

Press release

Saturday, 13th September, 2025

The Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Om Prakash Mathur, convened a meeting with the Science & Technology Department at Raj Bhavan. The meeting had a detailed discussion on the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) 2023 and briefing on the present status of high-risk glacial lakes in Mangan district.

Principal Secretary Dr. Sandeep Tambe, Director-cum- Secretary Shri Dhiren G Shrestha and officials briefed the Governor on a recent high-altitude expedition undertaken by an expert team after the devastating October 2023 South Lhonak Lake outburst. The team surveyed multiple glacial lakes in Mangan, identifying several as highly vulnerable to future breaches. Continuous monitoring and field validation are being carried out to scientifically assess the outburst potential and recommend timely mitigation measures.

The multi-agency team includes experts from the Central Water Commission, Central Water & Power Research Station Pune, NIH Roorkee, Geological Survey of India, DRDO's Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment, National Institute of Disaster Management, Sikkim University, six State Government Departments, the Indian Army, ITBP, and local communities.

The Governor expressed deep concern over the risks posed to life, property, and infrastructure downstream. He assured full support, provided valuable suggestions, and committed to raising the matter at the Central level for further support. Additionally, Dr. Tambe shared information on various other initiatives undertaken by the department. He specifically provided detailed insights into the ongoing research focused on the declining production of large cardamom and alarming rise in the cancer cases in the state of Sikkim

