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SLA passes Bills on second day Pays tribute to former deceased Members and MP

Gangtok, August 06: Second day of the Budget Session 2024-25 of the Eleventh Assembly commenced with the Members of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly paying their respects on passing away of late Mr Sonam Gyatso Bhutia, former Member of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, late Mr Pahalman Subba, former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Sikkim, and late Mr Ram Chandra Poudyal, former Member and the first Deputy Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, today.

In the obituary reference to late Mr Sonam Gyatso Bhutia, former MLA of Barfung Constituency, Speaker Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa highlighted the former member's remarkable dedication to public service and his unwavering commitment to the people of Barfung Constituency. He expressed profound sorrow on his demise and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, while paying tribute to late Mr Sonam Gyatso Bhutia, expressed profound reverence and respect for his memory. He emphasised former MLA's tireless effort to enhance development, education, and



healthcare for his constituency and remarked that his legacy of integrity, compassion, and leadership would continue to inspire many in Sikkim.

Late Mr Sonam Gyatso Bhutia breathed his last on May 29, 2024 at STNM Hospital in Gangtok at the age of 66. He was born on April 3, 1958 to late Tshering Bhutia and late Laden Bhutia at Pipaley Ward under Rayong-Tinkitam GPU of Barfung Constituency. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and one son.

He began his public service journey as a Panchayat President

and later served as a Zilla Panchayat. In 2009, he was elected as the Area MLA of Barfung Constituency under SDF party ticket and served the position till 2014. From 2014 to 2019, he held the position of Chairman SISCO Bank and Forest Department, providing dedicated service to the people. In 2022, he joined the SKM party and served in various capacities.

In the obituary reference to late Mr Pahalman Subba, former MP, Lok Sabha from Sikkim, the Speaker noted that Subba's life was marked by profound commitment to his community. He highlighted former MP's exemplary qualities of integrity, resilience, and visionary leadership and stated that his legacy of leadership and commitment will be remembered and cherished by all who had the privilege of working with him.

Chief Minister in his obituary reference to late Mr Pahalman Subba spoke of his unswerving dedication to public service, which significantly contributed to the progress and development of Sikkim. He commended Subba for his role in shaping the political landscape of the region. He

conveyed his deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late Pahalman Subba and offered prayers for the repose of his soul.

Late Mr Pahalman Subba, first elected Lok Sabha MP of Sikkim, passed away on June 26, 2024, in Gangtok at the age of 90 from a prolonged illness.

Born on December 23, 1934, at Timberbong in Soreng District, he is survived by his wife, two sons and one daughter.

He began his career in education, serving as a teacher and headmaster at various schools in Sikkim before becoming the District Education Officer. He later transitioned to politics, winning the 1980 Lok Sabha Election as a Sikkim Janata Party (SJP) candidate, making him the first elected Member of Parliament from Sikkim.

Late Mr Pahalman Subba played a crucial role in the pro-Sikkim and anti-merger movement,

contributing to the political shifts in Sikkim and advocating for Assembly seat reservations for the Limboo-Tamang communities. He also founded and led several associations dedicated to Limboo culture and literature.

His notable literary works include Yumasam Nu Palam (1964) and Sikkim ka Limboo ani Limboo bhasha (2005). Subba's legacy of integrity, resilience, and visionary leadership has left a lasting impact on education, politics, and social development in Sikkim.

In the obituary reference of late Mr Ram Chandra Poudyal, former Member and the first Deputy Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the Speaker deeply mourned the passing away of the distinguished leader in Sikkim's political history, who was found deceased on July 16, 2024. Late Poudyal, who had been missing since July 7, 2024 was 80 years old. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Born on March 29, 1945 in Chhota Singtam, Assam Lingzey to late Mr Manorath Poudyal (Mandal) and late Leela Maya Poudyal, he was a towering figure in Sikkim's democratic movement. He played a pivotal role in the 1973 democratic movement, enduring a seven-day fast in Gangtok, which significantly mobilised public support for democratic reforms.

He was an influential leader in Sikkim's political landscape. He founded the Jhulke Gham Party, later known as the Rising Sun Party, and served as its President.

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Pearls of Wisdom

"Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind."
- Roy T. Bennett

Full text of the address delivered by the Chief Minister on first day of the Budget Session

**Honourable Speaker Sir,
Esteemed Members of the Legislative Assembly, and dear citizens of Sikkim,**

I stand here at a historic juncture both in terms of presenting the 6th consecutive annual budget of the State of Sikkim in the Eleventh Assembly Budget Session and also on the eve of entering into the 50th year of Sikkim's journey as the 22nd State of India. My warmest Monsoon greetings and congratulations to all the Sikkimese people on both these grand occasions.

As we convene this Eleventh Assembly Budget Session for the financial year 2024-25, I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Sikkim for their overwhelming support in the recent General Elections. The elections to the 32 Assembly Constituencies of Sikkim Legislative Assembly and the single Lok Sabha seat were held in April this year.

I am pleased to report that the elections were conducted very peacefully, without any major issues or law and order problems. Out of 4,66,643 registered voters, including 2,503 service voters, a record turnout of 83.43% was achieved, which is the highest overall turnout in the country, with 3,89,203 voters casting their votes either at the polling stations or through postal ballots. This high turnout reflects the vibrancy of democracy and faith of people in the democratic process.

For the first time in Sikkim, home voting was introduced for persons with disabilities and senior citizens aged 85 and above. This initiative was well-received and allowed these individuals to vote conveniently from their homes.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Election Commission of India, the Chief Secretary, and the Director General of Police for their effective monitoring and guidance of the election machinery. Special appreciation is due to the Chief Electoral Officer of Sikkim and his entire team for conducting the General Elections 2024 in an error-free, smooth and peaceful manner, thanks to their meticulous planning and execution. I also commend the District Collectors cum District Election Officers, Superintendents of Police and their teams for their dedicated efforts in ensuring a peaceful electoral process.

The peaceful and orderly conduct of General Elections 2024 stands as yet another testament to the efficiency and dedication of the Sikkim administration. This success would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of all political parties, candidates and most importantly, the voters of Sikkim. Your active participation and faith in the democratic process are deeply appreciated.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I extend a warm welcome to all 30 esteemed members of the 11th State Assembly. Together, we embark on a journey of democratic governance and collective progress. Our shared goal is to advance Sikkim as a model of development and excellence. With your dedication and our collaborative efforts, we will work tirelessly to elevate our state to new heights of prosperity and innovation and achieve the dream of Vikasit Bharat and Vikasit Sikkim as envisaged by our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

As this august house is very well aware, Sikkim faced a devastating natural disaster with the outburst of South Lhonak Lake on the 4th of October, 2023. This catastrophe led to massive flooding resulting in the destruction of the Chungthang Dam, the largest dam in Sikkim. The Teesta III Hydro Power Project, built at a cost of ₹13,965 crore and having a generating capacity of 1,200 MW, was rendered defunct. The project was a significant source of revenue, with the Sikkim government holding a 60% stake in it. The total estimated loss due to the catastrophe exceeds ₹25,000 crore, nearly 60% of the state's GSDP for 2022-23. The impact on the power sector has been twofold nearly ₹14,000 crore worth of assets have become non-performing, and the revenue from the Teesta III hydro power project is lost. Sikkim was also entitled to free power from this project, representing an annual revenue loss of ₹300-400 crore.

I am profoundly grateful to the Government of India for the prompt release of ₹245 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for immediate relief and restoration which has been immensely beneficial. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment, conducted under the guidance of the NDMA with domain experts from various sectors, determined that the total amount required for comprehensive recovery and reconstruction is ₹3,673 crore. The detailed report from this PDNA exercise has been submitted to the Government of India.

Additionally, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir and the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Madam, for announcing the Assistance for Flood Management and Related Activities during the recent budget session for FY 2024-25. This assistance will prove helpful until the support under PDNA is provided.

Let me assure you, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, that as Sikkimese, we deeply understand that our greatest strength lies in our resilience and unity. The scars left behind by the devastation will not deter us. We will build our future, piece by piece, and reach new heights, reflecting the spirit and potential of our remarkable state.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations and Projects

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Looking ahead, I am honored to announce that next year will mark a significant milestone for Sikkim as we celebrate 50 years of statehood.

Sikkim, Sikkimese people and India would celebrate this historic occasion of 50 years of Sikkim's Statehood as a constituent State of India in a grand and befitting manner.

It was on 16 May 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd State of India. It was a historic day at least in four crucial perspectives. Firstly, Sikkim became a constituent state of one of the most promising and globally celebrated nations in the world i.e. India. This historic merger opened up several opportunities for the people of Sikkim and the rest of India.

Secondly, acquiring the much sought after status of the 22nd State of India, fulfilled the long-cherished wishes of the people of Sikkim to enter into democratic process and practices.

Thirdly, the merger with India transformed the development and growth trajectory of India with the induction of modern institutions, varieties and science and technology inductions and ample provisions of development institutions.

And fourthly, Sikkim becoming a constituent state of India hugely contributed

to all round promotion of national power and durably consolidated the national security interests of India.

This will be the year and occasion we celebrate the attainment of the first 50 years of statehood of Sikkim within the constitutional framework of India, under the theme "*Sunaulo Sikkim, Samridha Sikkim-Samarth Sikkim*", we will fondly recall the reminiscences of both pre-merger and post-merger history of Sikkim. The people of Sikkim will get a rare opportunity to introspect on its societies, communities, religion, languages, traditions, institutions, natural resources, development dimensions, cultural ecology biodiversity and eco systems.

Our Government has planned a year-long celebration, and we are delighted to announce that the Hon'ble Prime Minister will be invited as the chief guest, befitting the grandeur of the event.

All departments have already been directed to create comprehensive plans for the celebrations. We also seek suggestions from all sectors of Sikkimese society to help us collate ideas, enhance our plans, and avoid any potential pitfalls.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I am pleased to present the fiscal profile for the year 2024-25. It is encouraging to note that Sikkim is growing at a pace faster than the national average. Our state's GDP at current prices is projected to exceed ₹50,000 crore, reaching ₹52,555 crore. This represents a remarkable increase of 85% compared to the GSDP of ₹28,402 crore recorded in 2018-19.

The per capita income of the state at current prices for FY 2023-24 stands at 7,07,181, up from 4,30,340 in 2018-19, reflecting a substantial growth of 64% over the past five years.

Our budgetary expenditure has seen a substantial increase, reaching ₹11,182 crore in FY 2023-24, up from ₹6,940 crore in FY 2018-19.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I am pleased to present a budget of ₹14,490.67 crore, which is 109% increase compared to 2018-19. Notably, capital expenditure has surged from ₹720.61 crore in FY 2019-20 to ₹2,661 crore in FY 2023-24, marking an impressive increase of over 269%.

This progress has been achieved through improved management of state finances, enhanced revenue generation, and strategic investments through externally aided projects. In the realm of capital projects, we have successfully leveraged additional funding based on our performance and timely project completion.

Sikkim has greatly benefited from the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, including the 50-year interest-free loans from the Government of India beyond the Fiscal Deficit Target. Over the past four years, the release of funds under this scheme has totalled ₹1,849 crore - 200 crore in 2020-21, ₹300 crore in 2021-22, ₹551 crore in 2022-23, and ₹798 crore in 2023-24.

The Union Ministry of Finance, has capped the Fiscal Deficit to GSDP ratio at 3.5% for FY 2024-25. This includes additional borrowing provisions linked to Power Sector Reforms, with the unutilized borrowings from previous financial years allowed to be carried forward.

Post-COVID-19, the State Government maintains a healthy revenue surplus and keeps the debt-to-GSDP ratio within the targets prescribed by the FRBM Act.

Additionally, we have streamlined the payment of salaries, pensions, and other benefits. The state now supports a total of 94,143 individuals, including 57,587 government employees. This number encompasses 632 ASHA workers, 2,441 Anganwadi workers and helpers, 16,325 pensioners including family pensioners, 6,555 personnel receiving grant-in-aid salaries and 30,001 wage employees.

There was a significant difference in the monthly pensions of retirees who retired in the year 2000 compared to those of the same rank who retired after 2016. To reduce this disparity in pension fixation among retirees from different periods prior to 2016, the pension has been revised. The financial implication from this revision amounts to ₹40.00 crores which has been set aside in the budget.

This comprehensive fiscal strategy reflects our commitment to sustainable development and prudent financial management as we move forward.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Generating resources internally remains a significant challenge due to our small tax base and several other factors which include poor connectivity to the rest of the country, a fragile terrain prone to natural calamities, a compressed working season due to heavy rainfall, and frequent landslides blocking National Highway 10, which disrupt economic activities and lead to substantial revenue losses.

Despite these challenges, our Government is resolutely committed to revenue augmentation. The foundation of our Annual Budget is based on enhancing revenue receipts, aligning with the fiscal consolidation path recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

Our consistent efforts and fiscal prudence have enabled us to maintain a revenue surplus budget in the post-COVID-19 era, and we aim to continue this trend this year. Noteworthy progress has been achieved through various reformative measures, with the average growth rate of the State's Own Tax Revenue at 22.07% and Non-Tax Revenue at 11.92% in the post-COVID era. This progress has been accomplished through proactive reforms, without imposing additional taxes on the public.

The issue of State revenue has remained a top priority for our Government. After securing overwhelming support in the recent elections and forming the Government for a second term, our Cabinet's first decision was to direct major revenue-earning departments to conduct a comprehensive review of their revenue sources. The objective was to enhance revenue and prevent any potential leakages. We also issued directives for the timely assessment of revenue receipts and established control mechanisms to achieve revenue targets and address any leakages.

To this end, our Government has implemented several reformative initiatives which will help boost State revenue receipts such as the:

1. **Advanced Check Post Management Systems:** We are setting up state-of-the-art systems at Rangpo, Melli, and other border posts to monitor goods vehicle movements and prevent revenue leakages.

2. **Strengthening GST Database:** To expand the GST tax base, particularly in the hospitality sector, we are enhancing the database to ensure comprehensive

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collection.

3. Encouraging Voluntary Compliance and Enforcement: We aim to reduce tax evasion by promoting voluntary compliance among taxpayers. An enforcement center will be established at Bardang to inspect suspicious consignments, with digital connectivity to Rangpo check post to monitor and verify the data of consignments entering through Rangpo.

4. E-Abkari Project: The Excise Department has launched the E-Abkari project to facilitate online applications, renewals, registrations, and permits, improving revenue generation and service delivery.

5. Revising Tariffs and Fees: We propose updating tariffs, fees, and user charges that have not been revised for a long time to enhance revenue receipts.

6. Prepaid Energy Meters: To improve energy accounting, we are installing prepaid meters under the Power Department, aiming to eliminate revenue leakages due to theft or under-assessment.

7. GPS Tracking for SNT Vehicles: We plan to install GPS tracking systems in all functional SNT vehicles to ensure accurate supervision charge collection.

8. Volumetric Water Tax System: The PHE Department will shift to a volumetric system for water tax collection from commercial and domestic users, replacing the old system based on the number of taps, which is expected to significantly boost revenue.

9. Online Permit System: We will introduce an online permit system for visiting Tsogmo and Nathula, aimed at facilitating and providing ease for tourists. This system streamlines the process, ensuring a more convenient and efficient experience for visitors.

Our government is confident that these measures will foster comprehensive growth in the State's revenue receipts.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I am overwhelmingly delighted to highlight some of our nationally recognized and applauded initiatives and achievements from the past few years of our governance.

Firstly, Sikkim has been declared the 4th Best State in Poverty Alleviation, following Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu. Today, only 2.6 percent of the population in Sikkim lives below the poverty line—approximately 18,200 people out of an estimated total population of 7 lakh. This is significantly lower than the all-India figure of 11 percent.

Additionally, Sikkim boasts the 7th highest gross enrolment ratio in the country, with a ratio of 38.6 percent, compared to the national average of 28.4 percent.

In terms of digital progress, Sikkim ranks as the 4th most digitized state/union territory (after Delhi, Chandigarh, and Mizoram) among states with a population of less than 1 crore, according to the State of India's Digital Economy 2024. This ranking is based on our performance in Connect, Harness, Innovate, Protect and Sustain (CHIPS).

Our state also made a significant mark on the global stage by hosting two major G20 events under India's Presidency in March 2023. Delegates from across the world—including Brazil, Africa, the USA, France, Indonesia and Japan—visited Sikkim and praised our Green Development Strategies.

I am pleased to share that the latest NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) assessment shows a significant improvement in Sikkim's overall SDG scores compared to the previous survey conducted in FY 2020-21. Notably, our progress in reducing inequalities under SDG 10 is evident from a substantial drop in crime rates related to women and within communities, reflecting our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive society.

In clean water and sanitation, Sikkim has achieved a remarkable score of 96% on SDG 6, underscoring our success in ensuring that all residents have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.

Our judicial infrastructure also stands out, with Sikkim boasting the highest court density in India, with 6 courts per lakh population. This extensive judicial infrastructure is crucial for ensuring timely justice and upholding the rule of law.

In environmental sustainability, Sikkim excels with a 100% compliance rate with environmental standards for industries, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable industrial practices and environmental protection.

Economically, the value added by the manufacturing sector in Sikkim stands at 35.7%, the highest in the country. This achievement highlights the robustness of our industrial base and the effectiveness of our policies aimed at fostering industrial growth and innovation.

In the realm of nutrition and health, Sikkim has made remarkable strides. According to NFHS-5 (2019-2021), while 35.5% of children under 5 in India are stunted, Sikkim has the lowest percentage of stunted children under 5 years at 22.3%. This is below the national target of 23.7% set by WHO's Global Nutrition Targets Tracking Tool, reflecting the success of our initiatives in combating malnutrition and promoting child health.

Overall, Sikkim has emerged as one of the top gainers in the latest NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals assessment. This remarkable progress underscores our unwavering commitment to sustainable development and equitable growth.

Vikasit Bharat 2047 and Vikasit Sikkim 2047

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has envisioned transforming India into a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of our independence. The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision encompasses various facets of development, guiding us towards a brighter and more prosperous future. This ambitious goal reflects our commitment to progress and innovation, ensuring that we leave a legacy of growth and excellence for generations to come.

The four major pillars of Viksit Bharat are:

First, Economic Growth: Envisages a resilient and robust economy that offers opportunities and a high standard of living for all citizens. By 2047, our economy is projected to grow tenfold, surpassing USD 30 trillion, and becoming the third-largest economy in the world. Sikkim aims to accelerate this growth through entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness, ensuring gainful employment and maximizing our demographic dividend. Higher incomes will make civic amenities more affordable, and resources will be used efficiently to minimize wastage.

Second, Environmental Sustainability: A Viksit Bharat would have a clean and green environment to preserve India's biodiversity and natural resources. The environment should be able to mitigate the impacts of climate change based on restoration, conservation, and resilience. States like Sikkim will significantly contribute to this agenda and be the front-runners. Sikkim already has the maximum area under reserved forests, and its ecology and economy have effectively been intertwined to maximize gains for society. It is already a fully organic state with a complete ban on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Third, Human Resource Development and Social Harmony: Envisions an inclusive society that upholds the dignity and well-being of all citizens. Sikkim will enthusiastically participate in the celebration of our rich cultural heritage, grounded in justice, equality and diversity. Emphasis will be placed on education, health, well-being and skill development to prepare our people for the evolving technological landscape.

Lastly, Good Governance: Viksit Bharat will be characterized by agile and responsive governance, marked by sound policies and accountability. Sikkim will ensure that our governance system is equipped to collect credible data, analyse areas for improvement and act swiftly, guided by teamwork, reflection, empathy and consultation.

In conclusion, Viksit Bharat 2047 is our roadmap to a developed India and in turn a developed Sikkim.

In line with this vision, the Government of Sikkim has identified five important areas for accelerating economic growth consistent with the Viksit Bharat agenda. These areas are: improving the employability of youth in Sikkim, developing Sikkim as a Healthcare and Wellness Hub, implementing innovative practices in agriculture and food processing, promoting the tourism and MSME sectors and enhancing civic amenities and social and economic infrastructure. Sikkim has become a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub with major pharma companies in the state. Along with manufacturing, there is potential to develop world-class healthcare and holistic wellness infrastructure. We intend to develop forward and backward linkages to benefit industry, trade, tourism, and health infrastructure. We are also focusing on rejuvenating rural economies through farming, covering both traditional and commercial crops and non-farm activities in manufacturing and services.

Ease of Living

Along with Viksit Bharat 2047, our Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid special focus on ease of living. This is the cornerstone of our development agenda and must encompass two key aspects. First, the availability and accessibility of social and economic infrastructure, which is critical for improving ease of living. This aspect is largely in the public domain and a responsibility for all of us to create and maintain such infrastructure. The second aspect, which requires a joint initiative of the government and the public, is to strengthen livelihood opportunities so that there is both affordability and effective use of these facilities. By addressing these two critical issues, we can ensure a holistic approach to development, making life better and more sustainable for every citizen.

Our government is fully prepared to implement and support all the policies and provisions as envisioned by the Government of India, ensuring a seamless integration of these efforts for the benefit of all.

In line with the Government of India's revolutionary initiatives, our government will focus on developing tourism into a mega industry and boosting the service sector over the next five years. We are committed to supporting this vision by improving our electricity, water, and road infrastructure to provide reliable facilities. Additionally, we will further empower environmental conservation and sustainability, areas where Sikkim has already made significant accomplishments.

Education, health, and social development, which have always been priorities for our government and have seen considerable progress, will be elevated to even greater heights. Our goal is to create a robust, thriving and sustainable future for all the people of Sikkim. Through these efforts, we aim to ensure a prosperous and fulfilling life for every citizen.

Externally Aided Projects

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Before delving into the detailed report on our priority sectors and the implications of this budget, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the significant impact of Externally Aided Projects. These projects have played a crucial role in shaping our state's development and continue to be instrumental in driving progress.

Asian Development Bank support for Urban Infrastructure

Sikkim is currently undergoing a rapid phase of urbanization, fueled by the expansion of industries, tourism, educational institutions and business hubs. This growth has led to a significant increase in both the resident and floating populations of our towns. While this urbanization brings numerous benefits, it also presents challenges such as overcrowding and deteriorating air and water quality. To address these environmental, social and economic challenges, it is crucial to undertake substantial infrastructure transformations in our towns. We strongly believe that an Integrated Development approach is the most effective solution.

In pursuit of this vision, our Government has committed to advancing urban infrastructure development with the support of external aid. We have sought financial backing from external agencies to enhance infrastructure in seven towns across Sikkim, including Singtam and parts of Gangtok (Tadong and Ranipool wards) in Gangtok district, Pakyong and Rangpo in Pakyong district, Mangan in Mangan district, Gyalshing in Gyalshing district and Soreng in Soreng district.

The Government of India has granted in-principle approval for securing US\$ 180 million (approximately ₹1,494 crore) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for these projects, which require a total estimated investment of US\$ 225 million (approximately ₹18,600 crore).

Through this ADB and State Government supported project, we will be able to

1. Strengthen Climate-Resilient and Smart Urban Infrastructure,
2. Improve Urban Mobility and Livability and
3. Enhance State and Municipal Capacity.

Asian Development Bank support for Power Infrastructure

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The landscape of Sikkim's power sector has undergone a significant transformation since October 2023, when floods washed away the Teesta III project

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and its adjoining dam, impacting nearly 1,800 MW of power. This shift has moved Sikkim from a power-surplus state to one requiring additional support. Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a US\$ 148.5 million (approximately ₹1,220 crore) loan to strengthen, modernize, and climate-proof Sikkim's distribution system. This initiative aims to enhance the reliability, quality, and resilience of electricity supply, supporting Sikkim's Power for All initiative to ensure round-the-clock access to quality electricity for households, industries, businesses and the public.

It aligns with the Government of India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by improving the distribution network, thus boosting the operational efficiency and financial sustainability of the distribution business in the state.

The project will facilitate the efficient transfer and integration of renewable energy into the distribution system, improving access to electricity in rural areas and for businesses. It will increase economic opportunities, ensure productivity and improve living conditions. Key upgrades in this project include approximately 770 kilometers of climate-resilient medium-voltage underground and/or covered conductors, replacing 580 kilometers of aging and low-capacity bare conductors, upgrading 26 existing power substations, installing a supervisory control and data acquisition system, adding 15,000 units of public street lighting in remote areas, and conducting electricity conservation and safety awareness programs in 28 villages.

The ADB will also assist in developing a financial sustainability strategy and a plan to establish the Sikkim Power Department as a self-sufficient entity, enhancing the financial sustainability of the electricity sector. Additionally, it will provide support in formulating a power distribution master plan, integrating geographic information systems and distribution system modelling, establishing a real-time monitoring control centre for enhanced power management and devising a strategy for gender and social inclusion.

World Bank supports Sikkim INSPIRES

Another major initiative, the Sikkim Integrated Service Provision and Innovation for Reviving Economies (INSPIRES) program, supported by the World Bank (WB), will deliver improved economic opportunities for women and youth. Implemented over five years with a budget of approximately ₹1900 crore with the World Bank providing US\$ 100 million (approximately ₹830 crore) in loan assistance.

Sikkim INSPIRES aims to promote economic inclusion opportunities for women and youth in non-farm sectors through:

1. Strengthened state systems to support employment outcomes for women and youth;
2. Enhanced entrepreneurship in priority sectors for women and youth;
3. Training for women and youth for employment in priority sectors; and
4. Creation of a comprehensive care and workplace safety system.

Nine government departments are involved in this program, including the Planning and Development Department (the nodal department), Commerce and Industries, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Skill Development Department, Rural Development Department, Information Technology Department, Forest and Environment Department, Women and Child Development Department and Health and Family Welfare Department. These departments have come together to share a common Results Framework.

During the design phase of Sikkim INSPIRES, the Government of Sikkim and the World Bank conducted a baseline assessment to identify inefficiencies in Sikkim's labor market, focusing on women and youth. Over 1,500 respondents and more than 20 employers in six priority sectors were surveyed. The findings informed the Results Framework, making Sikkim INSPIRES a unique intervention tailored to address local challenges and aspirations.

The Sikkim INSPIRES program also includes a robust Mental Health action plan, addressing the mental health and well-being of youth and women. This plan provides psycho-social support and aims to bridge gaps in mental health services. The program addresses Sikkim's demographic challenge, given its low Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 1.1, well below the critical replacement rate of 2.1. Our government has launched several initiatives to counter this trend and has constituted an Inter Departmental Working Group to formulate action plans in collaboration with premier institutes and organizations.

Under INSPIRES, we have planned to train our women and youth so that they can address and fill the gaps where required, such as in the growing demand for healthcare professionals. With aging populations in regions like Japan, Europe, Canada and the USA, there is an increasing need for skilled healthcare workers. By equipping our trainees with the necessary skills, our government aims to meet this demand effectively. These trained professionals will not only have opportunities abroad but will also contribute to enhancing the capabilities of India's major hospitals and healthcare facilities.

Our focus will be on preparing trainees for various regions by 2030, including:

- a) South East Asia, including Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- b) East Asia, including Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan.
- c) The Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Israel and the United Arab Emirates.
- d) North America, including the USA and Canada.
- e) Europe, including the UK, Netherlands, France, Germany, Turkey, Greece, Switzerland and Italy.
- f) South West Pacific countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Mauritius.

With Sikkim INSPIRES, we are witnessing a paradigm shift in policy advocacy, placing women and youth at the center of economic and emotional development of our society.

Welfare Boards

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Our government is making substantial strides in enhancing the well-being of various segments of society through the establishment of dedicated welfare boards.

These boards include:

- i. Farmers Welfare Board,
- ii. Students Welfare Board,

- iii. Retired Employees Welfare Board,
- iv. Labour Welfare Board,
- v. Sports Development Board,
- vi. Art, Culture, and Heritage Development Board, and
- vii. All Sikkim Chalak Welfare Board.

These boards will address the unique needs and challenges faced by their respective groups and have been allocated significant funds in the budget to ensure they are equipped with the resources necessary to execute impactful programs and initiatives.

We are confident that these boards will play a pivotal role in fostering the growth and prosperity of our nation.

Major Focus of the State Government

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The budget we place today reflects the government's strategic focus on key sectors such as prioritizing tourism, roads, water, electricity, education, forests, social security and development. These investments are essential for driving comprehensive development and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens.

Tourism receives 4 percent of the budget, with significant investments aimed at developing key destinations and attracting more visitors.

Notable projects to be under taken by our Government include transforming the Singshore Bridge into a Glass decked bridge, state of the art Skywalk at Bhaleydunga, developing the Dodak eco-tourism pilgrimage complex, and creating a Herbal Medicine and Spiritual Healing Tourism Complex at Nandugoan.

Roads are allocated 4 percent of the budget, emphasizing the importance of well-maintained infrastructure. Key initiatives include upgrading the Indira By-Pass Road, resurfacing and adding drainage along the Rumtek-Rey-Ranka-Sichey Road, improving the Nayabazar-Legship Road, and enhancing State Highway 19 from Gom Khola to Akar Bridge. Additionally, the construction of a Steel Composite Bridge over Gom Khola is planned to improve connectivity.

9 percent allocation to the Land Revenue Department, focusing on flash flood mitigation and the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure has been made. This includes providing cash relief to families affected by the October 2023 floods and undertaking necessary recovery and reconstruction activities. Our Government will also implement the Punar Awaj Yojna for families who have been displaced by the flood.

Electricity receives 4 percent of the budget, highlighting the importance of reliable power supply. Recent investments include strengthening and modernizing the power distribution system, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for climate-proofing and enhancing resilience.

Education is allocated approximately 13 percent, reflecting the government's commitment to improving educational infrastructure and opportunities. Initiatives include the Chief Minister Merit Scholarship Scheme, educational tours for students, exposure trips for teachers, and the new Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme to support BPL students.

Social Security and Development receive 5 percent of the budget. This includes provisions for various Aama schemes designed to uplift women and children, such as social security pensions and the Chief Minister's Disability Pension.

The health sector is allocated 6 percent of the budget, focusing on expanding and enhancing healthcare infrastructure. Investments include new hospital equipment, upgrading specialty wards, maintaining the New STNM Hospital. We are also funding key programs like the Mukhia Mantri Swastha Suvridha Yojana, the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme, and the "Hamro Dawai Dokan," which will offer free medical help to BPL patients needing chemotherapy, dialysis, angioplasty and liver medications.

Rural Development receives 8 percent of the budget, with the object of improving the quality of life in rural areas through initiatives that promote connectivity, water supply, sanitation and rural roads.

This budget underscores our government's dedication to balanced development, ensuring that each of these critical sectors—tourism, roads, water, electricity, education, forests, social security and development receives appropriate funding

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I now move on to elaborate on the priority areas of our government for the next five years, beginning with tourism—a sector that is crucial to Sikkim's economy and identity.

Tourism:

Our government, after careful deliberation and strategic planning, has chosen to prioritize the tourism sector, which is vital for Sikkim, providing livelihoods for nearly 18 percent of our population, making it second only to agriculture in its impact.

In 2022-23, Sikkim welcomed nearly 2 million tourists, three times our population, a significant increase from about 0.7 million in 2015.

We aim to promote sustainable tourism, and are focusing on various categories such as leisure, ecotourism, adventure, cultural and religious tourism, village homestays, health and wellness tourism, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions).

To support convention tourism, we are constructing a state-of-the-art Convention Center at Namli, Gangtok, equipped with all necessary facilities, at a cost of ₹900 crores. This center will have a capacity of 2,000 people and will feature a versatile conference hall, a mini conference hall, meeting and banquet rooms, guest houses, and a heated swimming pool. We are hopeful that this will help promote Sikkim as a wedding destination in the future.

We want to develop Sikkim into a premier year-round destination for nature, adventure and cultural tourism. We also want to ensure that tourism benefits are widespread, supporting local communities, social, and economic development while offering top-notch hospitality services to attract high-value, long-stay tourists.

Over the past year, we have observed that the profits from tourism are largely privatized while the losses and damages are socialized. Additionally, the per capita spending of tourists remains relatively low, and constraints such as short stays, seasonality, and limited geographical tourism sources have impacted the sector.

To address these challenges, we are set to develop a comprehensive policy aimed at creating a win-win strategy. Our approach will involve consulting with all stakeholders and focusing on the following key areas:

- i) Promoting high-value tourism alongside existing budget tourism. Our

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government plans to identify and develop specific high-value tourism corridors with exclusive attractions.

ii) Enhancing and providing basic amenities for home stays and other community, family, and panchayat-managed tourism initiatives. Necessary funds for this purpose will be provided.

iii) Opening employment opportunities by establishing institutions both within Sikkim and outside, to train tourist guides, hotel staff, passenger car drivers, tourist security agencies, and others.

iv) Making maximum efforts to improve road conditions, roadside amenities, communication systems, water and electricity availability and sanitation facilities with the support of various national and global institutions.

v) Ensuring that the beauty and tranquility of Sikkim, which captivate every tourist upon arrival and leave them nostalgic upon departure, are preserved and enhanced. This will ensure that visitors continue to find Sikkim both attractive and inviting.

So far, our Government has developed major infrastructures aimed at boosting tourism and showcasing the natural beauty of the state. Among these, the construction of the eco-friendly ropeway from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga at Yangang in Namchi District stands out. This project, completed with an investment of ₹209.57 crore, aims to introduce a new tourist attraction that spans 3024 meters and features two stations—one at Dhapper (LTP) and the other at Bhaleydhunga peak (UTP). The ropeway includes 18 towers, a vertical rise of 1348 meters, and 18 Sigma make cabins, each seating eight people. The system was inaugurated virtually by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Honourable Finance Minister of India. The asset is now leased out, with commercial operations set to commence soon.

Another major development is the completion of a passenger ropeway from Pelling Helipad to Sangacholing Monastery hilltop in Gyalshing District, with an investment of ₹166.72 crore. This eco-friendly ropeway enhances connectivity to popular tourist sites like Chenrenzi, Skywalk, and Sangacholing Monastery, and offers stunning views of the Kanchendzonga mountain range. Built by the State Government in partnership with M/S POMA of France, the ropeway spans 962 meters with a vertical rise of 81 meters and features five towers. The project is now complete and ready for commercial operation.

In Namchi District, the construction of a skywalk at Bhaleydhunga is a priority project, with an investment of ₹396.14 crore, aiming to establish Sikkim as a premier eco-tourism destination. The skywalk offers a 360-degree view of surrounding hills and valleys, incorporating regional historic significance. The structure includes a 240-meter long, 360° circular skywalk at an altitude of 3300 meters, with a cantilevered section featuring a glass floor. Constructed using high-strength steel and cables, it includes two 40-meter high towers, a viewing gallery, a funicular connecting the ropeway's upper terminal to the skywalk, and a 250-meter nature trail through Meanam Wildlife Sanctuary. This is the first Skywalk of this dimension in the Country.

The conversion of Singshore Bridge into a glass skywalk bridge in Gyalshing District is another notable project, undertaken with an investment of ₹87.51 crore under the PMDeVINE initiative. The existing suspension vehicular bridge will be transformed into a 240-meter long, 3.75-meter wide glass-bottomed pedestrian skywalk at an altitude of 6600 feet, offering stunning 360-degree views over a deep gorge. An additional 20-meter platform will be constructed below the center of the bridge for adventure tourism activities. To enhance the tourist experience, support facilities such as a cafeteria, parking, and viewpoints will be provided. These infrastructure developments underscore Sikkim's commitment to enhancing its tourism sector and providing unique, eco-friendly attractions for visitors.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Sikkim had emerged as the alternate location for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. However, since last two years, this alternate route has no longer being in vogue. Sikkim is ideally located for this alternate route and has all facilities for acclimatization of tourists for undertaking this strenuous journey. We are making efforts with the Government of India for an early opening of this project.

Moreover, we intend to build of a Multimodal Corridor with a modern integrated check post between the State of Sikkim and Eastern Nepal through Chewa Bhanjyang which has emerged as a crucial point of cultural, economic, social, tourism and ecological exchanges. It has been a traditional bilateral contact point between West Sikkim in India and Nepal. India has several significant national interests in the Eastern Nepal. The Chewa Bhanjyang Corridor will not only consolidate India's national security interests, it will become an investment zone for India.

It is a well known fact that tourists visiting Sikkim from around the globe and within our country are often mesmerized by its charm and are eager to return. However, while our road network has seen significant development, there remains considerable room for improvement.

As previously mentioned, our government will prioritize the road sector next 5 years, focusing on maintaining major roads that connect key tourist destinations for which we have allocated substantial funds.

Looking forward, we are prioritizing the development of several key road projects to enhance tourism and connectivity such as the:

- Upgradation of Ravangla-Damthang Road
- Upgradation of Indira Bypass Road
- Resurfacing, carpeting, drainage and protective works along Rumtek-Rey-Ranka-Sichey Road
- Upgradation of Nayabazar-Legship Road
- Upgradation of State Highway 19 from Gom Khola to Akar Bridge, Jorethang, and construction of an 80-meter span Steel Composite Bridge over Gom Khola.

We are confident that these improvements will boost the tourism potential of major destinations, including Pelling, Kaluk, Rinchenpong, Hillee, Barsey and Ravangla.

In addition, we will soon begin refurbishing and upgrading the Naya Bazar-Mangalbaria-Rinchenpong-Kaluk-Dentam-Chewa Bhanjyang road.

Roads

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the October

2023 floods, our government has successfully completed the:

- Construction of 22 new roads totaling 23.59 km.
- Ongoing construction of 350 roads totaling 449.44 km.
- Upgradation of 13 roads totaling 33.59 km.
- Ongoing upgradation of 91 roads totaling 460.44 km.
- Construction of a 30-meter span bridge, with ongoing work on an additional five bridges totaling 330 meters.

We will also undertake the construction of the Alternate Highway from Melli to Singtam, with an investment of ₹2502.74 crore, including ₹50 crore for land acquisition. This new road will reduce the distance between Melli and Singtam from approximately 30 km to 22.514 km. The project will include 13 bridges totaling 2.55 km and 3 tunnels spanning 4.70 km. The new alignment will provide a climate-resilient travel route, less vulnerable to landslides and breaches due to its higher elevation above the Teesta River.

To attract high-value tourists, our government has recently launched the heliport at Burtuk for a 26-seater helicopter service between Bagdogra and Gangtok. To further enhance their travel experience, we will develop the Indira Bypass from the Burtuk helipad to Gangtok and restore the perennial subsidence zone at Manbir Colony.

Climate change and severe weather events are increasingly impacting our roads with landslides, flooding, and disruptions. To address these challenges, our government is incorporating new climate-resilient technologies into our road sector. We have introduced the state's first thin white topping road (cement concrete) along the Indira Bypass, designed to withstand heavy water logging. If successful, we plan to replicate this model wherever feasible.

Additionally, we propose constructing a two-lane traffic tunnel at Chirbireytar, Jorethang on the Melli-Jorethang road to address ongoing landslide issues. We are also planning to restore the perennial subsidence zone at Sisney using Reinforced Earth wall technology.

We are also keen to attract cutting-edge technology transfers into the road sector. As mentioned earlier, we have approached leading Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and agencies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for investments. I am pleased to report that the ADB's funding for our road projects is nearing fruition, and we have made adequate budgetary provisions for this in the current budget.

We will also undertake the upgradation of various roads to tourist destinations in Sikkim, with substantial funds allocated for the current fiscal year.

Once these projects are completed, they will significantly contribute to our vision of "Sunaulo Sikkim."

Enhancing Rural Road Connectivity in Sikkim

We understand that improving rural road connectivity is crucial for rural development. Through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), which focuses on constructing all-weather roads with essential culverts and cross-drainage structures to ensure year-round access to previously unconnected rural habitations, we have successfully linked remote and inaccessible areas. These roads have also boosted village tourism, including homestays and village resorts, and facilitated the transportation of agricultural produce to markets, opening up new business opportunities for the rural population. Enhanced road connectivity has also provided easy access to essential services such as schools, hospitals, rural markets, tourist spots, and government offices, thereby improving the living standards of rural communities.

In the past five years (2019 to 2024), under PMGSY, we have constructed 183 roads totaling 749.34 kilometers and 51 long-span bridges. Additionally, 31 long-span bridges sanctioned in 2021 and 2022 for remaining habitations are mostly completed. We have spent ₹910.92 crore on these projects. Recognizing the importance of the scheme, the State Government has consistently provided the necessary State Share to secure the Central Share. Despite the scheme not covering land compensation, the Sikkim Government has compensated landowners for land, damaged houses and standing properties to ensure fair treatment.

With Phase I and Phase II of PMGSY nearing completion, Sikkim has secured approval for PMGSY Phase III, which involves upgrading 45 roads spanning 285.90 kilometers at a cost of ₹249.51 crore.

Additionally, under the Vibrant Village Programme, the Government of India has sanctioned roads spanning 18.73 kilometers and eight long-span bridges at a cost of ₹96.33 crore for Mangan District to connect villages near the international border. While PMGSY Phases I and II have covered all rural habitations with populations over 250, our government is now preparing a proposal for PMGSY Phase IV to provide new connectivity to smaller habitations and upgrade existing roads.

Upon completion of the ongoing and proposed works, every rural habitation in Sikkim will be connected with all-weather roads, promoting economic growth, health, education and sustainability in the state's rural areas.

Provision of Safe Drinking Water and proper sanitation

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Our commitment in providing safe drinking water and proper sanitation extends beyond merely increasing the quantity of water supply to ensuring its quality.

Our government has made remarkable progress in the area of water supply through the effective implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and the Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT), while also leveraging our state's resources. According to the Niti Aayog SDG Progress Report of July 2024, Sikkim's piped water supply is now available to 88.6% of households, a significant increase from 37.4% in 2021-22. Notably, all households in rural areas now have access to adequate and improved water sources. We have successfully addressed challenges related to connectivity, adequacy, and access in rural areas and are focused on achieving 100% coverage in urban areas as well.

In terms of physical achievements under the rural water supply initiative, out of the total 1,31,880 households, 1,18,035 households currently have functional household tap connections, representing an 89.50% achievement of our target. The remaining 10.5% will be achieved within this Financial Year 2024-25. Additionally, one block has been declared a Har Ghar Jal Block, 42 GPUs as Har Ghar Jal Panchayats, 111 villages as Har Ghar Jal Villages, and 1652 habitations as Har Ghar Jal Habitations.

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Despite these advances, we continue to address key issues related to access and quality. This involves identifying reliable sources, ensuring quality testing and proper storage, and establishing connectivity to households. Sustainability further requires developing and assessing both surface and underground reserves, along with implementing effective waste management to ensure that post-treatment water is used appropriately.

Through the Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT and State's own resources, we remain committed to ensuring that all households, both rural and urban, have access to safe, piped drinking water.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Rural sanitation is a top priority for our Government. Due to our consistent efforts, Sikkim was recognized as the first ODF Plus Model State. This means the State has established facilities and arrangements for the safe and scientific management of solid and liquid waste, adequate IEC and awareness signage, minimal stagnant water, and a visually clean environment.

Significant assets have been created by our Government under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) which include the construction of 12,502 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), 659 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC), 4 Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMU) with 19 more ongoing, 33 Resource Recovery Centres (RRC), 6,001 individual soak pits for grey water, 310 community soak pits, 9,013 individual compost pits, 368 community compost pits, retrofitting of 1,019 single pits to twin pits, retrofitting of 383 septic tanks with soak pits, 47 resource recovery vehicles, 355 segregation sheds and 268 bins at community places.

Additionally, 07 Mobile Treatment Units (MTU) have been provided under Swachh Bharat Kosh to scientifically treat faecal sludge from septic tanks, enhancing the faecal sludge treatment capacity of the State. We are also establishing Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTP) and co-treatment facilities in existing STPs to manage faecal sludge in peri-urban areas and villages in an environmentally friendly manner, complying with the mandates of the National Green Tribunal and CPCB.

14 Resource Recovery Vehicles to GPs and SHGs have also been provided for managing solid waste in their areas. Sanitation plays an indispensable role in the welfare and well-being of the people, and our Government is constantly working to sustain the achievements made in this area.

Electricity

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Both the Government of India and the Government of Sikkim are committed to providing reliable, high-quality electricity 24/7. Sikkim has achieved nearly full electrification, and clean fuel is used for cooking, heating and lighting.

To further enhance our power sector, the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, supported by the Asian Development Bank, will strengthen, modernize and climate-proof Sikkim's power distribution system. This initiative aims to improve the reliability, quality and resilience of our electricity supply, ensuring round-the-clock access to dependable power for households, industries and businesses.

Health

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Today, Sikkim stands as one of the most progressive states in India's health sector. Our commitment to healthcare is reflected in the significant improvements in infrastructure, capacity building, manpower placement and delivery of comprehensive services. These advancements have led to remarkable changes in various health and service indicators.

Comparative data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) highlights our achievements as under:

- Birth and Death Registration:

Birth registration with civil authority for children under five years is 96.5% in Sikkim, compared to 89.1% in the nation.

Death registration with civil authority in the last three years is 75.5% in Sikkim, higher than the nation's 70.8%.

- Mortality Rates:

Neonatal mortality rate is 5 per 1,000 live births in Sikkim, significantly lower than the nation's 24.9 per 1,000 live births.

Infant mortality rate is 5 per 1,000 live births in Sikkim, compared to 28 per 1,000 live births in the nation.

Under-five mortality rate in Sikkim is 11.2 per 1,000 live births, compared to 41.9 per 1,000 live births in the nation.

- Delivery Care:

70.0% of mothers in Sikkim had an antenatal check-up in the first trimester, compared to 63.7% in the nation.

Institutional births are higher in Sikkim at 94.7%, compared to 88.6% in the nation.

Births attended by skilled health personnel are 96.5% in Sikkim, compared to 89.4% in the nation.

86.3% of women aged 15-24 years in Sikkim use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period, compared to 77.3% in the nation.

- Child Vaccination and Vitamin A Supplementation:

80.6% of children aged 12-23 months are fully vaccinated in Sikkim, compared to 76.4% in the nation.

87.5% of children aged 9-35 months received a vitamin A dose in the last six months, compared to 71.2% in the nation.

All children aged 12-23 months in Sikkim received most of their vaccinations in a public health facility, compared to 94.5% in the nation.

Due to our consistent efforts, our super-specialty departments at the New STNM Hospital have achieved remarkable milestones. In Medical Oncology, we have introduced immunotherapy and radiotherapy, revolutionizing cancer treatment. The Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery/Burns Unit manages head and neck cancer surgeries, conducts yearly cleft camps with Mission Smile, and treats severe burn cases successfully. The Cardiology department, with its state-of-the-art Cath-lab Operation Theatre, has performed over 1,900 successful operations. The Gastroenterology Department has introduced ground breaking procedures such as

Argon Plasma Coagulation for bleeding ulcers, various stenting procedures for cancer treatment and Endoscopic Ultrasound.

Our Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery Department has performed breakthrough procedures, including Endovascular Laser Ablation, Decortication Surgery, Single Lung Ventilation and the repair of massive diaphragm ruptures.

The Neurosurgery Department has significantly enhanced its capabilities with spine surgery, emergency craniotomies, brain tumor surgeries, neuro-endovascular procedures and intracranial aneurysm clippings.

In Obstetrics & Gynaecology, we have successfully performed pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomies, radical hysterectomies and cytoreduction surgeries for ovarian cancer.

The Urology Department has performed around 2,000 major surgeries, including the removal of massive bladder stones, complex partial nephrectomies and the treatment of rare adrenal gland tumors.

The Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Department has conducted over 210 head and neck malignancy surgeries and provided more than 1,500 day-care services, significantly reducing the need for patients to seek expensive treatments outside the state.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

To address the declining Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Sikkim, our Government launched the Vatsalya Scheme on April 7, 2022. Under this, each couple is eligible for a maximum of ₹3,00,000, with ₹1,50,000 allocated for the first attempt and an additional ₹1,50,000 available for a second attempt, if needed.

From April 2022 to July 2024, 779 beneficiaries have benefitted from this scheme.

Recognizing Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) as a critical public health issue, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, our government has established dialysis centers in every district hospital across the State.

The District Hospital in Gyalsing is equipped with five haemodialysis machines, and currently serves 38 patients and has conducted 3,280 dialysis sessions, with a waiting list of 10 patients. The District Hospital in Mangan also has five haemodialysis machines, serving 15 patients and has conducted 1,279 dialysis sessions as of June 2024. Meanwhile, the District Hospital in Namchi is equipped with seven haemodialysis machines, catering to 51 patients and has held 6,077 dialysis sessions, with a waiting list of 15 patients as of June 2024.

The New STNM Hospital now has 28 haemodialysis machines, including one designated for hepatitis and HIV-positive patients. It has served 200 dialysis patients and has conducted 18,149 dialysis sessions as of June 2024, with a waiting list of 247 patients.

Our government introduced Peritoneal Dialysis as a pilot project in 2021, with 41 patients registered and provided with free consumables. Overall, we have 45 dialysis machines across the State serving 304 patients daily and have conducted 28,785 dialysis sessions from April 2023 to June 2024. The total waiting list across these hospitals is 272 patients.

Additionally, dialysis centers at Jorethang and Soreng PHCs will be established shortly.

In terms of health infrastructure, our government has strengthened district hospitals. New district hospitals at Singtam and Soreng have been notified, and construction is underway. Moreover, the Namchi District Hospital project has been upgraded to a 500-bedded hospital, fully funded by the state exchequer. It is expected to be completed and inaugurated in 2025 to commemorate Sikkim's 50th anniversary of statehood. This hospital will serve Namchi district and the adjoining areas of Gyalsing and Soreng districts, reducing the patient load at the New STNM Hospital.

To further strengthen the health sector, this year's budget allocation focuses on several key initiatives aimed at enhancing healthcare infrastructure, upgrading facilities, and ensuring the availability of essential medical services and equipment. We have allocated ₹12.33 crore for the procurement of new hospital equipment, ensuring that our healthcare facilities are equipped with the latest medical technologies. Additionally, significant funds have been provided for the upgradation of the Nephrology Ward at the New STNM Hospital, reflecting our commitment to improving specialized healthcare services.

We will also enhance the facilities in the Nephrology Department to support kidney transplants, ensuring that our infrastructure meets the growing demand based on patient load. We continue to support critical health programs with adequate fund allocation for the Mukhya Mantri Swastha Suvridha Yojna and the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund, ensuring financial assistance for those in need of medical care. Moreover, a separate maintenance fund has been allocated for the New STNM Hospital to ensure its smooth operation, and substantial funds have been dedicated to the Mobile Village Clinic initiative, enhancing healthcare outreach in rural areas.

Education

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Education is a top priority for our government, as it is key to Sikkim's future. We have restructured the Education Department into two sections—School Education and Higher, Technical & Medical Education. This reorganization aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of our education system.

We will be initiating and consolidating what we have utilized in years of governance.

Model Residential School: We are establishing a Model Residential School in Assam Lingzey to provide quality education to underprivileged yet talented children, serving as a model for implementing NEP 2020. This school shall be operational from the next academic session.

Implementation of NEP 2020: Our focus is on universal foundational literacy and numeracy, with measures in place to achieve a 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) by 2030. Digital innovations are enhancing efficiency, reducing costs, and increasing transparency.

Enrolment Statistics: For the 2022-23 academic year, our GER is 90.50% for elementary education, 78.96% for secondary education and 65.11% for senior secondary education. Net Enrollment Ratios are 69.92% for elementary and secondary education and 35.67% for senior secondary education. Transition rates are 90.78% from primary to upper primary, 98.35% from upper primary to secondary, and 98.35% from secondary to senior secondary. Our Pupil Teacher Ratios are 9.44 at preprimary, 4.41 in primary, 8.63 in upper primary, 6.73 in secondary and 9.18 in

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senior secondary.

Learning Resources: Our government is committed to providing high-quality resources, including e-learning tools (DIKSHA), well-equipped labs, vocational resources, and trained sports teachers. Our system aims to develop well-rounded individuals with essential 21st-century skills.

Vocational Education: Sikkim is a pioneer in offering vocational trades at Classes IX to XII across all 211 Government Secondary and Senior Secondary schools. We are establishing the State School Standards Authority (SSSA) to align with national assessment standards.

Educational Management: The Education Management and Monitoring Information System (EMMIS) enhances data collection and decision-making through the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK).

Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme (CMMSS): This scheme supports economically disadvantaged and tribal children, with 1,157 students having benefited by 2023. The scheme has been extended up to the Graduation level. We are also expanding the scheme to include additional spots and reservations for children with special needs.

PM SHRI Schools: Sikkim has 43 PM SHRI Schools, with 30 in the 1st Phase and 13 in the 2nd Phase. Interventions like the Learning Enhancement Programme and Winter Coaching have improved academic performance, with pass percentages for Class X rising from 61% to 67% and Class XII from 86.9% to 88.12%.

Innovative Programs: Mindfulness and meditation have been integrated into the PM SHRI Scheme. In 2023, 242 teachers from 51 schools were trained in the Heartfulness Way Curriculum and HELP Programme. Schools have also developed School Nutrition Gardens to teach students about organic farming and entrepreneurship.

Teacher Motivation and Exposure Trips: We organize exposure trips for State Awardees and Commendation Certificate recipients to motivate teachers and share best practices. In 2024, 37 State Awardees will visit Tamil Nadu and Kerala and 1 National Awardee Teacher will go to Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

Higher Education Transformation: Beginning in the 2025-26 academic session, government colleges will evolve into multi-disciplinary Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), offering a four-year undergraduate program with flexible entry and exit options. Under the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), we are constructing four new government colleges and supporting the Khangchendzonga State University (KSU) campus at Tarku with PM-USHA funds. Additionally, the establishment of NIT Khamdong and the allocation of 50 MBBS seats at Sikkim Manipal University (SMU), fully funded by the State Government, along with 30 seats available on a payment basis for Sikkimese students, will further enhance our technical and medical education sectors.

SCERT Initiatives: SCERT has developed state textbooks for primary education, which have been positively received by NCERT and are used as resource materials nationally. Sikkim has been allotted 5 DTH channels under the PM e-Vidhya project for digital education, with SCERT creating quality video content for local broadcast.

Mental Health Support: SCERT collaborates with various organizations to provide mental health support systems in schools.

Through these initiatives, we are advancing our education goals and creating opportunities for all students in Sikkim, ensuring a brighter future for our state.

Environment

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Sikkim is renowned globally for its exemplary environmental preservation policies. Our commitment to nurturing and protecting our natural heritage is unwavering, and we have embarked on several innovative initiatives to ensure a sustainable future.

1. **Mero Rukh Mero Santati:** Launched in 2023, this initiative aims to deepen the connection between parents, children, and nature by planting 108 trees for every newborn in Sikkim. This program has garnered international recognition, particularly at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 28 in Dubai. To date, we have successfully planted over 300,000 trees through this initiative.

2. **Environmental Conservation:** Since 2019, environmental conservation has been a cornerstone of our government's agenda. We have implemented numerous policies and interventions to promote a greener and more sustainable future, reflecting our steadfast commitment to preserving our natural heritage.

3. **Sikkim Paryavaran Parva:** Celebrated annually from July 1-14, this event, themed "Leave a Green Legacy," serves as a significant platform for celebrating the human-nature connection. The fortnight features various environmental initiatives, including workshops on endangered species, water conservation, and zero-waste lifestyles. Activities such as clean-up drives, green reels competitions and other events engage the public, strengthen our bond with nature, and inspire collective responsibility towards environmental stewardship.

4. **Mero Rukh Mero Santati Expansion:** This initiative also encourages planting 108 trees to commemorate the birth of a child. With 6,476 children registered in the program to date, we celebrate new life while significantly enhancing the state's green cover.

5. **Sikkim Shishu Samridhi Yojana:** Under this scheme, a fixed deposit of ₹10,800 is opened in the name of each child, redeemable only when the child turns 18. This initiative supports the financial security of children and fosters long-term environmental awareness.

6. **Mero Bato Mero Bot:** This campaign, a collaborative effort between the Forest and Environment Department and the Roads Department, focuses on greening roadways. It promotes planting and maintaining trees along roadsides, enhancing green cover, and raising environmental awareness through active community participation.

7. **My Child from the Wild:** Through this program, individuals or groups can adopt an animal via a mutual agreement with Park Management. Sponsors support conservation efforts and benefit from free park entry and access to zoo programs, fostering public engagement in wildlife conservation.

8. **State Butterfly - Blue Duke:** On June 5, 2022, the Blue Duke (Bassaronadurga) was declared the State Butterfly of Sikkim. This designation,

achieved through a consortium of experts and public voting, highlights our dedication to celebrating and protecting Sikkim's unique biodiversity.

9. **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign:** Launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, this campaign honors mothers and underscores our commitment to sustainability. I, along with my cabinet members, had the privilege of participating in this campaign, which is being actively followed and successfully implemented in Sikkim.

10. **Community-Driven Environmental Initiatives:** Through these innovative policies and community-driven initiatives, the Government of Sikkim continues to advance its environmental stewardship goals and foster a more sustainable future for all.

Our dedication to environmental conservation is reflected in our diverse and impactful initiatives. By engaging the community and implementing forward-thinking policies, Sikkim is leading the way towards a greener and more sustainable future.

New Laws introduced

Implementation of New Criminal Justice System in the State

With the implementation of the new criminal justice system in the country w.e.f 1st of July, 2024, the Government of Sikkim has been in full enthusiasm for the seamless transition of the new criminal laws, be it strengthening of manpower, infrastructure, skilling and training of all stakeholders, issuing of notification/ rules/ SOPs, etc

- In compliance to the directions of MHA, the State Government constituted the State Level Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for the successful implementation of the three new criminal laws.

- The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 has been developed in conformity with the new criminal laws, incorporating necessary technological upgrades aiming to achieve seamless integration of workflow and data across the 5 pillars of the criminal justice system, namely, Police (CCTNS), e-Forensics, e-Prosecution, e-Courts and e-Prisons and is built on the principle of "One Data-One Entry".

In this regard our Government has constituted State Apex Committee and State Empowered Committee to review the progress, implementation, monitor utilization of funds and issue of policy directions and guidance for successful implementation of the project

- The Regional Forensic Science Laboratory previously under the Police Administration has been brought under the State Home Department in the year 2023. With the mandatory provision of forensic investigation under the new criminal law, our Government is strengthening the manpower and infrastructure of the Forensic lab in the State and is also in the process of constituting Crime Scene Management Unit under RFSL. Two Mobile Forensic Vans have also been acquired by the State Government for the purpose.

- In Section 20 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, the concept of Directorate of Prosecution has been introduced for each of the states to establish with the stated purpose of monitoring cases. The Directorate of Prosecution at the State and District level with the Director of prosecution assisted by Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors shall oversee and coordinate the prosecution of criminal cases. Our Government has already initiated action in this direction in compliance with the new criminal laws.

We can positively affirm that our Government is moving in the right direction by implementing these practices which help in creating a well organised, responsive and efficient administrative environment, congenial for all round development of the State.

Social Security and Empowerment

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Sikkim is deeply committed to advancing social security and empowering our citizens, with a strong focus on women and marginalized groups. Our initiatives reflect our dedication to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all.

We have prioritized women's representation and empowerment through our policy of reserving a minimum of 50% seats for women in Panchayat elections, resulting in women holding over 53% of these positions. This achievement highlights our commitment to gender equality and inclusive governance.

Our flagship initiative, the Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojna, provides vital support to non-working, unwed, widowed, divorced or separated mothers. This program, offering an annual financial grant of ₹ 40,000 in 2 instalments, helps these mothers invest in their children's education or start small businesses, fostering financial independence. The budget for SASY was increased from ₹32.00 crores in 2022-23 to ₹65.00 crores in 2023-24, allowing us to support a larger number of beneficiaries.

In 2023, we introduced the Sikkim Aama Sahyog Yojna through which we shall provide 4 LPG cylinders to mothers aged 18 to 59, reinforcing our commitment to gender equality and the welfare of mothers.

Our Bahini Yojna promotes the well-being of girls by providing free sanitary napkins in government-run schools and colleges, addressing important health and hygiene needs.

We also support economic self-reliance through the Mukhya Mantri Atma Nirbhar Yojna, which promotes entrepreneurship among residents. Additionally, the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Atma Nirbhar Yojna encourages traditional/ natural farming by providing financial rewards for the production of locally-grown crops, resulting in a significant increase in crop production.

Our Milk Production Incentive offers ₹8 per liter to farmers through the state's Milk Unions, boosting the dairy sector. Similarly, the Pig Production Incentive supports pig farming with targeted incentives, enhancing local production and farmer incomes.

These comprehensive efforts demonstrate our unwavering commitment to social security and empowerment, ensuring that every citizen of Sikkim has the support and opportunities needed to thrive. We remain dedicated to advancing the well-being of our state and reinforcing our commitment to a more equitable and prosperous society for all.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I shall now briefly mention the budgetary profile for the financial year 2024-25.

In the budget of 2024-25, out of every ₹100 the State Government receives, ₹21 comes from State Own Tax Revenue and ₹9 from State Own Non-Tax Revenue.

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CM releases Vishwama Manav Sabhyata: Jatiya Brihat Itihas, Sanskriti ra Parampara book

Gangtok, August 4: Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang released 'Vishwama Manav Sabhyata: Jatiya Brihat Itihas, Sanskriti ra Parampara', a book authored by Mr TB Subba, at a function organised by Kinar Prakashan Gangtok at Manan Kendra, today.

Also present were Madam Krishna Rai, MLA-cum-Advisors, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors of Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Former Ministers and MLAs, President, Pustak Lokarpan Samaroh (PLS), Padmashri Awardee, Officials, Sahityakars (literary personalities) from Nepal and neighbouring states, representatives from various community associations, teachers, students and public.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister extended his congratulations to writer Mr T B Subba in completing and releasing his book. He remarked that 'Vishwama Manav Sabhyata: Jatiya Brihat Itihas, Sanskriti ra Parampara' is a unique book, in which writer has demonstrated a profound understanding of human nature and a mastery of the Nepali language, making his work timeless and universally revered. The Chief Minister underscored his 19 years dedication in writing and urged everyone to read, support and encourage the writer. On this note, he announced that the State Government will purchase a total of 3000 copies and further updated that a grant of ₹10 lakhs will be provided to the author from Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant, and also underlined that an amount of ₹ 10 lakhs had already been given to the author to assist him to complete the book.

He also announced that the State Government will establish

various Boards on language, literature, and art in coming days to benefit all concerned, which will work independently, providing a platform for those connected with these fields to thrive.

He remarked the noticeable decline in book writers due to the rise in the digital era and expressed his delight at the release of this book, which he views as a testament to the enduring presence of writers.

He enumerated various initiatives started by the State Government to support writers and other literary events like Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas, celebration of Bhanu Jayanti all over Sikkim to honour the Nepali language, Sikkim Kalakar Bharosa Sammelan and many more. The Chief Minister highlighted the State Government's commitment to supporting writers, poets, and historians, assuring that the State Government is always ready to assist in publishing valuable manuscripts. He mentioned about various initiatives taken by the State Government to promote language, literature, music, and art, including the increase in the annual budget of the Sikkim Academy to ₹1 crore.

During the programme, Mr C P Bhattarai, former Press Advisor to Chief Minister also the President PLS, briefly spoke on the importance of writers and their contributions to the society. He also informed about the upcoming Antarashtriyah Sahitya Mahotsav, which will be held in the coming months, and provided an update on Pari Prakashan, a literary publication society dedicated to commemorating art and literature.

In his address Professor Krishnaraj Ghatani also spoke

contributions to Sikkim will be deeply missed and fondly remembered, he added.

The obituary references were also participated by Mrs Raj Kumari Thapa, Deputy Speaker, SLA, Mr Riksal Dorjee Bhutia, MLA Barfung constituency, and Ministers Mr Raju Basnet and Mr Bhim Hang Limboo.

In honour of the departed Members of the Assembly, the House also observed two-minute silence.

During the Legislative Business, the House passed the Sikkim Court Fees and Stamps on Documents (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 22 of 2024) and the Sikkim Online Gaming (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 24 of 2024), introduced by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department on August 5, 2024.

The House also passed the Sikkim Registration of Tourist Trade Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 23 of 2024) which was introduced on August 5, 2024 by Mr Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Minister-in-Charge of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department.

It was followed by discussion on Motion of Thanks

about the importance of preserving historical knowledge as it helps individuals and communities to maintain a sense of identity and continuity, connecting them to their past and giving context to the present. He further termed the book as an encyclopedia which can enrich society and continue to benefit future generations.

Writer Mr T B Subba appraised the audience about his book 'Vishwama Manav Sabhyata: Jatiya Brihat Itihas, Sanskriti ra Parampara', which he said is divided into two parts: one focusing on Manav Sabhyata (Human Civilization) and the other on Samaj Shastra (Social Science). The book intricately details the community, language of Sikkim, and other aspects. Comprising of 2,300 pages, it delves into the origins of communities and their development.

During the programme, a short biography of writer Mr T B Subba was also screened, detailing his achievements and other creations. The organising committee felicitated Chief Minister for his unwavering commitment in upliftment of the State. Additionally, the Chief Minister along with the members of the organising committee felicitated the representatives of 21 communities, who were provided with a letter of appreciation. Similarly, Nepali Sahitya Adhyan Samiti (Kalimpong) and Milap Publication (Nepal) also felicitated the Chief Minister. Moreover, Kinar Prakashan also honoured the contributors who helped in the formation of 'Vishwama Manav Sabhyata: Jatiya Brihat Itihas, Sanskriti ra Parampara', book.

on the Governor's address to the House placed on the first day of the Budget Session. Since no discussion ensued, the Motion of Thanks was put to vote and subsequently passed by the House.

During the Financial Business, the discussion on the Annual General Budget for 2024-25 was opened. However, no discussion took place. Consequently, the voting and passing of the budget will be taken up on August 9, 2024.

The Financial Business also saw the passing of the Demands for Excess Grants/Appropriation 2015-16, presented and moved by Chief Minister, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department.

During the session, Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, also the Minister-in-Charge of Finance Department introduced and moved the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2024 (Bill No. 18 of 2024) for Demands for Excess Grants/Appropriation 2015-16, which was also passed by the House.

Thereafter, the House was adjourned till 11:00 am, August 7, 2024.

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Full text...

₹48 is sourced from States Share of Central Taxes and ₹22 comes from Capital Receipts authorised by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Government of India.

On the expenditure front, out of every ₹100, ₹40 will be spent on salary and wages, ₹14 on pensions, ₹9 on Interest payments, ₹7 on loan repayments and ₹1 on grants for autonomous institutions/commissions/boards. The remaining ₹29 will be spent on other developmental activities including capital works.

Against a gross expenditure provision of ₹14490.67 crore, (Rupees fourteen thousand four hundred ninety crore sixty seven lakh) the net outgo comes to ₹14002.69 crore (Rupees fourteen thousand two crore and sixty nine lakh) after taking into account recoveries amounting to ₹487.97 crore (Rupees four hundred eighty seven crore ninety seven lakh).

The contribution from own tax Revenue is of the order of ₹ 2163.54 crore (Rupees two thousand one hundred sixty three crore fifty four lakh) and that of Non-Tax revenue ₹926.97 crore (Rupees nine hundred twenty six crore ninety seven lakh).

The total gross expenditure includes allocations amounting to ₹2527.99 crore (Rupees two thousand five hundred twenty seven crore ninety nine lakh) under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The summarized account of the receipts and disbursements is detailed below and is incorporated in the budget.

Amount in Cr		
Sl. No.	Receipts	
1.	Tax Revenue	2163.54
2.	Non-Tax Revenue	926.97
3.	State's Share of Central Taxes	4839.17
4.	Grants-in-Aid	2819.45
5.	Gross Borrowings	2248.88
6.	Financial Assistance under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment	1026.41
7.	Recoveries of Loans and Advances	0.32
8.	Net Public Accounts	22.05
	Total Receipts	14046.79
	Expenditure	
9.	Revenue Expenditure	10249.79
10.	Capital Expenditure	3752.90
11.	Total Net Expenditure	14002.69

With these commitments, I commend the Budget for the year 2024-25 to the House for its kind consideration.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

As we look ahead, the initiatives outlined in this budget reflect our steadfast commitment to the growth and prosperity of Sikkim. By investing in education, enhancing social security and fostering economic self-reliance, we are laying a robust foundation for a brighter future. Our comprehensive approach aims not only to address the immediate needs but also to build a sustainable and inclusive framework for all our citizens. With unwavering determination and collaborative effort, we will continue to drive transformative change, ensuring that every Sikkimese has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our state's continued success.

Together, as Team Sikkim, let us advance towards a future of progress, equity and enduring prosperity.

Thank you.

**JAI HIND!
JAI SIKKIM!**

Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation Government of Sikkim

Paryatan Bhawan, Metro Point, Gangtok

Ref No: 11/TD

Date 05/08/2024

Request for Proposal

Proposals are invited from reputed/experienced firms/agencies for the purpose of "**Engagement of Survey Agencies for conducting Baseline Survey of Homestays in Sikkim under Sikkim INSPIRES**". Details of the RFP can be obtained from the official website of the Department: www.sikkimtourism.gov.in

RFP Documents will be available on the above site from **06.08.2024** Last date from submission of proposal **09.09.2024 upto 04.30 p.m.**

Addendum/Modification in RFP, if any, will be uploaded only in the above website.

**Additional Secretary,
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department,
Government of Sikkim
(399)**

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