



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

BUDGET SPEECH
BY
CHIEF MINISTER
AND
THE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ON
28th MARCH, 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 instill 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 nine percent (9%) 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 rock bottom. 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 August 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 has resulted in achieving many laurels in different fields, after the formation of our government, which are as under:

1. Pakyong Police Station ranked as 7th Best Police Station in the country.
2. Sikkim also received the Most Film Friendly State award in the Country during the 67th 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 ranking 1st, South Sikkim 6th, North Sikkim 14th and West Sikkim 17th .
4. Sikkim also received the India Today State of the State Awards for best performing state in Economy, most improved small state in Law & Order and Environment and was also adjudged as the best performing small state in cleanliness.
5. Sikkim ranks 1st 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 in 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 5th 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. We are endeavoring to address and manage in the State every aspect of health- from physical to mental, preventive to curative, environmental sanitation to longevity.

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 and even the widely required dialysis facility did not exist and doctors and health staffs remained de-motivated.

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 districts hospitals and also in the sub-divisions, free COVID kits are being provided continuously.

We are constructing a 300-bedded hospital in Namchi at the 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 an estimated cost of ₹ 236.11 crore under the Central-State Governments collaboration.

For the first time, we have 17 units of dialysis centre in STNM, Sochakgang, 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 hospitals 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 West.

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 for 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 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, Yuksam and Dentam.

Our government has recently created two more districts namely: Pakyong and Soreng and two more

sub-divisions, Sang Raddang 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 Centers 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 has 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 7th worst performing state, 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 3rd 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 school's 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 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 for 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 that 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 the 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 half-hearted 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 Subhash 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 program is 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 employment, 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 attitude 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, 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 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, Tushi 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 towards 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 will 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 only.

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 Khechuperi 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. The program will be funded by the state government.

This is aimed at both imbining 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 benefit more than 700 teachers as soon as we implement this policy in the next couple of months. We have also done away with the term 'adhoc', often derogatorily used, and replaced it with a dignified term 'probationary'.
- vii) We have also more than doubled the consolidated salary of teaching and non-teaching staff working under the Samagra Siksha programme from **₹ 7000/-** to **₹ 15000/-** per month.
- viii) We have established 4 model schools at Hee-Gyathang, Chota Samdong, Namthang and Gangtok. This has been funded by Ministry of Minority Affairs with matching contribution from the State Government and we plan to set up 4 such schools every year.

- ix) During 2021-2022 alone, we have sanctioned 146 new school buildings in different parts of Sikkim focusing mainly on primary schools. The construction of the buildings are underway steadily.
- x) We now have 50 medical seats in the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences at Tadong, which will be made available free to Sikkimese aspirants of MBBS programme from the academic year 2022. Along with this, we have additional 30 seats, which will be available to Sikkimese students on a paid basis. These arrangements are unprecedented and should have been done at least 15 years back. This permanently corrects the prolonged injustice done to otherwise talented aspirants of medical education coming from the poor and downtrodden level of our society.

I assure the Hon'ble Members more seats will be negotiated with the appropriate authorities under both these categories, so that in future we shall generate doctors for services within the State, for the country and abroad.

- xi) In order to enhance the nutritional intake and also to bolster their mental faculty, our government has just initiated a scheme providing 200 ml of milk per day per student to targeted 1500 girl students in the State. This will be done under the aegis of Sikkim Milk Union Limited and National Dairy Development Board.

Environmental Protection and Climate Change adaptations

For us in Sikkim, environmental protection has been a core area of governmental interventions. We now have multiple challenges emanating from global climate change. They range from fast melting of glaciers in our mountain ranges to devastations caused by glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), structural change in the entire water tower ecology to threats to our agricultural heritage, displacing the traditional livelihood occupations to crops shifting to higher altitudinal heights, and from natural disasters to impact on riverine resources and wildlife.

No one has been able to exactly say how Sikkim and its surrounding areas will be affected and what sectors and subsectors will be impacted. Unless we know all these, we shall not be able to really mitigate and manage and prevent some of these very deleterious impacts.

Our government would, therefore, take up the following measures this fiscal year.

- i) Set up a high-level Climate Change and Glaciology Commission consisting of experts on glaciology and related climate change impact.
- ii) Provide Fellowships to our young scientists (who have already obtained Ph.D. degrees in social science

and natural science), to study the impact of climate change on critical areas like rivers and waters, food and agriculture, energy security, disasters and society and culture.

- iii) Organize a quarterly lecture under the broad format of “Khangchendzonga Dialogue” which will be delivered by widely acclaimed experts on environment, climate change, hydro diplomacy, disasters, national security and cultural ecology.

Meanwhile, our government has operationalized ban on use of plastic (plastic bans) more effectively including the use of plastic water bottles.

We have also announced annual awards of ₹ 10.00 lakh for the Cleanest Bazar of Sikkim falling under municipalities and ₹ 5.00 lakh for the Cleanest Village of Sikkim covered under various panchayats.

Huge Physical infrastructures

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

Our government is seriously negotiating with the Government of India on various transforming infrastructure projects. These projects if approved and operationalized would transform the entire range of physical infrastructures in Sikkim and its connectivity with key points of India and the neighboring countries.

Some of them like the two Passenger Ropeway systems from Pelling to Sanga-Choeling in West Sikkim and Cable Car from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in South Sikkim have already been included in the Union Budget of 2022-2023 under the new scheme called Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti. An initial allocation of ₹ 1500.00 crores is proposed, out of which Sikkim is likely to receive ₹ 122.00 crore as gap funding for these two projects. We thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister for these allocations.

Other projects that are likely to take shape in the very near future are the alternative highway to Sikkim running on the Sikkimese side from Teesta-Rangteet confluence onwards and Chiwabhnajang road corridor to Nepal through Uttaray side of West Sikkim. These 3170-meter-high pass makes soft dent into the famous Singalila Range adjoining Darjeeling and makes for smooth entry into Nepal. The Chiwabhanjang corridor could in fact be considered as the first Sikkim-Nepal Economic, Trade and Tourism Corridor (SNETTC) that will have an Integrated Check Post (ICP) and other modern facilities. Only a few days back, the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji, while speaking at the Land Port Authority of India, in fact, very eloquently, mentioned about these land-based corridors to strengthen India's relations with its neighbours.

The Motor Vehicle Agreement of 2015 among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal for a seamless entry and exit of vehicle from these four countries in each other's territory could be another major connectivity point for Sikkim.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir and Hon'ble Members,

In this regard I am pleased to inform you that: The declaration of 3 State Roads as National Highway is being vigorously pursued and is likely to happen in course of this fiscal year. These three highways include; (i) Manpur-Nayabazaar-Legship road, (ii) Nayabazaar-Daramdin-Sombaria-Soreng-Kaluk-Bermiok-Dentam-Uttarey-Chiwabhanjyang road and (iii) Rangpo-Pachak-Mamjey-Dikling-Pakyong road.

Currently, we have two Foreigners Registration Offices (FRO) located at Ramam, under the newly formed Soreng district, and Reshi in Pakyong district. Such Central Government institutions would bring smoothness in tourism flow in the state.

Employment Growth, Investment Ventures, and Income Generations

Development should trigger both growth and equity. Growth must happen across all the sectors and disciplines. The benefits of this growth should be translated into distributive justice so that every

individual, family and community gets the fruit of development. Our government is keenly following the path of steady economic growth and distributive justice in all fronts. As soon as we got the mandate by the people to run the affairs of the state, we realized that there is rampant and deep-rooted inequality in the state. This inequality not only prevailed in income generation and distribution, but also in issues of employment, social justice, food security, access to governmental facilities and more seriously, education and health.

We would, therefore, like to scientifically study the geographies, communities, families that have suffered from the deprivations and inequalities both in the past and at present. DESME under the Planning Department is now conducting this study under the broad title of '**UNNAYAN SARVEKSHAN**'. The results of pilot study are available and the full study is being conducted.

For our government, a crucial development engagement is in the employment sector. Unlike in the past, we would like to diversify the platforms of employment in the state. We would train and reorient our youths to increasingly defocus and move away from Government jobs. Had it not been the pandemic we would have made major strides in the employment generation in the State. We have even legislated on employment to the locals by passing the "Sikkim

Labour (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act 2021”. We have now very clear plans and programmes for the next few years. Some of these are appended below.

i) No extension in services:

As promised, our government has totally stopped giving any extension in services to senior officials, middle-ranking and gazetted officers since April 2020. Only in exceptional humanitarian grounds some extension on services will be considered for class IV staff members.

ii) NIYUKTI KENDRA

Our government has just initiated a Niyukti Kendra under which all records of the appointed persons in various government departments and other private institutions will be maintained. This will help us in assessing the employment situation in the State and also assist the Government in manpower planning.

iii) Sikkim Skill Exchange Bank (SSEB)

Our government will now set up Sikkim Skill Exchange Bank (SSEB) mainly to both map all the skills available in the State and deploy them where ever they are needed. Today it is very difficult to know which skills are available in the state, where they are located and in what numbers or grades.

We also do not exactly know which are the sectors and sub-sectors where these skills are needed.

Skills could be in any areas of user group interest like electricians, painters, plumbers, reporters, film producers, documentary producers, theatre/ music/ art/ dances groups; religion and faith-based products, the publishing industry, project preparations, monitoring and evaluation techniques and fashion designing. It could also spread over to indigenous innovations, architects, drivers, tourist literature preparations, carpentry/furniture making, interior decorators, event organizers and hotel services. These skills could be even in areas like motor mechanics, computer hardware and software, coaching centers, designers, hydel power engineers, experts, researchers to conduct studies, tourist guides, mountaineering trainers and entertainment managers.

The proposed SSEB will be a central pool of skills providing the entire details of all the available skills in the state on the basis of their registration in the SSEB. Anyone needing their services will directly approach the SSEB or access data and information from SSEB and meet their skill needs. The idea is to provide a common platform for skill suppliers and users who need skilled persons. Today many users find these skilled people by word of mouth and through some references. SSEB will pool the demand and supply systematically

in a common pool to maximize their utility. This will allow the skilled person to get the value of their skills and users to get a satisfactory and reliable service.

iv) Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment Institute (FWTRI)

Our government is keen to start Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment Institute mainly to provide employment opportunities to the Sikkimese people in foreign countries. In this regard, I kept some initial funds to kick start this project but could not pursue it mainly due to the pandemic.

Now this Institute will be set up in coordination and cooperation with various Foreign Embassies in India and other international job recruitment agencies. Sikkimese people and the youths in particular, will be given training in various professional areas. It will be managed by professionals, legal, financial and foreign employment experts. There are growing employment opportunities in countries like Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Israel, Gulf countries and such. Government will make use of various training in various skills and professions through Indo-Japan arrangement of Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) under the National Skill Development Corporation of Government of India. There could be a situation where we shall be able to export even highly skilled people like doctors.

Owing to the huge ageing (old age) population in Japan, Europe, Canada, USA, and other countries there are now big demands for both the female and male nurses and other health workers. We would like to harness these markets by providing professionally well-trained female and male nurses from Sikkim. Many of these trained professionals could also get gainful employment in India's major hospitals and health outfits.

v) Sikkim Foreign Investors Confluence

Sikkim now has a range of industries basically led by pharmaceuticals and breweries. Most of these industries are doing well. However, except the breweries, revenues from other industries particularly the pharmaceutical, has been very dismal. On the one hand, because of these industrial units, our gross domestic product has handsomely increased and therefore the per capita income too.

In the coming years we need to really concentrate on set of industries and Investors which are productive, efficient, livelihood oriented and nature friendly.

A very recent study done by a team of professionals, led by our Chief Economic Adviser for the NEDFi in Guwahati, identified 15 crucial projects as investment opportunities in the North East region by the investors from South East Asian countries including

Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar. These projects in 08 (eight) sectors/sub-sectors include Curcumin (Turmeric), Oleoresin (Ginger), Bamboo Fiber and bamboo Based High End Construction Material, War Tourism, River Cruise tourism, Buddhist Circuit Tourism, Integrated Nursery and Post-Harvest Management of Flowers, Sitalpati Craft, Banana Fiber Extraction Plant, Ethnic Fashion Design, Pig Breeding and Pig Processing, Herbs and Folk Medicines and Commercial Processing and Small Sized Palm Oil Mill.

The DPR for all these projects are available and are being used by various ministries of Government of India and also countries in South East Asia. It also mentions newer varieties of investments including in areas like management, technology transfer, supplier of raw material, infrastructure like cold chains, professional participation and expertise provider, finance, marketing, value chain, research and development and specialized services like veterinary services, horticulture-floriculture nursery management, breeding and feed management, fashion and textile design interventions, travel agency inter-connections, institutional support etc. It highlights as to how local entrepreneurs can collaborate with the investors from South East Asia under India Act East Foreign policy framework.

In this context, the Government of Sikkim will now undertake two major programmes this fiscal year

Firstly, the government will organize **Sikkim – Global Investment Confluence and Visit Sikkim-2022** during the month of October – November, wherein some of the most widely known green investors will be invited and introduced to Sikkim as an abode of green investments. This will be attended by investors from India and abroad including Japan and Korea and South-East Asian countries, Europe and North America. The multilateral agencies like the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and other philanthropic organizations will also be invited to this first-ever confluence.

And secondly, a group of young entrepreneurs from Sikkim will be taken on the investment partnership exploratory tour to South-East countries focusing on green sectors and sub-sectors.

Therefore, I set aside a sum of ₹ 2.00 crores to accomplish both these crucial programmes.

High Value Tourism Corridor and Mega Home Stay project

We have already identified the High Value Tourism Corridor and working to implement the projects.

Under Mega Home Stay project units numbering 1000 will be built by the Government. Each home would have three rooms and other amenities. In total, 3000 rooms traditionally designed with local architectural structures will be laid out in the attractive locations of villages and will be commercially run by the villagers themselves.

We have increasingly realized that the homestay is a powerful concept and everyone would like to go to a village or a remote area, mingle with nature, live with the community, and enjoy organic dishes. We also noted during the lockdowns a large number of people move to villages and make use of these homestays.

These 3000 rooms even with an occupancy rate of 80 percent for 365 days, could actually generate more than ₹ 175.00 crore per annum. It could provide direct employment to 9,600 persons (4 persons per room x 2400) and indirect employment (4 times the direct employment) to 38400 persons. It will have a tremendous impact on all the forward and backward linkages like food production, dairy and other businesses and will generate huge revenue for the State.

If need be, we shall send the young entrepreneurs and other staff for training and capacity buildings in other places including Goa, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Darjeeling.

These home stays will blend well with urban and rural tourism facilitation centers and also with the model villages that are being developed at Rey Mindu (East), Bermiok (West), Ringhim Nampatam (North), and Mamley Kamrang (South).

Youth, Sports, and Media

The Hon'ble Members would be impressed to note that the protractedly delayed and apparently neglected, Bhaichung (Bhutia) Stadium has now been completed and opened for the public. Despite cost and time overruns since 2012, we have been able to dedicate this stadium to the people of Sikkim within 29 months of our assuming the governance of this beautiful State, investing ₹ 62.13 crore in this project.

This stadium inspires the young Sikkimese and Indians and also the players in the neighboring countries to persevere and join the club of eminence in sports. In Sikkim, we have excelled in football, boxing, mountaineering and archery but we are yet to make a deep dent into national and global level cricket, hockey, athletics and other sports. Our government is fully devoted to improve and groom the youngsters to compete in global sports.

We are also setting up Tarundeep Rai Archery Academy at Khichudumra, Kamrang to celebrate the fabulous achievements of one of the most illustrious

sportspersons of India and Sikkim who is accorded with the prestigious Khel Ratna Puraskar and Padma Shree award by the Government of India.

The legendary Brazilian footballer Pele once said, “Success is no accident, it is hard work” and “Everything is practice”. Both the modern Astroturf for football and the practicing field of archery will fulfill the quality hallmark set forth by the international sports regulatory agencies like FIFA and World Archery Federation.

Excursion Fund for Media

Media has been playing a crucial role in building the modern-day Sikkim. Despite serious challenges brought about by non-traditional media instruments like various social media, Sikkimese media persons and institutions have firmly and innovatively withstood the challenges. Our government intends to make our media more vibrant, innovative and competitive.

In order to provide an institution to the entire Sikkimese media we have gifted a Press Club Bhavan to the Press Club of Sikkim. While highly appreciating the risks that our media persons took in covering and fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, we prioritized distribution of safety kits to them and also provided them with financial incentives.

We plan to send our media persons all across other states to see for themselves what is happening around the country and at the global level. These excursions and exposures will re-skill our media persons, make them evaluate more objectively and nurture spirit of competitive professionalism in them.

In order to provide them with some basic opportunities our government will provide the following:

Media Fellowship: Visit to any development project in the country to evaluate and write a series of reports from the field and submit the final report to the Government of Sikkim. In this regard, 10 selected media persons will be provided with ₹ 1.50 lakh each, per fiscal year. All accredited journalists/media persons of Sikkim will be eligible for this Fellowship program.

Though this Fellowship program was announced earlier, we only received few responses. Therefore, I urge them to make utmost use of this program which can be beneficial for them at various levels.

Strides in Political, Social and Religious Demands

We reaffirm our resolve to grant the status of scheduled tribes to the remaining 12 communities “Khas” (Chettri, Bahun), Rai, Magar, Gurung, Sanyasi/Giri, Dewan/Yakkha, Thami, Newar, Sunwar/Mukhia,

Jogi, Majhi and Bhujel in Sikkim. We have made several representations to the highest offices in the Government of India who have firmly assured us for a speedy resolution. One of the major loopholes we detected was that there was no government resolution by the State Assembly to this effect. And, hence, we passed the government resolution on 11 January 2021 with wide acclamation from the entire House. This resolution was personally submitted by the Chief Minister to the Union Home Minister and other high dignitaries in the Union Government. This timely passing of the resolution has made our case rather strong and convincing.

One of our determined political efforts and socio-cultural demands has been to welcome His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to our state of Sikkim.

We have had a series of discussions with the highest authorities in the Union Government and thus we have been assured that as soon as the 17th Karmapa returns to India after his long foreign sojourn, his passage to Sikkim will be smoothly facilitated. This will be a joyful and eternally contented moment for the entire people of Sikkim.

Our firm resolve to get the seat reservations for Limbu and Tamang communities in the Sikkim

Legislative Assembly has been indicated by our constant pursuance and negotiations with the highest authorities in the Union Government. We are also continuously discussing and deliberating with constitutional and legal experts to evolve options and measures that could provide transparent, acceptable and durable formula.

Unfortunately, we missed the most crucial opportunity and intervention which could have been easily and effectively made by the last Delimitation Commission constituted in 2002. We do not know the reasons as to why this very critical opportunity was missed by the previous Government for resolving and bestowing the reservation of LT seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

However, we are determined to clinch this issue and we continue to maintain the pace of negotiations and bring more urgency to the entire process of final configuration and resolutions.

Farmers, Farming and Growth

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Sikkim has a huge tradition of mountain agriculture heritage. Our farmers have contributed immensely in the building of modern Sikkim. Many of them have left behind old practices of farming and

entered into modern ways. Our government found three serious challenges faced by the farmers in Sikkim today.

Firstly, a large number of families of farmers have gradually shifted to other occupations and also migrated to urban areas. This is because of upward social mobilization and also farmers did not find any incentives to remain in villages and bustees and continue to cultivate the land themselves.

Secondly, climate change has started affecting various crops as one can see new varieties of pests and diseases invading the cropping fields resulting in severe crop failures.

Thirdly, the governmental extension and other institutions and facilities are not reaching the farmers. As a result of which the farmers did not get the required support.

Keeping all these in mind our government has started some major interventions:

- i) We are shifting the development focus to rural areas and we are strengthening all the rural institutions including that of Panchayati Raj and extension services.
- ii) We are identifying the products which can be a game changer in the rural areas and are accordingly providing incentives to the farmers.

For instance, we have now given a remunerative price incentive of ₹ 8/- per litre of milk with particular fat and solid non-fat (SNF) standard and a minimum procurement price of ₹ 40/- per liter to all the dairy farmers under the newly initiated Milk Production Incentive Scheme (MPIS) under Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Yojana. As a result, the milk supply has gone up to 56000 litres per day from 25000 to 30000 litres per day.

Over 15000 dairy farmers have benefitted so far from this subsidy of over ₹ 26.00 crore in the last two fiscal years and will soon be in a position to export our milk and milk products to other states. We are also planning to design and set up supplies of milk through bulk vending machines similar to Mother Dairy in Delhi.

Under Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Yojana, similar incentives are extended to piggery farmers under the Pig Production Incentive Scheme (PPIS). Pig rearing farmers are given ₹ 5000/- per pig weighing above 50 kgs. Almost 2000 farmers have benefitted from ₹ 3.00 crore incentives so far.

Mukhya Mantri Matsya Utpadan Yojana (MMMUY) was launched in October 2021 where the government provides 60 percent subsidy for fish farmers under which over 1000 farmers have benefited from the ₹ 1.00 crore subsidy extended so far.

Under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aatmanirbhar Yojana (MMKAY) launched in 2020, we are extending cash incentives to all the agricultural commodities in the state. Under the scheme, over 4200 farmers have benefitted so far with more than ₹ 2.00 crore funding.

The rate of incentives under MMKAY are as under:

Sl. No.	Crop	Rate of Incentives (per Kg)
1.	Cardamom	₹ 100/-
2	Ginger	₹ 20/-
3	Turmeric	₹ 10/-
4	Buckwheat	₹ 10/-
5	Orange	₹ 20/-
6	Cabbage	₹ 5/-
7	Cauliflower	₹ 7/-
8	Green Peas	₹ 8/-
9	Carrot	₹ 7/-
10	Cherry Pepper	₹ 20/-
11	Radish	₹ 7/-
12	Kiwi	₹ 25/-
13	Varieties of Pulses	₹ 25/- each

Likewise, we are planning to make 3 'A's, (Aduwa, Alaichi and Amlisho) as the three commercial crops that would make the farming more attractive. In all three we shall be making interventions in production, processing and marketing.

For instance, there are studies to show that whatever cardamom fetches as the final price in the market only 20-30 percent reach the producer farmer in Sikkim. Rest 70 to 80 percent is pocketed by the traders and other agencies who add value to raw cardamom by using them in pharmaceutical products, spices, hard and soft beverages and others. Therefore, our government will now do the processing and value addition in Sikkim, so that our farmers get the maximum benefit of the market price. The IFFCO-Sikkim Government food processing factory is fast coming up in Rangpo. This will be the first such large-scale processing venture in this regard.

Social Upliftment:

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We have already initiated a range of programs on social upliftment primarily aiming vulnerable groups like senior citizens, differently-abled persons, people living below the poverty line both in urban and rural areas, and also unemployed-homeless and landless families. Our government provided them with

instruments of mobility, places to stay, newer varieties of income-earning occupations and also other measures of physical and social security.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Let me mention some of the measures we have already undertaken.

Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana:

To empower the mothers of Sikkim the State Government has initiated a new and progressive scheme called **Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana**, through which annual assistance of ₹ 20,000/- will be released to the selected unemployed mothers including single mothers. The criteria also states that none of her family members should be employed in the government sector.

The scheme will commence from this fiscal year and will benefit over 16,000 mothers across the state.

Chalak-Guruji Welfare Board

The Government has initiated various projects in favour of the Chalak Guruji. In this concern, Welfare Board will be established for the well-being of the Taxi-drivers. They will be facilitated with insurance, medical support, housing and other basic facilities, besides appointing a Chairman and a Vice-chairman of the board. After the inception of our government existing

₹ 3.00 lakh ex-gratia payment on accidental death was increased to ₹ 5.00 lakhs. In addition to this non-vehicle owner-drivers from each district giving outstanding performance will be awarded a taxi (Bolero). If desirous they can purchase a truck by adding the required additional amount to the granted award amount of ₹ 10.00 lakh.

- (I) Under the Sikkim Urban Garib Aawas Yojana we are in the process of constructing 502 houses in 7 Municipal Areas namely, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Nagar Panchayats of Nayabazar-Jorethang, Gyalshing, Mangan, Rangpo, Singtam and Namchi Municipal Council. Each house is at a cost of ₹ 19.37 Lakhs. Similarly, we are building 260 units of Social Housing Flats (SHF) units in Gangtok, Nayabazaar-Jorethang and Gyalshing at the cost of ₹ 22 lakhs each.

Construction work is under way for a Shelter home for 40 beneficiaries under the Shelter for Houseless Households (SHH)

- (II) Under the Sikkim Garib Aawas Yojana (SGAY) our government has completed building 3050 housing units. Each unit costs ₹ 17.52 Lakhs. We launched this far-reaching scheme in October 2020 and will be completed within March 2022. This means that our government perhaps set a new record of building 169 units of houses per month despite the onslaught of the pandemic.

Ukraine Evacuation of Sikkimese students

The sudden war in Ukraine hugely affected thousands of Indian nationals. Among the affected Indians were 36 students from Sikkim who have been studying medicines and other courses in various universities in Ukraine.

The government of India under its Operation Ganga mission not only safely evacuated all the students and other Indians but hundreds of flights safely brought them back to India. I would like to extend our warmest gratitude and heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, for this historically successful evacuation from such a devastating zone. I would also like to put on record our deep appreciation of the deft handling of the situation by our Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Shri S Jaishankar Ji and Foreign Secretary, Shri Harshvardhan Shringla Ji. We sincerely thank you for undertaking such a daunting task in a smooth manner. The people of Sikkim are very grateful to all Hon'ble Ministers and officials for their relentless effort and enduring support.

With our students back in Sikkim, our government is striving to provide secure and smooth facilitation to complete their studies on time and are devising ways forward to this effect. I would, therefore, like to set aside a sum of ₹ 1.00 crore for this purpose in this fiscal year.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

Our government has been relentlessly working to take Sikkim to newer heights. Our aim is to transform Sikkim into one of the most efficient, resourceful and competitive states in the country. We strive to attain global standard in all the major social and commercial sectors including health, education, environment, tourism and industries. While working towards transforming our state as the greenest destination of Asia, we constantly endeavor to bring durable peace, happiness, and tranquility to our State.

For all these to happen, we cherish the blessings of all our mountain deities, unflinching support from the people of Sikkim, unparalleled dedication of all the governmental officials.

Hon'ble Members of the House in the opposition bench have, in fact, the most crucial role in collectively making Sikkim a highly prosperous state. We have now set the culture of open and transparent debate and discussion and I fervently urge all the members of various political parties, civil society, panchayats, youths, students, intellectuals, business houses and other professionals to come forward and advise our government to make maximum use of the institutions, resources and human capital in the State.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I shall now briefly mention the budgetary profile for the financial year 2022-23. Against a gross expenditure provision of ₹ 10419.71 crore, (Rupees Ten Thousand Four Hundred Nineteen Crore and Seventy One Lakhs) the net outgo comes to ₹ 10116.11 Crore (Rupees Ten Thousand One Hundred Sixteen crore and Eleven Lakhs) after taking into account recoveries amounting to ₹ 303.60 crore (Rupees Three Hundred three crore and Sixty lakhs). The fiscal deficit remains in adherence to the fiscal management targets set in the Sikkim Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2010, i.e. not more than 4% including additional borrowing space of 0.5% of GSDP on certain criteria to performance in Power sector. The contribution from own Tax Revenue is of the order of ₹ 1336.42 crore (Rupees One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Six Crore and Forty Two lakhs) and that of Non- Tax Revenue ₹ 990.09 crore (Rupees Nine Hundred Ninty Crore and Nine Lakhs).

The total gross expenditure includes allocations amounting to ₹ 9.56 crore (Rupees Nine crore and Fifty Six Lakhs) under the dispensation of the North Eastern Council, ₹ 255.48 crore (Rupees Two Hundred Fifty Five Crore and Forty Eight Lakhs) under Non-Lapsable Pool of Central Resources and ₹ 2660.45 crore (Rupees Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Crore and Forty Five Lakhs) only under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

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

Sl. No.	Receipts	Amount in Crore
1	Tax Revenue	₹ 1336.42
2	Non-Tax Revenue	₹ 990.09
3	State's Share of Central Taxes	₹ 3168.59
4	Grant-in-Aid	₹ 2925.50
5	Gross Borrowings	₹ 1697.99
6	Recoveries of Loans and Advances	₹ 0.08
7	Net Public Accounts	₹ (-) 2.56
	Total Receipts	₹ 10116.11
Sl. No.	Expenditure	Amount in Crore
1	Revenue Expenditure	₹ 8354.32
2	Capital Expenditure	₹ 1761.79
	Total Expenditure	₹ 10116.11

Let us now collectively re-dedicate ourselves to elevate Sikkim to greater heights of progress and development through the implementation of sustainable policies. Let us also pledge to maintain the peace and

tranquility of our State and set an example at the national and international level.

With these commitments, I present the Budget 2022-23, to the House for its kind consideration.

I wholeheartedly thank you Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, all the Hon'ble Members of the House and other officials for your presence, participation and patience.

Thank You!

Jai Hind!

Jai Sikkim!