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### PRESS RELEASE

In a historic first, State Council of Vocational Training (SCVT) – Sikkim under Skill Development Department (SDD), Government of Sikkim has entered into an Agreement with National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India. The Agreement was inked at an official function held at MSDE, Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. The function had the presence of Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, Directors and officials from NCVET. The SDD was represented by Shri Karma Namgyal Bhutia, Secretary and his team of officials.

With this achievement, the SCVT- Sikkim has been recognised as Awarding Body (AB-Dual) which enables it to award, assess and certify the learners where training is directly being imparted by the Awarding Body in campuses or training centres owned or fully managed by it for its approved or adopted qualifications. Sikkim is possibly the first State in the North-East to have received this recognition.

The NCVET, serving as the national regulator for vocational education and training, plays a vital role in setting standards, developing regulations and improving the quality and outcomes of skilling initiatives across the country. It is responsible for the recognition and regulation of awarding bodies and assessment agencies that are instrumental in developing a highly skilled workforce to meet industry demands.

The NCVET has already approved “Traditional Artisan-Lepcha Hat” as National Occupational Standards (NOS) submitted by SCVT- Sikkim and has plans to develop five more NOSs viz. Organic Avocado Grower, Making of Phing (Rice Glass Noodle), Thangka Painting (A traditional Buddhist Art), Making of traditional musical instrument – Chyabrung- Limboo community, Making of traditional musical instrument – Damphu - Tamang community.

The SCVT- Sikkim is a State Government agency having mandate for co-ordinating the Vocational Training Programmes throughout the State. The agency approves / ratifies the proposals of grant of affiliation / accreditation of various SCVT trades / courses.

“This collaboration between NCVET and SCVT- Sikkim is a critical step towards advancing, promoting and developing the skill ecosystem in the North-Eastern States”, said Shri Karma Namgyal Bhutia, Secretary, Skill Development Department. Further, he added, “this will ensure that the North-Eastern States’ workforce is well-equipped with requisite and specialised skills to meet the challenges of emerging skills of the future.”

Additional Secretary,  
Skill Development Department.

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Government of Sikkim

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