



PRESS RELEASE

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Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan visited Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, acknowledged the role of Science & technology councils throughout the country.

Honourable Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Who is on his 3 days visit to Sikkim, visited Department of Science, Technology & Climate Change, Sikkim State Council of Science & Technology. Shri. T.W. Lepcha, Minister for Forest, environment and wildlife Management, Department of Mines, Minerals & Geology, Science & Technology and Climate Change, Government of Sikkim was also present in the occasion.

Dr. B.C. Basistha, Additional Director while welcoming the Union Minister gave a brief description of Sikkim. Similarly Shri. D.T. Bhutia, Additional Director presented an overview of achievements, ongoing projects and future endeavour of the organisation in the field of Science, technology, innovation and its interventions in various sectors and climate change in the State.



State Minister Shri. Lepcha welcomed Dr. Vardhan with *Namsung-Lossung* (ongoing festival) good wishes. In his speech Shri Lepcha talked about the importance of Science and technology in various aspects of life. He also said Sikkim under the vision of Honourable Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling has been one of the model states in the country when it comes to implementing various policies and initiatives related to climate change and sustainable development. Shri Lepcha appealed the union government for upgradation of State Biotech Hub and establishment of Biotechnology incubation Centre which will immensely boost the medicinal, aromatic, dye and oil yielding research in the State. The Minister also said that the BLISS (Biotechnology Laboratory at Senior Secondary Schools) Programme already established in other North Eastern state should be established in Sikkim as well, which will boost the biotechnological research in Sikkim.



Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan while addressing additional directors, researchers, staffs of Sikkim State Council and media persons praised Sikkim for being the first organic state of the country and said that visiting North Eastern state has been a desire of his for a very long time and that it has been a privilege to finally be here. Appreciating the achievement of the council in the field of Science and technology, Dr. Vardhan said small state like Sikkim could be a model state in science and technology and urged those involved in it to be pro active and work towards achieving that. He said Science is universal but technology is local and suggested to understand the problem at root and intervene to solve them. Dr. Vardhan said setting-up of science and technology councils throughout the country was a vision of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, (Honourable Ex-Prime Minister of India), and to see how it has prospered over the years reaching out even to the farthest corner of the country is something to be proud of, for everyone. He also added that the science and technology of the country still lacks many proactive mechanisms but assured that in due time this could all be worked out. Application of Science and Technology for the welfare of human and bringing changes in people's life through various technology-based innovations should be the prime goal of the organization, he added.

Regarding various proposals made by the council Dr. Vardhan said that the government is open for discussions and added that the government will provide all possible help for the development of science and technology in the state.

