

Press Release from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim

Pakyong, January 08: The Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim, conducted a detailed reconnaissance (recce) visit in connection with the proposed upcoming Rorathang Maghey Mela including various Adventure Tourism Activities (Paragliding, Rafting, Mountain Biking, Trekking, Kayaking, Hiking etc from 16th -18th January 2026. The Recce aimed at assessing infrastructure, safety, and development requirements at key locations in the Rhenock region.

The recce was led by Shri Sonam Norgay Lachungpa, Chairman, Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, and was accompanied by Shri Urgen Lepcha, Confidential Assistant to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, along with senior officers, Engineers, Tourism stakeholder representatives, local representatives, youth, and members of the local community.

The visit commenced at Thumki Dara (1550 metres) at 9:15 a.m., the first paragliding take-off point.

Detailed discussions were held regarding the development of the surrounding area, safety measures, and logistical requirements to facilitate paragliding activities and future Adventure Tourism events.

The team then proceeded to the second take-off point at Amba Dara (980 metres), where local development needs and infrastructure enhancements were again discussed and duly noted.

Subsequently, the team visited the Amba Cricket Academy, where interactions were held with coaches and students.

The delegation appreciated the collective efforts of the academy, village community, and coaches in nurturing sports talent. It was observed that sports activities and training initiatives have significantly contributed to increased homestay occupancy during the holiday period, thereby positively impacting the local economy. The role of sports tourism in boosting livelihood opportunities and sustainable village development was highlighted.

The recce team then reached the designated paragliding landing spot and ATB Spot at Titerbotey, Rorathang, to assess ground conditions, safety aspects, and infrastructure requirements essential for hosting the events.

Thereafter, the team visited the historic Rhenock Silk Route, a more than 300-year-old cultural trail stretching approximately 2.3 km from Reshi (Sikkim side) to Rhenock Bazaar. The team walked along the route and identified it as a valuable cultural and historical heritage asset with strong tourism potential. Emphasis was laid on preserving the trail while exploring opportunities for heritage tourism, guided walks, and adventure activities such as mountain biking races. The Chairman underscored the importance of balancing tourism promotion with conservation and community involvement.

The recce was attended by Smt. Budhi Maya Subba, Panchayat Vice President, Taza GPU, Shri Dewan Singh Subba, Panchayat Member, Taza GPU, Shri Manoj Kumar Chettri, Deputy Director, Adventure Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, representatives of the Rhenock Tourism Development Society, tourism associations, adventure sports experts, homestay owners, and representatives from various tourism and youth organizations.

There was active and enthusiastic participation from tourism stakeholders, youth, and local residents of the Rhenock Constituency, reflecting strong community support for the proposed championship and broader tourism development initiatives.

The Tourism and Civil Aviation Department reaffirmed its commitment to promoting sustainable adventure tourism, preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing livelihood opportunities for local communities through responsible tourism development in the region.