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## Republic Day messages of the Governor and Chief Minister of Sikkim

### In the process of Constitutional democracy, Sikkim has not lagged behind-Governor



**Balmiki Prasad Singh**  
Governor of Sikkim

My dear fellow citizens,

On this happy occasion of celebration of our Republic Day, I convey my heartiest felicitations and good wishes to all my fellow citizens in Sikkim and to the countrymen.

On this day, the people of India gave unto themselves a democratic Constitution which enshrines the principles of governance by the people. The Constitution articulates the hopes and aspirations of the people. The principles of justice, liberty, and equality that have been enshrined in our Constitution, have been the bedrock of the nation's stability and progress. For the Constitution provides ample opportunity to all sections of the society to lead a life of dignity.

On this auspicious occasion, let us remember those of our countrymen without whose relentless struggle and numerous sacrifices, a sovereign democratic nation would not have been established.

Fellow citizens, let us remember our great freedom fighters with deep gratitude. Let us also rededicate ourselves to the task of nation-building, and ensure that the edifice of unity, integrity and secularism of the country is further strengthened.

Today, we salute our brave soldiers who guard our borders in the most challenging and hostile terrain. Their commitment and zeal in ensuring our security is something for which we are indeed grateful.

In the process of Constitutional democracy, Sikkim has not lagged behind. Harmony among all sections of society prevails. Our peaceful environment and a low crime rate have made our State an oasis of peace and tranquility.

We are working on building a nature based economy and knowledge driven society in Sikkim. Our strategy for development has identified water resources,

and the natural beauty of the State: our greenery, mountains, forest produce, medicinal plants, orchids, flowers and minerals as our growth potentials. Human development is the most important variable in our development programmes.

#### EDUCATION

Education is being accorded top priority. The challenge before us is to provide quality education, and improve the literacy rate. We are in the process of recruiting highly qualified teachers. We aim to achieve full literacy in Sikkim. The literacy rate of 68.80% as per 2001 census has improved to 82% as of today.

We have primary schools within 1 km and the secondary schools within 8 km of walking distance in the State. With improved road connectivity our children do not face hardship to reach their schools. The total number of schools in the State is 1157 which includes 765 government schools, 7 central government schools and 385 private schools. The teacher pupil ratio in 2007 was 1:16. It is being further improved.

The Sikkim Central University is expected to play a pivotal role in streamlining and development of educational programmes as far as higher education is concerned.

The Chief Minister's free scholarship scheme seeks to attract meritorious students to pursue higher education in the premier universities of the world.

The comprehensive educational loan scheme provides easy term loan at a low interest to students pursuing higher education in any field, anywhere.

#### HEALTH

We aim to provide affordable health care to all. A network of hospitals, and rural health centres are already in place and more are being planned.

Efforts are also underway to bring about greater effectiveness in delivery of health services. It is aimed to make primary health care facilities accessible to all.

Sikkim is the 2nd State in India to have introduced mobile medical units in the districts under the National Rural Health Mission.

Steps have been initiated to set up a 575 bedded super specialty hospital at Gangtok.

#### CONNECTIVITY

It has been the ambition of the people and the Government of Sikkim to have a dependable connectivity with the rest of the country and the world by road, rail and air and the internet.

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### Sikkim's contribution to progress and prosperity of the Nation can not be measured in quantifiable terms- CM

Sixty years in the cosmic scale is but a fraction of time. But in shaping the destiny of a nation, it has been a long-drawn process to imagine, conceive and execute many path-breaking policy initiatives and landmark development program to catapult India into the topmost league of Nations. While we observe this auspicious day, we are aware that we have gained much in terms of our maturity to carry forward our socio-political processes, our reputation as the best practitioner of democratic polity and the sustained economic growth surpassing the effects of global meltdown evident across the world.

Let me start by conveying my heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim and to my fellow countrymen on this happy and auspicious occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Republic Day of our great Nation.

It was indeed a proud day 60 years ago, when the people of India gave unto themselves a written constitution which enshrined the foundation of a Democratic Republic. Having seen off the British subjugation of over two hundred years, this was a new beginning, a new leaf out of the ruins of the past. The adoption of the Constitution on this day, therefore, did herald a new dawn and a new hope. My fellow citizens, we are the progeny of the very dawn broke into full day, the new hope bloomed into fulfillment- like the giant in fatigue gear long labored in the battlefield, triumphant at last, ready to go afresh.

It is a tribute to all the people of this great Nation and its leadership who spearheaded the drafting of our Constitution to withstand the test of time and provide a broad frame work for all round progress that the nation has witnessed. A Constitution which drew from the best experiences of the world with democracy, a Constitution which created a most robust democratic institution, a Constitution which guaranteed liberal basic rights to its citizens, a Constitution which put due process of law above everything, we made the best choice possible and this day very much testifies to this truth.

Respected fellow citizens, Sikkim's contribution to progress and prosperity of the Nation can not be measured in quantifiable terms. The amount of goodwill that we generate in the State well percolates across the international borders raising the prestige and esteem of the Country. As a State high in the Himalayas, we take the onus of upholding the environmental sanctity and also safeguard water reservoir that feed the Countrymen. We continue to remain an oasis of peace and tranquility in an increasingly strife-torn world. In other sense, the promises laid out by our Constitution to



**Pawan Chamling**  
Chief Minister of Sikkim

secure to all its citizens: Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are not possible unless there is a complementary atmosphere of peace and mutual respect. That we have been able to provide to the Country uninterrupted for all these decades. Sikkim, therefore, takes pride in having this distinction and hence the crown in the Indian landscapes both literally and in its intrinsic meaning. I take this opportunity to salute the people of Sikkim for all the sacrifices made and the priorities foregone to fully realize the Constitutional injunctions contained therein.

Fellow citizens,

As a landlocked State, we have historically faced many difficulties in our endeavour to provide the best of services to our people. This has not, however, dampened our passion to devise the best possible development interventions suitable for our State. Today, while I stand as the first servant to serve the collective interest of the people, I am happy to recount the many untiring hours, days and years spent for peace, prosperity, stability and overall happiness of the people.

Being cradled in the youngest mountains in the world, Sikkim has a unique agro-climatic character. The mountainous terrain, the lush green valleys, mountain rivers, rich biodiversity, ethnic communities with unique socio-cultural wealth- Sikkim is well suited for some well-focused development intervention to bring about sustainable growth regime in the State. Over the decade, Sikkimese people are witness to a range of new and innovative development strategies that we have framed and implemented in the State bringing in complete overhauling in the way we define progress and the instruments to achieve them.

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### Sikkim's contribution...

As a uniquely placed State, Sikkim has its own strengths and weaknesses. And this has been the cases with every other State, region and the nations across the world. We quickly acknowledged and recognized this seminal truth and devised our development strategies accordingly. And the rest is history creating a growth ambience of the historical proportion touching every life belonging to every segment of the people in the State.

Based on Sikkim's comparative advantage, we have aggressively promoted hydro-power generation, promotion of eco-tourism, promotion of horticulture, floriculture and apiculture and setting up small scale clean and environment-friendly industrial units in the State.

Our foresight has begun to show a very healthy trend both in the growth of tourism footfall over the years and the steady progress made to harness our nature-based wealth on a sustainable basis. We have undertaken a diverse set of tourism projects like pilgrimage tourism, village tourism, culture tourism, adventure tourism etc. This has not only boost our local economy in plain understanding but has also created substantial number of employment in the tertiary sector besides encouraging growth in the primary and secondary sectors of the economy. This has also begun to bring about major shift in the social mobilization process and inject a substantive change in the entire development outlook and orientation of the State.

The estimated hydro-power potential of 8000 MW in Sikkim has always remained a very happy discovery. The State Government has, so far, allotted a number of projects with a total installed capacity of about 5,000 MW to different developers which are under different stages of implementations. Out of the above, five hydro projects with a total capacity of about 2,000 MW is targeted to be commissioned by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> plan earning substantial revenue for the State.

The State of Sikkim has a net cultivated area of over 14 percent of the total geographical area. Therefore, we have continuously tried to apply our mind and knowledge to increase our per capita yield in our farmland. Closely linked with it is also our mission to promote Sikkim as brand entity as Organic State in the world community which we aim to achieve by 2015.

The production trend of various horticultural crops within the estimated 57 percent of the total cultivated area has shown increasing result. Floriculture has tremendous potential in the State with conducive agro-climatic conditions and prevalence of floral species in multitudes. Production and export of Cymbidium orchids, roses, lilliums, anthurium, gladioli, gerbera will continue to receive top most priority. In fact, a large number of local growers have come up across the State transforming this household hobby into a brand commercial unit in the State.

Sikkim has made an impressive stride towards making Sikkim a fully literate State by 2015 with overall literacy rate now touching 85%. With a wide range of educational facilities and incentives available for our children, Sikkim is the one State to focus that much in education sector. The result of our welfare measures over the decade is now palpable. There is marked improvement in teacher pupil ratio of 1:16. There are total of 1157 schools and 6 Government Degree Colleges in the State.

The establishment of the Sikkim University has added a new feather in our cap. With the establishment of the University, Sikkim will gradually become a major hub for education in the North Eastern Region including for other neighbouring

countries of Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and other South East Asian countries.

In order to prepare our educated youths for a wide range of economic activities available within the State and outside, Skill Development Scheme has been launched to provide vocational training in various fields so that the youth are skilled and can find employment in all sectors

The comprehensive education loan scheme has been launched to provide easy term loan at a low interest to students pursuing higher education in various fields in any part of the country or outside. All eligible students able to secure admission across Nations have been sponsored in countries such as USA, Thailand and Dubai in various trades. The Chief Minister's free scholarship programme hopes to attract students to pursue higher education in the 20 top Universities of the World.

My Government's major thrust has been to bridge the urban and rural divide. Therefore, maximum focus of the Government has been to develop the villages in the State providing all possible welfare measures and create public facilities at par with that of urban habitation. Sikkim is one of the leading States in the Country in the area of power decentralization. Power has been transferred to the villagers through Panchayats so that a system of people's administration is fully established.

For quick and smooth functioning of the administration at the grassroot level, 27 Block Administrative centres are fully functional in the districts. The State has been ranked number 3 in the Country for empowering people under the Panchayati Raj. Sikkim was the first State to be adjudged the first State in the Country to achieve Nirmal Rajya status to achieve total sanitation. We have successfully carried out a host of social welfare measures aimed at uplifting the weak and the marginalized section of the people.

My Government's role is now increasingly concentrated in providing wider infrastructure and amenities including roads, communication and recreation facilities in tourist friendly locations. The government is consciously moving to play the role more of a facilitator, promoter and regulator with people as the major stakeholders in the entire development drive.

The State Government now boasts of providing cent percent rural electrification and facility of potable drinking water in almost every rural household. There is a wide network of roads crisscrossing the State making all corner of State more accessible and developed. Rural roads under sixth phase of the PMGSY will create new road construction to benefit the people.

Environmental security has always remained our core concern in the State. As a result of our sustained campaign we have been globally recognized as a leader in the area of nature conservation and promotion. Beginning with Harit Kranti Varsha way back in 1995, all our green mission initiatives are ongoing programmes to plant more trees in vacant and open lands, government and private lands, institutional lands, religious institutions and along road reserves. The impact of the programme has been impressive. In addition to all the green recognitions, one of our schools namely Daramdin Secondary School has bagged Green Schools Award in 2007. I am happy to note that the Union Tourism Minister, Kumari Selja has recently recognized and declared Sikkim as an eco-tourism State destination, and profusely commended our Green Mission initiative.

Respected fellow citizens

Democracy provides for right to equality, justice and equal opportunity. But this provision does not necessarily guarantee an equitable access to justice and equitable access to socio-economic opportunity for all section of people. Therefore, appropriate

mechanism within the framework of the Constitution is devised and evolved to encourage that equitable access is available for all section of people to enjoy constitutional rights and privileges.

We are living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and therefore, it is necessary that we upgrade ourselves to match the level of people's hopes and aspirations living in this world. In order that we continue to remain relevant to the present needs and requirement and acquire that appropriate bent of mind, I have continued to try to evolve myself into more competitive, more imaginative and more innovative while designing the future course of action. I have enough time, recounted the many far-reaching achievements of the State Government during last fifteen years. This time around and on this auspicious occasion, I would basically focus on some very innovative and historical policy decisions which have been passed and some already implemented during the last one year. My fellow citizens will get to know the differences that we have made while introducing some new schemes and projects recently:

1. Construction of 575 bedded Multi Specialty Hospital in Sikkim;
2. Establishment of Regional Cancer Centre in Sikkim;
3. Sanctioned construction work of Primary Health Sub Centre at Naya Bazar, West Sikkim;
4. Construction of new Pharmacy College at Sajong, Rumtek
5. Free distribution of drugs for multi drug resistance TB (MDR-TB) in Sikkim;
6. Launched Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Checkup for Healthy Sikkim (CATCH) project in the State for appropriate intervention towards making Sikkim one of the healthiest States in India;
7. Launched health program of MMR Vaccine for children in the immunization program of the state government on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009.
8. Deworming, iron folic acid and calcium supplementation programme launched on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2009 for school going children and for all pregnant and lactating mothers and all women within the reproductive age group;
9. Institution of Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh with appropriate fund allocation to provide necessary tertiary care health facilities to various categories of patients requiring multispeciality treatment outside the State;
10. Launched Mukhya Mantri Netra Jyoti Yojna for free distribution of spectacles upto Rs. 1500 to people suffering from Amblyopia;
11. Launched Mukhya Mantri Sravan Shakti Samridhhi Yojana for people suffering from congenital and acquired hearing impairment;
12. Launched Mukhya Mantri Antoydaya Upchar Bima Yojana to provide health insurance to 21,618 BPL families of the State with package of services including hospitalization benefit, death compensation, disability compensation and ambulance facility;
13. Launched Mukhya Mantri Antyodaya Pustahaar Yojana on August 15, 2009 to improve the nutritional status of BPL families in the State;
14. Introduction of Mobile Medical Unit in all four districts to outreach health services and health care to the door steps of the public;
15. Non-practising allowance to Doctors;
16. Sanctioned construction of Government Polytechnic at Mangshila in North Sikkim;
17. Sanctioned construction of prestigious National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Ravangla
18. New B.Ed. College in Soreng

sanctioned and established;

19. Sanctioned matching amount for Infrastructure Development at Namchi Senior Secondary School, South Sikkim;

20. Sanctioned upgradation of infrastructure at VC Ganju Lama Memorial SSS at Ravangla, South Sikkim;

21. Sanctioned proposal for upgradation and related development works of the Government Degree College at Tadong, East Sikkim;

22. Two more DIET Centres are being opened at Namchi and at Gyalshing to train in-service teachers.

23. Formally unveiled the Institute of Capacity Building at Karfectar; one Livelihood School in each Constituency being set up;

24. Establishment of Forest Academy in Sikkim

25. Establishment of Regional Training Centre at Sokeythang;

26. Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-tourism (IHCAE) inaugurated by the Union Minister of Tourism Kumari Selja on December 7, 2009 at Chemchey. Also laid foundation stone of heliport. Two more heliports sanctioned each at Mangan in North and Hilley in West Sikkim;

27. Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute Complex inaugurated on December 29, 2009;

28. Sikkim Festival, 2009 held successfully at the Garden of Five Senses, in New Delhi in January, 2009

29. Destination Development of Mangan Tourist Axis including Helipad in North Sikkim;

30. We successfully hosted the Inter-State Regional Conference of Tourism Ministers of East and North East State in December 6, 2009;

31. Development of Akant Vas and Agyat Van Vas in the State to promote wellness tourism; Introduction of Monsoon Tourism as new attraction for the tourists;

32. Launching of new scheme 'Rural Backyard Poultry Development' in the State;

33. Establishment of Mother Dairy Farm at Karfectar, Jorethang;

34. Establishment of Piggery Farms at Assangthang, Namchi, Melli, Khop and Chungthang.

35. Launched Chief Minister's Rural Universal Financial Inclusion Project for fostering speedy economic growth and strengthening social security net in a more inclusive manner;

36. Launched the Mukhya Mantri Grameen Rozgar Yojana (MMGRY);

37. Launched the 'State Rural Household Census - 2009' program throughout the State;

38. Free distribution of organic fertilizer to all orange growers in the State;

39. Institution of discretionary funds for zilla and gram panchayat to further strengthening the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institution in the State;

40. Beautification, upgradation and modernization of Tadong Bazar, Makha Bazar, Yangang Bazar, Namthang Bazar, Kaluk and Rinchenpong Bazar;

41. Making Sikkim a Temporary House (kutchha) free State by March 2011;

42. Development of Theme Parks across the State;

43. Foundation Stone laid for construction of Housing Colony at Rangpo under BSUP project on December 5, 2009

44. Development of Film City in the State

45. Jointly conducted Bhumi Puja of the new Green Airport at Pakyong by the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Praful Patel, Airport slated to be operational by July 2012;

46. Laid the foundation stone of first railway line in Sikkim from Sevoke to Rangpo

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### Sikkim's contribution...

by HE the Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari on October 30, 2009;

47. A total of another 1422 kms of new road construction under 7<sup>th</sup> Phase of PMGSY in the State sanctioned;

48. Teesta V Power Station formally commissioned and dedicated to the Nation by Union Power Minister, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde in July 2009

49. On July 15, 2009 the State Government dedicated ten minutes to greenery across the State in which massive plantation drive was conducted. A total of 6.15 lakhs saplings were planted.

50. Establishment of Branch Office of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with the opening of one more Treasury Chest at Jorethang; 3 Treasury Chests already opened in three Central Banks located in the capital. The RBI is also considering opening of two more Chests each in Namchi and Mangon.

Sikkim's track record in every sphere of activity has always remained exemplary. In education, health, eco-tourism, environment management and good governance, we have already created historical mileposts in the State. As we celebrate the 61<sup>st</sup> Republic Day, we cannot afford to act casual. The provisions contained in our sacred Document have to be taken in all seriousness. For the last sixteen years, we have not faltered in our responsibility and have developed Sikkim as one of the most peaceful, progressive and happening States in the Country. We have never retracted on our promises and fulfilled each and every commitment made to people both in letter and spirit. On this auspicious occasion, I also call upon my fellow Sikkimese to be more responsible towards further strengthening the democratic fortress by developing a strong sense of ownership in the development process of the State.

As a responsible Government to secure the overall happiness of the people as implied in the Preamble to our Constitution, I feel duty bound to empower my fellow citizens. That means empowering them to fully enjoy their rights and privileges, empowered enough to take advantage of all the constitutional rights for their betterment. However, there are a section of reactionary forces still lurking large to take advantage out of people's weaknesses, to take undue advantage out of dilemmas faced by our educated unemployed youths. They are looking for every possible excuse to hitting where it hurts the most.

The country and the world itself is reeling under diverse challenges ranging from price rise, market meltdown, growing unemployment problem to terrorist threats. Sikkim as part of the global village is bound to feel the effects all through. However, thanks to the peace loving people, Sikkim is the most peaceful State in the country changing the very perception of border State at the national level. I have always maintained that political leaders must always transform people's weaknesses into their inherent strength. Bill Gates, the father of IT revolution has empowered thousands of people across the Continents to conduct their business in the most comfortable ways. Here I quote Bill Gates himself who said, "As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others".

Respected fellow Sikkimese,

People's sense of development is today measured in terms of per capita happiness. In a country as vast as India, we surely need some mechanism to measure our happiness index. And I strongly feel that Sikkim will stand on top of the happiness index if measured in India. Globally speaking, Denmark is on top of the happiness index with people who are living the happiest life in the world. And the Danish

people say, very proudly, and I quote, "We are happiest like nu". And happily the clause 'like nu' in Danish language means 'just now'. That means the contest is all open and Sikkimese people as we stand today and now has all the ingredients to emerge as the happiest people in the world and we can well do that. But achieving such an honour internationally will require strict regimentation on our part to be more responsible in our words and deeds and always mindful of the busy body and interlopers crying hoarse to fulfill their unfulfilled wishes by exploiting the simplicity and ignorance of the people.

While the Danish people leave the contest open for all, we must also remain open to improve ourselves, be more positive and innovative, more peaceful, more progressive and productive in the act of nation building. As I stand to greet my fellow citizens on the auspicious occasion of 61<sup>st</sup> Republic Day, I call upon my Sikkimese people that let us be steadfast in our purpose and sure in our action to herald a more promising future ahead.

Respected fellow citizens

As a matter of principle, I have always remained unchanged both in the context of the party that I lead and the Government I head, both in the context of my words as well as deeds. The flag I unfurled on March 4, 1993 continues to flutter high up in the sky.. which continue to inspire me to sail higher to achieve more for the happiness of the people of Sikkim. Seneca, the Roman Philosopher of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC said in the good old days, "The primary indication, to my thinking, of a well-ordered mind is a man's ability to remain in one place and linger in his own company".

With these lines and with warm greeting to all my fellow Sikkimese on this solemn occasion, I call upon the Sikkimese people to continue to remain united as always and work hand in hand to strengthen the State and facilitate the huge task of Nation building.

Jai Hind

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### In the process...

Fortunately, for me and for the State that during the period of my stay in Sikkim, some momentous steps have been initiated to this end.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February last year, we had the formal commencement of the work at the Pakyong Airport. The work is currently going on in full swing and by January 2012 the Pakyong Airport will be fully operational.

As regards the alternative road link, the project linking Chalsa (Kunya More) in West Bengal to Menla (Gangtok-Nathula Road) in Sikkim has been approved by the Government of India. Further, work on the double lanning of the NH-31A has also commenced.

Sikkim is connected to the Internet. Taking advantage of this, we have provided computers in schools, colleges, offices, etc. However, considering the terrain and the topography, it would be advantageous to have high capacity micro-wave wireless systems in place from Gangtok to Siliguri and to connect all the four districts in the State. We have taken up this matter with the Government of India.

The Sikkim railway project is being taken up as a national project. In the first phase Rangpo will be linked to Sevoke station and in the second phase the line will be extended upto the capital town, Gangtok. The first phase is targeted for completion by the year 2015. We in Sikkim will then have the opportunity to travel by rail to and fro to Siliguri and beyond.

Besides making our journey much

more comfortable and faster, this broad-gauge rail link would also bring about a tremendous change in the economy of the State by bringing down the cost of transportation and spurring industrial activities and tourism.

### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has been the mainstay of our economy with focus on high value produce.

Sikkim is under conversion to an organic State. New and modern technologies of organic farming system are being introduced. We are accordingly giving more emphasis to capacity building by providing training and exposure tours to the officers as well as farmers. With a ban on use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, Sikkim is to become a completely organic state in not too distant a future.

The thrust is also on high yielding seed production through public-private partnership. Our strength in horticulture and floriculture is also being augmented by post-harvest and marketing facilities. Some success has been achieved in attracting private investment in floriculture.

We propose to develop horticulture in a big way to provide employment opportunities to the people through opening of new ventures based on floriculture, production of fruits, vegetables including off season vegetables and medicinal plants. There is active promotion of integrated farming systems with focus on protection of local varieties of maize and paddy.

The State has taken up the issue of disease management in fruits and promotion of off-season vegetables through green house technology.

The State is also gradually moving towards commercial production of medicinal plants.

### RURALEMPOWERMENT

The major thrust of the Government of Sikkim has been to strengthen our villages.

Power has been transferred to the villages through Panchayats, in order to make the people stakeholders in finalizing developmental schemes. The various anti poverty flagship programmes of the State Government are being actively implemented, duly involving the local elected bodies. The reservation of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions has increased from 33 to 40 percent.

We are working towards ensuring availability of quality water and sanitation facilities alongside protection and conservation of water sources.

Sikkim has ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the policy initiatives for empowering Panchayats in the country. The State has been awarded the Nirmal Rajya Puraskar on being the first state in the Country to achieve 100% rural sanitation.

Capacity Building and Skill Development of the youth are being accorded priority. This is manifest in the newly established Institute of Capacity Building at Karfector, Jorethang. This Institute will undertake all capacity building initiatives in order to make the youth self-reliant and to make them market worthy for employment.

The Institute will also impart training to the Panchayats to enable them to deliver quality services to the people and thus become instruments of change at the village level.

Under the Chief Minister's self-employment scheme small loans are being granted to deserving unemployed persons at a low rate of interest to set up business ventures.

A Universal Financial Inclusion Project has been initiated. This

comprehensive programme is to open bank account inclusive of insurance coverage in the name of female members of the household. The programme will cover areas where Banks do not have their branches and thus bringing into its fold the weaker sections and low income group people in the State.

### RESOURCE GENERATION

Hydel power is one of the priority sectors. The State is moving cautiously forward in this behalf. A 510 MW Teesta Hydro Electric Project – Stage V, was dedicated to the nation last year. The project is expected to fetch approximately Rs. 125.00 crores annually. The State has envisaged a target to mobilize around Rs. 1500 crores of revenue, with a combined generation of about 5000 MWs from all the hydel projects.

### TOURISM

Sikkim has emerged as a growing tourist destination in the domestic and international market.

The State recognizes its comparative advantage in the field of tourism. We have to create physical infrastructure and hospitality etiquette to take full advantage as tourism has immense potential for generation of employment.

The State has ventured into village eco-tourism, home stay, adventure tourism like river rafting, para gliding and trekking. Various new tourist spots have been opened up by providing the required infrastructure by way of electricity, roads, water supply and wayside amenities.

The Government of India has also included Sikkim in the Buddhist circuit tourism and the State will strive to take full advantage of this.

A rhododendron festival at Barsey in West Sikkim and at Singba in North Sikkim has been proposed this year. These festivals are expected to attract a large number of foreign rhododendron lovers from all over the world.

From the year 1998 upto 2009-2010, the State has been bestowed with 15 tourism awards in various categories. The awards clearly reflect our achievements in this sector and also provide the encouragement to push further in this direction.

### OUTLOOK

Sikkim is home of India's 26% of biodiversity. Sikkim's forest cover stands at 46.28% of our total area. It is our aspiration not to make any compromise on the environment and ecology while implementing projects. The State's natural resources must be managed on the basis of the principles of sustainability, with active participation of the people. Our emphasis is on eco-friendly development in all aspects.

The State Government has recently completed the third State Green Mission. We will continue to plant trees and flowers to maintain the green cover.

Our children are the beautiful flowers of the garden of Sikkim. And we are determined to continue with efforts to gift the coming generations a secure future.

Our endeavour is to make Sikkim a vibrant and well-informed society. This is only possible through quality education. I would like the young boys and girls to acquire new skills that a knowledge economy has opened up. Towards this, I call upon young people to take full advantage of opportunities that are before them.

We should continue to maintain and further enrich the peaceful environment that Sikkim has. I believe that Sikkim would become a model State in India. This will only be possible when our people and government work together with earnestness. Let us move wholeheartedly in this direction.

# Republic Day

26th January 1950 is one of the most important days in Indian history as it was on this day the constitution of India came into force and India became a truly sovereign state. In this day India became a totally republican unit. The country finally realized the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the numerous freedom fighters who, fought for and sacrificed their lives for the Independence of their country. So, the 26th of January was decreed a national holiday and has been recognized and celebrated as the Republic Day of India, ever since.

Today, the Republic Day is celebrated with much enthusiasm all over the country and especially in the capital, New Delhi where the celebrations start with the Presidential to the nation. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of sovereignty of their country. Then, the President comes forward to award the medals of bravery to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage in the field and also the civilians, who have distinguished themselves by their different acts of valour in different situations.

To mark the importance of this occasion, every year a grand parade is held in the capital, from the Rajghat, along the Vijaypath. The different regiments of the army, the Navy and the Air force march past in all their finery and official decorations even the horses of the cavalry are attractively caparisoned to suit the occasion. The crème of N.C.C cadets, selected from all over the country consider it an honour to participate in this event, as do the school children from various schools in the capital. They spend many days preparing for the event and no expense is spared to see that every detail is taken care of, from their practice for the drills, the essential props and their uniforms.

The parade is followed by a pageant of spectacular displays from the different states of the country. These moving exhibits depict scenes of activities of people in those states and the music and songs of that particular state accompany each display. Each display brings out the diversity and richness of the culture of India and the whole show lends a festive air to the occasion. The parade and the ensuing pageantry is telecast by the National Television and is watched by millions of viewers in every corner of the country.

The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every part of the country is represented in occasion, which makes the Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India.



Balmiki Prasad Singh  
Governor of Sikkim



Pawan Chamling  
Chief Minister of Sikkim

## People's Power - Sikkim's 16 Years of Development

### FIRST STATE

- To constitute the state security commission
- To constitute a commission for the study of glaciology and climate change
- To establish a State Environment commission to institutionalize the protection and preservation of the fragile mountain eco - system
- To launch State Green Mission
- To ban the use non-bio degradable substance
- To provide two months maternity leave to MR employees
- To provide books, uniforms, rain-coats, and school bags to students free of cost
- To spend 17% of its budget expenditure on education
- To extend all government benefits in the name of mother of the family
- To ensure that the state is free of child labour

### SIKKIM IN RANKINGS

- 1st in social sector
- 1st in primary education among small states
- 2nd in environmental sustainability index (ESI)
- 3rd in per capita plan expenditure
- 3rd in women's participation in polls
- 4th position in plan expenditure in social sector
- 5th in immunization coverage
- 5th highest growth in percapita NSDP
- 9th position in socio-economic infrastructure development
- 12th in Institutional delivery below
- 13th in safe delivery
- 18th in Literacy rate
- 30th Lowest in cognizable crimes

### MISSION 2015

- To make Sikkim a 100% literate State
- To make Sikkim a total organic State
- To generate 5,000 MW of power
- To make Sikkim a poverty free State
- To make Sikkim another Singapore in the economic sector
- To transform the State like Cuba and Japan in health services
- To achieve the status of Education as in countries like Netherlands, Norway and Singapore
- To earn fame at par with Switzerland, Austria, Fiji, Mauritius and Paraguay in Eco-tourism
- To transform Sikkim as the best State of the country and also become a source of inspiration for other States
- To raise State Revenue to Rs. 1500 crores
- To make a self reliant State



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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
[www.sikkimipr.org](http://www.sikkimipr.org)

### Pearls of wisdom

*"Whether one or many, I must declare my faith that it is better for India to discard violence altogether even for defending her borders"*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Use only what  
you need, water  
is a limited  
natural  
resources.

### Republic Day programme

- 09.45 a.m. - Parade forms up
- 09.55 a.m. - Arrival of Hon'ble Chief Minister  
He is received by the Chief Secretary and DGP
- 10.00 a.m. - Arrival of H.E. the Governor  
He is received by the Chief Secretary and DGP  
Unfurling of National Flag followed by National Salute and playing of National Anthem  
H.E. the Governor reviews the parade  
March Past
- 10.40 a.m. - Presentation of Awards/Medals, Release of books/  
H.E.the Governor.  
(a) A call to Action-Sikkim 15 Triumphant Years of Democracy (1994-2009), (b) Yuva-Building the Future of our Choice, (c) Sikkim-Quest for prosperity :Rising to the Challenge, (d) Awards and Honours conferred upon Dr. Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim for his outstanding contribution to the Sikkimese Society.  
Address by H.E. Governor  
Three cheers for Rastrapati and parade peels off, Visit to Army equipment display, Band display by Army and Sikkim Police, Dog squad demonstration by Sikkim Police and SSB, Signal drill by Road Safety Patrol, Cultural programme, National Anthem,  
H.E. the Governor departs.