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Yongthoom Season 3 concludes



Gangtok, August 7: The closing ceremony of Yongthoom Season 3 organised as part of the Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2026 celebrations was held at Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari Complex, Ridge Park, Gangtok, today.

The programme was attended by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur as the chief guest, while Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended as the guest of honour.

The event marked the culmination of Yongthoom Season 3, a cultural and heritage initiative organised on the eve of Tendong Lho Rum Faat to celebrate the rich traditions, art, cuisine, handicrafts and entrepreneurship of the Lepcha community.

Upon their arrival, the Governor and Chief Minister visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with local artisans, entrepreneurs and exhibitors showcasing traditional Lepcha cuisine, handloom and handicraft products, indigenous produce and other locally made items. The dignitaries also visited the Bongthing altar, where they witnessed traditional Lepcha rituals and customs.

The cultural programme featured a captivating series of performances highlighting the history, beliefs and traditional lifestyle of the Lepcha community. The presentations included Tundong Faat Aalok by the Sikkimese Lepcha Cultural Association, Puntong Palit by Mickma Tshering Lepcha, Mon Dryak Lok, the traditional Lepcha hunting dance, Kovin Yangta, a folk narrative performance and Zow Maal, portraying the community's transition from hunting and gathering to settled agriculture.

A special highlight of the was the launch of the song 'Mongmer' by Mr Ten Tshering Lepcha, followed by the felicitation of Mr Jigme Gyalpo Sherpa in recognition of his significant contribution to Lepcha art and music. The celebrations were further enlivened by musical performances from Sofiyum Band and Lasso Mungkup.

The event also had the presence of Ministers, MLAs, Advisors, Mayor and Councillors GMC, Chairperson along with Heads of Departments, DC Gangtok, officers, officials, dignitaries and locals.

2nd Aama Samman Diwas celebrated

Pakyong, August 10: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the 2nd Aama Samman Diwas organised by Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department at Rangpo Goli Ground, today.

The celebration was graced by Speaker SLA, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs-cum-Advisors, elected representatives from various local bodies, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Heads of Departments, dignitaries from various departments.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister reiterated the significance of Aama Samman Diwas as an occasion to acknowledge and honour the invaluable contributions, sacrifices and unwavering dedication of mothers towards their families and society. He stated that the day serves as a tribute to mothers who, despite numerous challenges and hardships, have worked tirelessly to secure a better future for their children and families.



Highlighting the Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, the Chief Minister stated that the State Government has introduced the scheme with the objective of promoting economic empowerment and self-reliance of mothers. He

emphasised that the Government's welfare programmes are guided by the needs and aspirations of the people rather than electoral considerations.

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State-level Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebrated

Gangtok, August 8: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the State-level Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebrations at Manan Kendra, today.

Extending his greetings to the Lepcha community on the occasion of Tendong Lho Rum Faat 2026, Chief Minister congratulated the organisers of the third edition of Yangthom and highlighted the festival's significance in preserving the community's cultural, spiritual and environmental heritage.

In his address, he spoke of the Lepcha community's deep connection with Mayel Lyang, Lepcha name for Sikkim and its longstanding relationship with nature. Recalling the traditional story of Mount Tendong, he said that the festival symbolised gratitude towards nature and reinforced the responsibility to protect the environment. The Chief Minister acknowledged the Lepcha community's contributions to Sikkim's history, culture, literature, arts, music, traditional knowledge and environmental conservation, while emphasising the values of coexistence with nature and respect for different communities, faiths and identities. Highlighting the State



Government's environmental initiatives, he mentioned about Mero Rukh Mero Santati, which received the National SKOCH Award 2024 and was presented at COP28 in Dubai as an innovative environmental initiative from India. Under the initiative, 2,077 families

have benefited through the Shishu Samriddhi Yojana, with an investment of ₹2.24 crore. He also highlighted Mero Bato Mero Bot, Sikkim Paryavaran Parva, A Day for Mother Earth and the Payment for

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Life is about accepting the challenges along the way, choosing to keep moving forward, and savoring the journey."
- Roy T. Bennett

PM Vishwakarma awareness programme on branding and marketing

Namchi, August 7: MSME-Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO) Gangtok, under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, in association with the District Administration (Namchi) organised a PM Vishwakarma one-day awareness programme on Branding and Marketing at the Officers' Club, today.

The programme was aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial capabilities of PM Vishwakarma artisans through focused sessions on branding, marketing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), financial inclusion, export facilitation and various flagship initiatives of Ministry of MSME.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr Vikas Gupta Lead District Manager (LDM), Namchi who attended the occasion as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Ms Sabita Lamay Postmaster, Mr Sameer Pradhan Marketing Executive (India Post), Mr Bhim Kumar Rai MSME Coordinator and DIC Inspectors who attended the programme as guests of honour.

Mr Vikas Gupta highlighted the significance of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in strengthening traditional artisans through access to institutional credit, skill enhancement and market linkages. He encouraged beneficiaries to leverage Government initiatives for expanding their enterprises and improving their livelihoods.

At the outset, Mr Nirmal Chowdhury gave an overview of the objectives of the programme. He highlighted the transformative vision of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and elaborated on various flagship schemes and initiatives of the Ministry of MSME aimed at entrepreneurship development, technology upgradation, credit facilitation, quality enhancement and market promotion.

The keynote technical session on Branding and Marketing was delivered by Dr Pradip Kumar Das, where he explained the importance of branding, attractive packaging, product positioning, customer engagement and digital marketing in today's competitive marketplace. Through practical examples and interactive discussions, he encouraged artisans to develop unique brand identities and adopt modern marketing strategies to enhance the value and visibility of their traditional products.

An engaging session on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for PM

Vishwakarma artisans was conducted by Mr Sukhrum Rai. His session featured a live demonstration of various AI tools, with active participant interaction and hands-on exercises. The beneficiaries were introduced to the practical use of AI platforms such as ChatGPT and Google, demonstrating how these tools could simplify and advance their day-to-day work and business activities. The session also highlighted how AI could be utilised to generate product descriptions, design logos and labels, create promotional content, prepare social media campaigns and enhance digital marketing strategies. The artisans were encouraged to make effective use of these digital tools to improve productivity, presentation and market outreach, thereby enabling them to promote their products more effectively in both domestic and online markets.

A session on Credit Facilitation for PM Vishwakarma Artisans was conducted by Mr Vikas Gupta who explained the credit support available under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, financial literacy, digital banking services and the importance of timely repayment and responsible financial management for sustainable enterprise growth.

A dedicated session on Export Facilitation and QR Code Generation was delivered by Mr Sameer Pradhan. He explained the role of Dak Niryat Kendras in enabling artisans to access national and international markets through simplified export procedures, reliable postal services and cost-effective logistics. The beneficiaries were apprised of various advantages available through India Post for the online delivery and distribution of their products, enabling them to reach customers across the country and gradually explore international markets without the need for complex logistics arrangements.

The artisans were encouraged to utilise India Post's extensive delivery network and digital services to expand the reach of their products beyond local markets and showcase Sikkim's traditional skills and locally crafted products on a wider national and international platform.

The session further emphasised that such initiatives could contribute towards creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for artisans, strengthening local enterprises

de-addiction centre in the district. The DC proposed two potential sites and directed the concerned departments to complete the necessary documentation and carry out a detailed inspection before taking further steps.

The DC directed all departmental representatives to coordinate closely with the concerned departments and submit their departmental activity reports to the District Administration at the earliest.

and taking Sikkim's unique products to global markets, thereby contributing to the vision of 'Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim' envisioned by the Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang.

A comprehensive session on Schemes of the Ministry of MSME was delivered by Dr Rahul Kamble where, he briefed the participants on the flagship schemes of the Ministry, including entrepreneurship development, credit facilitation, technology upgradation, quality certification, cluster development and market promotion initiatives. He encouraged artisans to take advantage of the wide range of support mechanisms available through the Ministry to strengthen and scale up their enterprises.

The concluding technical session on MSME Ecosystem for PM Vishwakarma Artisans was delivered by Mr Nirmal Chowdhury wherein he explained the integrated MSME support ecosystem available through the Ministry, including incubation support, entrepreneurship development programmes, technology centres, digital platforms and institutional partnerships that enable artisans to transform traditional skills into sustainable enterprises.

A vibrant product exhibition was organised alongside the programme, where PM Vishwakarma artisans displayed their unique handcrafted products, reflecting the rich traditional craftsmanship and skills of Namchi District. The exhibition provided a valuable platform for artisans to showcase their products, exchange ideas and explore opportunities in branding, packaging and marketing. During the session, selected artisans were also felicitated in recognition of their skills, dedication and contribution towards preserving traditional craftsmanship.

The felicitated artisans were Ms Anjana Lohar, Ms Sarita Tamang, Ms Chandra Kumari Niroula, Mr Jeet Bahadur Tamang and Mr Nar Bir Rai.

MSME-DFO, Gangtok reaffirmed its commitment to organising such awareness and capacity-building initiatives across Sikkim to empower PM Vishwakarma artisans, strengthen the MSME ecosystem and promote sustainable entrepreneurship in line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat@2047.

The Committee also reviewed district-wide awareness programmes on drug abuse prevention. Department-wise progress reports were presented and discussed.

Mrs Pratiba Tamang Senior Welfare Officer (Soreng) informed that the Social Welfare Department has been conducting awareness programmes in schools and colleges across the District.

District-wide awareness and scholarship registration drive concludes

Mangan, August 7: Social Welfare Department, Mangan District, concluded its district-wide awareness and scholarship registration drive, today. The campaign, which commenced on July 28, 2026, covered more than 10 schools and 1 Government College across the District.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness among students about the various scholarship schemes offered by the department and to facilitate their registration through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

Throughout the drive, District Nodal Officer (DNO) and Welfare Inspectors of the Social Welfare Department conducted interactive awareness sessions in schools and the Government

College. During these sessions, students were informed about the eligibility criteria, application procedures, and benefits of the different scholarship schemes available under the department.

Officials also assisted new applicants in generating their One Time Registration (OTR) numbers, a mandatory requirement for applying through the National Scholarship Portal, and guided students on navigating the portal to access scholarship opportunities.

As a result of the campaign, more than 400 eligible students were successfully registered on the National Scholarship Portal, enabling them to apply for scholarships under the Social Welfare Department.

Environment Education Programme conducts hands-on workshop

Gangtok, August 7: Environment Education Programme (EEP) under Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim, with support from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India in partnership with Zero Waste Himalaya organised hands-on workshop on Zero Waste Initiative: Waste and Brand Audit for 25 schools of Gangtok District at PM SHRI Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, Deorali, today.

The workshop was conducted also pre celebrating Zero Waste Himalaya Day (08 August) introducing yet another edition of The Plastic Freedom Challenge to be observed from August 8-15, celebrating Independence Day with sustainable and environment friendly actions. The event also aligned with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative with the objective of promoting sustainable waste management practices and

creating awareness among students about responsible environmental behaviour.

Core members of ZWH Dr Roshan Rai and Priyadarsheni Shrestha introduced students and teachers to the concept of Waste and Brand Audit, enabling them to understand different types of waste, identify brands contributing to plastic waste, and recognise the importance of waste reduction and segregation. About 80 participating teachers and students were actively involved in segregating waste into different categories during the practical session, providing them with hands-on experience in proper waste management and reinforcing the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle following the Zero Waste Mantra of Reflect-Switch-Demand.

The interactive session encouraged students to adopt environmentally responsible practices in their daily lives and inspired them to become active participants and ambassadors in the Zero Waste Himalaya movement.

Before the Oath Commissioner, Sikkim at Gangtok. AFFIDAVIT

I, **Rinchen Doma Bhutia**, aged about 50 years, wife of Chewang Dorjee Bhutia resident of Rongyek P.O. Chongey and P.S Sadar Thana under District Gangtok, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That I am the wedded wife of **Chewang Dorjee Bhutia**.
2. That my husband's actual and correct name and caste has been recorded as **Chewang Dorjee Bhutia** in his Voter Card bearing EPIC No. CBS0099283 issued by the Election Commission of India and also in my Certificate of identification bearing SI. No. 1194/DCE dated: 25.03.1995 issued by the Office of the District Collector East District, Gangtok.
3. That however in my son's passport bearing No. P8997719 dated: 24.03.2017 issued by the Republic of India, my husband's name and caste has been recorded as **Chewang Dorjee** instead of **Chewang Dorjee Bhutia**.
4. That this affidavit is made Bonafide and to declare that the person, by the name and caste i.e. "**Chewang Dorjee Bhutia**", and "**Chewang Dorjee**" denotes and refer to one and the same identical person, i.e. myself.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent before named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 4 of the foregoing affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge. Nothing in material has been concealed or suppressed therefrom. Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 11th day of August, 2026.

DEPONENT

DC-cum-Chairperson chairs monthly review meeting

Soreng, August 4: Mr Dhiraj Subedi DC-cum-Chairperson District-Level NCORD Committee chaired the monthly review meeting for July and August at DAC Soreng, today.

The meeting reviewed the action taken on decisions from previous meeting, where Mr DR Bista ADC (Soreng) presented the agenda-wise items.

During the meeting, the members discussed the need to identify a suitable location for a

Date: 29.7.26/2026

Sealed quotations are invited from interested firms having valid Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission(Gramin),[VB-G RAM-G} empanelment with Rural Development Department, Government of Sikkim for supply of the following materials under Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) for the period from 1.8.2026 to 31.3.2027 to be supplied to the various Gram Panchayat Units falling under the following Block Administrative Centres under Mangan district of Sikkim.

4. Chungthang (under Chungthang Sub-division/Mangan District)

Sl. NO.	ITEM	SPECIFICATION	UNIT
1.	Cement	50 kg (Birla Gold, Ambuja, Birla Samrat, Ultratech, Star, Lafarge, ACC, Dalmia or Pendent)	Per kg
2.	TMT Rod (6 mm, 8 mm, 10 mm, 12 mm, 16 mm, 20 mm)	Durgapur or Equivalent	Per kg
3.	Angle Iron (various sizes) (Light, Medium, Heavy)	Durgapur or Equivalent	Per kg
4.	Plywood Waterproof (Sizes: 6 mm and 19 mm& non water proof)	Waterproof / Local	Per sq. ft.
5.	Nail (various sizes)	ISO Certified	Per kg
6.	Chinese Nail	-	Per kg
7.	Sand	-	Per cft
8.	Stone	-	Per cft
9.	Citizen Information Board (CIB) concrete (Size: 4/5 ft Size: 3ft/2ft) with VB-G RAM-G Logo (in colour) (Size 6 inch x 4 inch)	-	Inch
10.	First Aid Box	Box containing Dettol, Gauge, Bandage, Cotton, Paracetamol, Maftal Spas, Enteroquinal Teblets, ORS etc.)	
11.	Hammer (Big & Small)	ISO Certified	Per piece
12.	Kaata	ISO Certified	Per piece
13.	Ramba-Big & Small	ISO Certified	Per piece
14.	Doko per piece	Local made	Per piece
15.	Namlo per piece	Local made	Per piece
16.	Faruwa	ISO Certified	Per piece
17.	Karaai	ISO Certified	Per piece
18.	Karni (different sizes)	ISO Certified	Per piece
19.	Belcha (standard)	ISO Certified	Per piece
20.	Sickle	ISO Certified	Per piece
21.	Chhino	ISO Certified	Per piece
22.	Chisel	ISO Certified	Per piece
23.	Reti	ISO Certified	Per piece
24.	Saw (Medium size)	ISO Certified	Per piece
25.	Bucket	Unbreakable Plastic, 10 litres ISO Certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
26.	Jug	Unbreakable Plastic	Per piece
27.	Mug	Unbreakable Plastic	Per piece
28.	Line Suta	-	Per roll
29.	Measuring Tape 50 feet	ISO Certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
30.	Belcha Dori	-	Per kg
31.	Jute Rope	-	Per kg
32.	Binding Wire	ISO Certified	Per kg
33.	GI Wire (3mm, 4 mm, 5 mm, 6 mm)	ISO Certified	Per kg
34.	GI Wire Mesh (All sizes)	ISO Certified	Per sq. ft
35.	Barbed Wire	ISO Certified	Per kg
36.	Wire Cutter	ISO Certified	Per piece
37.	Giti Martol	ISO Certified	Per piece
38.	Raj Martol	ISO Certified	Per piece

39.	Jamara Martol	ISO Certified	Per piece
40.	Pliers	ISO Certified	Per piece
41.	Polypipe ½ inch	ISO Certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per kg
42.	Polypipe ½ inch flexible	-	Per kg
43.	GI Pipe (20 ft various sizes)	Tata Brand or equivalent	Per piece
44.	GI Fittings (Sizes 15 mm to 32 mm dia)	Union, Socket, Tee, Elbow, Short piece, Plug ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
45.	PVC Pipe (20 ft various sizes)	ISO Certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
46.	PVC fittings (Sizes 15 mm to 32 mm dia)	Union, Socket, Tee, Elbow, Short piece, Plug ISO Certified (Brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
47.	Hacksaw Blade (Single and Double)	ISO Certified	Per piece
48.	Hacksaw Frame	ISO Certified	Per piece
49.	Plain Sheet (various sizes)	ISO Certified (Brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per sq. ft.
50.	Sand Net	ISO Certified (brand to be specified)	Per meter
51.	PVC Tank/Drum	Capacity of 100 ltrs	Per piece
52.	Plastic Tarpaulin 24" x 18"	ISO Certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
53.	Hume Pipe (various sizes)	ISO Certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece
54.	GCI Sheet (0.35, 0.4, 0.5 mm)	ISO Certified (various sizes)	Per sq. ft.
55.	Bricks	First Class	Per piece
56.	MS Pipe (various sizes)	-	Per piece
57.	Fitting and Fixing of MS Pipe	-	Sq. ft
58.	Dhibri Nail	-	Per kg
59.	GI Washer	-	Per packet
60.	Bitumin Washer	-	Per packet
61.	Enamel Paint (Yellow, White & Black) for signboard	Asian Paints	Per litre
62.	Paint Brush (various sizes)	-	Per piece
63.	Rate of Transportation for Cement, Rod, Bricks, Sand and Stone	Cement-per bag Sand/Stone-per cft Rod-per Qtl Brick per piece	Per km
64.	Stone chips	Machine crushed	Per cft
65.	Stone	-	Per cft.
66.	Local Wood for shuttering	Local	Per cft
67.	Fly Ash Brick	Approved Brand. Eco Brick Ultra Tech local BIS certified manufacturers or equivalent	
68.	Bamboo	Mature , straight, sound free from any defects	Nos.
69.	Timber Planks	Seasoned Timber free from any defects, knots and decay	
70.	Plain Sheet (various sizes)	GI/MS plain sheets conforming to relevant IS standards, approved brands. Tata Steel, Jindal Steel or equivalent	Sq ft.
71.	HPDE Pond Liner	ISO certified, UV-stabilised HDPE pond liner, minimum 500 micron thickness, brand Mipatex, ACMEIMAT, Aditya and Natura or equivalent	Sq. ft.
72.	Solar Panel	ALMM approved Mono PERC Solar PV module, 540wp-650wp, IEC 61215 & IEC61730 certified. Approved brand: Tata Power Solar, Waaree, Vikarm Solar, Adani Solar, RenewSys.	Nos.
73.	Solar Inverter	Grid tied/string solar inverter with MPPT technology. MNRE approved, efficiency greater than 97%. Approved brand. Sungrow, Growatt, Delta, SMA, Hitachi Hi-Rel.	
74.	Solar Anchor Bolts	Hot dip galvanized anchor bolts with nuts and washers, Grade 8.8 Approved brand: TVS, Unbrako, Deepak fasteners, Sterling	Nos
75.	Solar Street Light Poles	6-12 m high octagonal GI pole, hot dip galvanized, complete with base plate and foundation bolts. Approved brand: Bajaj, Jindal, Transrail, Valmont.	Nos
76.	Solar Anti corroding paint	Epoxy zinc rich primer with polyurethane top coat for outdoor steel structures. Approved brand. Asian paints, Berger, Kansai Nerolac, Akzo Nobel.	Ltrs
77.	Solar charge controller	MPPT solar charger controller suitable for system voltage and battery bank, IEC compliant. Approved brand. Luminous, Su-kam, Delta, Eapro, Statcon Energias.	Nos

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Contd. from page 3

78.	Solar Battery	Deep cycle tubular gel or LiFePO4 battery suitable for solar applications with requiredAh rating. Approved brand. Exide, Amaron, Luminous, Livguard, Okaya.	Nos
79.	Solar Battery Box	Weatherproof powder-coated MS or HDPE battery enclosure suitable for battery size and outdoor installation. Approved brand. Eapro, Statron, Luminous or approved fabricator	Nos

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The tender shall be conducted at the District Level for the supply of materials under Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission-Gramin, (VB-G RAM-G) covering 3 (three) blocks falling under Mangan District.
- The bidders must possess a valid Dealership Certificate of any or all of the specified cement brands.
- Quotations submitted with an Empanelment Certificate under Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission(Gramin) {VB-G RAM-G} issued by the Rural Development Department (RDD) will only be accepted.
- The Empanelment Certificate issued earlier under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) by the Department shall not be entertained for this tender.
- Bidders must maintain one or more permanent storage facilities along with required manpower within each block for smooth supply of materials, and only the transportation costs incurred for moving materials from the block storage to the worksite shall be reimbursed.
- The bidder should be prepared to supply all items at the worksite, with transportation costs as per the prevailing notification of the Sikkim Nationalised Transport (SNT) Division, Transport Department, Government of Sikkim.
- Rates quoted by the Bidder must be exclusive of taxes and duly signed by the Proprietor of the Firm or the President of the MPCs.
- Rates will be evaluated against the basic input rates of the Sikkim Schedule of Rates (SOR) 2020 and must not exceed the upper cap limit notified vide Office Order No.119/RDD/20-21 Dated: 14.3.2022, or as prescribed by State Trading Corporation of Sikkim, whichever is less.
- A valid Trade License along with attested copy of clearance certificates for GST and Professional Tax must be submitted by both suppliers/firms and cooperative societies.
- Non-Multi Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) bidders must enclose attested copies of their Rural Development DepartmentViksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission-Gramin (VB-G RAM-G) Empanelment Certificate and Trade License, while Multi Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) bidders must submit their Registration Certificate issued by the Cooperation Department, Government of Sikkim.
- Bidders must demonstrate sufficient experience in material supply and financial capability to ensure timely delivery of materials to all Gram Panchayat Unit worksites under the respective blocks/district; otherwise, their bids will not be considered.
- Materials supplied must conform to government specifications and standard sizes, subject to laboratory testing within or outside the state.
- Successful bidders must ensure timely supply of materials; delays will result in damage compensation equal to the losses caused to the Department. They must also attend the VB-G RAM-G Social Audit Jansunwai at the GPU compulsorily during the contract period.
- Failure to supply materials on time or as per specifications will lead to immediate cancellation of the contract and forfeiture of the Earnest Money Deposit.
- If the L-1 bidder fails or refuses to supply materials during the contract period for any unforeseen reason, the L-2 bidder will be allowed to supply at L-1 rates with prior approval of the competent authority.
- Non-compliance with any of the above terms may result in outright rejection of the quotation by the District Tender Committee.
- The Department/District Tender Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids without assigning any reason.
- An agreement will be drawn with the successful bidder under each district.
- The bidders must obtain the Tender Form from the office of the concerned Additional District Collector (Development) cum-District Program Coordinator. The form shall be issued only upon production of a valid State Bank of Sikkim Chalan/Receipt of ₹ 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand) only, deposited under Revenue Head 0515-800-01.
- Tender Form must be issued and closed by 10th August, 2026 and quotations must be addressed and submitted alongwith all the required documents to the Additional District Collector (Development) cum District Program Coordinator, Mangan District by 4:00 p.m. of 12th August, 2026. The tender will be opened by the District Tender Committee at 2:00 p.m. on the 13th August, 2026 in the Office of ADC(Dev) cum District Program Coordinator of the concerned district in the presence of majority of the Bidders.
- An Earnest Money Deposit (TDR) of ₹ 250000/- Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand only from State Bank of Sikkim must be provided at the time of bidding.
- For further details or clarification, bidders may contact the Additional District Collector (Dev) cum District Program Coordinator, Mangan District or Assistant District Program Coordinator (ADPC), VB-G RAM-G, Mangan District.

SD/-
(JOINT SECRETARY)
VB-G RAM-G Cell, RDD

(73, I)

Before The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sikkim
at Gangtok
AFFIDAVIT

I, **Sandhya Pradhan**, daughter of Shri Akash Pradhan, aged about 19 years, by faith Christian, resident of Bahai'a School, Tadong P.O. & P.S. Tadong, Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

- That I appeared in the Secondary Examination in the year 2023.
- That my Roll Number in the said examination is 16150283.
- That I was a student of Class X at the time of appearing in the said examination.
- That I am the biological daughter of Shri Akash Pradhan and Smt. Pabita Newar.

5. That my correct and actual name is "**Sandhya Pradhan**" and the name of my father has been recorded as "**Akash Pradhan**" and the name of my mother has been recorded as "**Pabita Newar**" in my Birth certificate bearing registration no. 1827(2007) issued by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.

6. That in my Secondary School Examination Marks Statement-cum-Certificate bearing registration no. G123/37363/0028 dated 12.05.2023 issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education, my name has been inadvertently recorded as "**Sandhiya Chettri**" and the name of my mother has been recorded as "**Pabita Chettri Newar**" and the name of my father has been recorded as "**Bijay Kumar Chettri**"

7. That this affidavit is made to declare that the person by the names "**Sandhya Pradhan**" and "**Sandhiya Chettri**" are the names of one and same identical person i.e. myself and the person by the names **Pabita Newar** and **Pabita Newar** are the names of one and identical person i.e. my mother and I am the biological daughter of "**Akash Pradhan**"

8. Henceforth, my name shall be recorded as "**Sandhya Pradhan**" for all purposes and purport as recorded in my Birth Certificate.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify and states that the statements made hereinabove are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed or suppressed there from and I have signed this Affidavit on this the 04 day of August 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

Deponent

Before the Oath Commissioner, Sikkim at
Gangtok
AFFIDAVIT

We, **1. Sonam Dadul Dorjee**, **2. Rinchen G. Dorjee**, and **3. Wangmu Ninjey Dorjee**, son and daughters of late Young Norbu Dorjee, residence of Bakhim, Kewzing P.O. Kewzing & P.S. Ravangla, District-Namchi, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:

1. That our late father's true and correct name is "**Young Norbu Dorjee**" and the same has been recorded in his Driving Licence bearing licence No. 4588/87/4505/96 issued by Motor Vehicle Department, Government of Sikkim.

2. That our late father's name has been found recorded as "**Yang Narbu Bhutia**" in his Old Sikkim Subject Register under Serial No. 476, Volume No. XVIII, dated 06.07.1978 under block Bakhim issued by the Office of the Secretary, Land Revenue Department Government of Sikkim,

3. That in our late father's Certificate of Identification vide Serial No. 476, Volume No. XVIII issued by the Office of the District Collector, South, Government of Sikkim, wherein our late father's name has been recorded as "**Young Norbu Bhutia**".

4. That in our late father's School Leaving Certificate dated 05.05.1976 issued by Mount Hermnon School, Darjeeling, wherein our late father's name has been recorded as "**Young N. Dorjee**".

5. That this affidavit is made bonafide to declare that the person by the names "**Young Norbu Dorjee**", "**Yang Narbu Bhutia**", "**Young Norbu Bhutia**" and "**Young N. Dorjee**" are the names of the one and the same identical person, i.e., our late Father's "**Young Norbu Dorjee**".

VERIFICATION

We, the deponents, do hereby verify and declare that the statements made in paragraphs 1 to 5 of this affidavit are true to the best of our knowledge and nothing material has been concealed therefrom. Sworn and signed this affidavit on this the 06th day of August, 2026 at Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Identified by
Pema Rinzing Bhutia
Simick Lingzey
Gangtok District, Sikkim.

DEPONENTS
1. Sonam Dadul Dorjee
2. Rinchen G. Dorjee
3. Wangmu Ninjey Dorjee

Central Workshop & Stores
Sikkim Nationalized Transport Division
Transport Department
Government of Sikkim
Jalipool, Ranipool

Memo No: 505 /SNT/JPL/CS

Dated :03/08/2026

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed competitive bids are invited from reputed, experienced, and eligible firms / agencies / workshops for undertaking major repair and maintenance, of Government fleet of heavy commercial vehicles comprising Buses under the SNT Division, Transport Department, Government of Sikkim.

1. NAME OF WORK

“Re-Strengthening of Full Body of Buses with Change of Flooring and Restoration of Passenger Seats including Denting & Painting, Wiring & Running Repairs, Restoration of Air Conditioning System in AC Bus. Total Vehicles – 32 nos.”

Schedule & Financial Implications:

SNo.	Particulars	Date and time
1	Publication of NIT	Between 04-08-2026 to 07-08-2026
2	Tender Value	₹1,25,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakhs only).
3	Completion Time	6 (Six) months
4	Cost of Tender Form	₹20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only)
5	Earnest Money @ 2.5%	₹3,12,500/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Twelve Thousand and Five Hundred only)
6	Date of issue of Tender Form	10-08-2026 to 14-08-2026
7	Tender Submission Deadline	24-08-2026 (Till 11:30 a.m.)
8	Date and time of opening of Tender	24-08-2026 (12:00 noon)
9	Place of Opening of Tender	Office of The Additional Chief Engineer, SNT, Jalipool

2. Scope of Work

The scope of work includes but is not limited to the following:

a)Re-strengthening of Full Bus Body

- Structural strengthening of bus body including side panels, roof, pillars, and underframe as required.
- Replacement/repair of corroded or damaged members.

b)Change of Flooring

- Removal of existing damaged flooring.
- Supply and fixing of new approved quality vinyl flooring material with anti-skid finish.

c)Replacement of Passenger Seats

- Removal of existing seats.
- Supply and installation of new passenger seats as per approved design/specifications.

d)Denting & Painting

- Complete denting of damaged body parts.
- Surface preparation, priming, and painting with approved paint (2k Bilux or equivalent).
- Final finishing as per existing colour scheme of the department.

e)Restoration of AC Components

- Inspection, repair, servicing, and restoration of AC units.
- Replacement of defective AC components if required.
- Testing and commissioning of AC system to ensure proper functioning.

All works shall be executed in accordance with technical specifications, safety norms, and satisfaction of the department.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Bidders must fulfil the following conditions:

- 1.The bidder must be empanelled with the Govt. of Sikkim for strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedure.
- 2.Must have minimum 02 (Two) years of experience in repair and maintenance of commercial vehicles such as buses, trucks or tankers.
- 3.Must have a fully functional workshop with adequate tools, equipment, and skilled manpower with safe parking facility.
- 4.Must possess valid GST registration, PAN Card, and Trade License.
- 5.Should not have been blacklisted by any Government Department / PSU.
- 6.Must have experience of similar work with Government / PSU / reputed organizations (documentary proof required).

4. TENDER FORM

The Tender Form may be:

- Obtained from the office of the Additional Chief Engineer (M/S), Central Stores/Workshop, Jalipool on payment of a non-refundable fee of ₹20,000/- (*Rupees Twenty Thousand only*) paid vide **State Bank of Sikkim Challan** under the chargeable head **1055-Road Transport 201-SNT-04 Other Miscellaneous Items**

·Date of sale of tender Form: 10th August 2026 to 14th August 2026 (11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on working days)

5. EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (EMD)

- Amount: ₹3,12,500/- (*Rupees Three Lakhs Twelve Thousand and Five Hundred only*)
- Mode: TDR/FDR
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded upon the finalization of the tender. Conversely, the EMD of the successful bidder will be retained until the successful completion of the six-month warranty period following all required repairs.

6. BID SUBMISSION

- 1.The tender shall be submitted in Two-Bid System:

- Technical Bid
- Financial Bid

- 2.All bids must be submitted by 11:30 a.m. on 24th August 2026.
- 3.Late bids shall not be accepted under any circumstances.

7. OPENING OF TENDER

- Technical Bids will be opened on 24th August 2026 at 12:00 noon. in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Financial Bids of technically qualified bidders only will be opened subsequently on the same date.

8. EVALUATION OF BIDS

- 1.Technical bids will be evaluated based on eligibility, experience, manpower, and infrastructure.
- 2.Financial bids will be evaluated based on lowest reasonable rates.

- 3.The Department reserves the right to negotiate rates if required.

9. RATE QUOTATION

- 1.Rates shall be quoted for the **Total Repair Work** to be done.
- 2.Rates shall remain firm and valid for the entire contract period.
- 3.No escalation shall be allowed during the contract period.

10. PAYMENT TERMS

- 1.Payment shall be made after satisfactory completion of work and submission of bills.
- 2.Bills should be submitted in Triplicate.
- 3.GST Clearance certificate should be submitted along with the bills.
- 4.No advance payment shall be made.

11. TIME FRAME

- 1.Repair work shall be completed within the time specified by the Department.
- 2.In emergency cases, vehicles must be attended immediately.

12. PENALTY CLAUSE

- 1.Delay in completion of work without valid reason shall attract penalty as decided by the Department.
- 2.Poor workmanship or use of sub-standard spare parts shall lead to rejection of work and recovery of cost.
- 3.Repeated failure may result in termination of contract.

13. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

The contract may be terminated at any time by the Department:

- 1.In case of breach of terms and conditions.
 - 2.For unsatisfactory performance.
 - 3.If the contractor is found to have furnished false information.
- No compensation shall be payable in such cases.

14. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 1.Prospective bidders may inspect the vehicle(s) at any depot of the department, subject to prior intimation of the officer in-charge.
- 2.The contractor shall comply with all applicable labour laws, safety regulations, and statutory requirements.
- 3.The Department shall not be responsible for any accident, injury, or loss to the contractor's staff.
- 4.All tools, equipment and consumables shall be arranged by the contractor.
- 5.Only genuine and approved spare parts shall be used.
- 6.The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
- 7.The decision of the Transport Department, Government of Sikkim shall be final and binding.
- 8.The tenderer must be a registered workshop engaged in the repair and maintenance of Government/PSU vehicles.
- 9.Tenderers shall submit their tenders strictly in accordance with the prescribed proforma provided at **Annexure-A along with the Tender form**, duly sealed in an envelope.
- 10.All old or replaced parts shall remain the property of the Department and must be returned by the firm to the **Central Workshop, Jalipool**, along with a detailed inventory of the replaced parts.
- 11.The workshop must have adequate parking space and a suitable work area within its own premises, without encroaching upon any public place, so as to avoid unauthorized parking issues for departmental vehicle drivers.
- 12.The workshop shall attend to all defects specified in the work order issued by the Department on a priority basis. Any additional work not covered under the work order shall be undertaken only after submitting a proper estimate and obtaining prior written approval from the Department.
- 13.The contract shall ordinarily be awarded to the bidder whose bid is found to be responsive and who is eligible and qualified to perform the contract satisfactorily in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the bidding documents.

- 14.The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, in whole or in part, without assigning any reason. The Department also reserves the right to renew the contract for such period(s) as it may deem necessary, subject to satisfactory performance of the contractor during the contract period.

- 15.Quotations received without the prescribed earnest money deposit (in the form of TDR/FDR) shall be summarily rejected without assigning any reason. No tenderer shall have the right to represent against such rejection, even if the quotation is the lowest. The earnest money shall be forfeited if the successful bidder declines the offer or fails to accept the work for any reason whatsoever. The earnest money of unsuccessful tenderers shall be refunded within a reasonable period after the award of the contract.

- 16.The Department reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time without assigning any reason by giving **seven (7) days' written notice**. The contractor shall not be entitled to any compensation on account of such termination.

- 17.The contractor shall ensure that all vehicles sent for repair are repaired satisfactorily. If the same defect recurs within **six months** of repair, the contractor shall rectify the defect again without charging any labor cost or cost of spare parts.

- 18.The paint quality must carry a six-month warranty. If the paint fails within this period, the contractor shall repaint the affected section of the vehicle at no additional cost.

15. JURISDICTION

Any dispute arising out of this tender shall be subject to the **jurisdiction of courts at Gangtok, Sikkim only.**

Additional Chief Engineer (M/S)
Central Stores/Workshop
Transport Department
(74, I)

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2nd Aama...

The Chief Minister announced that from the year 2027, the Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana would be expanded to cover 50,000 beneficiaries, ensuring the inclusion of more than 1,500 mothers from each Assembly Constituency.

Expressing gratitude to mothers for their blessings and continued support, the Chief Minister informed that cheques under the Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana has been distributed to 10 mothers from each constituency, while the remaining beneficiaries would receive the assistance through their respective MLAs by the end of the month.

He highlighted several women-centric initiatives, including the Bahini Yojana, Aama Sahayog Yojana, Widow Pension Reform, Vatsalya Yojana and Sabbatical Leave. Under the Sikkim Aama Sahayog Yojana, more than 4,200 rural mothers are receiving annual assistance of ₹4,500/- towards LPG refills.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the provision of financial assistance of up to ₹3 lakh for IVF treatment for married women and men who are unable to become parents naturally. He further highlighted the regularisation of Anganwadi Workers and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), along with measures to enhance their remuneration, acknowledging their important contribution to grassroots service delivery.

He further stated that women has been exempted from TDR requirements for Government contracts and projects, describing the provision as a step towards strengthening women's economic participation.

He also highlighted the establishment of breastfeeding pods across all six districts, providing mothers with clean and safe spaces to breastfeed in public places.

Speaking on safe mobility, the Chief Minister highlighted the Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Service, operated by women drivers and conductors and offering concessional fares for women. He stated that the service was intended to facilitate safe and affordable travel to schools, colleges, offices, hospitals and markets. He added that the initiative has been recognised in the Budget 2026-27 as a key measure for women's empowerment.

On health initiatives, the Chief Minister informed that an HPV vaccination campaign has been initiated for adolescent girls, while the Budget 2026-27 provides for a State-wide HPV screening programme covering women in the 30-65 age group.

The Chief Minister also announced various initiatives under the Budget 2026-27, including the Aama Sahayog Yojana, Bahini Yojana and Mero Rukh Mero Santati. He further announced that Aama Poetry

Competitions would be organised in schools and colleges from July 1 next year. Other measures include support for 200 Self-Help Groups, Shravan Kumar Puraskar and establishment of Aama Ko Goad in Siliguri for patients.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to the respect, empowerment and welfare of mothers and launched Aama Samman website on the occasion.

In his keynote address, Mr Samdup Lepcha Minister for Social Welfare Department and Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Departments highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the State Government for the welfare, empowerment and social security of women and children.

The Minister highlighted key schemes and initiatives, including Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, Aama Sahayog Yojana, Bahini Yojana, enhanced widow pension, hostel facilities, One Stop Centre and Mission Vatsalya, aimed at addressing the social and economic needs of women.

He also informed about the participation and role of women in politics and public life and emphasised the contribution of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in promoting livelihoods, financial independence and grassroots development. He noted the important role of women in strengthening communities and contributing to the overall socio-economic development of society.

During the event, various initiatives and awards were presented as part of the State Government's efforts to recognise mothers, empower women, promote financial independence and strengthen families across Sikkim.

Under the Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, implemented by the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, a total of 32,000 mothers are being felicitated under the scheme as part of the State Government's continued efforts to empower mothers and strengthen families. The beneficiaries will receive their respective cheques at their Block Administrative Centres.

Cheques were also distributed under the Sikkim Aama Sahayog Yojana, implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD). Under the scheme, eligible mothers in rural areas are provided annual assistance of ₹4,500/- towards four LPG refills, aimed at reducing the financial burden associated with cooking fuel and promoting cleaner and healthier household environments.

A new initiative, the Aama Samman Puraskar, introduced under the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant (CMDG) was also launched to honour one deserving Aama from each Assembly Constituency. Each awardee received a cash prize of ₹51,000/- in recognition of her contribution and achievements.

The recipients were selected from among mothers who are not beneficiaries of Aama Yojana, with a total of 32 mothers being honoured under the initiative.

The Pragatisheel Aama Puraskar, instituted under the CMDG was also presented to beneficiaries of Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana who have demonstrated responsible utilisation of the financial assistance provided under the scheme.

Three outstanding beneficiaries were recognised for their entrepreneurial spirit, effective utilisation of financial assistance and remarkable achievements. The award carried cash prizes of ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh for the first, second and third positions, respectively.

The awardees were Ms Indra Lepcha of Kaluk Bazaar, Gyalshing District who bagged the first prize, Ms Gauri Pradhan of Linkey Parakha, Pakyong District second prize and Ms Sancha Rani Limboo of Mangshila-Tibuk, Mangan District securing a third prize.

Recognising mothers who have demonstrated financial discipline and effectively managed their Aama Savings Accounts, the State Bank of Sikkim felicitated the best-performing Aama Account Holders. Three account holders from each of the six districts, totalling 18 awardees were recognised for their financial management and efforts towards creating economic self-reliance. The awardees received cash prizes of ₹2 lakh, ₹1 lakh and ₹50,000/-, respectively.

As part of public engagement initiatives, a Lucky Selfie with Aama competition was also organised encouraging citizens to share photographs with their mothers as a gesture of love, respect and gratitude. Winners were selected through a computerised random selection process, with cash prizes awarded to the selected participants. Anurodh Rai of Amba, Pakyong with a cash prize of ₹2,00,000/- secured first position followed by Budha Maya Limboo of Chong Zong, Gyalshing with a cash prize of ₹1,50,000/- and a cash prize Of ₹1,00,000/- by Anup Sharma of Singbel, Makha, Gangtok in the second and third positions, respectively.

Consolation prizes of ₹20,000/- each to seven winners from various districts, including Soreng, Rongli, Namthang, Chungthang, Mangan and West Pendum were also given.

Likewise, the Chief Minister's Office, in collaboration with the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department (WCSC&DWD), established the 'Aama Suvidha Ghar' at the venue to cater to the needs of women and mothers attending the programme. The facility included dedicated breastfeeding rooms, creches and healthcare corners, providing a safe, hygienic and comfortable environment for mothers and their children.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on preparation of GIS-Based Master Plan

Namchi, August 7: A Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the preparation of a GIS-Based Master Plan for the Namchi Planning Area under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 Sub-Scheme was held at the Town Hall, Namchi, today.

Organised by Urban Development Department, the workshop brought together elected representatives, Government officials, technical experts and local stakeholders to deliberate on a long-term, sustainable and climate-resilient development roadmap for the Namchi Planning Area.

The workshop was attended by Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minster for Urban Development Department as the chief guest.

Among those present were Mr Satish Chandra Rai MLA Namchi-Singhithang, Mr N B Pradhan MLA Melli, Mr Ganesh Rai NMC Chairperson, Ms Anupa Tamling DC Namchi, SSP Namchi, Chief Town Planner Gangtok, Chief Town Planner Namchi, Joint Secretary UDD Jorethang, Joint Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer AMRUT 2.0, Joint Town Planner, Assistant Town Planners, MEOs Namchi and Jorethang along with officials from various line departments and public.

Minister reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to planned urbanisation, balanced infrastructure development and environmentally sustainable growth. He emphasised that the vision of 'Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim' should be reflected in a comprehensive Master Plan that accommodates future population growth while preserving the region's ecological balance, cultural heritage and unique identity. He highlighted the need for the Master Plan to address key urban issues, including water supply, sewerage and drainage systems, traffic congestion, parking facilities, solid waste management and other essential civic infrastructure. He also stressed the importance of creating pedestrian-friendly spaces through well-planned walkways to ensure accessibility, safety and convenience for all.

Calling for a proactive and future-oriented approach, he urged the department to prioritise advance planning so that emerging developmental needs are anticipated and effectively integrated into the planning process. He further underscored the importance of wider public participation, stating that the success of the Master Plan would depend on incorporating the aspirations of local communities alongside technical expertise.

Mr Satish Chandra Rai, MLA Namchi-Singhithang stressed the need to strengthen essential urban infrastructure, particularly efficient sewerage systems, augmentation of drinking water supply, road widening and extension and improved traffic management. He also emphasised promoting

tourism through planned infrastructure development, beautification of public spaces and the creation of visitor-friendly amenities.

Mr N B Pradhan MLA Melli suggested that Sadam and Sumbuk areas be incorporated into the urban planning framework to support future growth and development.

Mr Dinker Gurung Chief Town Planner briefed the participants on the initiatives being undertaken through a multi-sectoral approach. He informed that the preparation of the Master Plan is being guided by the provisions of the Sikkim Town and Country Planning Act, 2024, while ensuring alignment with the existing legal and institutional framework.

Representing the consulting agency Spatial Decisions, New Delhi Ms Tanvi Rahman presented an overview of the GIS-based Master Plan, outlining the objectives of the AMRUT 2.0 mandate, statutory requirements, planning methodology and the proposed spatial boundaries of the Namchi Planning Area.

Research Scientist, CSTEP Dr Manish Kumar presented the climate risk assessment and decision support initiatives being undertaken for the Namchi-Jorethang region. He also highlighted efforts to strengthen the Urban Development Department's capacity in digital master planning through the integration of geospatial technologies and climate risk considerations.

An interactive discussion followed, during which representatives from various departments and stakeholders shared their concerns, identified growth corridors and proposed strategies to integrate citizens' aspirations into the planning process.

The workshop also featured a technical session on Climate Risk Assessment and Decision Support for the Namchi-Jorethang region, focusing on climate resilience and evidence-based urban planning. Consulting teams showcased QGIS-based layered mapping and UAV drone-derived high-resolution base maps, presenting findings on demographic trends, land use and land cover, transportation and mobility, physical infrastructure, utilities, solid waste management, as well as socio-economic and tourism indicators.

The session concluded with a strategic visioning exercise aimed at formulating a preliminary 20-year climate-resilient Master Plan and identifying appropriate zoning strategies for the Namchi Planning Area.

Earlier, an introduction to the workshop objectives was delivered by Ms Samjana Pradhan Joint Town Planner, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms Basundhara Karki Assistant Town Planner.

Coordination meeting with representatives of recognised political parties held

Gyalshing, August 7: Mr Tenzing D Denzongpa DC-cum-District Election Officer (DC-cum-DEO), Gyalshing chaired the weekly coordination meeting with representatives of recognised political parties of Gyalshing District at his office, today.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of the Electoral Roll, with particular emphasis on the status of hearings relating to logical discrepancies in the electoral roll.

Mr Sandesh Subba Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Gyalshing-Bermyak Assembly Constituency-cum-SDM Gyalshing, briefed on the progress of SIR-2026 in the District. He

informed the representatives of the recognised political parties about the status of hearings on logical discrepancies in the electoral roll and the progress achieved in their disposal as per the prescribed schedule.

He mentioned that weekly coordination meetings with recognised political parties were being conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and informed that the weekly meetings would continue till the completion of the hearing process on August 14, after which the coordination meetings would revert to the prescribed monthly schedule.

He further informed that cases falling under the system-

driven, ex-officio and unilateral categories were being processed in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. He added that, upon completion of the hearing process and disposal of all such cases, the final electoral roll would be published as per the notified schedule of the Election Commission of India.

During the meeting representatives of the recognised political parties raised queries and sought clarifications on matters related to the ongoing SIR-2026. The district election officials in guidance of the DEO/DC Gyalshing clarified the queries raised by the representatives.

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State-level...

Ecosystem Services initiative. He noted that Sikkim was recognised as the best-performing state in the implementation of the Environment Education Programme 2023-24 and that Khecheopalri Lake was recognised as Sikkim's first Ramsar Site.

The Chief Minister stated that the State Government has made provisions for a Lepcha Bhawan, sought the inclusion of Lepcha, Bhutia and Limboo languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and expanded the teaching of Lepcha language to Government colleges, universities. An Assistant Professor post for Lepcha language has also been created. He further highlighted the initiative undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO for the revival and documentation of Ru-Soam, the traditional Lepcha cane and bamboo bridge-making tradition. He informed that the Stairway to Heaven project at Daramdin has achieved 70 per cent progress.

Other initiatives highlighted included the construction of cultural structures at Lingthem, Dzongu, annual study and exposure visits for Bongthings, Administration at the Doorstep in Dzongu, Let Us Learn the Lepcha Language programme, and the commencement of e-news broadcasting in the Lepcha language.

As a special announcement, the Chief Minister declared that Hee-Gyathang Senior Secondary School in Dzongu would be developed as a Chief Minister's Model School, describing it as a gift dedicated to the Lepcha community. Under the Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme, he informed that 166 students from the Lepcha community has received assistance for higher education. Concluding his address, Chief Minister called upon the people to embrace modernisation, while preserving their language, culture and relationship with nature, stressing that development must go hand in hand with the preservation of nature, culture and identity.

Mr G T Dhungel Minister for

Culture Department also the Chairperson of Tendong Lho Rum Faat Celebrations Committee, highlighted the festival's importance in reflecting the rich cultural heritage, history and spiritual traditions of the Lepcha community. He stressed the need to preserve the Lepcha language, customs and traditional knowledge and to ensure that younger generations remained connected to their cultural roots. He also appreciated the efforts of the Government, community organisations and stakeholders towards promoting and preserving Lepcha heritage.

Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor also the President of Tendong Lho Rum Faat Celebrations Committee, spoke on the historical and cultural significance of the festival and the enduring values associated with it. He emphasised the need to pass traditional knowledge, language and cultural practices on to future generations and expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the State Government for their continued support towards promoting Lepcha culture.

Earlier, the programme commenced with traditional Boongthing ritual offerings, followed by the Chief Minister's ceremonial visit to the Boongthing ritual enclosure for prayer offerings. A presentation on the significance of Tendong Lho Rum Faat was delivered by Ms Chungkela Lepcha Ward Councillor, Chandmari Ward.

The winners of 'Dancing Feet of Tendong', a Lepcha cultural dance competition for Junior High Schools across the State, were also honoured. Government Primary School, Kabuthang, Pakyong, secured first place, followed by Government Junior High School, Namphung, Gangtok, in second place and Government Junior High School, Lingthem, Mangan, in third place.

The Chief Minister presented the Land Parcha to Executive Committee of the Sikkim Lepcha Association for the construction of Lepcha Bhavan in Gangtok. The dignitaries also officially released the Ru-Soam documentation, documenting the traditional indigenous knowledge, structural engineering and cultural heritage associated with cane

suspension bridges built by the Lepcha community in Sikkim.

The Limca Book of Records certificate for the Largest Gathering of Tungbuk Players was also presented to the Chief Minister. A total of 32 performers played the GI-tagged traditional Lepcha instrument Tungbuk on August 7 at the Yongthoom Open Market, organised at Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari, Ridge Park.

During the celebrations, the Chief Minister and other dignitaries presented Tendong Award to Mr Pasong Namgyal Lepcha followed by GB Mainwaring Award to Ms Pushpa Choden Thomas Lepcha and Lha Tshering Kunchudyangmu Award to Ms Leezong Lepcha.

Felicitations were also accorded to Late Gambu Lepcha, a respected community figure from West Sikkim, remembered for his devoted stewardship and local mission work associated with the historic Fambong Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pastor PS Tingbo (Panthuk Tshering Lepcha), the senior-most pastor of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim (EPCS) in Gangtok and Ms Gnersongmit Lepcha, who became the first Lepcha woman to summit Mount Everest after scaling the peak on May 21, 2026, as part of the ITBP Women's Mt Everest Expedition.

The Chief Minister also felicitated the toppers of free winter coaching classes organised by Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association. They included Mr Jigme Lepcha of Sir Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School, who secured 81 per cent in CBSE Class XII Science, Ms Palmu Lepcha of Paljor Namgyal Girls' Senior Secondary School, who secured 91 per cent in CBSE Class XII Arts and Mr Punol Lepcha of Namthang Senior Secondary School, who secured 82 per cent in CBSE Class XII Arts.

Also present were Speaker, SLA, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Advisors, Chairpersons, Zilla Adhyakshas and Zilla Up-Adhyakshas, Mayor and Deputy Mayor GMC, Secretaries, OSD, members Sikkim Lepcha Association, Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association and Tendong Lho Rum Faat Celebrations Committee, dignitaries, students and other stakeholders.

12th National Handloom Day organised

Gangtok, August 7: An awareness programme under the theme 'My Product, My Pride', on the occasion of the 12th National Handloom Day was organised by Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom (DHH) under Commerce and Industries Department at DHH, today.

The programme was held with the objective of promoting awareness and appreciation of the handloom sector and its contribution to the preservation of traditional craftsmanship and livelihoods.

The event had the presence of Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Commerce and Industries and Tourism and Civil Aviation Departments as the chief guest.

In his address, Minister highlighted the achievement of Ms Sheetal Tamang from Namchi District, who was being conferred with the National Handloom Award in New Delhi on August 7. He stated that the recognition would be recorded as a significant achievement in the history of the State's handloom sector and would serve as an inspiration for other weavers.

He highlighted the efforts of the Department towards strengthening and developing handloom sector in the State, with a focus on enhancing the skills of weavers and ensuring the production of quality handloom products. He stated that the State Government and the Department are working towards promoting women empowerment, fostering economic independence and creating opportunities for women to contribute meaningfully towards the vision of Sunaulo Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim.

The Minister also appreciated an initiative of the Chief Minister to encourage wearing of traditional attire once a week, stating that such initiatives would help promote and preserve the State's rich cultural heritage. He expressed optimism that the handloom industry holds significant potential and has a bright future in the State.

Mr N B Gurung Chairman, DHH, spoke about the development and progress of the State's weaving community and highlighted the support extended by the State Government towards its growth and welfare. He stated that the stipend provided is aimed at encouraging weavers to continue their craft and contribute towards preserving the State's rich culture and traditional weaving practices. He also expressed gratitude to the entire weaving community for their dedication and continued efforts towards strengthening and carrying forward the weaving tradition of Sikkim.

Ms Karma D Youtso, Secretary, Commerce and

Industries Department, highlighted the significant role played by women in the State's weaving community and acknowledged their contribution towards preserving and promoting the rich handloom tradition of Sikkim. She highlighted the achievement of Ms Sheetal Tamang, National Awardee, and encouraged more weavers from the State to come forward and pursue opportunities at the national level. The Secretary also outlined various initiatives undertaken by the Department to enhance and upgrade the skills of weavers through training programmes under Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

She further highlighted the efforts of the State Government towards preserving the State's rich culture and traditions, including the initiative to encourage the wearing of traditional attire once a week. Urging the weaving community to make full use of the opportunities and support provided by the State Government, she stated that from next year onwards, weavers will also be felicitated in recognition of their contribution to the handloom sector and preservation of the State's cultural heritage.

Mr Tshering Tobgay Bhutia, Director, DHH, elaborated on various benefits and support extended by the State Government to the weaving community. He highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Department to promote and strengthen the handloom sector, including the provision of stipends to weavers and various skill development training programmes aimed at enhancing their capabilities.

He also spoke about the efforts of the Department towards preserving and promoting the State's rich weaving tradition and acknowledged the contributions of those who have played a significant role in nurturing the weaving culture of Sikkim. He further appreciated the dedication and contribution of the State's weavers in strengthening local communities and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the State.

Thereafter, the Minister along with other dignitaries, launched a new handloom range designed by Ms Rickzing Choden, along with bamboo fabric shawls produced by the Goom-Kitam Cluster.

Following that, Weavers' Identity Cards and Yarn Passbooks were also distributed, while Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were provided with raw materials to support their weaving activities.

Also present were Chairman DHH, OSD DHH, Joint Director DHH, weavers from all six districts, members of the SHGs and other dignitaries.

Chief Minister attends 78th Foundation Day of Darjeeling Government College



Darjeeling, August 5: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang attended the 78th Foundation Day celebration of Government College, Darjeeling, organised jointly by the College family and Alumni Association.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Mr Shankar Ghosh, Minister-in-Charge of Tourism and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal, Mr Bishal Lama, Minister of State for Home and Hill Affairs, Mr Noman Rai, MLA, Darjeeling, along with other distinguished dignitaries and guests.

The Chief Minister fondly recalled his student days at the institution and said that the college played a defining role in shaping his dreams, values and life's journey. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to his teachers and the institution for laying the foundation of his future and stated that he would always remain indebted to his alma mater.

Encouraging the students, the Chief Minister urged them to pursue knowledge with

dedication, learn from their teachers and uphold the values of humility, unity and service. He called upon them to strive for academic excellence while building strong character and taking pride in their culture and heritage.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Alumni Association in strengthening the lifelong bond between the institution and its former students. Calling for collective efforts to uphold the rich legacy of Government College, Darjeeling, he underscored the importance of promoting quality education and contributing towards nation-building.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister extended his heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Principal, faculty members, staff, students, alumni and the entire Government College, Darjeeling family on the institution's 78th Foundation Day, wishing it continued success and greater achievements in the years to come.

Chief Secretary chairs review meeting for Independence Day Celebration

Gangtok, August 6: Mr R Telang Chief Secretary, chaired a review meeting to oversee preparations for the celebrations of Independence Day 2026 at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The meeting was attended by Heads of Departments (HoDs) of various Departments and officers from the Army and paramilitary forces.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the proposed sequence of events for the Independence Day celebrations. He stated that all activities must be carried out as per the approved programme and directed the Departments to ensure effective coordination and timely execution.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed preparations for the

Tiranga Yatra to be held on August 14 (Friday), which will proceed from MG Marg to Manan Kendra. He directed the concerned Departments to ensure seamless coordination and make all necessary arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the march.

Arrangements for cultural programmes, including the participation of local artistes, were also discussed. The Chief Secretary stated that the concerned Departments must ensure coordination among performers, organisers and supporting agencies.

The Heads of Departments also briefed the Chief Secretary on the progress of the responsibilities assigned to their respective departments.

Gangtok District records 1,320 hearings under SIR claims and objections

Gangtok, August 10: Gangtok District recorded 1,320 hearings across its nine Assembly Constituencies as part of the ongoing claims and objections process under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

The Assembly Constituency-wise breakup of hearings are 16-Tumen-Lingi: 149, 17-Khamdong-Singtam: 179, 23-Shyari: 156, 24-Martam-Rumtek: 350, 25-Upper Tadong: 123, 26-

Arithang: 145, 27-Gangtok: 33, 28-Upper Burtuk: 184 and 32-Sangha: 07.

The hearings form an important part of the claims and objections stage, providing electors an opportunity to have their submissions examined by the concerned election authorities. The process is being undertaken to verify and address cases requiring consideration before the electoral roll is finalised.

The District Administration

continues to facilitate the process across the constituencies, with the concerned Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) examining the cases in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

The SIR exercise aims to ensure that the electoral roll is accurate, updated and inclusive, while providing due consideration to claims and objections received during the revision process.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Department holds Stakeholders' meet

Gangtok, August 5: Tourism and Civil Aviation (T&CA) Department held a stakeholders' meeting at Paryatan Bhawan under Sikkim Inspires, today.

The meeting briefed line Departments, tourism organisations and drivers' associations on the new online permit system.

The Conference was chaired by Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Department. Also in attendance were Mr Sudesh Kumar Subba MLA-cum-Advisor Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr Lukendra Rasaily Chairman, Mr Raj Kumar Yadav STDC Commissioner-cum-Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department and Mr Hari Chettri IG Checkpost, Sikkim Police.

The Minister expressed gratitude towards Sikkim's tourism stakeholders, travel agents, transport operators and officials, highlighting their vital role in sustaining the State's primary economic engine. He reinforced that elevating Sikkim's tourism sector required strong mutual dependence and cooperation between stakeholders and the Department. He informed that to modernise operations and improve the ease of doing business, the Government is rolling out an AI-powered single-window online permit system designed to streamline permit issuance for restricted areas like Nathula Pass and North Sikkim through a fast, transparent digital portal.

He reassured local operators by explaining that the platform was geofenced within Sikkim, using restricted IP addresses so that only Sikkim-registered travel agencies could generate permits, preventing misuse from outside regional hubs.

Furthermore, the Minister stated that the system incorporated flexible vehicle regulations that empowered local drivers to select appropriate transport based on real-time weather and terrain, while an automated notification feature ensured that tourists settled package fees with local operators before receiving their permits.

The Minister noted that as with any new initiative, initial

challenges were to be expected, but expressed confidence that close collaboration between the Department and stakeholders would resolve these once the system became operational.

He also informed that, to improve the ground experience, the Department had standardised local conservation and garbage fees with regional committees, eliminating repetitive charges along tourist routes, and had launched major infrastructure upgrades at Nathula, including expanded parking, new stairs and escalators to ease high-altitude congestion. Highlighting transport drivers as Sikkim's core brand ambassadors, he urged them to uphold warm hospitality and positive conduct. He noted that travel agents had been entrusted with significant responsibility under the new system, expressing confidence in their ability to make sound, informed decisions.

The Minister reinforced that Sikkim's natural assets, culture, cuisine and adventure sports remained its core economic drivers and that protecting and developing these assets must remain a shared priority as digital initiatives evolved. He reassured stakeholders that the Department continued to work entirely in the best interests of the people of Sikkim.

Mr Raj Kumar Yadav Commissioner-cum-Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department presented a detailed overview of the online permit system. His presentation covered permit categories, eligibility criteria, user access levels and general system functionality. He highlighted that integrated online payments and application tracking would significantly streamline the permit process.

Additionally, he outlined the responsibilities of permit approving officers and system users, core issuance rules and a step-by-step walkthrough of application creation and validation for both tour operators and permit officers. The presentation further addressed permit generation and synchronisation, vehicle arrival and check-post processing and exit verification.

He also presented updated rate charts for key destinations like Nathula, Baba Mandir, Doklam, Lachung, Lachen, Yumthang and Gurudongmar, alongside new regulatory guidelines, manual controls and anti-sabotage monitoring measures.

Earlier, Ms Hondala Gyaltsen Secretary, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department explained that the initiative had originated directly from stakeholders' requests to simplify the current, cumbersome process of obtaining separate permits across multiple departments. Following these requests, she noted that the concept had been presented during the departmental coordination meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, in November 2025, where it had received endorsement from the Chief Secretary.

Secretary also stated that subsequent consultative meetings had been held with stakeholders and regional bodies such as the Dzumsa to ensure that the platform would effectively track tourist inflow and streamline operations. She urged the attendees to participate actively, share constructive feedback and address any doubts.

Following the programme, representatives of various travel agency groups, drivers' associations and Police personnel engaged in an interactive, in-depth discussion. Participants commended the Department for the new initiative while raising constructive suggestions and seeking clarification regarding the upcoming portal.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Additional Director, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, ASP, Secretary, STA, Traffic Police personnel, representatives from Motor Vehicle Division, TAAS, SAATO, SUTO, ASTHA, SHRA, Bike Rental Association, All Sikkim Luxury Vehicles Association, Drivers cum Owners Association, Joint Action Committee and officials from the T&CA Department.

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