

Press Release from District Administrative Centre, Gangtok

Gangtok, September 18: The District Administrative Centre, Gangtok organised a 2nd Meet & Greet with Entrepreneurs of Sikkim under the Project PAILA (Programme for Aspiring Innovators & Local Achievers) on 17th September 2025, at DAC Gangtok aligning with the State Government's vision of "One Family, One Entrepreneur."

Project PAILA, an initiative of the District Administrative Centre (DAC) Gangtok, supported by Sun Pharma Laboratories Limited and implemented by Stars of Hope (SOH), aims to mentor 200 aspiring entrepreneurs from Sikkim, with its formal launch scheduled soon. The youth of Sikkim have great entrepreneurial potential & this initiative is an effort to uncover that potential through mentor relationships .

Many might be facing barriers, cultural, financial or motivational that prevent them from turning ideas into enterprises. The program seeks to bridge this gap by nurturing innovation, offering structured guidance and mentorship, and providing access to knowledge, and skill-building. Through this holistic approach, the project PAILA envisions empowering Sikkim's youth to become confident entrepreneurs and active contributors to the state's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The meet was chaired by the District Collector-cum-Magistrate Gangtok, Shri Tushar Nikhare, and saw the presence of officials from DAC Gangtok, Seasoned Entrepreneurs of the state and Members of Stars Of Hope.

Addressing the participants, Shri Tushar Nikhare outlined the vision of Project PAILA, emphasising its goals, implementation, and expected outcomes. He described the meeting as the beginning of the Entrepreneurship Mentorship Program, designed not merely for business creation but to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and build an inclusive ecosystem for future leaders in Sikkim.

He highlighted the need to address real challenges like frequent DPR rejections through training local resource persons, and urged established entrepreneurs to share genuine experiences of overcoming barriers so that aspiring entrepreneurs are better prepared. A similar meeting had also been held earlier on 11th September 2025, reinforcing the administration's commitment to this cause.

Concluding his address, the District Collector expressed gratitude to all entrepreneurs for their active participation and called on them to take collective ownership, ensuring the initiative grows into a sustainable, long-term support system that strengthens Sikkim's entrepreneurial environment.

The Meet & Greet served as a platform to exchange feedback, shape future action plans, and encourage collaboration among entrepreneurs united by their vision to strengthen Sikkim's entrepreneurial landscape.

The programme concluded with an engaging interaction, where participants shared insights and suggestions, reaffirming their collective commitment to nurturing a vibrant and resilient entrepreneurial network in the state.