

Manoj to represent Sikkim in u-23 Athletics Championship



SE Report

GANGTOK, October 16: The Sikkim Athletics Association (SAA) has extended its heartfelt best wishes to Manoj Kami, a talented athlete from Sikkim, who will be representing the State in the 1500m race at the 5th Open Under-23 Athletics Championship.

The championship is scheduled to be held in Warangal, Telangana from October 16 to 18, and is an annual event organized by the Athletic Federation of India.

Manoj Kami's selection to compete in this prestigious event is a reflection of his dedication, perseverance, and outstanding performance in middle-distance running, said the SAA in a press statement. "The association is confident that he will give his best and make Sikkim proud on this national platform. We encourage all sports enthusiasts and the people of Sikkim to support Manoj as he competes against some of the finest young athletes from across the country. We wish him all the very best for a strong and successful performance," said the SAA.

NFR expands 'One Station One Product' coverage to 112 stations



SE Report

GANGTOK, October 16: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved significant progress under the Ministry of Railways 'One Station One Product' (OSOP) initiative, which aims to promote local artisans and entrepreneurs by providing them a platform to showcase and sell their indigenous products at railway stations.

As of October 2025, a total of 112 stations under NFR have operational OSOP outlets, covering 135 functional units, a NFR release informs.

Under this initiative, the Alipurdar Division has made 12 stations operational, Katihar Division 23, Lumding Division 32, Rangiya Division 20 and Tinsukia Division 25. In terms of geographical spread, OSOP outlets are now operational at 71 stations in Assam, 26 in West Bengal, 8 in Bihar, 4 in Tripura, 2 in Arunachal Pradesh and 1 in Nagaland. This initiative has provided a major boost to local crafts, traditional products and self-employment opportunities across the Northeast region, in line with the vision of 'Vocal for Local'.

In addition to OSOP, NFR is also implementing the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) scheme to ensure the availability of quality generic medicines at affordable prices to passengers and local citizens. There are five currently functional PMBJK units at Katihar, Badarpur, Agartala, New Tinsukia and New Coochbehar.

These initiatives underscore Northeast Frontier Railway's continued commitment to social welfare, economic empowerment, and passenger convenience, while simultaneously promoting the traditional crafts and livelihood of local communities across the region, the NFR release states.

ICFAI University Sikkim holds its 18th Convocation

SE Report

GANGTOK, October 16: ICFAI University, Sikkim held its 18th Convocation ceremony at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok on Wednesday which was presided over by Prof. O. R. S. Rao, Chancellor of the university.

Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Education minister Raju Basnet and Forest minister Pinsto Namgyal Lepcha attended as the guests of honour while Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India, joined as the distinguished guest of honour.

Degrees were conferred upon graduating students from Management, Law, Information Technology, and Liberal Arts, Tourism & Hospitality. Gold and silver medals were presented to the top performers in recognition of their academic excellence by the chief guest and guests of honour.

Dr. Hemanta Kumar Panda, Pro-Vice-Chancellor presented the names of the students to the chief guest for the

convenience of awards, a press release informs.

Dr Jagannath Patnaik, Vice Chancellor, in his convocation address, highlighted the university's remarkable journey and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to research, innovation, employability, and community engagement. He emphasized the institution's role in shaping not just skilled professionals but responsible citizens who would contribute meaningfully to society.

The Vice-Chancellor applauded the graduating class for their perseverance and achievements, encouraging them to embrace lifelong learning and remain adaptable in an ever-evolving world. He expressed pride in the university's growing reputation as a center of academic excellence in the Northeast and urged the graduates to carry forward the values of integrity, innovation, and social responsibility as they embark on their professional journeys.

Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim in his address, congratulated the graduates and

urged that the purpose of education is to gain knowledge which leads to emancipation, otherwise it will have no meaning at all. He beseeched all students to follow this as a motto while they proceed to receive education from this university and progress in life.

Justice D. Y. Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India, delivered the inspiring convocation address as the distinguished guest of honour. He emphasized the transformative power of education and urged the graduates to become agents of positive change in society. He spoke about the importance of constitutional values, the rule of law, and the need for young professionals to uphold justice and equality in their respective fields.

Justice Chandrachud encouraged the graduating class to remain curious, embrace diversity, and develop empathy as they navigate their professional careers. He highlighted that true success lies not merely in personal achievements but in contributing to the welfare of society and protecting the rights of the



marginalized. His words resonated deeply with the audience as he reminded the graduates that education carries with it the responsibility to serve the nation with dedication and integrity, the release mentions.

Minister Pinsto Namgyal Lepcha lauded the university's role in nurturing talent and advancing the higher-education ecosystem in Sikkim.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Hemanta Kumar Panda, the Registrar, Dean, heads of departments, faculty,

students, alumni, and invited guests, who joined in celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2025.

The Registrar proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the dignitaries, faculty, students, parents, and partners for their support. The ceremony concluded with the National Anthem and a group photograph capturing the pride of the graduating cohort and their mentors.

Honorary doctorates were conferred upon Justice Biswanath Somadder, Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim (Doctor of Philosophy); Justice D. Y. Chandrachud,

former Chief Justice of India (Doctor of Laws); Dr. Saumitra Rawat, Padma Shri, chairman & head, Institute of Surgical Gastroenterology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (Doctor of Science); and Souvagya Kumar Mohapatra, managing director, Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts (Doctor of Philosophy). In addition, the ICFAI Fellowship was conferred upon Ashwani Lochan, chairman, World Education Mission, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education and social development.

The university presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to C. M. Ravindran, former

Director General of Police, Govt. of Sikkim; Kedar Nath Gurung, Padma Shri Awardee; Jas Lal Pradhan, Arjuna Awardee and Olympian; Alok Kumar Gupta, deputy director, Capacity Building Cell, NIOS; Guru Tshering Ladakhi, CEO, Entel Motors Pvt. Ltd., Sikkim; and Tirupati Panigrahi, chairman, Hi-Tech Group of Institutions (HGI). The Young Entrepreneur Award was presented to Rinzing Choden Bhutia of Agapi Sustainable Skincare, while the Industry Innovation Award was conferred upon 241 BREWHOUSE, Sikkim's first craft brewery, the release mentions.

Sikkim's Nawang Gyatso represents India at 1st Bhutan Butterfly Meet

SE Report

GANGTOK, October 16: The Kingdom of Bhutan successfully concluded the first edition of the Bhutan Butterfly Meet, organized with the support of the Department of Tourism. The event marked a milestone in regional collaboration for biodiversity conservation, bringing together experts and enthusiasts from Sikkim, West Bengal, South India, Arunachal Pradesh, and Bhutan.

Representing Sikkim, the president of Butterfly and Moths of Sikkim Nature Conservation Society (BAMOS NCS), Nawang Gyatso Bhutia, actively participated in the event, contributing his vast knowledge and experience in butterfly studies, a press

release informs.

Around 200 butterfly species were recorded during the meet, including rare and remarkable ones such as Capila zennara (Pale Striped Dawnfly), Cyrestis coeles (Marbled Map), Araotes lapithis (Witch), Helecyra hemina (White Emperor), and Thaumantis diores (Jungle Glory) - which emerged as the main attraction of the event.

The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from field researchers, students, wildlife photographers, tour guides, operators, and butterfly enthusiasts from both India and Bhutan. It fostered valuable cross-border knowledge exchange, strengthened community engagement, raised awareness about butterfly conservation, and promoted eco-tourism in



the Eastern Himalayas.

Participants shared insights on butterfly identification, host plant relationships, life cycles,

moth identification, and butterfly photography, emphasizing the importance of protecting the region's Lepidoptera diversity.

"Heartfelt gratitude was extended to Tshulthrim Wildlifer, founder of the Butterfly Society of Bhutan, for his leadership and



initiative in organizing this successful event. Appreciation was also conveyed to the Department of Tourism, Bhutan, and supporting organizations including RSPN Bhutan, WWF Bhutan, Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation, Bhutan Ecological Society, Bhutan For

Life, and Bhutan Birdlife Society (BBLs) for their collaboration and support," the release states.

Special thanks were also extended to Sikkim Tourism minister Tshering T. Bhutia and GMC deputy Mayor Tshering Palden Bhutia for their support.

In honour of self-defence

SUDIPTACHANDA

SILIGURI, October 16: This is a serious discussion the society might like to participate in.

And, we begin with a crucial question.

Are substances like Tasers, pepper spray or other aerosol self-defence sprays becoming essential for women in India?

The question is relevant given the rising number of rape cases in the country.

And, it has sprung up after some BJP workers sought to distribute red chilli powder among women in Kolkata earlier this week following the defiling of yet another female medical student in the city.

One understands that the BJP was trying to make a political statement by distributing chilli powder.

But, the fact remains that the horrendous incident has happened tossing up question marks against the law and order situation in Bengal.

The victim, a resident of Odhisa and a medical student of a private institution is in medical care for recovery.

The police have arrested several persons in connection with the crime. It is for the courts to now judge the matter and punish those guilty of the heinous crime.

Following the incident, chief minister Mamata Banerjee stated that girls, if avoidable, should not venture out of their institutions or homes at night.

The statement generated criticism from certain sections of the society although why is difficult to understand.

The chief minister stated what she did as any average guardian would or in reality does for their ward.

One might agree or disagree with Mamata's brand of politics. But, confusing a well meaning advice as regressive mindset is probably overkill.

True, women these days run societies as efficiently as

any man does. So, they have to go out as and when required – night or day.

But, the fact also remains that they are still the most vulnerable section of society in any country.

And that is where came the chief minister's advice as would any other guardian's.

Anyway, the incident and its follow up have tossed up the vital question if women need to arm themselves from now on with non-lethal weapons for self-defence.

In some Western countries women can legally carry a handheld device called 'Taser', which in effect is an electric stun gun.

It is non-lethal.

When fired, it stuns a human and allows a potential victim to escape a possible dangerous situation.

But, 'Tasers' are not allowed in India and prohibited under the Arms Act.

'Mace', which is an aerosol self-defence spray, has been popular in the West as well since the 60s.

Traditional 'Mace' uses

tear-gas compounds. So when sprayed on a person it causes effects akin to what tear gas shells do – cause burning sensation to the eyes, nose and throat that is.

It is unknown if women in India can legally carry the brand.

But, they can legally carry pepper spray, which is a non-lethal self-defence weapon containing concentrated chemical compound derived from chilli peppers.

When sprayed, it causes temporary blindness, difficulty in breathing and intense burning sensation, incapacitating the attacker momentarily, thus allowing the victim to escape or seek help.

Certain regulations and considerations, however, must be observed in carrying the spray.

The legality of pepper spray in India illustrates that individuals have the right to protect themselves against predators to safeguard life or modesty.

Self-defence is a fundamental right and that is the bottom line.

So, let the discussion begin.

Sports department organises table tennis championship

GANGTOK, October 16

(IPR): As part of the golden jubilee of Statehood celebration, Sports and Youth Affairs department organised a two-day State-level table tennis championship at indoor hall of Paljor Stadium, Gangtok today.

The championship had under-16 girls' and boys' events participated by players from Namchi, Pakyong, Gangtok and Soreng districts.

The inaugural ceremony had SIMFED chairman Tenzing Dorjee Bhutia as the chief guest and State Sports Development Board chairman Rinzing Wangyal Chopel Bhutia as the guest of honour. Also in attendance were Sports and Youth Affairs secretary Yangchen D. Tamang, Sports and Youth Affairs chief engineer Milan Pradhan, Table Tennis Club of Sikkim president Karma Bhutia and officials of the Sports department.





HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Ref. No.: 42/HCS


N-O-T-I-C-E

Date.: 16.10.2025

It is hereby informed to all concerned that the accepted and rejected list of candidates who have applied for the three (03) vacant posts of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (Grade-III) in the cadre of Sikkim Judicial Service (2025) as per the advertisement dated 08.09.2025, is uploaded in the official website of the High Court of Sikkim viz., www.hcs.gov.in

By Order,
sd/-
REGISTRAR
(Judicial Service)

R.O. No.: 271/IPR/PUB/Classi/25-26
Date: 16.10.2025



HIGH COURT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Ref. No.: 43/HCS

Date.: 16.10.2025

N-O-T-I-C-E

The written examination for the three (03) vacant posts of Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate (Grade-III) in the cadre of Sikkim Judicial Service(2025) advertised vide Employment Notice dated 08.09.2025 will be held in the premises of the Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang, Gangtok as per the following schedule:

DATE	SUBJECT	TIME
07.11.2025	Paper –I (Procedural Laws, Local Laws & Language Test)	10.00 a.m to 01.00 p.m
	Paper –II (Substantive Laws and Constitutional Law)	02.00 p.m to 05.00 p.m

➤ Candidates shall collect their Admit Cards from the Office of the Registrar (Judicial Service), High Court of Sikkim, during office hours from 20.10.2025 onwards.

➤ Candidates must reach the examination centre at least half an hour prior to the scheduled time.

By Order,
sd/-
REGISTRAR
(Judicial Service)

R.O. No.: 271/IPR/PUB/Classi/25-26
Date: 16.10.2025