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■ Good Morning Sikkim, today is SATURDAY, 09 DECEMBER, 2023 ■ REGD NO. WB/SKM/02/2021-2023 VOL. XLVII NO. 329 ■ RNI No. RN 40962/1990 ■ www.sikkimexpress.com ■ ₹ 5.00

## Students pitch ideas & vision for 'Futuristic Smart City'



**SRIPARNA DEB**

**GANGTOK, November 24:** The Gangtok Smart City in association with the students' wing and event partner Positude organized a day-long engagement with the students on the topic of 'Futuristic Smart City' at Chintan Bhawan here today.

The programme had two colleges for the debate and five for idea pitching competition, with each team consisting of three members in idea pitching. The event started with a documentary on the Smart City project in Gangtok by Niranjana Kapil.

Chakung-Soreng MLA

Aditya Golay was the chief guest for the programme also attended by Mayor Nell Bahadur Chettri, deputy Mayor Tshering Palden Bhutia, Gangtok Smart City CEO Bhupendra Kothari, additional director Deepankar Lama, Culture advisor Bhim Kumari Sharma, SKM students' wing president Sonam Chopel Sherpa and others.

In his address, Aditya Golay thanked the Gangtok Smart City and SKM youth wing for organizing the event and acknowledged its significance in shaping the future of the State. He acknowledged the team for

organizing the platform by highlighting the important role for bringing out the innovative ideas presented by the youths. He also spoke about the major initiatives taken by the SKM students' wing for engaging the youth in positive activities.

The event featured two competitions - idea pitching and debate. In the idea pitching event, Pradeep Kumar Prasad from ICAFI University emerged as the winner, followed by Anmol Limboo from Sikkim Government Law College and Dipti Morala Karki from ICAFI University.

In the debate competition,

Tadong College secured first place, while ICAFI University and SGC Burtuk secured second and third place, respectively.

Judges for both the competitions were Amit Patro, editor, SIKKIM EXPRESS; Srada Sharma, president SHRA and vice chairperson, CII Sikkim chapter; and Deepankar Lama, additional director, Gangtok Smart City.

The essay and painting competitions also saw some impressive entries. Sohitya Kala Limboo from SGLC and Saraswati Limboo from NBBGC shared the first position in the essay competition, while Sonam

Bhutia from SGC Burtuk won first place in the painting competition.

Addressing the gathering, Deepankar Lama expressed his gratitude towards the Smart City team for their dedication towards the initiative. He added that the Smart City project is geared up to transform Gangtok into an ideal Smart City.

The involvement of students was exponential as they got a chance to pitch their ideas for cities' growth. The competitions such as debate, painting, and essay were held simultaneously in Gangtok itself, with a great response from students.