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Gangtok (Wednesday) March 15, 2023

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Home Secretary briefs Governor on G20 Sikkim Chapter



Gangtok, March 14: Secretary Home Department Mrs. Tashi Cho Cho paid a courtesy visit to Governor Mr. Lakshman Acharya at Raj Bhawan, today.

During the visit, she pinned the official lapel pin of the G20 Presidency to the Governor, followed by a briefing on G20 events, which is scheduled to take place in Sikkim. In her brief note, she highlighted the two meetings, Business 20 (B20) 'Conference on opportunities for multilateral business partnerships in Tourism, Hospitality and Pharmaceutical Sector and Organic farming' on March 16 at Chintan Bhawan, which is being hosted by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry).

The second meeting

'Startup20 Sikkim Sabha', which is being hosted by DPIIT-Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries will be held on March 18 at Chintan Bhawan.

The Governor was delighted that Sikkim is selected to host two G20 events and expressed gratitude to Government of India. Furthermore, he stated that the hosting of the G20 Summit is not only historic but a great matter of pride for the entire Sikkimese. It creates a platform for Sikkim to showcase its unique culture, traditions, arts, craftsmanship, cuisine and various other exclusive talents to the world, he added.

Chief Secretary reviews final preparations for G20

Gangtok, March 14: Chief Secretary, Mr. V.B. Pathak convened a meeting to review the final preparations for the G20 Presidency at the Conference Hall of Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and ensure the security and convenience of the G20 representatives during their visit to Sikkim. The G20 delegates will be in Sikkim from March 15 to 19, 2023.

The Chief Secretary briefed the gathering about different logistics and essential arrangements that need to be made for the visit. He emphasised on specific roles and responsibilities to the attendees from various departments and

encouraged them to collaborate with effective coordination.

Likewise, a brief interactive session held, where the officials put forth various suggestions and ideas.

At the onset, the Chief Secretary commended the dedicated efforts of the concerned departments towards the G20 Presidency. He expressed that the event would serve as a valuable resource for the upcoming entrepreneurs of Sikkim, offering them substantial benefits and takeaways.

The meeting saw the presence of HoDs from various line departments and concerned officials.

Chief Minister unveils landmark monument for G20

Gangtok, March 14: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang unveiled the landmark monument and celebration point for the G20 events at MG Marg, today.

Organised by Gangtok Municipal Corporation, the programme was also attended by Cabinet Ministers, Mayor and Deputy Mayor GMC, Councillors, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Head of Departments and officials from GMC and Urban Development Department.

The Chief Minister urged all the citizens to take responsibility of preserving public properties and extend support in the upkeep and maintenance of public assets. He stated that the State government is consistently working for the welfare of the people of Sikkim, with utmost focus on developing assets for the benefit of the public in various sectors. The landmark monument and celebration point will be an added attraction for the tourists, he added.

The project report was presented by Additional Chief Town Planner, Mr. Gary Chopel. He



briefed about the concept underlying the design of the monuments. Further, he highlighted the insignia of Rabdentse, the second capital of ancient Sikkim and also gave an overall description of the design and the concept behind it.

Mayor GMC, Mr. Nell Bahadur Chettri, and Deputy

Mayor GMC, Mrs. Tshering Palden Bhutia, presented the G20 memento to the Chief Minister, which was followed by an inspection of the Celebration Point by the Chief Minister and other dignitaries at the New Market.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Commissioner, GMC Mr. Ram Bahadur Bhandari.

SLA passes third Supplementary Demands for Grants

Gangtok, March 12: The Sikkim Legislative Assembly passed the Third Supplementary Demands for Grants for the Financial Year 2022-23 during one-day Sixth Session (Part V) of the Tenth Assembly, today.

The Third Supplementary Demand for Grants of ₹96549.42 lakhs, comprising of ₹7441.15 lakhs on the Revenue Account and ₹89108.27 lakhs on Capital Account, was passed by the House to meet gross additional expenditure, after it was moved for consideration and passed by Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, who is also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department, during the Financial Business.

The House also passed the Sikkim Appropriation Bill 2023 (Bill No. 01 of 2023) for the third Supplementary Demands for Grants, relating to the Financial Year 2022-23, which was introduced and moved for consideration by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department.

The Sikkim Appropriation Bill 2023 (Bill No. 01 of 2023) was introduced in pursuance of

clause(1) of Article 204, read with Article 205 of the Constitution of India, to provide for the appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim, of the money required to meet the expenditure charged in the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim and Supplementary Grants made by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim for the remaining part of the financial year 2022-23.

During the Legislative Business, two bills were introduced by the concerned Ministers-in-Charge. The bills were: i) Sikkim Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill no. 03 of 2023) introduced by Minister-in-Charge of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha. ii) Sikkim Fire and Emergency Services, Bill 2023 (Bill No. 04 of 2023) introduced

by Chief Minister, also Minister-in-Charge of the Home Department.

The House will discuss and vote on the above bills in the next session.

Thereafter, the House passed the Sikkim Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 26 of 2022), which was introduced during the session held on September 16, 2022, by Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department.

Subsequently, Chief Minister, also the Minister-in-Charge for Finance Department, presented the Vote on Account for the Financial Year 2023-24. The Vote on Account for FY 2023-24 was put to vote and was passed by the House after consideration of suggestions laid forth by MLA

Contd. on page 04

Pearls of Wisdom

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."
- Maya Angelou

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw visits Lachung

Mangan, March 06: Union Minister of Railways, Communication and Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw arrived in Lachung, Mangan, today.

The Union Minister was received with a traditional welcome by Area MLA cum Minister for Roads and Bridges Dett. Mr. Samdup Lepcha, Pipon Lachung, officials and the public.

The chief guest, Union Minister addressing the gathering, expressed gratitude to the people of Lachung for the warm welcome. He highlighted the purpose of his visit to go to villages in border areas and to understand the needs and demands of the people living there, so that the necessary developments such as tele connectivity, road connectivity

and many such developmental projects under the central scheme of Vibrant Village Programme could reach.

Addressing the grievances placed by the people of Lachung, an affirmative solution to the broadband connection within the next three months was assured by him. He also mentioned the establishment of Vande Bharat train station in Sikkim by 2024.

The Union Minister inaugurated Common Service Centre (CSC) in Lachung and released special cover and distributed Sukanya Card.

During the tour, he visited Thumchi Gumpa, Lachung, Thomchi Secondary School, Post office and Lachung Monastery. He also interacted with students and teachers of Thomchi Secondary school and assured the establishment of volleyball

and cricket facilities along with the provision of a proper music system. He expressed the need to organise an educational tour for the students to Delhi.

He was accompanied by PS/MOC (MR), Mr. Mahatme Sandeep Namdeo, OSD/MR, Mr. Ved Prakash, Minister Roads and Bridges cum Area MLA, Mr. Samdup Lepcha, DC Mangan, Mr. Hem Kumar Chettri, ADC Dev. Chungthang, SDM Chungthang, S D P O (Chungthang, Lachung, Lachen), Pipon Lachung, officials of concerned departments and locals.

Upon his arrival, he was accorded a guard of honour by ITBP, Chungthang. The programme was concluded with traditional culture performances.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs arrives Chungthang

Mangan, March 08: Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Mr. Arjun Munda arrived at Chungthang, Mangan, today.

The Union Minister was received with a guard of honour at ITBP Chungthang, following, which, he was escorted to 'Nyedo', a huge rock venerated for its spiritual and religious significance.

Thereafter, he proceeded to RDD Conference Hall, where he was welcomed by the Area MLA-cum-Minister for Roads and Bridges Department, Mr. Samdup Lepcha, officials and the public of Chungthang.

Union Minister in his address thanked everyone for their warm welcome and mentioned the importance of Vibrant Village Programme, which assures the benefits to reach every citizen in all the corners of the country. He also highlighted the resolution of the Government of India to ensure the developmental progress of all the

villages in India by 2047 through the Vibrant Village Programme scheme. He also said that the people need to stay connected and updated with the developmental processes in order to strengthen the traditional alongside the digital development of the nation.

Area MLA Lachen-Mangan Mr. Samdup Lepcha in his address expressed gratitude to Union Minister for his presence. He addressed on the importance of BADP as the main source of development and livelihood in the constituency. He also highlighted the various schemes of the State government and stressed on the need for a Meditation Centre and a 50 bedded Primary Health Centre in Chungthang GPU.

The Union Minister also handedover cheques for AAMA scheme to the beneficiaries.

The programme also had the cultural performance depicting the traditions of the

State.

The programme had the presence of APS to Union Minister Mr. Sandeep Mukherjee, Minister for Roads and Bridges cum Area MLA, DC Mangan, ADC Dev. Chungthang, SDM Chungthang, SDPO (Chungthang, Lachen), Members of Zilla and Gram Panchayats (Chungthang), HoOs of line department and public.

It may be mentioned that Union Minister Mr. Arjun Munda is on a three day visit to Sikkim from March 07 to March 09. Upon his arrival at Rangpo Tourist Centre, he was welcomed by Minister for Social Welfare Department Mr. Sanjeet Kharel.

Secretary Social Welfare Department Dr A.B. Karki, DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chopel, State Protocol Officer, Special Secretary Social Welfare Department along with SDPO Rangpo and officials from the Social Welfare Department were also present.

Career counselling programme for girl students organised

Namchi, March 09: Samagra Shiksha, Education Department, organised a career counselling programme for girl students of class 10 and 12 under the banner of 'understanding opportunities for shaping my future' at Namchi Girls' Senior Secondary School, today.

The objective of the programme was to give them advice and educate them on the range of job choices that are accessible to them as well as the actions they may take to follow their aspirations, as they are on the threshold of making important career choices.

The Resource persons were Director SCERT Dr. Rabin Chettri, Director Exams and Scholarships

Mr. Sonam Denzongpa, Gangtok Hq., Joint Director Higher and Technical Education Mr. Gyaltsen Sherpa, Joint Director Samagra Siksha, Education Department Ms. Kabita Moktan, Inspector, Social Welfare Department Mr. Tshewang Topden.

Also present were CEO and Officials of Education Department, Namchi, Principal, Teachers, and Students of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary and Namchi Senior Secondary School.

All the resource persons shared their expertise on a variety of subjects, including the New Education Policy. They discussed several fresh measures put forth by the administration to raise educational standards and

broaden access to it. They also highlighted the in-depth discussions about scholarship opportunities and programmes available to students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and the eligibility requirements and application process for these programmes in detail.

Furthermore, the staff guided the students on choosing appropriate courses after completing class 10 and 12, based on their interests and aptitude. They provided information about various vocational programmes that the students could opt for, these vocational programmes can equip students with specific skills and knowledge in a particular field.

departments Mr. L.N. Sharma graced the occasion as the chief guest and handed over 251 sintex, motors and pipes to 251 families of PMKSY cluster of Siktam Tikpur.

Minister Mr. Sharma congratulated the beneficiaries and advised them to utilise the

availed irrigation sets in order to increase the production level. He also articulated on the newly introduced incentivised agricultural schemes.

The programme also saw demonstration of the sprinkler and drip irrigation system.

International Women's Day celebrated in Namchi district

Namchi, March 10: International Women's Day 2023, themed 'empowering women through sports' under 'Khelo India Dus ka Dum' was organised by Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Namchi at Bhaichung Stadium, today.

The event was attended by Zilla Adhyaksha Namchi Ms. Anjeeta Rai, Deputy Chairman (NMC) Mrs. Sabitri Tamang, Deputy Director (Namchi) Mrs. Tshering Ongmu, officials and staff from line Departments.

Zilla Adhyaksha Namchi congratulated the Sports and Youth Affairs department for successfully organising the event and stated that women hold a great significance in the society and has the capability to uplift the State and encouraged everyone to take up Sports, as a career.

The Department also presented awards to Women Referees who have made their mark in national and international levels namely; Ms. Susmita Rai, Ms. Tshering Doma Bhutia, Mrs. Pem Lhamu Lepcha, Ms. Hem Kumari Rai, Ms. Bidhya Wati Rai and Mrs. Chandra Rai.

A total of 25 Nationals and Internationals women players of various disciplines were also honoured. Students from various schools demonstrated different self-defence techniques during the event.

It may be mentioned here, that the department is conducting a series of sporting events till March 24 commemorating the International Women's Day. Some of the events are Chief Minister 1 Mile Run, Badminton, Table Tennis Competition, Yoga and many more sporting challenges.

Also, on the occasion of International Women's Day, a felicitation programme of Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman, 2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) was convened at the conference hall of Namchi Zilla Panchayat Bhawan on March 08.

Organised by Rural Development Department under the office of ADC (Development) Namchi. The programme had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha (Namchi) Ms. Anjeeta Rai as the chief guest. Present amongst others were Zilla Members, Panchayats, ADC Dev. Namchi Dr. C.P Rai, along with officials and staff of the department.

Chief guest Ms. Anjeeta Rai extended greetings on the occasion of International Women's Day and congratulated the awardees of Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman, 2023.

Exhorting the pivotal role and contribution made by women in different fields to build a progressive nation, she cited a few examples of exceptional

women who have given substantial contributions for the overall growth and development of the nation. Moreover, she informed how the women-centric policies and programmes, namely, Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, Bahini scheme, Sikkim Garib Aawas Yojana, and others adopted by the State government have empowered women in society. In addition, she expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang for upholding the dignity of Sikkimese women through the launch of these women-focused programme and policies.

ADC Development spoke about the significance of commemorating Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman on the occasion of International Women's Day and added that the purpose of the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman' is to highlight and acknowledge the leadership and contribution of women at the grass-root level towards making a 'Swachh Sujal Bharat'. He apprised about the status of ongoing works of the national flagship schemes under the Swachh Bharat Mission, in which Sikkim has bagged many awards to date.

Six women achievers under the ADC Dev. Namchi were felicitated for their exceptional work in ODF Plus Model Villages, Har Ghar Jal Villages, Water Conservation and others, which comes under the National Flagship Missions. The awardees also shared their experiences and difficulties being faced while working under the SBM programmes.

Likewise, International Women's Day 2023 was organised by the Office of ADC Dev. Ravangla in the Conference Hall of BAC Ravangla.

Sikkim Swachha Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 for Ravangla Division were also conferred to the leading women change makers in the society.

Also, One Stop Centre, Women and Child Development Department, Jorethang also observed International Women's Day week from March 8 to March 11. During the programme, Clinical Psychologist and Member of Child Welfare Committee, Namchi District highlighted on Psycho Social counselling and conducted a therapy session on different activities, which can be practiced at their respective households.

The gathering were also made aware of the basic rights of women, difference between General Diary and First Information Report, other violence against women, Women Help Desk available in all Police Stations and Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013.

**READ AND ADVERTISE
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SIKKIM HERALD**

**Office of the Divisional Engineer
Jorethang Division
Water Resources Department
Government of Sikkim**

NIT NO: 032/DIV/JTG/2022-23

Dated: 13/3/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, **The Divisional Engineer, Jorethang, Water Resources Department, Government of Sikkim** invites sealed tender in percentage Rate basis from the eligible contractors of Class III Grade, enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department, in Compliance with Notification No. 66/R&B/PWD/Secy Dated:08.01.2021 through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed under. The Work details are tabulated below:

Sl No	Name of Work	Value put to tender (in ₹) On civil work	Completion time (in months)	Earnest money 2.5% (in ₹) on Civil work	Bank Receipt for cost of tender documents	Constituency/ GPU
1	Construction of MIC under Raieypani (five No. MIC) A. Construction of Mic from Najur Khola to Kimbu-botey Khet Middle Rateypani in South Sikkim. B. Construction of Mic from Ravi Khola to Lepcha Khet in South Sikkim. C. Construction of Mic from Ravi Khola to R.N. Khet in South Sikkim. D. Construction of Mic from Rabling khola to Lepcha Group Khet in South Sikkim. E. Construction of Mic from Rabling khola to Bista Group Khet in South Sikkim.	₹1,41,61,753.00	24 months	₹3,54,044.00	30,000.00	Namthang Rateypani/ Rateypani GPU
2	Construction of MIC from Purey Khola to Chauri Dara kharka and Mauwa Dara Busty At Upper Payong	₹1,47,94,491.00	24 months	₹3,69,862.00	30,000.00	Tumin Lingee/ Lingmoo Payong

TIME SCHEDULES

i)	Date for submission of application with bank receipt for issue of Tender documents (excluding Tender Form)	20/03/2023 to 29/03/2023
ii)	Date of issue of Tender form on submission of Earnest Money (TDR)	31/03/2023 to 11/04/2023 (Within the office working hours)
iii)	Date and time for submission of Tender Form	18/04/2023 from 10:30 hrs till 13:00 hrs
iv)	Date and time of opening of Tender	18/04/2023 from 14:00hrs onwards

Note: The details of tender documents including tender forms can be obtained from office of the Divisional Engineer (WRD), Jorethang Division on production of receipt of deposit made to State Bank of Sikkim (Nonrefundable).

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself.
- The applicants should enclose attested copies of the following:
(a) Valid GSTIN Registration Certificate, (b) Latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate as per the Indian Income Tax Act. (c) Validated Contractor Enlistment Certificate, and Professional Tax Clearance Certificates along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification (d) PAN card.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the office of the Divisional Engineer (WRD) Jorethang Division on production of receipt deposit to the revenue head 0702-80.800 (other receipts).
- Earnest Money Deposit 25% in the state bank of Sikkim in the form of deposit receipt of scheduled bank which includes in the form of temporary deposit receipts in favor of **(D&DO WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT JORETHANG)**. The Tender Form shall be issued only on the production of the bank receipt to the contractors who has obtained the tender documents, on production of bank receipts of 2.5% earnest money. However, in accordance with notification No.104/R&B, Dated 03/10/2022, **all Enlisted Women Contractors will be exempted from deposit of 2.5%TDR** for participating in Tender for Contract work up to 5 crore. In case of such tender being accepted, the lowest bidder(Enlisted Women Contractor) has to deposit Earnest Money @ 2.5% of tender value (TD) before the issue of work order.
- The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at SL 3 (a), (b) and (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of concerned Divisional Engineer (WRD) on the date and time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderer on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. **The rate quoted should be both in figures and words.** Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender document, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall as per the technically checked/estimate/analysis. Decision of the Chief Engineer of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The Work Value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to laborer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order and conclusion of agreement.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the contract agreement.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The rate quoted shall be inclusive of prevailing taxes.
- The department reserves the right to reject the incomplete tender without assigning any reasons there off.
- The Contractor has to submit the Work Program/Bar Chart in the initial stage.
- INDIRECT TAX MATTERS:
A. The tax amount computed is subjected to change in event of change in rate of tax applicable on the date time of supply of works contract service.
B. The successful bidder shall have to furnish certificate of GST registration along with valid NOC issued by Commercial Taxes Division for obtaining the work order.
C. GST shall be deducted at source at the rate of 2% i.e. (1+1) of the bill value at the time of payment including advance payment, adhoc payment, provisional payment etc.
D. The amount of GST payable over and above the amount deducted at the rate of 2% at source should be paid at the time of filing return for the month/quarter of the bill of invoice as per the GST rules.
E. All the payment for the work done shall be released on furnishing of valid NOC issued by Commercial Taxes Division.

**Divisional Engineer(South)
Water Resources Department
Jorethang, South Sikkim, (84)**

**Urban Development Department
Government of Sikkim**

No: 494/GOS/UDD

Dated: 04 /03/2023

ADVISORY

As per the records and past history, the pre monsoon showers are expected anytime now especially during the months of April-May. The change in the rainfall pattern with high intensity showers coupled with high run off in the urban areas owing to its built form requires uninterrupted flow of the jhoras and drains. It has been observed that the jhoras and drains are often choked by dumping of garbage, household waste, construction and demolition waste etc. In order to address these issues, an advisory is being issued to the public for keeping the jhoras, drains and other premises clean enabling uninterrupted flow of runoff from the rains. This would help us to avoid any disaster endangering life and property and also gear us up for monsoon preparedness.

In addition, the public in general are also requested to make use of Weather Warning App developed by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD): -

- Mausam App
- Damini App
- Meghdoot Agro App
- Public Observation App

**Sd/-
Secretary
Urban Development Department, Government of Sikkim, (81)**

**Tourism and Civil Aviation Department
Government of Sikkim
Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong-East Sikkim**

**Website: www.sikkimtourism.gov.in, Phone no 03259-232218, Fax: 03592-232216
Email: secy_tourism@yahoo.com**

No.199/DOT&CAV

Dated: 09/03/2023

NOTICE INVITING RE TENDER

Sealed Lease retenders are invited for taking on lease the Tourism & Civil Aviation Department property viz **“Eco Organic Tourism Village”** situated at Chowridara, Lingee, Namchi District on **“AS IS WHERE IT IS BASIS”** from interested local residents within the territorial jurisdiction of Namchi District, Sikkim. The details of the properties/assets and additional information can be obtained from the Office of Deputy Secretary (Assets) (S/W), Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong East Sikkim during office hour.

I. Details of lease tender:-

Sl No.	Name of the property	Base Rent per month (₹)	TDR (Security Deposit (₹)	Cost of tender form (₹)
1	Eco Organic Tourism Village, Chowridara, Lingee, South Sikkim	98,000/-	5,88,000/- (6 months rental)	5000/-

Time Schedule:

1. Date of Sale of Tender form : Date: **13.03.2023** during office hour.
2. Last date of sale of tender form : Date **18.03.2023** till **4 pm**
3. Receipt of Tender form along with the relevant documents : Date **20.03.2023** Time: **Upto 1200 hrs**
4. Opening of Tender form/Documents : Date **20.03.2023** Time: **2 pm**

The tender will be opened in the office of the Additional Secretary, Tourism & Civil Department. Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong Gangtok. The intending bidder may visit the Tourism website www.sikkimtourism.gov.in for information and further details or contact office of the Deputy Secretary (Assets) (S/W) in Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim.

I. General Direction of Lease tender

The tender form will be issued from the office of the undersigned on production of Bank Receipt of ₹5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) only towards the cost of tender turn (Non-refundable) duly credit to the Budget Head 1452/- TD in the State Bank of Sikkim. The sealed tender along with the copy of Sikkim Subject Certificate/Certification of Identification, Experience Certificate (if any) or any other certificates which may add to the credentials of the bidder should reach the office of the undersigned along with an application for availing the tender form at the dates and time specified under clause 2.0 Time Schedule above.

The total base price in rupees of monthly rent for leasing out of the Asset/Property is indicated in the table above. The Tender Bid quoted below the base price will summarily be rejected or will await the decision of the tendering committee for decision All renders without requisite bank TDR/FDR (in original) shall be summarily rejected.

The Tender Bid should be accompanied by Security Deposit in the form of TDR/FDR From the State Bank of Sikkim or any Nationalized Bank of India deposited in favors of chief Account Officer Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim.

The Degree, Diploma Certificate issued by the recognized Institute of Hotel Management/Food Craft Institute will also be taking into consideration as an added credential in the case of the receipt equivalent highest bids from more than one party/individual. The tender will be opened in the presence of participants or their authorized representative(s) who wish to be present in the chamber of Additional Secretary, Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok Sikkim.

II. TERMS & CONDITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The applicants of NIT shall have Sikkim Subject / COI and shall not be a Government employee and further will not held any office of profit under the State or Central Government.
2. The applicant shall be a resident of same Constituency/ Territorial jurisdiction where the Tourism property proposed to be leased is located for which Address proof in the form of Voter ID. Sikkim Subject /Col or family ration card shall be submitted with tender form as proof of his address/place of residence.
3. The property will be leased out to the highest bidder and in no case he/she is allowed to withdraw the bid once his/her quotation is approved and accepted by the Department.
4. In case of default of payment of the lease rent during the lease period, penal action as stipulated under lease documents/lease norms of the Department would be initiated.
5. The lease period will be for a period of 10 years from the date of signing of Lease Deed Agreement but the first one year will be on provisional basis and lease agreement is Lable to be terminated without assigning any reason thereof, in case of violation of any lease deed condition by the lessee.
6. The lessee has to pay the rent of the property on the 10 of the month fallen due.
7. The highest bidder will be informed and given 15 days time to draw the agreement and take over the Property/Asset otherwise, the Security Deposit shall be forfeited and second highest bidder may be given the offer to take the property on lease at the rate quoted by the highest bidder, however the same will be at the discretion of the Department.
8. The TDR/Fixed Deposit shall be refunded to the lessee at the time of expiry of Lease Deed period after clear handing over of the assets to the Department in proper condition with up-to-date payment record of the lease rent including clearance of payment for water supply electricity bill, garbage bill, taxes, cess etc.
9. The other terms and conditions will be governed by the Lease Deed Agreement.
10. The lessee shall not be allowed to sublet the property to any third person(s) and if the same is in notice of the department, the Lease Deed Agreement will be cancelled and the property will be taken into possession forthwith by the Department duly forfeiting his/her Security Deposit.
11. The Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotation(s) without assigning any reason thereof.
12. The advertisement of Notice Inviting Retender shall be publish in Sikkim Herald and other local newspaper and shall be uploaded in the web portal of the Department.

**Additional Secretary (Asset)
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department (80, ii)**

**ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids,
Pakyong-737106, Sikkim, India**

**Email: director.nrco@icar.gov.in Phone: 03592267031 Website: www.nrco.icar.gov.in
F.No: NRC(O)/S/1/2022-23/174 Date: 15/03/2023**

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Director, ICAR- National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim invites online open tender under two bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) through GeM as detailed below:

SL. No.	Name of Items	GeM Bid No	Bid end date/time
1.	Unmanned Aerial Vechile& Payload Syatem for Survellance (Qty.1)	GEM/2023/B/3265685 Dated:15-03-2023	25-03-2023 18:00

For more details Interested Bidders may visit GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in> or NRCO website <https://nrcorchids.nic.in>

**(Arvind Chauhaan)
Assistant Administrative Officer (85)**

*Contd from front page***SLA passes...**

Mr. N.K. Subba.

The House also passed the Sikkim Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 02 of 2023) for the Vote on Account for the Financial Year 2023-24.

The Sikkim Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2023 (Bill No. 02 of 2023) for the Vote on Account for the Financial Year 2023-24 was introduced in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 204 of the Constitution of India read with Article 206 thereof, to provide for the appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim, of the money required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State of Sikkim and Grants made in advance by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the expenditure of the Government of Sikkim for the part of the financial year 2023-24.

The Assembly then took up the Election and Nomination of the Members for the following Assembly Committees for the Financial Year 2023-24.

1. Committee on Public Accounts: MLAs Mr. Aditya Golay Tamang and Mr. T.T. Bhutia were nominated as Members of the Committee, with MLA Mr. Aditya Golay Tamang as its Chairman.

2. Committee on Estimates: MLAs Mr. T.T. Bhutia and Mr. Aditya Golay Tamang were nominated as Members of the Committee, with MLA Mr. T.T. Bhutia as its Chairman.

Likewise, the Speaker made the following nominations for various Committees for Financial Year 2023-24:

1. Committee on Government Assurances: MLAs, Mr. Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, Mr. Bishnu Kumar Sharma, and Mrs. Sunita Gajmer were nominated as Members of the Committee, with MLA Mr. Sonam Tshering Venchungpa as its Chairman.

2. Rules Committee: MLAs Mr. Sonam Tshering Venchungpa and Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha were nominated as Members, with Speaker Mr. Arun K. Upreti as the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.

3. Library Committee: MLAs, Mr. Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, Mrs. Rajkumari Thapa, Mr. Em Prasad Sharma, and Mrs. Farwanti Tamang were nominated as the Members, with Deputy Speaker Mr. Sangay Lepcha, as the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.

4. House Committee: MLAs, Mr. G.T. Dhungel, Mr. Em Prasad Sharma, and Mrs. Rajkumari Thapa were nominated as the Members, with MLA Mr. G.T. Dhungel as the Chairman of the Committee.

5. Committee of Privileges: MLAs Mr. Bishnu Kumar Sharma, Mr. T.T. Bhutia, and Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha were nominated as the members, with MLA Mr. Bishnu Kumar Sharma as the Chairman of the Committee.

The Speaker then nominated MLAs Mr. Aditya Golay Tamang, Mr. G.T. Dhungel, and Mr. Sonam Tshering Venchungpa as the Panel of Chairmen for the financial year

2023-24.

Thereafter, Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge for Finance Department, presented the following CAG/ Separate Audit Reports in the House: 1. Half Yearly Review Report: 2022-23, Review of Trends in Receipt and Expenditure in relation to Budget 2022-23.

2. Finance Accounts 2021-22 (Volume I & II) and Appropriation Accounts 2021-22 and Accounts at a Glance for the year 2021-22.

3. Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of Sikkim Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited for the year ended March 31, 2020.

Minister-in-Charge of Power Department, Mr. M.N. Sherpa presented the Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission Annual Report for the Financial Year 2021-22.

Subsequently, the Annual Report of the Culture Department and Annual Report of the Home Department, Government of Sikkim, for the year 2021-2022 were placed on the table by Speaker Mr. Arun K. Upreti.

In his valedictory remarks, Speaker Mr. Arun Upreti thanked all the members of the House for maintaining the house decorum and assisting in the smooth proceedings of the Sixth Session (Part V) of the Tenth Assembly.

Likewise, Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang also extended gratitude to the Speaker for the smooth conduct of the day's proceedings and also thanked the Deputy Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, ACSs, Secretaries, media personnel, and other officials for their role in the session.

Thereafter, the House was adjourned sine die.

At the onset, the House made an Obituary Reference on the passing away of a former Member of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso Bhutia.

Speaker, SLA, in his obituary reference, expressed profound sorrow on the demise of former Member of Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso Bhutia, who left for his heavenly abode on December 12, 2022 at STNM Hospital due to prolonged illness. He was 80 and is survived by his wife, four daughters, and grandchildren. Born on June 15, 1942 at Yangthang, Tashiding, Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso started his political journey in 1979 as an elected representative of then Tashiding Constituency from Sikkim Janata Parishad Party, under the guidance of former Chief Minister Late Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari. He also served the Government of Sikkim in various capacities and contributed invaluable to the development and welfare of the people of his constituency.

Deputy Speaker, SLA, Mr. Sangay Lepcha, recalled his long association with Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso and acknowledged him as a notable social worker. During his tenure, Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso was actively involved in various developmental projects. He added that his contribution to the growth and development will always be

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Bhumchu festival concludes

Gyalshing, March 08: The Holy Bhumchu festival concluded at Tashiding monastery on an auspicious note today. The distribution of Bhumchu to the devotees, who had congregated in tens of thousands commenced from March 07 coinciding with the full moon of the first month of the lunar calendar.

The ceremony, which

was conducted by the monk body of Tashiding Monastery, was held in the presence of the Deputy Speaker cum Area MLA, Mr. Sangay Lepcha and Minister for Ecclesiastical Department, Mr. Sonam Lama. Also present were Advisor, Ecclesiastical Department Mr. R.S. Bhutia, DC and SP Gyalshing, officials from the Ecclesiastical Department and

district administration.

The Bhumchu ceremony dates back to nearly four centuries, is the embodiment of good fortune, long life, prosperity and for curing and averting diseases with supplications being made to Avalokiteshvara (Chenrezig), the Buddha of Compassion.

Consultative Workshop on Climate Information Services

Soreng, March 09: The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with SEEDS Technical Services organised a consultative workshop on Climate Information Services (CIS) for agriculture and climate adoption at the Conference Hall, DAC, today.

The programme was attended by Zilla Adhyaksha Soreng Mrs. Tila Devi Gurung, Zilla Up-adhyaksha, Mr. Chandra Bir Kami, Panchayat Presidents, DC Soreng, Mr. Bhim Thatal, ADC Soreng, SDM Soreng, Director-SEEDS Technical Services, Mr. Lakshman Srikanth, Consultant-SEEDS Technical Services, Dr. Dipak Chettri along with the HoDs and representatives from line department including officials from SEEDS Technical Services.

DC Soreng apprised about farming being one of the 49 Key Performing Indicators under Aspirational District and urged for better performance in the sector. He reiterated the concept of 'my district, my priority' to be responsibly adopted and exercised across every public service delivery platform. He further suggested to initiate hand-holding for those who have lesser knowledge about the technologies and app usage.

He spoke on the impact of climatic changes on crop cultivation pattern that have been in practise for generations. He suggested to draw resourceful methods in analysing and forecasting the weather by

blending traditional knowledge with scientific approaches. He advised the concerned officials to disseminate proper information to all the stakeholders with regard to crop cultivation and safeguarding it against natural calamities, animal and pest infestations. He also directed to compile demographic mapping and physical profiling of each ward, especially against natural disaster and for better preparedness. He advocated for a cohesive co-ordination amongst intra-department along with other line departments. He further suggested to organise more outreach programmes and hands-on training for the stakeholders by the concerned department in collaboration with the Panchayats and other institutes.

An elaborated information about Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa scheme and the importance of reaching these schemes to the rightful beneficiaries was made by Dr. Dipak Chettri. He said that based on the findings through various research conducted in crop cultivation and need to form a local crop specific advisory committee, in fulfilling the connectivity gap between the stakeholders. He also informed about the steps taken by the Central Ministry to address the challenges faced by the stakeholders and also highlighted the roles of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in CIS along with the capacity development of the farmers, producers, department and institutes.

The DC also suggested to formulate farming calendar by the farmers in coordination with the concerned and also suggested in managing the man-animal conflict. He spoke about the steps that needs to be taken in bringing awareness about millets.

CIS is one of the main components formulated under the UNDP for accessing correct information on climatic changes and evolving weather patterns to farmers and agriculture practitioners, he added.

A detailed presentation was made by Mr. Lakshman Srikanth on developing and piloting CIS across Gram Panchayat Level in each district. He highlighted the current project objectives of CIS, which includes identification of challenges and addressing the possible solutions. He also informed about the importance of doing farmer's registration in M-Kisan portal or through KVK. He laid down the benefits of registration that enables them in accessing to mobile based services and information for the farmers. Additionally, he also spoke about the AGROMET Advisory Services under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) scheme, which contributes to collect and organise climate/weather, soil and crop information and to amalgamate them with weather forecast to assist farmers in taking management decisions.

Various issues and doubts were raised, wherein suggestions were provided.

Orientation programme on FL&N organised

Gangtok, March 09: An orientation programme for school heads and teachers on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FL&N) scheduled for March 9th-10th and March 17th-18th, 2023 started at District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) complexes with the inaugural session held at the Conference Hall of SCERT, Gangtok Education Department, today. School heads and teachers of three blocks: Nandok, Ranka and Martam are the trainees for the training.

The inaugural session was graced by Chief Education Officer (CEO), Gangtok District Mrs.

Tseringkee Chingapa as the chief guest. Also attended by Joint Director SCERT, Principal DIET Gangtok, resource persons from SCERT and DIET, block heads, officers and officials from all the three blocks, Principals, Headmasters/Headmistresses and teachers.

Principal, DIET Gangtok highlighted on different activities being carried out by DIET in connection to NEP-2020 in conjunction with Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators and Block Resource Centre Coordinators and sought support from the school heads for the same.

The context setting for the training was presented by Joint

Director, SCERT, wherein, she highlighted the objective of the training to enable primary stakeholders to understand the need, concept and significance of foundational literacy and Numeracy in a child's life, encouraging school heads to innovate and develop school-context to help children attain goals of NIPUN Bharat, help teachers understand alternative method of teaching at foundational stage among others.

The Chief Guest in her address urged all to shoulder-on their responsibilities seriously and effectively so that the goals of all programmes being implemented by the department could be attained.

He remembered his contributions and services in various sectors, especially in rural development, and said that his services remain acknowledged by numerous welfare associations and organisations. He extended his sincerest condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for

their peace and comfort during this difficult time.

MLA Mr. N.K. Subba also participated in the obituary reference. The House also observed two-minute silence to pay respect to Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso Bhutia.

Seminar on Women in Sports organised

Gangtok, March 10: A seminar on 'Women in Sports' was organised by Sikkim State Commission for Women (SSCW) in collaboration with National Commission for Women at Chintan Bhawan, today.

Spokespersons for the seminar were National Boxing Coach, Boxing Federation of India, Mrs. Sandhya Gurung, Mountaineer, Ms. Manita Pradhan, National Football Referee AIFF & AFC, Mrs. Phurki Lhamu Bhutia.

The seminar had the presence of the Chairperson, Sikkim State Khadi Board, Mrs. Chung Chung Bhutia, Chairperson Sikkim State Commission for Women Mrs. Chungkipu Lepcha, Special Director General of Police Law and Order, Mr. Akshay Sachdeva, Additional Director, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Member Secretary, Sikkim State Commission for Women, teaching faculty from different institutions, and students.

Chairperson, Sikkim State Khadi Board, appealed to learn from the messages conveyed by the resource persons and stressed on the need to follow a healthy diet and maintain routine and discipline.

Presentation on activities of the Commission was presented by Sikkim State Commission for Women, Mrs. Yousa Lachenpa. She gave an insight on the establishment of the SSCW in the year 2001 in accordance with Sikkim State Commission for Women Act 2001. The Commission since its inception has been working for the welfare and protection of women from domestic violence, social atrocities and other social evils, she added.

The Commission caters to provide legal programmes, sensitisation programmes, workshops, talk show webinar and

ways to assist women in identifying where to seek help, the commission additionally provides the provision for counselling. The members of the Commission also inspect shelter homes and women empowerment centres. Furthermore, she mentioned about the provision of vocational training across diverse fields to facilitate women's independence, about the Free Legal Aid Clinic set up in the premises of the commission and also regarding the Mahila Thana in various districts of the state.

Special Director General of Police Law and Order, Mr. Akshay Sachdeva mentioned about the relevance of sports in pursuing career in the Police department in which, he specified the adoption of a healthy lifestyle to stay fit. He further encouraged the youth of Sikkim to come forward in the field of sports.

Additional Director, Sports and Youth Affairs Department mentioned about the government's assistance towards the 'Khelo India' initiative in which 10 sport discipline is being organised by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

Moreover, he also mentioned about the State Government's drive to promote women in sports, which includes the establishment of Women's Football Academy in Soreng, construction of Tarundeep Rai Archery Academy and Bhaichung Stadium, Chief Minister's One Mile Run to name a few and other assistance.

For aggrieved women/survivors of any form, the Commission can be approached in the said numbers; Women Commission helpline no: 98838-33188, Women Helpline Toll Free Number: 181 and Childline Toll Free Number: 1098.

Khelo India Dus ka Dum tournament organised

Mangan, March 10: Khelo India Dus ka Dum tournament with the theme 'empowering women through sports' organised by the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Mangan District in association with Fit India and Sports Authority of India (SAI) was held at DAC Mangan, today.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director (Sports), Mrs. Janim Lepcha, Zilla Panchayat Ringhim-Nampatam GPU Mrs. Pinkiela Lepcha and Ward Panchayat members, officials of Sports and Youth Affairs Department, teachers and students.

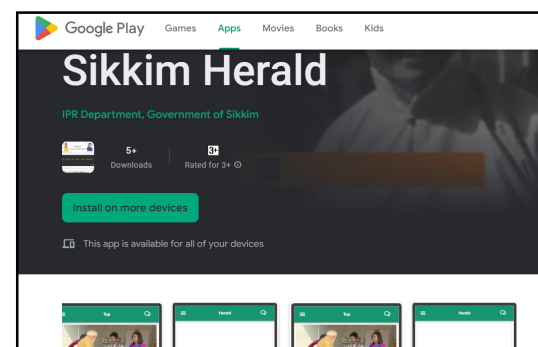
Deputy Director Sports

highlighted that the Khelo India is a flagship programme of the Government of India, to create a sporting culture with the objective of empowering women and providing a platform for women athletes at grassroot level.

Events such as Zumba and One Mile run were conducted. The winners of One Mile Run were accorded with medals and certificates.

PT Teacher, Government Girls Senior Secondary School Ms. Reenamit Lepcha was also felicitated for her achievements towards the upliftment of the students in the field of sports.

Sikkim Herald and Sikkim Today can also be viewed on the Sikkim Herald App available on the Google Play Store



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SLA passes...

remembered.

In his obituary reference, Chief Minister expressed profound sorrow on the demise of Late Mr. Dawgyal Pintso and added that his demise is a huge loss for Sikkim.

International Women's Day celebrated

Gangtok, March 08: International Women's Day was celebrated at Ridge Park, Gangtok with the theme, "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality" #EmbraceEquity. The programme was organised by Women and Child Development Department.

Minister for Women and Child Development Department, Mr. Sanjit Kharel graced the function as the chief guest. Also present were Chairperson, Sikkim State Commission for Women, Chairperson Sikkim Child Protection Commission, Deputy Mayor (GMC), Secretary WCDD, Principal Director WCDD, Additional Secretary WDCD, invitees from different departments, officials and staff of the Women Child Development Department.

Minister Mr. Sanjit Kharel in his address said that today is a global day for celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

He stated that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang special priority has been given to women empowerment. The reservation of women in Panchayati Raj, the recent launch of various women's schemes in the State, providing financial aid to women, etc. are to encourage women empowerment, he added.

He further expressed that in Sikkim, women are fortunate to enjoy important positions and privileges and urged women to take advantage of all the opportunities like access to quality education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities provided by the government. He applauded the role of Women and Child Development Department for all various initiatives undertaken for the welfare of women.

Secretary, WCDD, Mrs. Ganga Pradhan, in her welcome address said that along with the celebration of women's achievements, Women's Day also marks a call for gender equality, that is free from bias, stereotypes and discrimination.

She stated that the department in coordination with the State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and the Sikkim State Women's Commission has an outreach advocacy calendar. Throughout the year, the department does multiple drives, and awareness programmes on issues like domestic violence, sexual harassment of women in workplace, providing legal aid, POCSO cases, and human trafficking to achieve the goal of a safe and healthy society for women, she added.

She briefed about the talk shows on social media and added that the spectrum achieves wider coverage and participation. She also apprised about women's short-stay homes, halfway homes and old-age homes. She highlighted that women's day is being celebrated in all six districts, in many Aganwadi Centres and said that the whole administrative mechanism has become proactive.

She read out the Chief Minister's message for Women's Day. She informed about the mobile number (181), which functions 24/7 for emergency with regards to women in distress or for any form of violence/medical negligence/social assistance and counselling.

She applauded the dedication of the department in creating a strong support system and an encouraging environment for women to play their respective roles in various sectors of the organisation, thereby, contributing towards creating a better gender-neutral society.

She extended gratitude to the Chief Minister for introducing women-centric schemes like AAMA Yojana, Bahini and Vatsalya Schemes, etc. in the State.

On the occasion, two exemplary women achievers in the field of Social Work were felicitated, namely, Mrs. Chandra Lekha Gurung founder of the Rainbow Children's Home, Child care Institute situated at Lingdok, 8th Mile, Gangtok for her selfless service to society. Established in 1980, the Children's home is serving needy children like orphans and destitute children and Mrs. Passangkit Lepcha founder of Lee Aal Old age Home has been taking care and nurturing children and helpless old age people/generations by dedicating her life to their service. She has equally contributed to the Nepali literary and music world with well written literary pieces and lyrics.

One of the highlighting events of the occasion was the launching of the Coffee Table Book, 'Dream Catcher' on women achievers by the chief guest, Chairpersons, Deputy Mayor and the Secretary, WCDD.

During the event, chief guest Mr. Sanjit Kharel inaugurated a Health Camp and stall for SHG/Women Entrepreneurs/Cooperative at the premises of Ridge Park. Stalls of Sowa Rigpa, Tibetan Medicine and the National AYUSH Mission were also set up. He also interacted with the entrepreneurs.

The programme had cultural performances by the students of Balika Niketan, Tadong and Children's Home, Bhojoghari.

Skits on Women's Empowerment and domestic violence were also performed by AWW, ICDS and students of the Manipal Nursing Institute.

IKIGAI Band (female) and upcoming women artists, Shrishti Rai, Kanisha and Dipika also performed.

An important segment of the programme was the deliberation by Ms. Tshering Lhamu, Counsellor, Primary Health Centre, Old STNM on the topic of menstrual hygiene and teenage pregnancy.

Thereafter, the certificate to the performers and gifts for children's homes were distributed by the dignitaries.

Similarly, Advisor Culture Department, Mrs. Bhim Kumari Sharma attended the International Women's Day celebrations at Paljor Stadium on March 10.

The Women's Day celebration was organised focusing on women's sports by Khelo India Khelo with the theme of "Dus ka Dum" under the aegis of Sports and Youth Affairs Department.

The theme is relevant as girls from all around the State will participate in ten sporting disciplines from March 10 to March 25 this year with the objective to motivate young girls to pursue their career in sports.

Advisor gave a brief about International Women's Day and its significance. She apprised about how far women in the Indian society have come despite of gender discrimination in the past. She stressed on the importance of women participating in sports and said that it gives them the confidence and the value of team work.

She requested girls to participate in sports and gave examples of Sikkimese Women who have excelled in academic, sports, music, arts and in various fields.

During the course of the celebration, students from various schools in Gangtok participated in Chief Minister's One Mile Run event.

The celebration was attended by Chairman Sikkim Khadi Board, Deputy Mayor GMC, officials from Sports and Youth Affairs Department, President Badminton Association of Sikkim, Dronacharya Awardee boxing coach, Veteran National Table Tennis player and the students from the district.

In Soreng, a programme was also held to celebrate the International Women's Day by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department (Soreng District) at Jawbari Stadium.

teachers and staff of School along with the students.

The programme was conducted to disseminate on the soil transmitted helminths, problems, good hygiene practice and the importance of deworming. Thereafter, albendazole tablets were given to the students and staff of the school.

The National Deworming Day is being observed on March

10 and the Mop up day is on March 17 in all the Districts. All 1-19 years students would be given the albendazole tablets for deworming in government and private Schools, Aganwadi Centres.

It was also informed that, if any students are left out, they can contact the ASHA, AWW or ANM.

SBM Grameen organises International Women's Day

Gangtok, March 08: On the occasion of International Women's Day, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), RDD organised programmes at six venues across the State to commemorate the achievement of women of the State and present the Sikkim Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 to thirty-eight (38) Women Change Makers.

The felicitation was presented to Swachhagrahis, members of SHGs and Panchayats, who have contributed in transforming villages into role models on ODF Plus Model, Plastic Waste Management, Grey Water Management and operation and maintenance of Piped Water Supply under JJM.

The programmes were organised in Gangtok, Mangan, Namchi, Soreng and Pakyong districts under the guidance of the concerned ADCs (Dev.), BDOs, and Gram Panchayats.

The programmes were attended by MLA Rhenock, Mr. Bishnu Kumar Khatiwara, and Zilla Adhyaksha and Upadhyaksha of Pakyong for Pakyong district, Zilla Adhyaksha in Namchi and ADC in Gangtok,

ADC Pakyong leads joint inspection of Gati Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

Pakyong, March 10: ADC Pakyong, Ms. Anupa Tamling conducted a bimonthly inspection of Gati Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. at Rongli, today.

The inspection was made jointly with DFO (T), SDM Rongli, SDPO Rongli, J.D. Mines and Geology Department, S.E. Rongli Power Department, Deputy Fire Officer Gangtok, D.E. Water Resource Department, DPO Pakyong, R.O. Rongli, and officials from Gati Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

ADC Pakyong enquired about the safety measures

along with officials of RDD and members of SHGs.

The Women Change Makers were felicitated in recognition of their exceptional contribution in their respective fields. It may be noted that this is for the first time that such recognition like the Sikkim Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman has been presented.

Minister for Rural Development, Mr. Sonam Lama, Commissioner cum Secretary, Rural Development, Mr. D. Anandan, and Mission Director (SBM-G), Mrs. Benu Gurung, have congratulated all the women change makers and expressed that they would continue extending their invaluable contributions for the welfare of the State.

Various blocks and Gram Panchayats had also organised programmes under Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman run up programmes that included awareness on sanitation, painting competitions and other activities. Such programmes were organised by Mangan BAC, Kaluk BAC, Nandugaon BAC, Yangang BAC, Sripatam Gagyong GPU, Kyongnosla GPU and others.

undertaken by Gati, including clear sign boards and a proper barricade of the Rongli dam area to avoid any untoward. She evaluated the emergency safety gears, and assessed the equipment.

The team also conducted a thorough tour of the plant site, during which the Gati officials informed them of the various technical facets of the power plant.

Later a meeting was held with the representatives of Gati Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. and officials from the relevant agency.

Block-level orientation-cum-coordination programme

Pakyong, March 09: Block Mission Management Unit SSRML, Pakyong conducted a block-level orientation cum coordination programme at Namcheybong GPK, under the Pakyong district, today.

The programme was chaired by DC Mr. Tashi Chopel and CEO cum State Mission Director, SSRML Mr. Tenzing Kaleon, in the presence of BDO Pakyong, Block Panchayat representatives from various GPUs, Bank representatives and SHG /CRPEP representatives from Pakyong Parakha and Rhenock block.

The programme stressed on various sub-schemes under SSRML and ongoing activities under the Start-up Village entrepreneurship Programme by the Asst. Project managers. The ongoing programmes under the mission primarily focus on mobilising the left-out household and its saturation under SHG fold for future importance focusing on the ongoing Mission Antyodaya

baseline survey for 2022-23 was also highlighted.

DC Pakyong emphasised on the creation of various infrastructures necessary for the advancement of livelihood and administrative support within the district.

BDO Pakyong urged SHGs to actively engage in their communities and to take advantage of benefits being offered by federal and state-sponsored programs.

Bank officials emphasised on various cooperative loans available to SHGs and their access in block-level credit links.

Gram Panchayat President under Pakyong GPU emphasised on the past and current plans to support the SHGs through various initiatives and financial support.

SMD cum CEO SRLM assured promoting non-farm SHG products, packaging and marketing and significance of the SHG mobilisation under the district.

Three marathon events organised

Gangtok, March 12: Under the aegis of North Eastern Council (NEC), Government of India, along with Planning and Development and Sports and Youth Affairs Departments, three marathon events of 75 km (Ultra Run), 35 km and 10 km, was organised by Serenity Home and Kalasha Ventures Pvt. Ltd. under ‘Tsongmo Ultra Xtreme Unleashed,’ celebrating the Golden Jubilee of NEC, at Ganesh Tok, Gangtok, today.

Minister for Forest Department, Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia was present as the chief guest accompanied by Chief Secretary Mr. V. B. Pathak, as the special guest. Also present were Secretary Planning and Development Department and Additional Secretary, Planning and Development Department.

Organiser and Founder of Serenity Home, Mr. Udai Chandra Rai, mentioned that the event has been organised to encourage everyone live a healthy life and adopt the proper lifestyle. He also highlighted that the Ultra Run of 75 km is the first of its kind in the State, and will be made regular calendar event.

153 participants took part in the marathon, including 15 entries for 75 km, 61 for 35 km, and 77 for 10 km run. Participants from different walks of life, from students to officials, prominent faces, and runner from other states and foreign countries took part in the event. The event marks the second edition in promoting sports tourism in the State, with the first edition organised in 2021.

The three marathon events held were classified in three categories; Veterans men, women category (above 45 years) and men and women open category. Ms. Ambika Chettri bagged the first position, followed by Ms. Kessang Doma Bhutia in the second from the Veteran Women 10 km marathon run category. Mr. Karma Tshering Bhutia bagged the first position, followed by Mr. Gopal Thapa in the second

position and Mr. Topden Tshering Bhutia in the third position from the Veteran Men 10 km marathon run category. Ms. Renuka Biswakarma bagged the first position, followed by Dr. Kunzang Lepcha in the second position and Ms. Dukmit Lepcha in the third position in the Open Women 10 km marathon run category. Mr. Mahipal Gurjar bagged the first position, followed by Mr. Sonu Kumar in the second position and Mr. Mohit Ghosh in the third position in the Open Men 10 km marathon run category. Ms. Tshering Lhamu Bhutia bagged the first position, followed by Mrs. Benu Gurung in the second position in the Veteran Women 35 km marathon run category.

Mr. Karl Furthmaier bagged the first position, followed by Mr. Maan Kumar Subba in the second position and Mr. Pintso Chong Bhutia in the third position in the Veteran Men 35 km marathon run category. Ms. Anjuli Subba bagged the first position, followed by Ms. Saraswati Rai in the second position and Ms. Priye Chettri in the third position in the Open Women 35 km marathon run category. Mr. Surat Raj Subba bagged the first position, followed by Mr. Mohit Subba in the second position and Mr. Sher Bahadur Chettri in the third position in the Open Men 35 km marathon run category. Mr. Hemant Limboo bagged the first position, followed by Mr. Som Bahadur Thami in the second position and Mr. Arjun Khatiwara in the third position from the Open Men 75 km Ultra Run category. Ms. Asha Phurba Tamang bagged the first position, followed by Ms. Sunita Subba in the second position and Ms. Renu Rana in the third position from the Open Women 75km Ultra Run category. Mr. Amar Subba bagged the first position, followed by Mr. Luv Burman in the second position and Mr. Samdup Tshering Bhutia in the third place from the Veteran Men 75 km Ultra Run category.

The winners of the marathon events were awarded trophies and cash prizes by Secretary, Planning and Development Department and Additional Secretary, Planning and Development Department. The cash prizes for both Veteran Men and Women 10 km run category, the winner was awarded ₹4,000/-, followed by ₹3,000/- awarded to the first runner-up and ₹2,500/- awarded to the second runner-up. For both Open Men and Women 10 km run categories, the winner was awarded ₹7,000/-, followed by ₹6,000/- awarded to the first runner-up and ₹5,000/- awarded to the second runner-up. For both Veteran Men and Women 35 km run category, the winner was awarded ₹7,000/-, followed by ₹6,000/- awarded to the first runner-up and ₹5,000/- awarded to the second runner-up. For both Open Men and Women 35 km run categories, the winner was awarded ₹13,000/-, followed by ₹10,000/- awarded to the first runner-up and ₹8,000 awarded to the second runner-up.

For both Veteran Men and Women in the 75 km Ultra Run category, the winner was awarded ₹15,000/-, followed by ₹12,000/- awarded to the first runner-up and ₹11,000/- awarded to the second runner-up. For both Open Men and Women 75 km Ultra Run categories, the winner was awarded ₹35,000/-, followed by ₹25,000/- awarded to the first runner-up and ₹20,000/- awarded to the second runner-up.

Prior to the event, the participants were given a Zumba warmup session by Ms. Edu Tshering Bhutia and her team. SRM University, SMIT, Sikkim Professional College of Physiotherapy, ICFAI University, Sikkim University, Army personnel, Forest Department, Project live, locals from 4th Mile, local bikers, and Photography Club of Sikkim volunteered for the event.

on BPHU and congratulated Dentam PHC for bagging the accolade.

During the programme, MP presented a certificate bagged by Dentam PHC after independent assessment and complacence check with NQAS for Public Health Facilities in services of the hospital Outpatient, Laboratory, Labour Room, IPD, National Health Program and General Administration awarded by Central Quality Supervisory Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

It may be mentioned that BPHU facilitates designated rooms with specific Laboratory for Routine Investigations like blood grouping, haemoglobin estimation, ESR/DLC/TLC/VDRL, PS for MP wellness, Urine R/M, stool and exam sputum for AFB, urine HCG, HIV, HBSAG, LFT, Uric Acid, KFT, RBS, cholesterol.

Mega Legal Awareness camp on NALSA

Mangan, March 13: A Mega Legal Awareness camp on NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation) Scheme, 2015 as per the NALSA ‘Legal Service Camp Module’ was held at Singhik Sentam Gram Panchayat Unit, today. The programme was organised by District Legal Services Authority, Mangan under the aegis of Sikkim State Legal Services Authority Gangtok.

The programme had the presence of District and Session Judge-cum-Chairperson DLSA, Mangan, Ms. Sonam Denka Wangdi, Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate/ Secretary DLSA, Ms. Urvashi Pradhan, Panchayats, ADC Mangan, officials of concerned departments.

The programme was held with the objective of spreading awareness and information regarding various departmental schemes and legal aid services available to the public.

District-Level NCORD meeting held

Pakyong, March 13: A District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting was held in the office of the Superintendent of Police, Pakyong District, today.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Education Department, Second in Command SSB (Rhenock), Deputy Commissioner Excise, ACF Forest Department, ADO Agriculture Department, Welfare Officer Social Welfare Department, District Drugs Inspector, and Coordinator Sarathi 1.0.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed the rise in the use of drugs and the need for effective measures to control the movement of drugs in the district. The participants shared their experiences and insights on the current drug situation in the

Stalls of Food and Civil Supplies, Woman and Child Development, Social Welfare, Education, Health Departments, ICDS, Central Bank of India and District Child Protection Unit were installed for the addressal of public queries/benefits.

A Power point presentation by Retainer Lawyer, Tele-Law Project Ms. Slomita Rai on the Tele-Law application for easy access to legal aid on smartphones was made.

During the programme, free medical health camp was organised including HIV and Tuberculosis Screening followed by a brief session on Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 presented by Panel Advocate, SSLSA, Mr. Singhi Dadul.

More than 200 participants were present from six Gram Panchayat ward under Singhik Sentam GPU.

district and brainstormed ideas to address the problem.

The meeting also shed light on the numerous challenges faced by law enforcement in controlling the movement of drugs across borders.

SDPO Pakyong Mr. Mani Kumar Tamang highlighted the importance of the NCORD in coordination with various departments to tackle the drug menace. He emphasised on the need for joint efforts to identify traffickers and curb the supply of drugs.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to strengthen the coordination between the departments and also stressed the need for creating a robust public awareness on the ill effects of drug use.

Legal Service Camp conducted

Namchi, March 12: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in collaboration with Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SSLSA) conducted a Legal Service Camp under the banner of ‘Mega Legal Awareness Program’ at Central Park, Namchi, today.

The programme was organised by DLSA Namchi and TALUK Legal Service Authority, Namchi, Yangyang, and Jorethang under the aegis of National Legal Service Authority.

The programme had the presence of District and Sessions Judge Namchi-cum-Chairperson, District Legal Service Authority Mrs. Samita Sharma, Civil Judge-cum -Judicial Magistrate Jorethang cum Secretary (I/C) District Legal Service Authority Mrs. Rohini Rai, Administrative

Officer District and Sessions Court, Namchi Mr. B.B. Pradhan, Panel Advocate Mr. Kumar Sharma, Tele Law, Panel Advocate Mrs. Kesang Doma Bhutia.

The camp was attended by 755 participants including girl students. It aimed to create awareness among women about their legal rights and help them avail the schemes.

Various other departments had set up stalls to disseminate information, providing opportunity to interact with officials and obtain information about legal rights and procedures. Topics related to legal services, legal aid, and schemes were discussed and the visitors were encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification.

Sikkim gets its first BPHU of Health and Wellness Centre

Gyalshing, March 11: MP Lok Sabha Mr. Indra Hang Subba inaugurated the State’s first Block Public Health Unit, (BPHU) of Health and Wellness Centre in Primary Health Centre at Dentam, today.

The BPHU under the Health and Family Welfare Department has been constructed under 15th Finance Commission, Health Grants, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Also present were Chairman SABCO, Zilla Upa-adhyaksha, Principal Director Health, Secretary cum Mission Director National Health Mission, Sikkim, Director cum State Nodal Officer National Quality Assurance Programme, NQAP, Additional Director, State Nodal Officer NQAP, State Quality Consultant NQAP, CMOs Gyalshing and Soreng among others.

MP Lok Sabha sensitised on

the ease that general masses of the periphery would be able to avail the needed tests at the PHC itself. In this regard, he also appreciated concerned officials for their contributions and lauded them for rendering tireless efforts.

Further, he termed that a commendable milestone has been achieved with the first of its kind health centric facility in the State, which he firmly believed to be a need of the hour.

Speaking on the marketing potential of Dentam, he informed about the vision of the Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang on connecting Nepal via Chewa Bhanjyang and also briefed on health and education sectors in a proportional paradigm.

Earlier, Director-cum-SNO/ NQAP Dr Baroon Subba gave a brief introduction on National Quality Assurance Programme.

PDHS-cum-MD/ NHM Dr Raj Prabha Moktan, highlighted

**KEEP SIKKIM
CLEAN AND GREEN**

CM attends oath-taking ceremony of Chief Minister of Tripura

Agartala, March 08: Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang attended the oath-taking ceremony of the Chief Minister of Tripura, Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, at Agartala, today.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi, Union Home

Minister Mr. Amit Shah, President of BJP, Mr. J.P. Nadda, and Chief Ministers of various States.

The Chief Minister while congratulating the Chief Minister of Tripura, extended his best wishes for his tenure in serving the people of Tripura to the best of his ability.

Judge Supreme Court of India visits Siddheswara Dham

Namchi, March 09: Judge, Supreme Court of India, Justice V. Ramasubramanian visited Siddheswara Dham under Namchi District, today. He was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. R. Saraswati, Research Officer (Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department) Mr. Amar Bhandari and other officials. He paid obeisance at the dham and took a tour of the premises.

Judge, Supreme Court of India, arrived in Sikkim on a four day visit to the State on March 07. He was welcomed at Rangpo Tourist Centre by SDM Rangpo Mrs. Sujata Subba, State Protocol Officer Mr. P. Pulger, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Sikkim Mr. Nithil Raika Thapa and officials from Tourism Department upon his arrival.

Union Minister Aswini Vaishnav visits Sevoke-Rangpo railway project

Pakyong, March 07: Union Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology (Govt. of India) Mr. Aswini Vaishnav visited the ongoing Sevoke-Rangpo new line railway project and interacted with the senior officials of North East Frontier Railways and technical team of IRCON. The Union Minister was also briefed about the proposed master plan of the project.

Thereafter, he inspected

tunnel no. 14 which lies in Sikkim, however, remaining 13 tunnels falls in West Bengal.

The Union Minister was received by Minister for Transport Department Mr. M.N. Sherpa, MLA Mr. Y.T. Lepcha and Chairman (SRRP, NF Railways) Mr. K.K. Thatal. Also present were DC Pakyong, SDPO Rangpo and other concerned officials.

The Union Minister was on a three-day visit to the state and concluded his tour at Rangpo, today.

Hands-on training programme on Junior Tinkering Lab

Pakyong, March 14: The State Project Office SAMAGRA SHIKSHA organised a two-day hands-on training programme on Junior Tinkering Lab for 42 schools teacher from Pakyong, Gangtok and Mangan districts concluded at the Rurban Community Centre, Pakyong, today.

The training programme was on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education in School and to build enthusiasm in students regarding robotics and mechanism. The programme also aimed to provide practical knowledge to the teachers on various aspects of the Junior Tinkering Lab.

The two-day programme also included practical sessions, wherein teachers were given hands-on experience in designing and creating projects using the tools and equipment provided in the Junior Tinkering Labs.

The training sessions were conducted by experts from the field who provided valuable insights and guidance to the participants.

As part of the programme, equipment was provided to the 42 schools selected under the Pakyong, Gangtok and Mangan

districts. This initiative aims to encourage students to engage in hands-on learning and creativity and foster a culture of innovation.

ADC (Dev) Mr Robin Sewa, in his concluding remarks congratulated the participants for their active participation in the programme and encouraged them to apply the knowledge gained during the training in their daily lives. He also thanked the organisers for their efforts and expressed that similar initiatives would be taken in the future to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among the students of the region.

The CEO of the Education Department emphasised the importance of STEM education in the modern world and how it can help students to develop skills that are essential for their future success. He also thanked the participants and trainers for their active participation and contribution to the success of the training programme.

The programme was also attended by Joint Director, Education Department Ms. S. D. Bhutia, Deputy Director, Education Department Ms. Poonam Pradhan along with officials from Education Department.

74th State level Bankers' Committee Meeting cum Credit Outreach Programme

Gangtok, March 07: Minister of State for Finance, Government of India, Dr. Bhagwat Karad, attended the 74th State level Bankers' Committee Meeting cum Credit Outreach Programme, organised by State Level Banker Committee (SLBC) Sikkim, at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

The MoS, Finance was accompanied by Controller cum Secretary, Finance Department, Mr. M.C.P. Pradhan, Chief General Manager cum Officer-in-Charge, Reserve Bank of India, Mr. Kishore Pariyar, General Manager cum Convenor, SLBC Sikkim, State Bank of India, Mr. Jogesh C. Sahu, and GM cum OiC, NABARD Gangtok, Mr. S.K. Gupta. The programme was attended by Secretaries of line departments along with GMs, MDs, and Bank officials from various banks of the State.

Addressing the gathering, MoS Finance, GoI, Dr. Karad, said that the banks in Sikkim have done a commendable job in extending banking services through its branches to every corner of the State and expressed satisfaction over the positive credit-deposit ratio in Sikkim, which is impressive as compared to other States in the country and could be raised further. He stated that financial literacy and financial inclusion among the masses are the top focus areas of the Government of India under Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and added that Sikkim's performance in this regard is noteworthy.

MoS applauded the exceptional rapport and strong coordination between the State government and all the banks of Sikkim in providing banking services in rural areas, encompassing not just banking

but a more holistic approach towards increasing financial literacy in the State. He directed the banks to improve their performance in areas falling behind the national average, such as the Jan Dhan Yojana, through extensive awareness and outreach programmes for the welfare of people at the grassroots.

The MoS Finance also stressed the need for substantial awareness of various other schemes like the MUDRA, KCC, Stand-Up India, and others, with the major target focus being the Aspirational Districts, the newly formed districts, and border villages of Sikkim, so that all welfare schemes reach their saturation in those areas. He added that three FL vans would also be mobilized for the State through NABARD to improve financial literacy and create more awareness among the masses about various loan schemes and strengthen the rural economy.

Highlighting the role of NABARD and RBI as regulators in guiding both public and private sectors, the MoS Finance urged the banks to work in coordination to ensure that loans are made available to all skilled persons in the State, who are important stakeholders in strengthening the financial sector and improving the economy of the country. He also appreciated the initiatives of the NABARD, RBI, and other banks in creating financial awareness through creative modes like Nukkad Nataks and radio jingles. He expected the State to continue progressing and achieve maximum bank communication in every part of Sikkim.

The first session of the 74th State-level Bankers' Committee Meeting witnessed in-depth

deliberations on various parameters, such as financial inclusion in the State, implementation of flagship schemes, the status of credit, and penetration of banking and insurance coverage in the State, which had the active participation of the HoDs of line departments and various Bank representatives.

This was followed by the distribution of disbursement letters and cheques to beneficiaries under various schemes by various banks. A total of 20 cheques, amounting to ₹9 crores 57 lakhs and 7 thousand/ were distributed to the beneficiaries on the occasion.

Thereafter, an interactive session with the SHG members and beneficiaries was held, wherein, the MPCs representatives shared their success stories and expressed gratitude to the State government and the banks of the State for extending continued support in providing easy and simplified access to banking facilities for the welfare of rural people.

On the occasion, MoS Finance virtually inaugurated the Lead District Manager (LDM) Office of the Central Bank of India (CBI) at Pakyong.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Convenor, SLBC Sikkim, Mr. Jogesh C. Sahu., which was followed by an elaborated PowerPoint presentation given by Chairperson, Steering Committee, SLBC, Mr. Kishore Pariyar.

The programme was also addressed by Controller-cum-Secretary, Finance Department, Mr. M.C.P. Pradhan while LDM, SBI, Mr. Anit Lamichhaney proposed the vote of thanks.

MoS Dr. Bhagwat Karad holds press conference

Gangtok, March 07: Minister of State for Finance, Government of India, Dr. Bhagwat Karad, addressed a press conference at a local hotel in Gangtok, today.

In his brief address, the MoS appreciated the State's progress and up-to-date standard concerning ATM facilities and financial literacy. He apprised that he reviewed the financial grade of all six districts in the State and found the banks doing adequate work regarding financial sensitisation and monetary stability. He appreciated the efforts of the Reserve Bank of India,

NABARD, and State Bank of India, who have been instrumental in financial outreach for people from all walks of life in Sikkim.

Further, he said that the State needs a designated centre for guidance and help regarding financial literacy for Aspirational Districts like Gyalshing and Soreng and other rural areas of the State. In addition, he mentioned that during the State Level Banker's meeting, many important decisions were made regarding marketing strategies to reach rural areas and increase the income level for those who depend on agriculture. He

assured that the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, will leave no stone unturned in providing advantageous schemes and credit services to citizens in Sikkim for their upliftment.

The conference also had the presence of the Chief General Manager cum Officer-in-Charge, Reserve Bank of India, Mr. Kishore Pariyar, General Manager cum Convenor, SLBC Sikkim, State Bank of India, Mr. Jogesh C. Sahu, and GM cum OiC, NABARD Gangtok, Mr. S.K. Gupta.

Govt. officials inspect two pharmaceuticals

Gangtok, March 14: Principal Secretary, Labour Department, Mr. C.S. Rao along with the team of Senior Inspectors conducted an inspection at M/s Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and M/s Heba Pharmaceutical LLP at Marchak, today.

The inspection was carried out in compliance of various existing Labour Laws in the State. The implementation of Minimum Wage Notification No.29/DL dated

14/09/2022 was the main agenda of the inspection. It was found that both the establishments have been duly complying with the Minimum Wage Notification along with arrears. Other compliances such as medical facilities, safety and health measures, hygienic work environment, working hours, constitution of sexual harassment committees and grievance cell, payment of gratuity and contribution under EPF and ESIC

were also discussed and reviewed.

The Principal Secretary also interacted with the workers from different departments of the company, wherein, he encouraged the workers to work with more zeal and eagerness. He also emphasised the fact that the State Government has and will always work for the welfare and betterment of the labour workforce.