

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I stand here to present the budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 to the august house of Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

The entire world including India has been enduring the second wave of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic. Numerous people became victims of this fatal pandemic which has affected the economy and societies worldwide. Currently, related diseases like 'black fungus' has instilled fear among the people. Despite our comprehensive effort to minimise human casualties, we are deeply hurt by the deaths of our citizens due to COVID-19 in Sikkim. Maximum number of people we lost had comorbidities and we extend our prayers to all our Mountain deities, Goddesses and Gods to guide the departed souls and provide strength to the bereaved families to gradually overcome their tragic loss.

It has been a formidable challenge for the scientific community, medical practitioners, the entire health system and also the entire governance framework to deal with this pandemic. It has created layers of borders, fears, doubts and concern at all levels.

Fortunately, we now have vaccines that can protect us from the virus. These vaccines are wonders in terms of their life-saving powers which have been created by our scientific and medical communities in record time. I convey

my heartfelt thanks to the scientists and agencies for their timely and all-encompassing humanitarian contribution. India as a whole has suffered immensely.

The lockdowns brought a new set of unimaginable difficulties and adversely affected every segment of our economy and geographies. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister and his team have been striving to minimize the number of deaths and also its impacts. We could see a range of measures last year including *Atmanirbhar Bharat* after the first round of pandemic in March-June 2020. We are keenly looking forward to substantive measures in the next few months to overcome the adversity resulting from the second round of pandemic.

We fully support the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the central government in the endeavour to stop the COVID-19 pandemic and overcome its damaging impact. We would like to sincerely thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and each member of his team for all the support extended to the people of Sikkim in this time of global crisis.

We understand how challenging and difficult it must have been for the government to limit the effects of the pandemic. The people of Sikkim appreciate and thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government of India for all the consistently caring support.

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

We are aware of the impact of this deadly pandemic on our people, societies, communities and also economy and livelihood. Not even a year had passed since we took over the governance when we were hit by the pandemic. Our Government was voted to power only 9 months back in May 2019. We were working to manage the inherited staggering debt burden to the tune of over ₹ 20,000 crore and an empty exchequer from the previous Government. We were trying to rebuild and instill confidence in institutions that lay neglected and standards and systems that remained destroyed. The entire spectrum of government employees had been thoroughly demoralized and nepotism was at its highest point, depriving the youths of various opportunities. Unfortunately amidst all these, we were abruptly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We quickly realized that despite 25 years of remaining in power, the previous government in Sikkim did not even provide the significant primary amenities in the health systems and the state health infrastructure was in total disarray. I must personally admit that had it not been for the support of my very committed legislators and minister colleagues, officials, doctors, nurses, health workers, police personnel, community organizations, civil society members and the media it would have been very difficult for us to tackle this pandemic. Being located within the boundaries of the international borders, national security is our prime

consideration and had to deal with the pandemic with a unique approach.

Despite serious financial constraints and severe geographical handicaps and also suddenness of the spread of pandemic across the world and in India, the State Government has been able to put together a considerable level of physical infrastructures and facilities to deal with the COVID-19.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Lockdown has been a significant means to stop the spread of this pandemic. However, lockdown set off demands and supply shocks both within sectors and in its connected activities. Further, the supply and value chains remain adversely affected. Our quick estimates show that in the first set of lockdown during March-May 2020 the projected shortfall in Gross State Domestic Value Added (GSVA) was to the extent of ₹ 2066 crore and Gross State Domestic Product was at around ₹ 2200 crore. The maximum brunt of loss of ₹ 966 crore fell on the services sector including tourism, and the minimum on the agriculture sector (₹ 212 Crore).

The lockdown is being observed during the second wave of pandemic during the peak summer tourism season. It has affected the entire mechanism of tourism activities viz travel agency, transport, hotel & restaurants, homestays, adventure service providers, tourist markets

and individual service providers such as guides, photographers, food and agriculture. There is an immeasurable adverse impact on a range of ancillary activities that emanate from forward and backward linkages of the tourism industry in the State like hawkers, markets, food producers, privately hired services, labourers and many others. These services could never be monetised as they are scattered and to a large extent, unorganised.

An example of the effects of lockdown in the tourism sector is the steep fall in electricity consumption by hotels. A sample collected by the Power Department shows that even relatively smaller hotels recorded a sharp fall in the electricity consumption to the extent of 64560 units in April 2020 as compared to April 2019. This caused a tariff loss of almost ₹ 3 lakh in just one month from one single hotel. Apart from scores of home-stays, guest houses, rest houses and restaurants, more than 1,100 hotels are providing direct employment to over 10,000 persons.

In the Distilleries sub-sector alone we witnessed losses despite demand-pull. Out of the total liquor and beer production in the State, about 40% is consumed locally and 60% is exported to the neighbouring States. The liquor production loss during the April-May lockdown as compared to the production figures of 2019 was 67,120 cases and that of beer was 4.36 lakh cases.

There have been hefty losses on state revenues in terms of both excise duty and education cess. As compared to March-May 2019, the excise duty contribution to the States exchequer decreased by ₹ 16.58 crore during March-May 2020 and the education cess by ₹ 74.08 lakh during March-May 2020.

The agriculture supply chains including production units, transporters, vegetable vendors, florists and packaging industries have been disrupted. Farmers income sharply eroded and their livelihood remains damaged. The pandemic has triggered three-way pressure on the employment sector; i) displaced a large number of skilled and unskilled people and white and blue-collar jobs from various occupations like tourism, transport, industries, self-employed market-based businesses; ii) brought back a large number of Sikkimese working outside the state in the form of reverse migration and iii) all the newer activities including constructions, civic services, manufacturing centres are not likely to happen for many months to come.

Economic Revival Committee Report

Perhaps, Sikkim became the first state to appoint a high-level committee to study the economic and other impacts of the pandemic and suggested means and measures to revive and restore the damages to the economy of Sikkim, following the strict lockdown measures. The ERC headed by Hon'ble Member of

Legislative Assembly, Shri Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, submitted a comprehensive report after undertaking massive consultations with all the stakeholding agencies, institutions, people and professionals. While we were preparing to implement some of the key recommendations both in the short and the long run, our State like other parts of the country has now been suddenly hit by the dreaded second wave of Covid-19 pandemic. This has triggered a new set of lockdown schedules and measures, thereby further hampering the economic recovery and reconstruction process. This even delayed the budget presentation which had been scheduled for March 2021.

Nevertheless, we are determined to minimise the adverse impact, provide maximum possible relief to all the stake-holders and people in general. We are consistently making major strategies to revive and rebuild our economy. In fact, the economy had already started showing signs of recovery during the short period of August 2020 to March 2021. The report submitted by Shri Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, Chairman of the Committee is under examination by the Government.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

Before dealing with the budgetary planning and provisions for the coming year, let me on behalf of the entire august House thank the people of Sikkim, frontline warriors, doctors, nurses, officials, police personnel,

home guards, safakarmacharis, Dhobi, Medical Attendant and all supporting staffs, volunteers, civil society organisations, political workers, media, farmers, daily wage workers, drivers, businessmen, tourism industry stakeholders and all others for their patience, forbearance, cooperation and support during both waves of the pandemic in Sikkim. We deeply value your contribution and once again salute you for your service to the State and the Nation.

Our Hon'ble Governor Shri Ganga Prasad has been an ex-traordinary source of encouragement, moral support and guiding light during these tough and burdensome time.

Hon'ble Sir, Sikkim and its people will always remember and love you for your dedication and commitment.

Let me share two pleasant news that brought relief, pride, respect and recognition to Sikkim during these hard and unpleasant days. Daughter of Sikkim, Mrs Manita Pradhan from Soreng, West Sikkim, reached the summit of Mount Everest on 1st June 2021. This single act of hers brought a smile and recognition to Sikkim. Our warmest congratulations and acclaim for her accomplishment.

Similarly, our versatile and widely respected sports person Shri Tarundeep Rai has been selected to represent

India in the Olympics being held in Japan. Our very warm wishes for his success and we pray that he accomplishes more milestones and bring laurels to Sikkim and our nation India again.

HEALTH

Our Top Priority: Health and related Amenities

Before coming into power and after assuming office, our Government's single most focus has been on the health sector. The devastating pandemic has only reconfirmed our belief and commitment and redoubled our firm resolve to provide the best possible health amenities in Sikkim. We were efficient in handling the first wave of the pandemic and the situation was brought under control after adopting several measures. Currently, we are still tackling the 2nd wave of this pandemic.

Our primary objective of controlling and minimizing the adverse impact of the pandemic is accompanied by our determination to provide health facilities right at the doorsteps of both rural and urban areas. That is why we are, for the first time, consciously decentralising the health facilities to serve the distantly located communities at the fastest possible time limit.

We have already taken the following measures :

- i) Special facilities in both the government and private hospitals for Covid-19 patients
- ii) Adequate supplies of crucial medicines and other amenities.
- iii) A 50 bedded Covid dedicated Hospital is being established at Karfectar for the South and West Districts, which will be operational soon. This is also done to deal with the possibility of 3rd wave of the pandemic.
- iv) Village Mobile Clinic Ambulances with a doctor and nurse and all the basic medical facilities. They go for a weekly visit to all the villages so that the villagers need not come to the district hospitals for smaller ailments.
- v) Establishment of Community Health Centre (CHC) at Soreng is being undertaken.
- vi) So far 1,32,350 beneficiaries have received relief packages
- vii) COVID care kits are being distributed to people who require them and rations are being provided to the BPL families all over the state.
- viii) Free vaccination for all age groups at government vaccination centres and PHSCs.

There were no oxygen plants in the entire Sikkim before 2019. Nevertheless, anticipating the problem of the requirement of oxygen during the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Government established a 500 ltr per minute PSA Plant at STNM Hospital which helped out in the 2nd wave in a big manner. In addition, the following provisions are being made to ensure adequate supply and easy access to oxygen.

At the request of the State Government, the Union Government promptly sanctioned an oxygen plant with a capacity of 1000 litres per minute, now installed at STNM hospital.

- a) Geyzing and Namchi hospitals now have oxygen plant with 200 litres per minute capacity.
- b) Singtam district hospital has an oxygen plant with 200 litres per minute capacity, given by the Union Government
- c) We have even provided Army Hospital with an oxygen plant of 500 litres per minute capacity.
- d) For both Namchi and Mangan hospitals, we have submitted the feasibility reports to the Union Govt for the supply of oxygen plant with 500 litres per minute capacity.
- e) The State Government is also setting up an oxygen plant with 1000 litres per minute capacity in Mining area at Rangpo.

MBBS Seat Agreement

We have now entered into an agreement with the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences for 50 fully free and 30 full payment MBBS seats in Gangtok. Under this, the Government of Sikkim will annually pay ₹ 4 Crore and 50 lakhs. This way we shall be ensuring i) access to free medical education to the underprivileged segments of our society, ii) at home availability of 80 seats annually for the young aspirants of Sikkim till this arrangement between the Government and Manipal University lasts, iii) qualitative education at the doorstep for those who can afford to pay for their education.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

Over the next few years, we shall both scale up the arrangements to more specialized courses and programmes and also in terms of the number of seats. The Government of Sikkim has simultaneously requested the Union Government to enhance the medical student intake at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences. We are setting up a Monitoring Committee to facilitate this arrangement.

We are expecting that in the course of the next 10 years we shall be able to produce at least 480 capable doctors and progressively more as time goes by. They can be deployed anywhere in India and abroad including our neighbouring state of West Bengal and in the North East

region. This will also assist our State's effort to make Sikkim a major health tourism destination in the country.

Universal Covid – 19 Vaccination

We were developing our Covid-19 related vaccination policy when our Hon'ble Prime Minister announced a very encouraging and clear cut policy of providing free vaccination by the Union Government to all above 18 years of age. Because of the relatively modest population advantage, we aim to vaccinate the entire state population at the earliest.

Therefore, two free rounds of universal vaccination will be administered to all the permanent residents of Sikkim and people who are working/temporarily residing in Sikkim and their family members. We appeal to all the residents of Sikkim to remain calm, safe and healthy and wait for the universal vaccination programmes of the Government to reach your doorsteps and localities.

My heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India and the Hon'ble Prime Minister for initiating this programme.

Equipment and Instruments

When we took over the governance, we found that even the basic instruments and equipment were not available at various district hospitals.

They would have remained badly exposed during the Covid 19 pandemic had our Government not speedily equipped them in a much broader and deeper manner.

For the first time we now have the following :

- a) All the three district hospitals in Namchi, Geyzing and Gangtok have Dialysis facilities.
- b) All the district hospital now have well equipped Intensive Care Units (ICUs) including 78 beds in STNM, 10 in Gayzing and 10 in Namchi. Besides super speciality outreach programme (ENT, Cardio, Neuro etc.) are also available now.
- c) Super-speciality, facilities such as ENT, Cardio and Neuro have started at STNM hospital. The super-speciality outreach programme is initiated at the districts level as well.
- d) A private ward in STNM hospital is also operational for the last two months and now is open for the general public to avail of the facility.
- e) Many of the major operations are now being carried out in district hospitals
- f) We are taking the support of super-specialist doctors for various district hospitals and have recruited Medical officers and staff such as nurses, drivers, attendants, safaikarmacharis, Dhobi and other medical support staffs.

- g) We have the Covid-19 and other viral diseases labs at STNM hospital and other testing labs and machines in district hospitals.

Namchi Hospital Upscaling

Namchi Hospital was set up way back in 1975. However, despite funds and huge difficulties faced by the public, no honest effort was made to upgrade the facilities in this hospital during 1994-2019.

We have now started constructing a new 300-bed hospital which can be easily accessed by the inhabitants of South and West Sikkim. Salaries will be raised and extended and other attractive amenities will be provided to draw the services of super-specialist and specialist doctors to this hospital. We are sure, in course of the next few years, people will start enjoying the fruits of modern medicines and health amenities.

Cancer Hospital

Sikkimese people from all corners have always felt the need of having cancer-related treatment at their doorstep. For decades together, they had to go the Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore for even basic cancer treatments. This harrowing experience of the Sikkimese cancer patient will soon come to an end. Firstly, we have started a Cancer Treatment Tertiary facility at STNM hospital in Gangtok. The Oncology Department now has radiation therapy Unit

We now have a Cardiac Sub-centre at Karfectar, Jorethang. Secondly, we are also establishing a full-fledged Cancer Hospital at Karfectar, Jorethang in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

State of the Art Report in Health Sector

Given the primacy of the health sector and changing dy-namics of its nature and newer variety of invasive diseases, our government will like to prepare a state of the art report on the health sector which will provide a comprehensive picture of where we stand in all spheres of public health. This report will also provide us with what needs to be done both in the short and long term and the possibilities of both human and material mobilisation. We shall engage an eminent public health-related institution in the country to prepare this comprehensive report.

Health Insurance to Government Employees

Our Government has largely streamlined the system of financial support provided to **those who require it** for medical purpose. It is now dispensed through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and managed more objectively so that all the employees and families can comfortably make use of these funds for treatment outside the State. We plan to gradually cut down such supports as and when we develop and upscale our medical facilities within the state. Once established, these facilities could be freely accessed by all.

For the first time in Sikkim, our Government has introduced health insurance coverage under Su-Swastha Yojana to the regular/permanent government employees. Under this, each family of an employee will get cover insurance of ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 20 lakh for critical cases like open-heart surgery, kidney transplant, liver transfer, etc, which could be availed in nearly 400 designated hospitals in the country as per their choice.

After we overcome the impact of pandemic triggered lockdown, we plan to extend such insurance coverage to Muster Roll, Adhoc, Contract and work charge employees of Sikkim society with the ultimate objective of providing universal health insurance coverage to all in the State.

TOURISM

Refocus on Tourism

As a livelihood, income and revenue-generating industry, refocusing on the tourism sector is our very major priority. Besides the lockdown impacts related to relief and reconstruction measure, we are undertaking few major projects.

- 1) Under Mega Home Stay project, units numbering 1000 will be built by the Government. Each home will have three rooms and other amenities. In total, 3000 rooms traditionally designed with local architectural structures will be laid out in the attractive locations of villages and will be run

commercially by the villagers themselves. We have increasingly realized that the Homestay is a robust concept and everyone would like to go to a village or a remote area, mingle with nature, live with the community and enjoy organic food. We also noted during the lockdowns, a large number of people moved to villages and made use of these homestays.

These 3000 rooms, even with an occupancy rate of 80% for 365 days, can generate more than ₹ 175 crore per annum.

80 % occupancy : $2400 \times 365 \text{ days} \times ₹ 2000 \text{ per room}$
= ₹ 175.20 crore per annum.

It can provide direct employment to 9600 persons (4 persons per room x 2400) and indirect employment (4 times the direct employment) to 38400 persons.

It will have a tremendous impact on all the forward and backward linkages like food production, dairy and other businesses and generate huge revenue for the State.

If need be, we shall send the young entrepreneurs and other staff for training and capacity buildings in other places including Goa, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh or even Darjeeling.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

Let me also mention several other projects that are being introduced to provide both diverse attractions to tourist and also facilitate their smooth flow. Foreigners Registration Office at Ramam, West Sikkim for the foreign tourist coming to West Sikkim from Darjeeling to avoid long-distance travel via Melli and Rangpo and Uttaray-Chiwabhanzyang-Taplezung Route is now operational.

The Union Government has been requested to start the commercial check post and economic activities in this route. The projects under construction are Herbal Medical and Spiritual Healing Tourism Complex at Nandugaon, South Sikkim; development of Mangarzung at Mangsari (Soreng, West Sikkim), development of Eco-tourism complex in the concept of Vrindavan (Dodak, West Sikkim), Nisani Kali Devi at Pandam East Sikkim.

Sikkim House, Navi Mumbai

It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Maharashtra government has approved our proposal to construct Sikkim House Navi Mumbai near the Tata Memorial Hospital which is one of the top hospitals in the country. Land measuring 4000 square meter which is almost 1 acre has been allotted for which ₹ 11 crore 97 lakhs has already been paid and the land taken in possession. This will ease the financial burden on our

people travelling to Mumbai for treatment and also assist them in other matters.

EDUCATION

Repositioning Education Sector

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the House would be delighted to know that to provide a boost and transform the higher education in our State we have decided to set up Subhash Chandra Bose Centre of Excellence at Chakhung in West Sikkim. We have already acquired a major portion of land, laid the foundation stone and set aside a bulk of funds for the construction of academic and other infrastructures. A comprehensive note on the Core Objectives and Governance Framework of this new institution has been prepared along with a draft blueprint of the campus layout.

We will engage the top class professionals, internationally experienced academics and recognised education administrators to first build the University and conduct and manage the programs.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

Let me briefly mention why the need and relevance of this Centre of Excellence in Sikkim has arisen. The Eastern Himalayan region is one of the few global biodiversity hotspots in the world. It remains scientifically

understudied and largely unexplored. We could hardly capitalise on these magnificent resources as a source of knowledge, wisdom, technological innovations and as a commercial venture. The setting up of the Centre of Excellence in Sikkim thus emerges as the most timely venture at the most appropriate cultural- ecological and geo-political subregion.

The entire region has been dominated by people of all so-cietal and ethnic variety with distinct anthropological traits and cultural characteristics. The rich and amazing traditional knowledge on indigenous medicine and community wisdom if scientifically harnessed could bring not only global commercial recognitions but would also inject new directions of sustainability ventures and discourses. Therefore, the role of the Centre of Excellence is so very critical in this respect.

This region also has the most celebrated pilgrimage and trade routes under the broad aegis of the Silk Route and tea-horse route and has remained the hub of meeting point for the two ancient civilisations of India and China. Therefore, the Centre of Excellence in Sikkim will be a par excellence institution of higher learning with local ethos, national goals and global orientation.

The Centre will offer very specialized, non-conventional and professional and interdisciplinary programmes for the local, national and global students. It

will harness the most intrinsic talents of the youths and will generate the richest pool of human resources catering to local and global institutions. The Centre of Excellence would be a global attraction in fields like climate change, mountain areas studies, eco-tourism, sericulture, horticulture, floriculture and animal sciences.

It will promote research and repositioning the natural strengths of the Himalayas including tea, cinchona, tourism, natural endowments, ethnobotany, folk medicines and faith healing, biodiversity, literary-cultural traditions. It will design and practice global standard classroom, teaching methods and research promotions. The entire Governance Framework of the proposed Centre of Excellence is envisaged in terms of three broad and prime categories viz., Physical Infrastructure Framework, Management Framework and Academic Framework.

We cherish the full support and good wishes of this august House and the people, in general, to accomplish this formidable task where we intend to launch the first programme with the founding batch of students in 2023.

Sikkim State University

The august members of the House and the public, in general, are aware that among the many vote-catching machines and projects initiated by the SDF Government in the last few years of its 25 years long rule in Sikkim was the Sikkim State University.

The casualness and narrow-mindedness with which this university was initiated hurt the sentiment of the entire Sikkimese people, especially, aspirants of higher education. When this college was initiated no plan was made, no project document existed and no budgetary provisions were made. Even the crucial requirement of land and buildings and other basic amenities were ignored. The entire University was housed in one room in the Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College in Tadong. It appointed the Vice-Chancellor who started two courses including the Nepali language.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

We were shocked to see the condition of the University when we took over the governance of Sikkim in May 2019. However, given our Government's policy of providing quality higher education within the state for all the Sikkimese, we immediately acquired 18 acres of land which was given to ICFAI at Temi Tarku and have offered another set of land to ICFAI University at Lyndhok. We are now building the basic infrastructure for Sikkim State University. To start with, given other constraints, we are initiating only the language and literature programs in this University. We will have Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, Limbu and other languages including foreign language which were already introduced as courses up to PhD level by the Central University of Sikkim during 2009-2012. Further, we have started the extended campus program of Central

University at NB Bhandari Degree College, Kamrang College, Namchi and Geyzing College for the Post-Graduate courses in Science, arts and Commerce with 25 seats in each college.

Sikkim University and National Institute of Technology

There was a well-established pattern of casualness, irresponsibility and detachment in the SDF Government's attitude to higher education in Sikkim. The central University of Sikkim despite paying a compensation of ₹ 15 crore in 2007-08, was given land after full five years, in 2013. By that time the University had surrendered a huge amount of money that was meant for construction etc., There are also discrepancies in the compensation packages as highlighted in various Audit reports produced by the CAG.

So is the story of the prestigious National Institute of Technology (NIT) which was hosted in a temporary camp at Rabongla for full 11 years and never had a permanent campus. As students protested and faculties left, it created a bad reputation for Sikkim across the nation.

The moment our government took over, we have given 100 acres of land to NIT at Khamdong and the Institute is already on the verge of massive forward movement.

Let me also mention that a large number of families from which the last Government had acquired land for

various purposes were not paid the promised compensation. By making payment of more than ₹ 83 Cr. compensation to these landowners through various departments, we have at least made them legally and financially comfortable.

Second Phase Construction in Geyzing Government College

Equally frustrating was how the Geyzing Government College was initiated in 2009 and was kept hanging for 10 years. There was no plan, no project and no budget for this College. In the very beginning, our records show that the Central University of Sikkim insisted that all these basic facilities be made available to the hapless students before the academic affiliation. However, the SDF Government out of sheer ignorance, affiliated the college with a private university. This was for the first time in the education history of modern India, a government college was illegally affiliated with a private university.

Though the Central University of Sikkim was provided affiliation at a later stage, nothing happened to its physical infrastructure. Students were discriminated against, as other colleges in Namchi, Rhenock and Gangtok had at least the basic infrastructures.

The moment our Government took over, we set aside the funds and started constructing the buildings. The

august House would be delighted to know that we have now started the second phase of infrastructure building.

We urge all the students, faculty members, staff and parents to remain calm and supportive so that we could deliver the best possible infrastructure to Gyalshing Degree College and also drastically improve the teaching-learning and other delivery processes.

We all realize how seriously pandemic related lockdown has affected our educational institutions. It's almost been a year now, most of the educational institutions in Sikkim have not been able to conduct face to face classes and other programmes. Our Government has now provided some friendly and alternative virtual mode and digital platforms for teaching and learning.

We also started a virtual teacher training programme to impart modern teaching techniques through digital platforms. The department has received more than 4000 application for the training from the teaching community, which is a positive sign, in a short period of our announcement. This training will help them to enhance their capabilities and make them more efficient in their profession.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Besides the already implemented Nar Bahadur Bhandari fellowships for the Masters and PhD

programmes in universities abroad, we are further expanding the spectrum of scholarships to promote merit-based scholarships for higher learning.

We have decided to extend Chief Ministers Merit Scholarship to 55 students (five from Dzongu constituency) to study both in well-known schools and colleges within and outside Sikkim. The previous government only provided these facilities up to 12th standard but we have decided to extend it till the college level. The extension of these scholarships to the college level will inspire our young students to go for competitive higher programmes in various disciplines in other well-known universities in India and abroad.

More Space for Private Universities

Educational institutions not only impart quality education but also become major sources of ideas, technology, knowledge, innovations, revenue, employment, and tourism and recognition. We shall have students from all over the country and abroad coming to Sikkim for education degrees and research. This will also assist in promoting tourism and make Sikkim a tourism destination that will be known to people outside the State. This is what exactly happened in nearby Darjeeling when educational institutions and the tea industry brought so much global recognition.

Keeping this in mind we are allowing some select qualitative institutions to open their educational ventures in Sikkim. We shall in the process also have private universities coming up in other districts such as :

- i) Sikkim International University, Sribadam (West Sikkim).
- ii) Sikkim Medhavi Skill University, Bermiok (West Sikkim)
- iii) Sikkim Alpine University, Kamrang (South Sikkim)

We already have four other private universities including Sikkim Professional University, SRM University, ICFAI University and Manipal University. The Sikkim Higher Education Commission (SHEC) will monitor and regulate the activities of the private universities in Sikkim.

Sikkim Higher Education Commission (SHEC)

The Government of Sikkim has set up Sikkim Higher Education Commission (SHEC) mainly to implement various goals of New Education Policy 2021. This Commission, headed by the Chief Minister of State, also has eminent academics and educationist as members.

The New Education Policy is a comprehensive document that relates to all levels of education, teachers quality and training, mode of teaching, credits and evaluation system, research and innovations, private and public institutions and also resources and funding.

This is for the first time such a Commission has been set up, which will also, for the first time, draw the education policy in the State of Sikkim.

We acknowledge the dropout rates in schools in Sikkim which was never addressed by the previous government of 25 years. As we deliberated on this issue, we found that the primary reason behind this was the long distance between the villages and the schools.

To encourage our students, we will be constructing one model school in all four districts and will also target to construct 100 more schools including primary, junior high schools till secondary level in place of the old schools. The schools will have better infrastructures, digital classroom facilities and laboratories. We also plan to construct auditorium halls wherever necessary.

Playgrounds

Many stadiums and major playgrounds which remained half-constructed for many years, are now being completed. For instance, the much-publicized Bhaichung Stadium at Namchi remained under dilapidated condition for the last 9 years. We have given it a fully operational shape and shall soon dedicate it to the sports-loving Sikkimese people. Our Government is also upgrading the playgrounds of numerous schools across Sikkim. Many of them remained in poor conditions for years, depriving our

school children of the basic right and facility during their foundation years.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture and Allied Activities.

Besides the traditional interventions in various aspects of agriculture and allied activities, our government is very keenly promoting and establishing value and supply chains in each of our major agriculture commodity.

We have already extended incentives to dairy farmers and have seen a progressive increase in milk production in the state. We now have to make interventions on animal health, herd composition, feed and fodders, technological improvement on artificial insemination, embryo transfer and cross-breeding and also on foot and oral vaccinations. We also have to technologically monitor the health of each mulching animal and are now devising better means of marketing milk and producing more diverse varieties of milk-based products.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

In order to provide farmers with higher income from off-farm activities, we have started making some innovative interventions. For instance, knowing piggery and its products have a huge domestic and national market, we are encouraging our young farmers to upgrade the scale of pig farming.

Any farmer with at least three pigs can get a ₹ 5000 incentive for each pig as soon as the gross weight of a pig reaches 50 kgs. We are seeing some encouraging results from the pig entrepreneurs in the State. Insurance cover will be provided to the pig farmers of up to ₹ 500 per pig that weight atleast 50 kgs will be provided to the pig farmer. Similar kind of scaling up incentives are being extended to fish, turmeric, amlisho, cardamom, orange and buckwheat farmers.

Krishi Credit of ₹ 3 lakhs is also being provided without any mortgage.

Value Chain Connections

Sikkim would endeavour to be a core partner in the Trans-border Value Chain in organic farming, tourism, horticulture, floriculture, mineral and forest resources, tea, bamboo and pharmaceutical to fully harness the advantages of the India-ASEAN Free Trade, SAARC Free Trade and BIMSTEC market based and other bilateral and regional agreements. This will add a new dimension to trade and investment cooperation in the Act East Policy and trade preferences would become a catalytic aid.

Intending to undertake this partnership in setting up a complete organic value chain system, the State Government has entered into a Joint Venture Company arrangement with M/s IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) namely, Sikkim IFFCO Organics Ltd (SIOL).

The outcomes are likely to be a series of new high-value products and post-harvest management based on more scientific practices. This will also expand the market access aspects of Sikkimese agricultural produces both within and outside India.

An equally crucial outcome of this Joint Venture project will be in the manufacturing of inputs like bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, limestone-based seaweed granules, de-hydrated vegetable unit, organic honey processing and packaging unit. The integrated processing facility for buckwheat, ginger, turmeric and large cardamom is being set up at Rangpo.

IT/ INDUSTRY

We have been able to now get a separate telecommunication office and officials exclusively for Sikkim and detached from the West Bengal Circle. The Union Minister of Communication has assured for fast internet connectivity soon.

We have requested the Union Government to immediately raise the internet bandwidth from the existing 10 MBPS to at least 1 GBPS and also speedily implement all the Eight Digital Thrust areas identified by the 'Digital North East Vision 2022' prepared by the Ministry of Electronics and IT in 2016. These include digital-infrastructure, services, electronic manufacturing, IT/ITesS,

BPO industries, e payment and Startups. Keeping this in view, IT facilities are being extended to all BACs and Gram Prasasan Kendra.

We have provided SMART-TV to the students of 8th to 11th Classes from the state government fund under the E Vidya programme.

The North East Financial Development Corporation (NEDFI) just circulated a study on “Strategic Roadmap for Bringing Investors from South East Asia (Cambodia, Laos Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand) to North-East India: A Seed Project Approach.”

The study done by a team of professionals led by our State’s Honorary Chief Economic Advisor has identified 15 critical seed projects which could attract investors from these countries to the North East region.

Among these 15 seed projects, at least 8 are of tremendous potential values including ginger, piggery, Buddhist circuit tourism, ethnic fashion design, traditional medicinal and wellness tourism and food processing.

All these projects have been outlined to integrate the economies of the North East region with the economies of South-East Asian countries under India’s Act East Policy and are keen to attract these investors. It is also heartening to note that the Government of India has already

approved Namli, East Sikkim as a Special Economic Zone for Information and Technology.

To provide turning points to appropriate industrialization process we plan to undertake the following measures :

- i) Design a new and comprehensive Industrial Policy of Sikkim that will replace our old industrial policy created in the year 2003. This policy has become outdated and does not match the present state of entrepreneurship, development needs and outward-looking orientation of the state. I announce that the responsibility of undertaking this task of designing New Industrial Policy will be taken by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Industries and present this new policy framework within the next nine months.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

- ii) I regret to mention that in the Ease of Doing Business index Sikkim's rank has remained at 29 out of the 34 states and union territories, considered and published by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 2020. This is rather very low. It seems no effort was made to improve this ranking in the last 25 years before our Government came into power.

We are determined to improve this ranking by adhering to various principles and enabling measures to

facilitate business and investment in the State. I, therefore, announce the constitution of an Ease of Doing Business Committee led by the Hon'ble Chief Economic Advisor in the Government of Sikkim and other professionals as members. This Committee will be hosted by the Department of Commerce and Industries, Government of Sikkim.

Political, Social and Religious Aspirations

- i) Keeping in mind our commitment to getting the seat reservations for Limbu and Tamang communities in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, we are constantly in touch with the Union Government. After the formation of our government, I have personally met the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and other national leaders for the consideration of this demand and the Central government has taken it positively. Our Lok Sabha member Shri Indra Hang Subba has time and again raised the issue in the Lok Sabha.

The tribal status for Limboo Tamang was notified in 2003, but the previous government for more than 16 years put the issue under the carpet. If the previous government had desired they could have achieved the demand in 2006 but they did not think it was necessary or important at that time. They just used the reservation of LT seat as an agenda for elections and never followed up on it.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir

- ii) We are determined and focused to achieve the tribal status for the 12 left out communities in Sikkim. We have made several representations to the highest offices in the Government of India, who has firmly assured us of these inclusions. The previous government was not serious on the demand of inclusion of tribal status to all left out communities as no government resolution was brought before the Assembly. But we have been sincere to resolve the issue as we introduced the demand to the state cabinet and a government resolution was unanimously passed on 12 January 2021 with wide acclamation from the entire House.

This resolution was personally submitted by me to the Union Home Minister and other high dignitaries in the Union Government. This timely passing of the resolution has made our case rather strong and convincing. It is again a matter of time only when the 12 left out communities will be bestowed the ST status by the Union Government.

- iii) One of our determined political efforts and socio-cultural demand has been to welcome and permanently bring the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorji to Sikkim and have had series of discussions with the highest authorities in the Union Government. We have been assured that as soon as the 17th Karmapa returns to India, his passage to

Sikkim will be smoothly facilitated. It will be a joyful and eternally contented moment for the people of Sikkim when he arrives and we are awaiting the historic moment with all our prayers and hope.

His Holiness, the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorji, would have been with us had it not been for the negative report of the previous regime which was forwarded to the Central government. Even when we were in opposition we constantly raised the issue and even after the BJP led NDA government came into power, we have consistently approached the Government of India. I have personally submitted a couple of memorandums to the central government as well.

FINANCE

Highest Per capita Income in India and Poverty – Inequality Study

The latest Economic Survey of India (2020-21) published by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, shows that Sikkim's per capita income has reached ₹ 4.25 lakh in 2019-2020 at current prices. This is also more than three times the national average per capita income of ₹ 1.34 lakh. Sikkim's per capita income was 3.49 lakh in 2017-2018. Today we have the highest per capita income in the country. This is a major achievement of our Government.

While we celebrate this achievement of our Government, we are aware that this is an overall macro picture. This high per capita income becomes meaningful only if this income is equitably distributed among all sections of Sikkimese people.

In the last decade, there has been a blatant demonstration of ill-gotten wealth, whereas the poorest Sikkimese had to struggle to meet their very basic needs. We find this even in terms of geographical imbalances among the four districts. We shall have to attack, address and resolve this poverty-disparity-inequality issue with a range of instruments.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Therefore, we would like to conduct a thorough study on development led prosperity and inequality and imbalances by an eminent institution in India. This will help us in two major respects in understanding the nature and extent of poverty and inequality, identifying the locations and directions of poor households and introducing measures to drastically ameliorate the conditions of the poor and also bridge the inequality gap. I record that, except for the *First Human Development Report of Sikkim 2001*, no conscious effort has been made to understand and study the nature of poverty and inequality. At the same time, we are targeting the most deserving households for reliefs which they have been waiting for years together.

Let me also mention that I visited Dhupi Dara on 01 March 2021, which is regarded as the remotest area of Sikkim, in the Labdhang-Karjee belt. We halted at Pokhari in a tent and initiated various developmental works towards the promotion of tourism at Dhupidara. The former Chief Minister, NB Bhandari, had visited this place by helicopter in 1988. Our visit came after a 33-year gap and the local inhabitants welcomed us with great enthusiasm and interacted with us. Let me assure all the Sikkimese people that, unlike in the past, our policy is to reach out to the people rather than the people reaching out to us. Our governance will embrace you at your homestead and soon we will be starting Governance at the doorstep, where all basic facilities will be provided online and the documents required will be delivered to their respective homes.

Young Professional Programme

To train, expose and build capacities among the fresh and young doctoral degree holders, management and technology experts, we have now introduced a Young Professional Programme (YPP). These Young Professionals will be attached to the Office of the Chief Minister and would work on various critical issues for a limited period.

We are also keenly looking forward to implementing the recommendations and strategies that are enshrined in the North East Region Vision 2035 produced by the NITI

Aayog under the principal authorship of our Hon'ble Chief Economic Adviser, in 2021.

Similarly, Sikkim has recently achieved the fourth position at the national level and the first position among the North-Eastern states in the Sustainable Development Goals(SDG) index prepared by the NITI Aayog, Government of India, in collaboration with the United Nations. This has been possible due to the contribution Hon'ble Ministers, MLAs, entire government officials and Sikkimese people. I once again congratulate them for this achievement and encourage them to continue with the same spirit.

Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment Institute

To provide ample scope for employment in foreign countries for the Sikkimese youth, we shall set up Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment Institute, in cooperation with various Foreign Embassies in India and other international job recruitment agencies. These youths will be given training in various professional areas. We announced the setting up of a Foreign Workers Recruitment Institute in Sikkim which will be managed by professionals, legal, financial and foreign employment experts. Our Government will make use of various training programmes through the India-Japan arrangement of Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) under the National Skill Development Corporation of the Government of India.

Up-skilling of Media Persons

Media has been playing a crucial role in building the modern-day Sikkim. Despite serious changes brought about by non-traditional media instruments, like social and other electronic media, Sikkimese media persons and institutions have firmly and innovatively endured the challenges.

Our Government intends to make our media more vibrant, innovative and competitive. We have already provided the Sikkim Journalist Association with an office building in Gangtok. We have also declared the media persons as the Frontline Warriors along with doctors, nurses, safakarmacharis, security personnel and other medical staff in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in Sikkim. All the media persons are now entitled to the facilities and amenities that are available/ extended to the Frontline Warriors including vaccination on a priority basis.

To enable our media persons to observe everything that is happening around the country and at the global level, we have decided to set up Media Fellowships. Under these fellowships, media persons in Sikkim will get exposures that will re-skill them, evaluate various development schemes and projects, more objectively and scientifically in a comparative framework. It will also nurture their spirit of competitive professionalism.

This Media Fellowship will entitle each selected media person to visit any major development project of high impact in the country and outside, evaluate the same, write a series of reports from the field and submit the full final report to the Government of Sikkim. This report would also include suggestions and comments about how such projects could be of value and usefulness in Sikkim and for the people of Sikkim.

Amount of Fellowship: ₹ 1 lakh fellowship every year

Several fellowships: 10 per fiscal year.

Eligibility: All accredited journalists/media persons of Sikkim

Proposal: Any sound project based detail proposal

SC/ST/OBC/Differently Abled Funds

Despite a large measure of welfare, development, professional and financial schemes of the Government of India and the State Government for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities, Other Backward Classes and the Differently Abled persons, many of the members of the communities are not able to avail these facilities. As a result, Sikkim's share in the use of these amenities is relatively low due to a lack of awareness and accessibility. This is mainly because they are not aware of such facilities and in many cases, there is no effective facilitating and connecting organization in Sikkim.

1. As announced in the last budget, our Government will now set up a special cell in the Department of Social Welfare to sensitize and make people aware of these schemes in various forms including print, electronic and social media platforms. This will be disseminated through NGOs, community associations and governmental agencies.
2. This Cell will also assist the relevant communities in easily accessing various schemes and projects floated by the Government of India.
3. We shall also ensure that all the buildings constructed by the Government for public utility will mandatorily have easy access arrangements for all categories of differently-abled persons.

Old Age Pensions and Pilgrimage Fund

Our Government has always tried to address every problem and difficulty of the old and aged persons as generously as possible. We want them to live a comfortable and worry-free time during the last few decades of their lives. One of the support measures among others is the old age pension, which we have majorly increased.

We are now providing

₹ 1500 per month for persons above 60 years

₹ 2000 per month for persons above 70 years

₹ 2500 per month for above 80 years.

The pension is being provided on monthly basis and shall be increased as and when the living cost demands.

We have aptly reduced the age for availing of widow pension from 40 years to 21 years.

Despite our engagement to fight against the pandemic that took a significant portion of our last two years of being in the Government, we have been able to complete a range of projects that remained in a state of uncertainty including the Paru Hang Sapten Rai Manghim at Ranka, East Sikkim and also Thakur Bari Temple at Gangtok.

A large number of senior Sikkimese people are not able to go on pilgrimage despite their dream and desire. To fulfil their religious desires to go for a pilgrimage to any religious shrines/ holy places of any religion, our Government will now provide basic funding for their pilgrimages anywhere within India. This will include travel fares, food and lodging.

The Department of Social Welfare would draw a complete plan and modalities of funding to this effect within the course of the next three months.

CREATION OF DISTRICT

I am also delighted to inform the august House that two districts are being created namely Soreng in the West

and Pakyong in the East from 2022. We have already initiated the activities for the development of the infrastructure required for the districts.

SIKKIM URBAN GARIB AWAS YOJANA

In 2020, our government initiated the Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana scheme under which pucca houses are being constructed, with a TV set and furniture, to bring about qualitative improvement in the housing status of the poor. Unlike the previous government, this time the beneficiaries were carefully selected so that this scheme will be only applicable to the underprivileged people. Similarly, we will be starting with Sikkim Urban Garib Awas Yojana in the urban areas with provisions for house up-gradation.

We have plans to construct 260 flats, 502 individual houses having an area of 688 square feet and one building for homeless people for dormitory accommodation, 20 for male and 20 for female.

Skilled Youth Startup Schemes

Besides the UPSC coaching for 50 Sikkimese students in Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College at Tadong and the ongoing construction of Civil Service Officer Institute in Gangtok, we have also undertaken setting up of Industrial Training Institute at Chumbung.

The Skilled Youth Start-Up Scheme at 35% Subsidy is a vibrant initiative and has steadily been taken by

young entrepreneurs. We have also initiated Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Cell (SEED Cell) to generate at least one entrepreneur from each family. It is based on the idea of 'Each Family One Entrepreneur'.

Drivers Welfare Measures

The government of Sikkim has taken several measures to improve the working conditions of the driving community in the State, both to provide relief in their livelihood losses during the lockdown and also in recognition of their services.

- i) Government will now provide Bolero Taxi to the best Drivers of each District of Sikkim.
- ii) We have initiated Medical Insurance for 5000 taxi drivers. In case of the unfortunate death of a driver in accidents or other professional duties, an ex-gratia payment of ₹ 5 lakhs will be paid to the next of kin of the deceased.

The Urban Dynamics

In the past, particularly before we took over the governance in Sikkim, all the local elections, both urban and rural bodies, were held strictly on a political basis. The ruling political party could be seen everywhere actively sponsoring candidates, politicizing every household and even the individuals. All the oppositions were crushed

beyond recognition. Everywhere it was a monopoly of the ruling political party. We have seen, faced and experienced the very diabolical results. Those who did not fall in line were targeted, boycotted, physically abused and mentally tortured and victimized along with their families and friends. How can we forget such dangerous misdemeanour and distortions in the peace-loving society of Sikkim?

Therefore, we have decided to give free and open space to the people to use their democratic rights and fulfil their aspirations. We started party less election for the first time in the recently held Municipality elections in all the districts. Individuals for the first time were involved in clean and competitive campaigns demonstrating their leadership quality and also ability to deliver goods and services to their respective wards. There was no violence, everyone came to vote smilingly as no one was watching their actions and monitoring their movements.

Today we have municipality representatives elected by the people and not by a political party. Old habits die hard. This time also we saw desperate attempts by this deeply entrenched vested interest to politicize the urban body elections. People said a big NO to them. We thank you and congratulate the people and the elected representatives.

Our Government will wholeheartedly support all the elected bodies and members. We appeal to them to work

hard and very closely with the people so that we can change the very nature, contents and lifestyles in the urban areas to more healthy, better amenities and well-planned units. Please bring the best ideas, relevant concepts and affordable technologies of development from anywhere in the world. Try such successful models like that of Surat in Gujarat.

We have several union Government projects including Smart Cities, AMRUT, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swachh Bharat etc. We must make use of them fully and make these projects locally sustainable in spirit and practice. The 15th Finance Commission has set aside a significant chunk of fund for the urban and local bodies.

To encourage robust activities in the urban locations, the tax on sale/purchase of Land and Building in the market area by the business community has the residential certificate is reduced from 10% to 5% making it equal to all categories of citizens.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir and Hon'ble Members,

We have noticed that the wicked elements of the autocratic regime which exploited all our natural resources for making personal gains, do raise their ugly heads sometimes. These elements were comprehensively defeated by the people of the State through the use of their franchise. We shall have to always remain alert and vigilant against these corrupt story makers.

At the same time, given the comprehensive character of public responsibilities we have on our shoulders, we have to ignore many of these elements and move forward to achieve and attain something big and robust for the people of Sikkim.

Our youths are talented and only require some support and push. Whenever they require handholding by the societal representatives, we shall be ready to extend all that is required. We appeal all the Sikkimese to work hard, diligently and consistently as the future of affluent and robust Sikkim lies in the collective efforts and cooperative moves. The Government officials have got the best deal in Sikkim. So please give your best in your professional contributions. You are contributing to your motherland, state, society and also to your own family. So please give 100 % to your services.

The civil society members, the NGOs, musicians, artists, writers, sportspersons, academics, scholars, workers, filmmakers, media persons, entrepreneurs and professionals are making an open appeal to you all. Please make use of your collective and representative organizations in suggesting the Government the steps and actions needed to provide a much wider space for expressions of your creative talents and flourish all the creative and professional activities in the State. Do a range of activities; tell us what kind of support you expect from the Government. You may climb peak to peak from a village

to the state and the country and also the global world. Our happiness lies in your success and our contentment comes from your achievements.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I shall now briefly mention the budgetary profile for the financial year 2021-22. Against a gross expenditure provision of ₹ 9852.85 crore, (Rupees nine thousand eight hundred fifty-two crores eighty-five lakh) the net outgo comes to ₹ 9588.65 crore (Rupees nine thousand five hundred eighty-eight crores sixty-five lakh) after taking into account recoveries amounting to ₹ 264.20 crore (Rupees two hundred sixty-four crore twenty lakh). The fiscal deficit remains in adherence to the fiscal management targets set in the Sikkim Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2010, i.e. not more than 4 % of GSDP and 15th Finance Commission recommendations. The contribution from own tax Revenue is of the order of ₹ 1195.48 crore (Rupees one thousand one hundred ninety-five crores and forty-eight lakh) and that of Non-Tax revenue ₹ 775.21 crore (Rupees seven hundred seventy-five crores and twenty-one lakh).

The total gross expenditure includes allocations amounting to ₹ 39.19 crore (Rupees thirty-nine crore nineteen lakh) under the dispensation of the North Eastern Council, ₹ 154.06 crore (Rupees one hundred fifty-four crores six lakh) under Non-Lapsable Pool of Central

Resources and ₹ 2149.63 (Rupees two thousand one hundred forty-nine crores sixty-three lakh) under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The summarized account of the receipts and disbursements is detailed below and is incorporated in the budget.

Sl. No.	Receipts	Amount in Cr
1.	Tax Revenue	1195.48
2.	Non-Tax Revenue	775.21
3.	State's Share of Central Taxes	2582.39
4.	Grants-in-Aid	3189.61
5.	Gross Borrowings	1606.87
6.	Financial assistance in the form of 50 years interest free loan for capital expenditure	200.00
7.	Recoveries of Loans and Advances	0.08
	Net Public Accounts	39.01
	Total Receipts	9588.65
Sl. No.	Expenditure	
1	Revenue Expenditure	7390.92
2.	Capital Expenditure	2197.73
	Total Net Expenditure	9588.65

Let us once again march forward to fulfill our goals based on sustainable development policies for the benefit of the people of Sikkim. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to further peace and tranquility and ensure that the State grows to become an example of innovation and progress.

With these commitments, I commend the Budget for the year 2021-22 to the House for its kind consideration.

JAI HIND!!

JAI SIKKIM!!



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

BUDGET SPEECH
BY
CHIEF MINISTER
AND
THE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ON
14th JUNE, 2021