



# SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 66 No. 15 visit us at [www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in)

Gangtok (Friday) April 01, 2022

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2020-22



## Third day of Budget Session 2022-23

**Gangtok, March 31:** The Sikkim Legislative Assembly passed the General Budget of ₹10,116.11 crore for the financial year 2022-23 on the third day of the Sixth Session of the Tenth Assembly (Budget Session 2022-23) of the SLA, today.

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address and general discussion on Budget 2022-23, both of which were presented in the House on the second day of the Budget Session on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2022, several questions were raised by the various MLAs in the House.

In reply to concerns put forth by MLAs, Mr. D.R. Thapa and Mr. D.T. Lepcha, with regard to the unprecedented economic impacts faced by the tourism stakeholders owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Minister, also the Leader of the House, Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, informed that the State government has undertaken major programmes for this financial year. The State government will organize Sikkim-Global Investment Confluence and Visit Sikkim-2022 as an abode of green investments in the State. Likewise, the State government has already identified the High-Value Tourism Corridor and is working to implement the projects. Under the Mega Home Stay Project, 1000 traditionally designed homestays will be built by the Government.

With the query set forth by MLA Mr. D.R. Thapa for the conservation budget on traffic, the Chief Minister informed the House that the State government has already submitted a proposal for the rope-way project in PPP mode with the Centre. Also, all the possible alternate routes that are being proposed for decongesting the roads in the capital have been brought into effect to mitigate the traffic problem troubling the State capital.

Regarding the steps taken



by the State Government to provide seats to the Limboo Tamang communities in the SLA, the Chief Minister informed the House that the State government's firm resolve to get the LT seats has been indicated through its constant negotiations with the highest authorities in the Centre.

Replying to the query put forth by MLA Mr. Sonam Venchungpa, the Chief Minister informed the House that the State government is positively considering all efforts to make it convenient for the 17<sup>th</sup> Karmapa Ugyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim. A sum of ₹1 crore has been allocated in the budget this year for it. The State Government has left no stone unturned in pursuing the matter.

Replying to the queries raised by MLA, Mr. G.T. Dhungel, Chief Minister and Leader of the House, Mr. P.S. Tamang, gave an in-depth report on the hydropower sectors in the State, mainly pertaining to the Teesta Urja Limited (Teesta III Hydropower Project) and the Amalgamated Transpower India Ltd. (ATPIL). He said that the

State government has constantly been making efforts to reduce the debt burden.

In reply to concerns raised by MLA Mr. D.R. Thapa in the context of the recent teacher appointment, the Chief Minister said that enquiries are underway to robustly assess the issue. He further assured that the State government will stand by its pledge of protecting and conserving the sanctity of Article 371(F) of the Constitution which provides special status to Sikkim.

Replying to the query raised by MLA Mr. Karma Sonam Lepcha, the Chief Minister stated that Rabindranath Tagore Park will be constructed at Rinchenpong.

Regarding the queries laid by MLA Mr. D.T. Lepcha for the live telecast of the Legislative proceedings, the Chief Minister said that the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the SLA. While addressing Mr. D.T. Lepcha's concerns over employment issues, the Chief Minister stated that the State government will soon start Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment

Institute (FWTRI) mainly to provide employment opportunities to the Sikkimese people in foreign countries. He also informed that the Institute will be set up in coordination and cooperation with various Foreign Embassies in India and other international job recruitment agencies.

Replying to his query on the condition of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) projects in the State, the Chief Minister said that NHIDCL falls under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India and added that its development, maintenance and management is only entrusted to the Gol. Additionally, the status of the fair-weather roads in the State will also be followed up by the State government for consideration in future.

Similarly, the Chief Minister, in his reply to MLA Mrs. Sunita Gajmer over the query on the status of medical seats reserved for Sikkimese students, informed that the National Medical Commission (NMC) has approved 50 free seats for the local students at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) sponsored by the State Government. The seats will be free of cost for those who aspire to be a doctor and those who qualify for the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET).

Regarding the matter put forward by MLA Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha in the context of the pending allotment order under the Chief Minister Rural Housing Scheme (CMRHM), the Chief Minister said that the matter will be addressed soon.

In his concluding note, the Chief Minister thanked the Members of the House for their active participation in the proceeding and further assured that the State government will ensure the channelling of all the Central and State benefits across the State.

During the Financial Business, Separate Demands for Grants were also presented for discussion and voting under the charge of:

(i) Minister, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Veterinary Services, Horticulture, Information & Public Relations and Printing & Stationery Departments

(ii) Minister, Tourism & Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industries Departments

(iii) Minister, Education, Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Land

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### Pearls of Wisdom

*"Never put off till tomorrow what may be done day after tomorrow just as well."*

- Mark Twain

## Full text of the address delivered by the CM on the second day of the Budget Session 2022

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

It is an honour for me to present this fourth consecutive budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023, of the Government of Sikkim, led by the people's party, popularly known as Sikkim Krantikari Morcha. However, let me mention that this is the first full-fledged budget of Sikkim since our Government took over the governance of the progressive and steadily growing state of Sikkim in the last three years. This is because in 2019 we assumed the charge only midway of the fiscal year. And both the later fiscal years 2020 and 2021 were acutely hit and disrupted by the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

This budget is presented amidst the lingering fear and uncertainty brought about by the pandemic and in the situation where major development activities have been strenuously interrupted and widely constrained. I stand here today, however, to harness an optimistic scenario where national and global economies are bouncing back into a robust growth path. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has been a pivot in taking out the nation from one of the most historically painful and formidably challenging phases.

With his farsightedness, resilience and forbearance, he has been able to build confidence and instil sense of re-dedication among all the Indian citizens. We the people of Sikkim profusely thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister and all his esteemed colleagues and officials for introducing a plethora of relief and rebuilding measures.

Our national economy is now on the full recovery path and is likely to achieve over 9 percent growth rate. The national budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Madam Nirmala Sitharaman has been highly inspiring and sets forth a new direction to the entire development process.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,** therefore, this fiscal year 2022-2023 budget for our State acquires very special significance as this provides us a first-hand opportunity to both consolidate our development process and introduce some transforming long term development pathways.

We are pleased to mention that despite pandemic and other structural constraints, our government has been able to make a major departure from the unprecedented liabilities and dismal performance indicators left behind by the previous Government.

When we took over the governance in May 2019, every aspect of public life was in disarray and we inherited staggering debts as mentioned in the White Paper. There were projects which remained neglected/ incomplete, with presence of extremely uncertain attitude and permanent adhocism everywhere in employment. Numerous payments were pending for years, leakages and corruption had become deep rooted and favoritism and nepotism were rampant. People were dehumanized, civil society remained deeply frightened and more precariously youths were deeply frustrated and became victims of nothingness. Women were marginalized and artificially empowered. Employment generation had almost hit the bottom rock. There were no systems and norms that provided inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir**

Media was crushed and social media was highly manipulated and distorted. There was very low level of faith and confidence among the government staff. In other words, human insecurity was at its peak. Huge arrear payments were withheld for years together to all the sections of the government officials. There was a dark cloud everywhere as the family oligopolies captured lands to contracts, businesses to appointments and natural resources to institutions, and more dubiously all the sensitive information and data of the Government. Development had become individual and family centric, infrastructure maintenance was in poor shape, institutions were systematically demolished, policy paralysis were witnessed everywhere, natural resources were rampantly exploited and more critically people's faith in the systems and instruments of governance were at the lowest ebb.

Sikkimese society had never witnessed such degree of personality cult and forced leader worshipping. The invisible hands of these family oligopolies even reached villages, communities and places of worship to holy forests, rivers, and lakes of Sikkim. This finally gave birth to what the former Chief Minister a few days back himself called 'hundreds of power brokers' in his own political party. Hon'ble Sir not even three years ago, the situation of Sikkim was characterized by all these visibly vicious phenomena. It was not even a protracted period of misgovernance, it was actually mal-governance that injected anarchy and instability everywhere.

Therefore, **Hon'ble Sir,** as soon we took the governance of our beloved state, we faced formidable tasks which we call as 7 'R's that is, rescue, recover, reconstruct, restore, robust, resilience and recognition.

Therefore, it required clear thinking, elaborate planning, institutional and policy reforms, adequate resource mobilization and finance, restoration of people's faith and confidence, collective efforts, community participation and more importantly patience and smile. I assure the Hon'ble Members of this House and the people of Sikkim, we shall overcome all these inherited hurdles and build what our Hon'ble Prime Minister mentions as **Sabai ko Sath, Sabai ko Vikash, Sabai ko Viswas and Sabai ko Prayas.**

Our government has been trying to correct several lapses and irregularities. We have been making huge efforts to rebuild all these remnants of destruction. We are introducing norms and practices that are people-oriented and injecting newer systems that are people-friendly. Our consistent efforts and perseverance have resulted in achieving many laurels in different fields after the formation of our government which are as under:

1. Pakyong Police Station ranked as 7<sup>th</sup> Best Police Station in the country.
2. Sikkim also received the Most Film Friendly State award in the Country during the 67<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards
3. All four districts of Sikkim were ranked in the top 20 among 120 districts of the North-East region in the Sustainable Development Goals, with East Sikkim ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, South Sikkim 6<sup>th</sup>, North Sikkim 14<sup>th</sup>, West Sikkim 17<sup>th</sup>
4. Sikkim also received the India Today State of the State Awards for best performing state in Economy, and most improved small state in Law & Order and Environment and was also adjudged as the best performing small state in cleanliness
5. Sikkim ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in Public Affairs Index 2021 under good governance category published by Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
6. Sikkim Tops North East and Hill states in NITI Aayog innovation rankings.

7. Sikkim is adjudged among top 5 states with the highest score on overall Smart Policy Index 2021.

8. Sikkim has attained the first position with 92% eligible population administered with the second jab of COVID-19 vaccine.

9. Sikkim has been ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> Happiest Indian State/ Union Territory

10. Sikkim achieved the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education, with 75.8% in higher education in the age group of 18 to 23 years as compared to the National average of 27.1%

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

Kindly bear with me as I have to contrast our performance and interventions with what we actually inherited and what were the realities when we took over. This budget also gives indications about how deep the scars and damages were when we started treating and curing the ills.

### HEALTH SECTOR

Health has been one of our key priorities.

COVID-19 triggered pandemic in fact, exposed how the previous government, despite its 25 years of ruling the state and showing expenditure of hundreds of crores, had not even created basic facilities in the health systems in the State. There were no oxygen plants, ICUs were scarce and had several drawbacks, district hospitals did not have even basic equipment, testing and diagnosis were in bad shape, even widely required dialysis facility did not exist and doctors and health staff remained demotivated.

We went into action immediately and effectively. Today we have adequate number of oxygen plants, ICU beds, testing and diagnosis facilities, medicines and critically more manpower support in hospitals in Gangtok. In all the district hospitals and also in the subdivisions, free COVID kits are being provided continuously.

We are constructing a 300-bedded hospital in Namchi at a sanctioned cost of ₹561.26 crore. The construction started in September 2021. Another 300 bedded district hospital in Singtam, at the sanctioned cost of ₹552.19 crore is being built by the State Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Similarly, a 100 bedded district hospital is slated to be started in Soreng, at a cost of ₹236.11 crore under the Central-State Governments collaboration.

For the first time, we have 17 units of dialysis centre in STNM, Sochyangang, 7 units in Namchi District hospital and 5 units in Gyashing District hospital. When we found out about irregularities in the procurement of medicines and consumables, we stopped the channels of leakages. Today all the medicines and consumables are directly procured from the producers and manufacturers.

For the first time we have Viral Research and Diagnostic Lab at STNM funded by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The only oxygen plant in Sikkim was in the hands of a private company. Today, we have adequate number of oxygen plants with sufficient capacity in all the major hospital including STNM, Namchi, Singtam, Gyalshing, Mangan and a dedicated Covid Hospital with all the amenities and facilities is also established at Karfectar. We have already established new Primary Health Centres at Kewzing (South), Karji (West) and at Kabi (North) and are also providing financial assistance for organ transplant and other diseases.

There are a number of reports that show a steady increase in the occurrence of cancer in the North East region and mountainous areas of India. The National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research published the Report of National Cancer Registry Programme (2012-2016) in 2020. According to the leading anatomical sites of cancer, it was found that Sikkimese male suffer mostly from stomach, oesophagus and lung cancer and females suffer from breast, cervix uteri and stomach cancer. A comparison of age adjusted incidence rates (AARs) of 28 states revealed that AAR for males in Sikkim was 88.7 and females 97. Though these figures are much lower than the highest affected district like that of males in Aizwal in Mizoram with 269.4 and females in Papump district in Arunachal Pradesh with 219.8, this gives us an idea that Sikkim remains in a fairly high affected zone. More alarming has been the annual percentage change (APC) in age adjusted incidence rates (AAR) where Sikkim with 5.8 annual percentage change was the second highest in breast cancer and with 0.3 third highest in cervix uteri cancer.

We would like to, therefore, concentrate on both preventive and curative aspects of cancer management. We have set up Tertiary Cancer Care Centre and also VRDL at STNM Hospital, Cardiac Care Sub Centre at Jorethang CHC. For more universal intervention, we are collaborating with the GC Group of Company & its Consortium Partners to build a ₹2000 crore Cancer Hospital at Karfectar in South Sikkim. We have already earmarked 50 acres of land and the foundation will be laid soon. I assure the people of Sikkim that your dream to have a cancer treatment center at the homestead will be fulfilled in course of time.

Similarly, we are going to establish 50 bedded Critical Care Block at Gyalshing District Hospital with required medical equipment at a cost of ₹23.75 crores in this Financial Year, facilitating the people of Gyalshing district.

We noticed that no attention was paid in the past to systematically upgrade the skills and capacity of the existing doctors and inducting super-specialists. We have now appointed super-specialists at STNM Hospital and also making a medium-term plan to further train and skill our middle-level doctors and other staff in hospitals both in India and abroad.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,** mental health has become a key concern today. People silently suffer and some of them who openly show symptoms and sufferings, we have no effective treatment. These are all curative diseases and require some specialized treatment facilities. Besides deploying psychiatrists and psychologists in various hospitals, we are planning to create some specific treatment facilities. We are also propagating the importance of mental health through various schools and colleges. The Central University of Sikkim, at its very inception started a five-year integrated course of Science of Psychology. We shall integrate this course with other universities in the State and align it to start similar courses in the schools also.

Sikkim is one of the very first states to appoint a high-level Economic Rebuilding Committee in May 2020 primarily to assess the impact of the pandemic and also suggest means and measures for a robust and steady recovery. We have been

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## Full text...

implementing some of the key recommendations from this comprehensive report. These recommendations gel very well with the essence of the policy and project initiatives under the highly inspiring and far-reaching Atmanirbhar Bharat announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

### Two New Districts

Sikkim had been internally configured with four districts namely, East-West, South, and North.

It remained so even after Sikkim became a constituent state of India in 1975. Although the North district constitutes over 59 percent of the total geographical area of Sikkim, it shares hardly 7 percent of the total population. On the other hand, East and West districts constitute just over 13 and 16 percent of the geographical area, whereas they consist of over 46.6 and 22.3 percent population of the state. East has four sub-divisions, namely, Gangtok, Pakyong Rangpo and Rongli. Likewise West also has four sub-divisions, namely, Gyalshing, Soreng, Yuksom and Dentam.

Our government has recently created two more districts namely, Pakyong and Soreng and two more sub-divisions, Sang Raktang under Gangtok District and Mangalbaria under Soreng District.

This was done after a round of consultations. The objectives are,

- i) to further decentralize the governance framework of the state,
- ii) to make the delivery systems smoother and effective
- iii) to equitably and efficiently distribute the population pressure
- iv) to diversify the development base and create new Growth Centres in the state

v) to make the delimitations of electoral constituencies more realistic especially in view of the proposed increase in number of seats in India's Parliament in near future.

People have widely welcomed the decision of the Government which in turn has already initiated the process of restructuring the administrative set up and reframing the distribution of resources.

### Education Growth

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We have been flagging the education sector as the core driving force in our development process. Though the state made significant strides in the education sector in the immediate decade of 1980s after being a constituent state of India, it tremendously lagged behind in all the indicators. We inherited a highly distorted and misplaced education sector in the state in 2019. Our government have been mentioning about the dismal data of Sikkim in the studies and publications of national institutions.

NITI Aayog Report on School Education Quality Index 2019 clearly shows that in the overall performance score and rank, Sikkim with 43 % score, is the 7<sup>th</sup> worst performer out of the total 28 states, where study was conducted. In the outcomes category Sikkim was only better than Meghalaya.

Only 37 % of the secondary schools in Sikkim have teachers of all core subjects. Net enrolment ratio at the Elementary School level was found to be 68 percent which was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in India. Net enrolment ratio at the Secondary school level was 22 percent which was the lowest in India.

Sikkim also had one of the highest schools dropout rates.

All these very clearly show that the previous government was actually trumpeting its high achievements, in some case with deft manipulation of data.

In the National Nutrition Survey (2016-18) released by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, the percentage of stunting among children aged between 0-4 year is almost 22 percent in Sikkim. It is very high for a state with a small population like ours.

However, we have drastically improved all these indicators despite such serious pandemic related disruptions. We are seriously working to change all these development laggards and I assure the Hon'ble Members of the House that by next few years we shall have all very promising and stabilized performance data in the national and other studies in all aspects. The previous government seemed to have firmly believed in 30 percent performance and 70 percent publicity where as we believe in 100 percent work. Publicity will be spontaneously done if the work is good.

Quality education is not a topic of tea shop gossiping. Unlike in the past it will not be a political slogan. It is hard to design, difficult to practice and Herculean to endure. In order to increasingly move towards higher level of quality threshold, our government will now appoint Team of Quality Evaluators from Primary to University level.

### Khangchendzonga State University

We have now allocated 18 acres of land to **Khangchendzonga State University at Temi-Tarku. Our Hon'ble Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Ji very recently laid the foundation stone of this University. The total project cost is estimated to be ₹581.57 crore. The construction and other programmes including academic and ordinances will start soon.**

Let us recall this State University was so very casually created by the previous Government and hosted at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College in Gangtok. How can a college host a university? It remained in a languished state for long. It was a farcical act of be-fooling the youth population of Sikkim on the eve of the election.

### Gyalshing Degree College

This college was never paid attention after it was hurriedly set up by the last government. Even after 10 years of its establishment all the facilities, teachers' appointments and buildings were totally in a shape that actually undermined an educational institution. Students, parents, teachers, staff, communities and areas around all suffered acutely. It stood as one of the many tottering symbols of halfhearted approach and what many call 'formality syndrome' of the last Government.

As soon as our government came into power, we allocated adequate funds, planned the entire infrastructures and other requirements. Now the building construction is in second phase. In the first phase we allocated ₹25.13 crore and completed within the targeted time and in phase II we have allocated ₹59.02 crore and over 45 % of the work has been completed.

### Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence

Our government has initiated the establishment of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence at Chakung in West Sikkim. State Government has already allocated 32 acres of land for the University campus. This will be a fully autonomous state-of-the-art University that would float courses and programmes that are specific to the Himalayan regions and are of global importance. A steering committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Sikkim. The construction works have already started.

In order to frame global standard acts and statutes, design courses and programmes and oversee and provide expert opinions on the entire infrastructures, three National level Associates have been set up. These associates have members from the top academic institutions, noted private universities, apex professional institutions, and philanthropic organizations. The first set of programmes are likely to be launched in 2023.

### Private Universities in rural areas

We now have a range of private universities located in rural geographies of Sikkim. These include Medhavi Skill University at Bermiok in West Sikkim; Sikkim Professional University at Budang in West Sikkim; Capital University at Zoom, West Sikkim; Sikkim Alpine University at Kamrang, South Sikkim; Sikkim International University at Sreebadam in West Sikkim and Sikkim Skill University at Passi under Namthang-Rateypani Constituency. These universities are likely to provide several study and research options for our students and are also likely to attract students from other parts of India. All these will have cascading effects on Sikkimese economy including through employment and income generation and tourism services. Our government is designing a stringent regulatory framework to oversee the operations of these universities.

### Central Educational Institutions

Our government has extended wholehearted support to both Sikkim University established in 2007 and the National Institute of Technology established in 2010.

Both these institutions badly suffered from the inimical and indifferent attitudes of the previous government. Lands were not given for long though the compensation package by the Central government was readily accepted. Roads and other amenities to the campus were not extended and building of the campus remained totally at standstill. Students, faculty members, families and people of Sikkim suffered. And the image of the State of Sikkim at the Centre and public at large hit the lowest possible mantle.

There were CAG reports, letters from the Central agencies and more importantly from the Vice Chancellors. Yet, the last government slept and neglected the national institutions. Ironically, the loss was that of the State of Sikkim in terms of institutions, students' future, global networking, finance, development, income employment and tourism. All these dented the image of Sikkim and gave the lasting impression that we do not value education, knowledge and institution of higher learning.

As soon as our government took charge of the State's governance, we started supporting and working with both these prestigious national institutions. The NIT has been given 100 acres land at Khamdong in East Sikkim and will soon start the construction and shifting process. Sikkim University has now entered into the second phase of construction and the courses and programmes which do not require laboratory facilities will shift to Yangang Campus in the course of the next few months.

This is a tremendous relief to all the stakeholders including the landowners, communities around the campus, students, faculty members and all the central and state agencies who suffered for over 10 years at the hands of the previous SDF Government.

### Community-University partnership

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The communities in and around the universities and other commercial institutions are keenly looking forward to participate in the development trajectory, contents and impact of these institutions. These communities are trying to gear up for solidly contributing to these institutions' development process and also looking forward to deriving maximum benefits.

Therefore, our government would like to bring together these institutions and communities living in and around it, to a common platform and be common partners in the development of the institutions. Under this partnership scheme communities may provide basic services to these institutions in crucial areas like water, food, transport, repairing and maintenance, sanitation, accommodation, transport and communications. Under this, 24 hrs-365 days reliable services will be available to the institutions and would minimize their operational costs. All these will also enhance the local production base and promote rural activities including farming, poultry, fishery, production of fruits and vegetables.

In order to do so, communities will set up Cooperatives within the framework of Cooperative laws in the State and also comply with the national cooperatives' development norms and objectives. All the services will be provided by these cooperatives. Our government will constantly train the members of these cooperatives involved in various professional services, upgrade the skills regularly and induct appropriate technologies.

### Fellowship Schemes

Our Fellowship Schemes are primarily aimed at:

- i) Harnessing the inner talents and providing wider platforms to the young students,
- ii) Training and reorienting them towards the employment market and
- iii) Conscious promotion of intellectual and professional pursuits of individuals.

We have Four Fellowship schemes.

Under **Chief Minister's Internship Fellowship**, our government is providing ₹10,000/- to over 100 students who have either graduate degrees or are Class XII passed. These students who are selected under this fellowship on the basis of written tests will have a one-year intensive internship in any governmental agency so that the concerned students could learn the basics of office work, the nitty-gritty of development issues and get exposure to handling various situations. The idea is to doubly enhance the employability of each and every eligible student before entering the job market.

Under **Nar Bahadur Bhandari Fellowship**, we are providing students to

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**Full text...**

undertake research on themes that are relevant to Sikkimese history, society, culture, environment, and economy. These fellowships are given to postgraduate scholars studying in the top 20 QS-ranked universities at the rate of ₹50 lakh per scholar.

Under **Civil Service Coaching Fellowship**, we are meeting the cost of coaching fees and lodging of the civil service aspirants of the State. These students are affiliated to well-known institutions in India.

Named after the four eminent writers of Sikkim, namely, Agam Singh Tamang, Padam Singh Subba, Tulsi Bahadur Chettri, and Nima Wangdi Lepcha under the **Apatan Fellowship** initiated in 2022, our government is providing fellowship to Ph.D. scholars focusing their research on issues related to Bhutia, Lepcha, Limboo, Nepali, Hindi and other State-recognized Languages.

School Reforms and Facilities

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

Schools at all levels are actually the foundation of Sikkimese society, economy, culture, and development. It is the school that actually shows where the State is heading in the long run.

When we started working on the rejuvenation of the schools, we suddenly realized that most of the schools suffered from a range of critical issues and basic facilities. They were poorly maintained, there were common toilets for boys and girls and some schools did not have proper toilets.

Several schools had no playgrounds and facilities like laboratories, computers, textbooks, canteens, teachers' rooms and even teaching aids. Many schools had huge problems with teachers' appointments and mid-course dropouts.

More seriously, most of the schools had Adhoc headmistress/headmasters and principals. Teachers' appointments were highly politicized. Large number of teachers remained Adhoc for even two decades or so. This was the situation of permanent adhocism.

In such a situation, schools started having average performance. Graduates with a low percentage of marks started coming out and started asking for college admissions and some colleges were forced to admit students with 35 to 40 percent scores. What do we expect from such students? How will they compete with others in the state and outside? They are not at fault. Actually, they were the victims of the politically patronized system that was created and run by the previous Government. Thus, all the competitive and creative spirit of the students was crushed at the school level.

Our government has been addressing this critical issue on a war footing. Our concern was further aggravated by the sudden onslaught of the pandemic when we were just initiating the corrective interventions.

**Hon'ble Speaker Sir,**

The Hon'ble Members of the House would be delighted to know that

i) Now all the schools have permanent and qualified principals and headmistresses and headmasters. Our government has now given back the rights and privileges and functional autonomy to all these schools. We have even provided 4 vehicles to remote senior secondary schools located at Dzongu, Rolep, Lingee Paiyong and Kheucheperi from 2022.

ii) Similarly, within the next month all the vacancies of teachers including, PGT, GT, PRT, PET, and Language teachers, will be fulfilled in all the schools of Sikkim.

iii) We have planned to start computer education from fifth standard in all the government schools which was previously available only at the secondary level.

iv) We are now bringing a legislation with a view to protect and promote the state based Indigenous and Endangered Languages. Sikkim University since its very inception has introduced courses on Bhutia, Lepcha, and Limbu languages up to Ph.D. level. Our government plans to follow the same pathways for other indigenous and endangered languages including that of Rai, Gurung, Tamang, Newar, Mangar, Bhujel, Sherpa, and Mukhia.

v) Recently, the state government has launched **BAHINI scheme** aiming to improve the health and hygiene of our daughters. Under this scheme, free sanitary napkin vending machines will be installed at government schools for easy access and can be availed by students studying in class IX to XII and also by the eligible students and will be funded by the state government.

This is aimed at both imbibing sanitary hygiene among our adolescent girls and also give a message that menstruation or monthly period among our girls are a part of natural process and must not carry any social taboos.

Unfortunately, such a vital and sensitive issue of the menstrual cycle was dismissed and declared as something laughable and condemnable issue by the leader of the previous government.

vi) Adhoc teachers remained a victim of undefined and uncertain system and policy of the previous government. Now we have a firm policy that any teacher who has completed 8 years as adhoc teacher will be automatically made permanent. This is likely

To be contd. on next issue...

**Village Administrative Centre  
Office of the Nandok-Saramsa Gram Panchayat  
Unit No - 31 East Sikkim**

**Memo No.743/31NDS/GPU** Date:27/03/2022

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Seal tenders in percentage are invite by the **OFFICE OF THE 31NANDOK SARAMSA GPU** East Sikkim for the work mentioned below from the enlisted eligible class 3<sup>rd</sup> (III) CONTRACTORS registration with the Sikkim Public Works Department /Energy And Power Department Government of Sikkim, the tender forms should reach the office of the **OFFICE OF THE 31NANDOK SARAMSA GPU** on before of **12.00** hours noon of 07/04/2022 and will be opened at 12.30 hours of the same day.

The tender forms will be sold from **04/04/2022 TO 05/04/2022** during the office hours from the office of the 31NANDOK SARAMSA GPU, by the concerned VILLAGE ADMASSITANT on the submission of the bank receipt ( non refundable )for the below mention amount deposited in the SBS NANDOK under the receipt head of A/C No **281104940200194** for obtaining of tender forms.

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Total Estimate Cost	Work Completion	Earnest Money @ 2.5%	Tender Form Cost
	RETTTRO FITTING/AUG-UMENTION FOR THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK OF RWSS FROM TAKCHEMCHU SOURCE TO NANDOK SARAMSA GPU.	₹1,54,65087/-	6 MONTH	₹3,86,627,175/-	₹30,000/-

FURTHER THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITION MAY BEE FOLLOWED

1. The rate quoted shall be inclusive of prevailing tax.
2. The work should be completed within the time frame as mention in NIT.
3. The GST registration should be submitted during the time of tender.
4. Attested copy of SSC/COI is Mandatory for the Eligible contractor.
5. all the above Stated document shall be verified ON 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

s/d  
VAA/SACHIVA  
31 Nandoks Saramsa GPU  
(Sl.No.1081)

**Government of Sikkim  
Building & Housing Department**

**NO: 2072/SD/HQ-I/21-22/93** Dated:24/03/2022

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

1. The Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites percentage rate tender under single cover system from Class II B register contractors enlisted with the SPWD for execution of work as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Cost of Bidding documents	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value	Bid value
1	Construction of Barrack, Staff Quarter, Toilet and Mess at Mintokgang, Gangtok, East Sikkim.	₹30000.00	₹6,03,000.00	₹2,41,20,240.00

Eligible Contractors having experience in the construction of building works and consider themselves capable to undertake execution of the project may procure the Tender form from the Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim.

The date and time of tender and submission of completed bid document are as under.

- i) Date of Submission of application: 05/04/2022
- ii) Date of Sale of Tender Documents by the Department on : 06/04/2022, 1400 hours
- iii) Last Date of submission of bid Documents & copy of bid security: 12/04/2022, 1200 hours.
- iv) Date of opening of Tender: 13/04/2022, 13.00 AM onwards.

**Superintending Engineer (N/E)  
Buildings & Housing Department  
(Sl. No.1079, i)**

**Rural Development Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok**

**No. 201/MGNREGA/RDD** Dated: 28.03.2022

**Corrigendum to NIT No: 111/MGNREGA/RDD**

**Dated: 10.03.2022**

The last date for submission of quotations to BDO/Program Officers for the three blocks viz , i. Namchi ii. Jorethang and iii. Sikkim may be read as 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 instead of 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The tender will be opened on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 2 p.m. in the presence of the Committee formed for the purpose.

**Deputy Secretary (MGNREGA)  
RDD, GANGTOK  
(Sl. No.1077, i)**

Contd. from front page

**Third day...**

Revenue & Disaster Management and Sports & Youth Affairs Departments

(iv) Minister, Urban Development and Food & Civil Supplies Departments

(v) Minister, Rural Development, Cooperation and Ecclesiastical Departments

(vi) Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare & Women and Child Development Departments

(vii) Minister, Sikkim Public Works (Buildings & Housing) and Transport Departments

(viii) Minister, Forest and Environment, Mines & Geology and Science & Technology Departments.

(ix) Minister, Sikkim Public Works (Roads & Bridges) and Culture Departments.

(x) Minister, Public Health Engineering and Water Resources Departments

(xi) Minister, Power and Labour Departments

(xii) Chief Minister, also

the Minister-in-charge of Home, Finance, Development Planning & North East Council Affairs, Excise and other Departments not specifically allotted to any other Ministers.

Thereafter, Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, also Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department, introduced the Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 07 of 2022) for Annual General Budget 2022-23 which was passed by the House. The House thereby passed the Annual General Budget 2022-23.