

The Glory of New
SIKKIM



SIKKIM'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Under Pawan Chamling Government



CONTENTS

Part 1 : STATUS 1 - 14

(Regional, National and International Status)

1. Member of NE Council 5
2. National Awards and Honours 9
3. Conference Venue 11
4. Distinguished Visitors 13

Part 2 : GOVERNANCE 15 - 38

5. People's Democracy 17
6. Assisting People Effectively 19
7. Rural People For Rural Progress 23
8. People Friendly Administration 27
9. Planning for People 31
10. Forging Partnerships for Progress 33
11. Strict Financial Discipline 35

Part 3 : ECONOMY 39 - 72

12. Economic Prosperity 41
13. Agriculture 45
14. Industry 49
15. Environment 55
16. Infrastructure 59
17. Tourism 65
18. Information Technology at Grassroots Level 71

Part 4 : SOCIETY 73-102

19. Education 77
20. Health and Sports 83
21. Women Empowerment 90
22. Cultural and Intellectual Climb 92
23. Social Emancipation 98
24. Media 100



Chief Minister of Sikkim

Foreword

The Sikkim Democratic Front Government came into power on 12 December 1994 against a vitiated backdrop of throttled democracy, sliding economic performance, deteriorating law and order situation, an inefficient governance and ineffective public delivery system. It was a deadly confluence where pessimism, discontentment and disgust writ large in every hearth and home in Sikkim. Fear was the key everywhere. People wanted to be free from suffocative, unproductive and dreaded system imposed by the then autocratic political party led Government. Sikkimese people wanted change and a forward movement to a progressive, healthy and productive system. Therefore, they reposed unflinching faith and abiding confidence on the SDF party.

As the Head of the SDF Party and the Government, I knew the formidable challenges that lay ahead and the rugged terrains we would be treading in our political journey. What we did not lack were firm conviction, abiding faith on democratic institutions and practices and immense public confidence on the ability of ours to deliver goods. This indeed has been our innermost strength that has enabled us to climb from peak to peak. Today, our people have a huge galore of success stories to narrate to others both within and outside the vast expanse of our motherland. At the same time we on the helm of affairs have learnt both complexities and virtues of good governance.

This document is a simple attempt to put together some of the major achievements my Government has been able to make in the last nine years. This indicates as how we have assiduously made progress in diverse areas from societal progress, environmental conservation, economic development to the ultimate goal of human and national security. One can feel, see and assess the light and happiness, satisfaction

and enthusiasm and flashes of commitment to do more in every valley and village of Sikkim today. Both physical and emotional integration with the national mainstream have now established firm roots. Isn't every Sikkimese proud today to mention that we are in the forefront of many socio-economic, environmental and governance indicators in the country of 28 States and 7 Union Territories dotted by one billion people? We started late yet we are ahead in the race of conservation, development and competitiveness.

Our aim is to transform the entire Sikkimese society into a conscious, well informed, robust and capable entity. Our hallmark is competitiveness and efficiency with a solid emphasis on respect for and conservation of our rich traditional heritage. We want all the Sikkimese people to live a full life with freedom, dignity, self respect and righteousness. We want each Sikkimese to be a proud and valuable citizen of the country so that each of them can make significant contribution to the nation building process.

We have strongly emphasized in setting up institutions in all spheres of activities so that the generational links are further strengthened. There are several examples mentioned in this document to this effect. Our strength is the constant and irreplaceable support and faith of the grass root people. Our driving force is our toiling workers, committed employees, enlightened civil society and a supportive Union Government.

I must put in record my deep sense of appreciation to the Department of Information and Public Relations for bringing out this publication. I am sure this document will be disseminated widely for people to know what the Government that they have voted to power full nine years ago have done for them.

Once appeal to all the Sikkimese to work with renewed vigour, outward looking attitude and unflattered sense of dedication. My Government is there for you and

you only as we believe in "*Janata raj ma, janatai raja*" (in popular regime, people reign supreme). We would never be complacent to your needs and indifferent to your sensitivities. Together we have to attain the insurmountable goal of *Dhanadya Bharat bhitra Sukhi Sikkim* (prosperous Sikkim in affluent India).

Jai Bharat and Jai Sikkim



(Pawan Chamling)
July 1, 2003

Preface

Sikkim is one of the most beautiful States of India with its unique culture and natural landscape. Nestled in the Himalayas with exceptional natural beauty and rich wealth of Alpine Meadows, Rhododendrons, exotic orchids, colourful butterflies and birds, Sikkim has outpaced many other States in social and economic development. It has also set the standards for the entire region by pursuing development without compromising on its natural environment, tradition, culture and way of life. The objective is to achieve eco-friendly sustainable development based on State's strength.

Peace and tranquility, excellent rural infrastructure, self-sufficiency in power, green and clean environment, investment and environment friendly image and synergy between Government initiatives and Community participation are the USPs on which Sikkim's development strategy is based. The Government has kick-started an infrastructure development drive. Sikkim is also fast emerging as a popular tourism destination. Efforts are on to consolidate the gains made by the state and to ensure that it is not frittered away. Sikkim has thus reached the 'take-off' stage.

In order to document the progress made in various sectors, The Book "The Glory of New Sikkim" is an effort by the Department of Information and Public Relations to put meaningful communication on behalf of Sikkim, which would meet a variety of communication needs ranging from public information, tourist promotion to research and archival work. It is sincerely hoped that this document will adequately showcase Sikkim to the people within and outside the State.

The IPR Department expresses its sincere gratitude to all the Departments in the State Government and



other individuals and agencies for providing data and information that were required for publishing this document. A word of thanks to the Director and Staff members of my Department and Shri Bhawani Rai, Public Relations Officer in the Chief Minister's Office, for their support and hard work in the preparation of this document.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vijay Bhushan Pathak'.

Vijay Bhushan Pathak, IAS
Secretary,
Information and Public Relation Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

PART 1

STATUS: Regional, National & International



ENHANCED STATUS: Sikkim's Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling (seated left) with India's Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (centre) and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative Brenda McSweeney (right) with other State leaders from Sikkim portray the regional, national and international status of this fast developing state under the SDF Government.

- 1. Member of North Eastern Council**
- 2. National Awards and Honours**
- 3. Conference Venue**
- 4. Distinguished Visitors**

Regional, National and International Standing

Under the SDF Government, Sikkim has considerably enhanced its status and stature at the regional, national and international level. The State has been accorded a full member status of the North Eastern Council (NEC) to occupy its right position in this region.



2

CORDIAL RELATIONS: Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling address a joint press conference in Gangtok, Sikkim.

At the national level, close cooperation with the Union Government is showing positive results in the State's economic development. Consultations at the highest levels of national leadership and full participation of national institutions have been the hallmark of Sikkim's physical and emotional integration with the mainstream India. At the international level, Sikkim has been identified and actively considered for development projects by multi-lateral and other donor organizations.

This Government has projected a dynamic image of Sikkim both within and outside the country. Today Sikkim is widely known for its development and growth, social tranquility, quality of governance, reforms, communal harmony, high standard of environmental management and crime free situation. Today Sikkim has a fairly high standing at the national level as indicated by some crucial parameters in Table 1.

Sikkim has obtained very extensive coverage in both national and international media. The national newspapers like *Hindustan Times*, *Times of India*, *The Hindu*, *Indian Express*, *The Telegraph* and *The Statesman* and a number of international newspapers have very often covered the Sikkim related news in both the front page, and also in the prestigious editorial pages. National newsmagazines like *India Today*, *Frontline*, *Outlook*, *The Week*, and *Himal Khabar Patrika* published from Kathmandu have widely covered Sikkim. A well known international newsmagazine *The Economist* published from London has also covered Sikkim's progress. National and international television channels have interviewed the Chief Minister and other officials very often and have made special films and features focusing on Sikkim.

Sikkim now has an Agriculture Export Zone and is likely to have the first World Trade Organisation (WTO) Centre of Excellence in India supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The state is now preparing to take full advantage of the recent agreement between Governments of India and China to reopen the traditional trade route through Nathu La pass.

Table 1**Sikkim's National Standing**

Area	Sikkim's National position out of 28 States and 7 Union Territories
Per capita Income Growth Rate	5 th - Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Sikkim
Income Per capita (Rs)	14 th - Chandigarh, Delhi, Pondicherry, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim
Plan Outlay Per capita	3 rd - Lashadweep, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
Literacy Rate	16 th - Kerala, Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Goa, Delhi, Chandigarh, Pondicherry, A & N Islands, Daman & Diu, Maharashtra, HP, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab and Sikkim
Fertility Rate	12 th Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Sikkim
Infant Mortality Rate	13 th - Pondicherry, Mizoram, Manipur, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, J & K, Maharashtra, Tripura, Delhi and Sikkim
Statewise Road Density (Road length thousand sq km of area)	27 th - only better than Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, A & N Islands, J & K, Daman&Diu and Lakshadweep

Continued on Page 4

Area under one Post Office (Sq Km)	8 th - only better than Arunachal Pradesh, J & K, A & N Islands, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim
Index of Social and Economic Infrastructure	9 th - Goa, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Sikkim
Decadal Population Growth Rate (1991-2001)	6 th - Nagaland, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Chandigarh and Sikkim
Access to Safe Drinking water in percent of households	6 th - Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Pondicherry, West Bengal and Sikkim
Plan Expenditure on Social Sector	4 th - Chandigarh, Delhi, Assam and Sikkim
Electricity Consumption per capita	25 th - only better than Bihar, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura
Externally Aided Projects	10 th - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa, Haryana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim
Growth Targets in the Tenth Plan	13 th - Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana and Sikkim
Gross Fiscal deficit / Plan Expenditure	4 th - lowest and best Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim

Source : Planning Commission, *Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007)*, Volume III, New Delhi, 2002

1. Member of North East Council



Our Vision of New Sikkim

- Poverty free State by 2015.
- Fully literate State by 2015.
- Self Generation of all development related revenues by 2015.
- Total Organic State by 2015.
- Eco-tourism Capital of India by 2015.
- Sustainable livelihood to each Household by 2015.
- A major trade centre of Eastern India by 2020.



HONOURED WELCOME: Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling presents a 'khada' to the Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee in Gangtok during his landmark visit to Sikkim in April 2003.

5



TOP LEVEL MEETING: The Governor of Sikkim Shri V Rama Rao (left), the Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee (centre) and the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling (right) in Gangtok.



GOLDEN BUDDHA: Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling presents a special memento in Gangtok to Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee on his first and historic visit to Sikkim.



SIKKIMESE THANKA: Shrimati Tika Maya Chamling, wife of the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling presents a special memento in Gangtok to Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee on his visit to Sikkim.



TRADITIONAL HONOUR: The Deputy Prime Minister Shri L. K. Advani receives the traditional scarf of honour from Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling.

Sikkim has been formally included as the eighth member of the North Eastern Council (NEC) in December 2002. The NEC membership will result in many direct and indirect benefits to the State :

▶ **Major Leap Forward** - Sikkim and its people will tremendously gain from this inclusion. At the same time, the Governments and the people of the North East also see this inclusion as a major leap forward for them. They want to share and learn from Sikkim's development experience, environmental conservation techniques, aspects of political stability, decentralization and devolution techniques and its very well recorded track record of peace and tranquility.

In other words, Sikkim is entering into NEC as a leading and prosperous entity and not as a laggard and a follower.

▶ **Financial and Development Benefits** - In the short run, Sikkim can immediately access all the financial and development benefits including the non-lapsable pool funds and all the fiscal benefits that are especially extended to agriculture, industries and services sector in the North East Region.

Each Department / Ministry of the Government of India is required to earmark at least 10 % of their budget for the North East States. Sikkim can now access this allocation on a regular basis.

▶ **Institutional Support** - In the long run, Sikkim would be able to benefit from all the institutional support that exists exclusively for the North East States. Sikkim can take advantage of educational institutions; professional-technical institutions like medical, IIT, engineering, management institutions; agricultural, industrial and banking-financial institutions; and sports and socio-cultural institutions. Every individual and household in Sikkim will gain by this.

▶ **Special Projects** - Sikkim will get many special projects under India's 10th National Development Plan especially in transport and communication, power, science and technology, health, manpower development, agriculture and allied activities and industries and tourism.



ALL SMILES: The former President Shri K. R. Narayanan in consultation with Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling.

▶ **Look East Policy** - Sikkim would now become a very vital element in the larger strategy of the Union Government to open India's economy towards the East. In the newly but steadily emerging India's "Look East Policy", Sikkim could play a very critical role in India's trade, tourism and other economic cooperation with countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and even Japan. This means there will be ample opportunities for Sikkim and Sikkimese people in terms of income, employment and other development avenues.

▶ **International Donors** - Sikkim would also now be within the ambit of the international donors and development agencies that have been particularly trying to focus their activities in the North East Region of India.

▶ **Additional Benefits** to Sikkim will translate into further progress and prosperity. On top of these gains, Sikkim will continue to get what it has been getting for last 28 years of its merger with India.



CHERISHED GIFT: The former Vice President late Krishna Kant receives a special gift from Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling.

▶ There are misplaced apprehensions about Sikkim losing its special constitutional status. These apprehensions are all triggered either by vested political interests with very narrow and sectarian goals or by sheer ignorance. Sikkim's special constitutional status would never be tampered with, the question of its erosion and alteration just does not arise. Every one in the State should make serious endeavour to take full advantage of Sikkim's inclusion in the North Eastern Council.



2. National Awards and Honours



Many distinguished Sikkimese have got national awards and honours. The first Chief Minister Shri Kazi Lhendup Dorjee was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award of the country, by the Government of India and Shri Danny Denjongpa, a well known film actor, has been conferred with the Padma Shri. The Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling himself has received a number of prestigious national awards. The awards include Sahitya Akademi Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi awards and a range of Awards given by both the Union Government and affiliated institutions and other prestigious private institutions.



NATIONAL HONOUR: Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling presents the Padma Vibhushan award to Shri Kazi Lhendup Dorjee, the first Chief Minister of Sikkim. Looking on is Shri B. B. Gooroong, (left) the former Chief Minister of Sikkim.



TRIBAL THANKS: On the recognition of the Tamangs and Limbus as Scheduled Tribes, their representatives express their gratitude to the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling at a special function.



RESPECTFUL TRIBUTE: Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling lays a 'khada' during the inauguration of the statue of Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal at Deorali.



ROYAL STATUE of Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal is inaugurated by the Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling at the Palden Thondup Namgyal Memorial Park, Deorali.

3. Conference Venue



Sikkim has emerged as the Conference Capital of the North East. A large number of regional, national and international seminars / conferences / workshops have been held in Sikkim.



DEFENCE PRORITIES: Union Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes greets Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling while discussing matters of national importance.



STRATEGIC ISSUES: Union Foreign Affairs Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha after discussion of the strategic position of Sikkim with Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling.

Sikkim : Emerging as Conference Capital of the East

Major Conferences Held	Dates
▶ CAPART's North Eastern Regional Conference	November 1995
▶ Tourism Master Plan and Tourism Policy for the state	18 November 1996
▶ Conference on Health System Management	27 February 1996
▶ Workshop on the role of Geosynthetics in Hill Area Development	22 February 1996
▶ Workshop on Health Systems Management	27 February 1996
▶ 10 th North-Eastern Sports Festival	4 April 1996
▶ Camp for Physically Challenged People	30 May 1996
▶ 14 th ICAR Regional Committee Meeting, Zone III	4 & 5 October 1996
▶ Seminar on Rural Industrialization and Micro Enterprises Development,	December 1996
▶ 5 th National Seminar on Development of Biology and Commercialization of Orchids	April 1997
▶ Environmental situation in Sikkim- Reflection over the past 50 years and planning for the next century	20 November 1997
▶ Conference of Eastern Zone India Psychiatric Society	24 October 1998
▶ Meeting of the Eleventh Finance Commission	03 May 1999
▶ Yuwa Sankalp Diwas	11 April 2000
▶ XI All India Meeting of the State Councils and Department of Science & Technology	23-24 May 2000
▶ 11 th Meeting of the Urban Think Tank	17 June 2000
▶ Seminar on Transparent and Accountable Administration	29 September 2000
▶ 50 th Anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama assuming State responsibility	04 December 2000
▶ National Level Youth Camp at Rangpo, East Sikkim	5 December 2000
▶ National Conference and Board meeting of MAFSCOB	17 March 2001
▶ Conference on Homeopathy	10 April 2001
▶ Kanchenjunga Festival	20 April 2001
▶ State of Scientific Research in India	05 May 2001
▶ Conference of Ministers of North-Eastern States and Sikkim on Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation	19 May 2001
▶ Conference of the North-Eastern Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	22 May 2001
▶ Conference on Gastro-Intestinal Disorder	21 July 2001
▶ Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India	17 July 2001
▶ Awareness Campaign/Workshop on different schemes of Agriculture and Horticulture	6 August 2001
▶ First Convocation Day Ceremony of the Sikkim Manipal University	8 August 2001
▶ ISPS Workshop	29 August 2001
▶ SAARC Integration Children's Camp-2001	3 November, 2001
▶ Conference of the Practicing Architects	3 December 2001
▶ Rajya Sainik Board Meeting.	8 January 2002
▶ The South Asian Regional Conference on Ecotourism	21 January 2002
▶ Seminar on Strengthening of Panchayat Raj	26 February 2002
▶ International Workshop on 17 th Himalaya-Karakoram Tibet	March 2002
▶ 16 th Conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police	7-8 March 2002
▶ Consultation Meeting on Next Step to <i>Sikkim Human Development Report 2001</i>	26 March 2002
▶ 11 th Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board Meeting	20 August 2002

4. Distinguished Visitors



A galaxy of distinguished national and international dignitaries visited Sikkim and commended the work the people of Sikkim are doing and significant achievements the State has made in the short period of 28 years of Sikkim's merger with the Union of India. These distinguished visitors during the last eight years of the SDF Government include:

- ▶ Shri K.R. Narayanan, President of India
- ▶ Shri Krishan Kant, Vice-President of India
- ▶ Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India
- ▶ Shri L.K. Advani, Deputy Prime Minister
- ▶ Shri George Fernandes, Union Minister of Defence
- ▶ His Holiness the Dalai Lama
- ▶ Shri Claude Blancheniaison, French Ambassador to India
- ▶ Shri Rob Laurie, High Commissioner of Australia to India



HONOURED GUEST: Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling welcomes the Dalai Lama to Sikkim.

- ▶ Shri Rob Young, High Commissioner of United Kingdom to India
- ▶ Dr George Assaf, Regional Director-South Asia, UNIDO
- ▶ Prof Asis Datta, Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- ▶ Shri Jagmohan, Union Minister of Tourism and Culture,
- ▶ Mr. Surendra Patnaik, Chairman, National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited
- ▶ Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, Minister of State for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation
- ▶ Late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha,
- ▶ Dr. V.K. Koshyji, Chairman and MD of Bharat Electrical Limited

- ▶ Shri Rajesh Tandon, Director, PRIA, New Delhi
- ▶ Shri Bunker Roy, SWRC, Tilonia
- ▶ Dr. Brenda McSweeney, UN Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India
- ▶ Dr. N. Vijayaditya, Director General, National Informatics Centre
- ▶ Shri A M Ahmadi, Chief Justice of India
- ▶ Shri Dharma Raj Thapa, renowned folk singer from Nepal
- ▶ Shri Abdul Awal Minto, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka
- ▶ Dr C Rangarajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India
- ▶ Prof AM Khusro, Chairman, 11th Finance Commission
- ▶ Late Capt Ram Singh Thakuri, Eminent Gorkha Freedom Fighter and Music Director of Indian National Army
- ▶ Regional Director, Asian Development Bank
- ▶ Dr RS Paroda, Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi
- ▶ Ms Megan Epler Wood, President. International Ecotourism Society

Similarly for the first time, Sikkim has had the privilege of receiving representatives of very renowned national and international donor agencies, non-governmental organizations and other development agencies including that of :

- ▶ Asian Development Bank
- ▶ Australian Aid (AUSaid)
- ▶ Council for Social Development
- ▶ CAPART
- ▶ Centre for Science and Environment
- ▶ Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
- ▶ National Foundation of India
- ▶ PRIA
- ▶ Rajiv Gandhi Foundation
- ▶ SWISS Agency for Development Cooperation
- ▶ Social Work Research Centre (SWRC), Tilonia
- ▶ Tata Energy Research Institute
- ▶ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ▶ United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- ▶ Voluntary Health Association of India
- ▶ V V Giri National Labour Institute
- ▶ World Bank

Other Major Indicators

Sikkim became the third State in the country to prepare the *Human Development Report*. This report was released by the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 3 September 2001 in New Delhi. The *Sikkim Human Development Report 2001* written by Dr Mahendra P Lama , Professor of South Asian Economies in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi was described as a "model report" by the United National Development Programme (UNDP).

"Sikkim" was the theme of the popular Surajkund Craft Mela 2001 held in Haryana in the outskirts of New Delhi. A large number of craftspersons and artisans from Sikkim participated in the *Mela*. This was also widely covered in the media.

The crime rate in the State has slid down drastically making Sikkim literally free of any major crimes.