



# SIKKIM HERALD

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## Budget Session of SLA 2026-27 commences

**Gangtok, July 20:** First day of the four-day Budget Session 2026-27 of the Eleventh Assembly, Fourth Session (Part-II) presided over by Speaker Mr Mingma Norbu Sherpa, commenced today with the Governor's address at Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

Governor Mr Om Prakash Mathur outlined the State Government's vision for inclusive and sustainable development in his address.

Describing the 2026-27 Budget as a roadmap for a 'Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim,' the Governor said the government remains committed to balanced economic growth, environmental conservation, employment generation, women's empowerment and improved public service delivery.

The Governor congratulated the people of Sikkim on the completion of 50 years of statehood and highlighted the significance of the visits of the President, Prime Minister and Vice President during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

He noted key milestones, including Sikkim being declared a Fully Literate State, the conferment of the President's Colour on Sikkim Police, the launch of the Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Service and recognition as India's first Paperless Judiciary. He also congratulated the State Government, led by Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang, for these achievements and for its commitment to the holistic development of Sikkim.

Referring to the Budget placed, the Governor said it would create new opportunities for Sikkim through enhanced investments in tourism, organic agriculture, horticulture, infrastructure and connectivity, while supporting the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Highlighting the State's economic progress, he said Sikkim's Gross State Domestic



Product (GSDP) is estimated at ₹62,973 crore for 2026-27, reflecting significant growth over recent years. He added that capital expenditure is expected to exceed ₹5,000 crore, underscoring the government's focus on infrastructure led development.

The Governor identified five strategic priorities: strengthening productive sectors, improving infrastructure and connectivity, investing in human capital, promoting environmentally sustainable growth and ensuring planned urbanisation.

The address highlighted major initiatives undertaken by the Government, including the establishment of the Sikkim Government Medical College, state wide HPV screening, a renal transplant programme, climate resilient road infrastructure, women's empowerment schemes and measures to preserve the State's cultural heritage.

The Governor also noted a decline in the State's suicide rate over the past three years, attributing it to sustained mental health and suicide prevention interventions.

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening education, healthcare, tourism, entrepreneurship, skill

development, environmental conservation and women's empowerment, while emphasising that development would continue in harmony with nature and Sikkim's cultural heritage.

Concluding his address, the Governor expressed confidence that the Budget Session would reinforce the State's commitment towards building a prosperous, resilient and inclusive Sikkim while contributing to the national vision of a developed India by 2047.

*(full text of Governor's Address can be read on page no. 2)*

Thereafter, Chief Minister, also the Leader of the House, moved the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address, seconded by Minister Mr Arun Kumar Upreti.

Discussion on the Governor's address will be taken up on July 21, 2026.

Chief Minister and Minister-in-Charge of the Finance Department, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, presented the General Budget for the Financial Year 2026-27 during the financial business of the session.

Presenting the Budget, the Chief Minister proposed a gross expenditure of ₹19,215 crore for the financial year 2026-27, with a net expenditure of ₹18,455 crore after accounting for recoveries.

significant improvements in human development, poverty reduction and household income.

Reaffirming the Government's vision of Viksit Sikkim @2047, he said the State aims to sustain an average annual GSDP growth of over 13 per cent through sound governance, strategic investments and citizen-centric development.

Highlighting the fiscal profile, the Chief Minister informed the House that Sikkim's GSDP at current prices is projected at ₹62,973 crore in 2026-27. He said the Government has significantly expanded public investment through enhanced State revenues, prudent fiscal management and mobilisation of additional resources from the Government of India and externally aided projects.

He also acknowledged the contribution of various departments in implementing key reforms that have strengthened governance, improved public financial management and enabled the State to secure additional fiscal support.

The Chief Minister also announced a series of new initiatives across key sectors.

To strengthen the agricultural economy, the Government will introduce a State Interest Subvention Scheme under which eligible farmers repaying Kisan Credit Card crop loans on time will be able to avail loans at an effective interest rate of one per cent. He said the initiative would reduce cultivation costs, improve access to institutional credit and benefit small and marginal farmers.

In the health sector, the Government announced a

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### Pearls of Wisdom

*"Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible."*

*-Tony Robbins*

## Full address of the Governor on Budget Session 2026-27

### Speaker and Members of this August House,

It gives me immense pleasure to address this August House during the Budget Session for the Financial Year 2026-27. This session assumes great significance as it charts the trajectory along which my Government seeks to take our beloved State Sikkim forward, while also providing an opportunity to reflect on the achievements accomplished thus far in furtherance of our vision of a Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim.

At the outset, I congratulate the people of Sikkim on the completion of 50 glorious years of Statehood and extend my best wishes for the next fifty years of progress and prosperity.

The Golden Jubilee year witnessed the visit of some of the highest dignitaries of our nation, reflecting Sikkim's growing prominence on the national stage. We were honoured by the virtual participation of the Prime Minister during the opening ceremony and his gracious presence at the closing ceremony of the celebrations.

The visit of the Prime Minister to Sikkim during the Golden Jubilee celebrations was a historic moment for the State. He expressed deep admiration for Sikkim's unparalleled natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and exemplary achievements in cleanliness, environmental conservation and sustainable development, describing the people of Sikkim as true custodians of nature.

The Prime Minister also lauded the spectacular "Thousand Steps of Unity" performance by over 2,000 artistes as a powerful reflection of India's unity in diversity. His heartfelt appeal to citizens across the country to visit Sikkim has significantly enhanced the State's profile as a premier tourism destination and is expected to provide a strong boost to the tourism sector.

His inspiring words and warm appreciation made the Golden Jubilee celebrations truly memorable, instilling immense pride and renewed confidence among the people of Sikkim.

Our State was further privileged to host the President of India and the Vice President of India.

During these visits, Sikkim achieved several historic milestones, including the conferment of the President's Colour upon the Sikkim Police, the declaration of Sikkim as a Fully Literate State, the launch of the Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Sewa and recognition of Sikkim as the first Paperless Judiciary in India.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang for these remarkable achievements, which truly reflect the positive direction in which Sikkim is progressing under his visionary leadership and guidance.

I also place on record our sincere gratitude to all the distinguished dignitaries who visited our State during this historic year. Their presence enhanced Sikkim's stature and provided further impetus to our aspirations for growth and development.

The past fifty years have demonstrated what Sikkim is capable of achieving, with the State emerging as a national model of balanced and sustainable development and earning widespread acclaim across the country. What distinguishes our development journey is our steadfast commitment to the principles of good governance, environmental stewardship, social justice and people-centric policymaking. Despite economic and geographical constraints, the State has continued to make significant strides across key sectors, including infrastructure, healthcare, education, tourism, agriculture, rural development and social welfare.

As we embark upon the next fifty years of our Statehood journey, my Government remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring peace, prosperity, inclusive growth and sustainable development for all sections of society. We remain focused on strengthening connectivity, creating employment opportunities for our youth, empowering women, supporting farmers and entrepreneurs, enhancing public service delivery and improving the overall quality of life of every citizen.

At the same time, my Government continues to place special emphasis on preserving the rich cultural heritage and fragile ecology of our Himalayan State while pursuing a path of sustainable, resilient and inclusive economic growth.

We also remain aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, as envisaged by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing the unique developmental aspirations and priorities of the people of Sikkim.

As I elaborate upon the priorities and developmental roadmap of my Government, I also take this opportunity to highlight the important initiatives and achievements across various sectors, along with the vision and way forward for the continued progress, prosperity and holistic development of the State.

### Members,

The Union Budget 2026-27 has been presented at a crucial stage in India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. Against a backdrop of global uncertainties and rapid technological change, the Budget charts a balanced path of investment-led growth, fiscal prudence and structural reforms. It prioritises manufacturing, infrastructure, MSMEs, agriculture, technology, human capital and women-led development to strengthen competitiveness, generate employment and accelerate the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The Budget also places significant emphasis on tourism, culture and heritage conservation. The announcement on the development of Buddhist circuits is particularly important for the North Eastern Region and Sikkim, given the State's rich Buddhist heritage and centuries-old monastic traditions. Continued investments in connectivity, infrastructure and logistics are expected to further integrate the North East with national and international markets while unlocking new opportunities for trade, tourism and investment.

For the North East, the focus on horticulture, organic farming and value-added agriculture aligns well with the region's comparative advantages in spices, fruits, medicinal plants and other niche agricultural products, creating opportunities for higher rural incomes and sustainable livelihoods.

For Sikkim, the Budget presents significant opportunities. As India's first fully organic state, Sikkim is well positioned to benefit from initiatives promoting organic agriculture, horticulture, food processing and premium agricultural exports. The emphasis on Buddhist tourism and eco-tourism complements the State's unique natural and cultural assets, while continued infrastructure investment and interest-free capital support for states will strengthen connectivity, public infrastructure and overall economic development.

Overall, the Union Budget 2026-27 is a forward-looking, growth-oriented Budget that reinforces India's long-term development agenda. For Sikkim and the North Eastern Region, it offers a strong platform to leverage their strengths in organic agriculture, tourism, cultural heritage and strategic connectivity, contributing meaningfully to the vision of a developed

and prosperous India by 2047.

The strength of our economy is reflected in the steady growth of the State's output and our sustained commitment to public investment. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Sikkim at current prices is projected at ₹62,973 crore in 2026-27, representing an increase of more than 121 per cent over the GSDP of ₹28,402 crore in 2018-19.

This remarkable growth underscores the resilience of our economy and the effectiveness of our development strategy.

Equally significant is our emphasis on creating durable public assets that will support long-term economic progress. Capital expenditure, which lays the foundation for future growth by building productive infrastructure and strengthening public services, is estimated to exceed ₹5,000 crore in 2026-27, a substantial increase from ₹720.61 crore in 2019-20. This reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to investing in the future of our State.

As we chart the next phase of Sikkim's development journey, the Government has identified five strategic pillars that will guide our growth agenda: strengthening the productive sectors of the economy; improving infrastructure and connectivity; investing in human capital; promoting development in harmony with our rich ecological heritage and fostering planned, resilient and sustainable urbanisation. Together, these priorities will serve as the foundation for achieving faster, more inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth, while advancing our shared vision of a Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim.

I also compliment the State Government for undertaking several important initiatives to strengthen public infrastructure and enhance service delivery across key sectors. These include:

- i. State Interest Subvention Scheme for Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Agricultural Crop Loans.
- ii. Statewide HPV Screening Programme for the early detection and prevention of cervical cancer.
- iii. Renal Transplant Programme to improve access to advanced healthcare services.
- iv. Establishment of the Sikkim Government Medical College at Sochakgang, following the grant of the Letter of Permission by the National Medical Commission, with an annual intake of 100 MBBS students from the Academic Year 2026-27.
- v. Adoption of Mastic Asphalt Surfacing for the development of a modern, climate-resilient and sustainable road network.
- vi. Launch of the Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Service to provide safe, reliable and affordable public transport.
- vii. Organisation of the SHG Bharosa Sammelan to strengthen women-led Self-Help Groups and promote inclusive livelihood opportunities.
- viii. Establishment of the Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Development Board and organisation of the Kalakar Bharosa Sammelan to promote, preserve and support the State's rich cultural heritage and artistic community.
- ix. Recognition of the Ru-Soam, the traditional Lepcha cane bridge, on UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, reaffirming Sikkim's commitment to preserving its unique cultural heritage and promoting it on the global stage.
- x. Owing to the various initiatives undertaken by the State towards strengthening mental health and suicide prevention, Sikkim has recorded a steady decline in its suicide rate over the past three years. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the suicide rate has fallen from 43.1 per lakh population in 2022 to 36.3 in 2024, representing an overall decline of nearly 15.8 per cent.

### Members,

Externally Aided Projects have emerged as an important instrument for accelerating Sikkim's development by supplementing public investment, introducing global best practices and strengthening institutional capacity. At present, the State is implementing three major Externally Aided Projects in the sectors of power, urban development and economic empowerment of women and youth. Together, these initiatives seek to build a more resilient, inclusive and future ready Sikkim.

The first is the Sikkim INSPIRES Programme, which places women and youth at the centre of the State's development agenda. Through investments in skills, entrepreneurship, livelihoods, overseas employment opportunities and social resilience, the programme aims to empower over three lakh women and youth by 2029 and transform them into active drivers of Sikkim's future economic growth.

The second is the Sikkim Power Sector Development Project, which seeks to modernise and strengthen the State's electricity distribution network through investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, smart technologies and system upgradation. The objective is to ensure affordable, reliable and uninterrupted power supply while building a consumer-centric, financially sustainable and disaster-resilient power sector capable of supporting the aspirations of a developed Sikkim.

The third is the Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project, which supports the Government's vision of planned and sustainable urbanisation. Through investments in water supply, sewerage systems, flood resilience, urban mobility and public infrastructure, the project seeks to create vibrant, inclusive and climate-resilient urban centres capable of serving as engines of economic growth and improved quality of life.

Collectively, these projects represent strategic investments not merely in infrastructure, but in people, institutions and resilience. Through these initiatives, the Government seeks to build a stronger, smarter and more inclusive Sikkim that is well positioned to realise the vision of a Viksit Sikkim @2047 and contribute meaningfully to the larger vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

With one of the highest forest cover percentages in the country and a vast network of protected areas, the State continues to play a vital role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, water security and supporting India's climate commitments.

The Prime Minister's Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative has received enthusiastic support in Sikkim, reflecting the deep environmental consciousness of our people. In the same spirit, the Mero Rukh Mero Santati initiative has emerged as a unique people centric movement for conservation, under which 108 trees are planted to celebrate the birth of every child. Rooted in our cultural and spiritual traditions, the initiative symbolises the sacred bond between humanity and nature while promoting long-term ecological sustainability.

Complementing this effort is the Shishu Samriddhi Yojana, which links environmental responsibility with long-term financial security for newborn children. Together, these

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initiatives demonstrate how ecological stewardship and social welfare can advance hand in hand.

Sikkim has also been a pioneer in environmental protection long before such practices became national priorities. Our efforts to regulate single-use plastics, strengthen waste management systems, conserve wetlands and rejuvenate springs continue to set national benchmarks, while initiatives such as Mero Bato Mero Bot have deepened community participation in afforestation and sustainable practices.

Our conservation efforts have protected iconic Himalayan species such as the Red Panda and Snow Leopard, while eco-tourism initiatives and community-managed homestays have generated sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. The sighting of a rare herd of Mishmi Takin and Eurasian Lynx in Mangan district in 2026 further reaffirmed the ecological richness and health of our mountain ecosystems.

Sikkim's participation at COP28 brought global recognition to our community-led climate initiatives and showcased the State as a successful sub-national model of sustainable mountain development.

Collectively, these achievements reinforce Sikkim's identity as the Green State of India and establish it as a national leader in environmental stewardship, biodiversity conservation and climateresilience, demonstrating that ecological preservation and economic prosperity can progress together.

### Members,

Education remains one of the highest priorities of my Government, with nearly 15 per cent of the State Budget dedicated to this sector. Guided by the principles of the National Education Policy 2020, we are building an education system that is inclusive, equitable, future-ready and rooted in our values.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Sikkim became a fully literate State under the ULLAS Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, becoming only the fifth State in India to achieve this distinction. Through the efforts of more than 4,000 teachers and volunteers, nearly 15,000 adults attained literacy over the last two years, marking an important milestone in our journey towards Viksit Sikkim @2047.

Recognising that strong foundations begin in early childhood, Sikkim became the first State in the country to introduce kindergarten systems in all Government schools. Initiatives such as Vidya Pravesh, Jolly Phonics and Jodo Gyan are strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy through child-centric and activity-based learning approaches.

To improve learning outcomes, the Government continues its partnership with institutions such as the Azim Premji University and IISER Pune for curriculum reform, teacher capacity building and strengthening STEM education. Under the Chief Minister's Special Numeracy Programme, implemented across all Government schools, the proportion of children proficient in basic arithmetic has increased from 17 per cent to 72 per cent within two years.

The Government remains firmly committed to inclusive education. More than 1,000 Children with Special Needs are being supported through special educators, assistive technologies, home based learning and individualised interventions. Programmes such as Project SETU and Mission MAYA are further strengthening inclusion and addressing the challenge of out-of-school children.

The Chief Minister's Model School established under the Sikkim Model School Act, 2025 represents a transformative step in public education by integrating Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Robotics, vocational education, sports and the arts into a holistic learning environment. Simultaneously, 43 schools are being developed under the PM SHRI scheme as exemplar institutions showcasing NEP based reforms.

Recognising that education must nurture the mind, body and spirit, yoga, mindfulness and mental health programmes have been integrated into schools across the State, while vocational education has achieved 100 per cent coverage across Government Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools, benefiting more than 15,000 students annually.

My Government remains equally committed to the welfare and empowerment of students. Initiatives such as Bahini Scheme, Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme and Chief Minister's Mentorship Programme are improving access, retention and academic performance while ensuring that no deserving student is denied opportunities due to financial constraints.

Higher education in Sikkim is also undergoing significant transformation. Khangchendzonga State University is going to shift to its new campus shortly, while the inauguration of three new higher education institutions in 2026 has expanded access to remote regions.

To prepare our youth for the opportunities of the future, the Government is investing in innovation, entrepreneurship and emerging technologies through incubation centres, advanced technical training facilities and the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence.

From early childhood education to universities, from inclusion to excellence and from wellness to employability, Sikkim is adopting a holistic life-cycle approach to education. Our vision is not merely to improve enrolment, but to create a system that promotes dignity, equity, quality and opportunity for every learner and prepares our young people to lead the Sikkim of tomorrow.

### Members,

My Government remains steadfast in its commitment to building a healthy, resilient and equitable society through sustained investments in healthcare infrastructure, medical technology and universal access to quality healthcare. Guided by the vision of 'Health for All', the State has undertaken transformative reforms since 2019 to strengthen decentralised healthcare delivery, reduce out-of-state dependency and improve health outcomes for all sections of society.

Major strides have been made in expanding healthcare infrastructure and specialised services across the State. The inauguration of the 500-bedded Namchi District Hospital and the 100-bedded Mangan District Hospital has brought advanced healthcare facilities closer to our people. Super-speciality services including Neurosurgery, Nephrology and Cardiothoracic Surgery have been introduced at STNM Hospital alongside the establishment of the State's first Tertiary Cancer Care Centre, significantly reducing the need for patients to travel outside the State for treatment.

Access to critical care has been further strengthened through dialysis centres in Namchi, Gyalshing, Mangan and Jorethang, advanced cardiac care facilities at STNM Hospital and the upgradation of health institutions for emergency obstetric and newborn

care. The State has also witnessed significant progress in complex surgical interventions and advanced clinical care, reflecting the growing capabilities of our healthcare system.

Recognising the financial burden associated with critical illnesses, the Government has strengthened healthcare support schemes. Since 2019, over 6,800 patients have benefitted under the Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Suvidha Yojana for treatment outside the State, while more than 5,200 patients have received assistance under the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme for treatment of critical diseases. Under the Chief Minister's Vatsalya Scheme, over 800 women have received support for IVF treatment since 2022.

Sikkim continues to perform exceptionally well on key public health indicators. The State has maintained near-zero human rabies deaths, remains a low-burden State for Malaria and Kala-azar and has emerged as one of the best-performing States in the country under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. Fifty-one Gram Panchayat Units have already been declared TB-free, while Sikkim has consistently ranked among the top-performing States in TB control. The State also continues to achieve among the highest immunisation coverage rates in the country and has recorded remarkable improvements in maternal and child health indicators. Institutional deliveries have reached 99.64 per cent, while the Infant Mortality Rate has declined to just 6 per 1,000 live births, significantly lower than the national average.

Mental health and suicide prevention remain important priorities of my Government. Through the Suicide Prevention Action Network Programme, district mental health services and the Tele-MANAS initiative, the Government continues to expand access to counselling and mental healthcare services across the State.

Significant progress has also been made in strengthening healthcare infrastructure and human resources under the Indian Public Health Standards framework. Investments in medical education, specialised training and digital health systems are improving service delivery while preparing the State's healthcare system for future challenges.

Today, Sikkim continues to outperform national averages across several key health indicators, reflecting the success of sustained public investment and community-centred healthcare interventions. Moing forward, my Government remains committed to further strengthening healthcare infrastructure through the establishment of a 100-bedded Tertiary Cancer Care Centre, a Psychiatry Care Centre, a Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plant and new Super Speciality Operation Theatre facilities at STNM Hospital.

Our objective is to ensure that every citizen of Sikkim has access to affordable, accessible and quality healthcare and to build a healthcare system that is resilient, inclusive and capable of meeting the aspirations of a Viksit Sikkim @2047.

### Members,

With a vision to further strengthen Sikkim's position as a premier global tourism destination, my Government has undertaken several transformative initiatives and infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing visitor experience while ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance and long-term inclusive growth.

The Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari at Ridge Park, Gangtok, has earned national recognition, with even Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, deeply appreciating its beauty during his visit to the State. The Orchidarium has also rapidly emerged as a matter of national pride with its state-of-the-art facilities and rich display of Sikkim's floral heritage, attracting visitors and tourists from across the country and beyond.

My Government has also undertaken several landmark tourism infrastructure projects under various Central schemes including Swadesh Darshan 2.0, PRASHAD, NEC and PM-DevINE. Among these, the Bhaleydhunga Skywalk, is poised to become a major attraction in adventure tourism, while the Singshore Bridge Adventure Platform and the Pelling Ropeway Project are expected to significantly enhance tourism connectivity and visitor experience. Other important initiatives such as the Border Experience Project at Nathula, Gangtok Cultural Village at Namli and Eco-Wellness Experience at Yuxsom are also being developed to promote immersive, culturally rich and sustainable tourism experiences across the State.

The upcoming Sevoke-Rangpo railway connectivity project and heliport services are also expected to substantially improve accessibility to the State and further accelerate tourism growth. At the same time, my Government continues to promote adventure tourism activities such as trekking, mountaineering, rafting and paragliding while investing in digital tourism services, skill development and capacity-building programmes for tourism stakeholders.

In parallel with infrastructure development, my Government is actively promoting homestays, eco-tourism and community-based tourism models to ensure that local communities directly benefit from the growing tourism economy, while also fostering sustainable and rural tourism through the conservation of Sikkim's rich natural and indigenous cultural heritage. In this regard, the State Government has undertaken the ambitious Mega Homestay Scheme under which more than 1,000 homestays are being developed across the State and will be handed over to genuine beneficiaries upon completion. The initiative aims to promote village-based tourism, meaningful cultural exchange and sustainable livelihood generation while empowering local artisans and preserving Sikkim's unique traditions and identity.

My Government has also opened new battlefield tourism destinations under the Ranbhoomi Darshan Programme, including Cho La and Dokala, with the objective of promoting patriotism, preserving military heritage and educating visitors about the sacrifices and valour of our armed forces in protecting the nation's borders under challenging Himalayan conditions.

Today, Sikkim continues to receive national and international recognition as a leading destination for eco-tourism, rural tourism, adventure tourism and sustainable travel. Through these continued efforts, my Government remains committed to ensuring that tourism led economic growth progresses in harmony with environmental sustainability, ecological conservation and the long-term well-being of future generations.

### Members,

My Government remains committed to fostering a vibrant and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem wherein our youth, women, artisans and local entrepreneurs are empowered to explore their talents, innovation and enterprise potential while contributing meaningfully to the State's economic growth and self-reliance.

Sikkim is a land of immense potential, blessed with talented, hardworking and enterprising people. Guided by the Prime Minister's vision of Vocal for Local, my Government continues to make sustained efforts to promote local products, traditional crafts and indigenous enterprises by strengthening market access, value addition and entrepreneurial opportunities across the State.

My Government firmly believes that a future-ready and selfreliant Sikkim must be

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driven not only by strong infrastructure and skilled human resources, but also by a vibrant culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise. Accordingly, MSME development and start-up promotion continue to remain central pillars of Sikkim's economic growth strategy. Progressive policies such as the Sikkim MSME Policy and the Start-up Policy are creating a conducive ecosystem through institutional support, skill development, market linkages and ease of doing business reforms.

The positive impact of these initiatives is increasingly visible through the growth of MSMEs, the emergence of a dynamic start-up culture and the rising participation of young entrepreneurs across sectors including tourism, hospitality, agriculture, transport, services and small-scale industries. Through focused initiatives such as the Skilled Youth Start-up Scheme and the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyamsheelta Vikas Yojana, my Government is empowering youth to become job creators and first-generation entrepreneurs, with special emphasis on women, rural youth and economically weaker sections.

Focused support is also being extended towards strengthening traditional sectors such as handloom and handicrafts through modernisation, skill development and market support initiatives aimed at preserving local craftsmanship while generating sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

Sikkim is also steadily emerging as a hub for innovation and start-up development. National recognition under the Start-up Ecosystem Ranking, along with the establishment of incubation and innovation support systems, reflects the growing entrepreneurial spirit among the youth of the State.

Simultaneously, my Government continues to strengthen ease of doing business through administrative and regulatory reforms while enhancing Sikkim's role as an important gateway for regional connectivity and trade. Initiatives such as the proposed multi-modal trade corridor at Chewa Bhanjyang and the reopening of the historic Nathula trade route are expected to significantly boost economic activity, regional cooperation and cross-border commerce.

My Government firmly believes that these initiatives will not only strengthen local enterprises and generate sustainable livelihoods, but will also empower women, youth and rural communities, thereby reinforcing our collective vision of an Aatmanirbhar Sikkim contributing meaningfully towards the larger national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

### Members,

My Government remains committed to building a future-ready, inclusive and demand-driven skilling ecosystem that empowers the myouth of Sikkim with the knowledge, confidence and capabilities required to thrive in an evolving global economy. Recognising the immense potential of our young population, focused efforts are being undertaken to bridge the gap between education, employability and entrepreneurship through industry-aligned and technology-driven skill development initiatives.

Through the Skill Development Department and various centrally sponsored schemes, my Government continues to promote market-oriented skilling, capacity building and livelihood generation across diverse sectors including tourism and hospitality, information technology, green jobs, healthcare, creativity, beauty and wellness, organic farming and entrepreneurship. These initiatives are being implemented in convergence with various departments to ensure inclusive and regionally balanced development.

The State Institute of Capacity Building and Government Industrial Training Institutes continue to play a vital role in strengthening vocational education and employability among the youth. Simultaneously, the Niyukti Kendra initiative is being strengthened as a dedicated platform for career counselling, training, placement support and employment facilitation.

Recognising the importance of future skills, my Government is placing increasing emphasis on emerging technologies, digital readiness, innovation and entrepreneurship through specialized training, industry partnerships and incubation support systems. Special focus is also being laid on strengthening apprenticeships, promoting women's participation in the workforce and expanding livelihood opportunities in rural and remote areas.

As India's first fully organic State, Sikkim is uniquely positioned to emerge as a leader in green and sustainable skilling. My Government is therefore promoting skill development in eco-tourism, organic agriculture, renewable energy, green entrepreneurship and climate-resilient livelihoods aligned with the State's ecological strengths and sustainable development vision.

A landmark achievement in this sector has been the successful international placement of Sikkimese nurses in Germany under the World Bank-supported Sikkim INSPIRES Programme. Through specialised language training, professional certification and international mobility support, trained nurses from the State have secured employment opportunities in reputed healthcare institutions abroad, opening new pathways for ethical and skilled global employment for the youth of Sikkim.

My Government also remains committed to expanding digital skilling infrastructure, mobile training initiatives and sector-specific Centres of Excellence to ensure that youth from even the remotest parts of the State are able to access quality training and employment opportunities.

Through sustained investments, industry collaboration and innovative skilling initiatives, my Government seeks to build a resilient, skilled and globally competitive workforce capable of contributing meaningfully towards the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Sikkim and Viksit Bharat @2047.

### Members,

Women remain the cornerstone of social progress, economic development and family well-being, and my Government remains deeply committed to ensuring their empowerment, dignity, safety and prosperity. Recognising that true empowerment is achieved through economic independence, social security, political participation and equal opportunity, several transformative initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen the role of women in every sphere of society.

A flagship initiative in this regard is the Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana, under which financial assistance is being extended to single mothers across the State to support their livelihoods, children's education, healthcare and household well-being. The scheme has played a significant role in reducing economic vulnerability and strengthening the financial resilience of women-headed households, enabling many women to lead more secure, dignified and self-reliant lives.

In the sphere of political empowerment, my Government has introduced 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, thereby ensuring greater representation of women in grassroots governance and decision-making processes.

Recognising the importance of reducing household burdens and promoting clean

energy adoption, my Government has also introduced the Sikkim Aama Sahayog Yojana, under which eligible mothers are being provided free LPG cylinder refills annually.

Apart from reducing household expenditure, the initiative has contributed significantly towards improving the health and well-being of women by reducing dependence on traditional cooking fuels and promoting cleaner and more sustainable energy practices.

My Government also continues to undertake focused interventions aimed at expanding economic opportunities for women through entrepreneurship support, self-employment initiatives, skill development, access to credit and livelihood generation programmes. Special emphasis is being laid on supporting women entrepreneurs, rural women and economically weaker sections through institutional and financial assistance mechanisms.

Simultaneously, sustained efforts are being made towards ensuring workplace safety, with Sikkim ranking among the States with the lowest crime rates against women, while also strengthening legal protections against gender-based violence and discrimination, promoting wage equity and expanding maternity and child welfare support systems.

Recently, Sikkim had the honour of President Smt Droupadi Murmu: rolling out the "Pink City Runner-Aama Didi Bahini Bus Sewa". This service runs exclusively for women and is managed entirely by female chauffeurs and conductors.

My Government also remains committed to improving women's health and well-being through strengthened maternal healthcare services, menstrual hygiene initiatives and reproductive healthcare programmes, with Sikkim continuing to rank among the leading States in maternal and child health outcomes.

As we move forward, my Government remains steadfast in its commitment to building an inclusive, equitable and gender-responsive society where every woman is empowered to live with dignity, security and equal opportunity.

### Members,

Alongside physical infrastructure and economic development, the Government of Sikkim also recognises the growing importance of mental health, emotional well-being and social resilience, particularly among the youth.

In recent years, the State has significantly strengthened interventions relating to mental health awareness and suicide prevention through coordinated initiatives under the National Mental Health Programme, Tele-MANAS, Sikkim INSPIRES and District Mental Health Programme.

Under Sikkim INSPIRES, the State has developed Sikkim's first Integrated Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy through an inclusive consultative process involving youth, mental health professionals, civil society organisations, persons with lived experience and other stakeholders. The strategy focuses on community-based mental health interventions, family strengthening programmes, suicide prevention initiatives in higher educational institutions, media sensitisation and strengthening Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics to improve access to mental health support services for young people across the State.

Sikkim is the first state to implement psycho social support alongside skilling and capacity building support.

The Government has also strengthened Life Skills Education under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram by training teachers from Government and private schools in areas such as emotional wellbeing, cyber safety, adolescent health and early identification of mental health concerns. Structured sessions are being conducted regularly in schools to create safe spaces for students and strengthen referral mechanisms for children and adolescents requiring support.

Recognising the importance of accessible mental healthcare, the State has also strengthened the 'Swastha Mann App', Sikkim's digital mental health support platform, enabling individuals to seek counselling support and mental health services with greater privacy and accessibility.

Simultaneously, mental health services at primary and tertiary healthcare levels are being strengthened through capacity-building of medical officers in screening, early identification, basic management and referral systems.

Recognising the growing social and public health challenges posed by substance abuse, the Government of Sikkim formally launched the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in the State in 2023, involving educational institutions, youth organisations, civil society groups, law enforcement agencies, healthcare institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions and local communities towards building a drug-free Sikkim.

Building upon this momentum, the State launched the year-long "Nasha Mukta Sikkim-A Step Towards a Drug-Free Sikkim" campaign in July 2024 with a focus on prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration. Extensive awareness campaigns, school and college outreach programmes, sports initiatives, public rallies and youth engagement activities have since been organised across all districts of the State.

One of the most significant interventions under this campaign has been the introduction of the 'Sahayogi Programme', a community based volunteer network involving government employees, students, women volunteers and stakeholders from the transport sector. Through initiatives such as Sahayogi Karmachari, Sahayogi Mitra, Sahayogi Aama and Sahayogi Sarathi, the State is building a decentralised community support system for awareness generation, counselling support, rehabilitation referrals and community vigilance against substance abuse.

I am happy to share before this august house that these sustained and evidence-based interventions have begun to yield positive outcomes. As per National Crime Records Bureau data, Sikkim has recorded a steady decline in the suicide rate over the past three years.

The suicide rate has reduced from 43.1 per lakh population in 2022 to 40.2 in 2023 and further to 36.3 in 2024, representing an overall decline of nearly 15.8 percent.

These experiences have reinforced our belief that mental health challenges and suicide are preventable through timely intervention, awareness generation, compassionate care and sustained institutional support.

Sikkim is laying the foundations for a prosperous and resilient future through the preparation of Sikkim Vision 2047, aligned with the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat @2047. Guided by the principles of evidence-based policymaking, participatory governance and sustainable development, my government has established robust institutional mechanisms to prepare a comprehensive long-term development roadmap.

### Members,

To provide strategic direction, my government has constituted a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, comprising Heads of Departments and

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## Budget Session...

statewide Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) screening programme covering around 1.5 lakh women aged 30 to 65 years as part of its efforts to eliminate cervical cancer.

The Chief Minister also announced the operationalisation of Sikkim's first Renal Transplant Programme at STNM Hospital during the current Financial Year, enabling patients to undergo kidney transplantation within the State.

He further informed the House that the Sikkim Government Medical College at Sochakgang will commence with an annual intake of 100 MBBS students from the academic year 2026-27 and announced the establishment of an Assisted Reproductive Technology Centre at STNM Hospital to address the State's declining fertility rate.

To strengthen infrastructure, the Government will upgrade around 570 kilometres of roads across the State using Mastic Asphalt Surfacing at an estimated cost of ₹546 crore. The Chief Minister said the initiative would improve road durability, ensure better all-weather connectivity and reduce maintenance costs.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to women's empowerment and rural development, the Chief Minister highlighted the Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Service and announced the organisation of the SHG Bharosa Sammelan to recognise the contribution of Self-Help Groups towards livelihood generation and community development.

Emphasising the importance of preserving Sikkim's rich cultural heritage, the Chief Minister said the Government would continue supporting the Sikkim Art, Culture and Heritage Development Board, the Sikkim Akademi and the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology.

He also highlighted ongoing efforts to preserve the traditional Lepcha Ru-Soam cane bridge and secure its recognition as an important element of India's intangible cultural heritage.

The Chief Minister also announced measures to revitalise the State's large cardamom sector through the flagship Mero Alaichi, Mero Dhan mission, which includes scientific research, disease-resistant varieties and farmer field laboratories.

He further informed the House that the Martam landfill is being transformed into a modern Integrated Waste Management Facility through biomining and scientific waste processing technologies.

Highlighting human capital development, the Chief Minister said the Sikkim INSPIRES programme would benefit more than three lakh women and youth through skill development, entrepreneurship, employment generation and improved access to economic opportunities.

The programme also includes specialised training in tourism, adventure sports and emerging creative industries,

overseas employment opportunities for nursing professionals, and expanded mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, the Chief Minister added.

In the power sector, the Government will continue implementing the Asian Development Bank-assisted Sikkim Power Sector Development Project and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme to modernise electricity infrastructure, improve reliability and strengthen climate resilience.

The Chief Minister informed the House that over 92,000 smart meters have already been installed across the State.

He further announced the implementation of the Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project, development of satellite townships around Gangtok, revitalisation of the capital's historic core, and a series of digital governance reforms, including e-Sanction, e-Budget, e-Payment, e-Receipt, e-Voucher and Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer systems to enhance transparency and efficiency in public financial management.

He welcomed the introduction of the Pride of Hills: Special Development Assistance for Hill States, stating that it would strengthen infrastructure, connectivity, climate-resilient development and public service delivery.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to fiscal responsibility, he said the State would continue to pursue prudent borrowing and maintain sustainable debt levels while accelerating development and safeguarding the long-term fiscal health of Sikkim.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that the Government would continue to vigorously pursue with the Government of India the inclusion of the 12 left-out indigenous communities in the Scheduled Tribes list, reservation of Assembly seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities under Article 371F of the Constitution, the return of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa to Sikkim, and the inclusion of the Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

He said these issues embody the legitimate aspirations of the people of Sikkim and remain central to preserving the State's unique constitutional identity, cultural heritage and democratic rights.

Describing the General Budget 2026-27 as a roadmap for a stronger, more resilient and prosperous Sikkim, the Chief Minister said it reflects the Government's commitment to fiscal responsibility, inclusive and sustainable development, environmental conservation and the welfare of every citizen, while advancing the vision of a Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister placed the Annual Financial Statement, Explanatory Memorandum Annual Financial Statement, Estimates of Receipts, and Demand for Grants of the

Government of Sikkim for the Financial Year, 2026-27 before the House.

During the Legislative Business, the following six Bills were introduced:

1. Minister-in-Charge of Ayush Department Mr GT Dhungel introduced the Sikkim Medical Council for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2026, (Bill No.04 of 2026) in the House.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that "The Sikkim Medical Council for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2026 proposes to provide for the establishment of the State Council for the Indian System of Medicines and to streamline the Indian System of Medicine into Healthcare system of Medicine Act, 2020.

The Indian System of Medicine (ISM), comprising Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homeopathy, is an integral part of the Indian healthcare system. In Sikkim, there is currently no statutory mechanism to regulate the registration, professional conduct and practice of practitioners of these systems.

Keeping in view the importance and utility of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homeopathy, there is an inevitable requirement for establishment of Sikkim Medical Council for Indian System of Medicine in the State.

The Bill provides for the registration of qualified practitioners, grant and renewed registration for regulating professional standards and ethics, and take disciplinary action where required and for recognition and inspection of Institutions, ensure maintenance of standards in education and qualifying examinations, and regulate medical colleges in accordance with the provisions of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020.

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

Discussion on the Bill will be taken up on July 21, 2026.

2. Minister-in-Charge of Education Department, Mr Raju Basnet introduced the Sikkim Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No.05 of 2026) in the House.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that, "Whereas, the Sikkim Private Universities (Establishment & Regulation) Act, 2025, was enacted during December 2025. This parent/umbrella Act supersedes all individual university Acts and brings uniformity in legislation governing private universities in Sikkim. Therefore, to further strengthen this parent/umbrella Act, some amendments are required.

And whereas, Pushpa Devi Memorial Trust, a trust registered in Rajasthan, proposes to establish a Scholars University of Skills & Innovation at Melli in Namchi District, Sikkim. The proposed university aims to provide specialised educational programmes for the youth of Sikkim and to contribute to the intellectual, inclusive and sustainable

development of the people of Sikkim, through quality teaching, research and extension activities. The Scholars University of Skills & Innovation shall be a self-funded private university and envisages to be a world class higher education institution imparting quality education at par with global principles, and strives to contribute to the inclusive growth of society through pursuit of higher education.

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

Discussion on the Bill will be taken up on July 22, 2026.

3. Minister-in-Charge of Education Department, Mr Raju Basnet, introduced the Board of Open Schooling and Skill Education Sikkim (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 06 of 2026) in the House.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that, "The Board of Open Schooling and Skill Education Act, Sikkim, 2020 (Act No. 14 of 2020) was enacted to provide for the establishment of a Board for the promotion of open schooling and for imparting secondary, senior secondary, vocational and skill education in Sikkim.

In the course of giving effect to the principal Act, it has been felt necessary to amend certain of its provisions so as to bring greater clarity, strengthen the regulatory oversight of the State Government, ensure accountability and transparency in the functioning of the Board, safeguard the integrity of examinations and public certification, and align the provisions of the Act with the National Education Policy and the requirements of recognition by the appropriate authorities.

Accordingly, the present Bill, inter alia, seeks to-

(a) rationalise and update the definitions contained in section 2 and harmonise the nomenclature used throughout the principal Act, including the substitution of references to "Skill Examination" by "Skill Education";

(b) amend section 3 to provide that the Board shall function as a private, self-financed body corporate subject to the regulatory oversight of the State Government in matters of grievance redressal, academic standards, public interest and compliance with applicable laws; to require the establishment of centres in all districts of the State together with the prescribed minimum infrastructure; to make the commencement of academic programmes, admissions and examinations conditional upon a Permission Certificate issued by the State Government; and to provide for recognition, disclosure and transparency requirements;

(c) ensure that members nominated by the State Government continue to be governed exclusively by the service conditions, orders and instructions issued by the Government of Sikkim from time to time;

(d) strengthen the conduct of meetings of the Board of Management, including the quorum and the mandatory presence of the State Government

nominees in matters involving academic policy;

(e) revise the powers and functions of the Board, with emphasis on promotion of open schooling within the State, conduct of examinations in pen-and-paper mode, and development of curriculum and study materials in alignment with the National Education Policy and the National Institute of Open Schooling;

(f) provide for the admission of learners through the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) identity, while protecting the special benefits, reservations, quotas and scholarships available exclusively to the domiciled residents of Sikkim;

(g) provide for the preparation and timely submission of the Annual Report and the audited annual accounts to the State Government;

(h) insert new provisions relating to the conduct of examinations, the maintenance of records and database, assessment by the State Government, and the liability of the Board and the Sponsoring Body, while excluding the liability of the State Government in respect of the credentials and operations of the Board;

(i) provide for the establishment of an Endowment Fund pledged to the Government of Sikkim to serve as a security deposit for ensuring compliance with the Act; and

(j) make consequential omissions and other changes of a clarificatory and procedural nature.

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

Discussion on the Bill will be taken up on July 22, 2026.

4. Minister-in-Charge of Education Department, Mr Raju Basnet, introduced the Board of Open Schooling and Vocational Education, Sikkim Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 07 of 2026) in the House.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that, "Whereas, the Smile Navya Foundation, Delhi NCR, a Non-Profit organization, registered under Indian Trust Act 1882, having its registered office at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh is engaged in the field of education and intends to establish the Board of Open Schooling and Vocational Education for Secondary and Senior Secondary level in Sikkim. The proposed Private Board aims to enable access to school education at the secondary and senior secondary levels and to increase retention rates among students in Sikkim.

The Private Board also proposes to identify and remove the barriers that prevent children and adult learners from accessing education up to the pre-degree level, including secondary, senior secondary, vocational and skill education programmes, particularly for disadvantaged groups, so as to bring such groups into the mainstream education fold.

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed."

Discussion on the Bill will be taken up on July 23, 2026.

5. Chief Minister, also the

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Minister-in-Charge of Skill Development Department, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, introduced the National Council for Skill Education, Sikkim (Repealing) Bill, 2026, (Bill No. 08 of 2026) in the House.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that, “Whereas, the National Council for Skill Education, Sikkim Act, 2023 (Act No. 16 of 2023) was enacted for the revival of livelihood competencies of the people, capable to supplement skill gap, life skills, entrepreneurial abilities and enhanced employability in skill education based on secondary, senior secondary and alternative vocational pre-degree education system of the council with the provisions of recognition of prior learning earned through formal, informal or non-formal mode and also to assist in providing any other specialised inputs required for human resource development with special emphasis on rural and backward areas under the management and sponsorship of National Council for Skill Education;

And Whereas, the Act has been reviewed duly taking cognizance of the observation of Education Department on potential administrative overlaps and conflicts between the provisions of the Act and the business allocated to the Education Department under the Government of Sikkim (Allocation of Business) Rules, 2019;

And Whereas, the Act envisages functions that subsequently overlap with the National Regulatory Body such as National Council of Vocational and Educational Training (NCVET) an apex regulatory body under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India to strengthen skilling ecosystem in the country and also the domains of UGC and the established educational regulators. Therefore, inherent

contradictions and inconsistencies within the Act may give rise to severe legal and administrative complications:

And Whereas, the Secretary, National Council for Skill Education, has been advised not to commence the activities of the Council without Letter of Authorisation (LOA) from the State Government to maintain uniformity in the procedures in functioning of the private educational and training institute in the State vide letter No. GOS/ SDD/515 dated November 14, 2025;

Now therefore, to align Sikkim's skilling initiatives with a broader vision of Viksit Bharat, the State Government has deemed it expedient to repeal the National Council for Skill Education, Sikkim Act, 2023 (Act No. 16 of 2023).

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed.”

Discussion on the Bill will be taken up on July 21, 2026.

6. Chief Minister, also the Minister-in- Charge of Home Department, Mr Prem Singh Tamang, introduced the Sikkim Fire and Emergency Services (Amendment) Bill, 2026, (Bill No. 10 of 2026) in the House.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill states that, “The Sikkim Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2023 is proposed to be amended in pursuance of the Government of India's policy on Ease of Doing Business and decriminalisation of minor regulatory offences, with a view to rationalise the regulatory framework.

The proposed amendments seeks to remove provisions relating to imprisonment, simplify compliance requirements, omit references to the National Building Code, and provide clearer definitions of certain terms, thereby facilitating ease of compliance while ensuring effective enforcement of fire safety standards.

With these objectives in view, the Bill has been framed”.

Discussion on the Bill will be taken up on July 22, 2026.

Before the Learned Oath Commissioner West Sikkim at Gyalshing  
AFFIDAVIT

I KAJOL TAMANG, Daughter of Shri.Palden Tamang, aged about 22 years, by faith Hindu, by occupation: Unemployed, resident of Temi-Tarku, P.O.Tarku Zero Point & P.S.Temi, South Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows :-

1.That I am the natural daughter of Shri. Palden Tamang of Temi-Tarku, South Sikkim.

2.That my actual and correct name/surname is Kajol Tamang which is correctly recorded in my class X passed certificate and marks sheet issued by central board of Secondary Education, Delhi.

3.That in my birth certificate bearing reg.no.959/04 dated: 11/01/05 and in the Aadhaar card bearing card no.285084024682 my first name has been recorded as Kazol Tamang and Kajal Tamang respectively.

4. That by virtue of this affidavit sworn by me to declare that my actual and correct name is Kajol Tamang and further to declare that the names Kajol Tamang, Kazol Tamang and Kajal Tamang is one and the same person ie.myself.

5.That this affidavit is made bonafie.

VERIFICATION

I Kajol Tamang, the deponent herein, do hereby verify and state that the declarations made in paragraphs 1 to 5 hereinabove are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have signed this affidavit on the 09<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014 at Gyalshing, west Sikkim.

DEPONENT

Chief Minister launched CM-SAATHI (SATHEE)

**Gangtok, July 16:** Chief Minister Mr Prem Singh Tamang launched the CM-SAATHI (SATHEE) Initiative, a landmark education programme of the Government of Sikkim that reaffirms the commitment to empowering every aspiring student with access to quality education and equal opportunities. Launched in collaboration with IIT Kanpur under the Government of India’s SATHEE Initiative, CM-SAATHI will provide free, world-class coaching and academic support for JEE and NEET aspirants through expert video lectures, study materials, mock tests, practice questions, doubt-solving support and technology-enabled learning. This initiative ensures that quality coaching reaches the homes and schools of the students, regardless of their

financial background.

Building upon the Lakshya Centre of Excellence, CM-SAATHI is another significant step towards ensuring that no deserving student is left behind. More than 2,000 students from over 40 Government and private schools across Sikkim are expected to benefit from this transformative programme. It will also strengthen the professional capabilities of the Science and Mathematics teachers through collaboration with IIT Kanpur.

On the occasion, Chief Minister requested the Ministry of Education and IIT Kanpur to consider extending similar support for other national-level competitive examinations such as CUET, CLAT, NDA, UPSC Foundation and others.

He encouraged the students

to remain disciplined and make the most of this opportunity and also called upon the Principals, teachers and parents to guide and motivate the young learners as they prepare to achieve excellence.

He extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Government of India, IIT Kanpur, SATHEE team, and everyone associated with the Education Department for their invaluable support in making this initiative a reality.

CM-SAATHI is more than a programme, it is an investment in the aspirations of the youth and the bright future of Sikkim. Together, let us nurture a generation of doctors, engineers, scientists, innovators and leaders who will make our State and the nation proud, the Chief Minister, added.

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Full address...

distinguished representatives from civil society. Supporting this is an Executive Committee, chaired by Professor MP Lama, Emeritus Professor and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of Sikkim, with senior departmental officials and representatives from SikkimINSPIRES.

These committees are steering an inclusive consultative process to shape a vision that reflects the aspirations of our people while positioning Sikkim as a prosperous, sustainable, innovative and future ready State.

In this endeavour, the State Institute for Transformation (SIT), established in 2023 under NITI Aayog’s visionary State Support Mission has emerged as a key pillar of evidence-based governance.

Functioning under the Planning & Development Department, SIT serves as my Government’s policy support and implementation unit through a multidisciplinary team of sectoral experts and technical professionals. The Institute works closely with Government departments to identify emerging growth drivers, strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, undertake policy research and provide analytical

and technical support for major reforms and flagship programmes. SIT is also playing a central role in preparing Sikkim Vision@2047 and other strategic policy frameworks that will guide the State’s development trajectory over the coming decades.

To further institutionalise long-term policy research and strategic planning, the Government established the Institute for Transforming Sikkim (ITS).

The Institute will promote data-driven decision-making, strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of Government programmes, accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, identify new engines of economic growth and foster innovation across priority sectors including agriculture, tourism, healthcare, education, infrastructure, energy, climate resilience and employment. It will also strengthen constituency-level planning through Constituency Development Committees, facilitate extensive stakeholder consultations, build institutional capacities across Government and generate strategic policy recommendations that advance sustainable, inclusive and equitable socio-economic development.

These initiatives represent a significant shift towards knowledge-driven governance, ensuring that Sikkim’s development journey over the next two decades is guided by sound evidence, strategic foresight and the collective aspirations of its people.

Members,

Today, Sikkim stands as a shining example of how progress and development can advance in harmony with nature, culture and the aspirations of the people. Guided by the principles of inclusive growth, environmental sustainability and social justice, my Government remains committed to building a resilient, self-reliant and prosperous State for future generations.

I am confident that the deliberations of this Budget Session will further strengthen our collective resolve to build a greener, healthier, stronger and more prosperous Sikkim.

Let us continue to uphold the enduring values of peace, unity, compassion and resilience that define the spirit of our people as we collectively work towards the vision of a Viksit Sikkim contributing meaningfully to Viksit Bharat @2047.

Jai Hind!

Jai Sikkim!

Before the Oath Commissioner of Sikkim at Gangtok.  
AFFIDAVIT

I, **Laden Doma Lepcha**, aged about 25 years, daughter of Late Yanku Tshering Lepcha, Christian by faith and resident of Upper Khamdong under P.O. Khamdong and P.S Singtam, District-Gangtok of Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows: -

1. That I am a natural and legal daughter of **Late Yanku Tshering Lepcha @YangkupTshering Lepcha** and legally wedded wife of **Shri Deepan Pradhan**.

2. That my father's spelt of name **Yanku Tshering Lepcha** which has been recorded in his **Old Sikkim Subject** bearing register Serial No. 99 Volume No. II under Block Khamdong issued by Additional District Collector, East Gangtok, Sikkim.

3. That in my **Certificate of Identification** bearing Sl. No. 22489/DCE/2019 Dated 23/02/2019 issued by Office of the District Collector East District, Gangtok wherein the column of father's name my father's spelling of name has been recorded as **"Yangkup Tshering Lepcha"** and same has been recorded in my other relevant documents.

4. That I am swearing this affidavit to state and declare that both the spelling of name of my father i.e. **"Yanku Tshering Lepcha"** and **"Yangkup Tshering Lepcha"** denotes and refer to the one and the same identical person i.e. my father (since deceased).

5. That this affidavit is made bonafide.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, **Lhaden Doma Lepcha**, the deponent before-named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the foregoing affidavit in paragraphs 1 to 5 are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Nothing in material has been concealed or suppressed there from.

Verified and sworn to this Affidavit at Gangtok, Sikkim on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

DEPONENT