

Press Release Issued by Urban Development Department

Sikkim's Urban Transformation Takes Off as SIUDP-ADB Implementation Begins

Gangtok, September 5, 2026: An inception meeting to review the progress and readiness for commencement of projects under the Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project (SIUDP) was held today at the Conference Hall of the Urban Development Department, under the chairmanship of Shri Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS, Commissioner-cum- Secretary, UDD.

The meeting was attended by SIUDP officials & Project Management and Design Supervision Consultants; representatives of executing agencies; and contractors associated with various project components. The meeting

reviewed the preparedness of the agencies and contractors and deliberated on key issues and challenges requiring resolution for smooth execution. These are all Design-Build projects which require a defined design phase involving site investigations, design finalization and technical coordination before construction can commence. Further, excavation activities were constrained during the notified monsoon period from 1 May to 31 August 2026. With the excavation restriction now over, the Department has directed all executing agencies to expedite and pace up on-site works and ensure visible progress at the project sites to commence from September 7, 2026 onwards and adhere to the approved project schedules and quality requirements.

The Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project (SIUDP) is a flagship seven-year urban development initiative of the Government of Sikkim, being implemented from 2025 to 2032 with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The project represents a significant investment in the future of Sikkim's towns, covering Pakyong, Soreng,

Gyalshing, Mangan, Singtam, Rangpo and Tadong-Ranipool. The project addresses critical urban needs through investments in water supply, sewerage and sanitation, urban mobility, transport infrastructure, drainage and other essential municipal services, complemented by strategic planning, institutional strengthening and capacity building.

Strategic initiatives including the GIS-based city master plans, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Climate Action Plan, Comprehensive Mobility Plan and Water and Sanitation safety Plan, along with other planning and mitigation measures, will provide a framework for evidence-based and sustainable urban development. The project has undergone extensive preparation with Department of Economic affairs readiness criteria and ADB requirements, covering technical studies, detailed designs, statutory approvals, procurement, environmental and social safeguards, gender considerations and institutional coordination. With these requirements substantially advanced, the project has now reached a significant milestone towards full-scale implementation.

This integrated approach reflects the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), for balanced, inclusive and climate-resilient urban growth. The project is aligned with the broader objective of creating cleaner, safer, better connected and more liveable towns, while ensuring that urban development keeps pace with the changing needs of communities across the State. A key milestone was achieved with the

disbursement of project funds by ADB on August 18, 2026, followed by mobilisation advances to the concerned contractors, enabling the transition from preparation to field implementation.

ADB continues to support and monitor SIUDP, with emphasis on quality, safeguards, coordination and timely outcomes. As an externally aided project, SIUDP has undergone comprehensive appraisal and approval under the Government of India's established external assistance framework, reflecting the strong institutional and development commitment underpinning the programme. The integrated character of SIUDP has also received recognition at the ADB level. The project was featured under the "Innovation in Action Award" at ADB, recognising its distinctive approach to addressing the complex infrastructure & planning, led by Shri Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Urban Development Department and Shri Bhupendra Kuthari, Project Director. Beyond the creation of physical assets, SIUDP is expected to contribute to stronger urban governance, improved service delivery, enhanced climate preparedness, better planning systems and new opportunities for local economic activity. The improved urban environment and connectivity are also expected to support tourism, livelihoods and the broader economic potential of emerging urban centres.

The commencement of SIUDP works therefore marks an important phase in Sikkim's urban development journey.

SIUDP is not merely an infrastructure programme; it is a long-term urban transformation initiative aimed at building resilient, liveable and future-ready towns and advancing the vision of a more developed and sustainable Sikkim under Viksit Sikkim 2047.