaborated on key aspects such as: understanding soil fertility, systematic soil sample collection, soil health cards and their relevance and the use of digital tools and portals for soil health data management

A hands-on training session followed, during which students practised collecting soil samples, observed demonstrations using soil testing minikit and learnt steps involved in entering soil data into the designated digital portal.

Investing Officers and Public Prosecutors train on NDPS and SADA Acts

Namchi, November 21: Two-day training programme for the second batch of Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers on the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act (SADA), 2006, organised by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department concluded with a valedictory session at Sikkim Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Karfectar, today.

Mr Hem Raj Rai Inspector General of Police attended the programme accompanied by Ms Rinzing Choden Bhutia Additional Secretary (L&APD), Ms Kriti Pradhan Additional Public Prosecutor (L&PAD), Mr Norbu Gyaltzen Bhutia Legal Officer (L&PAD) along with officials from the department.

The second day of the training was facilitated by Mr Suresh Kumar Singh Superintendent of Narcotics Control Bureau (Siliguri Zonal Unit). He briefed on investigative procedures under NDPS Act, including protocols for filing FIRs and conducting search and seizure operations. He further elaborated on the correct methods for sampling, handling contraband substances and collecting evidence during investigations.

He also led a detailed session on courtroom procedures, outlining the steps and guidelines to be followed by IOs and PPs while filing charge-sheets. The session highlighted the essential coordination required between Investigating Officers and Public Prosecutors to ensure effective prosecution and secure convictions through the proper establishment of offences before the court.

During the programme, certificates of merit were

presented to the trainees.

The training was attended by Public Prosecutors from the Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts, District and Sessions Courts and Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate Courts, as well as Investigating Officers ranging from SDPOs and SHOs to SIs from various police stations. Participants represented the districts of Namchi, Soreng, and Gyalshing.

The inaugural session of the two-day long training for the 2nd batch of Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act (SADA), 2006 was held on November 20.

Mr Suraj Chettri Legal Remembrancer-cum-Secretary, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department highlighting the rising menace of contrabands in the State emphasised the need for sharpening the skills required to tackle substance abuse. He stated that the training for the SADA & NDPS Act is not a newer venture, rather a means to sharpen the capabilities and skills of personnel involved in combating and eliminating substance abuse.

Talking about the high lethality rate of the substances and with the increase in harder drug consumptions in the state, post 2010, the Secretary emphasised the need for interventions from each individual to support the personnel and departments involved in combating drug abuse.

Talking about Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang’s vision of Sunaulo, Samridhha and Samartha Sikkim, he urged for cooperation from civil societies to eradicate the menace of substance abuse from

the state for the vision to turn to reality.

The Secretary called for unity among each individual and emerging victorious in the fight against substance abuse. Further, advocating about the training sessions, he advised the personnel present to further disseminate the knowledge gained and dedicated in their effort to improve conviction rates in the state and eradicate the menace of substance abuse.

Mr Suresh Kumar Singh Superintendent, Narcotics Control Bureau (Siliguri Zonal Unity), provided sessions on the salient feature of NDPS Act, 1985. He informed the Public Prosecutors and Investigating Officers present about the types, classification and identification of Narcotic Drugs, offences and penalty Power of Police, authorised Officers and limitations under the Act.

Further, he also provided a session on recent drug trends and Modus Operandi of drug trafficking, emerging trafficking methods and organised crime networks prevailing in drug smuggling.

Mr Gyurmey Bhutia Assistant Director, Directorate of Prosecution provided a session on the salient features of SADA Act, 2006, with the help of interactive methods of training, where he briefed on how to break the chain of low conviction rate in the state and improve the investigating aspects of crime related with contrabands.

Also present were Ms Anupa Tamling DC (Namchi), Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC (Soreng), Ms Rinzing Choden Bhutia Additional Secretary (L&PAD), Mr Bishal Mukhia Director (SIRD&PR), ASP (Namchi), SDPO (Gyalshing), Legal Officers (L&PAD) and officials from L&PAD.

Before the LD. Oath Commissioner at Gyalshing, Sikkim AFFIDAVIT

I, Mrs. Anjana Gurung, daughter of Mr. Budhi Man Gurung, resident of Sopakha, P.O. and PS: Uttarey, District: Gyalshing, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That my actual and correct name is Anjana Gurung, my father's actual and correct name is Budhi Man Gurung and my actual and correct date of birth is 18.04.2000 and the same has been recorded in most of the documents including my Elector Photo Identity Card bearing Identity Card No. SLN0073676, issued by Election Commission of India and my Birth Certificate bearing Registration No: 486, date of Registration 21.5.2003, issued by Registrar, Births and Deaths, West Sikkim, Dentam.

2. That from the year 2006 to January 2015 was missing from my house, during 2006 to 2015, I was in the house of one Passang Sherpa a resident of East Sikkim who unaware of my residence had kept me as his own daughter giving me the name Pema Sherpa and since I was unknown of my birth date he kept 15.06.2003 as my birth date looking at me. He further had made my Aadhaar Card mentioning him as my father and later during the year 2015 itself my family had found me in his house and later I was taken to my parents house.

3. That due to the abovementioned reason my name has been wrongly recorded as Pema Sherpa, my father's name as Passang Sherpa and my date of birth as 15.08.2003 in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No:3123 7849 6508, issued by Unique Identification Authority of India.

4. That this affidavit is made by me to declare on oath that the names "Anjana Gurung" and "Pema Sherpa" belong to one and the same person i.e myself and to further declare that my actual and correct name of my father is Budhi Man Gurung.

5. That this affidavit is made Bonafide.

VERIFICATION

I, the above- named deponent do hereby verify and state that the statements made in above paragraphs are all true to the best of my personal knowledge and we believe the same to be true. Affirmed on this the 8th day of November 2025 at around 9:00 a.m. in Oath Commissioner's chamber at Panday Colony, District: Gyalshing Sikkim.

Identified By:

Lili Hang Limboo

Deponent

Anjana Gurung

(that this affidavit is made on the basis of verbal submission of the deponent, the documents provided by the deponent including recommendation Certificate issued by 23- Sapong GPU, West Sikkim)

Before the Oath Commissioner, Sikkim at Gangtok AFFIDAVIT

I, AITA MOTI LIMBOO, Aged About 39 years, Daughter of Late Kharka Bahadur Subba, Permanent Resident of Yuksam, Mangsabung, P.O. & P.S Yuksam, Gyalshing District, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

1. That I am bonafide citizen of India and permanent resident of above mentioned address.

2. That my actual and correct name is AITA MOTI LIMBOO, which is record in my Certificate of Identification bearing Sikkim Subject Register vide Serial no. 498. Volume No. XI, under Block Lingchem, dated 23.04.2016 issued by office of District Collector Gyalshing District, Government of Sikkim and same name is also recorded in my Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Electoral Photo Identity Card, Government Identity Card and all of my official documents.

3. That I also go by the name of AITA MOTI SUBBA which is recorded in my Birth Certificate bearing Serial No. 37480 bearing Registration No. 580 (0) 2000, date of registration 26.08.2002, issued by Office of Chief Registrar of Birth & Deaths. Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim.

4. That I also go by the name of AITA MOTI SUBBA (LIMBOO) which is recorded in Master Degree Certificate bearing Serial No. 1G33-66981 with Enrolment No 160785176 14.08.2019 issued by Indira Gandhi Open University, New Delhi.

5. That LIMBOO is my caste while SUBBA is my sub-caste.

6. That this affidavit is made bonafide to declare on oath that the person bearing the names AITA MOTI SUBBA (LIMBOO), AITA MOTI SUBBA & AITA MOTI LIMBOO belongs to one and same person i. e, myself. Further, I hereby declare that the name AITA MOTI LIMBOO be used for all intends and purposes.

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponents, do hereby verified and state that the statement made in the above paragraphs are true to the best of our knowledge and belief nothing are false concealed.

And I signed this affidavit on this the 27th day of November, 2015 at Gangtok. Sikkim at around 11:00 AM

Deponent

Aita Moti Limboo

Chief Secretary reviews progress of Nasha Mukht Mission

Gangtok, November 20: A follow-up meeting of State Level Steering Committee on Nasha Mukht Mission was held at the Tashiling Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr Ravindra Telang Chief Secretary. Heads of Departments and Nodal Officers from all departments attended the meeting.

Mrs Sarika Pradhan Secretary, Social Welfare Department, stated that the meeting aimed to review progress and strengthen inter-departmental coordination in the State's response to substance abuse.

The District Collectors and District SPs also joined the meeting virtually and provided feedback from the field. After detailed deliberations, all departments agreed on the need to adopt a

whole-of-government approach, ensuring synergy and coordinated action across departments.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that all departments must immediately constitute Nasha Mukht Cells and conduct monthly meetings to outline strategies and action points. He also instructed the Education Department to consolidate school awareness initiatives into a unified wellness component within the curriculum.

Emphasising community participation, he directed departments to collaborate with District Collectors, NGOs and youth clubs to enhance youth engagement infrastructure. He also called for widespread dissemination of information regarding the anonymity of the

1933 helpline for reporting suspicious activities.

Reviewing the State's rehabilitation framework, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for a standardised policy for government employees undergoing rehabilitation while noting that habitual offenders who misuse the opportunity should face appropriate action as per rules.

The Chief Secretary called for sustained action, proactive measures and enhanced operational coordination to achieve the State's vision of a drug-free Sikkim.

All the departments affirmed that they are committed to providing full and coordinated support to the campaign, ensuring that its objectives are carried forward in a unified manner.

Namchi conducts District-Level Workshop for Librarians

Namchi, November 20: A one-day District Level Workshop on Fundamentals of Library Science and Professional Ethics was organised at the Conference Hall of Namchi District Library, Town Hall, today.

The event was conducted by the District Administrative Centre (DAC), Namchi, in collaboration with Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

The workshop aimed to explore the role of librarians in contributing towards a Nasha Mukht Bharat by fostering a culture of learning, creativity, and community engagement through libraries.

Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi encouraged librarians to be innovative in their approach and to make libraries more appealing and welcoming for readers.

She emphasised that the purpose of the workshop is not only to equip them with technical knowledge but also to inspire them to promote healthy learning environments.

Further she, informed that follow-up visits would be conducted to assess the implementation and impact of training in their respective workplaces. She highlighted the need to make libraries inclusive for all age groups, especially senior citizens in GPK, noting that their mental well-being is as extremely important.

She stressed the importance of creating safe and accessible spaces within libraries and advocated for intergenerational activities.

In addition to academic learning, she encouraged the introduction of recreational and relaxing activities within library spaces to promote holistic well being.

Moreover, she advised the librarians to involve community people by forming book clubs and hosting poetry recitals, encouraging more visits to the library and supporting the mental well being of both children and adults.

Librarian, Ms Dina Subba inspired the attendees regarding their efforts and also briefed them on SR Ranganathan, who is widely acknowledged as the Father of Library Science in India. She also spoke on his Five Laws of Library

Science and introduced the Colon Classification system for the organisation of library collections, laying the foundation for contemporary library management and user-centered information services.

Further, she also delivered a presentation on 'The Ethical Role of Libraries and Librarians in Community Engagement for the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan', covered key elements of Library Science and highlighted their significance.

She spoke about library-based practices that support the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and recommended displaying anti-drug literature, creating awareness posters, setting up information desks to encourage programmes for students and young people and establishing health and addiction counselling information corners.

Session II featured a presentation on Professional Ethics in Libraries and Librarianship. The session covered a range of key topics, including the meaning of ethics, the importance of ethical practices in libraries and the ethical responsibilities of librarians.

The presentation also focused on the role of librarians as role models, noting that students and youth closely observe their behaviour, discipline and habits. The impact of ethical librarianship was emphasised, particularly how respectful interactions improve the library environment and strengthen support for initiatives such as the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

She further encouraged librarians to utilise digital resources such as Google Scholar, Project Gutenberg and the National Digital Library of India to strengthen their professional skills and enhance the quality of services they provide.

The workshop also featured an e-pledge registration for the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, along with an e-feedback session to gather participants responses on the training.

Followed by a hands-on training session on various topics related to the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, during which all participants actively engaged in group activities.

Mangan District marks culmination of 72nd All India Cooperative Week Celebration

Mangan, November 20: Department of Cooperation Mangan, organised a district level programme to mark the final day of 72nd All India Cooperative Week themed 'Cooperatives as vehicles for Atmanirbhar Bharat' at the DAC Conference Hall, Mangan, today.

The programme was graced by Mr Samten Bhutia Chairman, North District Milk Union (NDMU) as the chief guest.

The programme began with a welcome address by Mr Pema Wangchuk Bhutia Assistant Registrar where he highlighted the significance of Cooperative Week Celebration and the cooperative movement in the state.

This was followed by the reading of All India Cooperative Week messages of the Governor, Chief Minister and Cooperation Department Minister, respectively.

Assistant Registrar Mr Reekpa Hissey delivered a presentation on the themes and aims of the Cooperative Week celebration. He stressed the importance of cooperatives in socio economic development and mentioned that the department continues to undertake various activities and initiatives to strengthen cooperative societies. He further shared that, in the future, universities will integrate cooperative related courses to raise awareness about cooperative principles and values among students.

He also shed light on the day-wise themes of the Cooperative Week Celebration.

A group song on cooperation was performed by the staff of the Department of Cooperation, highlighting unity, collective effort and the cooperative spirit. The song is composed by officers and staff of Cooperation Department Headquarters Gangtok.

Ms Man Maya Tamang Cooperative Inspector made a detailed presentation to raise awareness about the importance of cooperatives, highlighting values such as unity, teamwork, democracy, equality and the role of Self Help Groups. She stressed that cooperatives grow through unity and collective effort.

Dr Dechen O Kaleon Additional Director Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, spoke about increasing the value of the North District Milk Union and encouraged the public to take up dairy related businesses. She also spoke extensively about the role of the community in ensuring responsible food waste disposal, keeping the overall health of stray animals into consideration.

Mr Ratan Hang Subba Joint Registrar, Cooperation Department Mangan highlighted the progress of cooperative initiatives in Mangan, noting how various societies in the district have been expanding their activities and strengthening their networks. He emphasised that these efforts are helping local producers gain better market access and enhancing the overall cooperative movement in the region.

Mr PT Lepcha Additional Registrar, Cooperation Department Head Office spoke about the history and origin of the cooperative movement, giving examples of early institutions such as the Denzong Agricultural Cooperative Society, SISCO Bank and SICUN, among others. He then highlighted the initiatives of the Department, noting that cooperative development now has its own dedicated Ministry with approximately sixty schemes. He also discussed key focus areas including the White Revolution 2.0, empowerment of women farmers and the importance of developing leadership within cooperative societies. Additionally, he mentioned various state government schemes and stated that the best performing cooperative societies are being recognised with an award each year.

Chairman NDMU Mr Samten Bhutia in his address highlighted the significance of the programme and encouraged active community participation. Speaking on dairy farming in the district, he encouraged the farmers and stakeholders to increase milk production and send their produce to the Milk Union. He also spoke about the milk incentive provided by the State Government to encourage dairy production. He elaborated on the key benefits of dairy farming and urged the departments to direct their schemes towards the upliftment of the rural population.

Municipal Commissioner reviews Martam ISWM facility

Gangtok, November 20: Mr Gary Chopel Municipal Commissioner Gangtok Municipal Corporation (GMC) reviewed the Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility at Martam, accompanied by GMC's technical team and officials of the waste-management agency GNS.

The visit focused on assessing ongoing achievements and issuing fresh directives to strengthen waste collection, transportation, processing and co-processing operations.

The Commissioner noted that the facility has recorded significant progress under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang.

The Chief Minister's proactive leadership and approval of key up-gradation works at Martam have enabled GMC and GNS to accelerate the State's waste-management goals. The State Government remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving zero waste to landfill by the next financial year.

During the inspection, Municipal Commissioner issued the following directives; enhance the efficiency of door-to-door waste collection across all wards, optimise waste-transportation routes using GPS-based tracking systems to minimise turnaround time, scale up processing capacity

at the Martam facility and explore additional co-processing partnerships with local industries, establish a real-time monitoring dashboard to track collection, processing, and performance indicators and GNS has been instructed to submit a detailed progress report on the upgraded processing lines by December 1, 2025.

Expressing confidence in the coordinated efforts of GMC, GNS, and the State Government, the Municipal Commissioner reaffirmed that the target of achieving zero waste to landfill is well within reach.



Unity March to mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Gangtok, November 21: A district-level Unity March was organised in Gangtok to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, today. The march began at Paljor Stadium and culminated at the District Collectorate Office.

The event was led by Mr Balaram Adhikari Zilla Adhyaksha Gangtok, Mr Rinzing W Chopel Chairman State Sports Development Board accompanied by Mr Kuber Bhandari State Information Commissioner and President, Sikkim Olympic Association; Mr Tushar G Nihare DC Gangtok; Mr Mahendra Subba Superintendent of Police Gangtok and officials from the Sports and Youth Affairs and Education Departments of the Government of Sikkim.

As part of the state's broader initiative, Sikkim is conducting seven rallies, including a state-level rally, in alignment with India's vision of Vikshit Bharat 2047. Officials stated that the primary objective of the rallies is to educate students on the significant role played by India's first Home Minister, Sardar Patel, in the unification of the nation.

The march witnessed

participation from various government departments, youth groups and students, reflecting a collective commitment to national unity and development.

At the onset of the programme, the Chief Guest offered a garland to the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In his address, Zilla Adhyaksha highlighted the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel towards the realisation of Vikshit Bharat @2047. He emphasised the importance of youth participation in nation-building and urged students to emulate the values embodied by Sardar Patel in their daily lives, which he said would lead to a Sunaulo, Samridhdha ani Samartha Sikkim.

Addressing the students, DC Gangtok encouraged the participants to research the life and contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and draw inspiration from his leadership. He paid tribute to Sardar Patel by highlighting his pivotal role in integrating more than 200 princely states into the Indian Union.

The Unity Pledge was administered by the Chief Guest, following which he flagged off the Unity March from Paljor Stadium towards DAC Gangtok.

AI Training concludes for Gyalshing District

Gyalshing, November 20: The valedictory session of the One-Day Training Programme on AI Tools for Detailed Project Report (DPR) Preparation, conducted in three batches for government officials was held at DAC Gyalshing, today.

The training organised from November 18-20 was a collaborative initiative of Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, Science and Technology Department, Government of Sikkim and District Administration, Gyalshing.

The programme was conceptualised under the guidance of Dr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department. The initiative aimed to enhance the digital competencies of government officials and introduce Artificial Intelligence-based tools for efficient project formulation, DPR preparation and data-driven governance in the State Government offices.

During the session, Dr Prativa Rai, Assistant Scientific Officer, briefed about the objectives, expected outcomes and key highlights of the training. She emphasised how the programme provided practical exposure to AI-assisted applications relevant to DPR drafting, documentation, Noting and analytical decision-

making processes.

The technical sessions were facilitated by Dr Prativa Rai, as the Master Resource Person, supported by Mr Nabeen Sharma (Assistant Scientific Officer and Team Coordinator), Mr Kishore Sharma, Mr Niraj Sharma and Mr Ujal Gautam as Technical Resource Persons from Science and Technology Department.

During the three batches, around 100 officials from various departments in Gyalshing District actively participated, taking part in hands-on exercises, practical demonstrations and interactive discussions.

Participants expressed appreciation for the initiative, noting that the training was highly beneficial for their routine office work and conveyed their interest in attending more such capacity-building programmes in the future.

Mr Nabeen Sharma ASO expressed gratitude to the District Administration for seamless logistical support and to all officials for their enthusiastic participation. He also acknowledged the overall coordination of Mr Suman Thapa, Director, Science and Technology whose support ensured the smooth execution of the entire programme.

Contd. from front page

Three-day...

projects implemented, outlined major challenges and shared the actions taken along with future strategies.

Ms Asha Gurung PCE-cum-Secretary, Buildings and Housing Department presented the department's work progress and vision, discussing the schemes implemented as well as ongoing initiatives.

Ms Karma D Youtso Secretary Commerce and Industries Department outlined the vision and mission of the department and provided an overview of the schemes in place. She highlighted the top priority schemes, the department's goals for the next financial year and emphasised the Digital/E-Governance initiatives.

Ms Jabi Thapa Secretary Cooperation Department elaborated on the department's vision of achieving prosperity through cooperation, and provided an overview of the schemes implemented, highlighting their outcomes and overall impact.

Mr Basant Kumar Lama Secretary, Culture Department presented an overview of the department's cultural initiatives and programmes. He highlighted ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the diverse cultural heritage of the State and discussed key activities undertaken to strengthen cultural infrastructure.

Ms Kesang D Rechung Secretary, Ecclesiastical Department presented an overview of the department, outlined the schemes currently being implemented, and discussed the key priorities for the upcoming financial year.

Mr Sandeep Tambe Secretary, Education Department (Higher Education) briefed the gathering on the schemes implemented by the department, highlighting their outcomes and impact. He also outlined the major challenges faced and the way forward.

Mr Tashi Chopel Lepcha Secretary, Education Department (School Education) discussed the overall school profile of Sikkim and outlined construction-related priorities along with other key focus areas for the next financial year. He also highlighted several major challenges of the department.

Ms Yishey Doma Yongda Secretary, Excise Department elaborated on the Sikkim Excise Act, outlined the department's functions and highlighted major initiatives undertaken. She also discussed the ongoing remodelling of the e-ABKARI system.

Mr MCP Pradhan Controller of Accounts-cum-Secretary, Finance Department provided an overview of Sikkim Subordinate Accounts Service and the department's major initiatives. He discussed revenue augmentation

measures undertaken by the Lottery Division, outlined future revenue enhancement strategies and gave an overview of the State's revenue position. He also highlighted several breakthrough achievements of the department.

Ms Roshni Rai Secretary, Fisheries Department presented an overview of the department, detailing the schemes being implemented and their outcomes and impact.

Ms Norzing Tsering Shenga Secretary Food and Civil Supplies Department, reported on the distribution of essential commodities and the mechanisms in place to ensure timely delivery across the State.

Ms Jyotsna Mary Karthak Secretary, Department of Food Processing Industries in her presentation, gave details of its priorities for the next financial year including the establishment of cold storage facilities across the State, creation of marketing centres in Gangtok, Namchi and Soreng districts and the setting up of two small-scale common facility centres at Gyalshing and Soreng.

Mr Pradeep Kumar PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary Forest and Environment Department presented the department's key focus areas including forging stronger bonds between people and nature, developing Sikkim as a nature-based global ecotourism destination, promoting oak plantation as a natural reservoir and implementing the Mero Rukh Mero Santati Plantation Management System as a time capsule initiative.

Mr Tshewang Gyachho Secretary Health and Family Welfare Department highlighted ongoing projects including the construction of a PHC building at Darap, upgradation of Chungthang PHC to a 30-bedded health facility and the construction of 50-bedded critical care blocks in the STNM Hospital complex, among others.

Ms Suchitra Rasaily Secretary Department of Ayush spoke about the department's relatively young establishment, outlined its requirements and highlighted the growing importance of AYUSH systems in the contemporary healthcare landscape.

Mr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department presented an overview of schemes and projects underway, including GLOF disaster risk reduction, revival of large cardamom cultivation, cancer research and prevention initiatives and documentation and skill revival of the traditional Lepcha heritage cane bridge known as Ru-Soam.

Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary Information and Public Relations Department expanded on accelerating Sikkim's orange economy in line with the Chief Minister's vision. She emphasised the immediate need for redesignation of employees to

realign human resources with existing functional demands and ensure structural coherence.

Highlighting the department's broader vision, she spoke on positioning Sikkim as the North East's creative capital, expansion of the e-learning language series, procurement of an OB van and construction of a dedicated annex building for the department, among other priorities.

Mr Bimal Rai Secretary, Information Technology Department presented a concise review of the State and centrally sponsored schemes and projects under implementation. He outlined progress under key digital initiatives, highlighted major infrastructure and service-delivery projects, and updated on flagship programmes aimed at strengthening e-governance, improving digital connectivity and enhancing citizen services. He also noted implementation challenges, coordination needs, and upcoming action plans to ensure timely and effective execution of both State and central missions.

Mr Bhim Thatal Secretary Labour Department, presented an overview of the department's core functions and responsibilities, focusing on labour welfare, enforcement of labour standards and initiatives aimed at ensuring social security and safe working conditions across the State.

Mr Bikash Deokota Secretary Power Department spoke on consumer relationship management and initiatives to promote solar renewable energy generation. He highlighted the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which encourages consumers to install rooftop solar plants and become prosumers.

Ms Dicky Yangzom Secretary Mines and Geology Department presented ongoing geological and mining activities in the State and outlined rules and regulations framed to regulate such activities. She also spoke about the conservation of geological heritage sites and recent geological discoveries in Sikkim.

Mr MT Sherpa Secretary Planning and Development Department spoke on various State and centrally funded schemes and highlighted the State's flagship programme, Sikkim INSPIRES aimed at providing better economic opportunities for women, youth and adolescents in the non-farm sector.

For the final presentation of Day 1, Mr Sailendra Sharma Secretary Public Health Engineering Department highlighted various projects undertaken by the department to ensure reliable water supply across the State and elaborated on challenges faced in implementing these initiatives.

The coordination meeting will continue tomorrow i.e. on November 27 with presentations from the remaining departments under Government of Sikkim.

**READ AND ADVERTISE
IN
SIKKIM HERALD**

AI Training for Government officials commenced in Soreng

Soreng, November 25: Under the initiative of Science and Technology Department in collaboration with District Administrative Centre (DAC), Soreng, an AI-oriented capacity-building programme ‘Smart Proposals, Smart Governance’ commenced at DAC Soreng. The three-day training, scheduled from November 25 to 27, aims to enhance officials in utilising AI tools for documentation, project conceptualisation and various allied administrative tasks.

Conducted under the directives of Dr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department the programme focuses on practical engagement with AI platforms to support smoother workflows, improved data organisation and refined official communication.

During the opening session, Master Resource Person Dr Prativa Rai delivered the primary presentation, offering comprehensive guidance on applying a wide range of AI tools for drafting documents, organising information, generating visuals, making presentations, as well as preparing noting, forwarding letters and generating Detailed Project Report (DPR). The session extensively covered tools such as ChatGPT, Gamma AI, Napkin AI, Google along with NotebookLM, Julius AI, Merlin AI and Suno AI among others whereby, she demonstrated on how to use it with effective prompts whilst navigating the participants through the user interface. She encouraged participants to actively try out the tools during the session.

Technical Resource Person, Mr Niraj Sharma conducted a focused demonstration on Canva AI, illustrating the creation of design brochures, cover pages and invitation cards, along with generating QR codes for enhanced accessibility.

The session saw the active participation of officers and officials from RDD and Election Cell Departments. Participants were also handed certificates upon completion of their practical training, acknowledging their successful involvement.

The programme was facilitated by resource team comprising of Team Coordinator Mr Nabeen Sharma, Master Resource Person Dr Prativa Rai, Technical Resource Persons Mr Kishore Sharma, Mr Niraj Sharma and Mr Ujal Gautam.

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National Press...

undertaken by the press fraternity under the leadership of the Chief Minister, showcased the Department’s ongoing work, and congratulated the award recipients.

In her welcome address, Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary Information and Public Relations Department highlighted the significance of the celebration. She emphasised on the vital role of the press in shaping society, its responsibility towards credible reporting and the need to uphold the highest standards of journalism. She also extended her gratitude to the guest speakers and acknowledged the State Government’s support in strengthening the media fraternity and creating opportunities for its growth. Further, she also outlined the department’s achievements.

Mr Sorav Jain AI and Digital Marketing coach addressed the programme, highlighting the growing importance of working with Artificial Intelligence to detect and prevent the spread of fake news in the digital era. He spoke about how misinformation gains momentum online, whether through fabricated videos, manipulated images, or altered documents and how such content often goes viral before verification.

To empower individuals to navigate this landscape responsibly, he introduced the SIFT framework, which stands for; Stop before reacting or sharing, investigate the source, find trusted coverage or credible references and trace the original context of the information.

He also recommended Google’s SynthID as a reliable tool for detecting AI-generated content, noting its use of digital watermarking to verify text, audio, and visuals. He stressed that even as AI reshapes information consumption, it must be used responsibly to protect truth, trust, and digital integrity

During the event, awards were presented to eminent journalists of Sikkim in recognition of their unwavering commitment to the field and their outstanding contributions to truthful and impactful reporting.

The Chief Minister’s Award for Reporting on Climate Change, 2025, was presented to Mr Lalit Dahal.

Similarly, the Chief Minister’s Award for Reporting on Human Rights, 2025, was conferred upon Mr Hem Subba.

Likewise, the Chief Minister’s Award for Reporting on Women’s Issues, 2025, was presented to Ms Bhawani Thami.

In addition, the YN Bhandari Best Journalism Award, 2025, was presented to Mr Ambar Gurung.

Correspondingly, the Kashiraj Pradhan Lifetime Journalism Award, 2025, was conferred upon Mr Khagendramani Pradhan.

The event also featured the release of the Coffee Table Book and Sikkim Today magazine.

The Chief Minister also unveiled the official jersey of the IPR Cricket Team.

To acknowledge the excellence within the Department, the Chief Minister presented Certificates of Appreciation to IPR employees for their commendable service across districts.

The awardees included Bonu B Rai (Hq), Semi Subba (Soreng), Arpana Gurung (Pakyong), Pema Namgyal Bhutia (Mangan), Narendra Baraily (Gyalshing) and Tenzing Wongchuk Bhutia (Namchi).

In addition, Mr Samdup Dorjee Bhutia (Hq) was recognised for his exemplary dedication a Commendation Certificate was presented.

Strengthening the media fraternity further, the State Government extended financial support to the Press Club of Sikkim. The Chief Minister handed over the Annual Grant-in-Aid of ₹5 lakh, which was received by Press Club President Mr Bhim Rawat and the executive committee. A ₹20 lakh cheque was also presented under the Patrakar Samman Yojana, reinforcing the State’s commitment to journalist welfare and institutional development.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the launch of Automated Billing System-cum- Advertisement Management System, marking a significant step toward digital governance within the Department. The system now enables Online submission and

payment of advertising bills, digital billing for media houses, faster processing and redressal and greater transparency and efficiency in advertisement management.

The new digital mechanism is expected to greatly streamline the workflow between media organisations and the IPR Department, ensuring quicker settlements and improved service delivery.

In his address, Mr Ambar Gurung YN Bhandari Journalism Awardee 2025 shared briefly that being recognised on such a significant day reflects his beginnings days of journalism.

He acknowledged the legacy of Late Y N Bhandari, stating that receiving an award associated with such a distinguished figure made the moment even more meaningful. He also extended special thanks to Mr Khagendramani Pradhan, whom he credited as the person from whom he learned the true essence of journalism.

Recalling on his 21 years of service in journalism, he noted that it has been one of learning, growth and resilience shaped by both opportunities and challenges.

Subsequently, in recognition for consistently highlighting important news and issues from rural areas Mr Suraj Limboo Journalist, Sikkim News 24 was conferred with Grameen Patrakarita Puraskar 2025, honoured by the Press Club of Sikkim, with a cash award, a memento, and a certificate of appreciation.

Thereafter, the Chief Coordinator of the 60+ Journalists of Sikkim, Mr Bijay Bantawa, felicitated the Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang.

Similarly, member of Press Club of Sikkim, Mr Puran Tamang, also presented a felicitation to the Chief Minister in acknowledgment of his continued support to the media fraternity.

At the onset of the programme, a documentary ‘Khamsel-The Sacred Steps to Tholung’ was screened, highlighting the revered ceremony Khamsel, which is observed once every three years.

A panel discussion on the theme Safeguarding Press

Training programme on AI and Digital Media held

Gangtok, November 26: Information and Public Relations Department conducted a training programme on AI and Digital Media at Soochna Bhawan, today.

The session was led by Mr Sorav Jain, an industry expert who has trained professionals from the Times of India, Hindustan Times, Deloitte, MSL India, Publicis Sapient and several other renowned organisations. He is also the founder of Digital Scholar and has trained over five lakh students across the country.

During the programme, he introduced and demonstrated various AI tools and applications, including ChatGPT, Gemini, Nano Banana, Carousel Design, AI Agent, Notebook LM, QuillBot,

SEMrush, Grok AI, Fireflies-Meeting AI, ElevenLabs, HeyGen, and VEO3.

His presentation was both informative and engaging, offering practical insights into the use of Artificial Intelligence in Government communication, content creation and digital outreach. The detailed guidance equipped participants with valuable knowledge on emerging digital tools and their relevance in day-to-day departmental work.

Officers from various departments along with officers and staff of Information and Public Relations Department attended the training and held discussions, contributing to a productive and interactive learning environment.

Second workshop of Sun Talks - PAILA held

Gangtok, November 25: Sun Talks PAILA (Programme for Aspiring Innovators and Local Achievers) is a joint initiative of District Administrative Centre (DAC) Gangtok and CSR Department, Sun Pharma Sikkim and implemented by Stars Of Hope (SOH).

Sun Talks-PAILA an initiative in alignment with Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang’s motto of ‘One family, one entrepreneur’ and aims to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and self-reliance among the aspiring entrepreneurs of Sikkim. The idea is for established Entrepreneurs of Sikkim to inspire, mentor and handhold the upcoming generation of Sikkimese Entrepreneurs by sharing their stories.

The workshop was chaired by Mr Tushar G Nikhare District Collector and attended by officials from DAC Gangtok, Sun Pharma Sikkim and Stars Of Hope.

The second workshop themed LISTEN-ASK-THINK, encouraged participants to convert challenges into ideas and ideas into action.

The resource persons for the day were Ms Mendarewa Ethenpa Founder, Looks Beauty Salon & Spa, Ms Lalita Pradhan

Founder, Lola Blossom Handmade Jewellery, and Aswin Nirola Founder, Spaced Revision Pvt. Ltd., who shared their entrepreneurial journeys and practical insights. This was followed by an interactive session.

The workshops are free of cost and open to all Sikkim residents with a valid ID, encouraging diverse participation from various age groups and backgrounds. The workshops will be held on holidays, 2nd and 4th Saturdays and Sundays.

Addressing the gathering Mr Tushar G Nikhare DC Gangtok highlighted the vision of Sun Talks -PAILA followed by the importance of resilience, consistent learning, mentorship and the growing potential for entrepreneurship in Sikkim.

The workshop is designed as an activity-based, with group activities, interactive sessions and various other activities.

The workshop also saw the presence of Mr Abhijeet R Patil SDM Hq and Mr Bhawesh Khyalia Assistant Collector Gangtok.

Mr Wasif Ali, CSR Head, Sun Pharma Sikkim also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by company under its CSR initiatives.

Credibility Amidst Rising Misinformation was held, featuring two speakers who shared insights on the evolving landscape of journalism and the challenges posed by the growing spread of misinformation.

The first speaker, Ms Priyanshi Sharma, Co-founder of Peek TV, is an award-winning prime-time journalist and mediopreneur. She is a Torchbearer Awardee from ISB and a former Principal Anchor at NDTV.

The second speaker, Mr Vedanta Agarwal, Co-founder of Peek TV, is known as India’s youngest prime-time news anchor at the age of 23. A former Principal Anchor and Correspondent, NDTV.

The session discussed reflections on maintaining press integrity, fostering public trust, and adapting journalistic practices in a rapidly changing digital media environment.

A theme song, audio visual video and cultural presentation was showcased by the Organising department.

The programme also had the presence of Cabinet Ministers, MLAs-cum-Advisors, Advisors, Political Secretaries to CM, Chairmen, Zilla Adhyaksha, Head of Departments from various line departments, Executives of Press Club if Sikkim, Literary Organisations, Members from the Press, students and others.

Sikkim showcases its sustainable Tourism Model at Outlook Traveller Awards 2025



New Delhi, November 22: Sikkim bestowed with significant national recognition at the Outlook Traveller Awards 2025, held at a local hotel in New Delhi, where the state's sustainable and community-driven tourism initiatives were presented as an exemplary model for the nation.

The state's excellence was further cemented by winning Gold award for 'Best Trekking Circuit in India' for the renowned Goecha La-Dzongri Circuit.

Representing Sikkim at the ceremony, Mr TT Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department elaborated on the State's efforts to enhance its tourism sector through diverse offerings. These include heritage circuits, spiritual and battlefield tourism, adventure activities and

eco-friendly rural experiences. He further emphasised the State Government's commitment in improving connectivity, noting that while the infrastructure at Pakyong Airport is complete, flight operations are yet to recommence. In the interim, the M172 helicopter service between Bagdogra and Gangtok continues to facilitate the movement of visitors.

The Minister also addressed the recurring challenges posed by landslides along NH-10, advocating for coordinated intervention with Central agencies to expedite the development of safer alternative routes.

HoDs and representatives from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Information and Public Relations Department and other related Departments were

also present at the function.

A dedicated panel discussion, titled 'Beyond the Stay: What Community Tourism Really Looks Like in Sikkim', featured representatives from the Rinchenpong Tourism Development Committee and Soreng Tourism Development Association.

The session highlighted community-led initiatives, including a booking web application that directly connects tourists with homestays and local guides, handicraft kiosks attached to homestays to support local artisans, the tourist police initiative aimed at enhancing safety for women and solo travellers and the growing adventure tourism activities in Soreng district, such as paragliding and bouldering.

The Outlook Traveller Awards placed a strong emphasis on responsible and sustainable tourism practices. Sikkim was acknowledged as one of the leading states championing green, community-oriented tourism, a recognition that reinforces the State Government's long-standing dedication in balancing development with ecological preservation.

The Government of Sikkim welcomes this accolade as a testament to its sustained commitment to a vision of tourism that is clean, community-based, and culturally rooted, a model that strengthens local.

Press Release from Akhil Kirat Rai Sangh



Gangtok, November 19: The sacred thanksgiving festival Sakewa, one of the most significant cultural and spiritual ceremonies of the Rai community, commenced with traditional

reverence and cultural pride at Paubik Naitam, Gangtok. This year, the Akhil Kirat Rai Sangh, Sikkim, is leading the grand celebration of Sakewa 2025.

Marking an auspicious

beginning to the festivities, the revered Toshlung-a tall monolithic stone carved from a single rock and considered one of the most important symbols of the Rai community was ceremonially installed prior to the main events. During the installation ceremony, members of the Sakewa Celebration Committee shared their thoughts, cultural and spiritual significance of Toshlung and the importance of preserving Rai traditions for future generations. The Sakewa festival, celebrated as a tribute to Mother Earth, continues to be a vital part of the Rai identity bringing the community together in prayer, dance, ritual, and gratitude for nature's blessings.

Chief Secretary reviews Mangan District road connectivity

Gangtok, November 21: Mr R Telang Chief Secretary chaired a review meeting at Tashiling Secretariat, to assess the connectivity situation in Mangan District, with a special focus on the much-awaited restoration of the Chungthang-Lachen axis, today.

The meeting was attended by General Officer Commanding, 27 Mountain Division, the Chief Engineer BRO, Secretary Roads and Bridges Department, senior officers from the Land Revenue Department and DCs Gangtok and

Mangan.

The attendees briefed the Chief Secretary on the progress of road restoration, bridge repairs, and landslide clearance along the Dikchu-Mangan and Chungthang-Lachen stretches, as well as on various other BRO works currently underway across the State.

It was informed that construction of the bridge over Taram Chu has entered its final stage and is expected to be completed by December, 2025. Once completed, it will allow the

full reopening of the Chungthang-Lachen axis.

During the meeting, the GOC, 27 Mountain Division, expressed appreciation for remarkable support and cooperation extended by Pipon and his team, District Administration and the locals.

The Chief Secretary urged all departments and implementing agencies to work in unison, remove bottlenecks without delay and ensure that the route is reopened by December 2025.

Sikkim organises Fish Festival in Siliguri



Siliguri, November 21: Fisheries Department organised the first two-day Sikkim Fish Festival 2025 in Siliguri, today.

The festival commenced at a local hotel followed by the inauguration of exhibition stalls at Vega Circle.

The programme was attended by Mr Puran Kumar Gurung Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries Department and, Mr Am Prasad Sharma Advisor, Fisheries Department as the chief guest and the guest of honour, respectively.

Also present were Advisor to Chief Minister (Press), Press Secretary to Chief Minister, Chairperson, Fisheries Department and OSD, Fisheries Department.

In her welcome address Ms Roshni Rai Secretary Fisheries Department outlined the work of the department informing that Sikkim's Fish Festival is being held outside the State for the first time thus, underlining the State Government's commitment in strengthening cold-water fisheries aligned with the vision of the Chief Minister in fisheries sector.

This was followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and screening of documentary videos on PMMSY work, success stories of fish farmers and features of the Mukhya Mantri Matsya Uthpadhan Yojana (MMMUY).

The chief guest launched Illustrations of 21 Indigenous Fish Species of Sikkim, Fish Directory and Fish Calendar 2025.

As part of the departmental programme, the following distributions were made:

Fish feed to 100 fish farmers, supported by ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore.

Aquariums to 50 schools of Sikkim, supported by ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore.

Water testing kits, fish transportation boxes, plastic crates, and hand nets to fish farmers, supported by ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore.

Tokens to 6 new beneficiaries under Mukhya Mantri Matsya Uthpadhan Yojana (MMMUY), Credit Cards to 6 fish farmer along with tokens to 6 new beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

(PMMSY) were handed over.

The Chief Minister Award for Excellence in Aquaculture was presented to Ms Rekha Bista, Gangtok District-Best Trout Fish Farmer, Ms Hari Maya Pradhan, Gangtok District-Best Inland Fish Farmer, Ms Songmit Lepcha, Gangtok District-Best Ornamental Fish Farmer, Mr Chhen Pintso Lepcha, Gyalshing District-Best Fisherman, Upper Sribadam Trout Rearing Cooperative Society, Soreng District-Best Cooperative Society and Mr Son Bahadur Rai, Soreng District-Best Employee.

Citations were presented to Dr Niti Sharma Scientist, ICAR-CIFRI and Angela Issacs, followed by the felicitation of guests.

Delivering his address, Minister Mr Puran Kumar Gurung stated that holding the festival in Siliguri was a strategic decision to expand market access, improve visibility of Sikkim's fisheries produce and support interstate trade. He stated the Chief Minister's vision of livelihood generation, youth engagement and self-reliance.

He expressed gratitude to ICAR-CIFRI for technical support, acknowledged the work of fish farmers and conveyed his greetings to the awardees. He also recognised the efforts of the Fisheries Department in strengthening cold-water fisheries through schemes, such as Mukhya Mantri Matsya Uthpadhan Yojana.

In his address, Advisor Mr Am Prasad Sharma commended the initiative and stated that the event promoted indigenous fish species, motivated farmers, and encouraged scientific aquaculture. He stated that such efforts strengthen market linkages and open new opportunities for fisheries-based livelihoods.

The programme was also attended by Mr Jigme Dorjee Bhutia Secretary, Agriculture Department, Ms Benu Gurung Secretary Protocol Home Department, Ms Annapurna Alley Secretary Information and Public Relations Department, Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Ms Yangchen Doma Tamang Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department and others.