

# MoU signed for rainfall threshold-based early warning system

**GANGTOK, April 20 (IPR):** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and Geological Survey of India (GSI) to develop a regional level early warning system based on rainfall threshold for Sikkim region today at the chamber of Land Revenue & Disaster Management secretary-cum-relief commissioner.

The memorandum was signed by secretary-cum-relief commissioner Sarala Rai on behalf of Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Dr. S. Raju, director general, Geological Survey of India.

Dr. S. Raju informed that

the basic objective of the proposal was to share relevant and timely data on landslides to the department which in turn may help to save lives and properties in the State. He added that landslide susceptibility maps at the scale of 1:50000 has been prepared for 17 States including Sikkim. About 3 lakh sq km of land has been mapped in the country, thereby creating database for about 60,000 landslides in the country.

He said the same system was being used in Nilgiris, Darjeeling and Kalimpong Hills which is giving 60-70 per cent correct forecasts as informed by the district authorities.

The GSI services are primarily focused in the service



of people and wanted State government's support to make the forecasting model a success, Dr. Raju added.

Earlier, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority director Prabhakar Rai briefed on the project proposal and gave an insight on SSDMA's role in landslide management in Sikkim. He also informed the gathering of long

association with GSI in data sharing and landslide mapping in Sikkim.

A short presentation on the project proposal was also made by GSI.

Secretary Sarala Rai, while thanking GSI for taking the initiative, assured all assistance and support from the State government to make the forecasting model a success.