



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT  
GANGTOK**

**Medium Term Fiscal Plan for Sikkim  
2018-19 to 2020-21**

**Presented before the Sikkim Legislative Assembly as  
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Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act. 2010  
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# **Medium Term Fiscal Plan for Sikkim: 2018-19 to 2020-21**

## **1. Introduction – Fiscal Policy Overview**

The Sikkim Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2010 (FRBM Act) provides the benchmark for budget management in the State. The act made it mandatory to prepare the medium term fiscal policy statements and place it along with the budget. These statements transparently explain the fiscal strategy adopted by the Government for the medium term budget. The FRBM Act was enacted in the State with the objective of providing fiscal stability and conducting the fiscal policy in a sustainable manner to reduce the deficit and stabilize the debt burden. It is expected that a rule based fiscal policy will establish long term fiscal sustainability improving the credibility of the Government policy and focus on spending to build social and physical infrastructure. Given that the State has a limited base to generate resources internally and the provision of public services in a difficult hilly terrain is costly, the Government needs to calibrate its fiscal policy and spending pattern with a restraint provided through the fiscal rules.

The State of Sikkim faced several challenges, after the 14<sup>th</sup> FC (FFC) gave its recommendations relating to devolution of funds. The rise in tax devolution could not compensate the loss of plan grants under block grants. The Government has been making efforts to smoothen the fiscal stress faced by the State. The State made necessary modifications in the financing pattern for the ongoing and proposed programs based on the expectations relating to the resource transfers. The share of Sikkim in the divisible pool of Central taxes has been raised to 0.367 per cent as compared to the share of 0.239 recommended by the 13<sup>th</sup> FC. The increase in State's divisible pool of Central taxes from 32 to 42 percent due to the recommendations of the FFC has resulted in higher tax devolution to the State. However, rise in tax devolution on the other hand subsumed many grants to the State and overall Central transfer declined last year. The State Government has shown its commitment to improve the provision of the public services and protect the spending on priority sectors.

The State Government continues to adhere to the fiscal targets enunciated in the FRBM Act. The fiscal targets did not restrict the Government to maintain a development oriented fiscal policy. The overall fiscal management in terms of budget decisions and implementation has remained within the boundary set in the fiscal rules and the flexibility offered by the FFC. The fiscal adjustment path for Sikkim recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC) with targeted fiscal deficit to ensure sustainable level of debt ended from 2014-15. The FRBM Act of the State took into account the recommendations made by the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission starting from the fiscal year 2015-16. The FFC recommended certain changes in the fiscal consolidation process to provide flexibility in the fiscal management of the State. The State Government has accordingly amended the State FRBM Act reflecting these recommendations.

The State Government availed the facility of higher fiscal deficit to the extent of 0.5 percent beyond the existing stipulation of 3 percent of GSDP as recommended by the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FFC) in 2017-18. But the State Government aims to keep it at 3 percent mark to give stability to the fiscal policy. The FFC, while recommending anchoring the fiscal deficit at an annual limit of 3 percent, provided flexibility to the State to be eligible for up to 0.5 percent, 0.25 percent separately, for any given year satisfying certain conditions. The State can avail these two additional limits to the fiscal deficit by achieving a debt-GSDP ratio of 25 percent or less than it and an interest payment below or equal to 10 percent of the revenue receipts in the previous year. The flexibility in terms of enhanced limit to the fiscal deficit with conditions which increases the borrowing limit of the State was useful to expand the infrastructure.

The FRBM Act stipulates presenting a medium term fiscal plan (MTFP) along with the budget in the State legislative assembly. The objective of presenting an MTFP is to give the detailed fiscal stance of the Government as envisioned in the budget in a transparent manner. The MTFP 2018-19, as required by the FRBM Act presents the medium term fiscal objectives, strategic priorities in resource allocation, and fiscal policies in conformity with the fiscal management principles enunciated in the Act. It gives the projected fiscal targets in the ensuing budget year, 2018-19, and two outward years. It reviews the macroeconomic and fiscal performance of Sikkim in the recent

years. The MTFP, while drawing out the fiscal plan, provides the assumptions with regard to the revenue augmentation and expenditure restructuring parameters arrived at based on trend of the variables and the recent policy changes relating to revenue augmentation measures and expenditure priorities in various sectors.

The socio-economic development over the year within an ambit of an inclusive growth process in the State was amply aided by a development oriented fiscal policy. Creating an enabling environment for different sections of the society, different tribal groups, women, and young people to participate in economic activities and contribute to the development of the State has remained as major objectives of the Government. Achievement of social sector commitments constitutes an important element of resource allocation decisions in the context of rule based fiscal policy that restricts incurring deficit and borrowing to a sustainable level. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices recorded a healthy growth rate of 7.16 percent in 2016-17. The per capita income of the state, which was Rs.30727 in 2004-05, has increased substantially to Rs.291373 in 2016-17 at current prices. The major socio-economic indicators for the State show commendable improvement. The poverty ratio has declined to 8.19 per cent as compared to all India average of 21.92 per cent in 2011-12. The literacy rate at 81.40 per cent in 2011-12 is significant achievement. The IMR has gone down to 24 per 1000 in 2011 as compared to the all India average of 44.

The Section 2 provides an analysis of the recent macroeconomic trend of the State. The fiscal policy overview, tax, expenditure, and borrowing policies for the ensuing year and the priorities in the medium term are presented in Section 3. This section is based on the template provided in the Form F-1 of the Medium Term Fiscal Policy as per the Sikkim FRBM Act, Rule 3. In Section 4, Medium Term Fiscal Plan containing the projection of fiscal variables and assumptions underlying the projections has been given. This follows the Form F 2 of Sikkim FRBM Act, Rule 3. The concluding remarks are contained in section 5. The disclosures, following the Medium Term Fiscal Policy as per the Sikkim FRBM Act Rule 3 and Rule 4, are given in the Section called Disclosures.

## 2. Macroeconomic Outlook

The CSO has now provided the new series of GSDP data for the State from 2011-12 to 2016-17. For all projection purposes, the method suggested by the FFC has been adopted to update the GSDP. The State GSDP, in 2015-16 and 2016-17, grew consistently at a reasonable rate of 7.77 and 7.16 per cent at constant prices respectively (Table 1). The new methodology is showing robust growth in Sikkim with 2011-12 base prices, both with respect to GSVA and GSDP. Sikkim recorded a growth 11.20 per cent in current prices in 2016-17. Also, the growth rate of GSVA was recorded at 7.16 per cent at constant prices and 11.20 per cent at current prices (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
**Composition of GSVA (Constant Prices)**

| Item   | (Percent)          |               |               |               |               |               |
|--|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2011-12            | 2012-13       | 2013-14       | 2014-15       | 2015-16       | 2016-17       |
| <b>Primary</b>   | <b>8.35</b>        | <b>8.50</b>   | <b>8.39</b>   | <b>7.97</b>   | <b>7.31</b>   | <b>7.17</b>   |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing                                    | 8.28               | 8.42          | 8.30          | 7.88          | 7.23          | 7.09          |
| Mining and quarrying   | 0.07               | 0.08          | 0.09          | 0.09          | 0.08          | 0.08          |
| <b>Secondary</b>   | <b>62.83</b>       | <b>60.13</b>  | <b>59.87</b>  | <b>61.20</b>  | <b>62.07</b>  | <b>62.21</b>  |
| Manufacturing  | 39.54              | 38.96         | 40.06         | 41.56         | 43.38         | 43.79         |
| Construction   | 6.16               | 5.70          | 5.71          | 5.28          | 5.08          | 4.95          |
| Electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services              | 17.13              | 15.47         | 14.10         | 14.36         | 13.61         | 13.46         |
| <b>Tertiary</b>  | <b>28.82</b>       | <b>31.37</b>  | <b>31.73</b>  | <b>30.83</b>  | <b>30.62</b>  | <b>30.62</b>  |
| Transport, storage, communication & services related to broadcasting | 2.60               | 3.05          | 3.22          | 3.18          | 3.19          | 3.32          |
| Trade, repair, hotels and restaurants                                | 2.89               | 4.60          | 5.23          | 4.77          | 4.51          | 4.49          |
| Financial services   | 1.52               | 1.56          | 1.57          | 1.55          | 1.59          | 1.58          |
| Real estate, ownership of dwelling & professional services           | 5.36               | 5.38          | 5.31          | 4.98          | 4.76          | 4.55          |
| Public administration  | 6.80               | 7.21          | 7.19          | 7.09          | 7.28          | 7.30          |
| Other services   | 9.66               | 9.57          | 9.22          | 9.26          | 9.28          | 9.37          |
| <b>TOTAL GSVA at basic prices</b>                                    | <b>100.00</b>      | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> | <b>100.00</b> |
|  | <b>Growth Rate</b> |               |               |               |               |               |
| GSVA Constant Growth   |                    | 1.74          | 5.15          | 8.08          | 7.50          | 7.16          |
| GSDP Constant Growth   |                    | 2.29          | 6.07          | 7.90          | 7.77          | 7.16          |
| GSVA Current Growth  |                    | 9.87          | 11.28         | 11.48         | 9.76          | 11.20         |
| GSDP Current Growth  |                    | 10.51         | 12.35         | 11.14         | 10.04         | 11.20         |

Source: CSO, GoI.

The composition of the State GSDP shows that service sector contributes about one third of the GSDP and the manufacturing sector continues to be the mainstay of the State economy. The agriculture sector contributes about 7 to 8 of the GSDP. The share of the service sector seems to be growing in the economy. The relative share of industry sector has been mostly driven by manufacturing, construction and power sectors.

The growth of the GSDP that has propelled Sikkim very high in the per capita income ladder across the States, remains an enigma, when it comes to generating resources internally. The manufacturing and construction sectors remained major contributors to the growth of the State economy. The high growth in these sectors seen in the past years, for instance in 2009-10 marked a clear shift in the growth path of the GSDP as the growth rate in this year jumped to a high of 73.6 per cent (89.9 per cent in current prices). The impressive growth of power sector was basically driven by generation of hydroelectricity in newly commissioned power projects. The manufacturing sector showed very high growth due to higher production in pharmaceutical industries and strengthening of small-scale industries. For instance the manufacturing sector constitutes about 43 per cent of State GSDP in 2016-17.

Although, the manufacturing, power and construction sectors emerged as major driving force for the Sikkimese economy, its impact on State finances, particularly on revenue generation has not been very productive. The State economy is usually assumed to provide base for the revenue. The pattern of growth in the State in recent years suggests that the sectors growing rapidly and contributing to growth process have not contributed to tax revenue to the same extent. This was not due to any weakness in the tax policy or tax administration of the State. The generation of hydroelectricity, though adds to the GSDP numbers, remain outside the State tax system. Similarly, the pharmaceutical industries send their products out of the State through consignment transfer, which is not captured in the VAT or GST.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, based on the comparable GSDP figures prepared by the CSO specifically for the use of the Commission, assumed a growth of 28.05 per cent for the year 2014-15 and 24.32 per cent for the period of 2015-16 to

2019-20 for Sikkim at current prices. This growth rate was used in the projection of revenue receipts and expenditure of the State for the assessment of State finances during the award period of the Commission. The high growth rate assumed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission implies a higher nominal amount of GSDP in the award period of the Commission and a higher level of projected nominal revenue receipts. Thus, it will not be possible for the State Government to achieve the revenue receipt projected by the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission in their assessment for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

The Finance Commission recommended using the average growth rate of the GSDP of the past three years to arrive at the borrowing ceilings of the State. The MTFP uses the same methodology to arrive at the GSDP figures for the Budget year and the two outward years.

### **3. Fiscal Profile of the State**

#### **3.1 The Changing Pattern of Central Transfers and its Impact on Sikkim**

The recommendations of the FFC, has not had a favourable impact. The budget for the year 2018-19 is the fourth budget after the FFC gave its recommendations on devolution of resources to the States. While audited data shows that in 2016-17, the central transfers improved from the decline shown in the previous year, it still remains lower than the pre-FFC period relative to the GSDP. The loss of assured source of block grants has created fiscal stress for the State and it seems unlikely that the increased tax devolution would compensate for this. Starting from the year 2017-18, revised figures for which are given, the CGST, IGST, and compensation due to loss of the sales tax revenue are included in the Central transfers. The aggregate impact of these has been a rise in Central transfers in 2017-18. The projections for the year 2018-19, however, revise these transfers downward as percentage to the GSDP.

The FFC increased tax devolution to the State from 32 per cent to 42 per cent to provide higher flexibility in the use of enhanced level of untied fund. As the FFC relied on tax devolution to cover the assessed revenue expenditure needs of the States, it took a holistic view of the revenue expenditure needs of States without Plan and Non-Plan distinction. The FFC departed from past practice by not awarding specific-purpose grants. These grants, according to the Commission, were small to make any impact and create confusion where large Plan schemes already exist, and were left to the Centre and the states acting cooperatively for those needs. The only grants awarded by the Commission were disaster relief grants and grants for local bodies. The Commission was required by their terms of reference to recommend grants for these two purposes. The commission steered clear of both the Plan/Non-Plan distinction and that between special-category and other states.

Consequent upon the enhancement of share of the states in the central divisible pool from the current 32 percent to 42 percent which is the biggest ever increase in vertical tax devolution, Central Assistance to State Plan has been restructured. The Central Government has discontinued the normal central assistance (NCA), special plan assistance (SPA), special central assistance (SCA), and the additional central



assistance (ACA). The Central Government also delinked eight centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) from funding and brought about substantial changes in the funding pattern of some other schemes.

### **3.2 Fiscal Policy Overview**

The rule based fiscal management adopted with the introduction of FRBM Act in 2010-11, limits the deficit and debt levels to an already agreed upon fiscal path. Since the adoption of the FBM Act, the State managed to adhere to the fiscal targets stipulated in the Act. The State has maintained revenue surplus, reduced the deficit to stipulated limit, and reduced the debt burden considerably complying with the FRBM Act (Table 2). The revenue surplus continues to be reasonably good, which is budgeted at 2.70 percent in 2018-19. The revenue surplus depends upon the central grants as the own revenue has been declining in recent years. The fiscal deficit, which was expected to be at 3.50 percent in 2017-18 RE based on the flexibility allowed by the FFC, was reduced to 3 percent of the GSDP in 2018-19 BE. Despite the fiscal stress, the State Government has remained on the path of the fiscal consolidation and continues to allocate resources to the priority areas. The MTFP projects to maintain the fiscal consolidation process in the two outward years and improve resource availability to social and economic sectors.

In the revenue receipt side, there were certain changes adopted in the budget for the year 2018-19. The first relates to the GST. After the GST was adopted, its classification has come in 2018-19 budget projections as also for the revised estimates of 2017-18. The GST was accounted for in terms of SGST, CGST, IGST and the compensation for loss to the State due to the adoption of GST. While SGST becomes the State's own revenue, the other receipts are accounted for under the Central transfers. Thus, while analyzing the Central transfers, it is important to keep these receipts in consideration.

The budget classification has undergone changes in this fiscal to reflect the Central Government's decision to remove plan and non-plan distinction. Removal of plan and non-plan distinction was expected to improve budget planning by giving a holistic picture of spending requirement for the programmes. The removal leaves only revenue and capital distinction expenditure classification.

**Table 2**  
**Fiscal Profile of Sikkim: An Overview**

|                                | (Percent to GSDP) |              |              |              |              |              |                     |                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                | 2011-<br>12       | 2012-<br>13  | 2013-<br>14  | 2014-<br>15  | 2015-<br>16  | 2016-<br>17  | 2017-<br>18<br>(RE) | 2018-<br>19<br>(BE) |
| <b>Revenues</b>                | <b>25.72</b>      | <b>26.65</b> | <b>28.09</b> | <b>26.88</b> | <b>22.75</b> | <b>24.57</b> | <b>29.14</b>        | <b>25.85</b>        |
| <b>Own Tax Revenues</b>        | <b>2.63</b>       | <b>3.53</b>  | <b>3.79</b>  | <b>3.47</b>  | <b>3.41</b>  | <b>3.48</b>  | <b>3.34</b>         | <b>3.33</b>         |
| Income Tax                     | 0.00              | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| Sales Tax                      | 1.11              | 1.84         | 2.07         | 1.85         | 1.96         | 1.94         | 1.02                | 0.67                |
| SGST                           | 0.00              | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 1.06                | 1.09                |
| State Excise Duties            | 0.86              | 0.90         | 0.87         | 0.86         | 0.85         | 0.83         | 0.73                | 0.69                |
| Motor Vehicle Tax              | 0.15              | 0.13         | 0.13         | 0.13         | 0.13         | 0.13         | 0.14                | 0.13                |
| Stamp Duty and Regi.<br>Fees   | 0.07              | 0.04         | 0.05         | 0.04         | 0.05         | 0.07         | 0.06                | 0.06                |
| Other Taxes                    | 0.44              | 0.61         | 0.67         | 0.58         | 0.41         | 0.50         | 0.33                | 0.69                |
| <b>Non-Tax Revenues</b>        | <b>2.19</b>       | <b>2.45</b>  | <b>2.61</b>  | <b>2.13</b>  | <b>2.48</b>  | <b>2.41</b>  | <b>2.24</b>         | <b>2.08</b>         |
| <b>Central Transfers</b>       | <b>20.91</b>      | <b>20.67</b> | <b>21.69</b> | <b>21.28</b> | <b>16.86</b> | <b>18.69</b> | <b>23.56</b>        | <b>20.44</b>        |
| Tax Devolution                 | 5.48              | 5.66         | 5.50         | 5.32         | 11.24        | 11.03        | 8.96                | 7.67                |
| CGST, IGST &<br>Compensation   |                   |              |              |              |              |              | 2.82                | 4.83                |
| Grants                         | 15.43             | 15.01        | 16.19        | 15.96        | 5.62         | 7.66         | 11.78               | 7.94                |
| Non-debt capital receipt       | 0.00              | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00                | 0.00                |
| <b>Revenue Expenditure</b>     | <b>21.76</b>      | <b>20.32</b> | <b>21.82</b> | <b>22.07</b> | <b>21.91</b> | <b>20.19</b> | <b>23.24</b>        | <b>23.15</b>        |
| <b>General Services</b>        | <b>6.74</b>       | <b>7.14</b>  | <b>7.47</b>  | <b>7.98</b>  | <b>7.48</b>  | <b>7.57</b>  | <b>7.84</b>         | <b>9.38</b>         |
| <b>Social Services</b>         | <b>9.24</b>       | <b>7.68</b>  | <b>9.21</b>  | <b>8.41</b>  | <b>7.43</b>  | <b>7.12</b>  | <b>8.24</b>         | <b>7.16</b>         |
| <b>Economic Services</b>       | <b>5.50</b>       | <b>5.32</b>  | <b>4.89</b>  | <b>5.40</b>  | <b>6.77</b>  | <b>5.21</b>  | <b>6.84</b>         | <b>6.30</b>         |
| <b>Assignment to LBs</b>       | <b>0.28</b>       | <b>0.19</b>  | <b>0.26</b>  | <b>0.28</b>  | <b>0.23</b>  | <b>0.30</b>  | <b>0.32</b>         | <b>0.32</b>         |
| <b>Capital Expenditure</b>     | <b>5.96</b>       | <b>6.86</b>  | <b>6.65</b>  | <b>6.62</b>  | <b>3.96</b>  | <b>3.92</b>  | <b>9.40</b>         | <b>5.70</b>         |
| Capital Outlay                 | 5.52              | 6.83         | 6.58         | 6.45         | 3.81         | 3.84         | 9.32                | 5.64                |
| Net Lending                    | 0.44              | 0.03         | 0.07         | 0.17         | 0.15         | 0.08         | 0.08                | 0.06                |
| <b>Revenue Deficit</b>         | <b>-3.96</b>      | <b>-6.33</b> | <b>-6.27</b> | <b>-4.81</b> | <b>-0.84</b> | <b>-4.38</b> | <b>-5.90</b>        | <b>-2.70</b>        |
| <b>Fiscal Deficit</b>          | <b>1.99</b>       | <b>0.53</b>  | <b>0.38</b>  | <b>1.81</b>  | <b>3.13</b>  | <b>-0.46</b> | <b>3.50</b>         | <b>3.00</b>         |
| <b>Primary Deficit</b>         | <b>0.28</b>       | <b>-1.08</b> | <b>-1.21</b> | <b>0.24</b>  | <b>1.55</b>  | <b>-2.19</b> | <b>1.77</b>         | <b>1.00</b>         |
| <b>Outstanding Liabilities</b> | <b>22.86</b>      | <b>22.35</b> | <b>22.14</b> | <b>22.89</b> | <b>23.81</b> | <b>24.90</b> | <b>25.77</b>        | <b>26.36</b>        |

Source (Basic Data): Finance Accounts and State Budget 2018-19

Note: The GSDP figures are from CSO and projected following the methodology suggested by the FFC. Negative sign indicates revenue surplus

### 3.3 Revenue Mobilization

The Central transfers, taking both the tax devolution and grants, constitute major share of total revenue receipts of the State. On an average the central transfers constitutes little more than there fourths of the total State revenues. The relative share of central transfers in total revenue receipts of the State has steadily increased. While the share stood at 76.05 percent in 2016-17, the last year for which audited figures are available, it increased to 79 percent in 2018-19 budget due to inclusion of GST related transfers.

As percentage to GSDP, the Central transfers increased to 18.69 percent in 2016-17 after major decline in the previous year. Central transfer is projected to increase to 23.56 per cent in 2016-17 and further decline to 20.44 percent in 2018-19 budget estimates. The GST related transfers of 2.82 and 4.83 percent of GSDP is included in the Central transfers of these two years (Table 2). The tax and own non-tax revenue are expected to be 3.3 and 2.08 per cent of GSDP respectively as per the BE of 2018-19.

The own revenue receipts was projected to grow to `1169.33 crores in 2017-18 RE to `1252.24 crores in 2018-19 budget estimates. Both the own tax and non-tax revenue show rise in nominal terms. Despite increase in nominal terms, the own revenue receipt show a decline relative to GSDP. The own revenue GSDP ratio has gone down from 5.6 percent in 2017-18 to 5.4 percent in 2018-19 BE. Both the components of the own revenue, the own tax and own non-tax revenue show similar trend. However, the total revenue receipt of the State shows a rise as percentage to the GSDP from 24.57 per cent in 2016-17 to 25.85 percent in 2018-19 BE due to expected rise in Central transfers. A disaggregated analysis of revenue performance of the state is undertaken to determine the revenue prospects while preparing the MTFP aligned with the provisions of FRBM act of Sikkim.

**Table 3**  
**Composition of Own Tax Revenue**

|                          | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18<br>(RE) | 2018-19<br>(BE) |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Own Tax Revenues         | 100     | 100     | 100     | 100     | 100     | 100     | 100             | 100             |
| Sales Tax                | 42.3    | 52.1    | 54.5    | 53.5    | 57.5    | 55.9    | 30.6            | 20.0            |
| SGST                     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 31.7            | 32.9            |
| State Excise Duties      | 32.8    | 25.5    | 23.0    | 24.9    | 25.1    | 23.9    | 22.0            | 20.6            |
| Motor Vehicle Tax        | 5.6     | 3.8     | 3.5     | 3.7     | 3.9     | 3.8     | 4.3             | 4.0             |
| Stamp Duty and Reg. Fees | 2.8     | 1.2     | 1.2     | 1.3     | 1.5     | 1.9     | 1.7             | 1.7             |
| Other Taxes              | 16.5    | 17.3    | 17.7    | 16.7    | 12.0    | 14.4    | 9.7             | 20.8            |
| Sales Tax + SGST         | 42.3    | 52.1    | 54.5    | 53.5    | 57.5    | 55.9    | 62.3            | 52.8            |

Composition of own tax revenue given in Table 3 shows that the sales tax along with the newly introduced GST and State excise are two major sources of own

tax revenue for the State. The SGST component of the GST is accounted for in the own tax revenue of the State. The relative share of the sales tax and GST was at 55.9 per cent in 2016-17, the last year for which audited figures are available, which increased to 62.3 percent the next year. This is set to decline to 52.8 percent in 2018-19 (BE). The relative share of State excise in total own revenue was at 25.1 percent in 2015-16 and is projected to fall to 20.6 percent in 2018-19 BE. The uncertainties surrounding the Supreme Court's order for removing the liquor outlets on the Express Highways seems to have adversely affected the excise tax. During the same time the relative share of motor vehicle tax shows an increase.

The State taxes of Sikkim have remained less buoyant due to the pattern of growth where the sectors growing rapidly and contributing to growth process have not contributed to tax revenues. The buoyancy coefficients for the State taxes during the period 2004-05 to 2018-19 given in Table 4 reveal that the growth of taxes has fallen behind the growth of the GSDP. The investment and the value of the production in the sectors like electricity and pharmaceutical, though contributed to the growth of GSDP, has not improved the revenue base. The pharmaceutical send their product outside the State in the form of stock transfers, which do not attract central sales tax. The growth process, however, is expected to provide impetus to rise in trade and business activities and thus higher tax collection in the future years. The MTFP after calibrating the growth potential of the GSDP and other tax measures announced in BE 2018-19 makes suitable adjustment in tax buoyancies for projection of tax revenues in the medium term.

**Table 4**  
**Buoyancy of Taxes: 2004-05 to 2017-18**

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Own Tax Revenues                 | 0.637 |
| Sales Tax + SGST                 | 0.762 |
| State Excise Duties              | 0.663 |
| Motor Vehicle Tax                | 0.761 |
| Stamp Duty and Registration Fees | 0.637 |
| Other Taxes                      | 1.212 |

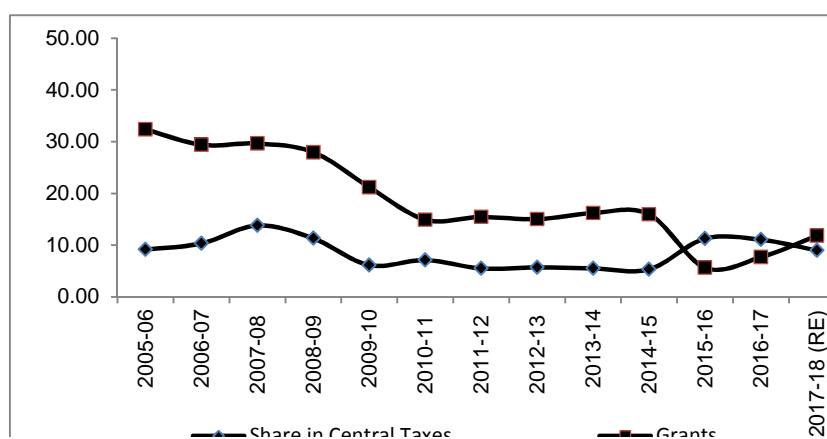
Source (Basic Data): Finance Accounts and State Budget 2018-19

The own non-tax revenue, an important source of revenue for the State, was `451.64 crores to in 2016-17, which is budgeted to rise to `481.92 crores in 2018-19.

However, its share in own revenue of the State has been declining in recent years. The share of non-tax revenue in total revenue receipts has gone down from 9.8 percent in 2016-17 to 8.06 percent in 2018-19 budget. Income from State lottery, power sector, road transport, and interest receipts has been the main source of non-tax revenue. The decline in income from lottery has adversely affected the non-tax revenue. The hydro power projects being constructed in the State are expected to make significant contribution in the coming years also. The Government had rationalized the power tariff by raising it by 16 % in 2012-13, which helped in improving the income from this source. The share of road transport in own non-tax revenue has been growing over the years. The income from forestry and wild life has remained a steady source revenue for the State.

Major changes have happened in Central transfers since 2015-16 after the FFC recommendations and these changes have affected the State adversely. The share in Central taxes, which was at 5.32 percent to GSDP in 2014-15, has increased to 11.03 per cent in 2016-17 and is expected to rise further to 12.50 percent in 2018-19, BE. This includes GST related transfers like IGST, CGST and Compensation due to loss of the sales tax in the State (Table 2). The higher devolution recommended by the FFC seems to have been stabilized (Figure 1). At the same time the grants amount has suffered a major decline from 15.96 percent in 2014-15 to 7.66 percent in 2016-17. It is projected to assume 7.94 percent in the 2018-19 budget estimates. While FFC refrained from making any state specific grants, as was the case for the TFC, the Central Government subsumed the block grants in the tax devolution.

**Figure 1**  
**Central Transfers as Percentage of GSDP**



### 3.4 Expenditure Profile

One of the important fiscal management principles in Sikkim has been effective control over revenue expenditure despite having large committed spending. This has helped the State to increase the revenue surplus and expand the capital expenditure. The priority sectors in social and economic services were traditionally given emphasis in resource allocation. The State Government has initiated several schemes in education and health to improve overall social and human infrastructure in the State. The expenditure pattern presented in Table 5 reflects these trends over the years. The revenue expenditure, which was at 21.76 per cent relative to GSDP in 2011-12, has declined to 20.19 percent in 2016-17. The budget projection raised it to 23.15 percent in 2018-19. The level of expenditure on social and economic services was protected during this period.

**Table 5**  
**Expenditure Profile**

(Per cent to GSDP)

|                            | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18<br>(RE) | 2018-19<br>(BE) |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Revenue Expenditure</b> | 21.76   | 20.32   | 21.82   | 22.07   | 21.91   | 20.19   | 23.24           | 23.15           |
| <b>General Services</b>    | 6.74    | 7.14    | 7.47    | 7.98    | 7.48    | 7.57    | 7.84            | 9.38            |
| Interest Payment           | 1.71    | 1.61    | 1.60    | 1.58    | 1.58    | 1.73    | 1.73            | 2.00            |
| Pension                    | 1.56    | 1.82    | 1.88    | 2.19    | 2.42    | 2.38    | 2.59            | 2.77            |
| Other                      | 3.47    | 3.70    | 3.99    | 4.22    | 3.48    | 3.46    | 3.52            | 4.60            |
| <b>Social Services</b>     | 9.24    | 7.68    | 9.21    | 8.41    | 7.43    | 7.12    | 8.24            | 7.16            |
| Education                  | 4.25    | 4.17    | 4.55    | 4.68    | 4.54    | 3.99    | 4.27            | 4.19            |
| Medical and Public Health  | 1.02    | 1.02    | 1.04    | 1.20    | 1.06    | 1.02    | 1.12            | 1.06            |
| Other Social Services      | 3.97    | 2.49    | 3.62    | 2.53    | 1.83    | 2.11    | 2.85            | 1.90            |
| <b>Economic Services</b>   | 5.50    | 5.32    | 4.89    | 5.40    | 6.77    | 5.21    | 6.84            | 6.30            |
| Assignment to LBs          | 0.28    | 0.19    | 0.26    | 0.28    | 0.23    | 0.30    | 0.32            | 0.32            |
| <b>Capital Outlay</b>      | 5.52    | 6.83    | 6.58    | 6.45    | 3.81    | 3.84    | 9.32            | 5.64            |

Source (Basic Data): Finance Accounts and State Budget 2018-19

The improvement in fiscal situation in earlier years in the State provided the opportunity to reinforce the core development strategy of building the social and physical infrastructure. The capital expenditure, which had slowed down in 2015-16 and 2016-17 relative to the GSDP, seems to have revived since then. The capital expenditure as percent to GSDP declined from 5.52 percent in 2011-12 to 3.84 percent

in 2016-17. However, it has revived since then and is budgeted at 5.64 percent in 2018-19. Based on the projected revenue receipts and expenditure, the capital expenditure limit was determined within the overall stipulation of the requirements for achieving sustainable level of debt and deficit as stipulated in the FRBM fiscal targets. The MTFP is prepared based on the rationale of restructuring the government spending by emphasizing the critical areas.

The composition of capital expenditure shows that sectors like education, health, water supply and sanitation, transport, energy and tourism have been the focus areas. The education and health sectors also have attracted relatively higher capital expenditure (Table 6). Rise in allocation from the NEC, NLCPR and NABARD funded projects for road and other infrastructure projects raised the capital expenditure. The expansion of road and other infrastructure base also required higher level of land compensation. The TFC recommended grants for several projects in tourism sector, which fuelled the capital expenditure. The MTFP made provisions for many of the ongoing projects and the new projects announced in the budget.

**Table 6**  
**Composition of Capital Expenditure**

|   | (Per Cent) |            |            |            |            |            |              |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|   | 2011-12    | 2012-13    | 2013-14    | 2014-15    | 2015-16    | 2016-17    | 2017-18 (RE) | 2018-19    |
| <b>Capital Expenditure</b>                            | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b> |
| <b>General Services</b>                               | 4.1        | 9.9        | 18.6       | 11.2       | 10.1       | 9.9        | 10.0         | 8.9        |
| <b>Social Services</b>                                | 45.0       | 34.6       | 29.2       | 27.5       | 31.7       | 33.8       | 37.8         | 28.6       |
| Education   | 10.2       | 7.4        | 5.5        | 3.2        | 2.9        | 6.4        | 7.0          | 5.7        |
| Health  | 15.8       | 12.0       | 10.2       | 6.3        | 10.4       | 10.1       | 12.0         | 3.5        |
| Water supply, Sanitation, Housing & Urban Development | 18.5       | 15.0       | 12.2       | 17.5       | 8.9        | 15.9       | 16.3         | 17.2       |
| Information   | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.0        | 0.2        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0          | 0.0        |
| Welfare of SC/STBC                                    | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.6        | 0.9        | 1.7          | 1.7        |
| Social Security                                       | 0.0        | 0.0        | 1.1        | 0.2        | 1.7        | 0.4        | 0.7          | 0.5        |
| <b>Economic Services</b>                              | 50.9       | 55.5       | 52.2       | 61.3       | 58.2       | 56.4       | 52.2         | 62.5       |
| Agriculture   | 2.8        | 1.1        | 1.4        | 1.2        | 1.0        | 1.2        | 1.3          | 1.9        |
| Rural Development                                     | 5.8        | 2.4        | 2.1        | 1.6        | 0.0        | 1.3        | 0.8          | 0.6        |
| Special Areas Programmes                              | 2.9        | 2.1        | 1.3        | 2.3        | 3.9        | 4.2        | 2.1          | 3.6        |
| Irrigation  | 0.5        | 0.8        | 0.4        | 0.4        | 0.2        | 0.1        | 0.3          | 1.0        |
| Energy  | 6.1        | 5.2        | 7.3        | 3.3        | 5.9        | 8.0        | 7.6          | 5.7        |
| Industries and Minerals                               | 0.3        | 0.5        | 0.5        | 0.7        | 0.1        | 0.3        | 0.1          | 0.1        |
| Transport   | 23.1       | 37.5       | 32.4       | 24.5       | 33.2       | 35.6       | 33.7         | 44.2       |

|                      |     |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Science & Technology | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1  | 0.0  | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Tourism              | 9.3 | 5.9 | 6.9 | 27.2 | 13.9 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 5.3 |

Source (Basic Data): Finance Accounts and State Budget 2018-19

### **3.5 Outstanding Debt and Government Guarantee**

Maintaining the debt burden of the State at sustainable level remains one of the major objectives of the fiscal management of the State as reflected in the FRBM Act. The TFC in their revised fiscal roadmap have worked out the yearly outstanding debt burden for all the states aligning with the fiscal path. The debt-GSDP ratio, as per the TFC stipulation, had gone down considerably. The debt stock as percentage to the GSDP was 24.9 per cent in 2016-17 (Table 2). The decline in the average cost of debt of the state because of the debt restructuring formula of the Twelfth Finance Commission has helped to lowering the debt burden. Decline in the average cost of debt will result in reduction in the volume of interest payments and availability of higher fiscal space for the state government. The interest payment has remained below 2 percent of the GSDP.

The FFC in their fiscal roadmap for the States recommended anchoring the fiscal deficit at 3 percent of the GSDP. The States can avail the flexibility to increase this limit by a total of 0.5 percentage points, 0.25 percent separately depending upon conditions prescribed. One of the major conditions was to limit the debt-GSDP limit to 25 percent in the previous year. Thus, for all effective purposes the new benchmark of debt-GSDP ratio has been 25 percent. The State seems to have exceeded this limit in 2018-19 budget estimates as the debt-GSDP ratio touched 26.36 percent.

The composition of stock of public debt given in Table 7 reveals that the share of Central Government loans to the State has been reduced considerably. As compared to a relative share of about 6.15 per cent in 2011-12, the Central loan accounts for 2.36 in 2016-17. This has further come down to 1.49 percent in 2018-19 budget estimates. Following the recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission the Central Government loans to the States has been reduced significantly. The dependence of the State Government on the market borrowing has increased over the years. The share of market borrowing has increased from about 66.41 per cent in 2011-12 to 72.69 per cent in 2016-17. The overall borrowing in a year, however, remains within the limit fixed by the Central Government. This is determined after having consultation with the



State Government on the aggregate plan size for the State. The rise in the relative share of the market borrowing reflects the strength of the fiscal situation of the State.

**Table 7**  
**Composition of Debt and Liabilities**

|                             | 2011-12      | 2012-13      | 2013-14      | 2014-15      | 2015-16      | 2016-17      | 2017-18<br>(RE) | 2018-19<br>(BE) |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>A. Public Debt</b>       | <b>72.56</b> | <b>71.71</b> | <b>71.22</b> | <b>72.11</b> | <b>74.96</b> | <b>75.06</b> | <b>78.61</b>    | <b>80.39</b>    |
| Internal Debt               | 66.41        | 66.31        | 67.08        | 68.63        | 72.08        | 72.69        | 76.74           | 78.90           |
| Central Loans               | 6.15         | 5.40         | 4.14         | 3.48         | 2.88         | 2.36         | 1.87            | 1.49            |
| <b>B. Other Liabilities</b> | <b>27.44</b> | <b>28.29</b> | <b>28.78</b> | <b>27.89</b> | <b>25.04</b> | <b>24.94</b> | <b>21.39</b>    | <b>19.61</b>    |
| Small Savings, PF etc.      | 22.67        | 22.63        | 22.34        | 20.40        | 18.88        | 17.79        | 15.77           | 15.17           |
| Reserve Fund                | 0.72         | 0.48         | 1.67         | 3.52         | 2.13         | 2.01         | 1.14            | 0.47            |
| Deposits                    | 4.05         | 5.18         | 4.76         | 3.97         | 4.04         | 5.14         | 4.49            | 3.97            |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>    | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>      | <b>100</b>      |

Source (Basic Data): Finance Accounts and State Budget 2018-19

### ***Guarantees given by the State Government***

As per the Sikkim Government Guarantee Act, 2000, the ceiling on total outstanding government guarantee in a year is restricted to three times the State's tax revenue receipts of the second preceding year. The outstanding sum guaranteed by the State government as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 was `440.85 crores (Finance Accounts – 2016-17), which is below the permissible limit.

### **3.6 Government Policy for the Ensuing Budget Year**

Despite the decline in grants, which affected the aggregate resource position of the State, the Government has emphasized on continuing the programmes in social and economic sectors in the budget for the year 2018-19. The continuing programmes and new programmes introduced in the last year's budget will receive sufficient resources to realize their full potential. The social sector continues to be one of the topmost priorities of the Government. In the ensuing budget focus has given to youth oriented schemes, housing and sanitation, transport, rural roads, urban infrastructure, health facilities and infrastructure, education, organic farming, eco-tourism, sustainable forest management and so on.

## 4. Medium Term Fiscal Plan: 2018-19 to 2020-21

### 4.1 Fiscal Indicators

**Table 8 (follows Form F2 of the Act)**  
**Fiscal Indicators-Rolling Targets**

|   |  | Previous Year (Y-2)<br>Actuals | Current Year (Y-1)<br>Revised Estimates | Ensuing Year (Y)<br>Budget Estimates | Targets for Year (Y+1) | Targets for Year Y+2) |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|   |  | 2016-17                        | 2017-18 (RE)                            | 2018-19 (BE)                         | 2019-20                | 2020-21               |
| 1 | Revenue deficit as percentage of GSDP  | -4.36                          | -5.90                                   | -2.70                                | -2.00                  | -1.50                 |
| 2 | Fiscal deficit as percentage to GSDP   | -0.46                          | 3.50                                    | 3.00                                 | 3.00                   | 3.00                  |
| 3 | Primary deficit as percentage of GSDP  | -2.19                          | 1.77                                    | 1.00                                 | 0.96                   | 0.92                  |
| 4 | Total Debt Stock as Percentage of GSDP | 24.90                          | 25.77                                   | 26.36                                | 26.83                  | 27.25                 |

**Notes:** 1. GSDP is the Gross Domestic Product at current prices as per the 2011-12 base

2. The negative sign in revenue deficit and fiscal deficit indicates surplus.

The fiscal outcomes in the form of indicators like fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, and outstanding liabilities for previous year, current year, ensuing budget year and two outward years are presented in Table 8. The Table follows the template given by the Sikkim FRBM Act rules as Form F-2. The fiscal outcomes of the 2016-17, the last year for which audited figures are available, show that the State Government has adhered to the fiscal targets under the Act. The surplus was mainly due to late arrival of one time grant to the State. The revised estimate for the year 2017-18 shows that the fiscal deficit increased to 3.50 percent of GSDP. This was because the State availed the flexibility of 0.5 percent allowed by the FFC on the ground of fiscal prudence. The Government managed to generate revenue surplus all along. The projections for the budget year, 2018-19, and for two outward years, which give a medium term perspective to the fiscal stance, is aligned with the FRBM Act. The MTFP projection from 2018-19 to 2020-21 conforms to the recommendations of the FFC to anchor the fiscal deficit to 3 per cent of GSDP.

The MTFP 2018-19 presents the fiscal outlook of the State Government in a medium term that includes the ensuing budget year and two outward years. The

detailed projection of fiscal variables presented in Table 9 shows that the revenue account surplus has been maintained during the MTFP period and the fiscal deficit has been stabilized at 3 per cent relative to the GSDP. The revenue expenditure has been allowed to grow slowly during the MTFP period to provide sufficient funding to the existing and new programmes. The spending pattern for the priority areas of the State has remained favourable in the medium term. The allocation to social services and economic services has been raised.

The increment in revenue expenditure is restrained based on the programs announced by the Government. The growth in revenue has not been very fast in Sikkim due to lack of buoyant sources. The adoption of GST, though, infused some growth, is not sufficient to make the internal revenue as a potent force in the fiscal management of Sikkim. The capital expenditure has been reduced in a graded manner keeping the reality regarding the resources in consideration. However, the capital spending at 4.45 percent of the GSDP in the last year of the MTFP is reasonably high.

The MTFP strives to fulfill the objective of the fiscal management in the State to achieve better results from the application of funds. While GSDP is assumed to grow at 10.63 percent, following the methodology proposed by the FFC, the total revenue receipt grows at about 10 percent. The loss of block grants has pulled down the aggregate revenue receipts. The outstanding liabilities increases from 26.36 percent in 2018-19 BE to 27.25 percent in 2020-21. However, it is expected that better fiscal management during the year will reduce the borrowing requirement and the debt-GSDP ratio will remain within 25 percent.

There has been substantial growth in revenue receipts and allocations to various sectors in nominal terms. While revenue receipts increases from `5981 crores to `7175 crores in the medium term, the revenue expenditure rises from `5356 crores to `6751 crores. The provision for capital outlay has increased from `1304 crores to `1259 crores during MTFP period. The decline in capital outlay relative to the GSDP reflects realistic estimates given the fact that the plan transfers from Centre has gone down. Despite pressure on revenue receipts and competing demands, the focus on

investments in infrastructure will remain a key factor in fiscal policy of the Government.

**Table 9**  
**Medium Term Fiscal Plan: 2018-19 to 2020-21**

|   | (Per cent to GSDP) |              |              |
|---|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | 2018-19 (BE)       | 2019-20      | 2020-21      |
| <b>Revenue Receipts</b>                   | <b>25.85</b>       | <b>25.60</b> | <b>25.34</b> |
| <b>Own Tax Revenues</b>                   | <b>3.33</b>        | <b>3.30</b>  | <b>3.28</b>  |
| Income Tax                                | 0.00               | 0.00         | 0.00         |
| Sales Tax +SGST                           | 1.76               | 1.74         | 1.73         |
| State Excise Duties                       | 0.69               | 0.66         | 0.64         |
| Motor Vehicle Tax                         | 0.13               | 0.13         | 0.13         |
| Stamp Duty and Registration Fees          | 0.06               | 0.06         | 0.06         |
| Other Taxes                               | 0.69               | 0.71         | 0.72         |
| <b>Own Non-Tax Revenues</b>               | <b>2.08</b>        | <b>2.07</b>  | <b>2.05</b>  |
| <b>Central Transfers</b>                  | <b>20.44</b>       | <b>20.22</b> | <b>20.01</b> |
| Tax Share                                 | 7.67               | 7.67         | 7.67         |
| CGST, IGST & Compensation                 | 4.83               | 4.72         | 4.61         |
| Grants                                    | 7.94               | 7.84         | 7.73         |
| <b>Revenue Expenditure</b>                | <b>23.15</b>       | <b>23.60</b> | <b>23.84</b> |
| <b>General Services</b>                   | <b>9.38</b>        | <b>9.58</b>  | <b>9.78</b>  |
| Interest Payment                          | 2.00               | 2.04         | 2.08         |
| Pension                                   | 2.77               | 3.14         | 3.55         |
| Other General Services                    | 4.60               | 4.40         | 4.15         |
| <b>Social Services</b>                    | <b>7.16</b>        | <b>7.36</b>  | <b>7.58</b>  |
| Education                                 | 4.19               | 4.33         | 4.47         |
| Medical and Public Health                 | 1.06               | 1.09         | 1.12         |
| Other Social Services                     | 1.90               | 1.95         | 1.99         |
| <b>Economic Services</b>                  | <b>6.30</b>        | <b>6.65</b>  | <b>6.48</b>  |
| <b>Compensation and Assignment to LBs</b> | <b>0.32</b>        | <b>0.34</b>  | <b>0.37</b>  |
| <b>Capital Expenditure</b>                | <b>5.70</b>        | <b>5.00</b>  | <b>4.50</b>  |
| Capital Outlay                            | 5.64               | 4.94         | 4.45         |
| Net Lending                               | 0.06               | 0.06         | 0.05         |
| <b>Revenue Deficit</b>                    | <b>-2.70</b>       | <b>-2.00</b> | <b>-1.50</b> |
| <b>Fiscal Deficit</b>                     | <b>3.00</b>        | <b>3.00</b>  | <b>3.00</b>  |
| <b>Primary Deficit</b>                    | <b>1.00</b>        | <b>0.96</b>  | <b>0.92</b>  |
| <b>Outstanding Debt</b>                   | <b>26.36</b>       | <b>26.83</b> | <b>27.25</b> |

**Notes:** 1. GSDP is the Gross Domestic Product at current prices as per the 2011-12 base

2. The negative sign in revenue deficit indicates surplus.

#### **4.2 Assumption Underlying the Fiscal Indicators**

The MTFP 2018-19 is based on realistic assumptions relating to the likely behaviour of fiscal variables. These assumptions reflect the fiscal policy choices of the Government operating with limited resource availability. The MTFP conforms to the

provisions made in the FRBM Act of the State and the recommendations made by the FFC regarding fiscal consolidation across the States. Despite subdued Central transfers during 2015-16 and 2016-17, the State adhered to the FRBM Act fiscal targets. The revised estimates for the year 2017-18 includes higher fiscal deficit adopted availing flexibility offered by the FFC and one time grant to the State. Thus the fiscal outcomes in the year 2017-18 show higher values.

The budget projection for the year 2018-19 is more grounded with a fiscal deficit of 3 percent of GSDP. The MTFP projects to be on the fiscal consolidation path in the medium term by anchoring the deficit at 3 percent of the GSDP. The trends in resource transfers under tax devolution, grants, and GST related transfers have become more stable, which were used in the projections for the MTFP. The fund flows to the programs are protected and provisions have been made to focus on the priority sectors to help the development process.

The MTFP followed the methodology prescribed by the FFC to project GSDP in the medium term (see Box 1). This methodology was used by the Ministry of Finance, GoI, to determine the borrowing ceiling for Sikkim. For the years 2019-20 and 2020-21, the MTFP uses the growth rate of 10.63, which was used for the budget projections the year 2018-19.

The components of the own tax revenue of the State was projected separately to arrive at aggregate own tax revenue. The total own revenue of the State was derived after projecting the State taxes and non-tax revenue in a disaggregated manner. The State taxes were projected using a buoyancy based growth rate assuming that the growth in the economy would help improving the tax base. The buoyancy coefficients for the period 2004-05 to 2018-19 indicate that the growth rate of the State taxes remained below the growth rate of the GSDP. The prescriptive buoyancies for individual taxes like sales tax, excise duty, motor vehicle tax, stamps and registration duties have been increased keeping in mind the scope for improvement in these taxes. While average growth rate of own taxes was about 8 percent during 2014-15 to 2018-19, the growth rate assumed during the MTFP period was about 10 percent. The ongoing initiatives of the Government to modernize the tax department to reap the benefits from the introduction of GST will improve the tax base. The e-governance

programmes in the tax departments by introducing online registration, e-filing of returns and electronic control and evaluation is expected to improve the tax collection.

The own non-tax revenue is projected in the MTFP by assigning the observed trend growth rate for the period from 2004-05 to 2018-19. In the case of central transfers, the recommendations of the FFC are factored in during the projection period. For the share in central taxes budgetary figure for the year 2018-19 is allowed to grow at the rate observed since last year, as the devolution regime has changed based on the FFC recommendations. The grants were projected using the observed growth rate.

### **4.3 Expenditure Restructuring under MTFP**

Although, there is a resource problem in the State despite the rise in tax devolution, the revenue expenditure was allowed to grow as percentage to the GSDP to provide required funding to the priority sectors. Higher availability of resources in future years will be helpful in further enhancing the expenditure. As the revenue expenditure has been growing in nominal terms, the growth was required to be controlled given the availability of resources. It is expected that effective programme management and implementation of the projects in a timely manner will help achieving the value for money.

During the MTFP period, the revenue expenditure increases from 23.15 percent relative to GSDP to 23.84 percent. This is rather a slow growth. The increase is more due to a subdued growth of GSDP at the rate of 10.63 percent at current prices, assumed during the MTFP period following the FFC methodology. The amount of money available to priority sectors will continue to rise. The MTFP proposes to continue with this resource allocation approach and provide higher level of funding to priority sectors. The social sector expenditure increases from `1655.39 crores in 2018-19 BE to Rs.2145.66 in 2020-21. The expenditure on social and economic services rise relative to GSDP.

The capital outlay has been reduced during the MTFP period as compared to the 2018-19 BE. Given the decline in plan transfers from the Central Government there was a need for a realistic projection for the capital outlay. As the fiscal deficit is

stabilized at 3 per cent to GSDP, a rise in revenue surplus will add to the capital outlay. The MTFP keeps the requirements of infrastructural development in the State while projecting the capital expenditure.

#### **4.4 Debt and Deficit under MTFP**

The MTFP keeps the fiscal deficit at 3 percent of GSDP and revenue surplus at 1.50 percent at end of the MTFP period with some growth in the revenue expenditure (Table 9). Despite rise in revenue expenditure, the fiscal stance of the Government remains favourable. The emerged fiscal profile shows that the outstanding debt increases from 26.36 percent to 27.25 percent during the MTFP period. This level of debt remains higher than debt level suggested by the FFC to avail the enhanced fiscal deficit limit. Additional revenue mobilization and economy in expenditure will reduce the borrowing requirement during the year and bring it back below the 25 percent mark.

### **Box 1 Proposed MTFP Targets**

#### **Macro Parameters**

- Nominal Growth of GSDP was assumed to be 10.63 percent following the methodology prescribed by the FFC.

#### **Revenue Resources**

- Sales tax assumes a buoyancy of 0.9 as against the observed buoyancy of 0.762, which gives a prescriptive growth rate of 10 percent
- The state excise duty assumes a buoyancy same as that of the trend at 0.663.
- The stamp duty and registration fees assume a buoyancy of 0.800 as against the trend of 0.637.
- Motor Vehicle tax assumes a buoyancy of 1.00 as against the observed buoyancy of 0.761.
- Other taxes assume a buoyancy of 1.212, which was the observed buoyancy.

#### **Expenditure Projections**

- Pension payments are projected on the basis of the historical growth rates for pension payments for the period from 2004-05 to 2018-19. The observed growth of pension during this period was 25 per cent.
- The interest payments have been estimated on the basis of the effective rate of interest calculated by dividing the value of interest payment during 2018-19 by the stock of debt of the previous year.
- The growth rates in the area of high priority development expenditure in social services and within that, in health and education, are assumed to continue to rise during the MTFP period.

- Social services expenditures will grow at the rate of 14 per cent per annum.
- Education expenditure will grow at the rate of 14 per cent per annum
- Health expenditure will grow at the rate of 13 per cent per annum.
- Capital expenditure to GSDP ratio is expected to decline from 5.70 per cent in 2018-19 (BE) to 4.50 per cent in 2020-21.

**Deficit and Debt targets**

- The MTFP projects the revenue surplus to reach 1.5 percent of GSDP during the MTFP period.
- The fiscal deficit is projected to remain at 3 per cent level relative to the GSDP
- The outstanding debt to GSDP ratio rises from 26.36 per cent in 2018 -19 to 27.25 percent in the terminal year of the MTFP.

## **5. Summary Assessment**

The trend of central transfers after the recommendations of the FFC to the State has been stabilized. It shows a rise in the level of tax devolution to the State and a lower level of grants. The State had made necessary adjustments within the resource envelope available to it. The fiscal stress is unmistakable while allocating resources to the programs earlier funded from the Central plan grants, as the Central transfers constitute a large portion of the State's budget. The loss of some of these assured sources of revenue from plan grants has created difficulties in resource allocation in the State. The MTFP projected to allocate adequate resources to the existing and new programmes within the available resource availability. The growth in resource allocation, particularly in the priority sectors in social and economic services has been adequate. The guarded projection of capital outlay to decline relative to the GSDP has added increased responsibility on the State Government to generate higher revenue and continue with the traditional policy of emphasizing social and infrastructure sectors.

The introduction of GST added a new dimension to the State finances. The State component of GST, called SGST, is now accounted for in the own tax receipts of the State. The trend of sales tax and SGST taken together in the last two years do not show a major improvement over the existing sales tax collection. It shows volatility. The CGST, IGST and the compensation for the loss of the sales tax are now part of Central transfers. No clear trend has been established for these and the compensation will vary depending upon the movement of GST collection in the State.



Despite the pressure on resources, the MTFP indicates a stable and growth oriented fiscal policy for Sikkim. The rise in production of electricity and growth of the manufacturing sector influenced the economic growth of the State in recent years. The fiscal policy has to create an enabling environment for further growth and socio-economic progress. The resource allocation in the medium term with some decline in the capital expenditure and enhancing the resource availability for social and economic sector spending supports the development process. The State needs better infrastructure and human development to make progress. The State Government has initiated several schemes in the social and economic sectors in recent years. Despite the problem of cost disability, the State is committed to improving the service delivery spanning over the social and economic sector.

The MTFP, however, brings out the emerging fiscal problems in the State. While it safeguards the fiscal consolidation process and provides adequate resources to existing schemes in priority areas, the rise in debt burden beyond benchmark of 25 per cent of the GSDP causes concern. It is expected that with the improvement in economy and efficiency in the fiscal management debt-GSDP target will stabilize.

While projecting State taxes, the MTFP assumed higher buoyancy to augment resources, which will be achievable in the medium term. The augmentation of tax buoyancy is based on the capacity of the Government to collect more tax. The modernization of tax administration and efforts to improve the tax base under GST is expected to improve the revenue receipts.

The State Government has often experienced uncertainty in the flow of Central grants as against the projections made in the budget. The State projections are sometimes based on the expectations regarding approval of projects. Further implementation of projects in times helps the State to claim the grants in its entirety. However, it was witnessed that many a times the Central grants comes at the fag end of the fiscal year causing uncertainties in the flow of funds to the programs.

A realistic projection of capital expenditure will be instrumental in strengthening the financial management in the infrastructure sector. The State Government will be able to enhance the level of capital expenditure with the

improvement in resource position. What is important is to develop a policy to focus more on productive capital expenditure. The debt burden of the State remains higher than the limit suggested by the FFC to gain from the flexibility clause regarding the fiscal deficit. The MTFP puts the fiscal stance of the Government transparently.

## Disclosures

### Form D-1

(See Rule 4)

#### Select Fiscal Indicators

| Sl. No. | Item   | Previous Year<br>2016-17<br>(Actuals) | Current Year<br>2017-18<br>(RE) |
|---------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1       | Gross Fiscal Deficit as Percentage to GSDP                           | -0.46                                 | 3.50                            |
| 2       | Revenue Deficit as Percentage of GSDP                                | -4.36                                 | -5.90                           |
| 3       | Revenue Deficit as Percentage of Gross Fiscal Deficit                | 952.72                                | -168.47                         |
| 4       | Revenue deficit as Percentage of TRR                                 | -17.83                                | -20.24                          |
| 5       | Debt Stock as Percentage of GSDP                                     | 24.78                                 | 25.79                           |
| 6       | Total Liabilities as Percentage to GSDP                              | 24.78                                 | 25.79                           |
| 7       | Capital Outlay as Percentage of Gross Fiscal Deficit                 | -834.61                               | 266.26                          |
| 8       | Interest Payment as Percentage of TRR                                | 7.04                                  | 5.94                            |
| 9       | Salary Expenditure as Percentage of TRR                              | 36.45                                 | 30.95                           |
| 10      | Pension Exp. As Percentage of TRR                                    | 9.68                                  | 8.89                            |
| 11      | Non-development Expenditure as Percentage of Aggregate Disbursements | 26.95                                 | 34.31                           |
| 12      | Non-tax Revenue as Percentage of TRR                                 | 7.68                                  | 8.06                            |

The negative sign in revenue deficit indicates surplus.

### Form D-2

(See Rule 4)

#### Components of State Government Liabilities

Rs. Crore

| Category              | Raised during the fiscal year |                      | Repayment during the fiscal year |                      | Outstanding Amount (End March) |                      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
|                       | Previous Year<br>(Actuals)    | Current year<br>(RE) | Previous Year<br>(Actuals)       | Current year<br>(RE) | Previous Year<br>(Actuals)     | Current year<br>(RE) |
| Internal Debt         | 776.61                        | 1045                 | 236.05                           | 332.42               | 3395.68                        | 4108.26              |
| Loan from Centre      | 6.7                           | 0.07                 | 10.20                            | 10.21                | 110.45                         | 100.32               |
| State Provident Funds | 304.68                        | 3555                 | 221.39                           | 342.4                | 831.15                         | 844.25               |
| Reserve Funds         | 156.87                        | 117                  | 147.32                           | 150.5                | 93.79                          | 60.79                |
| Deposits              | 794.08                        | 927.15               | 713.98                           | 927.15               | 240.12                         | 240.12               |
| Other Liabilities     |                               |                      |                                  |                      |                                |                      |

### Form D-3

(See Rule 4)

#### Guarantees Given by the Government (Rs. Crore)

| Sl. No | Name of the Institution to which Guarantees is given | Maximum Guarantee given | Remarks. |
|--------|--|-------------------------|----------|
|        |  |                         |          |

|   |                                    |        |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|--|
| 1 | State Finance Corporation          | 54.65  |  |
| 2 | Other Institutions                 | 25.20  |  |
| 3 | Sikkim Housing & Development Board | 361.00 |  |
|   | Total                              | 440.85 |  |

**Form D-4**  
(See Rule 4)

**Number of Employees in Public Sector Undertakings & Aided Institutions and  
Expenditure of State Government**

| Sl. No | Sector Name                                     | Total Employees as on 31.01.2016 | Related Expenditure |               |
|--------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|        |   |                                  | Rs. Crore           |               |
|        |   |                                  | On Salary           | On Pension    |
| A (a)  | Regular government Employees                    | 35354                            | 1752.85             |               |
| ( b)   | Work Charged                                    | 1670                             | 99.75               |               |
| ( c)   | Muster Roll                                     | 14128                            |                     |               |
| (d)    | Others  | 17729                            |                     |               |
| (e)    | Pensioners                                      | 10147                            |                     | 418.10        |
|        | Total   | 79028                            | 1852.60             | 418.10        |
| B      | Public Sector Undertakings & Aided Institutions |                                  |                     |               |
|        | <b>Grand Total</b>                              | <b>79020</b>                     | <b>1852.60</b>      | <b>418.10</b> |

Source: Employees and Pension Data for No. of Employees and pensioners  
Budget Division, FRED for salary