

Budget 2016-2017
Speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister/Finance Minister
March 21, 2016

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

At the outset, I would like to extend my warm greetings to the Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Members of this August House and to the people of Sikkim. This is the second full budget I am presenting as Finance Minister after we secured the mandate of the people for the fifth consecutive term. I am confident that this budget will herald greater prosperity and all round progress for the people, making the State the most forward-looking, innovative and progressive in the country.

I take this opportunity to thank the people of Sikkim for having stood by us through thick and thin during these past twenty-two years. We secured the faith and confidence of the people of Sikkim in 1994 to form a government of the people. We have since been steadfast in pursuing our goals of comprehensive development, quality delivery of services and ensuring peace and harmony among our Sikkimese society. Today, we have been able to emerge as a Government which will successfully complete its twenty fifth year, establishing an enviable track record of development. This is solely because the people of Sikkim have shown an abiding faith in this Government, its policies and what it has stood for.

Before I proceed with the presentation of the budget for the year 2016-17, I consider it my duty to express our deepest condolences on the untimely demise of late V. Rama Rao, the former Governor of Sikkim. May God give strength and fortitude to the bereaved family members in this hour of irreparable loss. My heartfelt condolences also goes to the family of Late Palden Lachungpa, the former Dy. Speaker of this August House from 1999-2004. In his passing, Sikkim has lost a dedicated person of great sagacity who kept the interest of the Sikkimese people at heart.

Like every budget, the budget for the year 2016-17 reflects the changing aspirations and needs of the people and it also embodies the renewed commitment of the Government to better our performance needed for optimum public good.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I may recall that in this August House on 24th February, 2003, the State Government adopted a resolution for transforming Sikkim into a “Total Organic State” and on 15th August 2010, the Organic Mission was launched with a clear road map for achieving the goal of a fully organic state.

Sikkim has now the pride of becoming the first State of India to be certified fully organic by accredited agencies and the Central Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji also graced the 2-day “National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare” on 18th January 2016 which had a particular focus on Sikkim completing its mission of becoming the first organic farming state in the Country. The outcome of the Conference has been recorded as the “Sikkim Declaration” which will be considered by the Union Government to become a part of the National Policy on Agriculture.

Sikkim was also appreciated as a unique place of happiness, progress and prosperity by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. In spite of many hurdles, what we have achieved in the Organic Mission is unprecedented and I urge all stakeholders to sustain and promote this noble venture further. The Organic Mission has been successful with the whole hearted support and cooperation of the farmers and other stakeholders. We must pledge today to sustain the Organic Mission in times to come. With this view in mind, the State Government has declared 18th January as “Organic Day” in Sikkim to be observed annually.

I thank and congratulate the members of farming community, my cabinet colleagues, MLAs, members of the Opposition Parties, Chief Secretary and all the government officials and the people of Sikkim for the support and cooperation in making this a success.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Today everybody recognises Sikkim. We have firmly stepped into an era of national recognition and appreciation for Sikkim. Today the entire nation looks towards Sikkim's innovative welfare programs. Other states in the country have started quoting Sikkim as an example. This is the result of our thinking, prudent action and honest purpose.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Having overcome many challenges and having served the State for the last twenty-two years, the State Government has full confidence to take on any challenge and take the State to new heights. With the support of all, our objective is to ensure that Sikkim moves forward in terms of employment growth, development and overall prosperity. Thus, I would like to place the following before the August House as the Road Map ahead.

The State Government is fully committed towards realising the dream of making Sikkim a model state, taking innovative steps towards development and initiating more competent strategies to accomplish our mission. Having been emboldened by the people's faith and confidence all these years, let me assure this August House that we shall spare no effort to dedicate our resources towards the fulfilment of pledges made before the people. I may mention with pride that we have fulfilled the basic minimum needs of people. The development strategy and the policies to be adopted by the State Government will be so determined that the aspirations of the masses are fully addressed.

Keeping every sector of development in mind, whether social, economic or infrastructure-related, we are already in the process of rolling out distinct road maps that will facilitate the implementation of developmental activities with a strong vision. As in the past, we will subscribe to a natural resource-based approach in our development strategy, duly underlining the need for environmental protection and sustainability. The efficiency of our development policy framework should not only be appreciated by the measuring stick of economic progress; It should also be assessed in terms of the mental and emotional well being enjoyed by the people.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

In our development strategy, participative planning and implementation has been the keynote policy prescription. Efforts are being made to facilitate the creation of an effective and vibrant Panchayati Raj Institution through greater decentralization and devolution of power at the grass-root level. My Government believes in people's empowerment as an enabling means to bring about a "bottoms-up approach". Such an approach is localized and reflective of the needs of the people at the grass root. The process of decentralization has been institutionalized and sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the administrative machineries at the local level. To

support the institutions of the Panchayati Raj, the establishment of 31 Block Development Offices covering the entire State has been completed and all citizen centric services are now being provided at the Block Development Centres only.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The overwhelming mandate and confidence placed upon us has been clearly evident in the 100% outcome in our favour in the recently concluded elections of the Urban Local Bodies. Here I stand once again to thank our people for placing this confidence which encourages us in our continued efforts to work for our people. I humbly urge my legislative colleagues to honour and respect this sacred mandate that we have received from the people of the State and diligently strive to fulfil the aspirations and expectations of every single Sikkimese.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I seek to inform this august House that the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission has also severely affected the State finances due to over estimation of GSDP which consequently has had an effect on the State's Revenue Estimates. In the current financial year (2015-16), devolution of funds to Sikkim has witnessed a decrease of 20% as compared to the release in 2014-15, whereas the total aggregate increase for all other States combined works out to 35%. This shortfall has occurred on the account of non-consideration of State specific grants by the 14th Finance Commission and discontinuation of Normal Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance and Additional Central Assistance etc.

The State Government had submitted the Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission during their visit to Sikkim presenting the demand of Rs. 20511.98 crore, whereas only Rs. 14884.39 crore, including the State Share of Rs. 17.00 crore, was awarded for the period of five years 2015-20.

Despite unfavourable award under the 14th Finance Commission, we are maintaining surplus in the revenue account and the fiscal deficit to the level prescribed by the Finance Commission. The introduction of Fiscal Reform and Budget Management Act, 2010, provided rule-based fiscal management with defined deficits and debt targets. As in the previous years, the fiscal deficit is projected to maintain at 3% in the budget estimate for the year 2016-17. Our diligent fiscal management has enabled us to keep the debt to GSDP

ratio and fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio within a manageable limit. I would like to inform this August House that the Union Government has accepted the Report of the Sub-group of Chief Ministers on rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes submitted in October 2015 and now the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are restructured and reduced to a maximum of 30 schemes only. Broadly, the sharing pattern for the core schemes for North Eastern States will be in the ratio of 90:10 and for optional schemes it will be 80:20 between Centre and State with greater flexibility in schemes.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Goods and Service Tax (GST), a revolutionary taxation measure, is proposed to be implemented across the country very shortly which will replace most of the Central and State indirect taxes. GST will be implemented concurrently by the Central and State Governments, adhering to the the core principle. GST being a single indirect tax will be levied on goods and services, treating the entire country as one market.

Sir, as far as Sikkim is concerned, like any other State, we are not yet in a position to quantify the revenue impact likely to occur due to implementation of GST. The Central Government has assured to compensate any revenue loss in the event that revenues of the States are negatively impacted.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Credit Deposit ratio of the banks in Sikkim has continued to be very low. The CD Ratio upto the end of December 2015 stands at 32.5% as against 65% to 70% at the national level and it is sad that the same has gone down over the corresponding period of last year. It has been a continuous endeavour of the State Government to protect the interest of the Depositors in the Non-Banking financial institutions and Chit Funds through awareness generation and implementation of Sikkim Protection of Interest of Depositors Act 2009. The State Government is fully committed to take all possible steps to protect the interest of the depositors.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I am aware that while transforming the dreams of the people into a reality, we have to overcome multiple challenges. The major portion of the receipts goes towards salaries, pension, and interest payments on debt servicing. However, in spite of this, I am happy to inform this August House that we have created

quality infrastructure for the benefit of the people, keeping with our vision to transform the State into a vibrant, progressive and advanced economy.

The State Government has taken a decision that all-ongoing projects will be completed on priority. In exceptional cases, we may take up new projects if found to be in the public interest. This August House will be delighted to know that the State Government has been constantly striving to take the maximum benefits from all development projects and programmes to the people. Further, fund allocations to the State will now be increasingly made conditional to proper monitoring and evaluation of the projects. We need to make the system transparent by fixing responsibility on every individual related to the project. This is true both with regards to governmental and non-governmental sources of funding.

We, in fact, need to institutionalise the entire mechanism. With a view to do so, we are setting up a Monitoring and Evaluation cell in Planning & Development Department itself.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

As part of the future course of action on the fiscal front, we have vigorously implemented all four schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna, Atal Pension Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna and Prime Minister Mudra Yojna. In Sikkim, 98.45% households have already been covered under the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojna. All cash transactions under different schemes covering old age pensions, woman empowerment grant, etc are credited directly to their bank accounts. The State Government also proposes to make the payment of Workcharge and Muster Roll employees by direct transfer to the bank accounts of the beneficiary backed by Aadhar card. In the year 1994, there were only 98 bank branches in Sikkim and at present, there are 139 branches covering all four districts of the State. We are also opening more branches at the remotest places so that beneficiaries can take full advantage of direct benefit transfer available at their door step.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The law and order situation in the State continues to hold an excellent record. The State Government takes pride in the fact that we have been able to provide comprehensive security cover for the State in terms of ensuring environmental, human and defence security. Our Police forces have always

displayed a high degree of alertness, vigil and have been swift in successfully averting any untoward situation.

The State Government has approved the establishment of 4 police Stations - one in each District fully manned by Lady Police personals. Modernisation of Fire and rescue services has gained prominence under the government. We are inducting new water tenders quick response vehicles, motorcycles and latest equipments to handle the rescue operations.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Although we are the second-smallest State in geographical size, Sikkim's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew at a high compound annual growth rate between 2004-05 and 2014-15. The State's economy is largely agrarian, based on the terrace-farming of rice and cultivation of crops such as maize, millet, cardamom, buckwheat, pulses, spices, cereals, oranges, tea etc. With only around 11% of the land under productive cultivation, emphasis on enhancing organic output through scientific and technological inputs will be underlined as the mainstay in our developmental strategy.

The State has 76, 392 hectares of its cultivated area certified as fully organic. The majority of farmers are small and marginal and it is pertinent to streamline our developmental strategy to reap maximum benefits to this sector of the farming community.

It is with this objective in mind that the State Government has given much impetus to schemes like the Soil Health Card Scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana as its flagship programmes besides other numerous schemes. Most of these schemes will focus on clusters of small and marginal farmers and through the process of implementation aim to empower the farming community on the overall aspects of modern farming and latest trends in the agriculture sector. All the schemes will be implemented in consultation and active participation of all concerned departmental officials, field functionaries, Panchayats, Self Help Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations and other key stakeholders so that they can take due advantage of the facilities the schemes will have on offer. With regard to the Soil Health Card Scheme, Sikkim will be the first state in the country to complete the three year project having a target of 7,444 composite samples covering all the

farmers of the State within one year. The effort of the State Government in taking up this scheme has been applauded on all forums.

Though the decision to opt for organic farming has its own set of tangible and intangible merits, the challenges are also quite daunting and being a novel venture, finding appropriate bio-alternatives to conventional ones are always a big challenge. In view of this, the Government is in the process of establishing bio-fertilizer plants within the State using local strains of micro-organisms for increasing their effectiveness.

The Government is also focusing on schemes which will make farming more lucrative and encourage the younger generation to opt for agriculture as a potential source of livelihood, thereby increasing the area under productive cultivation.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government is consistently supporting domestic farmers in the production of milk, meat, fish and egg production by providing requisite infrastructures. This is ensured through improving the productivity of livestock, protecting against diseases through preventive and curative health care facilities, developing skills of farmers in modern and scientific animal husbandry practices with adequate training programmes. This sector provides self-employment opportunities through livestock farming for which educated unemployed youth, farmers and self help groups of the State are being imparted training under Capacity Building programme on various traits of livestock sectors. The Government is now planning to take major initiatives for the conversion of existing practices into Organic Livestock farming.

The State Government has also taken up genetic upgradation of poor yielding livestock, by way of introducing better germ plasm into indigenous genetic pool through artificial insemination and other breeding practices.

With support from the North Eastern Council, two important infrastructures namely, Training Centre and Farmers' Hostel at Sokeythang, East Sikkim and District Veterinary Polyclinic at Boomtar, Namchi, South Sikkim are under construction. To provide disease-free meat to consumers, the Government is in the process of establishing Modern Abattoirs at Majitar, Melli and Gyalshing.

The Directorate of Fisheries is promoting sustainable development of the Fisheries sector by way of motivating rural masses through subsidized beneficiary schemes in limited area pond culture practices. The Coldwater resources of Sikkim are very congenial for Trout farming. We are popularizing trout culture in race ways among the farmers with financial and technical assistance. The Government proposes to give further impetus to this sector in the coming years.

I am happy to announce that the Government will take up distribution of milching cows to our farming communities during 2016-17 for which I am happy to allocate Rs. 2 crore in this fiscal year.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State government accords special importance to the quality of life of the rural citizens, hence, developmental strategies such as creation of quality rural infrastructure, provision of basic minimum services i.e water supply, rural connectivity roads, foot bridges, electricity and other amenities are designed keeping people's welfare in mind. Over the last two decades, the State Government has demonstrated exemplary leadership, good governance and innovative policies thereby leading to effective implementation of schemes and projects. Regular schemes related to sanitation and housing has been transformed into mission mode by adopting a saturation approach.

Sikkim became the first and only Nirmal Rajya in the country by achieving 100% sanitation coverage in 2008. Sanitation is given top priority in all developmental works and importance is given to this sector right across the State, District, Block to the Village level. The State is working to contribute towards achieving the goals of the “Swachha Bharat” campaign. We have made it mandatory for every household to have a functional sanitary toilet for availing benefits from the government.

The government is dedicated to the welfare of the poor and besides providing other facilities, grants financial assistance to the people living below the poverty line under the Chief Minister Rural Housing Mission to provide housing to those who reside in *kutcha* houses. Under CMRHM Phase I, 6000 households dwelling in *kutcha* houses as per the survey of January 2011 gets a single story and earthquake safe pucca house. Similarly, the State Government will take up construction of remaining houses under CMRHM Phase II and complete construction by 2018 to achieve the status of “Kutcha

house free” state and to ensure a “house for all”. I am pleased to announce allocation of Rs. 35 crore for the same during this fiscal year.

Rural connectivity has been the priority of the State Government in line with Government of India with revised funding pattern of 90:10 under PMGSY. The State has shown rapid progress in the construction of rural roads. Out of 1415.78 km of Rural Connectivity Roads Stage I (new cutting) sanctioned, 1209.05 km has been completed as of 31st December 2015 and majority of the remaining road length will be completed by March 2016. The Stage II carpeting works of 832.33 km was sanctioned, 218.47 km completed and remaining 613.86 km is proposed for completion by 2016-17. Besides, a new survey for left out habitations has been conducted and DPR preparation for 389.55 km has been completed.

Construction of rural roads is done on different stages based on completion plan being worked out from time to time with the Central Government. Given to fragile landscape of a hilly state like ours coupled with heavy monsoon, the State Government is doing everything possible for early completion of road construction.

Under MGNREGA, it is targeted that employment to 65,000 households with an average wage employment of 70 days will be achieved. A sizable part of this investment will be used to converge with the Chief Minister’s Rural Housing Mission and horticulture plantations, Bamboo and Medicinal Plants (Amla) plantations and Construction of water tanks, water ponds and artificial lakes jointly with the Horticulture & Agriculture Department, along with the construction of cow sheds under Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department.

Sikkim has been acknowledged amongst the best in the country for its outstanding performance in strengthening and developing the Panchyati Raj Institutions, bagging 5 National Awards in various categories including the devolution of power, function and funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions in 2015.

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

Over the past two decades, Sikkim has made tremendous progress under the Health Sector. The State Government is ever committed to providing

affordable, quality and state of art healthcare services to all the people of the State.

With an objective of making Sikkim a healthy and disease free state, the State Government has initiated a number of flagship programs. The Chief Minister's Annual and Total Health Checkup (CATCH) programme is being implemented in the State to provide total and comprehensive health check-ups to all its citizens at the ward level.

In addition to this, the State Government facilitates free treatment for people of Sikkim within and outside the State. For patients falling under the BPL category, 100 percent medical assistance is granted. Patients falling under the APL category are granted financial assistance of upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs at the time of treatment.

To provide better and specialized health care services to all its citizens, a multi-specialty hospital is also being constructed at Sokeythang, Gangtok. The project for the construction of a 575 bedded hospital is nearly complete with the provision of upgrading it to a 1000 bedded capacity hospital. Once it is completed, it will provide better and specialized health care facilities to the people of Sikkim and it will also provide better working conditions for the doctors, nurses and paramedics.

Furthermore, a five bedded Dialysis Unit has been started at the STNM Hospital and this is proving to be very beneficial to the patients with kidney disease, especially those belonging to the BPL category.

Successful implementation of these programs have helped to achieve critical milestones like the low Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 22 per thousand live births, elimination of leprosy and the reduction of tuberculosis and iodine deficiency in the State. The State during the past 22 years has made significant achievements in the health sector as reflected by the health indicators. For example, the Birth Rate per 1000 population has declined from 24.6 in 1994 to 17.1 in 2013 (SRS). Crude Death Rate per 1000 population has also decreased from 6.9 in 1994 to 5.2 in 2013 (SRS). Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1000 Live births has also declined from 46 in 1994 to 22 in 2013 (SRS). The Immunization coverage has increased from 48% in 1998-99 to more than 93% in 2015-16 as per the State report and Institutional delivery has also increased from 32% in 1998-99 to 98% at present.

These achievements are the result of good governance, peace and tranquillity prevailing in the State, along with the special emphasis given by the Government to the Health Sector.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government is committed to providing employment to the unemployed youth of the State and to increasing their employability through appropriate skilling on mission mode. Accordingly, in the year 2003, we started a skill development fund and since then, we have been taking various initiatives in this line. We have set up a separate Directorate of Capacity Building and State Institute of Capacity Building at Karfector besides setting up a number of Livelihood Schools to impart training in various disciplines. The capacity building initiatives of the government have witnessed commendable success.

Now, the State Government has created a new Department namely, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department. The Affairs of Directorate of Craftmanship Training Scheme & Employment (Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Directorate of Capacity Building, State Institute of Capacity Building and Livelihood Schools are brought under this new Department. On 21st December, 2015, Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC), a Hospitality Training Institute and a State Model Career Counselling Centre were set up within the Shram Bhawan complex at Sokeythang, Gangtok. We are also establishing a new Industrial Training Institute at Kewzing, South Sikkim, and a Pharma Training Centre at ITI, Rangpo complex.

Under the Government of India scheme launched recently, the State Government of Sikkim has approved the setting up of 4 new ITIs under PPP Mode for skilling the youth on a large scale. Two locations have been identified for this so far - one at Pakyong and another at Sokeythang. The Government also has plans to upgrade ITI at Namchi, besides converting two more State Model Career Counselling Centres at Jorethang and at Gyalsing into Model ITIs.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Tourism is perceived as the driver of economic growth and a sector capable of bringing about immense socio-economic transformation of a region. Sikkim has registered impressive development in the Tourism Sector since 1994 and today, tourism has become an important civil industry across the

State. It was in the mid 1990s when the tourism sector really started picking up in the State. This was because of a conscious and purpose-driven vision of tourism of the State Government, coupled with peace and tranquillity that has prevailed over the region since then. The objective of making Sikkim ‘**an ultimate eco-tourism destination**’ is being sensitively propagated under the brand of “responsible travel”, keeping in view the vision of future Sikkim. **Eco-Tourism** is being promoted through the planning of tourism related activities with optimum environmental care, guided by the principles of conservation and sustainability. The vision of the Government is to make tourism a key source of both income and employment in the State. It is evident that tourism not only creates jobs in the tertiary sector, it also encourages growth in the primary and secondary sectors of the economy.

The State Government has been consistently trying to create a conducive environment for Private-Public Partnership in its vision for promoting sustainable tourism in Sikkim. The objective is to create a friendly atmosphere for visitors, to develop human resources and generate synergy amongst all players such as the government, local administration, local people, media, private developers, operators of facilities, tourists and NGOs. It is also stressed upon to abide by the principle to regulate “responsible tourism” so that the negative social, economic and environmental impacts are minimized. In the last two decades, the growth in tourist arrival in the State has been over 1000% and this increase is likely to further accelerate when some major ongoing projects and facilities are completed. The issue of the lack of air connectivity will also soon be addressed after the completion of the Airport at Pakyong by mid 2017.

The role of the Tourism Department is not limited to creating tourism infrastructure at the designated places of tourist interest, but capacity building exercise and sensitization programme are being conducted at a regular interval. Tourism societies have been formed at the village, sub-division and district levels in order to effectively monitor and propagate various tourism related activities at different levels. The Government is also giving higher impetus to **rural tourism** in view of ensuring significant tourism benefits directly to the rural communities. Homestays are one of the integral components of Rural Tourism and as much as 660 homestays are currently being run out of the targeted 720 homestays in the State. The declaration of Sikkim as a “Fully Organic State” has had its impact in boosting the overall

tourist economy across the State. Currently, there are numerous tourism pilot projects underway and in the pipeline.

The Inner Line Permit /Restricted Area Permit are being streamlined for easy issuance of permits to the remote areas of Sikkim especially targeting the international visitors. 'Green' and 'Clean' drives are routine events in various parts of Sikkim. Fairs and festivals are being celebrated in grand ways to showcase Sikkim's unique cultural and traditional ethos. Our future plan is to make Sikkim an attractive destination for high-end tourism by creating landmark tourism products that would be a unique brand of Sikkim. These would include ethnic cultural centres, folk healer center, shaheed gram, city centre, golf course, skywalk etc. Efforts are being made to explore the ways and means to execute such mega projects either through PPP mode or under Externally Aided Scheme.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government has accorded top priority to the human resource development sector by allocating as much as 20% of the State budget towards it. I firmly believe that the development of human resource is key to the development of the State and that Sikkim would require competent and responsible man power in all fields to take it to the next phase of its developmental trajectory. I am pleased to inform this August House that we have started yoga classes in the primary section of all 763 Government Schools in the State since the beginning of the current academic session. To prepare for this, we took an ambitious step of sending 600 primary and pre-primary teachers to Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar, in a chartered train for a 15 day intensive residential training on yoga by the respected Swami Ramdevji. I am also happy to announce that by doing this, Sikkim became the first State in the entire country to have taken this innovative and farsighted step towards improving the physical, mental and spiritual health of our future generation. I am also happy to inform this August House that from the current academic session, we have started LKG and UKG classes in all government schools. In other words, we have started admitting children in our schools at the age of 4 years instead of 6 years. We have taken steps to provide child-friendly classrooms for these junior classes and colourful uniforms for our young children. It is hoped that this step will help us in arresting the decline in the enrolment at the primary level. The State Government has also initiated steps for the recruitment of Graduate Teachers in the Nepali language in February 2015 for greater promotion and conservation of linguistic diversity in Sikkim.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

After achieving the target of being a 100% organic State, we have decided to make Sikkim 100% literate State by 1st of January 2019 under Mukhya Mantri Saksharta Mission.

We are taking special care to ensure that our teachers are transformed from being a mere government employee to “gurus” in the real sense of the term. For this purpose, we have embarked upon an ambitious programme of motivating our teachers, giving them training for increasing their proficiency in the English language and training in Science and Mathematics. I am pleased to share with this August House that we have installed Smart Interactive Boards in 72 classrooms in our schools which will be expanded to nearly 200 classrooms in the coming year. These Smart Interactive Boards are the best in the world in terms of technology and our teachers have been adequately trained to handle them.

During the coming year, all our schools will be equipped with state of the art computer hardware and internet connection. Keeping in line with the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, separate toilets for boys and girls have now been provided in all government schools. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, we are now concentrating on improving the quality of teaching and learning through various interventions including Book Fairs, Excursions, Science Melas etc. Further, for the first time, 10 of our 64 senior secondary schools shall be shortly receiving accreditation under Quality Council of India by complying with their stringent quality norms.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Sikkim is the only State in the country which is providing free education to everyone upto the College level with free uniforms, exercise books and text books etc. Furthermore, education is free upto university level for children belonging to the BPL category. In order to bring qualitative improvement in our higher education sector, our State has joined the Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This programme supports us in the improvement of infrastructure in our Government Colleges, as well as in the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning that takes place in these institutions. Further, RUSA has also approved, in principle, the creation of a State University by

combining Colleges in a cluster with Sikkim Government College, Tadong, as the lead College.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The contribution of the industrial sector in the State's economic development has been significant. However, my Government has been making efforts to attract major investors by creating an investment friendly climate supported by a sound investment policy framework that provides for an enabling legal framework and congenial investment conditions including attractive fiscal incentives. Certain areas identified for private sector investment participation include tourism related industries, transport and trade related services, software development and electronic based industries, pharmaceutical industry, health care and education, horticulture, food processing, handicraft and handloom etc.

I have taken a personal interest and initiative in organising a series of meets to interact with major industrial houses from all over the Country and outside with a view to invite investments in the State. These efforts have yielded positive results and as of today, we have projects from major business houses in areas like tourism, hydel power, education, health, hotel industry, pharmaceuticals and food processing etc. These have brought in investments to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore and employ more than 21,000 people.

The State Government is, in fact, looking forward to synergize efforts with the "Make in India" campaign in a big way through our investor friendly policies and facilitation Board.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State has a very good record of environment-friendly development and many environmental indicators of the State show a strong positive trend in conservation in the State. The forest cover of the State has recorded an increase from 43% to 47.80% of the total geographical area over the past two decades. New species of flora and fauna have been recorded and water sources have been replenished. Kanchenjunga National Park was also listed in the top 100 Green Global Destinations in 2015. Two new measures have been introduced to check pollution, namely, the prohibition of manufacture, sale and use of fire crackers and the burning of agriculture wastes.

The innovative flagship programs of the State such as the State Green Mission, Smriti Ban, Ten Minutes to Earth and Paryavaran Mahotsava are

continuing. Every year from 15th to 30th June, public from all walks of life take active participation in the planting of tree saplings. Plantation drives on forest land were also taken up on over more than 5008.6 hectares of land. Two new programs of National Mission for a Green India and Forest Plus relating to climate change mitigation by extending the forest cover are being taken up.

The State has 30.77% of area under wildlife protection. Captive breeding of Red Panda, Blue Sheep, Ghoral, Leopard Cat, Pheasants and Large Indian Civet have been successfully taken up in the Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbulay. Research on various aspects of wildlife conservation is also being done including the survey of wildlife.

Further, the State Government has decided to develop a Biodiversity Park at Tendong for which a provision of Rs. 1 crore is provided to start the work.

Plantation of medicinal plants in more than 2500 ha areas have been carried out in all four Districts. The State Medicinal Plants Board (SMPB) has enlisted 1649 medicinal plants and aromatic plants in Sikkim as a step towards ex-situ conservation of important medicinal plants. 800 Ha of area which is rich in high valued medicinal plants have also been demarcated as Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCA) as a step towards in-situ conservation. Biodiversity conservation is being undertaken through the State Biodiversity Board under my Chairmanship. Biodiversity Management Committees are being set up at the Gram Panchayat Unit level.

The State Government has adopted participatory forest management in the State for more than the past 15 years. This model ensures that local communities have a role in planning forestry activities and they benefit out of that. Currently, 228 Joint Forest Management institutions are functioning. Self Help Groups are being formed to take up forest-related income generation activities like sericulture and agro-forestry under various schemes of the Government.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Climate Change has emerged as one of the most challenging global issues. In view of the likely adverse impacts of Climate Change on the livelihood practices of people of our State, it is proposed to strengthen the State Knowledge Cell on Climate Change. The State Action Plan for Climate

Change was formulated by involving various stakeholders which was released in the year 2015. Studies are underway to see its impact on alpine ecosystems, glacier dynamics and high altitude lakes so that necessary remedial measures could be proposed to address the issues related to the vulnerability of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood phenomenon. In addition, Bioinformatics and Environmental Information System are also such platforms available for outreach of scientific information.

We have taken up the establishment of a new state-of-art biotechnology laboratory where work at molecular level is being carried out on disease control for large cardamom, ginger and oranges of Sikkim. Sikkim is endowed with a number of natural products and indigenous technologies which needs to be safeguarded in terms of intellectual property. We are in the process of registering Geographical Indications for products like Temi Tea and Sikkim Mandarin, Lepcha Hat, Lepcha Dari. Sirimna cardamom shall be taken up in the second stage.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government is leaving no stone un-turned to improve the quality of Governance through various e-governance initiatives in the State. A well defined Information Technology policy is already in place which was notified in the year 2006. We had setup 45 community service centres and we are now trying to revive them to provide e-governance services to the people of the State. Due to connectivity problems, there had been a setback in the IT enabled services and we have taken up this matter very seriously with Government of India. We have been assured to receive stable connectivity by the end of 2016.

Sikkim, with a distinctive record in preserving the environment and enhancing forest cover, transforming the entire agriculture area under organic farming, and encouraging the generation of multiple forms of clean energy, such as, hydro-power is ideally placed to generate synergies through extensive use of Information Technology (IT) in all aspects of governance. In the coming year, emphasis will be given to connecting all Gram Panchayat Units (GPUs) in Sikkim with fast and reliable broadband connectivity; rolling out Government to Citizen (G to C) centric services; and creating electronic platforms and kiosks for making these services available to the citizens of Sikkim at their doorstep in a timely, reliable and efficient manner. The State Government will also endeavour to attract investments in IT and IT Enabled

Sectors (ITES), with a view to make Sikkim the IT “hotspot” of the Country. With all the measures that are proposed to be taken up, we intend to make Sikkim the first ‘smart’ State of the country, and firmly establish Sikkim’s reputation as a State which leads by example and one that is always ahead of the curve.

Besides providing mobile technology like m-Tourism, online payments, e-waste collection, inner line permit tracking system, e-tendering and e-procurement etc., efforts are also being made to provide WiFi services in all major towns. To interface, it is proposed to have a Video Conferencing facility established upto BDO level.

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

Mission Poverty Free Sikkim was launched by the State Government in 2009 with the objective of achieving a poverty free status. In Sikkim, no one goes hungry to bed and every person has a roof over their head. However, what makes Sikkim Government unique is the ability to go beyond ensuring basic food security, shelter, literacy and health for all, and truly raising the standard of living of all the people in rural Sikkim.

The State Government has introduced Individual Digitalised Ration Card with photographs to all the eligible residents of the State. National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013, has been made applicable in Sikkim to provide food security to the poor and vulnerable sections of society. This Act has mandated to cover only two categories of beneficiaries in Sikkim: 16,500 families under Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and 3,24,081 ration card holders under Priority Households (PHH) categories. These groups are categorised as NFSA beneficiaries. 35 kgs of rice at Rs. 3.00 per kg per month is provided to each member of PHH. To facilitate safe storage and effective distribution of food grains, 27 full-fledged godowns have been setup all over the State.

The Consumer Protection Act is in force in the State since 1986 and a State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission with a sitting Judge as its President, along with a District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum with a Sitting District and Session Judge as its President, are fully functional for consumer redressal. In addition, a Legal Metrology Unit is deeply involved for quality, quantity and potency of products. Annual verification and stamping of weights and measures as well as weighing and measuring instruments are being carried out regularly.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Our vision is to create a well developed network of roads, bridges and other transport infrastructure facilities for improved productivity and economic efficiency of transport. These will act as a catalyst to the overall development of the State. The development of roads has played a vital role in the State's economy. My Government has built many impressive RCC and steel bridges all over the State using specially fabricated steel plates ensuring safety. New steel and concrete bridges have replaced all conventional structures. The State's bridge construction and design represents development, influencing vaulted architecture itself.

The State Government maintains 225.23 kms of various road networks in the State out of which National Highways make up 138.78 kms, State Highways – 701.09 kms, Major District roads – 1080.85 kms, and other District roads – 334.51 kms. Existing roads leading to the District Headquarters and important tourist destinations are being widened and converted to the double lane standard from the existing single lanes. In yet another development, a key decision has been taken by the Government to take over the following roads for upkeep and maintenance from the BRO.

1. National Highway – 10 starting from Rangpo to Gangtok.
2. National Highway – 310 from Bojhoghari to 3rd Mile Check Post.
3. Indira Bypass.
4. Old Jawaharlal Marg starting from Zero Point and terminating at Junction with Northern Bypass.

I would also like to mention that the Government has procured Bailey Bridges which can be erected in no time during an emergency where connectivity is disrupted due to landslides.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Water Resources and River Development Department which was earlier know as Irrigation Department is responsible for the planning, management and development of water resources besides undertaking flood control and anti-erosion works in the State. Over the years, the achievement of the Department from 1994-95 to 2015-16 in the creation of cultivable Irrigation Potential has been 37,318 hectares of which 30,249 hectares is being utilized. Through the Flood Management Programme of the Government of India, the

Department has till date undertaken 28 major river training and anti-erosion projects. Presently, 17 schemes have been given the approval by the Inter Ministerial Committee on FMP (IMC-FMP), Government of India. The North Eastern Council (NEC) also extends assistance in taking up anti erosion and flood control projects.

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

Social Security and Social Defense form the foundation of our agenda of inclusive development. The Government is implementing a number of welfare schemes for the welfare of Old Aged Persons, Persons with Disabilities and Differently Abled Children by providing Old Age Pensions, Subsistence Allowance and Scholarships. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, has agreed for funding to establish a Composite Regional Centre at Kitchudumra, South Sikkim.

The Government is also committed for the empowerment of women by implementing various welfare schemes for their up-liftment in society. The Government also proposes to establish a Women Helpline and One Stop Crisis Centre in the State for women in need of urgent help. The State Commission for Women is constituted by the State Government for the overall development of women in the State and to safeguard from Domestic Violence. The Commission is also conducting awareness programmes to bring awareness amongst women about their rights. Beside this, the State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights was also constituted by the State Government as a Statutory Body to oversee issues relating to welfare of children.

The Government is also implementing the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to bring several existing child protection programmes under one umbrella with improved norms and objectives. This is to provide a safe and secure environment to the children in the State who are in need of care and protection, as well as to children in conflict with the law. Under the ICPS scheme, the Government has also taken up the construction of four new Child Care Institutions.

The State Government has taken special care for the children between the ages of 0-6 years. The State Government is providing milk and eggs in addition to the nutrition provided under ICDS. Once a day, the Government also provides the children with kheer which adds to their nutritional

requirement. The State Government has also provided an additional honorarium to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers to motivate them to work hard for the welfare of children. The State Government also proposes to provide the children in ICDS with dry fruits in addition to the above items.

The State Government is also dedicated towards special efforts for the welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs. The establishment of the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board is one of the achievements of the Government to work for the welfare of the Primitive Lepcha Tribe. Beside this, the Scheduled Tribe Welfare Board, Scheduled Caste Welfare Board, OBC Welfare Board have been constituted for the welfare of these communities in the State.

The State Government implemented the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana to improve the quality of life and education of tribals, to provide qualitative and sustainable employment, bridge infrastructure gaps and protect tribal culture and heritage. In the same way, the Multi Sectoral Development Programme is implemented in Minority Concentration Blocks in North Sikkim to improve the socio-economic conditions of minorities. Its main objective is to provide basic amenities for improving the quality of life of the Minority.

The State Government is also constructing a number of Hostels for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in order to facilitate the education of marginalized communities. Beside this, scholarships for SC, ST, OBC community members are being provided by the Government on the basis of merit. The Government has also included the State OBC for grant of Scholarship. The Scheduled Caste children are also being provided Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Merit Scholarships.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government declared the year 2002 as the "Year of Cooperatives" with the objective of facilitating all round promotion of cooperatives. As a result, there are altogether 3610 cooperatives formed by more than one lakh persons compared to 1994-95 during which there were only 253 cooperatives inclusive of 35 MPCs formed during the eighties. As of March 2015, the total annual turnover of the cooperatives is about Rs. 300 crore as compared to Rs. 30 crore during 1994-95. Under the dairy sector, Sikkim Milk Union Ltd., the apex federation, has an annual turnover of Rs. 44.17 crore for collection and supply of quality milk and milk products to marketable places throughout the State including the army and armed force personnel stationed in Sikkim.

During 2014-15, SIMFED has marketed agriculture produce worth Rs. 325.63 lakhs compared to Rs. 232.96 lakhs in 2013-14. Mobile van for marketing fresh vegetables in and around Gangtok has also been introduced by SIMFED in 2014.

Since the formation of Gram Panchayat level various types of construction related cooperatives till March 2015, the Department has registered 2867 cooperatives throughout the State. More than 1500 contractual works worth over Rs. 500.00 crore were awarded to these cooperatives and the works so awarded have been mostly found to be satisfactorily executed by these cooperatives.

The State Government has decided to open SISCO branches (Sikkim State Co-operative Bank Ltd.) in all 31 Block Development Offices to facilitate easy access to banking facilities for our farmers and people who reside in villages.

The construction of the Sikkim Cooperative Union building is under progress and upon completion, the Department could carry out the extension work of training and education, including mass awareness and publicity for promotion of the cooperative movement. The institute which is likely to be completed by the end of 2016 will commence the course of Institute of Cooperative Management (ICM) with the help of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi. As of now there are 59 MPCs buildings to accommodate shops, godowns, and office cum meeting halls constructed by the Government. It will also help in promoting the marketing of organic agriculture produce through cooperatives. I am also happy to inform this august house that the State Government has identified all the existing MPCs in Sikkim for the exclusive marketing of organic produce only to further boost organic farming in the State.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Building and Housing Department entrusted with the development of physical infrastructure is also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of prominent buildings like the Raj Bhawan, Chief Justice and Judge's Bungalows etc. The major ongoing schemes undertaken by the Department are the construction of a 575 bedded Mutli-Speciality Hospital at Sichey, Tashiling Secretariat, Chenrenzi at Sangak Choeling at Pelling and Stairway

to Heaven (Rumlyang Tungrong) at Daramdin. My Government also proposes to take up the construction of the Circuit House Annexe building, Banquet Hall, Conference Hall, fly over bridges, a world class library, a city centre and parking plazas in and around Gangtok.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government adopted a shift in approach in planning, evolving towards an eco-friendly, comprehensive, integrated and people-centric development of the entire State. This approach is embedded within the framework of the city-state concept whereby all development activities will be channelized in a holistic and equitable manner to narrow the urban-rural divide in various aspects. All the towns located in the District headquarters and Sub-divisional headquarters, including other notified townships in the State, are enlisted to undertake an integrated package of urban reform.

The distribution of population in urban areas reveals a very high incidence of concentration in the East District with 88 percent of the total population followed by South District with 9 percent, West District with 2 percent and North District with 1 percent of the population. The pressure from population density is centred within Gangtok. The State capital is a centre of tremendous growth as it is the administrative and commercial hub of the State. The rural-urban migration triggered by better prospects of employment and business opportunities coupled with a higher standard of living has saddled the civic administration in the capital with enormous burden. The magnitude of problems with housing shortages, traffic congestions, sewerage and sanitation deficiencies, garbage disposal etc., pose a formidable challenge. These are issues of serious concern which need to be addressed.

With the saturation of Gangtok city and the uncontrollable migration into the capital and adjoining hinterland, there is a need and urgency to develop alternative infrastructural facilities to act as counter magnets to ease the congestion in Gangtok. We have made a comprehensive plan to develop residential colonies including satellite townships in the vicinity of the capital to mitigate the ever increasing pressure on Gangtok. This task will be carried through in earnest and without compromise. The over-saturation of Gangtok which leaves little room for taking up any civic infrastructural development works must be recognised. All these issues of concern are intended to pre-

empt the pitfalls of uncontrolled and haphazard growth of the capital which would be disastrous.

The serene and picturesque ambience created along MG Marg in Gangtok is an example of urban beautification work that the Government will replicate in all other townships throughout the State. I would like to humbly acknowledge people's appreciation, including that of the visiting tourists, of our innovative pebbled lane developed at the heart of the city at MG Marg.

The major functions of Solid Waste, Sanitation, Bazaar/Car Parking Contract, Trade License, Urban Poverty Alleviation etc. have been transferred to the respective Urban Local Bodies. For rest of the Class II towns and bazaars, these functions are still being looked after by the Department. Class II bazaars include Pakyong, Rhenock, Rongli, Rorathang, Ravongla and Melli.

Gangtok was also awarded the Safaigiri Award by India Today as the cleanest hill station in India. During the year under Smart City, Namchi has been considered as one of the 98 cities to be taken up under the mission scheme. Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, the Service Level Improvement Plan is nearing completion and will be submitted to the Central Ministry.

I am happy to announce that all the 39 small bazaars will be taken up for development from the year 2016-17 on a phase wise manner under the "Micro-Cities" concept. Creation of infrastructure including a city centre in Gangtok, construction of town halls in other cities, flyovers, open theatres, beautification and upgradation of sewerage system, water supply and sanitation shall be taken up.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Energy and Power Department is engaged in the generation of electricity, its transmission to various load centres and finally distribution to consumers of all categories. As a whole, the Department is responsible for the development of power projects in the State in order to meet the ever growing demand of electricity in the country and to raise revenue for the State.

In addition to the existing 510 MW Teesta Stage V HEP and 60 MW Rangit HEP both under NHPC, and 99MW Chujachen HEP, the 96 MW Jorethang Loop Hydro Electric Project has started commercial operation.

Furthermore, 90 MW Tashiding HEP, the 96 MW HEP at Dikchu, and 1200 MW Teesta Stage III HEP is expected to be commissioned during the financial year 2016-17.

A comprehensive scheme for strengthening the distribution and transmission system in the State is currently being undertaken by the Power Grid Corporation of India for Sikkim.

The State Government under the umbrella of “24 X 7 Power for All” plans to provide uninterrupted power supply to all connected consumers as well as unconnected households by way of Intensive Electrification and System Strengthening with due attention to the reduction of AT&C losses, improvement of billing, collection efficiency etc. Suitable projections have been made under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). Under DDUGJY, 100% of rural households will be provided electricity with free connections to rural BPL households. This scheme will also strengthen the electricity distribution backbone in rural areas.

Our Government is also working towards empowering our consumers by making modern and convenient amenities available to them. The commissioning of e-payment system of electricity bills for consumers of Gangtok and surrounding areas is a step in this direction. The e-payment system is already operational and is running successfully.

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

We are working to provide safe, reliable and comfortable travelling facilities to the public. 41 new buses have been procured by the Transport Department to facilitate a convenient mode of transport and to add connectivity to all far flung places in the State. Two new Regional Transport Offices at Namchi, and Soreng have been established. There is a strong felt need for the construction of a Motor Vehicle office beside the Bus Terminus at Siliguri.

During the year 2016-17, the State Government proposes to establish composite check posts with weigh bridges at Rangpo, Melli and Reshi.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, Government of India, has approved the establishment of Inspection and Certification Center at Jalipool. The work will be executed by the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT),

Pune, as an agency for the Ministry. Further, an Institute of Driving, Training & Research (IDTR) will be setup with financial assistance from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, Government of India. The State Government also proposes online registration for vehicles and smart card for driving license and payment of token tax.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The youth in the State is our prime resource. They are our future. They will determine our destiny in the next 20-60 years. The State Government fully appreciates the role and potential of our youth and the contribution they are capable of making in the nation building process. Our Government has been extensively and consistently working for the over-all development of our youth. We would like to make them our development focus. This is why we have declared the year 2005 as the "Youth Revolutionary Year" in Sikkim. We want all our youth to be gainfully employed. We want to create the environment and opportunities for our youth to harness their talents. We want our youth to be leaders both nationally and internationally in various fields. We want our youth to promote our own culture while learning positive aspects of other cultural practices.

Sports plays a vital role in the day to day life of the youth. In this connection, the Government of Sikkim is creating a number of sports related infrastructure for the development of sports activities for the youth of Sikkim. The Government also conducts various sports and games in the State. I am happy to inform that our young boys and girls are participating in various sports disciplines in National and International competitions. The youth of Sikkim, boys and girls, have participated in the Youth Festival held at Guwahati in May 2015 and secured 3rd position in the country.

The State Government has also launched cash incentive awards to meritorious sports person to motivate the youth of Sikkim to excel in sports and to encourage their overall development. The Department is distributing this award to the medal winners in National and International championships like Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games.

Training is also imparted in Sikkim to the young talents in the State on various disciplines such as Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Badminton, Football, Table Tennis and Wushu. We have also setup the Sikkim Youth Development Board to look after the overall development of Youth and Sports in the State.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I shall now dwell on the budgetary profile for the current financial year. The size of the Annual Plan has been tentatively fixed at Rs. 2817.68 crores which includes annual borrowings of Rs. 602.95 crores.

In this budget, I have proposed total gross amount of Rs. 5884.43 crores comprising of Rs. 2834.35 crores under Plan which includes allocations under the dispensation of North Eastern Council, Non-Lapsable Pool of Central Resources and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and a provision of Rs. 3050.08 crores under Non-Plan account. The estimate includes the provisions made as recoveries which are adjustable as reduction in expenditure, subsequently.

I have projected the gross receipt of Rs.5821.23 crores which includes tax revenue of Rs. 646.06 crores and Non-Tax revenue of Rs.362.26 crores. I shall now present the highlights of the Budget for the year 2016-17 with a summarized account of the receipts and disbursements incorporated in the budget.

(Rs. in Crore)

| A | RECEIPTS | AMOUNT |
|----------|--|---------------|
| 1 | State's Revenue | |
| | i) Tax Revenue | 646.06 |
| | ii) Non-Tax Revenue | 362.26 |
| 2 | Grants-in-Aid | 1782.03 |
| 3 | State's Share of Central Taxes | 2094.95 |
| 4 | Loans from Financial Institutions & Govt. of India | 840.30 |
| 5 | STIDF & Environmental Cess | 85.00 |
| 6 | Recoveries of Loans and Advances | 0.78 |
| 7 | Net Public Accounts | 9.85 |
| A | Total Receipt | 5821.23 |
| B | EXPENDITURE. (NET) | |
| 1 | Plan Expenditure | 2818.18 |
| 2 | Non-Plan Expenditure | 3003.08 |
| B | Total Expenditure | 5821.26 |

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State Government will continue to consolidate our achievements made in all the core sectors including education, health, social justice etc. Sikkim topped in almost all growth indicators registering the highest per capita income index in the country. Now the focus will be on qualitative development with innovative thinking to design future development programs. One of our challenges has been to free Sikkim from the culture of widespread consumerism. Organic farming is one such campaign towards this goal. Large scale production of organic produce, organic manure and cash crops special to Sikkim will make us self-sufficient and self-reliant in the long run.

The State Government has already initiated a large number of reform measures raising benchmarks in all sectors at the regional and national level. Sikkim has been receiving a large number of prizes at the national level for achievements in various sectors. Recently, the India Today Group recognized our contribution in five different categories and also complimented Sikkim's achievements, terming the State as the "pocket size power house" in the country. This recognition at the national level is for everyone to see.

The State Government is working towards creation of permanent Institutions to benefit our people for promoting knowledge, history, culture, our way of life, living and belief and bolster these centres for all times to come. With this in view, the State Government will initiate the setting up of the following institutions during the coming financial years.

State Library: The State Government has worked out a comprehensive project to establish India's biggest library in Sikkim as a centre of knowledge: a 'gyan mandir'. The library will house digital and conventional library collections including e-books, audio books, photo archives, rare books on Sikkim, etc. I am happy to announce the allocation of Rs. 1 crore for the purpose during 2016-17.

Folk Healer Centre: A folk healer centre is proposed to be developed in Assam Lingzey. This centre will showcase all the traditional healers

belonging to different communities of Sikkim. I also allocate a sum of Rs. 1 crore for this purpose.

Shaheed Gram: This complex or village will showcase the contribution of our freedom fighters in India. Busts and statues of Indian martyrs shall be installed in the complex. This is proposed to be developed in the area below Bhanu Bhakta Statue, Geyzing, West Sikkim. An initial allocation of Rs. 1 crore is made for the purpose.

Ethnic Cultural Centre: This will be a common complex, a museum of all 21 communities, to showcase customs and traditions, food habits, lifestyles and way of life of our people. Traditional houses made of eco-friendly building materials and ethnic bazaars selling items would be its hallmarks. This complex will also offer a visual history of Sikkim at one place. I also allocate Rs. 1 crore for this purpose in this Budget.

Rock-Carved Statues: The idea is to carve imposing statues of the indigenous people of Sikkim on a hilltop. As an initial project, we can install statues of our people in the traditional attire reflecting the essential identity of our people to the outside world. I also make the initial allocation of Rs. 1 crore for this purpose.

The State Government places on record the support and encouragement received from the people of Sikkim. I am personally overwhelmed by the warm response of the people for all the people-oriented policies we have put forward in the past and in the present. I assure the people of Sikkim that the State Government will always support the “Sikkimisation” or the promotion of Sikkim-friendly policies. A “Sikkim Centric” philosophy and approach will always be at the core of our developmental efforts.

I would also like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Hon’ble Members from the ruling as well as opposition benches for their support and cooperation. Honourable members, I beseech you that in the interest of the people of Sikkim, let us uphold the principles of integrity and ideology.

We, as the people’s representatives have the responsibility of supporting and strengthening the process of State and Nation building. This responsibility specifically asks for a united effort from all. In a democracy, progress is made through mutual discussion and persuasion, and not by violent means. Let us

all be united in Sikkim and let us together rededicate ourselves to maintain peace and tranquillity and to ensure that Sikkim grows to become a global example of innovation and progress.

The Budget is not just a collection of figures and amount but an expression of our values, aspirations and expectation. It is with this thought that I dedicate this 22nd budget of our Government to the people of Sikkim.

JAI SIKKIM, JAI HIND

