



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 70 No. 33

Gangtok (Tuesday) July 28, 2026

Governor visits Sikkim Prerna Sthal on Kargil Vijay Diwas



Gangtok, July 26: On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur visited Sikkim Prerna Sthal, Bardang under Pakyong District and paid homage to the fallen heroes and the brave Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during Kargil War of 1999, today.

The Governor was joined by Major General Ashish Negi GOC Black Cat Division, Deorali, Army Officers and jawans and officials from Pakyong District Administration.

Commemorating Kargil Vijay Diwas, a two minute silence was

observed in memory of the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country.

Later, Governor inspected the ongoing developmental works at the Sikkim Prerna Sthal premises. Reviewing the progress of works with Army officers and district officials, he instructed them to complete the pending works at the earliest, in strict adherence to quality.

Further, he also interacted with the jawans present and praised their unwavering service to the nation.

Governor visits damaged landslide affected stretch of NH10 at 20 Mile

Gangtok, July 26: Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur visited damaged landslide affected stretch of National Highway 10 (NH10) at 20th Mile, Bardang under Pakyong District, today.

During the visit, Governor conducted an extensive inspection of the landslide-affected vulnerable stretch of the National Highway where restoration and debris clearance operations are being carried out by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). He reviewed the deployment of men and machinery and directed the NHIDCL officials to expedite clearance works while ensuring the safety of the personnel engaged in restoration

activities

Due to heavy monsoon rainfall, it has repeatedly triggered landslides at 20th Mile, Bardang, disrupting traffic over the past several days. NH10 is a vital artery connecting Sikkim with rest part of the country and serves as the lifeline for the landlocked Himalayan state.

The NHIDCL official informed the Governor about ongoing restoration works, challenges posed by the frequent landslide and other works being undertaken to restore normal traffic movement at the earliest.

Governor directed NHIDCL to expedite clearance and restoration work and emphasised seamless connectivity.

8th State-level Sarathi Samman Diwas celebrated

Gangtok, July 27: 8th State-level Sarathi Samman Diwas 2026, themed "Let's Continue the Journey of Responsibility and Road Safety", was celebrated at Manan Kendra, today.

The programme was graced by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang as the chief guest.

In his address, Chief Minister reflected on the journey of Sarathi Samman Diwas, noting that this year marked the eighth edition of the celebration. He stated that the occasion was dedicated to honouring and recognising the invaluable contributions of driving community to the State.

Highlighting the pivotal role of Sarathis in Sikkim's progress, Chief Minister remarked that the successful implementation of the State's developmental initiatives are supported by their dedicated service. He also spoke about the State Government's sustained efforts to empower driving community by promoting self-reliance and improving their overall



standard of living through various welfare initiatives.

The Chief Minister further highlighted the Government's commitment in supporting the education, welfare and overall well-being of their families. He also addressed the demands and

grievances placed by Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLA-cum-Advisor Power Department and assured the driving community that the Government would continue to work towards resolving their

Contd. on page 2

Chief Minister inaugurates Pema Choling Monastery

Namchi, July 24: The newly constructed Pema Choling Monastery at Upper Dorop, Salghari, Namchi was inaugurated today by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, in the presence of Ms Raj Kumari Thapa Deputy Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban Development Department and Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Buildings and Housing Department.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister congratulated the Monastery Management Committee and public of Salghari on the successful completion of the monastery. Recalling Salghari as the constituency from where his journey as Chief Minister began, he assured the public that the area would continue to receive priority in developmental initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of its people.

He reiterated the State Government's commitment to supporting the construction of religious institutions alongside other developmental projects across Sikkim. Highlighting key infrastructure initiatives, he announced that Assangthang-Chisopani road project has been



sanctioned, three flyovers have been approved for Namchi town, and a public park will be developed in Namchi to host community functions and public events.

Describing the monastery as

a place that belongs to every section of society, the Chief Minister urged people to uphold unity, mutual respect and

Contd. on page 2

Pearls of Wisdom

*"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."
- Aristotle*

Search and rescue operation at NHPC Teesta Stage VI concludes

Namchi, July 23: The extensive search and rescue operation launched following the tragic blast inside the under-construction HR Tunnel Face-4B of the NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydroelectric Power Project at Samardung, Namthang Sub-Division, Namchi District concluded after four days of relentless efforts by multiple rescue agencies, today.

According to the official closure report issued by the District Magistrate, Namchi, the incident occurred on July 20, 2026 at approximately 1:05 p.m. Preliminary findings suggest that the blast may have been caused by the leakage of combustible gas, although the exact cause will be confirmed following a detailed expert investigation.

A total of 25 persons were present at the site at the time of the incident. The rescue operation involved coordinated efforts by the National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Police Departments of Namchi and Pakyong, Fire and Emergency Services, Mines Rescue Services, Coal India Limited (ECL and WCL), Health Department and the District Labour Office, among others.

The NDRF-led search and rescue mission commenced at 5:25 p.m. on July 20, 2026 and continued round the clock under challenging conditions. The operation was successfully concluded today at 1:30 p.m. following the recovery of all victims.

Official records indicate that 19 workers from PEL and six personnel from PRW manpower were present inside the tunnel during the incident. Tragically, all 25 individuals lost their lives and

their bodies were recovered during the course of the operation.

Following the recovery of the 25th victim, a final search of the tunnel was conducted by the NDRF team at 12:30 p.m. The attendance records were subsequently verified with the concerned companies and no reports of any additional missing persons were received. After all necessary confirmations and formalities were completed, the rescue and search operation was officially called off at 3:00 p.m.

The District Administration expressed its gratitude to all rescue personnel, emergency responders, medical teams and supporting agencies whose unwavering commitment and coordinated efforts ensured the successful completion of the operation under extremely difficult circumstances.

Officials conduct site inspection following Barapathing bridge collapse

Pakyong, July 23: Following the collapse of the bridge at Barapathing under the Gnathang-Machong Constituency, a joint inspection was conducted at the site to assess the damage and initiate restoration measures, today.

The inspection was carried out in the presence of Mr TR Chettri DPO Pakyong; Mr Kiran Chettri RO/AD Pakyong; Mr Ajay Singh Inspector, 69 Battalion SSB; officials from the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department and the Mines and Geology Department; along with representatives from Nalanda Engicon Pvt Ltd.

During the inspection, the team assessed the situation and informed that essential supplies would be transported through a trolley system to ensure uninterrupted assistance to residents of the cut-off areas affected by the disruption in connectivity.

Additionally, the Nalanda Engicon Pvt Ltd was directed to restore access by opening the Barapathing-Rongli road for the safe movement of commuters in the region.

Officials from the Mines and Geology Department also carried out a technical assessment of the site and a slope

stability report is currently being prepared to guide further restoration and safety measures.

It is to be mentioned that debris clearance works have also commenced in the area and protective walls are being constructed at vulnerable locations to safeguard nearby residential areas from further risks.

During the visit, local residents also shared their grievances and were assured that necessary efforts are being undertaken to restore connectivity and resolve the issues at the earliest.

Contd. from front page

Chief Minister...

communal harmony. He observed that Sikkim's greatest strength lies in its peaceful coexistence, where diverse communities continue to preserve and celebrate their unique traditions and cultural heritage. He further stated that the Government remains committed to promoting and safeguarding the State's rich cultural legacy.

Additionally, the Chief Minister informed that he would undertake visits to various constituencies, including Poklok-Kamrang, before November to interact with the public and address their grievances.

Speaking on education and healthcare, he announced that 110 students from Sikkim would receive free medical education at Helen Lepcha Medical College under the Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme. He also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to extending assistance to patients requiring specialised treatment at reputed hospitals across the country.

He further informed that the Aama Yojana programme for around 1,000 beneficiaries would be held on August 10 at Bhaichung Stadium, Namchi, and appealed to all beneficiaries to participate. Further, he announced that

financial assistance would be extended to more than 200 Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the State this year, with the number expected to increase in the future.

Referring to employment-related reforms, the Chief Minister stated that the benefit of re-employment in Government service would henceforth be restricted to employees belonging to Group C and Group D categories.

Appealing to the local community, he urged residents to develop the monastery into a prominent tourist destination, stating that improved connectivity and the proposed road widening project would create new economic opportunities for the people of the area.

Speaking on the State's financial position, the Chief Minister informed that the Budget Estimate for 2026-27 stands at ₹18,455 crore, reflecting an increase of ₹2,245 crore over the previous financial year. He stated that the budget would support not only the salaries of Government employees but also capital and revenue expenditure for public welfare and development. He further announced that, following the advice of the Office of the Auditor General, a separate budget head would be maintained for medical reimbursement payments.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Bhoj Raj Rai Minister for Urban

Development Department thanked the Chief Minister for extending Government support to the project. He appreciated the efforts of the Monastery Committee, donors and local residents, whose collective contributions made the project a reality despite several challenges during construction. He also informed that road widening works in the area would commence shortly, with tender process already completed.

A technical report on the construction of the monastery was presented by Mr C V Basnet Secretary Buildings and Housing Department. He informed that the project, covering an area of 4,894 square feet, was sanctioned and tendered on January 8 2021 and completed on July 11 2026 at a total cost of ₹8.95 crore. He also highlighted various amenities and facilities developed under the project.

The programme also had the felicitation of Mr Chabi Lal Mangar land donor, contractor, interior designer and Larepa by Chief Minister. A special felicitation was also presented to the Chief Minister on behalf of Denchung GPU.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by MLAs, Advisors, Chairpersons, Secretaries, DC Namchi, Sr SP Namchi, HoO, Government officials, Police personnel, and GPU members.

Sikkim Short Film earns International recognition at New York Global Short Film Fest

Namchi, July 24: In a proud moment for Sikkim's growing film industry, the short film titled 'The Silent Echo', written and directed by Barun Rai under the banner of Little Boy Film Production, has received international recognition at the New York Global Short Film Fest 2026.

The film has been selected as an Official Selection at the prestigious festival, while its lead actress Kunzang Sherpa has also been honoured as a Semi-Finalist for her outstanding performance. The film also features Ongdup Sherpa, Sonam C Bhutia and Barun Rai in central roles.

Contd. from front page

8th State...

concerns.

In his address, Mr Madan Cintury MLA-cum-Advisor, Transport Department stated that the programme served as a platform to bring together members of the driving community and celebrate their contributions. He also expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his continued support and efforts towards strengthening the driving community in the State.

Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLA-cum-Advisor in his address highlighted various benefits and welfare initiatives extended to the Sarathi community by the State Government. Speaking on behalf of the driving community, he also placed their demands and grievances before the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister was felicitated by representatives of the Transport Department, officers and Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) of the Motor Vehicle Division, and members of the Sarathi Welfare Board and the State Chalak Morcha.

The Chief Minister further handed over a Bolero Neo to Mr Laxuman Chettri, a resident of Gyalshing-Bermiok. He also presented the Best Sarathi Award to twelve Sarathis from all six districts along with the distribution of twelve Wagon R LXI vehicles in recognition of their service. The award recipients subsequently administered the pledge.

The programme also featured a skit on the Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan, performed by Sikkim Assemble Theatre. Thereafter, the Chief Minister felicitated Mr Randip Chettri Councillor, Jorethang, along with representatives of the Kalimpong-Sikkim & All Highways Taxi Owners Drivers Welfare Association (Motor Stand, Kalimpong), Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Truck Owners and Drivers Welfare Association, Pragatisil Tanker Drivers Welfare Association, Melli (West Bengal), Lava Taxi Driver Welfare Association, Darjeeling Youth Driver Welfare Association and North Bengal Tourist Transport Operators, Siliguri. He also felicitated the drivers and conductors of the Pink City Runner and presented the Best Conductor Award to Ms Tshering Yangchen Bhutia.

With the tagline 'The Voices of Our Heart and Mind', The Silent Echo explores powerful emotions and social realities through narrative centred on resilience, silence and the struggles faced by young individuals.

The international recognition marks a significant achievement for the filmmakers and highlights the growing potential of Sikkimese cinema on the global stage. It is expected to inspire aspiring filmmakers from the region to continue producing meaningful stories that resonate with audiences worldwide.

During the programme, the Chief Minister felicitated the best-performing drivers of SNT in the truck, tanker and bus categories. The awardees included Mr Nirmal Chettri, Mr Dipen Gurung, Mr Manoj Kumar Chettri and Mr Homraj Chettri. The Chief Minister also presented ex-gratia assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of seven accident victims.

Additionally, he honoured the Best Disciplined Drivers in various categories. The awardees were Mr Kharka Kumar Pradhan, Maxi Cab (J), Mr Buddha Manger, Luxury (Z), Mr Sandeep Pradhan, Motor Cab (T), Mr D B Chettri, Goods Carrier (D), Mr Sawdip Kami, Stage Carriage (B), and Mr Namdul Gyatso Bhutia, Government (G).

The Chief Minister also felicitated SNT drivers Mr Chatur Das Chettri, Mr Tenzing Lachungpa and Mr Kumar Gurung in recognition of their exemplary service during the Prime Minister's visit to the State. He further honoured Mr Basant Kumar Suji, a retired driver of Sikkim Government College, for his dedicated service spanning 40 years. In addition, the Chief Minister felicitated lady driver Ms Manita Subba for her contribution to the driving community. Additionally, the Chief Minister also presented desktop computers to the members of the Ranipool Local Taxi Owners-cum-Driver's Association.

A video presentation on the achievements of the Transport Department and Sarathi's, documented by the Information and Public Relations Department was screened.

The programme also featured cultural performances by Lady Sarathi's, winners of the Sarathi Idol competition, and All Sikkim Government Drivers Association on Nasha Mukh.

The programme also included felicitation of Mr M N Sherpa Speaker SLA, Mr Madan Cintury MLA-cum-Advisor, and Mr Sanjeet Kharel MLA-cum-Advisor by Transport Department.

Also present were Deputy Speaker SLA, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Mayor and Deputy Mayor GMC, Adhyakshas, Up-Adhyakshas, Zilla Panchayats, PCE-cum-Secretary Transport Department, HoDs from various Government departments, members of various Driving Associations from West Bengal and other dignitaries.

Social Welfare Department organises awareness-cum-orientation programme on scholarship schemes

Gangtok, July 23: Social Welfare Department organised an awareness-cum-orientation programme on Scholarship Schemes at Conference Hall of Social Welfare Department, Lumsey, with the objective of strengthening the implementation of scholarship schemes and enhancing awareness among District Welfare Officers, District Nodal Officers (DNOs), Officer representatives from Education Department and State Incharge Community Service Centre (CSC), Sikkim.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Mrs Bandana Chettri, Special Secretary, Social Welfare Department, who appreciated the commendable efforts of the District Nodal Officers and Institute Nodal Officers in increasing scholarship coverage during the academic year 2025-26. She urged stakeholders to intensify awareness campaigns at the district and institutional levels to ensure that every eligible student benefits from the scholarship schemes. She also emphasised the importance of timely verification of applications and acknowledged the role of CSC Sikkim in facilitating scholarship services in rural and remote areas.

Mrs Kabita Subba, Joint Secretary (Scholarship), Social

Welfare Department, highlighted various scholarship schemes implemented for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC). The presentation covered the objectives, eligibility criteria, benefits, and physical and financial achievements of the schemes during the financial year 2025-26, while emphasising the Department's commitment to ensuring equitable access to education through financial assistance. The revised guideline of the Government of India, wherein now one student can avail multiple scholarships i.e One merit based and multiple welfare based scholarship with effect from this year was explained to the participants.

The IT Section of the Department conducted a tutorial session on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), demonstrating the complete scholarship application and verification process, including One-Time Registration (OTR), Aadhaar authentication, document verification. Participants were also briefed on the roles and responsibilities of Institute Nodal Officers and District Nodal Officers and the measures required for timely and accurate verification of scholarship applications.

Ms Srijana Karkidholi, Assistant Director (IT), Social Welfare Department, explained the latest updates in the National Scholarship Portal for academic year 2026-27, including the revised classification of scholarship schemes into Merit-Based and Welfare-Based categories, updated portal features, and revised application guidelines.

Joint Director, Education Department and CSC Sikkim also addressed the participants. The Education Department highlighted the scholarship schemes administered by the department and stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination, while CSC Sikkim showcased the scholarship-related services available through Common Service Centres, particularly benefiting students from rural and remote areas. The admissible service charge by CSC for online scholarship including obtaining OTR is ₹50 per application.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion during which participants deliberated on challenges in scholarship implementation, sought clarifications on the latest NSP guidelines, and shared suggestions for improving coordination and service delivery.

Urban Development Department Government of Sikkim, Gangtok

No. T(3878)/TP/E/UDD/25/1033

Date: 28.07.2026

NOTICE FOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON "FORMULATION OF GIS BASED MASTER PLAN FOR NAMCHI PLANNING AREA"

The Urban Development Department intends to conduct a **Stakeholder Consultation Workshop** on "Formulation of GIS based Master Plan for Namchi Planning Area" under AMRUT 2.0 sub-scheme. The meeting is to be scheduled on **7th of August 2026 from 10:30 am till 5:00 pm, at Town Hall, Namchi.**

All stakeholders from **Namchi and Jorethang**, including elected representatives, officers from all line departments, institutions, technical experts and other concerned stakeholders, are requested to participate in this interactive workshop and provide their valuable inputs and suggestions. The feedback received during the consultation will be considered in the preparation of GIS-based Master Plan for the Namchi Planning Area.

The **Existing Situation and Gap Analysis Report for Namchi Planning Area** has been made available at the following link:

<https://udd.sikkim.gov.in/plandoc/it6ketqYWUDzJOddBDrinD21HsHMDwVcpKpOAhp9.pdf>

Participants are requested to go through the report prior to attending the workshop so that the discussions are more informed, meaningful and productive.

Date: 7th August 2026**Venue: Town Hall, Namchi****Time: 10:30 am**

**Joint Chief Town Planner-cum Nodel Officer
Urban Development Department
Government of Sikkim
(71, II)**

Before the Oath Commissioner, Sikkim at Gangtok AFFIDAVIT

I, **YANGCHEN LHAMU BHUTIA**, d/o Heshay Dawa Bhutia, aged about 17 years, resident of Tibet Road, Gangtok, P.O. & P.S. Gangtok, District: Gangtok, Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am the natural daughter of Mr.Heshay Dawa Bhutia and Mrs. Deepa Rai.
2. That my actual and correct name is "**Yangchen Lhamu Bhutia**" and my father's actual and correct name is "**Heshay Dawa Bhutia**" which is recorded in my Class X Statement of Marks Certificate bearing Unique ID No. 8131744 issued by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi.

3. That inadvertently in my Birth Certificate bearing registration No. 284/2008 issued by the Office of the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim my name has been mentioned as "**Yanchen Lhamo Bhutia**" and my father's name has been mentioned as "**Hissey Dawa Bhutia**".

4. That this affidavit is made to declare on oath that "**Yangchen Lhamu Bhutia**" and "**Yanchen Lhamo Bhutia**" refers to one and the same person i.e.myself.

5. That this affidavit is made to declare on oath that "**Heshay Dawa Bhutia**" and "**Hissey Dawa Bhutia**" refers to one and the same person i.e.my father.

6. That this affidavit is made bona-fide.

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponent do hereby verify and state that the statements made in above paragraphs of the instant affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and beliefs and nothing material has been concealed there from. And I, sign this affidavit on this the 25th day of March, 2025 at Gangtok, Sikkim.

DEPONENT

Government of Sikkim Department of Cooperation Office of Addl. Registrar Namchi, South Sikkim 737126

Memo No.:586/GOS/COOP/Addl.RCS (Namchi)**Date 27/07/2026**

NOTICE

As per the power conferred upon and under the provision of Rule 71 and sub Rule (I) & (II) of Sikkim Co-operative Societies Rule 1981, it is hereby informed to all concerned that the liquidation proceeding has been initiated against the following Society:

- **LOWER WOK CIVIL CONTRACTOR CO- OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.(Reg. No. S13/WOM/0023/COOP)**

Hence all stakeholders including the members, debtors, creditors, nominees, heirs and legal representatives of the deceased members are hereby informed to submit their claims and objections, if any, in respect of the above Cooperatives Society within one month (i.e.30 days) of the publication of this notice to the liquidator at the Co-operation Department, Namchi District.

**Joint Registrar
Department of Cooperation
Namchi District
(72)**

Before the Oath Commissioner at Gangtok, Sikkim AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nima Tshering Lepcha**, s/o Lt. Wangdi Lepcha, r/o Tumin Namrang under P.O. Tumin P.S.Singtam, Gangtok District of Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

1. That I'm bonafide resident of above mentioned address.
2. That my father actual and correct name is "**Wangdi Lepcha**" which is recorded in my Certificate of Identification bearing Serial No. 420/DCE, Dated 14/02/2002, issued by Office of the District Collector, East District, Gangtok.
3. That in office register, bearing registers. Vide Serial No. 285, Volume No. I, under block Tumin, issued by Secretary, Land revenue Department, Government of Sikkim, my father name has been recorded as "**Ongdi Lepcha**" instead of "**Wandgi Lepcha**".
4. That this affidavit is made to declare on oath that person by names "**Ongdi Lepcha**" and "**Wandgi Lepcha**" is refers and denoted to same and one identical person i.e., my late father.
5. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the above named deponents do hereby verify and declare that the statements made in above paragraphs are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed therefrom and I sign this affidavit on the 11th day of June 2026 at Gangtok, Sikkim

Deponent

**Read and Advertise
in
Sikkim Herald**



Residential workshops cluster-level training and school monitoring under CM-SNP

Gangtok, July 25: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Education Department, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with Jodo Gyan, New Delhi, organised three-day residential workshops for the Members of the State Resource Group (SRG) under the Chief Minister Special Numeracy Programme (CM-SNP). The workshop for SRG members handling Class 3 was conducted from 8–10 July 2026 at a local hotel, while the workshop for Classes 1 and 2 was held from July 14-16, 2026 at the same venue.

The workshops focused on strengthening teachers' pedagogical understanding of multiplicative sense and fractions for Classes 3 and 4, while also reviewing the findings of the Term-I Assessment conducted before the summer vacation. Based on the assessment outcomes, the participants deliberated on classroom strategies and interventions to address learning gaps, strengthen conceptual understanding, and improve the quality of mathematics teaching during the second academic term.

Following the residential workshops, the trained SRG members facilitated cluster-level workshops for teachers from 765 Government schools at 40 cluster venues across the six districts of Sikkim. The workshops for Class 3 teachers were conducted on July 14-15, July 16-17 and July 20-21, 2026, while those for Classes 1 and 2 teachers were organised on July 20-21 and July 22-23, 2026. The sessions familiarised teachers with the new pedagogical approaches,

classroom activities, teaching-learning materials and assessment-based interventions to be implemented under the Chief Minister Special Numeracy Programme (CM-SNP).

As part of the academic monitoring and support process, Mr Rajiv Philip, Deputy Director, SCERT, and Mr Gopal Dhungel, Faculty (Mathematics), SCERT, undertook field visits to schools and cluster-level workshops.

On July 22, 2026, they visited Padamchey Secondary School, Kamarey Junior High School and Zitlang Junior High School to observe classroom transactions and interact with children on the implementation of the Chief Minister Special Numeracy Programme (CM-SNP). They also interacted with teachers participating in the cluster-level workshop of Duga BAC held at Zitlang Junior High School, where the training sessions were facilitated by Mr Sunil Dangal of Tikalall Niroula Government Senior Secondary School, Mr Dipen Gurung of Linkey Secondary School, and Ms. Ranju Gurung of Zitlang Junior High School. The officers appreciated the quality of classroom discussions, teacher participation and the effective facilitation by the State Resource Group members.

On July 23, 2026, the officers visited Chuba Saraswati Primary School, Samdong Senior Secondary School, Kambal Junior High School and Raley Secondary School under Rakdong Tintek BAC. A meeting with the school staff was held at Kambal Junior High School, where Mr Rajiv Philip

highlighted the importance of implementing the flagship programmes of Education Department, including Vidhya Pravesh, the Language and Literacy Programme (LLP) and the Chief Minister Special Numeracy Programme (CM-SNP). Classroom observations were carried out in all the schools in the presence of the respective school heads to understand the implementation of these programmes and to provide academic support wherever required.

The officers concluded their visit at Raley Secondary School, where the cluster-level workshop for teachers of Rakdong Tintek BAC was in progress. They had a fruitful interaction with the participating teachers and observed a demonstration class conducted for students of Classes 3 and 4, providing constructive feedback on pedagogy, student engagement and the effective use of CM-SNP learning materials.

The entire programme was organised by SCERT, Education Department, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with Jodo Gyan, New Delhi, and was coordinated by Mr Rajiv Philip, Deputy Director, SCERT. The residential workshops, cluster-level trainings and subsequent monitoring visits have further strengthened the implementation of the Chief Minister Special Numeracy Programme (CM-SNP) and reaffirmed SCERT's commitment to improving foundational numeracy and mathematics learning outcomes across Government schools in Sikkim.

Sikkim Innovation Champions return after intensive science and mathematics training at IISER Pune

Gangtok, July 26: A 36-member delegation from Sikkim, comprising 33 Innovation Champions (ICs) and two faculty members of SCERT led by Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari Director, SCERT Sikkim returned after completing a six-day residential workshop on Activity-Based, Inquiry-Based and Innovative Teaching of Science and Mathematics at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune held from July 16 to 21, 2026.

The workshop was organised under the iRISE (Inspiring India in Research Innovation and STEM Education) initiative of IISER Pune as part of the ongoing academic collaboration between SCERT Sikkim and IISER Pune to promote innovative, inquiry-driven and competency-based teaching practices in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The exposure programme was supported by State Project Office, Samagra Shiksha, Education Department, Government of Sikkim, with the objective of strengthening science and mathematics education through innovative classroom practices.

Over six days, the participants underwent intensive

training in hands-on and inquiry-based pedagogies covering Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, GeoGebra, Tinkercad, Electronics, Data Visualisation, Scientific Investigations, Role Play, Design Thinking and Classroom Innovation. They also interacted with eminent scientists viz. Prof Chandrashekhar Borkar and Prof Lilawati Narlikar visited advanced research facilities including the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and Bird Research Laboratories, and participated in practical chemistry experiments designed for classroom adaptation using low-cost teaching-learning materials.

A major outcome of the workshop was the preparation of district-wise action plans for cascading the training to science and mathematics teachers across Sikkim. The Innovation Champions will conduct district-level capacity-building programmes during August-September 2026, enabling the innovative pedagogical approaches introduced at IISER Pune to reach classrooms throughout the State. The participants described the workshop as highly enriching and transformative, highlighting its strong emphasis on inquiry,

experimentation, collaboration and reflective learning. They expressed their commitment to adopting these innovative teaching practices in their classrooms and mentoring fellow teachers through the upcoming cascade programmes.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari Director, SCERT Sikkim, thanked Director, Dean and the iRISE team of IISER Pune for their continued academic support and partnership in strengthening science and mathematics education in Sikkim. He appreciated the excellent organisation of the workshop and expressed confidence that the innovative teaching strategies and skills acquired by the participants would enrich classroom practices and improve learning outcomes across the State. Director, SCERT Sikkim also conveyed his sincere gratitude to Mr Raju Basnet Minister Education, Dr Sandeep Tambe Principal Secretary, Education Department and Mr Tashi Chopel Secretary School Education-cum-State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha for their encouragement and support in facilitating this important academic exposure programme.

Training-cum-workshop for Tribal Language Teachers begins

Gangtok, July 27: The Tribal Research Institute and Training Centre, Social Welfare Department, commenced a five-day training-cum-workshop for tribal language teachers at the Tribal Research Institute and Training Centre, Assam Lingzey, today.

The training programme, being held from July 27 to 31, 2026, brings together graduate and postgraduate teachers of tribal languages with the objective of strengthening their knowledge, teaching skills and pedagogical practices.

The programme focuses on the effective teaching and learning of Sikkim's rich tribal languages and seeks to equip teachers with contemporary approaches to language education, pedagogy and assessment. The initiative is also aimed at contributing to the preservation, promotion and transmission of the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of the tribal communities of Sikkim.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Mr Sonam Chopel Sherpa, Chairman, Students' Welfare Board, Education Department as the chief guest.

The Chairman highlighted the importance of safeguarding indigenous languages and ensuring their meaningful transmission to younger generations. He emphasised that language is not merely a medium of communication but also an important carrier of identity,

culture, history, traditional knowledge and collective heritage.

He appreciated the Tribal Research Institute and the Social Welfare Department for organising the training programme and underlined the need for continuous professional development for teachers engaged in tribal language education.

The five-day programme includes sessions on language education and the National Education Policy (NEP), pedagogical strategies for teaching, language assessment and other relevant aspects of tribal language education. The sessions are being conducted by experienced faculty members and resource persons from the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

The programme is expected to provide a valuable platform for teachers to exchange experiences, discuss challenges in tribal language education and explore innovative teaching methodologies suited to the linguistic and cultural context of Sikkim.

The initiative reflects the Government of Sikkim's continued commitment to protecting indigenous languages, strengthening tribal education and empowering teachers as custodians of the State's rich linguistic heritage.

Gangtok observes Guru Rimpoche's Thrunkar Tshechu

Gangtok, July 24: Celebrating the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava, the patron saint of Sikkim and a revered teacher of Buddhism, this year's Guru Rimpoche Thrunkar Tshechu was observed with auspicious prayers and a sacred procession from the Dotaphu Deorali Chorten through the main town of Gangtok.

The event was organised by the Sikkim Buddhist Duechen Organisation (SBDO), Dotaphu Deorali Chorten and other Buddhist organisations of the State.

At the onset, Chorten Gonpa monks chanted ceremonial prayers like Guru Tshe-wang (sacred longevity empowerment) and Guru Chyen-dren (invitation prayer) along with food offering (Tsog). Next, a ceremonial unfurling of the traditional exposition of Guru Thangdrall Chenmo took place. The unfurling was presided over by HE Lachung Tulku Rimpoche and other revered lamas.

Hundreds of monks, students, devotees and volunteers then lined up for a procession accompanied by the sacred Guru Terzoet texts in 60 volumes and a statue of the revered Guru Padmasambhava from the programme venue.

Moving along the

designated route, the procession made a brief halt at Ridge Park, where devotees gathered to offer prayers to Guru Rimpoche.

The ceremony at Ridge Park was graced by Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur. Also in attendance were Mr Sonam Lama Minister for Ecclesiastical Department; Mr Arun Upreti Minister For Rural Development Department; Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha MLA for Shyari Tathangchen and Advisor for Forest and Environment Department, Mr Delay Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor, Mr Kunga Nima Lepcha Advisor to Chief Minister, Mr Tshewang Lama Advisor for Ecclesiastical Department, Ms Kincho Doma Lepcha Secretary Ecclesiastical Department, Mr Pasong Namgyal President of SBDO, revered monks, Councillors, chairpersons, OSDs, members the SBDO and other Buddhist organisations of the State and others.

Following a brief halt at Ridge Park, the sacred procession proceeded back to the Dotaphu Deorali Chorten. The day's observances concluded with the distribution of Guru Tshe-wang and Tshog to all procession participants.

Budget Session 2026-27 concludes

Gangtok, July 23: Final day of Budget Session 2026-27 of the Eleventh Sikkim Assembly Fourth Session (Part II), presided over by Speaker Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa, commenced with legislative business during which the House passed the Board of Open Schooling and Vocational Education, Sikkim Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 07 of 2026).

The Bill had been introduced by Minister-in-Charge of Education Department, Mr Raju Basnet on July 20, 2026.

Thereafter, the House took up the Separate Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2026-27, which were presented by the Ministers-in-Charge of their respective departments.

Mr NB Dahal (Chettri) Minister-in-Charge of the Roads & Bridges Department, presented the Separate Demands for Grants for his department.

Replying to the suggestions and observations made by Ms Kala Rai and Mr Aditya Golay MLAs, Minister Mr N B Dahal assured the House that the department remains committed to strengthening road infrastructure across the State.

He informed that necessary measures are being undertaken to address issues relating to road safety, maintenance and connectivity, while ensuring timely execution of developmental works. Thereafter, the House passed the Separate Demands for Grants for the department.

Mr Raju Basnet Minister-in-Charge Education Department, Sports and Youth Affairs and Law Department and Parliamentary Affairs Department presented the Separate Demands for Grants for his departments.

Replying to the suggestions made by Mr Aditya Golay MLA, the Minister welcomed the proposal for the development of Soreng Jautar Stadium and assured that it would be examined by the State Government.

He also highlighted various initiatives and provisions made in the General Budget for the advancement of education, sports, youth welfare and legal services, while reaffirming his departments' commitment to effectively implementing the Government's programmes for overall development of the State. The

House, thereafter passed the Separate Demands for Grants for the concerned departments.

Minister-in-Charge of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Commerce and Industries and Food Processing Industries Department, Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia presented the Separate Demands for Grants for his departments.

Replying to the suggestions made by MLA Ms Kala Rai, the Minister said that the Tourism Department would continue exploring measures to enhance tourist footfall and promote value addition to tourism products and services. He further informed that efforts are underway to develop suitable infrastructure for adventure tourism, including a dedicated paragliding site, while emphasising Sikkim's immense potential as a destination for adventure tourism.

Reiterating his departments' commitment to sustainable sectoral growth, the Minister assured that focused efforts would continue to strengthen tourism, commerce, industries and food processing in the State. Thereafter, the House passed the Separate Demands for Grants for the concerned departments.

Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, who is also the Minister Incharge of Home Department, Finance Department, Planning and Development Department, Department of Personnel, Power Department, Excise Department, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Transport Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Information Technology Department, Skill Development Department and other departments not allotted to other Ministers, presented the Separate Demands for Grants.

Responding to the views expressed by Ms Pamin Lepcha and Mr Aditya Golay MLAs, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude for their valuable inputs and elaborated on the key initiatives proposed in the Budget 2026-27.

He highlighted that the General Budget 2026-27 lays emphasis on strengthening infrastructure, improving public service delivery, enhancing

employment and livelihood opportunities, empowering women and youth, promoting sustainable tourism and agriculture and preserving Sikkim's unique cultural and environmental heritage.

He elaborated on the State Interest Subvention Scheme to enable eligible farmers to avail Kisan Credit Card crop loans at an effective interest rate of one percent, the statewide HPV screening programme for women, operationalisation of Sikkim's first Renal Transplant Programme at STNM Hospital, commencement of the Sikkim Government Medical College with an annual intake of 100 MBBS students, strengthening of the 'Mero Alaichi, Mero Dhan' mission, expansion of skill development and employment opportunities for women and youth, continued investments in infrastructure and digital governance and measures aimed at improving public service delivery across the State.

The Chief Minister said these initiatives would contribute towards improving the quality of life of the people while advancing the vision of a "Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim".

He further stated that the State Government remains committed to prudent fiscal management, while ensuring the effective implementation of development programmes for the overall progress and welfare of the people of the State.

The House thereafter passed the Separate Demands for Grants for the concerned departments under the Chief Minister's charge.

Subsequently, the General Budget for the financial year 2026-27, with a total expenditure of ₹19,215 crore and a net expenditure of ₹18,455 crore after accounting for recoveries, was voted and passed by the House.

The Budget was presented by the Chief Minister, who is also the Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department, on the first day of the Budget Session on July 20, 2026.

The House also passed the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 09 of 2026) for the Annual General Budget 2026-27, introduced by Mr Prem Singh Tamang Chief Minister and Minister-in-Charge of the Finance

Department.

The Bill was introduced pursuant to Clause (1) of Article 204 of the Constitution of India to provide for the appropriation from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim of the sums required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund and the grants made by Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim during the Financial Year 2026-27.

The Chief Minister, who is also the Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department, also presented the Medium Term Fiscal Plan for Sikkim 2026-27 to 2028-29 to the House.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister, who is also the Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department presented the following Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Reports to the House:

I. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on State Finances for the year 2024-25 (Report No. 1 of 2026).

II. Finance Accounts (Volumes I & II) for the year 2024-25.

III. Appropriation Accounts for the year 2024-25

He also presented the Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for the years ended March 31, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 before the House.

Chairman of Committee on Public Accounts, Mr Sonam Venchungpa placed the 141st Report on the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 31, 2017, before the House.

Thereafter, Speaker Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa announced the laying of the following reports before the House:

I. Annual Report of the Rural Development Department, for the year 2025-26.

II. Annual Report of the Education Department, for the year 2024-25.

III. Annual Report of the Cooperation Department, for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Speaker also announced the laying of Resume of the Second and Third Sessions of the Eleventh Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

In his closing remarks, Speaker Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa said that the General Budget was dedicated to the welfare of the people of Sikkim and reflected the Government's commitment to the development of the State and strengthening its infrastructure. He expressed confidence that the Budget would contribute to the overall progress and well-being of the people.

The Speaker expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister and Leader of the House, Mr Prem Singh Tamang for his far-sighted vision and unwavering commitment to the development of

the State.

The Speaker also thanked Deputy Speaker Mrs Raj Kumari Thapa for her constant support and smooth conduct of process of four-day Budget Session proceedings.

Expressing his appreciation, the Speaker thanked the Chief Administrator-cum-Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretary, DGP, Heads of Departments, Secretaries, officers, officials and the media fraternity for ensuring the successful completion of the Budget Session.

In his valedictory remarks, Chief Minister and Leader of the House Mr Prem Singh Tamang, expressed gratitude for the successful completion of the four-day Budget Session. He thanked Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur for his presence on the first day of the Budget Session and for delivering his address to the House.

The Chief Minister said that the Budget was dedicated to welfare of the people and the overall development of Sikkim. Reaffirming the Government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, he said the administration would continue to generate employment opportunities, strengthen the State's economy, improve infrastructure and ensure the holistic development of the people of Sikkim.

Highlighting the importance of education, the Chief Minister said that education would remain the Government's highest priority as it laid the foundation for the State's future and overall progress.

He further said that the Government's vision was rooted in the aspirations of the people and driven by a commitment to inclusive development. He added that its policies and programmes were aimed at promoting sustainable growth and ensuring long-term benefits for the people of the State.

Expressing his appreciation, the Leader of the House thanked the SLA Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Ministers, MLAs, senior government officers, officials and the media fraternity for ensuring the successful completion of the Budget Session.

Concluding his address, he expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the NHPC Teesta Stage VI tunnel incident at Samardung in Namchi district.

Minister Mr Arun Kumar Upreti, along with MLAs, Ms Kala Rai, Mr Sonam Tshering Venchungpa and Mr Tenzing Norbu Lamtha, also participated in the valedictory session.

The General Budget Session 2026-27 of the Eleventh Assembly, Fourth Session (Part-II), concluded with the Speaker announcing the House adjourned sine die.

Awareness programme on Sustainable Rural Livelihood organised

Gangtok, July 27: District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Gangtok District, under the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department, organised an awareness programme at Bhusuk Naitam GPU under Nandok BAC on the theme 'Empowering Rural Livelihood: Integrating Sustainable Horticulture Development, Dairy and Livestock for Economic Prosperity'.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Nisha Subba, Gender Specialist, who also informed the participants

about the various schemes and initiatives under Mission Shakti aimed at the empowerment of women.

The programme was attended by SWI of Bhusuk Naitam GPU, local officials and public.

The resource person, Ms Tashi Choki Bhutia Deputy Director, Horticulture Department, delivered an informative session on various Central and State Government schemes for women's economic empowerment through sustainable horticulture. She highlighted livelihood

opportunities such as mushroom cultivation, plantation and other horticultural activities that can improve rural incomes and promote self-reliance.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Ms Prasina Rai, Gender Specialist, who also informed the participants about the One Stop Centre (OSC) and its vital role in providing integrated support, protection and assistance to women facing violence and distress, thereby promoting women's safety and empowerment.

Chief Minister inaugurates Rajya Sainik Board Office-cum-Sainik Rest House

Gangtok, July 26: On the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the newly constructed Rajya Sainik Board Office-cum-Sainik Rest House, established with the support of the State Government at the premises of Rajya Sainik Board, today.

The programme was attended by Mr Bhim Hang Limboo Minister for Buildings and Housing Department, Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa MLA-cum-Advisor and Mr Rikshal Dorjee Bhutia MLA-cum-Advisor.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister toured the newly inaugurated Rajya Sainik Board Office, Sainik Rest House and the commercial shops. During the visit, officials from the Buildings and Housing Department briefed him on the planning, construction and key features of the project.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the inauguration of Rajya Sainik Board Office-cum-Sainik Rest House on Kargil Vijay Diwas was a tribute to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives during the Kargil War. Paying homage to the martyrs, he expressed his condolences to their families and extended his greetings to the Indian Armed Forces. He said their courage, sacrifice, discipline and patriotism continue to inspire people across the country. He added that the Armed Forces, guided by the principle of 'Nation First, Self and Family Later', ensure that the people of India live in peace, security and dignity.

He said that the Indian Army not only protects the nation's borders but also plays an important role during natural disasters and other emergencies. He added that ex-servicemen continue to serve society with the same dedication even after their retirement and encouraged the younger generation to learn from their discipline, leadership, humility and selfless service. He also urged veterans to continue guiding young people and motivating them to serve the nation.

Describing the newly inaugurated Rajya Sainik Board Office-cum-Sainik Rest House as a symbol of the State Government's gratitude towards ex-servicemen, he said that the facility had been established as a dedicated centre for services related to pensions, healthcare,

education and employment. He added that the Sainik Rest House would provide comfortable accommodation for veterans visiting Gangtok from across the State. The Chief Minister said the facility would also serve as a welcoming place for serving personnel, ex-servicemen, Veer Naris and the families of martyrs.

Highlighting the Government's initiatives for youth, Chief Minister said that the State had provided 20 per cent reservation for Agniveers completing four years of service in recruitment to the Sikkim Police Constable and Forest Guard posts. He said that the decision recognised the discipline, leadership and skills gained through military service.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to the welfare of ex-servicemen, Chief Minister added that financial assistance had been provided to the Rajya Sainik Board and district-level ex-servicemen associations across all six districts of the State. On the occasion, he announced the names of the eleven beneficiaries from the ex-servicemen selected for the allotment of the newly constructed commercial shops. He said that the initiative reflected the Government's continued commitment to improving the welfare and livelihood of veterans and their families. He assured that the Government would continue supporting ex-servicemen and their families through various welfare measures, employment opportunities and infrastructure development.

Chief Minister appreciated the Buildings and Housing Department, Chief Secretary, Home Department, senior Government officials and everyone associated with the successful completion of the project. He also commended Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Colonel Vijay Basnett (Retd.), for his hard work in coordinating the project and promoting the welfare of ex-servicemen.

Dedicating the Rajya Sainik Board Office-cum-Sainik Rest House to the service of ex-servicemen and their families, he expressed confidence that the facility would further strengthen the State's welfare initiatives.

Extending his Kargil Vijay Diwas greetings to serving personnel, ex-servicemen and their families, he urged every citizen to uphold the values of patriotism,

discipline and selfless service shown by the Indian Armed Forces.

Earlier, the programme commenced with a welcome address by the Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Colonel Vijay Basnett (Retd.), who highlighted the importance of the newly established facility in improving welfare services for ex-servicemen and their families across the State.

During the programme, the Rajya Sainik Board Digitisation Project was officially launched to make services for ex-servicemen more efficient and accessible across Sikkim.

The Chief Minister was felicitated by Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board, Colonel Vijay Basnett (Retd.) on behalf of the Rajya Sainik Board in recognition of the State Government's continued support for the welfare of ex-servicemen.

The following former Secretaries of the Rajya Sainik Board were felicitated in recognition of their distinguished service and valuable contribution to the welfare of ex-servicemen and the nation: Major PS Rai, 11 GR, Housing Colony, 5th Mile, Tadong. Lieutenant Colonel Padam Bahadur Gurung, Kumaon Regiment, PNS House, below Little Pixies School, Development Area, Gangtok. Colonel DN Bhutia, Artillery, Gyalshing, near Hospital.

The following former Welfare Organisers were also felicitated in recognition of their dedicated service and valuable contribution to the welfare of ex-servicemen: Subedar Dawa Zampo Lepcha, INT, Bhai School Road, Tadong, Gangtok. Subedar Bir Singh Gurung, 3 GR, Dalapchand, PO Rongli, Pakyong. Subedar Tashi Dorjee Bhutia, 64 Engg. Regt., Byang Busty, PO Byang, Gangtok. Subedar Padam Bahadur Gurung, 8 GR, Changelakha, Rongli, Pakyong. Subedar Jai Bahadur Rai, 11 GR, Namchi, Naya Bazar Kopchey and Havaladar Damber Bahadur Gurung, 4/5 GR, Temi Tarku, Namchi District.

The programme was attended by Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors GMC, Chairpersons, Chief Secretary, Secretaries, Principal Chief Engineer Buildings and Housing Department, DC Gangtok, Deputy General Officer Commanding, 17th Mountain Division and others.

During the programme, Ex-Gratia relief amounting to ₹4,00,000/- from the Government of Sikkim was distributed to the next of kin and nominees of each of the 11 victims from Jalpaiguri District.

The ex-gratia assistance was provided to extend immediate financial support to the bereaved families affected by the tragic tunnel incident.

Chief Minister inaugurates Pahadi Mata Temple in Siliguri

Gangtok, July 25: On the auspicious concluding day of Gupt Navratri, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang inaugurated the revered Pahadi Mata Temple in Siliguri. He offered prayers to Maa Durga, seeking her divine blessings for peace, prosperity, good health, and the well-being of the people of Sikkim.

Also present were Mr Raju Bista Member of Parliament and Mr Durga Murmu MLA of

Phansidewa, Darjeeling district.

"Our rich spiritual heritage continues to inspire the values of harmony, compassion, and selfless service. May the Divine Mother bless every family with strength and happiness, deepen the spirit of unity among all communities, and guide us collectively towards righteousness, inclusive progress, and enduring prosperity", he added.

Sikkim Assembly celebrates cultural heritage as Members don traditional attire

Gangtok, July 23: Sikkim Legislative Assembly witnessed a proud celebration of the state's rich cultural heritage as the Members reconvened for the Budget Session 2026-27, dressed in traditional attire representing the diverse communities of Sikkim-Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepali.

The occasion reflected the State's cherished ethos of unity in diversity with Members showcasing the vibrant traditions, customs and identities that form the cultural fabric of Sikkim. The traditional attire became a symbol of respect for the State's heritage and a reminder of the shared values that bring its people together.

Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang said that witnessing such a meaningful representation of Sikkim's diverse cultures within the Assembly was a moment of great honour. He highlighted that

the initiative was not only a celebration of traditional identities but also a tribute to the generations who have preserved and nurtured the State's invaluable cultural legacy.

He emphasised that Sikkim's strength lies in its diversity and harmony, where different communities coexist with mutual respect and a shared vision for progress. He stated that such expressions of cultural pride reinforce the collective commitment towards preserving traditions, while working together for the development and prosperity of the State.

The display of traditional attire during the Budget Session served as a powerful reminder that Sikkim's heritage remains an integral part of its present and continues to inspire its future.

Visit of Electoral Roll Observer to Polling Stations in Gangtok District

Gangtok, July 26: Mr Tushar Nikhare Secretary, Planning and Development-cum- Electoral Roll Observer visited various Polling Stations across Gangtok District to review the progress of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Roll and inspect the Special Camps being conducted as per the directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), today.

During the visit, the Observer interacted with Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and electors to assess the implementation of SIR process and review the assistance being extended to public. The Observer inspected the arrangements at the Polling stations, verified the availability of electoral forms and records and reviewed the progress of claims and objections, inclusion of eligible electors, correction of electoral particulars, and deletion of ineligible entries under the SIR.

The Observer also interacted with public to obtain feedback on the services being provided during the Special Camps and encouraged all eligible citizens to actively participate in the revision process to ensure a complete and accurate electoral roll.

During the inspection, the functioning of the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was closely reviewed to ensure that the Special Camps were being conducted in

strict accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. The Observer emphasised the importance of maintaining proper records, extending courteous and efficient assistance to electors, ensuring timely disposal of applications received during the SIR process, and upholding transparency and accountability at every stage of the revision.

Highlighting the significance of a free, fair, inclusive and error-free electoral roll, the Observer directed all election officials to discharge their responsibilities with sincerity, transparency and impartiality. Field functionaries were instructed to provide every possible assistance to electors, promptly address grievances, strictly adhere to the Commission's guidelines and ensure that no eligible elector is left out during the Special Intensive Revision.

Observer appreciated the dedication and commitment of the election machinery, including the AEROs and BLOs and expressed confidence that, through coordinated efforts and diligent fieldwork, Special Intensive Revision of the Electoral Roll in Gangtok District would be completed successfully within the prescribed timeline, resulting in a comprehensive, accurate and inclusive electoral roll.

Sikkim Government hands over Ex-Gratia relief to tunnel tragedy victims'

Namchi, July 27: As per the direction of the Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, Ms Anupa Tamling District Collector-cum-Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Namchi attended Ex-Gratia Relief Distribution Programme organised by the District Administration, Jalpaiguri to hand over ex-gratia assistance to the families of the

victims who lost their lives in the tunnel incident at Samardung under Namchi District.

The Chief Minister had directed that the ex-gratia assistance be disbursed to the bereaved families in their respective home States, enabling them to receive the relief closer to their place of residence rather than travelling to Sikkim.