

Press Release from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department

Government of Sikkim

Dated: April 22, 2026

Rescue Operations Amid Sudden Heavy Snowfall in East Sikkim

Gangtok, April 21, 2026:

In response to the sudden and unexpected heavy snowfall in East Sikkim on April 21, 2026, swift and coordinated rescue operations were undertaken by multiple agencies to assist stranded tourists and local residents, including elderly individuals, who were affected by prolonged traffic congestion in the region.

The joint efforts of the Indian Army, General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF), Sikkim Police, the Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, tourism stakeholders, and local volunteers ensured immediate assistance to those in need.

Teams acted with urgency to safeguard lives, regulate vehicular movement, and manage the challenging situation caused by adverse weather conditions.

Through timely intervention and effective coordination, the situation was brought under control, preventing further escalation. The well-being and safety of all affected individuals were ensured, and necessary support was extended throughout the operation.

As a result of these concerted efforts, smooth traffic movement was successfully restored along the JNM Axis, a vital route that serves as a lifeline for the region.

The Tourism & Civil Aviation Department expresses its sincere appreciation for the exemplary coordination, dedication, and prompt response demonstrated by the Indian Army, Sikkim Police, GREF, local stakeholders, and volunteers in effectively managing the situation under difficult circumstances.