

(IPR) Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Government of India, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal held a meeting with the Chief Secretary and State Government officials at Manan Kendra Conference Hall this evening. The Union Minister is on a two day visit to Sikkim to review pending issues concerning the State.

The Minister took stock of the preparedness of the State for the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime which will be operational from the 1st of July this year. The Minister stressed on the need to ensure adequate infrastructure and connectivity facility to switch over completely to online mode of filing returns. He called for enhancing awareness on GST among all stakeholders and facilitators to ensure smooth transition into the regime.

The Minister was also briefed about the issues concerning incorporation of Companies Act in the State of Sikkim under Registration of Companies Act (Sikkim) 1961.

Chief Secretary Shri A.K. Shrivastava gave a brief introduction about the State and also apprised the Minister about the progress made by the State in various fields.

The Chief Secretary also highlighted certain issues which needed the intervention of the Central Government.

The Union Minister assured to address all the pending issues discussed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Shri S.C. Gupta, Development Commissioner cum Principal Secretary Planning Shri V.B. Pathak, Principal Secretary Finance Shri M.G. Kiran, Principal Secretary, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Shri R.K. Purkaystha, Secretary Law Department Shri Jagat Rai, Controller Accounts Shri Gopal Basnett, and senior officers of Finance Department. The Union Minister was accompanied in the meeting by Shri Dhiraj Kumar, Director, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

The Union Minister subsequently met officials of the State Bank of India (the Lead Bank) and took stock of the arrangements being made for the switch over to the GST regime. He also inquired about the status of digital transaction and implementation of schemes of the Central Government.

On 4th May, the Union Minister will meet Chartered Accountants based in Sikkim and will also hold a meeting with Heads of State Government Departments and review the implementation of schemes being sponsored by the Central Government.