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Independence Day Messages of Governor and Chief Minister of Sikkim

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

- Governor



Om Prakash Mathur
Governor of Sikkim

My dear citizens,

On this proud and auspicious occasion of Independence Day, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to every citizen of Sikkim and to all Indians. Today, as the Tricolour flies high across our nation, we celebrate the freedom, unity and democratic spirit that bind us together.

We bow in gratitude to the countless freedom fighters whose courage, sacrifice and unwavering devotion secured our freedom. We also remember with reverence the makers of our Constitution, whose vision gave India a democratic foundation rooted in justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

On behalf of the people of Sikkim, I salute the brave personnel of our Armed Forces, Paramilitary Forces and Police, as well as all those who guard our borders, protect our sovereignty and serve the nation with courage and dedication. From our strategically important Himalayan State, we convey to them our deepest respect and gratitude.

This Independence Day holds special significance for us as we celebrate the completion of 50 glorious years of Sikkim's Statehood. I congratulate the people of Sikkim on this historic milestone and extend my best wishes for the next fifty years of progress, peace and prosperity.

The Golden Jubilee year was made particularly memorable by the participation and visits 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 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the opening ceremony and by his gracious presence at the closing ceremony of the celebrations.

The visit of the Prime Minister during the Golden Jubilee celebrations was a historic moment for our 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.

During this historic year, our State was also privileged to host President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu, Vice President of India Shri CP Radhakrishnan, Chief Justice of India Mr Justice Surya Kant, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, several eminent members of the judiciary and other distinguished national dignitaries.

These visits were accompanied by several landmark achievements for the State, 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 the declaration of Sikkim as the first Paperless Judiciary in India.

The past fifty years have demonstrated what Sikkim is capable of achieving. Over this period, the State has emerged as a national model of balanced and sustainable development, earning widespread recognition across the country. What distinguishes our development journey is our steadfast commitment to good governance, environmental stewardship, social justice and people-centric policymaking. Despite our geographical and economic constraints, Sikkim has continued to make significant progress 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, State 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, we remain equally committed to preserving the rich cultural heritage and fragile ecology of our Himalayan State. Our development must continue to be sustainable, resilient and inclusive, ensuring that economic progress is achieved in harmony with nature and that its benefits reach every household and every section of society. Our efforts are also closely aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, as envisaged by the Prime Minister, while remaining firmly rooted in the

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Together with collective resolve and blessings of our people, we shall stride confidently towards a Viksit Bharat and a Sunaulo Sikkim, Samriddha Sikkim ani Samarth Sikkim, where every citizen can dream without limits

-Chief Minister

My dear citizens,

On the joyous occasion of the 80th Independence Day of our great nation, I extend my warm greetings and heartfelt best wishes to every citizen of Sikkim.

Today, we bow our heads in profound gratitude to the architects of our freedom and to the countless known and unknown freedom fighters whose courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment secured India's Independence. Their selfless devotion laid the foundation of the democratic, sovereign and vibrant Republic that we proudly call home. As we celebrate the blessings of freedom, let us reaffirm our commitment to uphold the ideals of unity, justice, equality and service to the nation for which they dedicated their lives.

I also pay my deepest respects to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, State Police and all security personnel who stand vigilant in defence of our nation's sovereignty and integrity. As a proud border State, Sikkim deeply values their unwavering dedication and immense sacrifices under the most challenging conditions. Their service enables every citizen to live in peace, security and dignity.

This year carries a special significance for the people of Sikkim. Having recently celebrated the Golden Jubilee of our Statehood, we proudly reflect upon fifty remarkable years since Sikkim became the 22nd State of the Indian Union. Statehood ushered in a new era of democratic governance, accelerated socio-economic development, strengthened our institutions and created unprecedented opportunities for our people while preserving our unique identity, culture and heritage.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were not merely a commemoration of our past; they celebrated the extraordinary journey of our people and reaffirmed our collective aspiration to build a stronger, more prosperous and more inclusive Sikkim. We were deeply honoured that Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, associated himself closely with these historic celebrations. Although inclement weather prevented him from attending the inaugural function in person, he addressed the people of Sikkim virtually and assured us that he would personally join the concluding celebrations. True to his commitment, he graced the grand finale with his presence, making the occasion truly historic and memorable.

The Golden Jubilee year was further enriched by the visits of several



Prem Singh Tamang
Chief Minister of Sikkim

distinguished national leaders. We had the privilege of welcoming Vice President of India, Shri CP Radhakrishnan and Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, during our 51st State Day celebrations. The visit of President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, marked another historic milestone as she conferred the prestigious *President's Colour upon the Sikkim Police* in recognition of their exemplary service. During her visit, Sikkim was also officially declared a *Fully Literate State under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram* and she flagged off the *Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Sewa*, reaffirming our commitment towards women's safety and empowerment.

Our State achieved another landmark distinction by becoming the *first Paperless Judiciary* in India, reflecting Sikkim's commitment to innovation, digital governance and institutional excellence. These achievements are a matter of pride not only for the Government but for every citizen of Sikkim. They reflect the dedication of our people, the professionalism of our institutions and the collective spirit that continues to propel our State towards new heights.

My dear citizens,

The true tribute we can pay to our freedom fighters is not merely by remembering their sacrifices, but by ensuring that the fruits of Independence reach every citizen. The story of Sikkim over the past five decades demonstrates what determined leadership, democratic governance and the collective efforts of our people can achieve.

Despite our mountainous terrain and

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unique developmental needs, priorities and aspirations of the people of Sikkim.

The progress we have achieved is clearly reflected in the growing strength of our economy and our sustained commitment to public investment. Sikkim's Gross State Domestic Product at current prices is projected to reach ₹62,973/- crore in 2026–27, representing an increase of more than 121 per cent from ₹28,402/- crore in 2018–19. This remarkable growth underscores the resilience of our economy and the effectiveness of our development strategy.

On this Independence Day, it is therefore fitting that we reflect not only on the distance we have travelled but also on the path that lies ahead. I take this opportunity to share with you the important initiatives and achievements of State Government across various sectors, together with our vision for the continued progress, prosperity and holistic development of the State.

As we chart the next phase of Sikkim's development journey, the Government has identified five strategic pillars to 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 five pillars will provide a strong foundation for faster, more inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth, carrying us forward towards our shared vision of a Sunaulo, Samriddha ani Samarth Sikkim.

Translating these strategic priorities into meaningful action, the State Government has undertaken several important initiatives to strengthen public infrastructure, expand social protection and improve the delivery of essential services. In this regard, I commend the Government for introducing the **State Interest Subvention Scheme for Kisan Credit Card Agricultural Crop Loans**; launching the **Statewide HPV Screening Programme** for the early detection and prevention of cervical cancer; initiating the **Renal Transplant Programme** to expand access to advanced and life-saving healthcare services; establishing 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; and launching the **Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Sewa** to provide safe, reliable and affordable public transport.

Alongside these people-centred initiatives, the Government remains firmly committed to safeguarding Sikkim's natural heritage and advancing environmentally sustainable development. With one of the highest proportions of forest cover in the country and an extensive network of protected areas, Sikkim continues to play a vital role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation and water security, while contributing meaningfully to India's national 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 conservation movement 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 combines environmental responsibility with long-term financial security for newborn children. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how ecological stewardship and social welfare can advance hand in hand, securing both the environmental and economic well-being of future generations.

Sikkim has been a pioneer in environmental protection since long before many 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. At the same time, initiatives such as **Mero Bato Mero Bot** have deepened community participation in afforestation and encouraged sustainable practices at the grassroots level.

Our sustained conservation efforts have helped protect iconic Himalayan species such as the red panda and the snow leopard, while eco-tourism initiatives and community-managed homestays have generated sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas. The sightings of a rare herd of Mishmi Takin and the elusive Eurasian Lynx in Mangan District in 2026 further reaffirmed the extraordinary ecological richness and vitality 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 climate resilience. They demonstrate that ecological preservation and economic prosperity are not competing objectives, but complementary goals that can and must progress together.

In keeping with this commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, education remains one of the highest priorities of state government. 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 May 27, 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. The pilot residential school at Assam Lingzey currently provides 123 students of Classes VI and VII with free education, boarding and holistic development, integrating Artificial Intelligence, coding, robotics, rocketry, vocational education, sports and the arts. This model is planned for expansion across all districts. Simultaneously, 43 schools are being developed under the **PM SHRI Scheme** as exemplar institutions showcasing reforms aligned with the National Education Policy.

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.

State Government remains equally committed to the welfare and empowerment of students. Initiatives such as the **Bahini Scheme**, the **Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme** and the **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.

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

Alongside these reforms, the Government is preparing our youth for the opportunities of the future by 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.

This same commitment to human development guides state government's efforts to build 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 through the **Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Suvidha Yojana** for treatment outside the State and assistance under the **Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme** for the 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 record among the highest immunisation coverage rates in the country and has achieved 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 state 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.

Taken together, these efforts have enabled Sikkim to outperform national averages across several key health indicators, reflecting the success of sustained public investment and community-centred healthcare interventions. Going forward, state 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.

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

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The **Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari** at Ridge Park, Gangtok, has earned national recognition and was deeply appreciated for its beauty by the Prime Minister, 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.

State 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 adventure tourism attraction, while the **Singshore Bridge Adventure Platform** and the **Pelling Ropeway Project** are expected to significantly enhance tourism connectivity and the visitor experience. Other important initiatives, such as the **Border Experience Project at Nathula**, the **Gangtok Cultural Village at Namli** and the **Eco-Wellness Experience at Yuksom**, are also being developed to offer immersive, culturally rich and sustainable tourism experiences across the State.

The upcoming Sevoke–Rangpo railway connectivity project and heliport services are expected to substantially improve accessibility to the State and further accelerate tourism growth. At the same time, state 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.

Alongside infrastructure development, state government is actively promoting homestays, eco-tourism and community-based tourism models to ensure that local communities directly benefit from the growing tourism economy. These efforts also foster sustainable 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.

State 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, state 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. Building on this approach to inclusive growth, State Government remains committed to fostering a vibrant and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem in which our youth, women, artisans and local entrepreneurs are empowered to realise their talents, innovative capacities and entrepreneurial

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*, State Government continues to promote local products, traditional crafts and indigenous enterprises by strengthening market access, value addition and entrepreneurial opportunities across the State. State Government firmly believes that a future-ready and self-reliant Sikkim must be 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 remain central pillars of our economic growth strategy. Progressive policies such as the Sikkim MSME Policy, 2022 and the Sikkim Startup Policy, 2025 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 evident in the remarkable growth of MSMEs from around 250 in 2019 to more than 35,000 by January 2026, alongside the emergence of a dynamic start-up culture across tourism, hospitality, agriculture, transport, services and small-scale industries. Through initiatives such as the **Skilled Youth Start-up Scheme** and the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyamsheelta Vikas Yojana**, State Government is empowering young people 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 to strengthen traditional sectors such as handloom and handicrafts through modernisation, skill development and market support, preserving local craftsmanship while generating sustainable livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

Building on these efforts, Sikkim has been recognised as an *Aspiring Leader* in the DPIIT States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking 2026. With 30 DPIIT-recognised start-ups and a growing network of incubation and innovation support systems, the State is steadily emerging as a hub for innovation and enterprise.

At the same time, State Government continues to improve the ease of doing business through administrative and regulatory reforms, while strengthening Sikkim's role as an important gateway for regional connectivity and trade. The proposed multi-modal trade corridor at Chewa Bhanjyang is expected to enhance economic cooperation with Nepal, while the recent reopening of the historic Nathula trade route after six years has revived traditional cross-border trade and reaffirmed Sikkim's strategic importance in regional commerce.

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

The success of this entrepreneurial vision must be supported by a future-ready, inclusive and demand-driven skilling ecosystem that equips the youth 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.

State Government continues to

promote market-oriented skilling, capacity building and livelihood generation across diverse sectors, including tourism and hospitality, information technology, green jobs, healthcare, creative industries, 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** is being strengthened as a dedicated platform for career counselling, training, placement support and employment facilitation. Through partnerships with more than 130 employers, the initiative has facilitated over 1,100 placements.

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

A landmark achievement in this sector has been the successful placement of Sikkimese nurses in Germany under the World Bank-supported **Sikkim INSPIRES Programme**. Through the **Chief Minister's European Language and Employment via Aspirational Training and Engagement (CMELEVATE)** initiative, 19 young women from Sikkim are now employed as registered nurses in reputed healthcare institutions in Germany, earning internationally competitive salaries and supporting their families and communities back home. By providing specialised language training, professional certification and international mobility support, the initiative has opened new pathways for ethical and skilled global employment for the youth of Sikkim. With several more candidates at advanced stages of language training, certification and visa processing, the State is steadily building a sustainable pipeline of overseas employment opportunities for its nursing professionals.

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

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

Central to this inclusive development vision are the women of Sikkim, who remain the cornerstone of social progress, economic development and family well-being. State 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, State 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, State 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.

State 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. Sikkim ranks among the States with the lowest rates of crime against women, while legal protections against gender-based violence and discrimination, wage equity measures and maternity and child welfare support systems are also being strengthened.

Sikkim was recently honoured when President of India flagged off the **Pink City Runner-Aama Didi Bahini Bus Sewa**. Operating exclusively for women, the service is managed entirely by women chauffeurs and conductors.

State 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, State 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.

As part of this wider commitment to the well-being of our people, State Government also recognises that mental health challenges and suicide can be prevented through timely intervention, awareness generation, compassionate care and sustained institutional support.

These sustained efforts across the social and economic sectors are further reinforced by Externally Aided Projects, which 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, state government is implementing three major Externally Aided Projects spanning human capital development, power and urban infrastructure. 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

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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 also 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**.

Building upon these sectoral and externally supported interventions, 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 and data-driven policymaking, participatory governance and sustainable development, State Government has established robust institutional mechanisms to prepare a comprehensive long-term development roadmap.

To provide strategic direction, State Government has constituted a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, comprising Heads of Departments and 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 **Sikkim INSPIRES**. 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 State 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.

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, State Government remains committed to building a resilient, self-reliant and prosperous State for future generations.

On this special occasion, I extend an earnest call to our youth. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' is transforming into a powerful mass movement. Its core message is loud and clear: a drug-free society is the greatest foundation for a developed India. I urge our young citizens to stay away from drugs and actively inspire their peers, families, and communities to join this national resolve.

Channel your energy and talent into education, sports, skill development, innovation, entrepreneurship, and nation-building. Today, India is progressing rapidly across modern technology, science, education, and industrial sectors, unlocking vast opportunities for our youth. However, alongside modernity and technological advancement, staying rooted in our soil, culture, language, and heritage is equally vital. While our roots instil essential values, modern knowledge empowers us to move forward. Therefore, our ultimate goal should be to become technologically proficient, modern in our thoughts, and self-reliant in our actions, while remaining deeply connected to our cultural identity.

On this occasion, I also extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the award recipients. Through your outstanding talent, dedication, and contributions, you have brought immense pride to our society and nation. Your achievements are not just a testament to your hard work, but also a profound source of inspiration for our youth. I am confident that you will continue to scale new heights by dedicating your success to the service of our nation.

On this Independence Day, let us renew our collective pledge to build a greener, healthier, stronger and more prosperous Sikkim. The freedom we inherited is both a precious legacy and a solemn responsibility: a responsibility to ensure that every citizen can live with dignity, security and opportunity.

Let us continue to uphold the enduring values of peace, unity, compassion

and resilience that define the spirit of our people. With confidence in our collective strength, let us work together towards a Viksit Sikkim that contributes meaningfully to Viksit Bharat @2047.

May the Tricolour always inspire us

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unique geographical challenges, Sikkim has emerged as one of the most progressive States in the Indian Union. Over the past eight years, our economy has recorded an average real Gross State Domestic Product growth of more than 12.6 percent, significantly higher than the national average. Today, Sikkim enjoys the highest per capita income in the country, reflecting the remarkable transformation of our economy and the growing prosperity of our people.

This progress is visible not merely in economic indicators but in the everyday lives of our citizens through better roads, modern healthcare facilities, quality education, improved connectivity, stronger social protection, enhanced opportunities for women and youth, and sustained investments in rural development, agriculture and entrepreneurship. Household incomes have improved, poverty has declined significantly and Sikkim today ranks among the leading States in human development.

The strength of our economy is matched by sound fiscal management. The Gross State Domestic Product at current prices is projected to reach nearly ₹62,973/- crore during 2026-27, representing an increase of more than 121 percent over 2018-19.

Aligning with our core developmental and economic priorities, the Government presented a total budget outlay of ₹19,215/- crore on July 20, 2026. After accounting for recoveries, the net expenditure stands at ₹18,455/- crore. The budget was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly.

While we take pride in our accomplishments and the mark that Sikkim has made in the country and the world over the past years, we remain mindful that development is not a destination but a continuous journey. The aspirations of our youth, the challenges posed by climate change and the demands of a rapidly changing world call upon us to innovate, adapt and work together with renewed determination. Above all, we recognise that economic progress is meaningful only when it improves the lives and livelihoods of every citizen.

Guided by this conviction, the State Government has identified five key pillars that will shape Sikkim's development in the years ahead: strengthening the productive sectors of our economy; improving infrastructure and connectivity; investing in human capital; promoting development in harmony with our unique ecological heritage; and fostering planned, resilient and sustainable urbanisation. These priorities will serve as the foundation of our efforts to build a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Sikkim.

My dear citizens,

Before I elaborate on the sector-wise account of our progress, I wish to place before you a distinct set of new initiatives that give practical shape to our vision for the years ahead. Each of these measures responds to a clearly identified need, whether it is the security of our farmers, the health of our families, the resilience of our infrastructure, the empowerment of women or the preservation of our heritage. Together, they demonstrate a Government that listens,

to place the nation above self and to serve our people with integrity, dedication and compassion. Once again, I extend my warmest greetings to all the people of Sikkim on Independence Day.

Jai Hind! Jai Sikkim!

learns and acts with purpose.

At the heart of this vision are our farmers, who sustain our rural economy and preserve our rich agricultural traditions. By reducing the effective interest on timely repaid Kisan Credit Card crop loans to just one per cent, we are easing their financial burden and improving access to affordable credit. At the same time, through our flagship mission **Mero Alaichi, Mero Dhan**, we are combining scientific research, modern technology and active farmer participation to revive Sikkim's globally renowned large cardamom sector, protect rural livelihoods and strengthen one of the State's most valuable agricultural assets.

Equally important is our continued investment in human capital, because the true wealth of any State lies in the health, knowledge and aspirations of its people. Building upon the remarkable success of our **HPV vaccination programme**, we will now expand our efforts through a statewide HPV screening initiative, bringing us closer to our aspiration of making Sikkim the first State in India to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health challenge. The establishment of the **Helen Lepcha Sikkim Government Medical College** marks a historic milestone in medical education in the State. The College now provides 50 free medical seats and 30 paid seats, besides 15 percent of seats under the All-India Quota and five Society quota seats. In addition, Sikkimese students continue to benefit from 20 concessional seats and 10 fully paid seats at the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences. Together, these provisions have significantly expanded opportunities for our students to pursue medical education within the State. The launch of our own **Renal Transplant Programme** will enable patients to receive advanced, life-saving treatment within the State itself. Together, these initiatives reflect our commitment to building a healthier, more self-reliant and compassionate Sikkim.

Infrastructure continues to be the backbone of our economic transformation. Recognising the unique climatic and geographical conditions of our Himalayan State, the State Government has adopted **Mastic Asphalt Surfacing** technology to build stronger, longer-lasting and climate-resilient roads. As part of this initiative, approximately 570 kilometres of roads across the State are proposed to be upgraded in a phased manner, at an estimated investment of ₹546 crore, with stringent quality-control measures to ensure durability, safety and long-term value.

Development must also be inclusive and must empower every section of society. The **Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Sewa**, operated entirely by women, represents a significant step towards safer, more accessible and dignified public transport while creating meaningful employment opportunities for women. Through the **SHG Bharosa Sammelan**, we are strengthening Self-Help Groups that have become powerful engines of women-led entrepreneurship, financial inclusion and rural transformation.

We have also instituted **Traditional Attire Day** every Thursday in government offices to encourage pride in and continued appreciation of our diverse cultural heritage. Reflecting this commitment, Cabinet Ministers attended all four days of the recent Assembly Session in full traditional attire, presenting a powerful and visible celebration

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of Sikkim's rich cultural identity and traditions.

Environmental stewardship has always been one of Sikkim's defining strengths. As one of India's cleanest and greenest States, we continue to invest in scientific waste management, including the transformation of the **Martam landfill into a modern Integrated Waste Management Facility**. Protecting our fragile Himalayan ecosystem is not simply an environmental responsibility; it is a solemn obligation that we owe to future generations. These new initiatives are united by a simple principle: development must be felt in the daily lives of our people. They combine immediate assistance with long-term institution building and will be pursued with clear timelines, careful monitoring and full accountability. Let me now place these forward-looking measures within the broader sector-wise account of our progress and share how each sector is carrying forward our vision of a **Sunaulo Sikkim, Samriddha Sikkim ani Samarth Sikkim**.

My dear citizens,

The State Government remains steadfast in its commitment to building a healthy, resilient and equitable society through sustained investments in healthcare infrastructure, medical technology, public health systems and universal access to quality care. 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 for treatment and improve health outcomes across all sections of society. Major strides have been made in expanding healthcare infrastructure and specialised medical services across the State. The State Government inaugurated the 500-bedded Namchi District Hospital and the 100-bedded Mangan District Hospital to provide advanced healthcare facilities closer to the people. Super-specialty services including Neurosurgery, Nephrology and Cardiothoracic Surgery have been introduced at STNM Hospital alongside existing specialties such as Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Urology, Paediatric Surgery and Plastic Surgery.

Importantly, these specialist services are now being extended to district hospitals through regular outreach visits. The State also established its first Tertiary Cancer Care Centre at STNM Hospital, significantly reducing the need for cancer patients to travel outside the State for treatment. To improve access to life-saving treatment, dialysis centres have been established at Namchi, Gyalshing, Mangan and Jorethang, while Peritoneal Dialysis services were introduced at STNM Hospital in 2021. Urban healthcare delivery has also been strengthened through the operationalisation of 2 Urban Public Health Centres and 13 Urban Health and Wellness Centres across the State, ensuring accessible primary healthcare services in urban areas. Advanced cardiac facilities including Electrophysiology Study, Radio Frequency Ablation and Intra Vascular Ultra Sound systems have been installed at STNM Hospital, making Sikkim among the few regions in eastern India to possess such technology.

PHCs at Tashiding and Rongli and CHC Jorethang have also been upgraded as First Referral Units for emergency obstetric and newborn care. The Government has also made remarkable progress in advanced clinical care and surgical interventions. STNM Hospital successfully conducted the

State's first gynaecological oncology procedures, Total Knee Replacement surgery, Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC), treatment for ovarian cancer, radial artery aneurysm surgery and several complex neurosurgical, cardiothoracic and urological interventions. More than 100 major gynaecological oncology surgeries have been completed, while specialised retina and cardiology camps continue to provide expert interventions to citizens. Recognising the financial burden of critical illnesses, the Government has strengthened flagship financial protection schemes. Since 2019, 6,838 patients have received support under the **Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Suvidha Yojana** for treatment outside the State.

Since FY 2023-24, 5,297 patients have benefited under the **Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Scheme** for critical illnesses such as cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, liver disease, neurological disorders, road traffic injuries, bone marrow transplantation and knee or hip replacement. Under the **Chief Minister's Vatsalya Scheme**, 816 women have received financial assistance for IVF treatment since 2022, enabling many families to realise their aspirations of parenthood. Public health achievements of the State continue to be commendable. Sikkim has maintained near-zero human rabies deaths and continues to remain a low-burden State for Malaria and Kala-azar through rigorous preventive measures. Under the National Tobacco Control Programme, tobacco use among youth reduced to 24.6 per cent as per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, while 438 educational institutions were declared tobacco-free between 2024 and 2026.

Under the **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme**, Sikkim has made significant progress towards achieving the goal of a TB-free State ahead of national timelines. Fifty-one Gram Panchayat Units were declared TB-free in 2024 under the TB Mukta Gram Panchayat campaign, while the State received a Bronze Medal for reducing TB incidence by 20 per cent compared to 2015 levels. Sikkim has also emerged as the best-performing State in the TB Index among States with populations below 50 lakhs for three consecutive years. The State's immunisation programme continues to achieve outstanding outcomes. Sikkim was the first State in India to introduce MMR and Hepatitis-B vaccinations. The State continues to record among the highest immunisation coverage rates in the country through strong cold-chain systems, outreach services and community participation.

Significant improvements have also been recorded in maternal and child health indicators. Institutional deliveries increased to 99.64 percent in 2025-26, while early antenatal registration improved from 76.7 percent to 84.01 per cent. Breastfeeding within one hour of birth increased sharply to 92.81 percent, while the State achieved an Infant Mortality Rate of only 6 per 1,000 live births, significantly lower than the national average. Specialised neonatal care units and newborn stabilisation units have also been established across districts to strengthen newborn care services. The State Government continues to strengthen adolescent health, school wellness and preventive healthcare initiatives. Under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram, over 40,000 adolescents received services in 2025-26, while the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation programme achieved 100 per cent coverage.

Under the **School Health and Wellness Programme**, 760 Health and Wellness Ambassadors were trained, earning Sikkim a national award for

achieving complete training coverage. The State Government has also focused extensively on strengthening public health facilities in accordance with the **Indian Public Health Standards**. Through systematic gap assessments and targeted interventions under the **National Health Mission**, several Primary Health Centres, Health and Wellness Centres and district hospitals have been upgraded and renovated.

Mental healthcare and suicide prevention remain key priorities of the State Government. Under the **Suicide Prevention Action Network Programme**, more than 36,000 individuals were screened and over 18,000 persons counselled between 2020 and 2024. The State has established a 24x7 crisis helpline and strengthened the **District Mental Health Programme** and **Tele-MANAS** services to ensure accessible mental healthcare support across Sikkim. Complementing these efforts, **Sikkim INSPIRES** has supported the development of the State's first **Integrated Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy**. Teachers, healthcare workers and counsellors are being trained to identify and support vulnerable individuals, while life-skills education has been strengthened across schools. These sustained interventions have expanded access to mental healthcare and contributed to a steady decline in the State's suicide rate. I am pleased to share that, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, the suicide rate declined from 43.1 per lakh population in 2022 to 40.2 in 2023 and further to 36.3 in 2024, representing an overall reduction of nearly 15.8 per cent over two years.

Under **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**, more than 45,633 beneficiaries have availed treatment support since 2019. Today, Sikkim continues to outperform national averages in several critical health indicators, including Infant Mortality Rate, Neonatal Mortality Rate and institutional deliveries, reflecting the success of sustained investments in public healthcare and community-based interventions. Going forward, the 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 Specialty Operation Theatre facilities at STNM Hospital.

One of the most pressing challenges facing Sikkim today is the rapid decline in fertility levels. According to NFHS-6 (2023-24), Sikkim's Total Fertility Rate stands at 1.0, the lowest in the country. To address this demographic challenge, the State Government is establishing a modern Assisted Reproductive Technology Centre at STNM Hospital, Gangtok. The facility is being developed in collaboration with AIIMS, New Delhi, which will provide technical support and specialised training to our medical personnel, including doctors, embryologists, andrologists, nurses, counsellors and facility managers. The first phase of services is expected to become operational during the current year. Further, the Indian Council of Medical Research has sanctioned a research grant to undertake a comprehensive study on fertility trends and the preparedness of the State health system. The findings of this study will guide evidence-based policy interventions in the years ahead. As we strengthen the health and well-being of our people, we are equally mindful that dependable infrastructure is essential for delivering every public service effectively.

My dear citizens,

Education continues to remain at the forefront of the State Government's development agenda. Guided by NEP 2020,

we are building an education system that is inclusive, equitable, future-ready and rooted in our values. On 27th May 2026, Sikkim became a **fully literate State under the ULLAS Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, becoming the fifth State in India to achieve this milestone. Through the voluntary efforts of over 4,000 teachers and youth volunteers, nearly 15,000 adults attained literacy over two years through four FLNAT assessments. This achievement marks a major 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 implement kindergarten systems in all Government schools. So far, 66 Anganwadi Centres have been co-located within schools, while Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) training is being provided to all pre-primary and primary teachers. The Vidya Pravesh programme, Jolly Phonics and Jodo Gyan initiatives are strengthening foundational learning through play-based and child-centric pedagogy. To further strengthen school education, Sikkim continues its partnership with Azim Premji University for curriculum reform, teacher training, assessment reforms and foundational literacy. Under the NIPUN initiative, the **Chief Minister's Special Numeracy Programme** (CM-SNP), implemented with Jodo Gyan across all 765 Government schools, has transformed mathematics learning. Nearly 1,100 teachers were trained during 2025-26, while children confident in solving basic arithmetic increased from 17 per cent to 72 per cent within two years. The programme will now expand to Class III and pre-school levels. Alongside this, the Language and Literacy Programme is being implemented through SCERT and DIET faculty, with 78 mentor teachers supporting 765 teachers across the State. New textbooks for Classes I to V integrating sustainable development, local context and child-friendly pedagogy have been commended by the Ministry of Education and recommended as models for other States. In line with SDG-4, the Government is supporting over 1,000 Children with Special Needs through Special Educators, assistive devices, home-based learning, Indian Sign Language and digital tools. Early screening through the **PRASHAST App** and Project SETU, piloted across 30 schools, are strengthening inclusive education through Individualised Education Plans, teacher training and digital monitoring.

Mission MAYA, first piloted in Namchi where 302 Out-of-School Children were identified, is now being expanded statewide through inter-departmental convergence. The Government has further developed the **Operational Guidelines for the Reintegration of Out-of-School Children in Sikkim**. These Guidelines establish a systematic, child-centred, evidence-based and convergence-driven framework, bringing together education, child protection, health, social welfare, labour and community institutions to prevent school dropouts, rehabilitate disengaged children and ensure their successful reintegration into appropriate educational or skilling pathways.

The **Chief Minister's Model School (CMMS)**, established under the Sikkim Model School Act, 2025, represents a transformative step in public education. The pilot residential school at Assam Lingzey currently provides free education, boarding and holistic development opportunities to 123 students of Classes VI and VII. Integrating AI, Coding, Robotics, Rocketry,

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vocational education, sports and arts, CMMS is emerging as a model for future-ready learning, with expansion planned across districts. Under the **PM SHRI Scheme**, 43 schools are also being developed as exemplar institutions showcasing NEP-based reforms. To improve academic governance, the State launched the Monitoring of School Academic Performance (MSAP), while the first State Academic Achievement Survey (SAAS) assessed 279 schools and 1,538 Class III students in English and Mathematics.

Over 300 officials participated in the first Shiksha Sammelan to deliberate on quality reforms. The Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), established in Gangtok in 2022, continues to strengthen data-driven governance through AI and machine learning-enabled monitoring systems. The Government firmly believes that true education must nurture the mind, body and spirit. Yoga, Mental Health, Mindfulness and Meditation have therefore been integrated into school curricula. A 21-day Residential Yoga Teachers' Training Programme trained 825 teachers across eight phases, ensuring certified yoga trainers in every school. In partnership with the Heartfulness Education Trust, mindfulness programmes have expanded from 61 pilot schools to statewide coverage, with 1,028 teachers trained. Vocational Education has now achieved 100 per cent coverage across Government Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools, with courses offered in 211 schools.

During 2024-25, over 15,258 students enrolled in vocational education, while more than 31,000 students received skill certificates between 2020 and 2024. To strengthen STEM education, the Government signed an MoU with IISER Pune, under which 744 teachers have already been trained across all districts, with another 400 teachers to be trained this year. Under the **Bahini Scheme** launched in 2022, nearly 16,000 girl students receive free sanitary napkins annually, promoting dignity, attendance and retention even before menstrual hygiene was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court. School infrastructure is also being strengthened through support for around 100 primary school buildings under the State Plan. Selected schools are being developed as Green Schools, equipped with rainwater harvesting systems, solar panels and other eco-friendly facilities.

The Sikkim State Board of Indigenous and Endangered Languages continue to preserve and promote indigenous languages including Rai, Tamang, Gurung, Sherpa, Mukhia, Newar and Mangar through study materials, examinations, teacher training and certification programmes. Academic excellence initiatives are delivering encouraging results. Under the **Chief Minister's Mentorship Programme**, nearly 5,800 Class X students receive intensive coaching annually across 134 centres. As a result, CBSE Class X pass percentages improved from 62 percent in 2024 to 84 per cent in 2026, while Government schools recorded a Class XII pass percentage of 90.84 percent in 2026. The Government also plans to collaborate with IIT Kanpur under the **SATHEE initiative** to provide free national-level coaching. The Chief Minister's Education Assistance Scheme has already supported 1,399 students pursuing higher and technical education across India and abroad.

Student exposure is further being strengthened through study tours benefiting around 180 students outside the

State and 418 within Sikkim annually. Recognising that teachers are central to transformation, over 100 teachers and their spouses have benefitted from the Educational Exposure Tour Scheme, including visits to South India and Finland. Over the past five years, 1,495 probationary teachers have been regularised. The recently launched **Mero School, Mero Abhiyaan** is encouraging innovative, locally driven solutions to improve enrolment, learning outcomes and student engagement. Higher education in Sikkim is also witnessing major reforms. **Khangchendzonga State University** at Temi Tarku is progressing rapidly. The Prime Minister also inaugurated three new higher education institutions in April 2026, expanding access to remote regions.

Today, Sikkim has 14 Government colleges and two polytechnics across all districts. From this academic session, all Government colleges will implement the NEP-aligned Four-Year Undergraduate Programme with Academic Bank of Credits integration. Through the **Nar Bahadur Bhandari Fellowship Scheme**, students pursuing Master's degrees at top-20 global universities receive support of up to ₹50 lakh, while the **APATAN Fellowship** supports research in regional languages and literature. The Sikkim Private Universities Act, 2025 has also introduced a transparent and accountable regulatory framework for higher education institutions. To promote innovation and entrepreneurship, an Incubation Centre has been established at ATTC Bardang which will support start-ups and generate 100-150 jobs annually, with at least 40 percent women participation.

The Technical Skill Centre at CCCT Chisopani, supported by BOSCH India Foundation and Sikkim INSPIRES, is providing employability-oriented training for youth and school dropouts. The Government is also establishing an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College, Tadong, under MeitY funding. From early childhood classrooms to universities, from inclusion to excellence, and from wellness to employability, Sikkim is approaching education as a holistic life-cycle mission. Our vision is not merely to improve enrolment, but to build systems that uphold dignity, equity, quality and opportunity for every learner. With sustained public investment and collective resolve, Sikkim will continue to emerge as a national model of inclusive, human-centred and future-ready education. Education prepares our young people for the future; enterprise enables them to create that future for themselves and for the State.

My dear citizens,

Reliable and quality power supply is the foundation of economic growth, social development and an improved quality of life. The Government remains committed to ensuring that every household, institution, business establishment and public service has access to affordable, dependable and uninterrupted electricity. Our aim is to build a modern, consumer-centric and climate-resilient power system capable of meeting the aspirations of a developed Sikkim.

Through the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, the State is modernising its electricity distribution network, improving power quality, reducing losses and strengthening operational efficiency. More than 92,000 smart meters, covering nearly 64 per cent of consumers, have already been installed. This digital transformation is enabling more accurate billing, real-time monitoring, better consumer service and stronger revenue management.

The infrastructure component of the scheme includes the replacement of ageing

high- and low-tension lines, augmentation of transmission and sub-transmission systems and the use of modern technologies to improve reliability and public safety. Given the growing incidence of landslides and extreme weather, these investments are being designed to improve disaster resilience and to ensure quicker restoration when disruptions occur.

The State Government is also establishing a dedicated Transformer Repair Workshop during the current financial year. By enabling in-house repair and maintenance, the facility will reduce downtime, lower maintenance costs and help restore power supply more quickly. A stronger and smarter power sector will support tourism, industry, digital governance, education, healthcare and employment while ensuring long-term energy security for our people.

In the power sector, the **Sikkim Power Sector Development Project**, supported by the Asian Development Bank, complements ongoing State and national schemes by strengthening areas not fully covered under other programmes. It provides for the upgrading of approximately 1,350 kilometres of overhead, underground and covered 11 KV distribution lines, replacement of around 1,325 kilometres of ageing low-tension lines and capacity addition or augmentation of 460 distribution transformers. Underground cabling, aerial-bunched cables and appropriate conductors in vulnerable locations will make the network more resilient to landslides and extreme weather. Reliable power and resilient infrastructure will, in turn, strengthen every productive sector of our economy, including tourism, which remains one of Sikkim's most important sources of livelihood.

My dear citizens,

Tourism remains one of the most important pillars of Sikkim's economy and a major source of livelihood for our people. It provides direct and indirect employment opportunities to nearly 18 per cent of the population, second only to agriculture. Today, Sikkim welcomes an estimated **17.2 lakh visitors annually**, a figure nearly three times our population, reflecting Sikkim's growing appeal as a premier tourist destination. Over the years, Sikkim has successfully built a distinct identity as India's organic, cleanest and environmentally conscious State. This unique brand image, coupled with our rich natural heritage, vibrant culture and warm hospitality, has helped position Sikkim as one of the country's most sought-after destinations. This sector is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by improved infrastructure, sustainable tourism practices, digital innovation and renewed efforts to preserve and showcase our cultural and natural heritage.

Recognising its immense potential, the State Government has accorded tourism the status of a priority sector and is making sustained investments in world-class infrastructure, new destinations and rural tourism initiatives to ensure that the benefits of growth reach every corner of the State. To strengthen tourism infrastructure and diversify visitor experiences, several landmark projects are being implemented across the State. The **Bhaleydunga Tourism Project** is emerging as one of the most iconic tourism destinations in the country. The 3.4-kilometre **Bhaleydunga Ropeway**, built with advanced international technology, is already operational and attracting visitors. The under-construction Skywalk at an altitude of over 3,200 metres is expected to become one of the highest skywalks in the world and will establish Bhaleydunga as a premier tourism destination.

The newly operational Pelling

Ropeway, connecting Pelling town with the popular **Skywalk complex**, has significantly enhanced the visitor experience while offering breathtaking views of Mount Khangchendzonga and the Singalila range. The Government is also transforming the historic **Singshore Bridge** into a major tourism and adventure destination. The project includes a glass-deck viewing experience along with adventure activities such as ziplining, bungee jumping, rock climbing and rappelling, supported by modern visitor amenities. The project is expected to be opened to the public during the current financial year. To promote balanced regional development, an **Eco-Pilgrimage Complex at Dodak in Soreng District** has been developed to attract visitors to the western part of the State and create new opportunities for local communities.

Recognising the growing popularity of Nathula as an international tourism destination, the Government is undertaking major infrastructure upgrades, including parking facilities, covered walkways, escalators, cafeterias, medical facilities and public amenities to improve visitor comfort and accessibility. The State Government is also giving special emphasis to Rural Tourism. Under this initiative, **1,000 traditional homestays** with modern amenities are being developed across rural Sikkim. This programme will not only provide visitors with authentic cultural and nature-based experiences but will also create sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthen the rural economy. Through these initiatives, the Government seeks to position Sikkim as a world-class, sustainable and inclusive tourism destination while ensuring that the benefits of tourism-led growth are shared by communities across the State.

Specialised training programmes are also being implemented for homestay operators in partnership with premier institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow. Simultaneously, through the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism, Sikkim has become the first State in the country to offer certified training programmes for Bird Guides and Mountaineering Expedition Guides, in addition to courses in trekking, rafting, skiing and rock climbing. These initiatives are creating new livelihood opportunities while positioning Sikkim as a leader in adventure and eco-tourism. To sustain these gains over the long term, we must continue investing in the knowledge, skills and capabilities of our people.

My dear citizens,

Entrepreneurship and enterprise development are equally important to generating sustainable employment. From only a few hundred registered units in 2019, Sikkim now has more than 35,000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. This remarkable expansion reflects the confidence and initiative of our people and the Government's sustained effort to create a supportive environment for local enterprise.

The **MSME Policy**, the **Industrial and Investment Policy**, the **Logistics Policy** and the **Startup Policy** together provide a coherent framework for selective, balanced and environmentally responsible growth. The Jan Vishwas Sikkim Act, 2025, and the expansion of digital single-window services are simplifying procedures, reducing unnecessary compliance burdens and making it easier for citizens to start and grow businesses.

Through the **Skilled Youth Start-up**

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Scheme, more than 4,000 loans have supported aspiring entrepreneurs, while the **Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyamsheelta Yojana** offers seed assistance of up to ₹5 lakh for promising ideas. Under the **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance** programme, more than 175 training programmes and 80 awareness campaigns have strengthened entrepreneurial capacity, market readiness and access to institutional support.

As Sikkim advances towards a resilient, inclusive and future-ready economy, we are making strategic investments in human capital, employment and enterprise. Central to this effort is **Sikkim INSPIRES**, a transformative programme being implemented through eight departments under a common framework across all six districts. It places women and youth at the centre of the State's development strategy and aims to directly benefit 3,00,500 women and youth by 2029 through enhanced skills, entrepreneurship, employment opportunities and improved access to economic resources.

The programme represents a shift from welfare-based interventions to an empowerment-led development model. Our focus is to enable women and youth to become entrepreneurs, skilled professionals and active participants in Sikkim's economic growth. It has also opened global employment pathways. Under the **Chief Minister's European Language and Employment via Aspirational Training and Engagement (CM ELEVATE)** initiative, 19 young women from Sikkim are currently employed as registered nurses in Germany, earning internationally competitive salaries and contributing to their families and communities back home. Several more candidates are in advanced stages of language training, certification and visa processing, creating a sustainable pipeline of overseas employment opportunities for our nursing professionals.

The programme is also supporting new-age livelihood opportunities. While preserving and promoting our traditional handicraft and handloom sectors, specialised training is being provided in emerging creative industries such as anime and manga design, enabling our youth to access global digital markets and future-ready careers. Baseline surveys conducted across the State have helped identify aspirations, opportunities and gaps among women and youth, ensuring that investments are targeted where they can generate the greatest impact. Sikkim INSPIRES is more than a development programme: it is an investment in human capital, entrepreneurship and social resilience. It is creating opportunities for women to lead enterprises, enabling youth to access quality employment, strengthening families and preparing our State to meet future economic and demographic challenges.

SIKKIM RISE (Realising Ideas, Shaping Entrepreneurship) is the flagship entrepreneurship development initiative of the Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim, being implemented under the Sikkim INSPIRES Programme. The initiative aims to identify, nurture and support aspiring entrepreneurs and startups across the State by providing mentorship, capacity building, business development support, market linkages and access to a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. SIKKIM RISE is a key step towards realising our vision of **"One Family, One Entrepreneur"**.

The programme, however, extends far beyond a competition. Selected participants will receive continuous mentoring and

handholding from industry experts, entrepreneurs and startup mentors to strengthen their business ideas and enterprises. They will also be provided with national exposure visits to leading startup ecosystems, incubation centres and innovation hubs such as IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP), IITs, premier incubation centres and successful startup enterprises. These visits will enable participants to interact with entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders and innovation experts, gain first-hand exposure to best practices, and build valuable networks for scaling their ventures.

Through SIKKIM RISE, the Government of Sikkim seeks to build a robust startup ecosystem, encourage innovation-driven enterprises, create employment opportunities and empower the youth of the State to become successful entrepreneurs and contributors to Sikkim's economic growth.

The **Niyukti Kendra** has facilitated more than 1,100 placements in partnership with over 130 employers. District incubation centres, block-level support hubs and the proposed State Innovation Hub will provide mentoring, market linkages, design support and access to finance. Our purpose is to make enterprise a respected and achievable career choice and to ensure that the ingenuity of Sikkim's youth contributes directly to the growth of our State.

I urge our women and youth to come forward and take full advantage of these transformative opportunities for upward socio-economic mobility. By turning skills into livelihoods and ideas into enterprises, they will help shape the next chapter of Sikkim's growth. This spirit of innovation must extend equally to our farms and rural economy, where tradition, technology and enterprise can work together to raise incomes and strengthen resilience.

My dear citizens,

Agriculture and horticulture have long been the backbone of Sikkim's rural economy and remain central to our identity as India's first Organic State. Our Government is committed to building a resilient, competitive and sustainable agricultural economy by harmonising traditional knowledge with modern technology, ensuring that our farmers prosper while preserving the fragile Himalayan ecosystem that defines our State.

Recognising horticulture as a key driver of rural livelihoods and economic growth, the Government has adopted an integrated approach encompassing quality planting material, scientific cultivation, climate-resilient technologies and strengthened institutional support. During the past year alone, over 62 lakh quality vegetable seedlings were distributed, benefiting nearly 28,000 farmers across the State. Simultaneously, protected cultivation through greenhouses, shade-net houses and other modern technologies is being expanded, enabling farmers to enhance productivity, reduce climate-related risks and access lucrative off-season markets.

Improving farm incomes remains at the heart of our agricultural strategy. The State Government is therefore strengthening every stage of the horticultural value chain—from production to branding, processing and marketing. Our flagship initiative for the GI-tagged Dalle Khorsani has successfully transformed this indigenous crop into a premium commercial product. Under the "Sikkim Fresh" brand, exports have already commenced, opening new international markets for our farmers. Through value addition, modern processing facilities and stronger market linkages, we are ensuring that greater value is retained

within the State, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for farming households.

As climate change increasingly influences agricultural production, the State Government is accelerating the adoption of precision farming, micro-irrigation, integrated nutrient and pest management, farm mechanisation and the use of agricultural drones. Thousands of farmers and field functionaries have already been trained in climate-resilient horticultural practices, equipping them with the knowledge and technologies required to build a more productive, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable agricultural sector. The Government is equally focused on preparing the horticulture sector for the future. Initiatives such as urban farming, the proposed Agri-Horti Technology Park at Namli, the introduction of improved varieties of fruits, vegetables and spices, and investments in post-harvest infrastructure are creating a modern ecosystem for high-value agriculture. Special emphasis is being placed on strengthening value chains for crops such as large cardamom, Dalle Khorsani and off-season vegetables to improve market access, enhance competitiveness and increase farmers' incomes. Complementing these efforts, initiatives under the National Bamboo Mission are promoting diversification, value addition and rural entrepreneurship while creating additional avenues for employment.

Our vision of agricultural development extends beyond increasing production. We remain steadfast in promoting environmentally responsible farming through plastic-free horticulture, scientific waste management, responsible utilisation of agricultural plastics and other sustainable practices that conserve the ecological wealth of our State. These initiatives reaffirm our conviction that economic prosperity and environmental stewardship are mutually reinforcing objectives and together form the foundation of Sikkim's development model. At the heart of this model is inclusion, and no society can advance fully unless its women are safe, empowered and able to lead.

My dear citizens,

The dignity, safety and economic empowerment of women remain central to our approach to inclusive development. Through the **Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana**, eligible mothers receive annual financial support of ₹40,000/-, recognising their contribution to the well-being of families and society. The **Aama Sahyog Yojana**, **Bahini Scheme** and other targeted measures reduce household burdens, promote health and hygiene and ensure that support reaches women at different stages of life.

The **Aama Didi Bahini Pink Bus Sewa** is more than a transport service. Operated by women and designed around the safety and convenience of women passengers, it represents mobility, dignity and employment. Breastfeeding pods and Aama Suvidha Ghars are similarly creating safe and respectful public spaces, while community-based forums strengthen access to support and justice.

Women are also assuming a larger role in public leadership. The reservation of 50 per cent of seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions and the strong representation of women in the 2026 Urban Local Body elections have widened participation in decision-making. The election of the first woman Mayor of Gangtok Municipal Corporation is a proud milestone and an inspiration to young women across the State.

Through the **SHG Bharosa Sammelan** and continued support for Self-Help Groups, the Government is helping women move from participation to leadership in enterprise and community

development. Our conviction is firm: when women are secure, skilled, economically independent and represented in institutions, the entire State advances. The same commitment to confidence, opportunity and leadership guides our investment in the youth and sporting talent of Sikkim.

My dear citizens,

Sports and youth development are essential to building fitness, discipline, confidence and community spirit. The State Government continues to invest in coaching, sports science, athlete support and modern facilities so that talented young people can pursue excellence at the State, national and international levels.

Six Khelo India Centres and a State Centre of Excellence are strengthening systematic training, while more than 500 sports assets have been geo-tagged to improve planning and utilisation. The development and improvement of 139 playgrounds are taking sporting opportunities closer to communities and giving children safe spaces for recreation and training.

Our specialised academies, competitive leagues and flagship tournaments in football, archery, boxing and other disciplines are nurturing talent and restoring Sikkim's proud sporting culture. The proposed **Swarna Jayanti Integrated Sports and Cultural Village** will bring together world-class training, residential facilities, sports medicine and cultural infrastructure, creating a lasting institution for future generations. As our economy and population evolve, these investments in people must be supported by towns that are better planned, more resilient and more liveable.

My dear citizens,

Planned and resilient urbanisation is essential to improving the quality of life while protecting Sikkim's fragile mountain environment. In the urban sector, the **Asian Development Bank-supported Sikkim Integrated Urban Development Project** became effective in December 2025. It complements municipal and departmental investments by strengthening water supply, sewerage systems, flood resilience, urban mobility and public infrastructure in Rangpo, Singtam, Pakyong, Ranipool, Tadong, Mangan, Soreng and Gyalshing. Transit Hub-cum-Community Complexes will address parking shortages and traffic congestion while improving public convenience. Together, these interventions will help our growing towns become safer, cleaner, more accessible and better prepared for future climatic and developmental pressures. This approach reflects a wider principle that has always guided Sikkim: development must proceed in harmony with nature.

My dear citizens,

Sikkim's development has always been guided by a deep commitment to environmental sustainability, climate resilience and the conservation of its rich natural heritage. Despite occupying only 0.2 percent of India's geographical area, the State harbours nearly 26 percent of the country's floral biodiversity. More than 47 percent of its area is under forest cover, while 30.77 percent falls within the Wildlife Protected Area Network, placing Sikkim among the country's foremost biodiversity conservation landscapes.

Under the **SECURE Himalaya Programme**, conservation efforts have been strengthened across the Khangchendzonga-Upper Teesta landscape, with a focus on protecting the Snow Leopard, Red Panda and fragile high-altitude ecosystems. These sustained

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Together with...

efforts earned Sikkim the India Today State of the States Award as the Best Performing Small State in Environment. The declaration of the Blue Duke as the State Butterfly through a public voting process also reflected our commitment to participatory environmental governance. One of our most distinctive green initiatives is **Mero Rukh Mero Santati**, under which 108 trees are planted to commemorate the birth of every child. This initiative connects the celebration of new life with the responsibility of protecting nature. It is complemented by the **Sikkim Sishu Samridhi Yojana**, under which ₹10,800/- is deposited into the account of every eligible child upon

completion of the plantation activities. More than 10,700 registrations have been recorded, over 7,345 plantation sites completed and more than 1,939 accounts opened under the scheme.

Sikkim's forest cover increased from 47.08 percent in the India State of Forest Report 2021 to approximately 47.33 percent in the 2023 report. This achievement, despite increasing developmental pressures and the State's limited geographical area, demonstrates that economic progress and environmental stewardship can advance together as part of the Sikkim Model of Development.

Urban forestry is also being strengthened through the establishment of Nagar Vans and Nagar Vatikas across Gangtok, Soreng, Gyalshing, Namchi and Pakyong. Similarly, the **Mero Bato, Mero**

Bot initiative is transforming roadsides into green corridors through thematic plantations of ornamental and flowering trees. During 2025, avenue plantations covering 235.11 kilometres were undertaken across the districts, improving roadside ecology while enhancing Sikkim's identity as a clean, green and sustainable tourism destination.

Our sustained efforts in wildlife conservation, habitat protection and scientific monitoring have borne remarkable results, leading to the documentation of several rare and significant species in the State. Tigers have been camera trapped at exceptional altitudes, including a record sighting at 3,966 metres in Kyongnosla. Evidence of tiger movement between Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary and Bhutan also demonstrates the success of

transboundary conservation and the preservation of vital ecological corridors.

The designation of Khecheopalri Wetland, as **Sikkim's first Ramsar Site** on February 2, 2025 was another historic achievement. This international recognition acknowledges the ecological, cultural and spiritual importance of this sacred wetland and strengthens our resolve to conserve it for future generations.

Significant progress has also been made in the conservation of the endangered Red Panda. In June 2025, two Red Panda cubs were born at the Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbulay, marking the first successful breeding event after a gap of seven years. This represents an important milestone under the State's Red Panda Conservation Breeding Programme.

The State Government's sustained commitment to wildlife conservation received further validation in 2026 with the remarkable sighting of a rare herd of **Mishmi Takin** and the photographic documentation of a **Eurasian Lynx** in Mangan District. The Mishmi Takin, a rare high-altitude goat-antelope endemic to the Eastern Himalayas, is renowned for its elusive nature and is considered one of the region's most significant alpine mammals. Equally significant was the photographic record of the Eurasian Lynx in Sikkim, marking only the second confirmed photographic record of the species across the entire Eastern Himalayas. These extraordinary discoveries underscore the ecological richness of Sikkim and reaffirm the success of the Government's sustained efforts to conserve the State's unique biodiversity and fragile mountain ecosystems.

My dear citizens,

As we reflect upon the progress made across every sector, one truth stands clear: the development of Sikkim is the outcome of a shared vision and the collective efforts of our people.

Our vision of Viksit Sikkim @2047, aligned with the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat @2047, is to create a State where every citizen has access to quality education, affordable healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, modern infrastructure and a clean and resilient environment; where our farmers prosper, our women lead with confidence, our youth compete with the best, our cultural heritage flourishes and our natural resources are preserved for generations to come.

As we look ahead, let us carry forward the spirit of unity, dedication and resilience that has brought us this far. The strength of Sikkim lies in the collective will of its people: our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, teachers, students, doctors, nurses, engineers, sportspersons, artists, public servants, security personnel and every citizen who contributes, in ways both visible and unseen, to the progress of our State.

I congratulate our meritorious awardees and all those whose professionalism, hard work and dedication have brought pride to Sikkim and contributed to the achievement of our collective goals.

Together, with collective resolve and the blessings of our people, we shall stride confidently towards a Viksit Bharat and a Sunaulo Sikkim, Samriddha Sikkim ani Samarth Sikkim, where every citizen can dream without limits, aspire without fear and achieve without barriers.

Once again, I extend my warmest greetings and wish the people of Sikkim a very happy 80th Independence Day.

**Thank you!
Jai Hind!
Jai Sikkim!**

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

A legacy of compassion leading to a future of hope

Inauguration of

SIKKIM'S FIRST

Organ Transplant Centre

AND

POST TRANSPLANT ICU

15th August 2026

Venue: STNM Hospital, Sochakgang