

# State meet for monsoon preparedness in Sikkim

## SE Report

**GANGTOK, June 25:** Land Revenue & Disaster Management minister K.N. Lepcha on Wednesday chaired a State-level meeting on monsoon preparedness held at Tashiling Secretariat here.

The meeting was held to review the arrangements and precautionary measures being taken by various stakeholders in combating the threats and challenges posed by the monsoon season in the State, informs an IPR release.

Chief secretary S.C. Gupta co-chaired the meeting also attended by Land Revenue & Disaster Management secretary P.N. Sherpa, SSDMA special secretary C.K. Chettri, SSDMA director G.C. Khanal, nodal officers from various departments and representatives of Sikkim Police, Armed Forces, Central agencies, telecommunications and NGOs.

During the meeting, representatives and the

stakeholders presented their reports regarding the preparedness in their concerned fields and also placed forward various requirements needed to tackle natural disasters that are likely to be triggered during the monsoon season in Sikkim.

In his address, the Land Revenue & Disaster Management minister expressed that the high attendance of participants from all line departments and the stakeholders indicates their concern to mitigate any possible form of disaster. He further mentioned that in Sikkim, extensive rainfall occurs during the month of June till September which leads to disasters like landslides and flash floods and to lessen the extent of damaged caused, the inputs of the meeting plays a valuable role.

Lepcha suggested that proper dissemination of information is essential through various mediums of



media to spread awareness to the general public and communities to remain vigilant in any disaster. He also advised to have close co-ordination amongst the departments and stakeholders to avert any calamities during the monsoon.

The minister further suggested for better telecommunication system for disaster communication amongst the stakeholders in

mitigating and countering the disasters of any extent. He advised the concerned departments to respond immediately to manage disasters promptly and effectively.

The minister also mentioned about the community radio which has been recently sanctioned by the HRD ministry aimed at imparting education while adding that the community radio system can be used to

cater to the needs of the community during the times of disaster.

In his brief address, the chief secretary commended the efforts of the various departments and stakeholders undertaken to combat any calamities during the monsoon season. He directed the concerned officials to ensure that all the necessary equipment are in place and order and urged for positioning first responders

and trained workforce at landslide and other disaster prone areas at the earliest.

Gutpa called for a one-on-one communication system among all the concerned departments and stakeholders so that there is no delay in the response time during the time of emergencies. He requested all to work in coordination to have proper precautions in place along with a succinct disaster recovery plan, the IPR release mentions.