

Press Release from Northeast India Heritage Festival Organizing Committee, USA
Sikkim Showcased at Northeast India Cultural Festival in the United States

OHIO (USA), September 23: The cultural diversity of Northeast India was prominently showcased at the two-day Northeast India Heritage Festival (NEIHF) held in Columbus, Ohio, United States, from September 19–20, which brought together communities from across the northeastern region of India.

Themed CARE – “Connect, Assimilate, Research, Empower,” the festival highlighted Northeast India’s untapped tourism potential, promoted employment opportunities, fostered environmental awareness, and built exchange programmes.

The programme featured traditional dances, music, cuisine, and artisan displays, providing the Indian diaspora and the local community with an opportunity to experience the rich heritage of the Northeast region.

Sikkim took center stage at the event, drawing significant attention from participants and attendees, who expressed keen interest in the state’s distinctive developmental model that harmonises environmental preservation with modernisation. Ms. Mamta Somani, hailing from Sikkim, represented the state as a panelist, offering insights into its progressive policies and people-driven initiatives.

She shared how Sikkim, under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, has emerged as a model state by adopting global best practices while preserving its natural resources. Key achievements of Sikkim highlighted at the session included:

- Pioneering organic farming, ensuring safe and healthy food systems
- Recognition as the cleanest state in India, advancing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- Strict implementation of smoke-free public spaces, a practice still uncommon even in developed nations
- Modern and hygienic public sanitation facilities equipped with advanced utilities
- Adoption of a plastic-free lifestyle, promoting sustainable living
- Inclusive urban development with parks and recreation centres for community engagement

The discussions resonated strongly, with representatives from other northeastern states expressing keen interest in adopting Sikkim’s practices in their own regions.

The event also included creative stalls by local artisans, a tribute to the late Assamese music icon Zubeen Garg, and the participation of a US Councilor for Northeast India from Ladakh, who travelled from New York for the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Somani said it was a “humble and privileged opportunity to represent Sikkim on an international platform,” while also acknowledging the collective efforts of the Sikkimese people in advancing the state’s growth trajectory.