

February and March months. Now we must also be alert and ensure that we adopt all the Covid protocols. We appeal the people to cooperate with the government," said the

dependent on only one national highway which has become inadequate in comparison to rising number of vehicles moving along the route, said Golay. The national highway

added. "I placed the demand for an alternative highway wherein a shorter route of 70 km can be created via Kalijhora-Kalimpong-Lava-Munsong. Sikkim is a border State and an

south district to Singtam of east district within the State's territory bypassing the need to travel along the national highway stretches of Mell and Rangpo of West Bengal. Golay said the Union

will be chairing a high level meeting on April 10 with all the departmental heads to prepare a road map for the minister gave a positive respond to both the demands

## Forest fire contained in Namchi

NAMO DIXIT

**NAMCHI, April 9:** A major forest fire at Bhanjyang road near Namchi town on Friday was brought under control due to hard work by Namchi Fire Station and timely rainfall.

The forest fire was reported at around 1 pm. It had started from the base of Salleybong cliff and moved uphill towards the View Point gutting a green house in the process.

A Fire team was stationed at the View Point to stop the extension of the fire towards Seven Hills area and Pakringaon. The other team



Fire fighters working to prevent the bush fire from reaching the road level. SE Pic

fought the fire below road level to prevent it from expanding to Upper Salleybong. The fire covered around 15-20 hectares

of the forest area along the cliff. Timely rainfall helped the fire fighters to control the forest fire after four hours. The fire

fighting operation was assisted by Namchi police station, DPO (South) and team and local villagers.

## Counselling, allotment of seats for 55 students under CMMSS

**GANGTOK, April 9 (IPR):** Counselling-cum-allotment of seats under Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme (CMMSS) organised by Education department was held at Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School today.

officials from Education department, school heads, teachers from different schools of the State, selected students under Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme and their parents and guardians. In his address, the



## Stakeholders non-Covid c

SE Report

**GANGTOK, April 9:** Tourism stakeholders of Sikkim on Friday recorded their anguish before Tourism minister B.S. Panth over the non-Covid certificate requirement for tourists visiting the State.

The State government has made it mandatory for tourists visiting Sikkim to have a Covid negative RTPCR certificate (72 hours prior to arrival) or undertake a similar test immediately upon their arrival in the State. The decision was implemented from April 7 which was strongly contested by the tourism stakeholders due to negative implications for the tourism sector.

Following this, a meeting of the tourism stakeholders associations and Tourism officials was held at Paryatan Bhawan here which was chaired by Tourism B.S. Panth. An official release informs that the meeting was on Covid-19 preparedness and to tackle the