

Good Governance Awards for Sikkim

Ever since Shri Pawan Chamling took charge of the State as its Chief Minister in 1994, the State has won more than 80 national and international awards from government institutions and reputed non-governmental organizations in various developmental, environmental and innovation sectors. Under his stewardship, Sikkim earned the sobriquet of ‘Little Miracle’ from a leading national media group. His vision for sustainable tourism saw Sikkim bagging national awards and international recognition with unfailing regularity.

Prominent awards and honours bestowed upon Sikkim since 1994 under the leadership of Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling.

Good Governance Awards

➤ Number 1 in Sustainable Competitiveness

Sikkim, Goa and Delhi were ranked No.1 in State Sustainable Competitiveness Report 2011. The State’s sustainability competitiveness was assessed on social inclusion, environment & climate change, resource availability and utilization.

➤ Number 1 in Environment Sustainability Index

Sikkim was rated No. 1 in the Environment Sustainability Index of Indian States for the year 2009 in reducing pressure on environment and status response to maintain environment.

➤ Nirmal Rajya Award

Sikkim earned the rare distinction of being the first and only State in the country to achieve 100 percent physical coverage in rural sanitation in 2008. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented the first Nirmal Rajya award, including a citation and gold medal, instituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling.

➤ Best State in PRI

Panchayat Empowerment & Accountability Incentive Scheme Award in 2008-09 as second best performing State in strengthening Panchayati Raj Institution, followed by 2009-10 and 2010-11 for being the third best and in 2011-12 for being ranked ‘Best State’ in the country in the category of Northeastern States.

➤ Dara Vikash recognition

Sikkim’s Dhara Vikas programme, successful in reviving the rain-fed springs and streams that had dried up due to combined impact of degradation and climate change, bagged the ‘Ground Water Augmentation’ award of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India in the NGO category. The award was received by WWF-India for their work in supporting Sikkim government for providing technical support.

➤ Prime Minister’s Award

Sikkim received Prime Minister’s award for 2011-12 for its initiative ‘Excellence in Rural Management and Development in challenging physical environment of the Sikkim Himalaya’ for achieving visible improvement in the quality of life of its rural people. The country’s highest award for excellence, consisting of a medal, scroll and cash award of Rs. 5 lakh, was given in organization category for Sikkim’s pro-people initiatives including 100 percent sanitation and successful implementation of MGNREGA.

➤ India Today ‘State of The States’ Awards

In the first India Today Awards in 2004, Sikkim was among the first three best States in the category of smaller States in the field of law and order, health and environment scenario and Sikkim bagged the first rank in the field of education.

In 2005, Sikkim was adjudged best Small State for Investment Environment and Education. The then Vice President of India Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat handed away the awards to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling during the State of States conclave of Chief Ministers in Delhi on August 6, 2005.

In the Sixth State of States report 2008, Sikkim ranked top among the 10 small States of India, again in the field of primary education.

The 2009 edition of the conclave saw Sikkim rank highest in four significant sectors: Bharat Nirman Awards in rural roads, e-governance, rural electrification and best Small State in education.

Sikkim went on to earn the sobriquet of 'Little Miracle' from the India Today Group when it bagged two small State Awards in education and investment environment in 2010.

“It shows that the State is recognized and justified. It also shows that this is the beginning and not the end for Sikkim, and an indicator to move towards development and achievements”, said the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the 'Little Miracle' tag given by the leading national magazine.

➤ **IBN7 Diamond States Award**

In 2008, Sikkim managed to record its name in the IBN7 Diamond States Awards for Citizen Security and Justice, a path-breaking editorial initiative of IBN7 Network in partnership with Outlook that recognizes extraordinary efforts of the States.

Sikkim was adjudged the best small State in 'Water and Sanitation' category in 2009, 'Citizen Security' in 2011. Sikkim received four awards in 2012 for best small State in 'Citizen Security', Environment and Water and Sanitation and won top honours as the Indian's best small State for its overall performance and significant contribution.

➤ **Awards in Tourism sector**

The first national award for 'Best Tourist Performing State' in Northeastern States category from the Ministry of Tourism came in 1998-99. Sikkim won the award for four the next four consecutive years and then continued from 2005-06 onwards.

In 2006-07, Sikkim was again the national award for 'Best State for Tourism Related Programme'.

In 2005, Sikkim was presented with the award for 'Best Ecotourism Destination' by travel magazine Hospitality India. Another travel magazine 'Today's Traveller' selected Sikkim for the Platinum Award for the Most Picturesque Destination in 2007.

In 2008, Safari India, a prestigious tourism magazine covering India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and South East Asia awarded Sikkim with the 'Best State for Adventure Tourism' award. Sikkim won the International Pacific Area Travel Writers' Association (PATWA) award as the 'Best State for Adventure Tourism'.

Sikkim made a clean sweep at the national tourism awards in 2010-11 as the State bagged three awards.

Among them was 'Most Innovative and Unique Tourism Project Award 2010-11' accorded for the vision and construction of world class Pilgrimage cum Cultural Tourism complex [Siddhesvara Dham] at Solophok, Namchi in South Sikkim. The other award was for the 'Best State-Clean India Campaign' and 'Best State' award in the category of Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir for comprehensive development of tourism.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling received the awards on February 29, 2012 from the then President of India Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

➤ **Other Awards**

Sikkim received the 4th JRD Tata Memorial Award 2008 for outstanding performance in population, reproductive health and family planning programme. Agriculture Leadership Award 2009 from Agriculture Today Group was presented to Sikkim for outstanding performance in horticulture development. Sikkim also bagged the national award for one of the best performing States under the Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States.

➤ **MGNREGA Awards**

Sikkim bagged three national awards for MGNREGA implementation in 2009-10. The awards were-best performing Gram Panchayat, best district MGNREGA and best NGO-made Sikkim the only State to achieve this triple distinction from Ministry of Rural Development. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson Mrs Sonia Gandhi conferred the awards.

Proper implementation of the national flagship programme in rural Sikkim was noticed for the second consecutive year. This time it was Martam-Nazitam Gram Panchayat for excelling in implementation of the flagship programme in the GP category.

Sikkim again excelled in MGNREGA implementation when Hee Gyathang GPU, Dzongu won the national award 2011-12.

In February 2014, Sikkim bagged two national awards for excellent implementation of MGNREGA, making it the fourth time the State has received such national recognition. The awards, presented during the 9th MGNREGA Divas celebrated by Ministry of Rural Development, were received by the State Rural Management & Development department and Lamten Tingmo GPU, South Sikkim.