

Better Urban Planning Proposed through launch of NAKSHA

Date: 18-Feb-2025

The Department of Land Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Sikkim, held a state-level event today to launch the NAKSHA project at the GMC hall in Deorali. Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa, MLA cum Advisor for Urban Development and Food & Civil Supplies Departments, Government of Sikkim, served as the Chief Guest for the program. The event was attended by Mr NB Chettri, Mayor of Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Councillors, Mr Hem Kumar Chettri, Special Secretary and State Nodal Officer, Mr Tushar G Nikhare, District Collector of Gangtok, Mr Uday Prasad, Director of the Survey of India (West Bengal/Sikkim), and Mr RB Bhandari, Municipal Commissioner of Gangtok Municipal Corporation. Additionally, officials and staff members from the Land Revenue Department and Gangtok Municipal Corporation were present at the occasion. In his address, the chief guest, Mr Delay Namgyal Barfungpa, expressed his gratitude to the Department for extending an invitation to participate in this significant program. He conveyed his enthusiasm regarding the launch of NAKSHA, characterizing it as a crucial initiative for the state of Sikkim. NAKSHA presents an opportunity for the residents of Sikkim to update their essential land records, as the state continues to operate on outdated land survey documents that require thorough review. Mr Barfungpa emphasised the importance of accountability among officials in fulfilling their responsibilities and encouraged collaboration among officials, councillors, and the public. He underscored the necessity of urban planning and advocated for enhanced urban development strategies, incorporating water harvesting and solar technologies. He commended NAKSHA as a vital step towards achieving progressive advancements and encouraged the public to take an active part in realizing these objectives. He concluded by reiterating the vision for a "Sunaulo Samridha ani Samartha Sikkim" through cooperative efforts across all sectors, highlighting that accountability remains of paramount importance. The District Collector of Gangtok, Mr Tushar G Nikhare, articulated in his address that one of the most time-consuming tasks encountered by officials in District Offices is the resolution of land disputes, particularly in urban areas where precision is critical and the margin for error cannot exceed one centimetre. He acknowledged the implementation of NAKSHA under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), which has pioneered the practice of maintaining digital records of land holdings. Mr Nikhare emphasised the necessity of reviewing land parchas to ensure they remain relevant in contemporary times. He underscored the importance of having land records in the public domain, facilitating accessibility from all corners of the globe, and expressed optimism that NAKSHA could effectively bridge this gap. Furthermore, he pledged to endeavour to minimise the disputes related to land resolution to prevent inconvenience to the public. He also conveyed his commitment to ensuring that the public does not face any inconvenience. Mr Nikhare expressed his desire for ease of access to be a fundamental aspect of all governmental operations. He also appreciated the feature of NAKSHA that enables better Disaster Management risk reduction planning, highlighting that NAKSHA with its land usage changes data will help for better planning. Lastly he thanked the Land Revenue Department for undertaking such an initiative and urged the department to actively involve the office of the District Collector. In his address, Mr Uday Prasad, Director of the Survey of India, emphasised the technical features of the NAKSHA project. He discussed the implementation of appropriate equipment and announced the selection of Garuda UAV as the vendor responsible for carrying out the project's work. Mr Hem Kumar Chettri, the State Nodal Officer of NAKSHA, provided a concise overview of the NAKSHA Project during his address. He explained that this initiative is a pilot project under the Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme (DILRMP), which has been operational since September 2024. NAKSHA, which stands for National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitation, is an initiative launched by the Department of Land Resources, Government of India. The primary objective of NAKSHA is to create and update land records in urban areas, thereby ensuring accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership. The project is designed to empower citizens, enhance living conditions, improve urban planning, and mitigate land disputes. The project will encompass a survey of 19.02 square kilometers within the Gangtok Municipal Corporation area, conducted in collaboration with officials from the Land Revenue Department, the Urban Development Department, and the Gangtok Municipal Corporation. In conclusion, he urged the councillors to provide their support in facilitating surveys within their respective wards. Mr Sonam Lhendup Kaleon, Programme Director, DILRMP, also presented a PPT on the various aspects of the NAKSHA project. Earlier in the programme a video on the NAKSHA project was screened along with a video message by Mr Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The programme also featured a session where the survey instruments were demonstrated to the guests.

The programme began earlier with a Welcome address by Mr RB Bhandari, Municipal Commissioner GMC and concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr Yash Gurung, Technical Officer, DILRMP.