

# SIKKIM HERALD

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Gangtok (Tuesday) March 21, 2023

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2020-2022

## Governor visits G20 Exhibition Stalls



**Gangtok, March 18:** Governor Mr. Laxman Prasad Acharya visited the G20 Exhibition Stalls set up at MG Gangtok, today.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry GoI Mr. Som Parkash joined the Governor at MG Marg. Also present were Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Mayor GMC, Executive Councillor MG Marg, Secretary Urban Development Department, Secretary Culture Department, DC Gangtok, Assistant Collector Gangtok, SP Gangtok, Director MSME, General Manager NABARD, officers from Culture,

Urban Development, Police Departments and NABARD.

The Governor interacted with the entrepreneurs who took part in the exhibition. The G20 exhibition stalls showcased different organic products, handmade fabrics, carpets, pottery, candles, beauty products, bamboo products, bouquets, toys etc.

Earlier, Governor Mr. Laxman Prasad Acharya made his first visit to Hanuman Mandir at Hanuman Tok, Gangtok.

He offered prayers for the well-being and prosperity of Sikkim and Sikkimese people.

## CM convenes press conference

**Gangtok, March 15:** Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang convened a press conference concerning the G20 events at Samman Bhawan, today.

He was accompanied by Minister for Information and Public Relations, Mr. B.S. Panth, Political Secretary to CM Mr. Jacob Khaling, Press Secretary to CM Mr. Bikash Basnett, Chief Secretary Mr. V.B. Pathak, representatives from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Brig. Ashis Bhattacharya, Secretary, IPRD, Ms. Namrata Thapa, Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo.

Addressing the press and media, the Chief Minister said that it is a matter of great pride and privilege for the country to hold the Presidency of the G20 for one year from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi.

He expressed that it is the honour of Sikkim to have the opportunity to host the two monumental engagement meets-

Business 20 (B20) and Startup20 (S20), under India's G20 Presidency. He said that the congregation would be a great platform for the State to showcase the untapped potential and strength for multilateral business partnerships in various sectors.

He said that the B20 Conference, scheduled to be held on 16 March at Chintan Bhawan, will highlight the scope for multilateral business partnerships in tourism, hospitality, and pharmaceuticals, simultaneously with Sikkim's vibrant organic farming and green energy amidst the convergence of a host of 36 delegates from 24 countries. The B20 conference is being organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), he added.

Likewise, the Startup20, being organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on March 18-19, will have the participation of 13 countries

*Contd. on page 04*

## Startup20 Sikkim Sabha commences

**Gangtok, March 18:** The second meeting of the G20 engagement group, Startup20 Sikkim Sabha, commenced in the presence of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang at Chintan Bhawan.

Chief Minister in his address highlighted the importance of Startup20 as an opportunity to synergise all key stakeholders in a single platform, especially in today's world, where innovation and digitization are crucial.

He said that Sikkim encourages innovation and aims to be a part of the narrative where the private sector has innovated and competed on a global stage and, thereby, learned from the vast wealth of knowledge the nation's Startup ecosystem offers.

"Innovation has not been new to our small State. Sikkim was the first State to ban single-use plastic, Sikkim was also the first State in the country that was declared the first Organic State



in India in 2016 when the world was waking up to the concept of organic farming," said the Chief Minister.

He stated that the State government is well aware of the need for a proper policy to support Startups. In addition to

the Chief Minister's Start Up scheme, in 2020, the Skilled Youth Startup scheme was introduced, which works towards generating equitable entrepreneurial opportunities in the State's rural

*Contd. on page 04*

## Sikkim hosts B20 conference



**Gangtok, March 16:** Sikkim hosted the B20 conference on 'Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in Tourism, Hospitality, Pharmaceuticals and Organic Farming' at Chintan Bhawan, today.

The B20 is a parallel G20 event, which is the official dialogue forum with the global business community. The B20 Summit today witnessed the convergence of a host of delegates from 26 nations, including over 52 overseas and 50 Indian representatives, along with

representatives of the State government and local business participants.

The inaugural session was attended by Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang accompanied by Chief Secretary, Mr. V.B. Pathak, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission and

Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, Government of India, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI, Mr. Noor Rahman Sheikh, Joint Secretary (G20-11), G20 Secretariat, GoI, Mr. Ashish Kumar Sinha, Principal Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, GoI, Ms. Rupa Dutta, and Secretary, IPR Department, Government of Sikkim, Ms. Namrata Thapa.

Chief Minister welcomed the B20 delegates from various G20 nations on behalf of the people of Sikkim and congratulated Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi for assuming the prestigious G20 Presidency.

He also thanked the Prime Minister for providing Sikkim the opportunity to Sikkim to host two G20 engagement meetings and extended gratitude to the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Chief Coordinator of India's G20

*Contd. on page 05*

### Pearls of Wisdom

*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."*

*- Albert Einstein*

### Regional seminar on large cardamom organised

**Mangan, March 15:** Regional seminar on large cardamom was organised by Spices Board Government of India, Divisional Office Mangan at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hall, today.

The programme had the presence of Zilla Adhyaksha Mangan Mr. Kado Lepcha as chief guest along with Ward Panchyats, Deputy Director Spices Board Gangtok, Assistant Director MSME, Agriculture Development Officer Mangan, Horticultural Development Officer Mangan, Scientists from Spices Boards, staff from Spices Board and Krishi Vigyan Kendra Mangan, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Agriculture and Horticulture Field Assistants and progressive large cardamom growers.

Zilla Adhyaksha Mangan stressed on the need to conduct

awareness programmes and highlighted on the issues faced by local farmers on the cultivation of cardamom.

Assistant Director, Spices Board, Divisional Office, Mangan gave a brief on activities and schemes implemented by Spices Board in Mangan District.

Scientist-C, Spices Board ICRI-RRS, Tadong, Dr. Sasanka Shekhar gave a Power Point presentation on Improved Production and Post Production Technology of Large Cardamom. He encouraged the cultivation of cardamom production and also presented techniques for improved production. He also made awareness on the post production of the cultivation to preserve cardamom for high market value.

Spices Board, ICRI-RRS, Tadong Dr. Ajay Divakar Scientist-C & Incharge gave a

presentation on pest and disease management of large cardamom.

A short presentation on the activities of the line departments, on the spices by were given by Horticulture Development Officer Mangan and Agricultural Development Officer, Mangan. The participants were also elucidated on the importance of soil health for improved productivity from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Mangan.

Assistant Director, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) GOI Gangtok gave a brief on MSMEs various schemes.

The presentation gave a complete insight on the framework through which individuals, SHGs and FPOs can avail the schemes provided by MSME from cultivation, to packaging and distribution.

### DC Gyalshing chaired a meeting

**Gyalshing, March 17:** DC Gyalshing Mrs. Yishey D. Yongda chaired a meeting to scale up the Kissan Credit Card enrolments amongst farming community of the district at DAC Gyalshing, today.

The meeting was attended by SP Gyalshing Mr. A.K. Tamang, ADC (Dev.) Mr. Surat Gurung, DGM (NABARD), GM SISCO Bank Gyalshing, AD AH&VS, Heads of Offices of Horticulture, Agriculture and officials of related line departments.

The meeting was primarily organised to understand the

problems faced by farmers in availing Kishan Credit Card (KCC) schemes and to create awareness of the various grants and loan schemes that NABARD offers.

DC called upon the officials to carefully go through the list of permissible sectors that NABARD could finance, to bring about convergence with ongoing programmes of the government. She stated that there are many schemes where financial assistance could augment for better welfare of the public. Priority sectors would include setting up of

Resource Recovery Centres.

She instructed SISCO Bank to create awareness on Mobile ATM installed at the Tashiding area so that people could avail of the facilities.

DGM (NABARD) presented details about various programmes being implemented.

GM SISCO updated that since December '22 close to 200 farmers (mostly dairy farmers) had availed the KCC and in the next week another 66 lakhs would be granted as loans to farmers through the bank.

### World Consumer Rights Day observed

**Namchi, March 15:** Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Department Mr. L.B. Das attended the 'World Consumer Rights Day, 2023' at Officers Club, Namchi, today.

The programme organised by Legal Metrology Unit and Consumer Protection Cell, Food and Civil Supplies Department on the theme 'Clean Energy Transmission'.

He was accompanied by Chairman NMC Mr. Ganesh Rai, Chairperson Buildings and Housing Department Mr. Tashi Dorjee Tamang, NMC Councillors, Panchayats and representatives of fair price shops from Namchi District.

Also present were Additional Controller, Deputy Controller, Joint Controller, DCSO (South) as resource persons.

Minister Mr. L. B. Das

stated that the 'World Consumer Rights Day, 2023' is commemorate to generate awareness on consumer rights and consumer protection. He said that consumers should be mindful of their rights and urged them to utilize the redressal forums of the department. Moreover, he also spoke about the advantages of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and its nationwide portability for lifting the entitled food grains. He also handed over dustbins for segregation of wet and dry waste.

Chairman NMC highlighted the importance of the programme and stressed on awareness of the consumer rights.

Resource Persons presented a brief on National Food Security Act, 2013,

ONORC, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and others.

It was informed that the ration distributed under the National Food Security Act to eligible beneficiaries is audited every year and that Namchi has already been audited during the Gram Sabhas. Discussions on Legal Metrology Act, 2011, Rights of Consumers and Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and Redressal Mechanism, rights of the consumers, misleading advertisements, imposing penalties and many other factors was made. The aim of the session was to provide assistance, promote and protect the welfare of the consumers and strengthen the consumer movement in the State.

### Delegates for B20 arrives

**Pakyong, March 15:** For the G20 Business 20 (B20) Summit 2023, 31 delegates from various nations reached Sikkim today.

The delegates include the representatives of The Group of Twenty (G20) countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South

Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States along with representatives from Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The delegates were received at the Greenfield Airport, Pakyong by Secretary IPR Department Ms. Namrata Thapa, Secretary Home Department Ms. Tashi Cho Cho, Secretary Culture Department Mr. B.K. Lama, State Protocol Officer Home

Department Mr. Pempo T. Pulger, DC Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chophel, ASP Pakyong Mr. Rinzing Chophel Rai, along with Director, Airport Authority of India Mr. Rajendra Grover and officials from various department.

Additionally, 15 ethnic groups of the State presented a grand customary welcome for the delegates.

### Temi Tea Trail Run Safari flags off

**Namchi, March 19:** Director and CEO of Global Pharma, Bangladesh Mr. Akm Ahsan Ullah, along with Joint Secretary, Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Mr. Marcus P. Rai and former Assistant Director, Government of India flagged off 'Temi Tea Trail Run Safari, 2023' themed 'Presidency Run for G20', under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India at Temi Tea Garden, today.

Present amongst were Prof. of Dermatology, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Senior Officer of Social Bank Ltd, Bangladesh, Joint Director Adventure, Deputy Directors and other officials and staff from Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of India and Government of Sikkim.

The objective of the event was to promote tea tourism of the

State and to raise awareness of G20 India's Presidency Mission of lifestyle and responsible tourism among different service provider connected to tourism for sustainable development and to provide encouragement to the people for maintaining good health and fitness.

The run was categorised in 25kms, 10Kms, 5Kms covering the route of Temi Tea Garden. More than 150 participants from West Bengal, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Sikkim along with the neighbouring country, Bangladesh and the students of Himalayan School, Temi had participated.

The event was headed by the founder and proprietor of Sportive, Government of India Mr. Uttam Dhar. The winners were rewarded with cash prizes, certificates and trophies.

### Milching cows distributed

**Gyalshing, March 17:** DAC Gyalshing in coordination with Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services organised a milching cows distribution programme, today.

The project was funded under the NEC 'Grant in Aid' to the Backward Limboo Community, Sikkim for the Financial Year 2021-22.

Minister-cum-Area MLA, Yangthang Mr. Bhim Hang Limboo attended the programme accompanied by DC Gyalshing, Chairman PHE, ADC (Dev.), Additional Director (AH&VS), BDO Gyalshing, officials and beneficiaries.

Minister Mr. Bhim Hang Limboo apprised that the members of Limboo community would benefit under the scheme that was specifically approved for the Community by the NEC. He said that farmers whose livelihoods depend on milk production would increase their

income and revive rural economy. He further urged all the beneficiaries to provide adequate care and nurture the animals.

DC briefed about the project, wherein, 90 beneficiaries of all constituency would be covered. She informed that the project was possible due to the State government's aim to make every citizen self-reliant, economically progressive and to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship. She further requested not to misuse the benefits and informed that the district authorities would be closely monitoring it.

Thereafter, the Minister paid a visit to the under-construction hospital building and directed the contractor for timely completion of the building. He also visited Diagnostic Lab for Zoonoses. A total of 20 milching cows were distributed along with medicines and supplements to beneficiaries of Yangthang Constituency.

### Workshop and input distribution programme organised

**Namchi, March 17:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra South in collaboration with ICAR-NINFET (National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology) Kolkata organised a workshop along with demonstration and input distribution programme at KVK, today.

Present in the programme were Head-cum-Nodal Officer-NEH, ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata Dr. Sanjoy Debnath, Head (Transfer of Technology), ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata Dr. S.B. Roy, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK along with Scientific, Technical.

The beneficiary farmers from Bermiok-Tokal Farmers Producers Organisation and Progressive farmers of Ruchung (adopted village of KVK South Sikkim) were also in attendance.

Head KVK Mr. I.P. Shivakoti mentioned about various activities conducted by KVK South with the support from ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata.

Dr. S.B. Roy from ICAR-

NINFET, Kolkata gave a brief of the Research Institute ICAR NINFET and its mandated works in transfer of natural fibre technology suitable for farmers.

Head-cum-Nodal Officer, NEH, ICAR-NINFET Dr. Sanjoy Debnath, briefed about the advantages of the jute agro-textile mulch.

Dr. Sanjoy Debnath was felicitated for his various contribution in convergence programmes.

A method of demonstration of use of Jute agro-textile was held in the KVK farm followed by Input Distribution programme.

The second half of the programme was held at Chuba village for the impact assessment-cum-interview for the proposed Short Term Training Programme for manufacturing/weaving of woollen items to the members of Chubako Weavers.

**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/45/2022-23/179 Date:21.03.2023

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

The Director, ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim invites online open tenders 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.	Ultra Low Depth Genome Resequencing and SNP discovery, Quantity - 250	GEM/2023/B/3285504 Dated: 18-03-2023	28-03-2023 21:00
2.	Agricultural spray drone, Quantity - (02)	GEM/2023/B/3289572 Dated: 20-03-2023	30-03-2023 7:00

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

**(Arvind Chauhaan)  
Assistant Administrative Officer  
(86)**

**Sikkim Public Service Commission  
Old Tourism Complex, M.G. Marg, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737101**

Fax:03592-207572

Email:[spsc-skm@nic.in](mailto:spsc-skm@nic.in) Website:[spsc.sikkim.gov.in](http://spsc.sikkim.gov.in)

No:73/SPSC/EXAM/2022 Date:18/03/2023

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

Online Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up of **06 (six) posts of Tutor/Clinical Instructor** in the **Junior Grade-II** on temporary regular basis in Level - 15 of the Pay Matrix of the Sikkim Government College of nursing (Recruitment and Regulation of Promotion) Rules, 2018, by **Direct Recruitment**. All the applications are invited through online mode only at <https://spsc.gov.in/ApplyOnline.html>

The candidates are advised to visit the Sikkim Public Service Commission website for detail Advertisement, eligibility conditions, and Scheme of Examination etc. at [www.spsc.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.spsc.sikkim.gov.in). Any further Instructions/Corrigendum/Addendum/Rejection List would be uploaded only on the Sikkim Public Service Commission website.

**Additional Secretary (Exam)  
Sikkim Public Service Commission  
(87)**

**Sikkim Public Service Commission  
Old Tourism Complex, M.G. Marg, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737101**

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Email:[spsc-skm@nic.in](mailto:spsc-skm@nic.in) Website:[spsc.sikkim.gov.in](http://spsc.sikkim.gov.in)

No:74/SPSC/EXAM/2022 Date:18/03/2023

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

Online Applications are invited from eligible local candidates for filling up **01 (one) posts of Consultant** in the **Selection Grade-II** on temporary regular basis in Level - 19 of the Pay Matrix plus Super Specialty & Performance Allowance as per Notification No.158/GEN/DOP dated:19/12/2018 under Sikkim State Specialist Wing of Sikkim State Health Service, Government of Sikkim through **Direct Recruitment**. All the applications are invited through online mode only at <https://spsc.gov.in/ApplyOnline.html>

The candidates are advised to visit the Sikkim Public Service Commission website for detail Advertisement, eligibility conditions, and Scheme of Examination etc. at [www.spsc.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.spsc.sikkim.gov.in). Any further Instructions/Corrigendum/Addendum/Rejection List would be uploaded only on the Sikkim Public Service Commission website.

**Additional Secretary (Exam)  
Sikkim Public Service Commission  
(88)**

**Before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim at Gangtok**

Sl. No. A233013

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Sancha Hang Limboo**, S/o Karna Bahadur Limboo, aged about 41 years, resident of Namphok, P.O. Sinchuthang, Manglay and P.S. Yangang, South Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under;

1. That I have been serving in 9<sup>th</sup> Assam Rifles Battalion and presently posted at Kangvai, Manipur.
2. That in the family nomination form, the name of my spouse, presently appearing is "**Chingzahioh Limboo**", and the same may be changed now with the name "**Somphuti Sherpa**".
3. That this affidavit is made to declare on oath the forgoing paragraphs.

**VERIFICATION**

I the deponent named herein above do hereby verify and state that the statements made in paragraphs No. 1 to 3 of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I have signed and verified this Affidavit on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 at Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Identified by:  
**Meg Nath Dhungel  
R/o Yangang, South Sikkim**

**DEPONENT  
Sancha Hang Limboo**

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## Minister L.N. Sharma attends video conference

**Gangtok, March 20:** Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture Departments Mr. L.N.Sharma attended a video conference chaired by the Union DoNER Minister Mr. G. Kishan Reddy on coordination and review of the implementation of the recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agriculture from the Conference Hall of the Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok, today.

The video conference was also joined by the Secretary Agriculture Department Mr. Jigme D. Bhutia, Secretary Horticulture Mr. Sadan Tamang and departmental senior officials.

Minister threw light on overview of the agriculture scenario in Sikkim and requested to allocate special package for Organic Farming.

He requested for approval of the project submitted under NEC for the construction of bamboo structure green house in farmers field to promote sustainable environment friendly cultivation practice for the production of off-season high value production.

He informed about the newly established two districts of Soreng and Pakyong in Sikkim and urged for the establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendra and all farm related infrastructures. He stressed on topographical features challenges of the state and apprised for motorable roads and footpath connectivity in the isolated region in order to

make easy accessibility for marketing of the agriculture produce. He also spoke on the need of farm infrastructure, storage centre and laboratory for farming sector.

He mentioned that the state receives heavy rainfall during monsoon and proposed to consider for establishing rain water harvesting tanks, so as, to address acute shortage of water during dry season in every households of farming community.

The Minister underlined lack of tissue culture laboratory and asked support for its establishment at district level. He also suggested to consider package for kiwifruit in lieu of allocating fund for edible palm oil. He also advised for strengthening the ICAR in Sikkim for promoting research analysis.

He highlighted the successful trail of saffron cultivation in Sikkim under the valuable guidance of the Governor and the Chief Minister and briefed on its progressive indicators. Further, he requested to allocate special package for Saffron Mission in Sikkim and also informed about the issues of wildlife interference and to undertake steps for mitigating measures from the Ministry.

Union Minister, DoNER, applauded the performance of Sikkim in various dimensions and assured to look into the proposal submitted before the Ministry.

## Training cum Seminar on Export of Sikkim Products and Services

**Gangtok, March 20:** Training-cum-seminar on Export of Sikkim Products/ Services was organised by Commerce and Industries Department in coordination with Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Government of India at the office of Commerce and Industries Department, Tadong, today.

The programme was attended by Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Cooperation, Urban Development, Rural Development Departments, GPF, Temi Tea Estate, DHH, DICs KVIC, SKVIB, officials of Pakyong and Gangtok DACs, Entrepreneurs, SHGs and FPOs.

The programme was aimed at enhancing export market for local products and services, such as, large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, tea, coffee, buck wheat, Sikkim mandarin, Sikkim carpet, Handicrafts, Thanka paintings, etc.

Chief guest MLA Mr. Y.T. Lepcha, motivated to promote local products and services to export.

Head-North East, FIEO, GoI Mr. Kaushik Dutta, highlighted on benefits of District as Export Hub scheme, which was launched by Prime

Minister of India in 2019 and the scope to promote local products and services for exporting.

CEO, SOFDA informed that local entrepreneurs need to upscale their produce with the standardization and certification to improve their market linkage and export of their produce.

The line Departments highlighted the availability of products and services in Sikkim and emphasised for cold storage, warehousing and training on export of products.

Local entrepreneurs requested the departments to set up processing, value addition, packaging and marketing infrastructure including export facilitation.

Director, C&I stressed for awareness and training programme on export to be provided at district level and also entrepreneurs to look for export of their produce to realise higher returns.

Director, MSME made a presentation on potential products in Sikkim for Export, procedure for obtaining Import Export Code (IEC), Export handling, Government schemes available for marketing and branding, infrastructure, marketing and branding support available in the department.

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## Startup20...

and urban areas, especially among the educated unemployed youth, he added.

He said that there are significant hurdles despite creating a favourable ecosystem with only nine startups registered with the Department of Industrial Policy and Internal Trade and added that the State is taking proactive measures to boost the registration scale.

Speaking about the recently launched 'One Family, One Entrepreneur' scheme, he said it is one-of-a-kind scheme that aims to support youth and rural populace in the State by providing technical support and access to finance in the form of back-ended subsidies.

"With this scheme, we aim to make a shift toward job creators from job seekers," he added.

He also highlighted the existence of the Atal Incubation Centre under the Atal Innovation Mission at Sikkim Manipal University to further encourage and create a conducive environment for startups. He added that Sikkim has significant scope for aggregators in developing an end-to-end chain of aggregation, branding, processing, and supply of organic farm and livestock products and medicinal plants.

"What we need is local entrepreneurship, their faith in their ideas and those being converted to entities, risk-taking, and finally becoming reasonably strong in absorbing risks," said the Chief Minister, stressing the importance of the government startup ecosystem in providing initial mentorship and acting as catalysts. He added that major setbacks could be overcome by ensuring that the entrepreneurs are provided with the confidence and appropriate support from the government.

He reiterated the State government's commitment to enabling the Startups of today to be the future of conglomerates that will thrive under Sustainable Development Goals and bring constant technological advancements in the field of health and nutrition, sustainable tourism and wellness, climate change mitigation, education, sanitation, organic farming and agriculture, gender equality and inclusivity among others. He said that the State is committed to building an agile and conducive environment where industry and businesses can support each other. He urged the G20 delegates in the panel to smoothen, facilitate and handhold the State machinery for bringing in the infrastructure and enabling mechanisms needed to support innovation through startups.

He expressed hope that the discussions on strengthening the ecosystem and ensuring a greater flow of financial resources will build investment

capabilities in emerging ecosystems, such as Sikkim to support and create value in the long term through natural, social, economic and technological interventions.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (MoS), GoI Mr. Som Parkash, Minister for IPR Department Mr. B.S. Panth, Chief Secretary Mr. V.B. Pathak, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission & Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, Government of India, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, GoI, Mr. Ashish Sinha and Principal Advisor, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, GoI, Ms. Rupa Dutta, on the dais.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry (MoS) Mr. Som Parkash said that India has emerged as the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, with over 92,000 registered startups in the country.

He stated that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, has taken a keen interest in the development of North East States and added that the government has created a conducive environment for the industrial growth of the region.

He said that startups are drivers of the global economy and added that the Startup20, initiated under India's G20 Presidency, facilitate a collaborative network among stakeholders, including accelerators, incubators, startups, and government agencies, to support startup growth and harmonise the global startup ecosystem.

Chief Secretary, Mr. V.B. Pathak highlighted the scope of promoting startups in the tourism and hospitality sector and stressed the need to change the mindset among youth to transform from job seekers to job creators.

Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission and Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, Government of India, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, who is the Chairperson of Startup20, gave a comprehensive presentation on the inception of Startup20 and Startup20 X while Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Ashish Sinha, gave a brief about India's vision behind the G20 Presidency.

The programme was also addressed by Principal Advisor, DPIIT, Ms. Rupa Dutta, who spoke about how inclusion and diversity can play a massive role in the growth of a vibrant Indian startup ecosystem.

On the occasion, a global fellowship programme, 'iTERF', instituted by I-Create, was launched. iTERF aims to facilitate research in technology startups, markets, individuals and ecosystems. It will be an intrinsic part of the Startup20 Engagement for the current year and will present an opportunity to select researchers to become

a part of the engagement activities and participate in the Startup20.

Subsequently, two other initiatives, Startup 20 Fellow and Startup20 Startup Showcase, were also launched.

Deputy Secretary, DPIIT, Mr. Sachin Dhaniala, proposed the vote of thanks.

After the inaugural session, the Chief Minister and other dignitaries had an informal press interaction with the National and the State government media, wherein the startup scenario of Sikkim and the takeaways of the Startup20 were discussed. The interactive programme was followed by an exclusive fireside chat session that saw the participation of representatives of various established Startups, stakeholders, academicians and students.

Thereafter, a press conference was convened at the meeting room of Chintan Bhawan, which was addressed by Chairperson Startup20, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Ashish Sinha, and Principal Advisor, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ms. Rupa Dutta.

It was informed that the Startup20 meeting in Sikkim would produce the policy papers for the various task forces through discussions and deliberations among the national and international council members. The Sikkim Sabha will also witness the startup showcases at MG Marg, which will focus on highlighting startups from the North-Eastern states of India.

During the meetings held during S20, the zero draft of the policy communiqué will also be created, which will be worked and re-worked before being submitted to the G20 leaders at the final summit in Gurugram in July 2023. These recommendations will also be conveyed through the communiqué to the G20 India Presidency and taken up during the G20 Summit in September 2023 with the head of the states.

The press conference was followed by Startup20X, a platform conceptualised to host talks, discussions, and events conducted under the aegis of India's Startup20 Engagement Group. The Startup20X session had representatives and stakeholders sharing their views on the draft policy communiqué with Joint Secretary, MoEA, Mr. Ashish Sinha, moderating the session. Speakers from diverse backgrounds and Startups also spoke about their experiences.

Among the speakers were the Founder of O2 Himalayan, Sikkim, Mrs. Mandira Chettri, Founder Nibiaa Devices, Mr. Aeroshil Nameirakpam, Deputy Country Representative, UN Women, Ms. Kanta Singh, Director for Hawaii Department of Commerce, USA, Mr. Chris Rachal.

## Workshop on Bluegrass music

**Pakyong, March 20:** The Pakyong Music Institute organised a four day workshop from March 20 to 24 for students on 'Bluegrass music', in association with the Culture Department at Pakyong Community Hall, today.

The Bluegrass Journeymen were welcomed to Pakyong by the Pakyong District Administration.

District Collector Pakyong Mr. Tashi Chopel congratulated Pakyong Music Institute for hosting an event for the district.

The Bluegrass Journeymen is a collective of accomplished musicians aimed at presenting traditional American Bluegrass Music to the world. Each member performs in a variety of bands back home, bringing original tunes and a deep knowledge of the bluegrass traditional songs and history to the table. They have been playing

gigs, plan musical outreach and organise cross-cultural musical collaborations and giving lessons to the local folk musicians.

A music cultural exchange programme and an art competition and exhibition are also planned for which, global artists, performers, educators, and musicians from all around the world will be present.

The event has been planned to focus on children's of Government Schools, taking all into one hood, as the team has been set to extend their effort and professional roots into social contribution.

The goal in organising this socio-cultural event is to promote fresh art and music enthusiasts, to create a bonding among young sections of society and also to understand their views of present day society.

## ICFAI students partakes the G20 meeting

**Gangtok, March 16:** The students of the ICFAI University, Sikkim attended the G20 meeting held at Gangtok, today.

The students were accompanied by Prof. Sweta Gurung, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The G20 meet covered important aspects like tourism, hospitality, pharmaceutical and organic farming. The meet provided a great learning

experience to the students and gave them an insight about multilateral business partnerships in the fields of tourism, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and organic farming.

Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to all the participants at the end of the meeting. Later, the meeting was also attended by Dr. Jagannath Patnaik Vice Chancellor of the University.

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## CM convenes...

and 28 Startup representatives, he added.

He said that these two major G20 events will allow potential investors to spot business opportunities in various sectors in the State and hoped that the State stakeholders would project their full potential throughout the deliberations to attract essential investment opportunities.

He stated that despite being a small Himalayan State, Sikkim has gradually emerged as an industrial hub owing to its diverse economic opportunities and vibrant culture, with its focus on progressive yet sustainable development initiatives. He added that the State government has prioritised creating investor-friendly Government policies and initiatives to enable a favourable business ecosystem for entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to attract investors from across India and abroad for sustainable industrial development.

He urged all the State participants to take full advantage of the G20 events and sought cooperation and support in projecting Sikkim as an essential investment destination by showcasing its strength in the backdrop of its rich culture, heritage, and tourism potential. He further urged the press and media fraternity for a wide coverage of the G20 events.

Chief Secretary gave a brief walkthrough of the G20 events to

be held in the State. He informed that the State would host several policymakers, thought leaders and business leaders, CEOs and senior executives representing G20 countries, and representatives of multilateral organisations, who will participate in the engagement meetings in Gangtok from March 15-19. Delegates from 26 countries, including over 52 overseas and 50 Indian representatives, will attend the events to stimulate enriching deliberations and discussion on the business agenda under B20 in the North East, with a special focus on Sikkim, he informed.

He said that the G20 events would be a platform to project Sikkim as a green investment destination and will also open opportunities for the State tourism sector to be marked on the international tourism map. He added that the delegates would also be offered a sneak peek into Sikkim's rich culture, heritage, festivals, and local cuisine during their stay.

He further informed that the CII will organise Business-Business and Business-Government meetings and added that over 100 B-B and B-G requests have been generated for the B20 engagement meeting. These meetings will create a platform for the visiting overseas business delegates to interact with the local industry and the State government for discussing potential investment, collaboration, and tie-ups.

The press conference concluded with a discussion over the queries raised by the press and media fraternity.

## G20 delegates arrives in Sikkim

**Pakyong, March 15:** Chairperson, TRIBALAG Ltd. Dr. Surya Nil Sannyasin, Founder and CEO, Importer-Exporter-B2B-India-Switzerland Mr. Rajeev Sinha, and Head -Capital Market and corporate Liabilities SBM Bank, Mumbai Mr Pradipta Dash, CMD World Energy Corporation Mr. J.S. Sekhon, MW International Mr. Wasim Mahajan, Chair Startup20 AIM, NITI Aayog Director Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Programme Director AIM, NITI Aayog Mr. Manglesh Yadav, In Tandem Global Ms. Shormishtha Ghosh, Innovation Lead (IL) Mr. Vinay Garg and Young Professional from various States arrived to attend the B20 event, a part of the G20 Global Summit 2023. They were received at Rangpo Tourist Centre by SDM Rangpo, SDPO Rangpo and Deputy Director, Tourism Department.

Another batch of delegates from Bangladesh for the B20 event were welcomed at Rangpo Tourist Centre. The guests were Tourism Department Head and President of the International Business Club Mr. Prof. A. R. Khan, Deputy Managing Director of Human Resource Development Ms. Nazratum Nayeem, Chairman Mr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan and Managing Director and CEO of Brighton Fashion Valley Mr. Shofiqul Islam Kaijar.

Also, the guests from State were Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India Ms. Rupa Dutta, Senior Director CII Ms. Shalina Thapa, Welco Distillery Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Nilesh Kumar, Head Kick Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Digbijay Bhattacharjee, T.W.I. Group of Companies Dr. Uttam Singhal, CEO and founder Mr. Sushil Madala, Vice President, Izip Auto Pvt. Ltd. and Inno App India

## SMU to avail support from World Bank on NDP-2

**Gangtok, March 20:** The Animal Husbandry Veterinary Services Dept and Sikkim Co-operative Milk Producer's Union Ltd. is working to seek support under National Dairy Support Project (NDP-2). NDDDB is the National Nodal agency for the purpose and is currently preparing the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for the proposed National Dairy Support Project-2 (NDP-II). To support the project preparation process and inter alia inform the contours of the marketing strategies being conceptualized under the proposed project, the World Bank has contracted the services of the Indian Institute of Management-Lucknow (IIM-L) for undertaking a study to identify potential pathways to strengthen the marketing strategies. The study will be led by Professor, Agribusiness Management, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow Dr. Sanjeev Kapoor.

The team of World bank consultants consisting of Assistant Professor, Agribusiness Management, IIM-L Dr. Kushankur Dey, Researcher Mr. Shyam Kumar, Project Professional Mr. Tuna Rout are on a week-long visit to Sikkim Co-operative Milk Producer's Union Ltd. to study the

organisational details, its performance, structure and functioning of dairy cooperatives, financial performance, dairy farmers network, inputs related aspects, processing capabilities and marketing linkages., etc.,

A brain storming session on this was chaired by the Secretary Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Dept-cum Managing Director/Sikkim Milk Union Dr. P. Senthil Kumar, today. The session was attended by the world bank consultant teams, General manager and other officials of Sikkim Milk Union.

At the outset, the IIM-L team explained the back ground of National Dairy Plan and expressed that Sikkim has full potential to harness support under NDP II looking at the performance of Sikkim Co-operative Milk Producer's Union Ltd. and sought various information regarding the organisation and understood their function better in order to make their recommendation to the Government of India and world bank.

The meeting discussed on various aspects of milk procurement, processing and marketing and the available opportunity to improve upon the

reached Bagdogra airport on March 17. The delegates were received by Joint Secretary, Home Department Protocol Unit, Siliguri Mrs. Sharmishta Pradhan, Asst. Protocol Officer, Home Department, Protocol Unit, Siliguri Mrs. Ranjeeta Rai, officials and staff of Special Branch, Sikkim Police, Siliguri Unit, staff of Protocol Unit, Siliguri, SNT, TIC, DACS and STDC.

Also, Mr. Per Arne Wikstorm, Sweden, Ms. Katja Lasch, Germany, Ms. Guilia Fernanda, Italy, Mr. Chis Rachal, USA, Mr. Vikram Khurana, Canada, Mr. Stefan Moser, Switzerland, delegates from Oman, Mr. Qais Rashid Salim, Mr. Hamood Dawood, Mr. Nader Nasr, Mr. Faris Khamis, Mr. Maryam Hamed Ali, Mr. Quais Mohd. Yahya and various others dignitaries from G20 nations were received at Bagdogra Airport.

On the same day, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Mr. Som Parkash reached Bagdogra Airport. He is accompanied by IRS, PS to the Minister Mr. Abhishek Narang and PA to the Minister Mr. Harinder Preet Singh. He was received by Deputy Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department Mr. Hemant Khatiwara and officials from the Protocol Unit, Siliguri. He is visiting Sikkim for three days, from March 17-19, 2023 to attend the Startup 20 Sikkim Sabha and the Ecosystem and Immersion Startup Showcase Stall at MG Marg. Upon his arrival at Rangpo Tourist Centre, he was welcomed by State Protocol Officer Mr. P.T. Pulger, SDM Rangpo, SDPO Rangpo and representatives from Government departments.

existing levels and systems. The team also planned for field visit to Village Milk Producer's Co-operative Societies and processing plants.

Dr. P. Senthil Kumar in his interactive session expressed that Sikkim has an opportunity to develop organic milk production hub, which may be done in a selected clusters in the West Sikkim and aim for production of premium products, long shelf life products in order to extend the market within and outside the state and the country.

Consultation meeting suggested that the focus has to be in one selected cluster preferably in West Sikkim and all components be integrated that all input requirements are met in the cluster and sustainable input supplies such as feed, fodder be ensured for sustainable organic milk production in the selected cluster.

Officials from Government of India and World Bank expressed that Sikkim is a performing state in dairy sector and thus, it is selected among the North Eastern State for consideration under the NDP II and has all potential to make the NDP II a reality.

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## Sikkim hosts...

Secretariat for handholding and facilitating the B20 conference on "Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in Tourism, Hospitality, Pharmaceutical and Organic Farming," a theme that strongly resonates with what Sikkim stands for.

Highlighting the key sectors for potential investment partnerships in Sikkim, Chief Minister delved upon the State's Unique Selling Point of organic farming and stressed the need for value additions and processing facilities within the State and creating an organic niche in cardamom, ginger, turmeric, chillies, buckwheat, millets, tea and traditional medicinal herbs among others.

He said there is a dire need for green technology, market connectivity for marginal farmers, and building capacities among the new generation of farmers to train them on newer organic farming methods. There is a need for disciplinary institutions that deal with training research and experimentations, productivity enhancement processing, marketing, and making other sectors follow the organic culture, he added.

He sought support of the delegates in investing in these areas to consolidate and sustain organic farming and spread the concept of the initiative to other regions of India and abroad.

Speaking about the investment potential in the pharmaceutical sector of the State, he said that Sikkim has over 55 Pharmaceutical Units that represent some of the most widely known companies in India. He further shared that the State government plans to commercially establish horizontal and vertical integration of rich traditional medicinal systems with the global market. He added that investing in the naturopathy business and the international community.

He also threw light on climate change-related activities that include green energy, small and mini hydro projects, zero carbon ventures, IT and IT-enabled services, disaster forecast and management, climate change resistance agriculture, information and digital handling, among others that would not incur huge investments and could be mostly managed as micro, small and medium enterprises.

The Chief Minister also spoke on other areas of investments and business opportunities like waste management, food processing, handicraft and cottage industries, infrastructure, real estate, fashion designing, films, and textile designs.

He stated that Sikkim is a core constituent of the Nation that promotes the globalisation of locals, including indigenous knowledge, development practices, gender equality, community partnership, and zero carbon - climate conservation

experimentation.

"The globalization process has been just one way so far, localization of globals. We want to reverse this process", said the Chief Minister.

Earlier, the inaugural session commenced with the welcome remarks by Member, CII North East Council, Mr. Pradeep Purohit, followed by addresses delivered by Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission & Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Noor Rahman Sheikh, Joint Secretary (G20-11), G20 Secretariat, Mr. Ashish Kumar Sinha, and Principal Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ms. Rupa Dutta.

The session was also addressed by Chief Secretary Mr. V.B. Pathak, wherein he touched upon key areas of focus for multilateral business opportunities in the State of Sikkim.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Secretary, DIPR Ms. Namrata Thapa.

The Plenary Session commenced with the opening remarks by Secretary of Commerce and Industries Department, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo, wherein he gave an in-depth report on industrial development and investment opportunities in Sikkim.

Thereafter, ACS Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Mr. M.L. Srivastava, and General Secretary, Homestay Association of Sikkim, Mr. Pintso Gyatso touched upon the prominent potential of Sikkim to be a global tourism destination and urged for forging partnerships.

CEO, Sikkim Organic Farming Development Agency, Department of Agriculture, GoS, Dr. S. Anbalagan, gave a brief presentation on the organic farming scenario in the State.

Subsequently, Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations, India Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Dr. A.H. Khan, Group Vice President & Head - Corporate Affairs, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mr. Anurag Khera, Co-Founder, and Chief Executive Officer, Vedancure Healthcare LLP, Dr. Manuj Mittal, and Area Director - North East, Kathmandu, Bhutan & Darjeeling & General Manager - Vivanta Guwahati, The Indian Hotels Company Limited, Mr. Jayanta Das, gave presentations and shared their experiences about the prospects in the core sectors of pharmaceuticals, tourism and hospitality from an industry perspective.

After presentations on subjects related to core sectors, the representatives of the G20 countries were invited for remarks followed by an interactive session.

The session concluded with remarks by CII NEC Member Ms. Sradha Sharma.

## Winners of G20 ad-making competition

**Gangtok, March 15:** As per the entries invited from the media fraternity in Sikkim, to project their innovative and noble ideas and use imaginative skills for expressing their views about the G20 events to be held in the State, the media entities who have emerged the winners in two

separate categories are Audio-visual and Print.

In the Audio-Visual category, The Voice of Sikkim was declared winner followed by Summit Times and Hamro Varta in the first and second positions.

In the Print Category, Hamro Varta was declared winner,

followed by Himali Bela and Summit Times in first and second positions.

The entries in each category for Print and Digital medium, will receive a cash award of ₹50,000/- for first, ₹30,000/- and ₹20,000/- for second and third positions.

## Preparatory meeting on State-Level celebration of Baishaki Parva 2023 held

**Namchi, March 18:** A preliminary meeting regarding the State-Level celebration of Baishaki Parva, 2023 was held in Namchi, today.

The meeting was chaired by Advisor, Skill Development Department Mr. Satish Chandra Rai. Also present were Chairman, Buildings and Housing Department Mr. Tashi Dorjee Tamang, Namchi Sikkim Government Retired Employees Welfare Association President and Vice-President, General Secretary, officials of line departments and representatives of different organisation from Namchi district.

Advisor Mr. Satish Chandra

Rai spoke on the importance of the celebration of 'Baishaki Parva', which marks the beginning of a new year in the Bikram Sambat Calendar. To celebrate the occasion, the newly formed Namchi Sanskritik Mancha is set to organise a two-day State-level celebration under the banner 'Baishaki Parva, 2080 BS' from April 14-15 at Bhaichung Stadium.

He further said that the celebration will be organised in a grand manner showcasing the rich traditional and cultural spirit of different communities of Sikkim.

Chairperson (NMC) Mr. Ganesh Rai said that the festival

shall convey a distinct identity of our culture and shall highlight its various components. He requested the stakeholders to work in co-ordination to make the event successful.

President Mr. P.K. Rai briefed on the aim of Namchi Sanskritik Mancha and spoke on the role and responsibility of newly assigned committee members. Besides, he urged to assist in the promotion and preserving the culture and traditions of different communities of Sikkim.

## Mega Camp for Persons with Disabilities organised

**Soreng, March 15:** A Mega Camp was organised for the Identification, Screening, Assessment, UDID Enrolment and Aids and Appliance Distribution for Persons with Disabilities organised by the Women and Child Development Department in collaboration with Health and Family Welfare Department, Ujjyalo Project of Greater Lions Eye Hospital Siliguri and CRC (Composite Regional Centre) supported by DAC Soreng at Community Health Centre (CHC) Soreng, today.

The event was attended by Secretary Women and Child Development Department Mrs. Ganga D. Pradhan accompanied by DC Soreng Mr. Bhim Thatal, ADM Soreng, SDM Hq., SDM Soreng, Joint Commissioner Women and Child Development Department, BDOs, DDRC In charge and Team, UDID Coordinator (State), CRC

Sikkim and team, MOIC Soreng, Senior Welfare Officer, Medical Screening board expert team from Gyalshing District Hospital and officials from various line departments.

DC Soreng inspected the area and arranged facility for the beneficiaries to able applicants distribution during the camp. Kiosk for identification of Persons with disabilities in marking in the Electoral roll was also set up in the Camp area in order to ensure that such persons are provided necessary support at their respective polling Station during elections.

Dr. M.B. Chettri informed that the Women and Child Development Department is providing financial support to the Persons with Disabilities through CM State Disability Pension, which provides 1500 per month to

the persons who are 40 to 79 percent disabled and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension which provides ₹2000 per month for those who have 80 percent disabled above for age of 18 years and above. All disabled students are provided free special education upto 18 years. Home based education is provided by Special Educator, Resource Teachers supported by Disabilities Cell from Women and Child Development Department, CRC Sikkim and Ujjyalo Project. Follow up and review are conducted periodically of beneficiaries as required, he informed.

Aids and Appliance such as Disability Certificates were provided by the Medical Specialist team, UDID Enrollment, Aids and Appliance through CRC Sikkim, All eye health and disability related screening and necessary tool were provided by Ujjyalo Project.

## IIHR conducts training

**Namchi, March 18:** A training programme on varieties and technologies of ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Karnataka Bengaluru was conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Namchi district, today.

Principal Scientist (Agril. Extn.), Division of Social Sciences and Training, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru Dr. B. Balakrishna, Scientists, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru Dr. Chetan Kumar G. and Dr. N.R. Prasannakumar were the dignitaries present. Farmers from adopted villages of Ruchung and Chuba, Bermiok-Tokal FPO, Passi FPO, Dong FPO participated in the programme.

Senior Scientist and Head Mr. Indra Prasad Shivakoti highlighted the various varieties of ICAR-IIHR, which have been taken as On Farm Trials (OFTs) and Front-Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and their performance in the field.

Dr. B. Balakrishna on his Power Point Presentation gave a detailed information about the varieties of horticultural crops suitable for Sikkim and also the technologies developed by IIHR.

Dr. N.R. Prasannakumar presented on the integrated pest management technologies. Dr. Chetankumar, G. spoke about the various micronutrient products developed by IIHR, which are used

for vegetables and fruits.

A farmers-scientist interactive programme was held to address the problems faced by the farming community.

A felicitation programme was also held to acknowledge the immense contribution of Principal Scientist (Agril. Extn.) Dr. B. Balakrishna in implementing the NEH programme of ICAR-IIHR in Sikkim.

Distribution of vegetable seeds released by ICAR-IIHR, plant protectants, micro-nutrients etc. was made with brief instruction for judicious utilization of the inputs given.

## World Water Day observed

**Pakyong, March 17:** State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and Panchayati Raj in collaboration with event partner Wandering Souls of Sikkim, organised District-level programme for World Water Day at Rurban Community Complex, RDD, today.

The event commenced with a poem recitation by the students of Senior Secondary schools from Pakyong District on Community Participation in Rural Drinking Management. Simultaneously, slogan writing, singing and painting competitions were also the highlights of the event.

ADC (Dev.) Mr. Robin Sewa stated that the water scarcity is a universal crisis and urged the students to play a proactive role in disseminating

the message of conserving water resources to society. He further highlighted the techniques one can adopt to deal with water scarcity, including rainwater harvesting and water trenching methods in dry areas.

SDM (Hq.) Pakyong appreciated the participation of the students and teachers and underlined the importance of conserving water.

Deputy Director, Education Department, Pakyong, spoke about the plight of rivers and streams in the State, including a decrease in the volume of water due to various reasons, including human interference.

DPO Zilla Pakyong highlighted the importance of conserving water resources for the future.

## G20 delegates visit Rumtek Monastery

**Gangtok, March 19:** Delegates of Startup20 Sikkim Sabha visited Rumtek Monastery, today.

Secretary, Ecclesiastical Department, Mr. Passang D. Phempu, welcomed the delegates in the presence of ADM Gangtok, Additional Secretary Home Department, BDO Sang Martam, officials from Police, Home and Ecclesiastical Departments. Instructors and students from Karma Dharma Chakra School were also present.

On March 16, members of

B20 delegates after attending the inaugural and Plenary sessions at Chintan Bhawan, visited Rumtek Monastery.

Sr. Chanting Master Lama Ongay Hoser Rapden gave the delegation an overview of Rumtek Monastery and the Karma Kagyu Lineage.

Delegates also went to the Golden Stupa, which houses relics belonging to the 16<sup>th</sup> Karmapa. Later, the delegates also visited the Karma Shri Nalanda Institute for Advanced Buddhist Studies' academic building and museum.

## Inter-school Quiz Competition held

**Gangtok, March 18:** Inter-school Quiz Competition on the theme 'Awareness on G20 and its activities' was organised by the Education Department in collaboration with District Education Office, Gangtok at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College Auditorium, Tadong, today.

As Sikkim was chosen to host two important events as part of India's G20 Presidency, the Quiz was held to create awareness and develop knowledge among the students regarding the G20 Summit.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Ashis Sharma, Khangchendzonga State University, Sikkim, was the chief guest and attended by Director (Secondary Education) Education Department Mr. K.C. Gyatso.

Other dignitaries included Chief Education Officer, Gangtok, Additional Secretary (HE), Principal of NBBG College, Adm./NBBG College, Joint Director (Adm.)/Samagra Shiksha, officials and staff from the District Education Office, Gangtok along with teachers and students from various schools.

The CEO, Gangtok spoke about the importance of ongoing G20 Summit and extended her best wishes to the participating schools and the

Quiz team.

The Quiz Competition was conducted by the Quiz team from Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary School, Ranipool. A total of eight Senior Secondary Schools under Gangtok district participated in the competition comprised of three class 12 students representing their schools.

The chief guest congratulated all the participants and said that all individuals are unique and should learn to focus on self-development. He said along with IQ, one should be focusing on improvement of AQ (Adversity Quotient), ability of a person to deal with adversities in their life.

Tadong SSS represented by Md. Sahabaj Ali (XII-Sci.), Kiran Kumari (XII-Sci.) and Krrish Das Darjee (XII-Sci.) won the first position followed by West Point SSS represented by Gunjan Rai (XII-Hum.), Arpita Pandey (XII-Sci.) and Dil Hangma Limboo (XII-Hum.) on second position and Bojoghari SSS represented by Sonam Ongmu Lepcha (XII-Hum.), Anshu Thakur (XII-Hum.) and Zegdel Bhutia (XII-Com.) on third position, respectively.

The winners were awarded with cash prizes and all the participants were given Certificates of Participation.

## Mayor GMC inaugurates G20 Exhibition

**Gangtok, March 15:** Mayor GMC Mr. Nell Bahadur Chettri inaugurated the G20 Exhibition at MG Marg, today. The programme was organised by NABARD, Sikkim Regional Office in association with the Department of

Commerce and Industries.

The event had the presence of Secretary of Commerce and Industries Department Mr. Karma Bonpo, Director MSME, Additional Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Deputy

Secretary, officials from NABARD, GMC and Commerce and Industries Department.

The exhibition has been set to welcome G20 delegates to the State till March 19, 2023.

## Workshop on Saffron Cultivation organised

**Gangtok, March 15:** A two-day workshop on Saffron Cultivation in Sikkim, jointly organised by the Sikkim University, Horticulture Deptt. Govt. of Sikkim and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, UT, commenced at Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, today.

Governor Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya attended the programme as the chief guest in the presence of Minister for Agriculture Department Mr. L. N. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University, Prof. Abhinash Khare and Director, Agriculture Production, J&K, Mr. Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal.

Governor congratulated all concerned for the saffron cultivation in Sikkim and also acknowledged the role of Raj Bawan in the previous years. He assured support and cooperation for promoting saffron cultivation in Sikkim and also appreciated the determination of the Sikkimese farmers who have transformed Sikkim into Organic state.

He advised providing professional training to the youths for employment opportunities and encouraged all concerned to take responsibilities so that the framed objectives of the tripartite agreement can be achieved for the larger benefit of the farmers.

Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma expressed gratitude to the Governor for his guidance and cooperation particularly towards the saffron cultivation and farmers welfare. He stated that an initiative of introducing saffron in Sikkim is one of the important programmes of the State government under the leadership of the Chief Minister.

He also informed about the incentivised schemes like Mukhyamantri Krishi Aatma Nirbhar Yojana and Pashudhan Samridhi Yojana, envisioned by the Chief Minister and highlighted the benefits being received by the farmers.

Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University, Prof. Abhinash Khare briefed on the objectives of organising the workshop. He mentioned that Sikkim University

started research works on the possibilities of saffron cultivation in Sikkim from December 2020 and soon after the saffron mission was joined by the Horticulture Department, Govt. of Sikkim and Government of J&K, UT, the State made notable progress in saffron cultivation of Sikkim with the tripartite agreement signed on July 12, 2022 at Srinagar. He also acknowledged cooperation of the Governor, the Chief Minister and the concerned Minister-In-charge of Saffron cultivation.

Director Agriculture, J&K, UT Mr. Chowdhary Mohamad Iqbal also shared his experiences of working in coordination from J&K with Sikkim and the saffron growers in the field.

Prof. Shanti Swarup Sharma, SU and Prof. Shanti Swarup Sharma also made presentations on successful cultivation trails of saffron in Sikkim.

During the occasion, a booklet on saffron cultivation in Sikkim was also released.

## GDZP launches inter-Territorial Constituency Exchange Programme

**Gyalshing, March 18:** Zilla Panchayat Members of GDZP launched the inter-Territorial Constituency Exchange Programme, today.

During the recently held DPC it was decided that all 18 members would host the remaining 17 Zilla members at their respective TCs on day-long exposure visits on rotation basis, with the objective to allow Panchayats to get an insight into best practices in the TC being visited, in terms of farming, educational institutes, historic and heritage sites, best performing GPKs, implementation of mission mode programmes of the government etc.

Thus, a day-long visit was conducted to the Yuksom Territorial Constituency by Zilla Adhyaksha, DC-cum -Sachiva (GDZP), all other members of the 17 TCs, CMO Gyalshing, JD Education, DPO Zilla, Sr. AO Zilla, ACF (T), RO (KNP), Panchayat President and members of Yuksom Dubdi GPU.

The first visit was made to Khechoperi Bamboo House being run by a local artisan, Mr. Indrakari Subba, who makes products from locally available resources such as bamboo and wood. The team visited the showroom as well as the workshop of the Bamboo House.

DC Gyalshing briefed on the background and significance of the G20 Presidency being led by India as well as Sikkim's role in the ongoing activities pertaining to the B20 & Startup20 in Gangtok. While displaying the two products of Khechoperi Bamboo House chosen for the G20 events, she further explained that it was indeed a very proud moment for the district.

The next visit was made to the Khangchendzonga Falls wherein, a local entrepreneur displayed the Zip Line adventure sport. Zilla members also took part in the recreational sport.

Further, a visit was made to the herbal garden, Yuksam, belonging to Mr. Mangal Bir Limboo where cultivation of saffron, various kinds of herbs, organic plants, etc is being done.

Thereafter, the team visited the Kiwi orchard of Mr. Buddha Hang Limboo. A detailed inspection was made of the orchards wherein the proprietor physically demonstrated how kiwi farming was done as a prospective business model.

The team then visited the Khangchendzonga National Park Interpretation Centre, where they were given a brief by BO KNP Mr. Palchen Thinley on various aspects of KNP flora-fauna, glacial scenario, climate change in modern times etc.

The next visit was conducted at Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) of Yuksom GPU, which is one of the finest operational model of waste management in the state. The team was shown various aspects of resource recovery such as source segregation, recycling, packing, tie-up with rag pickers, composting through vermicompost. The entire process was demonstrated in detail by Incharge of the RRC, Yuksom GPU.

Likewise, the DC also interacted with the students and explained about the significance of B20 & Startup20 in the context of Sikkim, while also informing them that Sikkim was the only state in the North East, chosen to conduct two activities under

the G20. The DC also inspected the class rooms, toilets of students and school building. A hands-on activity was also done with the Zilla members on VIDYA PRAVESH - a programme recently introduced in schools for creating an enabling learning environment for young children particularly that of Class I.

Also, the implementation of 'Mero Rukh Mero Santati' was done in the district at the Kathok Tso (Lake) premises. DC Gyalshing explained to the Zilla members that the unique programme launched by the Chief Minister had the underlying aim to foster a rich environment wherein, the parents of every new-born child, supported by Health and Forest Departments, would plant a hundred saplings in the child's name.

The DC along with Chief Medical Officer counselled the parents on how it was equally the duty of the child's family to also help the Forest Deptt. nurture the saplings to full grown trees.

A visit was also made to the PHC, Yuksom where the DC inspected wards, laboratories, different sections and interacted with the MO, Technical Officer and staff. The team then visited the Yuksam-Dubdi Gram Prashasan Kendra where the Panchayat members accorded them a warm welcome followed by a tour of the infrastructure created under RG Seva Kendra as also the GPU's OSR and the Recycling Paper Unit. Thereafter, the team visited the upcoming Veterinary Centre-cum-Wildlife Rescue Centre.

The team also visit the newly constructed road measuring 2.5 kms connecting Yuksom to Ramgaythang village.

## Grand Gala dinner for G20 delegates

**Gangtok, March 18:** A grand gala dinner was organised by Culture Department with the theme 'Sanskritik Safar', a mystical voyage to the hidden paradise, in honour of the delegates who are in Sikkim to attend Startup20 Sikkim Sabha.

The function had the presence of Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Mr. Som Parkash and Startup20 Sikkim Sabha dignitaries along with officials from various line departments.

The programme showcased a rich array of Sikkimese culture and tradition through various folk dances and musical performances presented for the guests.

## Minister Labour chairs meeting at CIPLA

**Pakyong, March 17:** Minister for Labour Department Mr. L.N. Sharma along with Chairperson Labour Department Mrs. Ganga Parsain and the concerned Secretary Mr. Karma Namgyal Bhutia chaired a meeting at CIPLA, Kumrek, Rangpo, today.

Minister Mr. L.N. Sharma examined about the facilities being provided to the employees and the

Honouring the celebration of the year of Millet, gourmet delights including treats made of millet and other wide range of flavours found in Sikkim was also served for guests.

On March 16, a grand gala dinner to welcome the G20 delegates was held at a local hotel in Gangtok.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang presented gifts to the delegates followed by the screening of short documentary film on Sikkimese culture and history by Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

The programme continued with cultural performances, featuring folk songs and dances by various ethnic communities of Sikkim.

benefits being provided at par with the issued guidelines.

He interacted with the officials and discussed about various aspects like medical treatment, management of workforce, professionalism practices, skilling up labourers etc. in detail. Later, the minister also visited the manufacturing unit.

## Foundational Literacy and Numeracy training held

**Gangtok, March 17:** The second leg of the training programme on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy began at SCERT Auditorium in Gangtok, today.

The programme was attended by Minister for Education Department Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha along with Director SCERT Dr. Rabin Chettri, Director School Education Mr. K. C. Gyatso, CEO Gangtok Mrs. Tseringkee Chingapa and officials.

Minister Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha highlighted that the focus of the State government has always been on education and that it is committed in making NIPUN Bharat Sikkim Mission successful. He said that

foundational literacy and numeracy is to ensure that every child is able to achieve the desired learning competencies. He expressed his desire to visit as many schools and provide necessary support for quality education. He also acknowledged roles of institutions like SCERT, DIET, Resource persons from Azim Premji University and Kids World Education Consultants for Jolly Phonics to bring about quality education in Sikkim.

Director SCERT apprised about NIPUN Bharat and its implemented in the state, through various training programmes for teachers on FLN and Vidya Pravesh.

## Sensitisation programme on rice fortification

**Gyalshing, March 17:** In a series of extensive IEC awareness campaigns on rice fortification, a day-long sensitisation programme was held at Tingling food godown, Gyalshing, today.

The programme was attended by Panchayat President Thingling GPU Mr. Kumar Basnett as chief guest and participated by Panchayats, Anganwadis, students, beneficiaries, fair price owners and food officials. The series of sensitisation activities is being undertaken by the Food and Civil Supplies department of Gyalshing district to ensure the understanding on fortified rice and

role and health benefits of micro nutrients, namely, iron, folic acid and B12 present in fortified rice among the consumers and for massive awareness of IEC campaign.

The gathering was also made familiar with fortified rice in its nature and care to be taken while rinsing. Interactive sessions were also conducted.

Furthermore, a quiz competition was held specially for the students on various issues associated with the fortified rice. The winners were given prizes by the chief guest.

**KEEP SIKKIM  
CLEAN AND GREEN**

## Governor attends workshop on Himalaya call for Action

**Gangtok, March 17:** Governor Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya attended workshop on Himalaya call for Action: 'Scooping Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Networking', today.

The three-day regional workshop is being organised by the Sikkim Regional Centre of Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE) Pangthang, Gangtok in collaboration with Assam University, Tripura University, Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology and Department of Science and Technology Government of Sikkim from March 16-18, 2023.

The programme was attended by Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee, GBPNIHE; Strategic Advisor ATREE; Policy Advisor, ICIMOD Dr. Eklabya Sharma as special guest and Secretary, Department Science & Technology Mr. B.P. Pradhan, Secretary-cum-APCCF, Forest and Environment Department Mr. Pradeep Kumar.

The theme for the second day was Scoping regional cooperation for Indian Himalayan Region Assessment, Knowledge networking and consortium-based research.

Earlier, the Governor inaugurated the Orchidarium developed by Sikkim Regional Center. The Orchadum is located

at the premises of Sikkim Regional Center of Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and has preserved 115 species of orchids found in Sikkim and the collection leads to 18% of the orchid diversity available in the State. The species will be available for future research work and display to various stakeholders.

The Governor emphasised on the importance of the Himalayas in saving our environment. Indian Himalayan region is struggling on multiple environmental issues due to rampant urbanisation, ecological degradation, tourism and hydropower projects and indiscriminate exploitation of mountains, in the name of development, is continuously weakening the mountains and inviting natural calamities, he added. He stated that there is a need to develop new paradigms of long-term conservation and sustainable development with an ecological balance that helps in the economic interest of nation as a whole. Furthermore, he added that there is a need to promote collaboration and networking among institutions, policymakers and experts to redefine the priorities of the sector.

Scientist and Regional Head, Sikkim Regional Center, GBPNIHE Dr. Rajesh Joshi outlined that the programme is based on interdisciplinary study through

various institutions in the Himalayas that might help for sustainable development of the Himalayas. He also gave details of the research done by the institute in the last few years.

Keynote speaker of the programme, Dr. Eklabya Sharma, emphasised on the importance of assessing the Himalayas and said that regional collaboration is imperative to create knowledge sharing and networking among various institutions in the Indian Himalayas through consortium-based research and knowledge networking.

Later, the Governor also released a book prepared by the Institute named, Innovative Interventions and Inspiring Stories from Kanchenjunga Landscape.

Students from Sikkim University, SRM University, Central Agricultural University and other government and non-government institutions like Botanical Survey of India, Geological Survey of India, Atri, Disha, KCC, and TMI were present. More than 90 experts, professors and research students from various universities in the North Eastern States including Scientists, technical officers, research scholars and other staff members of Sikkim Regional Centre were also in attendance.

## Chief Minister visits G20 Exhibition stalls

**Gangtok, March 15:** Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang visited the G20 Exhibition stalls set up at MG Marg, today.

He was accompanied by Minister for DIPR Mr. B.S. Panth, Mayor GMC, Executive Councillor, MG Marg, Special Secretary, Urban Development Department, Assistant Collector Gangtok, Director MSME, and officials of the allied departments.

The Chief Minister visited the stalls and interacted with the participants.

SHGs from Poklok Kamrang, Dentam, Upper Dzongu, Namchi, Kabi, Chuba, Rinchenpong and Panihouse have set up their stalls for the exhibition.

The exhibition has stalls of TAAS Himalayan Oxygen, Sikkim Supreme, Be-Studio, Bodylicious, Easthelier, Cooperation

Department, NABARD, Spice Board (Government of India), NE Origins, Agriculture Department, Commerce and Industries Department, Tourism Department, SIMFED, State Rural Livelihood Mission etc.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited the stall of Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom at SPSC building, Gangtok.

## Startup20 Sikkim Sabha concludes

**Gangtok, March 19:** The two-day Startup20 Sikkim Sabha concluded at the Conference Hall of Chintan Bhawan, today.

Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission & Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, Government of India, Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, also the Chairperson of Startup20, said that the task force members of the Startup20 Engagement Group must start working determinedly to form the official policy communique, with only over 100 days left for the final recommendations to be taken up to the G20 Presidency at the G20 Summit. He also informed that the International Taskforce Chairs and Council Members of Startup20 would soon be announced.

Dr. Vaishnav sought support from all countries and taskforces for reaching out and engaging more stakeholders who

strongly represent the startup ecosystem of their respective regions. He urged all to amplify the Startup20 message extensively through social media and other mediums to spread awareness for maximum participation.

He said that efforts would be made to crack the virtual format for holding the upcoming Startup20 meetings so that international members and participants can join the global communication in the same virtual room without the hassle of traveling long distances.

He also stressed the need to form linkages within and without Startup20 to address global challenges and strengthen the startup ecosystem. He called for inclusive and diverse participation from the Startup20 task forces and said, 'The Startup20 is your engagement group. Make it yours!'

He thanked all for their active

participation in the event and expressed confidence that the key deliverables under the Startup20 taskforces of foundation, alliance, finance, sustainability, and inclusion would be met to unify and harmonise the global startup ecosystem.

Earlier, an elaborate task debriefing session was held wherein, the Chairperson of each task force under Startup20 Engagement Group presented their narrative for recognising and addressing essential issues in the startup ecosystem.

The conclusion of the Startup20 Sikkim Sabha also culminates the G20 events in the capital that had commenced with the Business20 (B20) meeting on March 16. Delegates from over 26 countries participated in the two programmes organised as part of India's G20 presidency.

## Press conference on turn-out of B20 session

**Gangtok, March 16:** Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang convened a press conference concerning the turn-out of the B20 session, organised as a part of G20 Summit in Sikkim at Chintan Bhawan, today.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister Mr. B.S. Panth, Chief Secretary, Mr. V.B. Pathak, DIPR Secretary Ms. Namrata Thapa, Agriculture Secretary Mr. J.D. Bhutia, Commerce & Industries Secretary, Mr. Karma R. Bonpo, ACS Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. M.L. Srivastava, CEO Sikkim Organic Farming Development Agency, Dr. S. Anbalagan and representative of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Brigadier Ashis Bhattacharyya.

The Chief Minister congratulated the CII and team for the successful facilitation of the B20 conference on 'Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in Tourism, Hospitality, Pharmaceutical and Organic Farming' and extended gratitude to the press and media fraternity for providing wide publicity of the event. He remarked that Sikkim has received positive responses from foreign delegates who participated in the B20 session held as part of the G20 Summit.

He said that positive deliberations of the Conference have raised the investment prospects for the State, with investors showing interest in investing of around Rs 1000 crores in Sikkim in various sectors. He stated that the State government would immediately start efficiently implementing investor-friendly policies that would benefit the State stakeholders and the investors.

He further conveyed that the B20 delegates were deeply impressed by the hospitality of the people of Sikkim and shared their thoughts of visiting the State again to foster global connection and build up the confidence of further cooperation. He expressed confidence that the overwhelming interest of the investors in Sikkim shall be very fruitful for the State in the long run.

Chief Secretary informed that twelve G20 nations participated in the B20 summit held at Chintan Bhawan on 16 March, with one guest G20 country and nine other guest countries.

Among the delegates were four Ambassadors, four Deputy Head of Missions and two Council Generals. A total of 43 delegates were present along with 50 Indian business and multilateral organisations and over 100 participants representing the State government, Pharmaceuticals and entrepreneurs, he added.

He said that the State has

received high interest from investors in investing over 1000 crore in sectors like IT & ITeS, infrastructure, renewable energy, microbrewery, skill development, education, agri-processing, organic farming, forest products, hospitality sector and others. The investors include major organisations like In Tandem Global Consulting, iZIP Autos Private Limited, Welco Distillery Private Limited and STC Overseas Education, among others.

He informed that Costa Rica, with 95% dependency on hydropower, has shown interest in collaborating with Sikkim. While Norway has indicated interest in small hydro and tunnelling activities in Sikkim with disaster mitigation efforts, and Sweden has expressed interest in supporting the education sector of the State.

Likewise, UAE has shown interest in promoting Renewable City in Gangtok, with Iceland backing the same idea with slope stabilisation proposal, he informed.

He further informed that the World Bank will invest in village infrastructure to connect the Siliguri corridor with better infrastructure with regard to Sikkim, majorly focusing on road development and alternative modes of transportation. He said that the neighbouring countries of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh have shown keen interest in international air connectivity with Pakyong and Bagdogra.

Secretary, Agriculture Department, informed that Switzerland has shown keen interest in the organic products of Sikkim owing to its huge market potential in Europe and US. He added that residual content testing labs would be set up across the six districts of the State to ensure that products match the quality standards of these markets. He further stated that there is a need to increase the volume of organic production to meet export demand.

CII representative Brigadier Ashis Bhattacharyya thanked the State government for the support and coordination extended for the successful completion of the B20 event. He shared his pleasant experience of the unique State of Sikkim and commended the grandeur and hospitality of the people of Sikkim.

It may be mentioned here Sikkim will host the second meeting of the Startup20 Engagement group, newly formed under India's G20 Presidency, on March 18 and 19, 2023. The Conference will have delegates from G20 members and invitee countries, representatives from multilateral organisations, and stakeholders from the Indian startup ecosystem and local startups.

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