

# SIKKIM HERALD

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## Naya Yug Naya Sikkim - 4 Years of Memorable Achievements

### Message of Chief Minister on Government Formation Day

It fills my heart with immense pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and heartiest congratulations to all on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of Government Formation Day.

Today, we celebrate not just the formation of a government, but also the power of democracy and the collective spirit for progress. The day symbolizes the foundation of a robust system that upholds the principles of justice, equality, and inclusive governance. It is a day to reflect upon the remarkable journey undertaken by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha government, cherishing the successes and learning from the challenges that have shaped us.

When we assumed office, we inherited a set of challenges that demanded bold and innovative solutions. Guided by a clear vision for progress, we embarked on a transformative journey aimed at creating a better future for our citizens. Today, as we reflect upon our accomplishments, we can confidently say that we have made significant strides in realizing our goals.

In the realm of infrastructure, we undertook ambitious projects to enhance connectivity, improve transportation networks, and modernize urban centers. Recognizing that a healthy population is the foundation of a prosperous society, we prioritized investments in healthcare. Our efforts have resulted in the upgradation of the existing medical services, the construction of state-of-the-art hospitals, the establishment of healthcare facilities in underserved areas, and the implementation of innovative healthcare initiatives.

Education has always been a key priority for our government. We firmly believe that a well-educated population is crucial for sustainable development. We implemented policies to enhance the quality of education, modernize the curriculum, and promote skill development. Our efforts have resulted in higher enrollment rates, improved literacy levels, and the creation of a skilled workforce that is ready to face the challenges of the future.

Economic growth and job creation have been central to our agenda. We introduced investor-friendly policies, promoted entrepreneurship, and attracted major industries to our State. This became evident when our State hosted various events of engagement groups under the G20 Presidency and attracted investment opportunities from a significant number of G20 nations.

Our major target is to witness significant economic growth, increased foreign direct investment, and the generation of numerous employment opportunities for our youth. We implemented comprehensive social security programmes, targeted poverty alleviation measures, and initiatives to empower marginalized communities by providing access to basic amenities, promoting gender equality, and ensuring the welfare of women and senior citizens. We have strived to create a society where everyone can lead a dignified life.

As I look back on our journey, I am filled with a sense of fulfillment and gratitude for the collective efforts of our government and the support we have received from the people of Sikkim. There is much more work to be accomplished, and we must remain committed to the pursuit of progress.

On this occasion of the fourth anniversary of the formation of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Party government, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of our government. I also express my gratitude to the citizens of our State for their trust and unwavering support.

I assure you that our government remains committed to serving the people, working towards the upliftment of every individual and the development of every region of Sikkim. Together, let us continue our journey toward building a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.

With the highest regards and veneration to the people of Sikkim  
JAI HIND!  
JAI SIKKIM!



Sikkim has come a long way since 1975 and today, the state takes pride in its accomplishments. The good practices and exemplary work done by Sikkim are echoed and applauded by various visiting dignitaries including the President of India.

The SKM Government led by its visionary Chief Minister Shri. Prem Singh Tamang took over the helm of affairs of the State on May 27, 2019, with overarching support from the people. The development and the welfare of the State have always been a priority of the Chief Minister. After taking charge of the office, he has sedulously ensured the protection and promotion of the socio-economic well-being of the people of Sikkim, particularly at the grass-root level. Promptly, the Chief Minister called on the President of India, the Prime Minister, and various Union Ministers to discuss numerous issues about the State for effective and exponential results.

Today, the present

Government has completed 4 years in Office as of May 27, 2023 in the State. The State has been progressing in leaps and bounds with the focus being laid on peace, harmony, and collective development. While in terms of priorities and progress, the State has succeeded in reaching the destination by giving utmost priority to health, education, agriculture, employment, entrepreneurship, rural development, women empowerment, and in improving infrastructure.

The development of the State in multiple spheres in just four years has indeed been exceptional, with all-around socio-economic progress. The Government of Sikkim has implemented path-breaking schemes and initiatives to fulfil the aspirations of every citizen of the State, ensuring the upliftment of the rural economy, and the commendable work is being continued with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Sikkim today, has been a zone for investment with multiple

investors vying for space in this peaceful and progressive State. These investments will open new avenues, creating IT enhancement and enabling firm growth in the tourism sector.

Pro-people initiatives of the State government have led to accelerated development ensuring the provision of adequate food supply, sustainable development, welfare, and cooperative measures, which have all played a pivotal role in transforming Sikkim organically and holistically.

One of the major milestones achieved by the State in strengthening governance in the backdrop of a growing population and facilitating better administration is the creation of two districts, namely Soreng and Pakyong.

The Chief Minister's vision for the overall development of Sikkim, particularly in the field of health, education, and employment generation speaks

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## Naya Yug ...

volumes of his sincere commitments. The Government's endeavour to address and manage every aspect of health—from physical to mental, preventive to curative, environmental to longevity has been noteworthy. The Government carried out exceptional work much ahead of other states in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Emphasis has been laid on the installation of an adequate number of oxygen plants, ICU beds, testing and diagnosis facilities, medicines, and more manpower support in the hospitals through the proactive approach led by the Chief Minister to tackle the virus.

The health sector has undergone a visible transformation in four years, with an infusion of new infrastructure and manpower support to cater to a growing population. Efforts are on to ensure universal access to health facilities. The Government of the day has laid high priority on the health sector by equipping the State and district hospitals with state-of-the-art facilities. Dialysis facilities in the district hospitals and outreach activities through the Mobile Village Clinics have transformed the way health is accessed by the rural population.

Top priority has been given to the education sector with a vision to make the State an education hub in the country. The construction of new schools, colleges, and universities, and the upgradation of existing facilities with necessary support is being provided to ensure that the quality of education at the primary, secondary, and higher level are enhanced. From various fellowship schemes to free medical seats in Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme, to bringing newer universities in the rural areas and constructing school buildings and playgrounds, to providing basic amenities in the schools and colleges, the government has remained dedicated to enhancing the education sector in the State. World-class educational institutes like Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence, Khanchendzonga

State University, Medhavi Skills University, and Sikkim Alpine University among others are being set up in Sikkim. The plan has been to make global quality education widely accessible to all. The State Government has formulated Sikkim Adhoc Teachers Regularization Policy, which saw many teachers of various categories being regularized. Exposure trips within the country and abroad to National/State/Commendation Awardees teachers aiming at incentivizing the best-performing teachers in the State introduced.

On the path of the preservation of the environment, the first initiative of the Government was declaring the 7<sup>th</sup> of July of every year as 'A Day for Mother Earth'. Prioritizing the awareness and severity of climate change and the environment, the State Government issued an order for all vehicular movements to halt for seven minutes from 11.00 am to 11.07 am on 7th July, as a symbolic step of observing a check on carbon emission, which is one of the primary factors for global warming. Plantation and cleanliness drives are the main activities of this initiative to inculcate a sense and a spirit of a clean and green environment. In another noble initiative of the State Government, a green campaign mobilizing the plantation of 100 trees for every new child born in Sikkim under the 'Mero Rukh Mero Santati' programme has also garnered a lot of appreciation.

The State of Sikkim has earned a unique distinction of being eco-friendly with the Government taking the lead in every effort towards conservation. Imposing ban on the use, manufacture, import and sale of plastic bottles of capacity up to 2 liters to maintain a clean and healthy environment in the State has received positive support from the people and stakeholders alike. Efforts are being made to discourage the use of single-use plastic products.

Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Sikkim has flourished economically in agriculture, horticulture, and allied sectors, wherein farmers are being benefited through incentives, subsidies, loans, and many other benefits. The State government has successfully implemented the Mukhya Mantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana (MMUUY) that provides

a 60% subsidy for fish farmers to drive ecologically healthy, economically viable, socially inclusive growth and holistic development of fisheries in Sikkim.

With an enumerative price incentive of ₹8 per liter on milk resulting in increase in milk production, the State Government has also provided incentives to several organic produce like large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, buckwheat, kiwi, dal, radish, carrot, cauliflower, cherry pepper, mandarin, cabbage, garden peas to encourage and motivate the farmers to increase their production under Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aatmanirbhar Yojana. In addition, the focus has been given to expanding the cluster of saffron cultivation shortly after the successful trials of saffron cultivation in the State.

To improve and facilitate better facilities in veterinary services, the State Government is making significant investments. Activities like capacity building, cattle induction, fodder development, entrepreneurship development, and veterinary services at the doorsteps of the farmers were the main thrust of development. Sikkim has the potential to boost poultry, dairy, piggery, goatery, and other sectors by strengthening infrastructure, manpower, and self-sufficiency in livestock production.

Women of Sikkim are making the state proud in a myriad of fields and the State Government has taken up various measures to provide the necessary support and encouragement. Ground breaking policies of the State Government such as the AAMA Scheme providing annual assistance of ₹20,000/- to selected unemployed mothers and single mothers, the BAHINI Scheme providing free sanitary napkin vending machines at all government schools, VATSALYA Scheme delivering financial assistance for ₹3 lakhs for IVF treatment for childless women further attest to the pro-women vision and commitment of the State government. The leadership provided by women in the augmentation of the rural economy through Self Help Groups and small and medium-scale industries is praiseworthy.

Sikkim has made a distinct mark as one of the most sought-after tourism destinations in the country and the world. With its natural

beauty, eco-friendly lifestyle, and with the required infrastructure, Sikkim has something to offer to every visitor. The State Government embarked on a vision to develop tourism infrastructure with an infusion of cutting-edge technology and at the same time, design elements in keeping with the nature, culture, and heritage of Sikkim. The State is also harnessing the vast untapped rural tourism potential by giving higher impetus to it, so that its multiplier benefits reach out directly to the rural masses. Eco-tourism is being propagated by planning tourism-related activities with optimum environmental care and keeping in view the principles of conservation and sustainability. The untiring efforts of the Government to encourage the tourism sector to build up a strong economy and resolve the challenging unemployment problems in the State are glaring examples. The Government with a clear understanding of the significance of tourism is also engaging the educated youths to make the opportunities in tourism while guiding them to be self-reliant.

Due to proactive measures taken by the Government, the rise in the numbers of tourist footfalls in the State was 17,00,000 during the year 2022, which has further propelled the tourism sector.

In the process of an earnest desire to improve the quality of life of most of the people who cannot afford houses, the Government constructed Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana in a phased manner and completed the construction of 3050 houses for the rural beneficiaries in the State. Further, to provide affordable and safe housing to the urban poor, the State Government has launched the first fully State sponsored urban housing scheme under Sikkim Urban Garib Awas Yojana (SUGAY), which has been designed to be aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.

Sikkim has been giving due preference to celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit and has been emerging as a hub for entrepreneurship and small businesses. In addition to the State's rich pool of talent, with many educated and skilled individuals who are interested in starting their own businesses, the tiny Himalayan State has been accelerating toward progressive growth to make a mark for itself in the world of enterprise, backed up with its favourable business environment and a supportive ecosystem. Committed efforts have been given to enabling the Startups of today to be the future of conglomerates, that will thrive in various sectors. Besides, the Chief Minister's Start-Up scheme, the State Government introduced the Skilled Youth Startup scheme, which aims to generate equitable entrepreneurial opportunities in the State's rural and urban areas and help the youth, especially

the educated unemployed to start their businesses.

The Government of Sikkim lays great emphasis on the development of sports in acknowledgement of its belief that its future lies in building up young generations of Sikkimese people, who are fit and disciplined. Various programmes and policies have been implemented to embrace the sporting system in the State, and to improve and groom youngsters to compete in various disciplines.

Under the Media Fellowship programme, the Government is sending outstation training and capacity building to reputed institutions for the journalists of the State. Annual grants have been given to the media fraternity during the National Press Day Celebrations to recognize the journalists working with positive and progressive journalism in the State.

The State Government in a bid to promote the theme of International Year of Millet 2023, various plans have been put in to popularize the consumption of millet through ICDS, Self Help Groups, and other sectors in the State.

The successful hosting of the Business 20, Startup 20 under the G20 Presidency, and C 20 events in the State have undoubtedly proved the capability of the tiny Himalayan State to navigate foreign diplomacy, which is not only beneficial for global interests but also for the State and the nation as a whole.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic upending life on a global level, Sikkim emerged stronger and better and has been witnessing inclusive and all-round development owing to social security programmes, empowering marginalized communities, providing access to basic amenities, expanding connectivity, promoting gender equality, ensuring the welfare of women and senior citizens amongst others.

Sikkim has ably emerged as a unique and distinct State with its own culture, traditions, and identity and has maintained peace, tranquillity, and communal harmony. Passing the legacy of learning each other's varying traditions and yet preserving our own is one of the hallmarks of the State. Perhaps, the unique mantra of the Government in exploring without exploiting has led to extraordinary schemes being implemented with the cooperation of the people, thereby resulting in the growth and development of the State.

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### Glimpses of various activities of State Government





# YEARS OF ALTRUISTIC GOVERNANCE