

Press Release from Forest Training Institute,
Forest & Environment Department,
Government of Sikkim

Forest Training Institute, Bulbuley, Sikkim Launches Three-Day Residential Training to Tackle Human-Wildlife Conflict

GANGTOK, SIKKIM (August 5, 2026) The Forest Training Institute (FTI) in Bulbuley has officially commenced a three-day residential training programme aimed at mitigating human-wildlife conflict in the forest fringe areas of Sikkim. The intensive capacity-building programme is tailored for nominated members of Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) spanning all six districts of the state.

The initiative is fully supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, under its Forestry Training and Capacity Building (FTCB) Scheme.

The inaugural session was chaired by Chief Guest Shri Udai Gurung, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Wildlife, Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim. The launch event also saw the prominent presence of FTI leadership, including Shri Tshering Pintso Bhutia, SFS (Director), Shri Tenzing Norbu Bhutia, SFS (Joint Director), and Shri Anup J Baniya, SFS (Deputy Director), alongside FTI staff and local community delegates.

Speaking at the inauguration, Shri Udai Gurung highlighted the irreplaceable role of fringe communities in wildlife conservation. He emphasized that building local capacity is the most effective way to foster safe, peaceful co-existence between humans and animals.

Over the course of three days (5th to 7th August 2026), the residential training will focus on four primary pillars:

- Awareness: Educating fringe communities on wildlife patterns and conflict triggers.
- Knowledge Enhancement: Delivering technical lectures by elite wildlife experts.
- Confidence Building: Providing hands-on practical modules to handle conflict safely.
- Community Participation: Strengthening grassroots involvement in forest management.

To bridge theoretical knowledge with ground reality, the curriculum pairs expert-led lectures with intensive field exposure. Participants will undergo practical, on-site training at both the Fambhong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary and the Himalayan Zoological Park in Bulbuley.

By empowering EDC members, the Forest and Environment Department aims to create a proactive network of community first-responders, significantly reducing crop damage, livestock loss, and safety risks in vulnerable fringe zones.