Press Release from Tourism & Civil Aviation Department
Government of Sikkim

Tawang, 29 October 2026: Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang addressed the inaugural session of the 14th International Tourism Mart (ITM) 2026 at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting the immense tourism potential of the Northeast and emphasising sustainable tourism, improved connectivity, cultural preservation and inclusive economic development.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi , Union Minister for Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat , Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu , and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the invitation and warm hospitality.

Highlighting the shared Himalayan heritage, rich cultural traditions and natural beauty of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, he called upon all eight Northeastern States to work collectively in promoting the region as a unified and globally recognised tourism destination.

He also highlighted Sikkim's key tourism initiatives, including the Mega Homestay Scheme, promotion of offbeat destinations and strengthening of tourism infrastructure to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. Emphasising connectivity as a vital pillar of tourism and economic growth, he underscored the urgent need to develop National Highway 10 into an all-weather highway.

The Sikkim delegation comprised of Hon'ble Minister Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Shri Tshering T. Bhutia, Hon'ble Chairman Shri Sonam Norgay Lachungpa, Secretary Smt. Hondala Gyaltsen,Joint Director Smt. Lamin Theengh, Deputy Director, Smt. Yamini Pradhan, and Ms. Tshering Ongmu Bhutia, HA, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department.

Representatives from Sikkim's tourism stakeholders, including TAAS, AASTHA and the Summit Group of Hotels, also participated, reflecting the active involvement of tourism stakeholders in promoting the State.

The three-day International Tourism Mart, being held from 29 to 31 October 2026, is organised under the guidance of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and hosted by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.