

## **Press Release**

Following the devastating South Lhonak Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) of October 2023, the Government of Sikkim adopted a Whole-of-Government Approach to assess high-risk glacial lakes and implement mitigation measures. As part of this initiative, a high-altitude scientific expedition was carried out in Mangan District from 20 August to 06 September 2025, bringing together over 35 experts from state technical departments such as DST, DMG, SSDMA, Sikkim Police, DDMA and IPR, along with national scientific institutions including CWC, GSI, CWPRS, NIH, NIDM, DGRE, HP SDMA, HP JSV and Sikkim University. Security agencies such as the Indian Army and ITBP also played a crucial role in providing logistics, communication and field support. The expedition focused on detailed hazard assessments of Shako Chho, Changsang, South Lhonak and Yulhe Khangse lakes through bathymetric, morphometric and geophysical surveys, while also undertaking structural feasibility studies at Dolma Sampa in the Lhonak valley and Sora Funnel in the Gurudongmar valley using UAV-based terrain mapping, DEM analysis and debris deposition studies. Early Warning System (EWS) sites were identified to enable real-time monitoring. These multi-disciplinary efforts are expected to refine GLOF hazard modelling, support the design of retention structures and strengthen the state's resilience to climate-induced glacial risks while enhancing inter-agency coordination for effective disaster risk reduction in the Himalayas.









