



One-day India AI-Digital India Workshop Held in Sikkim

Gangtok: A one-day workshop on AI titled “India AI-Digital India Workshop” was held at Chintan Bhawan, **Gangtok**, on **January 31, 2026**. It was organised by the Department of Information Technology, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

The programme, conducted as a pre-event workshop for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 scheduled from February 16 to 20 in New Delhi, was graced by the MLA-cum-Advisor to the Government of Sikkim for Land Revenue & Disaster Management, IT and Information & Public Relations Departments, Mr L. B. Das, as the Chief Guest. Chairperson IT Navraj Gurung attended as the Guest of Honour, along with the Secretary, IT Department, Mr Bimal Rai. The State e-Mission Team (SeMT) under NeGD deputed at DIT provided on ground coordination for the event.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Das stated that AI is shaping the future of nations and emphasised the need for its wise, inclusive and responsible adoption. Referring to the India AI Mission, he highlighted the role of technology in improving governance, healthcare delivery, disaster preparedness, sustainable tourism and access to services in remote areas of the State, while stressing ethics, data privacy and inclusivity.

Mr Gurung stated that AI has emerged as a strategic enabler for improving public service delivery and underscored the importance of strong digital foundations, quality data, transparency and accountability, particularly in citizen-centric services. He noted the relevance of AI in disaster management, healthcare, tourism and infrastructure management in Sikkim.

Mr Rai stated that the workshop aimed to bring policymakers, educators, students and technologists together to deliberate on the transformative potential of AI. Emphasising Sikkim’s unique geographical context, he highlighted the need for locally adaptive AI solutions and sustained capacity building.

The technical sessions featured experts from academia and industry who shared insights on AI and its applications. An overview of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 was presented by Assistant Director (IT) Nirmal Rai. Sessions were delivered by Mohan Pradhan, Faculty, Sikkim Central University; Dr Polly Lama, Professor, Sikkim Manipal University; and Bikash Sharma, Head of Department, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology.

The afternoon session included presentations by Nreependra Subba, General Manager, Netspeq Solutions; Ashwin Nirola, Founder, Spaced Revision; and Digendra Rai, Assistant Professor, Medhavi Skills University, focusing on AI adoption, innovation and localisation. A presentation on Digital India initiatives was made by Rajendra Tanksale, Head SeMT, Sikkim which included integration of Digital India platforms viz. DigiLocker, Entity Locker and UMANG (Unified Mobile App for New Age Governance) with Sikkim e-Services platforms.

Earlier, Prem Vijay Basnet, Director, IT Department, delivered the welcome address, while Joint Director Samrat Pradhan proposed the vote of thanks.

The programme was attended by Tshering Samdup, Principal Director, IT Department; Dr G. K. Prabhu, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University; Ashwini Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Medhavi Skills University; senior government officials, representatives of universities and students.

