

# Annexure 1

## Schedule (Party Supporters/Voters)

1. Age
2. Sex: Male/ Female
2. To what Community, Caste, Tribe do you belong?
3. Total family members:
4. Are you literate?
5. Occupation:
6. How many earning members are there in your family:
7. Do you possess any land?
8. If yes, what is the size of your landholding?
9. What do you produce in the piece of land?
10. What is the source of Income and how much do you earn per month?
11. Why do you support the SDF?
12. How have you benefited from the SDF and the SDF led government?
13. What have the party/SDF government done for you?
14. Are you satisfied with the performance of the government in the state? Why?
15. Why don't you support the other political parties in the state?
16. How good are the leaders of the party?
17. Do the leaders and the activists of the party meet you frequently or do they come only during elections?
18. During the elections what do the leaders tell you? What promise do they make?

## **Schedule**

### **(Party Activists/Members)**

1. Age
2. Sex: Male/ Female
2. To what Community, Caste, Tribe do you belong?
3. Total family members:
4. Are you literate?
5. What position do you hold in the party?
6. Occupation:
7. How many earning members are there in your family:
8. Do you possess any land?
9. What do you produce in the piece of land?
10. What is the source of Income and how much do you earn per month?
11. Do you earn anything from the party?
12. Why do you support the SDF?
13. How have you benefited from the SDF and the SDF led government?
14. What have the party/SDF government done for you?
15. Are you satisfied with the performance of the government in the state? Why?
16. Why don't you support the other political parties in the state?
17. Have you ever contested the elections for the party? If not do you want to contest elections?
18. How are your leaders?
19. What work do you do throughout the year for the party?
20. What work do you have and do during the elections?

**SIKKIM DEMOCRATIC FRONT**  
**Constitution**

**1. NAME**

The name of the Party organisation shall be "SIKKIM DEMOCRATIC FRONT" hereinafter referred to as S.D.F.

**2. REGISTERED HEAD OFFICE**

The registered Head Office of the S.D.F. shall be at GANGTOK, SIKKIM.

**3. FLAG**

The flag of S.D.F shall be a tri-colour and of rectangular size. The colour of the flag shall be Sky Blue at the Top, Golden Yellow at the middle and Blood Red at the bottom which will all be of equal size.

**4. SYMBOLIC MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FLAG**

- (a) The Sky Blue at the top symbolises determination, progress and national integration.
- (b) The Golden Yellow symbolises purity, sacrifice and humanity.
- (c) The Blood Red symbolises auspiciousness, social change, courage and liberty.

**5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

S.D.F. is a Political Party within the meaning and provisions of the Representation of Peoples' (Amendment) Act 1988 and the aims and objectives of the Party shall be as follows:-

- (a) S.D.F. shall bear true faith and allegiance to the sacred Constitution of India as by law established and to the principles of Socialism and Democracy and shall uphold the Sovereignty, Unity and Integrity of the Indian Union.
- (b) It shall fight to uphold the political, social and economic rights and privileges of the people of Sikkim as provided under the Indian Constitution.
- (c) It shall strive hard for the uplift of the socially and economically backward sections of people of Sikkim.
- (d) S.D.F. shall work ceaselessly to promote peace, progress and communal harmony amongst the people of Sikkim and shall make utmost endeavour to promote fraternity, tolerance and harmony with all other communities of our country.
- (e) The party is committed to give equal opportunities to all Sikkimese people and shall ceaselessly work for the emancipation and uplift of Sikkimese women and other sections of oppressed people.
- (f) The Party shall be ever ready to fight against all forces that threaten to disrupt the unity and integrity of the nation.
- (g) While giving due recognition to the principle of human dignity, this Party shall pledge to fight against all kinds of injustice and inequality perpetrated on ground of caste, creed, colour, religion and gender.
- (h) The Party shall specially not yield back from working for the interests and welfare of the backward and depressed communities, constitutional rights of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and security and prosperity of the entire Sikkimese people.
- (i) The Party is committed to uphold, preserve and promote the age-old traditions, customs and rich cultural heritage of different ethnic

communities of the State who have been living in perfect communal harmony down the ages.

- (j) The Party holds endudring faith in the "Son of Sikkim" policy and sincerely safeguard the interests of the Sikkimese people.
- (k) S.D.F. shall tirelessly wage a struggle against poverty, illiteracy and internal backwardness in the State and work justly for the poor and depressed people of Sikkim.
- (l) The Party is predetermined to bring upon improvement in the existing situation in Sikkim and will resort to all possible means to raise the average conditions of Sikkimese of all levels so as to make them educationally, socially and, above all, economically self-reliant and self-sufficient.

#### **6. ADMISSION INTO PARTY**

The membership of the Sikkim Democratic Front is open to:-

- (a) Any Indian citizen who is a Sikkimese and has attained the age of 18 years and who is not guilty of any kind of social, political or economic offence or associated with crime.
- (b) Persons who are not enlisted members of any other Political Party, and who believe in the policies and objectives of the S.D.F. Party and respect its rules and regulations and proclamation.

#### **7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY**

Two types of membership forms have to be filled up viz:

- (A) Primary Membership and (B) Active Memembrship
- (a) Persons having firm faith and belief in the rules and regulations, policies, aims and objectives of the Sikkim Democratic Front and who fulfill conditions as stipulated under 6(a) and (b) above shall be considered eligible for Primary Membership of the Party irrespective of sex, caste, creed and religion.
- (b) Interested persons fulfilling the following conditions shall be considered eligible for Active Membership:-
  - i. He/She must have been a Primary Member of the Party for a period of at least one year.
  - ii. He/She must have been actively involved in the implementation of the policies and programmes of the party.
  - iii. The President of the Party can, in the interest of the Party, use his discretionary power to confer Active Membership to such Party wokers who are committed to the objectives of the Party and who are working sincerely as per the directives of the President.

#### **8. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Those qualifying for Primary Membership of the Party shall have to pay membership fee of Rs. 5/- (Rupees Five) only per year and have to renew their membership by 31<sup>st</sup> January every year.

- 9. Active Members of the party shall have to pay a membership fee of Rs. 151, (Rupees one hundred fifty one) only per year and have to renew their membership by 31<sup>st</sup> January every year.

- 10. The Central Working Committee can also make alternative arrangements to exempt those members who are economically weak from paying the Active Membership Fees.

#### **11. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) The President of the S.D.F. Party on his own or the Central Working Committee can terminate the membership of a person if he or she is found engaged in anti-party activities or guilty for serious breach of discipline.

- (b) Any member can resign from the Party membership by giving the President of 30 days' prior notice in writing to make his intention known.
- (c) Those who fail to pay the membership fees will also lose their membership of the Party.

**12. EXPULSION PRECEDURE**

On receipt of any complaint against any member, Primary or Active, or Office Bearer/bearers of various Committees of the S.D.F. Party of their involvement in anti-party activities or breach of discipline, the President on his own can initiate investigation or constitute an Enquiry Commission to look into the complaint. President shall have power to initiate action on his own and it is not mandatory for him to set up an Enquiry Commission. If the Enquiry Commission or the President finds the person or persons guilty of the offence reported upon after going through his explanation the President will have the power to place the member under suspension or demand resignation or terminate him from the Party membership.

**13. COMMITTEES**

S.D.F. shall have the following Committees:-

- (a) All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee
- (b) Central Working Committee
- (c) District Committees
- (d) Constituency Level Committees
- (e) Block Level Committees

**14. FRONTS**

S.D.F. Party shall have the following frontal organisations which shall be under the direct control of the Party President. Each frontal organisation must have a Convenor to be appointed by the President himself and all these frontal organisations shall work directly under the President:-

- (a) Women's Wing
- (b) Youth Front
- (c) Student's Front
- (d) Labour Front
- (e) Cultivators' Front
- (f) Scheduled Tribe Welfare Front
- (g) Ex-Servicemen Front
- (h) Scheduled Cast Welfare Front

**15.** These frontal organisations will act as the bridge between the masses and the Party and present the demand and views of public before the Party and convey the policies and programmes of the Party to the people.

**16.** All Sikkim Democratic Front Committees will have sixteen hundred members including the members of the Central Working Committee. The Committees shall meet at least once in a year and such meetings will be convened, conducted and presided over by the Party President. The meeting, besides self-analysing the role of the Party, can also bring necessary amendment or improvement in its policies as per the need of the changing time. Attending this meeting by all concerned members should be deemed compulsory.

**17.** The Party President may convene an emergency meeting of the Front Committee.

**18.** There will be 1600 members in the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee including the President, Vice President, General Secretary, Office Bearers, 50 members each from different constituency besides Office Bearers of the Central Working Committee.

**19. CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS**

The Central Working Committee shall have the following Office Bearers:-

- (a) President - 01
- (b) Vice-President - 08
- (c) General Secretary - 10
- (d) Joint Secretary - 10

(e)	Publicity Secretary	-	05
(f)	Tresurer	-	01
(g)	Assistant Treasurer	-	01
(h)	2 Representatives each from each district	-	08
(i)	Executive members	-	14
	Total	-	58

The Central Working Committee shall consist of representatives from among the members of the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee. The President shall head the Committee and shall have the special power to nominate members for the C.W.C.

20. All the meetings of the Central Working Committee shall be convened and presided over by the President and in his absence by the Vice President.
21. The Central Working Committee shall meet at least once in three months. However, under special circumstances the President may convene an emergency meeting of the Committee at any point of time giving only 24 hours notice to each member.

#### **GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE PARTY**

22. The General Convention of the Party shall be the highest assembly body of the Party which shall take various important decisions and also elect the President of the Party. The General Convention is held once in every five years.

#### **THE PARTY CONVENTION**

23. The Party Convention is held once in every two years. The Central Working Committee takes the decision to hold the Party Convention and makes all the necessary arrangements.

#### **POWER AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CWC**

24. The responsibility of formulating all policies of the Party and accomplishment of its aims and objectives shall rest on the Central Working Committee.
25. C.W.C. shall make necessary amendments to the prevalent rules and regulations in pursuance of the policies of the Party.
26. C.W.C. will be responsible in providing necessary guidance to the entire working of the Party and maintenance and enforcement of discipline within the Party.
27. It shall prepare the Annual Report of the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee and present the same for the approval of the Front Committee and keep a strict watch on the functioning of the party.
28. C.W.C. shall be responsible for the conduct of the day-to-day affairs of the Party besides ensuring smooth functioning and maintenance of necessary discipline within the party.

#### **DISSOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

29. The Central Working Committee shall hold office for a term of 5 years. The President can also make additions and alteration or prematurely dissolve the Committee in the greater interest of the Party.

#### **PRESIDENT – POWER AND FUNCTIONS**

30. The President shall convene and preside over all the meetings of the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee and Central Working Committee.
31. The President shall cast a vote in case of a tie in the meetings of the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee and Central Working Committee.

32. He shall nominate all the Office Bearers of the Central Working Committee and also decide the number of such Office Bearers of the Party if necessary.
33. He shall appoint the Office Bearers of the District Committees.
34. The President shall have power to appoint or withdraw appointment of Office Bearers of the Central Working Committee, District Working Committee or any other Committees as and when occasion demands.
35. The President shall have the power to remove or suspend any Office Bearer of Bearers of the Central Working Committee or District Working Committees to safeguard the interest of the Party.
36. In order to give precedence to the interest of the Party, the President can also constitute any Committee or Committees in addition to the existing ones.
37. The President shall have the power to bring any District or Block Level Committees under his direct control and supervision to achieve certain positive goals that warrant such action on his part.
38. The President shall give proper direction to all the Sikkimese people through various positive activities embodied in the policies and programmes of the Party. The President can express his views on national issues by remaining within the framework of declared policies and programmes of the Party.

#### **RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT**

39. In keeping with the norms and spirit of democracy, the President shall be at liberty to tender his resignation without assigning any reason whatsoever. In the event of such situation he shall hand over his resignation to the Vice President of the Party. The President shall, however, always be eligible for reelection to his post if he so desires.

#### **REMOVAL OF THE PRESIDENT**

40. The President may be removed from his office by the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee by tabling a motion of no-confidence by two-third of its members present at the voting.
41. A month's prior notice must be served upon the President by at least one-third of the members of the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee in this connection.

#### **Vice President**

42. In the absence of the President of the Party, the Vice President/Vice Presidents shall perform his duties and exercise all the powers due to the President. Vice Presidents are appointed by the President.

#### **GENERAL SECRETARY**

43. The President shall nominate or appoint General Secretaries for the Party who shall supervise the affairs of the Party as per the directives of the President of the Party.
44. General Secretary/General Secretaries shall have the custody of all the relevant documents pertaining to the Party. It shall be the responsibility of the General secretaries to conduct all the Party meetings in consultation with the President besides preparing of minutes and proceedings of all meetings and dealing with all correspondences and communications of the Party. The General Secretaries are vested with the power to inspect, supervise and, if occasion demands to protect the interest of the Party, even intervene, in consultation with the President, all activities pertaining to the affairs of the District, Constituency and Block Level Committees of

the Party. There shall be one General Secretary in the head office of the Party.

**45. JOINT SECRETARY**

The President shall appoint Joint Secretary/Secretaries for the Party who shall function as Assistants to the General Secretary of the Party. There shall be one Joint Secretary in the head office of the Party.

**46. PUBLICITY SECRETARY**

The President shall appoint Secretary whose supreme task shall be to publicise the policies and the programmes of the Party to the fullest extent possible. It shall be the responsibility of the Publicity Secretary/Secretaries to keep the general public posted and informed of all Party activities aimed at advancing the cause of the people as envisaged in the Manifesto of the Party.

**47. ADVISORY BOARD**

The President shall constitute an Advisory Board consisting of senior politicians, intellectuals and retired bureaucrats which shall have 7 to 15 members and function as a part and parcel of the Party to advise and counsel the President in all matters related to the Party. The Board of Advisors shall, however, under no circumstances, seek to impose their views on the President.

**48. THE PARLIAMENTARY BOARD**

The President of the Party reserves the right to function as Chairman of the Parliamentary Board. He can also appoint any other member of members but its is not mandatory for him to appoint more members in the Parliamentary Board and his decision shall be final.

**LEGAL CELL**

**49.** A Legal Cell shall be constituted to look after all aspects of legal matters pertaining to the party. The President shall appoint a qualified lawyer as the Legal Secretary of the Party.

**50. TREASURER**

The Treasure shall be the custodian of the Party Fund and shall be responsible for maintenance of its accounts. He shall have the power to open Bank account in respect of the Party Fund with any nationalised bank of Sikkim. The Treasurer shall prepare annual statements of accounts of the Party in consultation with the President and place the same before the All Sikkim Democratic Front Committee and the Central Working Committee for their information and persual. He shall have the power to keep cash in hand not exceeding Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) only to meet the day to day expense of the Party. The Treasurer will be solely responsible for the maintenance of the Party Fund.

**51. DISTRICT WORKING COMMITTEES**

There shall be District Committee for each distric of the State with following Office Bearers:-

(a)	District President	-	1
(b)	District Vice President	-	2
(c)	District General Secretary	-	1
(d)	District Joint Secretary	-	1
(e)	District Publicity Secretary	-	1
(f)	District Treasurer	-	1
(g)	District Executive Members	-	25

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

**52.** The President shall appoint the District President. The other Office Bearers of the District Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Party

in consultation with the Central Working Committee and the District President. The District Working Committee shall hold office for a period of three years. The President shall have the power to prematurely dissolve the District Committees without assigning any reasons thereof.

#### **DISTRICT WORKING COMMITTEE- POWER AND FUNCTIONS**

53. District Working Committee shall look after the functions and organisation of the Party falling under its jurisdiction (district).
54. It shall constitute Block Level Committees throughout the district in consultation with the Central Working Committee.
55. It shall prepare and safely keep the District Level documents of the Party.
56. District working Committee will carry out the orders and directives of the Central Working Committee and maintain and adhere to the Party discipline in the district.
57. It may, in consultation with the President of the Party, constitute Town or Constituency Committees to facilitate the management of Party affairs.
58. It shall submit all the applications seeking membership of the Party to the President and solicit his approval.
59. It shall renew the membership of the Party in consultation with the Central Working Committee and also collect the annual membership fees by issuing proper receipts.
60. District Working Committee will meet once in every two months. Attending such meetings by one-third members of the District Working Committee should be deemed compulsory.

#### **CONSTITUENCY LEVEL COMMITTEE**

61. There shall be Constituency Level Committee in the Party. The President shall appoint the head of this Committee in consultation with the respective District Presidents of the Party. Since the total number of members of this Committee will be based on the number of Block Level Committees of each constituency. The District Committees shall present picture before the Party President.

#### **BLOCK LEVEL COMMITTEE**

62. There shall be Block Level Committees throughout the rural areas of Sikkim. Each Block Committee will have the following Office Bearers:-

(a)	President	-	1
(b)	Vice President	-	2
(c)	Secretary	-	2
(d)	Joint Secretary	-	4
(e)	Treasurer	-	1
(f)	Executive Members	-	20
63. The District Working Committee shall constitute the Block Level Committee in consultation with the Central Working Committee. Block Level Committee will hold office for a term of 2 years unless dissolved prematurely by the District Committee for valid reasons.
64. S.D.F. Party will bring out periodicals and other publications besides weekly Party mouth piece to apprise the people about the policies and programmes of the Party and also to educate and inform the masses about a number of things.

**AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- 65.** The Constitution can be amended with the consent and approval of the report of the Review Committee, constituted by the Party President, and shall be approved by the Central Working Committee.

**(ADOPTED AND APPROVED DURING THE MEETING OF CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE INCLUDING MEMBERS OF SDF LEGISLATURE PARTY HELD ON AUGUST 23, 1996)**

**12th LOK SABHA ELECTION MANIFESTO (SDF)-  
1998**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PARTY PRESIDENT**

As the S.D.F Party, since its inception, has been waging a relentless battle against repression and subjugation perpetrated against the Sikkimese people and have since succeeded in commendable measure to guarantee all democratic rights and privileges to the people, I am extremely confident that the people's valued mandate, as in the past, will surely tilt heavily in favour of the SDF Party to make our opponents eat the dust. Since the very beginning, the S.D.F. Party has stood steadfastly for the underdogs and has relentlessly fought against injustice, corruption and fascism that once had taken a deep root in the State. I, therefore, strongly believe that the S.D.F. Party will come out on top once again with a massive victory at the Hosting. UMBRELLA, the Party Symbol, stands for justice and equality and hence a symbol that is dear to the Sikkimese masses. Once again, the time has come for the Sikkimese people to stand solidly behind the Party Lead which stands for justice, equality and fraternity. Our former M. P., Shri Bhim Dahal - a truly dedicated party worker who is highly competent for the post - is once again our candidate for the ensuing 12th Lok Sabha election. We are fully confident that the Sikkimese People will send their lone MP to the Lok Sabha with a massive mandate to easily surpass the previous one by dropping their precious votes in favour of the symbol, "UMBRELLA" to ensure complete victory for the Sikkimese people. With heartiest greetings for the New Year 1998.

Pawan Chamling President

**SIKKIM DEMOCRATIC FRONT**

1. Reservation of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly for all Sikkimese of the State will be obtained. Provisions will be sought in Parliament for realignment of existing Constituencies of the State to ensure that the State of Sikkim as of 2000 AD. is entitled to send at least TWO ( instead of one that is allotted now) representatives to each of the two Houses of Parliament namely, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, with a view to seeking more meaningful integration of this sensitive border state with the nation and to reaffirm our commitment to the institution of the Indian Republic.
2. Concrete steps will be taken to ensure that the identity of each of the three ethnicities of the State viz, Bhutia, Lepcha and Nepalese is fully protected by resorting to means that are both legal and constitutional.
3. All caste-communities of Sikkimese Chhetri, Bahun, Newar, Jogi, Sanyasi and Thami so far excluded from the list, will be brought in the States mainstream with the rest by including them in the State list of OBCs in order to ensure that equitable justice is done to all sections of the State populace in equal measure. Thanks to the incessant efforts made by the then sitting MP of the State in Parliament, the Central Commission for the OBCs have already made three separate enquiries in this regard to clinch the issue in favour of the principles involved.
4. Protection to the minority Sikkimese Bhutia and Sikkimese Lepcha and their social, educational and economic upliftment to always remain an

article of faith with the S.D. F Party, while their constitutional rights and cultural aspirations will be fully appreciated, respected and safeguarded. The centuries old customs and traditions that are in themselves distinctly unique and peculiar to the Tribals of the North District will be preserved and safeguarded at all cost.

5. The constitutional rights and privileges that accrue from it to all Sikkimese tribals and the Scheduled Castes in the State to remain fully protected and safeguarded.
6. All efforts will be made on the floor of the Parliament to prevent the extension of Direct Central Taxes to the State of Sikkim in that Sikkim has its own Tax Laws formulated in 1948, which, in the spirit and text of May 8 Agreement of 1973, has a right to remain recognized under the aegis of Article 371F of the constitution that was inserted at the time of Sikkim merger to make some special provisions relating to the administration of Sikkim.
7. Since only 13% of the total land area of the State is arable for agricultural purposes, Sikkim is permanently faced with the prospect resource crunch on the food front. To compensate for this daunting disadvantage, massive Central aids for an all-round development of tourism and its infrastructures to be expeditiously sought from the benign government at the Centre.
8. A University of its own to be set up in Sikkim to bring all educational institutions in the State under its aegis.
9. Sikkimese Limbu, Tamang and the Gurung to be included in the State list of Tribals while ensuring their own set of seat reservation in the State Assembly by suitably raising the issue on the floor of the Parliament for consideration and suitable action.
10. The Bhutia, Lepcha and the Limbu languages to be further developed and steps to be taken to ensure their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, Concrete steps to be taken to set up appropriate institutes for research and development of literatures related to all recognized languages at the State level like Newari, Rai, Tamang, Gurung, Mangar, Sunuwar and Sherpa.
11. The existing Centre for research on Buddhism in the State to be provided with fullest scope and facilities for intensive research work, with all financial help coming from the benign Centre, so that it may emerge as the major centre of authority on Buddhism in the country.
12. Air-link with the rest of the country to be established by setting up an airport and air service to be regularized to link the State with all important airports of the country. The unreliability of the existing National Highway 31 A, particularly during the rains has been recognized on principle by the Government at the Centre. Based on this, the Centre will be persuaded to concede our demand for an alternative route linking Sikkim with the neighboring West Bengal without let or hindrance.
13. The quota of seat reservation allocated for the students of Sikkim aspiring to pursue higher studies both academic and technological in institutions located in the advanced States of the country to be sought for suitable enhancement wherever such facilities exist. 50% Job reservation for Sikkimese candidates in all offices and establishments under the Central Government in Sikkim to be sought with a view to providing jobs for our educated unemployed youths of the State.

14. Sikkimese women from all sections of the populace will be given their due place in society while their rights, privileges and status will be protected and justice will be brought to them in all spheres of activities social, political and economic. The rights and privileges of employee fraternity to be fully protected and promoted; rights, privileges and function of the Panchayats and their members to be respected, protected and promoted. The rights and privileges due to all business communities in the State will be given due weightage to promote their wellbeing and interests.
15. Request will be made to the Government at the Centre to totally stop sending IAS, IPS and IFS deputationists to Sikkim as we are trying our level best to raise the rank and file of the above cadres inside Sikkim itself. Meaningful steps have already been taken in this direction with gratifying results in the offing as we have succeeded in reducing the prescribed quota to some extent.
16. Sikkim as an underdeveloped State will be brought under a special category because of its late entry into the comity of States in the Republic of India. Under this special category, the Government at the Centre will be requested to provide development funds for the State in such a manner that the annual allotment for every successive year is increased in volume for the duration of next 50 years. Owing to Sikkim's late entry into the mainstream, the demand that Sikkim should be facilitated with more funds for development than those allocated to the North-Eastern States shall be driven home with increased vigor and determination.
17. Sick industries will be scrapped or revived as the case may be deemed fit, those in health to be provided with full impetus for their growth, while the Centre will be approached to finance the infrastructures for viable industry / industries to generate much needed employment opportunities.
18. The rich heritage of Sikkim's varied culture vested in her ancient monasteries, temples, churches and other sacred institutions like the "Mang-Him" and other places of historical as well as mythical significance will be duly protected and preserved by obtaining suitable assistance, both financial and technological, from the Archaeological Department of India.
19. The task of setting up a State Television Centre for featuring Sikkim's own independent programmes to be expedited.
20. In order to boost agricultural production, a separate budget over and above the prescribed allocation of State fund, will be had from the Centre. "
21. An academy for games and sports for the youths of Sikkim to be established along with a Recording Studio equipped with the latest gadgets and know-how to facilitate those who are musically and artistically inclined.
22. An orphanage centre at the State level for Sikkimese destitute and orphans will be set up along with 'Home for the old and the decrepit' with the help of suitable grants obtainable from the Centre.

### Panchayat Manifesto 2002

#### MANIFESTO

We have the following resolutions which will be the corner stone on which our true democracy will flourish - on which you the people of Sikkim will have a full say in which way you will make our future wonderful for us all. We now seek your cooperation and your vote- your mandate will ensure that we have the right to make the Government for the people and of the people work for you - day in and day out.

1. All Government decisions will be done after due consultations with the Panchayats. This participatory approach is all about seeking to bring the voice of the people into the main stream of thinking when it comes to taking decisions for rural development.
2. In every gram Panchayat and ward the Panchayats will be empowered to decide on the plan as well as to implement and to maintain. This responsibility will have to be shouldered by the Gram Panchayats.
3. At the Zilla level the Panchayats will participate in the District Committees. This will enable them to debate on the district plans and programs, which directly affect the people - both at the District and the wards. The SDF party's principle is to involve the grass root people's need and thinking and this and this will enable them to have their voice heard in the planning and development process.
4. SDF party always wanted to strengthen the Panchayats who look after the villages and the village people and so 10 percent of the Government Budget is being devolved to the Panchayats - this will continue to be strengthened and will be raised to 30 percent in due course.
5. The Panchayats will help and identify those marginalized true Sikkimese people who are not in possession of Sikkim Subject certificate but have other genuine means of identification like receipt of Dhuri Khazana, land revenue receipt, Dada Parcha etc -for them domicile certificate or identification certificate will be issued. .
6. SDF party wants all work of villages to be done by the villagers themselves and it to be of good quality and timely execution of the same. In order to achieve this aim all public works of Rs. 5 Lakhs was being decided and work done by the Panchayats in the villages and wards. This will be raised to Rs. 10 Lakhs and will be done only on the recommendation of the Gram Sabhas.
7. All Government institutions like the Primary schools, PHSC, VLO centre, library, Community Information centres, rural tourism, minor irrigation works, community centres, grounds for sports etc will be handed over to the Gram Panchayats both for their running and maintenance.
8. Restoration of democracy has been the greatest achievement of our party. But in order to institutionalize this process we have to accelerate the same at the grassroots level through the Panchayati Raj institutions. The Panchayats will play an active and proactive role in this by fighting forces of exploitation, suppression and corruption. And in order to achieve this they will educate the rural people and masses to make them aware of their rights and responsibilities.

9. The grass roots people of Sikkim had never really recognized their own strength - our party has been able to deliver this to them and enlighten them about their own strength and indeed their ability. The Panchayats will be responsible to the people and to further educate and enlighten them about their intrinsic strength and capabilities. Trusting their wisdom has been our centrepiece in our development strategy. Hence our own initiative in fostering the Panchayat election on party lines.
10. Women upliftment and empowerment is a key to development and recognized by our party. We will ensure that they will get reservation as well as the opportunity to perform many of the critical functions in the running of the Panchayats. We have given them 33 percent reservation in the Panchayat elections and 30 percent in job reservations. All facilities will be further extended to them. Our party has been able to abolish the social, political and economic discrimination of our women - and this campaign will be further strengthened by the active cooperation of the Panchayats.
11. The voice of the people will be brought to the mainstream administration by the Panchayats. They are the link between the administration and the people especially in the area of development. The Panchayats will be directly responsible to the people. The SDF's President's thinking about the people being the masters must be played out by the Panchayats in this fashion.
12. The rural people will be fully supported in production and in the increase in productivity of vegetables, fruits, flowers and other cash crops. This will be facilitated by the Panchayats, which will include the element of marketing linkage. In this way they will be made to be more self-reliant, self sufficient and sustainable. Then there is this issue where our goal is to make every person a producer of goods and services. We have to make everyone productive - they should be producers and not consumers. When every Sikkimese becomes a producer with high levels of productivity then and then only will Sikkim truly become self-sufficient. In this the Panchayat member will be the key catalyst to ensure that there is increase in the production of village produce like fruits, vegetables, flowers and other cash crops. Panchayats will come forward and help the cultivators and our rural producers to increase their productivity and make them self-reliant. Further, they must also help them find the marketing channels and seek to make such services a part of their daily routine.
13. There is a growing tendency toward urbanization and that is that villagers and especially the young people are moving toward the cities. This trend has had an adverse impact to the rural economy and the healthy growth of the village. It has also exacerbated the unemployment problem as well as leading to congestion of the cities. There is an urgent need to reverse this trend and one way is to create the right opportunity at the village level as well as to embark on a proactive approach to helping youth to stay in the village. Panchayats must play the stellar role that this action demands.
14. One of the ways to help the villages and young people to stay in the villages is to start village level industry. Agro based industry is one which can easily find a place. Hence the Panchayats will play the role of bringing such new thinking into the villages and ensure that more such industry are set up in the villages. The Government will continue to support such initiatives.
15. Panchayats will now play an important role and be responsible for Government initiated development policies and programs. The villages

through these programs will get huge opportunities to set up industries in their respective areas. Poultry & piggery farming, fisheries, rearing of livestock like cattle, goats, bee-keeping and rabbits are some of the projects which can be taken up by the villagers with the help and guidance of the Panchayats.

16. Agriculture will be given the status of industry. Steps will be taken up by the Panchayats to ensure that villages will produce, market and distribute all kinds of agriculture produce in a scientific and profitable manner - this will ensure that most farmers can go for such profitable ventures. The progressive farmers will be given all necessary inputs so that productivity can be increased. Once agricultural production is maximized then this can be given the status of industry. The Panchayats must help the farmers realize this and go for farming in this way. Panchayats will be responsible for selecting the beneficiaries.
17. The Gram Sabha as an institution is going to play a key role in the decision making process of the villages and in village level work. The recommendation of the Gram Sabha will be necessary for all work to be carried out including choosing of beneficiaries for Government programs and schemes. No development work can be started without the permission of the Gram Sabha - and in the gram Sabhas the Panchayats will ensure that women, elderly people and people from weaker sections are well represented.
18. In order to develop the village economy the cooperative movement and its underlying principles will play a key role. The Panchayats will make this a integral part of the planning and execution process in the villages. For this the village level cooperative movement and collective leadership will be fostered and strengthened by the Panchayats.
19. Collection of land revenue will be the responsibility of the Panchayats.
20. During any form of land transaction like buying and selling the panchayats will ensure full vigilance and their recommendation taken. They will safeguard the land of the village and see that the purchase transaction is done between local people only.
21. The Panchayats will have the responsibility of giving recommendation for the issuance of domicile and trade license. This is to safeguard the innocent villagers from exploitation.
22. A Janata Bhawan will be constructed in Gangtok for the benefit of the rural poor who have to visit the capital to carry out their personal work. This will provide clean and cheap accommodation for our rural poor.
23. The Panchayats are going to be proactive in the harnessing of our youth power and use their youthful energy for the building of a strong village centric economic and social base. Their creative, innovative talent in music, art, drama, handicrafts, literature, sports and in science and technology will have to be exploited and encouraged. A regional board will be set up to spot talent of this nature so that the Government can provide them stipends, scholarship and sponsorship.
24. In order to enhance our manpower development program a capacity building fund will be established and the Panchayats will play a key role in this.
25. Panchayats will foster more discussion and debate on a variety of issues at the village level. They will conduct meetings for general discussion on key issues facing the village or people. This way they can come up with

innovative solutions to day to day problems and other issues. This will enhance the knowledge base and thinking power of the villagers and the village in general.

26. Much of the investment which will come from within India and abroad in the form of help and grant from INGOs or NGOs will be Channelised through the Panchayats. They will be consulted and be responsible for proper utilization and setting up of the development schemes or industries for the benefit of the people and the creation of jobs and employment.
27. Since Agricultural Export Zone has been notified for Chillies, flowers, cardamom and ginger for our State the Panchayats will go all out to help the farmers derive the maximum benefit out of this. The value chain involves the pre and post harvesting investment and would be a fine example of how the farmers can benefit. In all this the Panchayats will play a key role.
28. All Panchayats will identify in their areas genuine Sikkimese people who are marginalized and who do not have any land. They will ensure that these people will have access to all the facilities that the Government provides such as land, rural housing.
29. All Panchayats will ensure that young educated people get access to Government support for getting into meaningful jobs or business in such promising and potential areas like tourism and services. They need to be weaned away from bad habits like drugs, gambling, smoking, drinking, exploitation of women and other social evils. They will ensure that they have access to schemes like the Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme. All forms of gambling like Majong, pool, cards etc would not be encouraged. Youth is our future and hence our future must be protected at all costs. Here also they will ensure that good parenting is invoked at the grassroots level and seeking to address the root cause for the alienation of our youth will be addressed. Audio visual publicity and such tools for dissemination of information would be used widely.
30. A Welfare centre for workers would be established to ensure full dignity and respect for labourers. The Panchayats will ensure that the quality of life of the labourers are improved in all respects.
31. All Panchayats will identify all genuine old people who are not getting old age pension. They will ensure that the old age pension is made available to these identified people in their wards and districts.
32. Panchayats will have to take on the responsibility of rooting out corruption. Corruption is an evil and our enemy and a campaign to mitigate corruption will be taken up expeditiously.
33. Panchayats will disseminate Government policy and programs and all other relevant information to the villagers and other rural folk. They will take this as a challenge to ensure that the rural people are fully empowered.
34. All family welfare programs will be grass root centric and this means that the Panchayats will play a very special role in the coordination of these programs in association with grass root people.
35. Grass roots people will be educated on the values of social responsibility, which will be the plank on which village level development must stand. The strength of Sikkim is our communal harmony as well as the peace and tranquility of the state. This is so important in the context of our development objectives as well as our vision. All Panchayat members will encourage communal harmony - and the best way is to make every

transaction transparent. They must celebrate diversity in every thing including decision making. All Panchayats must therefore work toward a hundred percent Sikkimese unity.

36. Preserving our environment is a major responsibility. All Panchayats will work diligently toward this end. They will ensure that their gram Panchayat is pollution free.
37. Panchayats will open registers to register every species in their area - as to the kind and the usage especially of the medicinal variety. This way they will also undertake to protect the biodiversity - our flora and fauna as well as our traditional knowledge base. All of this will be done on a war footing.
38. All Panchayats will have to preserve the traditional culture, folklore and heritage of all segments of our society. In our tradition there is tremendous wisdom and intelligence embedded. We must recognize this and also take action to document this. A clear cut action plan will have to be worked out by the Panchayats for this very important task. Our social traditions and knowledge are also built into our Jhankris, Bijuwas, Bungthungs, Yebas, Phedangmas, Bonpos, Paos, Nezums, Mangpas, homes, Baidangs, Janapas etc -all of them are very important components of our society and will need to be protected and documentation done. Since most of this kind of practice is still very much prevalent in the rural areas it is the bounden duty of the Panchayats to see and recognize their usefulness and to do all that would be necessary to protect and preserve this art and culture.
39. Panchayats will indeed also need to protect and preserve our Chautaras, Pauwas, Deoralis, Gufa (caves) and other holy and socially valuable places. These are part of tradition and serve the people very effectively even today and so they will need to be protected and also their efficacy enhanced.
40. Panchayats will carry out tree planting in Smriti vans - there is going to be one in every gram. They will make environmental plans and plans for plant protection of species that grow specifically in their geographical location. Plantation of a Argeli and bamboo species will also be taken up in full.
41. The Panchayats in the villages will provide the marginalized, homeless, landless and poorest of poor people all the Government facilities on priority - these would also include children and pregnant women.
42. Those young people who are educated and unemployed will be helped by the Panchayats to set up businesses and industry in their villages. They will be so helped that they would weaned away from bad habits.
43. Afno Gaon Afai Banaon is a slogan of SDF and this will be carried out in letter and spirit by the Panchayats whose duty is to carry out this task diligently.
44. The Panchayats must utilize all benefits and help given by the Government very well and effectively. To this end the Panchayats will be responsible to the people of Sikkim and more so to the village level people whom they represent.
45. Those who do not fall under the category of OBC or SC/ST have been given 10 percent reservation in higher education. We will continue to strengthen this and resolve to make more facilities available especially to the weaker sections within this class.

46. They will look after the Khasmal and Gaucharan land and take necessary action to protect it.
47. The Panchayats will also be empowered to take action against any new faces who may be suspicious who descend and start operating out of their wards. Our people are very innocent and this is being taken advantage of by many people. The identity as well as the background check will be done and they will have to report such cases to the authorities and police immediately.
48. The Government has over the last seven years and with a lot of effort have made roads, school buildings, power plants, colleges and water supply and all other kinds of infrastructure. In fact much more work in this direction is going on. So this has the necessary result of making new opportunities possible. Today these very opportunities are being missed by our people and are going to those who come from outside the state. It is time that our people learned that Government is not in a position to make them take these opportunities through spoon feeding. The young people have to themselves compete and be competitive and take these opportunities. The Government will provide all help and support. The Panchayats must take this message to every ward and debate. They must then take proactive steps in line with this. They can then advise our youngsters and encourage them to seize these golden opportunities which will not wait forever.
49. Every gram Panchayat will have a community centre, a playground. The building plans, building it and finally maintaining it will be the responsibility of the Panchayats.
50. To provide safeguard and protection to the womenfolk of Sikkim the Govt. will formulate the Marriage Registration Act with consultation of Panchayats.

### **Panchayat Manifesto 2002**

What do we want?

1. To empower and build the capacity of the villagers socially, politically and economically.
2. In every development activity that will be carried out in the villages the grass root people should be able to participate in full.
3. In order to build the state and the country all the grass root talents and resources will be harnessed.
4. Traditional knowledge of the villagers regarding identification and use of herbs and medicinal plants will be encouraged and the protection of the environment will be endured.
5. Traditional social customs of the villagers will be protected and the idea of community living will be encouraged.
6. To provide all the facilities to the villagers.
7. To institutionalize democratic governance.
8. To decentralize administrative powers.
9. The people themselves will exercise rights and powers of the villages.
10. To provide women with all facilities so that they can enjoy human rights.

11. Panchayats members will be given all necessary powers so that they will build their capacity to exercise these powers.
12. Every effort will be made to make the people aware of their political and democratic rights.
13. The difference that exists between the village and the city will be reduced as much as possible.
14. All the modern facilities will be provided to the villages.
15. The people will be responsible to protect the rights of the people and they will also be responsible to defeat and destroy the known traditional enemies and establish the government of the poor people.

### **What have we accomplished?**

1. We have restored democracy and established rule of law.
2. We have totally erased the "fear psychosis" created in the minds of the people throughout Sikkim by the erstwhile Government.
3. We have give tot the people freedom of expression and writing. We have also ensured full freedom of the press and also instituted a Press Club for expansion and improvement of the press.
4. We have ensured social justice to all in Sikkim.
5. Revenue Order No. 1 has been fully protected.
6. We have been trying our best not to agree to the implementation of the Central Direct Tax Laws. These laws are not yet enforced in the State.
7. We have fully protected the Article 371 F of the Constitution of India.
8. Panchayat Elections were successfully held and more powers were delegated to the Panchayats. Village administration will be the sole responsibility of the Panchayats.
9. Corruption has been kept under a tight leash and corruption free society is our Aim and the process has begun form the No 1.
10. Every opportunity has been provided to persons holding diverse views to express them so that various thoughts and ideas would blossom.
11. A Cooperative Apex Bank has been established in Sikkim.
12. Sikkim Government held meetings with National and international Industrial agencies and non-governmental organization in New Delhi and Kolkata, in order to establish viable industries in the State. In this connection Sikkim Government has promised to extend necessary facilities to these industrial houses when they want to establish industrial units in Sikkim.
13. Economic survey in Sikkim has been completed.
14. A high powered State Planning Commission has been constituted.
15. We have succeeded in making Sikkim a full-fledged member of the North Eastern Council.
16. Sikkim Women Council has been established.
17. We have been demanding that our senior personalities should be appointed as Union Minister, Ambassador, Governor and Justice of the High Court.

18. Sikkim has now found a place in the Internet Website. We have also formulated a plan to go for Information Technology on priority basis.
19. In the telecom sector Sikkim finds itself as foremost in the country in terms of connectivity.
20. We have also started the tradition of naming roads and schools in the names of our senior and respected personalities.
21. In order to remember our great personalities we have started to write history, highlighting their contributions to Sikkim and the people of Sikkim.
22. We have formulated and implemented the plan of eradicating poverty on priority basis.
23. We have also helped the poor and helpless people by implementing various poverty alleviation schemes and programs.
24. In every scheme or work we are according highest priority to the poor people.
25. BPL families in Sikkim are getting rice at Rs. 4 per kg. The wage of the Mazdoor Labourer has been increased by hundred percent and presently it has been increased from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75.
26. We have distributed land to the landless every year and started constructing houses for them.
27. Under housing scheme, every year we are giving Rs. 20,000/-as grant to 6000 families. This year the Government has formulated a plan to construct houses at the cost of Rs. 1 Lakh for every house and create model villages in Sikkim.
28. In every constituency old age pension has been given to more than 200 old persons. Now old age pension has been doubled. Those persons who were not entitled to get old age pension are being provided with 10 kgs of rice free of cost every month.
29. In order to make the poor people capable the government has distributed milk cows, piglets and improved varieties of seeds so they don't have to depend on the government. Besides they are given training in different trades and occupation.
30. In order to establish a shop in the villages, the poor Sikkimese traders do not have to obtain a license.
31. The poor people who bring their vegetables or other produce will not have to pay total tax.
32. All poor women employees will receive maternity leave and maternity leave and maternity allowance.
33. All widows will receive Rs. 10,000 as grant.
34. Ex service personnel and the handicapped persons will be entitled to be employed on the basis of reserved quota.
35. We have drawn up plan and programme on health and education on priority basis. Sikkim has been the first state in the country to introduce Hepatitis B vaccination. In every village primary health sub centre has been established.
36. Our Government has taken historic steps in the field of education. We have established engineering college, medical college and degree college

- at Namchi and Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya at Geysing. We have also made a plan of establishing a Science College and Agriculture College in Soreng.
37. Primary education has been made free in Sikkim. Besides students are provided with free uniforms. book and exercise books.
  38. Computer education is being introduced in all secondary schools.
  39. Merit scholarships have been introduced in the schools, with a view to create competitive attitude in the minds of the students.
  40. In our regime, the literacy percentage on education has registered a top position.
  41. All school buildings are converted into Pucca RCC buildings.
  42. More attention is being given to improve the quality of education.
  43. Sikkim Academy has been established in order to preserve and propagate and develop our languages and literature, culture, art and folk songs and dances.
  44. We have also started to write on history, our tradition, religion and cultural heritage, in order to preserve our distinct identity.
  45. The sanctity of the Serbang system has been protected.
  46. We have made Guru Rimpoche's birth anniversary as a 'gazette holiday.
  47. We declared a 'gazette holiday' on Tendong Lho Ramfat.
  48. We have declared a 'gazette holiday' on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Sirijunga.
  49. May Day has been declared a gazette holiday.
  50. We have succeeded to introduce Bhutias, Lepcha and Limboo languages up to college-level.
  51. We have recognized the languages, such as Tamang, Gurung, Rai, Sherpa, Mangar, Sunwar and Newar as State languages of Sikkim.
  52. Respecting the religious sentiments, we have scrapped the Rathongchu Hydel Project and in its place we have decided to establish a Cultural Centre.
  53. Half of the revenue collected from the Gumpa Estates will be returned to the Monasteries for their better upkeep and maintenance.
  54. We have succeeded to place Tamang and Limboo in the list of Tribal.
  55. We have established "Srijungha Mangheem" at the Burmoik and Limboo Cultural Bhawan at Tharpu.
  56. We have started the work of installing a great statue of Guru Rimpoche at Samdupchi in Namchi. Similarly a 108 ft. high statue of Shivaji will be installed at Solaphuk in Namchi.
  57. A rest house at Bodh Gaya was completed.
  58. A very sincere effort is being made to enlist left out communities of Nepalese in the list of OBC. Meanwhile, they were provided with 10 percent reservation in the higher studies.
  59. We have already enlisted Jogi, Thami and Sanyasi in the list of OBC.
  60. In government service and the higher studies, the reservation quota are as follows: scheduled tribe- 23%, scheduled castes- 6%, OBC- 21 % and

10% has been provided to Bahun, Chettri and Nevar communities of Sikkim.

61. A traditional festival has been started where Dharmi Jhankri, Bijuwa, Fedangma, Bumthing and Janapa will participate, displaying their culture identities.
62. We have strengthened judicial system and established the rule of law. Human rights court, Family court, Atrocity court and Lok Adalat courts have been established
63. We have started building necessary infrastructure in order to start all round development of Sikkim.
64. All old roads are being widened and carpeted.
65. Airport will be constructed at Pakyong. Foundation has already been laid and the construction work has been started.
66. Helipads were constructed in different parts of Sikkim.
67. We have started Helicopter service.
68. Construction of Ropeway has been started.
69. All Gram Panchayats have been connected with a network of roads.
70. All Panchayat Bhawans are converted to Pucca buildings.
71. Community Bhawans are constructed in different parts of the districts.
72. A stadium is being constructed at Gangtok.
73. Community Bhawans and government bhawans are housed in Pucca buildings.
74. We have started the generation of hydel power on a big scale. Construction work on 510 MW Teesta Stage V has already been started. Construction and repair and renovation works on small hydel projects, such as Rolep, Rongnichu and Rabonchu are started.
75. We are working on the plan and program of making Sikkim self-reliant, capable to run the government on its own steam.
76. We have appreciably increased the revenue of the State.
77. We have stabilized the economy of the State.
78. We have greatly increased the pay-scale, of our officers and employees. Similarly, we have given fast positions to our officers.
79. We have protected the environment of Sikkim. We have banned the use of plastics in the State. We have also banned the grazing of the cattle in the forests. We have planted trees in a large scale throughout the state.
80. We have established a library in every Gram Panchayat.
81. We have published Human Development Report, Sikkim Vision Document. In order to document the history and other affairs of Sikkim, studies series are being prepared.
82. We have given Man-Samman to the prominent persons of the villages, in recognition to their contributions to development and progress of Sikkim.
83. We have introduced the main actors of Prajatantra to the people of Sikkim.
84. Village leaders' contributions to the development of Sikkim were not recognized in the past. We have succeeded to search and bring them in

the limelight for the benefit of our intellectuals and officers and administrators.

85. For the first time, our SDF government set aside 70% of the budget for the development of the villagers and villages.
86. We have constituted the State Planning Commission and made arrangement to invite Zilla Adhyakshas to participate in the planning meetings.
87. During our regime, the Panchayat Act was introduced and we have started implementing the Panchayati Raj in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
88. After comprehensive deliberations we have decentralized the powers that are delegated to the Panchayats.
89. We have introduced austerity measures by minimizing the government expenditure.
90. Serving of alcoholic drinks has been totally prohibited in Mintogang and other official parties.
91. We have recognized the village women power and enabled them to participate actively in the affairs of the State.
92. Our government provided opportunities to village youths to display and improve their talents in various fields.
93. Our government has established Lok Adalat Courts and Family Courts, which enabled the villagers to get justice at their doorsteps.
94. SDF Government introduced the Panchayat system elected on the basis of party system. This system has given opportunity to the villagers to learn the lessons of election system and also they gained the facility of directly electing the candidate of their choice.
95. We have established the system of payment to the Panchayat.
96. We have constructed Taxi and Car parking stand to facilitate the movement of vehicles.
97. We have reserved 33% seats for our women in Panchayats and 30% in government services.
98. In every constituency, one model village will be established.
99. We have constructed houses for the village people
100. We have reduced 50% electricity rent in the villages. We are making arrangement to distribute free LPG cylinder to the rural people. Let us think before we cast our precious vote!

During the period in which the popular SDF Government has been in power no citizen of Sikkim has lost anything, instead all have gained substantially spiritually, socially, economically and politically. The rights and privileges enjoyed by an individual and the state are intact and rather they have acquired more rights and privileges. It would be advisable to remember the self-respect and safeguards enjoyed by you during this period of stability and indeed prosperity-a period which we call the golden period brought for you by the SDF Party and Government. And hence we commend you to think a while and ponder and then cast your precious vote.

**MISSION & AMBITIONS**

**14th LOK SABHA AND 7th ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS,  
2004**

Before we place our Manifesto an Appeal from Party President Dr. Pawan Chamling

Respected Sikkimese citizens,

Today we stand at the threshold of 7th Assembly elections and 14th Lok Sabha elections. Among the pledges and announcements that we made in 1994 and 1999, all of them falling under the State subject have been accomplished. Many crucial issues falling under central subjects have also been sorted out in the last nine and a half years of our government. On the strength of our sincerity thus conveyed and the wide-ranging promises thus delivered, we present ourselves before the people for the forthcoming elections. In the last many years, we have conducted ourselves with full commitment, zeal and with a sense of utmost dedication to liberate our people and establish a system where freedom and equality reigned supreme. In the next government, we shall continue to uphold the SDF party's pro poor democratic principle and work with equal zeal and commitment. In 1994, you gave a new turn to the political history of Sikkim by establishing people's rule through your decisive mandate in favour of the Sikkimese party- the Sikkim Democratic Front party. Today we come before you, yet again, with humble appeal to lend continuity to this great tradition of yours to nurture people's victory all these years. We do not intend to claim to have established a completely in Sikkim new era in Sikkim during the last nine and a half years,. Still we have brought about an unprecedented change and developmental interventions both in terms of conceptual novelty, their volumes and their interpretations. This truth prevails today as clear as the broad day light. We inherited a government mired in bankruptcy and a Sikkim burdened by loan of ten thousand each on every Sikkimese people. Our government has overcome this dreadful situation and salvaged our people to attain near self sufficiency. In a clear departure from the past, we have established a democratic society based on freedom of expression and profession. We have fulfilled every promise that we made at the time of party formation and during subsequent elections. We introduced a new culture in Sikkim's politics- to respect words with deeds. We have promoted the political principle to respect positive criticism and opposition's views, to maintain moral integrity and honesty, transparency and to abjure double standard in state's politics, and to fulfill the aspirations of the people. Our government has built all necessary infrastructures needed to make Sikkim ultra modern and prosperous. We are no longer the backward and undeveloped state, but a model state, a progressive state, and a leader in many sectors across the country and the world. Our government has worked consistently to transform our state from the dreadful past and to link it with a new future, filled with brilliant possibilities and prospects. Every working man, every law-abiding man, every honest Sikkimese has experienced this revolutionary transformation, development and enduring freedom brought about by the SDF government. We need not invest words to count our achievements. Our actions speak louder than words.

Many anti-people leaders in different garbs and colours have descended upon electoral arena, whose sole aim is the 'chair'. They will go to any extent to grasp power and undermine the interest and welfare of the people. Their character is

defined in their vicious campaign to divide people on the basis of caste, colour and communities and thereby fulfill their selfish end. Therefore, many anti-people politicians are scrambling around in the garb of the proverbial saintly cats. These feudal forces, these anti-people leaders who exploit people, who oppress people, are our proclaimed enemies. We will never yield or submit before these anti-people forces. We will further unite people and strengthen people's fort. In Sikkim there is no place for such politics which is based on casteism and communalism. The Sikkimese people have established this truth many times in the past. We cannot afford to lead Sikkim into the dark and narrow lane. Instead, we would like to lead Sikkim along the broad highway of peace and harmony and where all Sikkimese coming from different castes and communities can move ahead, hand in hand, towards the goal of overall development.

Respected fellow Sikkimese

We would like to take pride and claim that the SDF party is the party committed to the interest and welfare of the majority Sikkimese people. Our politics is dedicated to the welfare of the majority working people and the law-abiding people. Numerous fulfilled promises in the last nine and a half years go to show who we favour. We will continue to move ahead with our revolution until we establish a system that guarantees complete peace and prosperity for our people. After you have chosen us to lead the government, we have not frittered away a single day, a single moment at our disposal. We have fully dedicated our energy, zeal and enthusiasm for the prosperity of the Sikkimese people and their progress. I request you to consider all these seriously in the overall interest of the state. You are once again poised to give the Sikkimese politics a decisive course. The greater concern regarding the future of Sikkim and your own future squarely rest in your own hands. I seek to appeal that before you exercise your franchise, you will clearly identify your enemies and your friends.

On the one hand is the SDF, the party of the masses. On the other is the parties led by Congress. And the Sikkimese people are well aware that the Congress in Sikkim is the conglomeration of all the anti-people political leaders who betrayed the Sikkimese for so long in the past. The Sikkimese people know them and their ways and are aware of these anti-national forces. Every single vote of yours shall add on to the strength of the democratic foundation and master the cause of justice and equality. The issue of overall security and development of the state shall be determined by your precious votes. Before you cast your vote, may you ponder over these issues and reflect on the historical works accomplished by the SDF government in your favour. I am confident that you shall cast your vote in favour of 'umbrella' – a symbol of development, peace, justice and democracy.

The people shall surely triumph. Saying in all consciousness that I shall not shrink back but continue to offer a gentle and promising leadership to the Sikkimese people in the future, I now present our party's Manifesto to you all.

**Jai Sikkim! Jai Sikkimese Janta!!**

To forever uphold democracy, justice and equality.....With a firm conviction thus  
2nd April, 2004' Gangtok.  
(Pawan Chamling)  
President

Sikkim Democratic Front

### **Our Vision: 2015**

1. We shall make Sikkim as the best performing state
2. We shall make Sikkim poverty-free state.
3. We shall make Sikkim a fully literate state
4. We shall make Sikkim Corruption Free State
5. We shall make Sikkim a total organic state
6. We shall make Sikkim a cradle of traditional practices with modern Institutions
7. We shall make Sikkim a cradle of traditional practices with modern Institutions
8. We shall make Sikkim as the zero unemployment zone of India
9. We shall make Sikkim a biodiversity knowledge centre of eastern Himalayas
10. We shall make Sikkim the best welfare state in the country
11. We shall make Sikkim the land of opportunity
12. We shall make Sikkim a producer state
13. We shall make Sikkim the state of peace and security
14. We shall make Sikkim Naya and sukhi and a model state in the Country
15. We shall make Sikkim a society based on knowledge, science and Technology
16. We shall transform Sikkim into an ideal state free from communal, anti-constitutional and other anti-national elements. We shall mobilize Rs. 1000 crores revenue by 2015. Rural economy shall be made self-contained. This way, we shall make Sikkim into the most competitive and efficient mountain economy.
17. We shall bring down the Infant Mortality rate by less than 20
18. We shall endeavor to raise the net state domestic product to Rs. 2400 crores.
19. We shall endeavor to raise the per capita income to Rs. 1 lakh
20. We shall achieve total literacy in the state
21. We shall ensure compulsory enrolment of children between 4-10 Years of age in the schools
22. We shall set up 166 Community Information Centers in the state
23. We shall make Sikkim a zero poverty state
24. We shall focus on the initiation of second generation reforms
25. We shall allocate 80 per cent of the development fund for rural economy. This means all the rural sectors will be totally reoriented and reinvigorated.

### **Our Mission: corruption-free Sikkim**

In the context of present national development scenario, corruption has become a real threat. Without containing or abolishing corruption, we can not think of

attaining the targeted goal of overall progress. This has become a menace and a formidable challenge. Therefore, the first task of our administration is to contain and abolish corruption. We want to wipe out corruption completely from Sikkim.

After assuming power, we have set in motion an unmistakable process of overall cleansing right from the top and the legal process to punish the corrupt, one after another. We will see to it that the corrupt who misuse public money are shown the place that they deserve. Although corruption is immediately discernible on economic front, it is actually multi-dimensional affecting multiple areas. It has penetrated into the deeper recesses of overall mindset, thinking, people's attitude and behavior in the society. We must uproot this. Unless we contain corruption in its multiple forms, we can not successfully tackle or abolish economic Corruption. Our revered party President has maintained that economic corruption, almost always, prompts depravity which in turns degenerate our society. Therefore, we want to make Sikkim corruption-free and make it healthy and strong. We can not create a clean and healthy society with a group of feeble men. Hence, our aim is to create a generation of Sikkimese people who are indeed healthy in their moral and inner being. Together with the development of present society, we are investing in equal measure in the creation of a new set of ideal Sikkimese who are outward looking, tolerant and morally uncompromising.

#### **ASSEMBLY MANIFESTO 2004**

For building a healthy society, we need citizens who are morally upright and uncompromising. Therefore, our mission is one that of making every Sikkimese morally strong. Our programs and policies have been designed to meet this mission. We have many ideological and pragmatic reasons to carry out our campaign against corruption in the state:

- 1) Corruption is an impulse against the poor and is anti-national.
- 2) In a corrupt society, democracy cannot flourish
- 3) Corruption stimulates an individual to misuse public office and institution for his selfish motive
- 4) Studies and survey have established corruption as the biggest and most critical problem in the country
- 5) Corruption dampens the spirit of hard work and industry.
- 6) It limits the pace of development and decimates one's energy.
- 7) Corruption destroys one's self respect and ruins one's character.
- 8) Corruption induces unethical practices in every area and subdues quality and merit.
- (9) Corruption undermines the very foundation of strong and resilient society. We shall uproot the class of social parasites and power brokers who thrive on bribery, nepotism, so called political nexus and goondaism and hooliganism.

We have noticed that corruption mainly stems from weak governance manifesting itself in poor service delivery, excessive regulation, red tapism and uncoordinated and centralization of power. We have also found that corruption emanates because of poor transparency and accountability in the system. We have recorded that corruption ultimately adds cost to the public expenditure and impinge upon growth and development. Therefore we shall be increasingly replacing the traditional system of governance by effective, efficient and transparent and simple system. We shall totally mechanizes the file disposal

system and revamp the entire system of office management. To free Sikkim completely from the menace of corruption and creation of a healthy and just society is the foremost aim of our political agenda. Until we make our society free of corruption in its multiple manifestations, we will continue with our revolution and our programs. And until we transform Sikkim into a corruption-free state of the country, we will continue to stand by our programs. Our mission: poverty-free Sikkim We will uproot poverty from the Sikkimese soil and establish a prosperous society. We will liberate our people from the pangs of poverty and give them peaceful and fulfilling life. We understand that poverty is linked with production and low income. Poverty spread in the absence of gainful employment and productive works. Since majority of poor people lack necessary capacity to take advantage of various opportunities, poverty finds fertile ground to effect the people. We want to free our poor people from this condition.

We want to make our people producer by opening industry in the state, by creating income-generating schemes and by utilizing local natural resources. And for the establishment of such industrial units, we seek to support our people and provide them with other facilities. We will enlist people's participation in undertaking various productive schemes for generation of more income. We have carried out an in-depth study on the establishment of feasible industries in Sikkim and we have also encouraged our people to take up such venture. We have worked towards creation of a pool of manpower to handle such business.

Through all these exercises, we want to engage our people in productive works thereby improve their purchasing power. This will make them economically stable and resilient. We will continue with our work until we make every Sikkimese economically strong. We are working towards attaining self-reliance through utilization of our own natural resources. Some improvement is palpable in our economic condition. We will continue with this process. We are on the road to make Sikkim a poverty free state in the country. The journey is on. We will certainly reach our destination. Because we accept poverty as the root cause of all evils and we have set our target to wipe out poverty and all other evils thereby make our society capable and vibrant. Our mission: Illiteracy-free Sikkim.

In the 21st century, in the knowledge age, nothing could be more devastating than be an illiterate. Due to lack of education awareness or lack of educational facilities, many people are still languishing in ignorance, away from the light and radiance of education. We will end this situation. We have worked hard to make education accessible to and all. We have carried out a number of programs aimed at reaching education to the entire Sikkimese. We have made sufficient provision in this sector so that poor parents can also send their children to schools without any economic burden. Education up to the college level is free.

Together with easy accessibility, quality education is our main aim. We want to develop Sikkim into the new educational destination of the country. Our aim is to make every Sikkimese literate, capable and knowledgeable. When we came to power in 1994, our literacy rate was a mere 56 percent. Today the rate stands at seventy percent. This shows that we are well into our advanced journey to make our state a total literate state. For the spread of quality education, we have created all necessary infrastructures. Many new colleges have come up in the state. In the near future, the state will have its own independent University. Medical College, Engineering College and technical college have been established in the state. Some more colleges will be constructed. We want to attain 100 per cent literacy for the state of Sikkim. To achieve this, adult education will also continue and the concept of 'each one- teach one' campaign shall be launched in the state. Our mission: disease-free Sikkim Our

government is genuinely drawn towards development of health sector. We want to make every Sikkimese disease-free or at least can avail of all possible health care services in the state. Health sub-centres and health centers have been established at the panchayat level with all necessary medical facilities. Besides providing quality health facilities, we now give prevention of disease the utmost importance. We are concentrating on programs that would encourage prevention of disease rather than treatment after contracting disease. Hospitals in the state have been upgraded with procurement of modern medical gadgets. Central Referral Hospital has been opened in the state. Sir Thutop Namgyal Memorial (STNM) Hospital is being converted into an ultra modern Hospital equipped with sophisticated and the latest machinery to enable the local patients to obtain the best treatment and facilities. This hospital will now be linked with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi through Telemedicine, for both treatment and research. In the health sector, our government has made path-breaking contribution for ensuring security to human life. We will continue to work towards providing the best health care services to our people.

Until every Sikkimese in the state is healthy, we will continue with our work. Our Mission: Developing Sikkim as a Knowledge Society Twenty first century will be the century of knowledge. The world today is moving towards knowledge age from the age of information. Those nations with knowledge wealth shall prosper and any nation lacking in knowledge resource shall lag behind. At the national level, a detailed study has been carried out for transforming India into a knowledge superpower. Knowledge society will have three key drivers. The first will be driven by societal transformations for a just and equitable society and the second by wealth generation. The third will be driven by protection of knowledge, including the traditional knowledge generated by communities over the centuries.

In order to transform the state into a knowledge society, it is imperative to focus our attention on education; health care, agriculture and good governance besides, attention should be given to the development of technology and strengthening of the service sector generating opportunity in employment, industrial growth and rural prosperity. We want to develop Sikkim into a prosperous state based on equality and justice on the basis of these sectors. Our focus will be promoting Sikkim as a knowledge society in the next government. Knowledge society has the capacity to generate, absorb, disseminate and protect knowledge and create economic wealth besides enriching its people in different sectors and bringing about societal transformation. By using the native strength of the people, this transformation can be further accelerated to develop the state as a sustainable knowledge society. Our government in the state, shall further pursue a more creative, interactive and self learning process with focus on values, merit and quality. We will work towards creating solid background for transforming Sikkim into a knowledge society. Our mission: Third generation reforms in human right The French Revolution of 1789 is said to have caused a cataclysmic political and social upheaval resulting in the establishment of First Republic in the world. This inspired people the world over to view human rights issues from their own perspectives. Fundamental issues like democracy, freedom of speech and right to equality became buzz words sweeping the entire globe with new inspiration and revelation. At the second stage, Democracy offered refreshing definition of freedom and equality, defining broader parameters for their application. Today, we know that we govern and are governed through the process based on self-determination, freedom and liberty, touching almost every aspect of individual and collective life. However, with the advent of New Millennium, an opinion is steadily building up to supplement our rights and freedom so that the interest of

every individual can be taken care of. Since, progress is highly subjective in nature granting rights alone may not fully address the question of social distortion and economic disparity. Taking a leaf from this new thought process in the world, the SDF government in Sikkim shall promote and vigorously enforce what is known as Right to Development in the state. All the related development aspects like Right to Empowerment, Right to Employment and Right to Share shall be promoted in the coming government.

Indeed, we have already initiated several measures to secure right to empowerment and other crucial socio-political and economic rights of the people. Our party and government not only believe in the Right to Development but shall promote the Third generation Human Rights Reforms more intensely in the next government. Our basic concern shall continue to remain the interest and security of every Sikkimese-rich poor, leaned or a layman.

### **Our mission: creation of a Civil Society**

Civil society is the biggest check on any unlawful deviations and actions by the government agencies and other parties in the society and the state. We shall consciously encourage the civil society members and organizations in influencing the decision making process for larger interest of the State. We shall set up Civil Society Forums in each district We shall build a well informed and resilient civil society that can voice opposition to any wrong moves or actions in the State by the Government and any other parties. We shall continue to honour our achievers in any field of public participation. We shall also recommend names and support the case of Sikkimese for a range of prestigious national and international awards.

### **Our mission: Creation of wholesome human being.**

Our goal is to produce a wholesome human being so that each Sikkimese can confront with all trials and tribulations with poise and ease. Therefore, our endeavour will be to nurture each child in Sikkim by inculcating in them rich and secular value education, imparting in them practical knowledge and down-to-earth spirit and developing in them a total personality. We want to give each Sikkimese individual an ability to reason, capacity to interact, react and pro-act and resilience and forbearance to face the most trying situations. We want each Sikkimese individual to be "no less" in all spheres of accomplishments.

Our mission is to make Sikkim a fully literate state and the Sikkimese people fully educated, knowledgeable, capable and creative. To achieve our mission, we would make education freely accessible, qualitative, life oriented and age-oriented.

Our mission: Emotional connectivity with the advent of information technology, we have witnessed rapid development in every field of human activities. Emphasis is laid on immediate physical connectivity between nation to nation, country to, country, state to state and society to society. The concept of global village is firmly established. What is declining in the process is human intimacy, warmth and affection. The SDF government will further strive to bridge this gap and establish emotional connectivity between man to man. We will encourage people to speak the language of heart and promote love and friendship among people, societies, states and nations. WE are government that delivers, because "In the last ten years, we have proved that we have the ability to dream big and the capacity to translate them into realities." Last Ten Years of SDF Government we have fully committed, devoted and dedicated ourselves to:

- \* Achieving a high growth rate in the State Domestic income
- \* Re-establishing and consolidating the democratic values and practices

- \* Bestowing highest priority to rule of law and self respect of each individual
- \* Safeguarding each aspect of human rights
- \* Promoting modern instruments of justice
- \* Working for People's Supremacy
- \* Originating the planning and development process from a village itself
- \* Meaningfully empowering the people at the grass root
- \* Making the systems of governance more efficient and effective
- \* Emotionally, physically and intellectually linking Sikkim with the National mainstream
- \* Creating a range of physical and social infrastructure
- \* Generating a huge income and employment
- \* Providing a distinct social status to Sikkimese women
- \* Building a large number of multi-faceted institutions
- \* Bringing a real sense of competition and efficiency in all the sectors
- \* Ensuring environmental security, food security and energy security
- \* Reorienting the outlook and vision of our youths
- \* Revitalizing the traditional practices and institutions
- \* Reinvigorating the intellectual base and capital
- \* Positioning Sikkim more distinctly in the development map of the country
- \* Rejuvenating the role and contribution of press and media
- \* Providing Sikkimese identity a more dynamic and ebullient shape
- \* Inviting a range of private sector players and national and international NGOs and Donor agencies. And refocusing on Sikkim's national and international image.

All these would not have been possible without the:

- \* Blessings and good wishes of all the Sikkimese people.
- \* Hard work of the people at the villages.
- \* Strong ideological and political foundation of SDF Party at the grass root.
- \* Single-minded devotion of party workers.
- \* Unflinching support of the government officials, teachers, doctors, labourers, businessmen, entrepreneurs and other professionals.
- \* Constant inspiration from the youths and students.
- \* Constructive criticisms of the media.
- \* Institutional back up at the local, regional, national and international levels.
- \* Encouragement of large number of people from other parts of India and
- \* All round support and distinct commitment of the Union Government what we cherish and what we don't?

## **Distinct Ideological Stance of Dr. Pawan Chamling**

We cherish democratic principles and attitude. But we discard undemocratic tendencies and conduct. Autocratic tendency is our avowed enemy.

We firmly believe that in every victory, people's aspirations, dreams and future should also win. The SDF party shall not tolerate such victory which defeats people but promotes one individual or one leader. Our party shall overcome any pressure or face any opposition to make people victorious forever.

- We cherish democratic system, but we shall not tolerate people's representatives flouting democratic system through undemocratic attitude and practices.
  - We cherish Politics as the highest mean to serve the people and not any form of occupation or business. Through constructive politics, we want to lead people to the right path.
  - We cherish equality and human rights. But we do not tolerate any form of human rights violation and discriminations. We cherish people's force as supreme. But we do not tolerate such forces who use people for their selfish ends
  - We do not believe that democracy is all about elections and governance. But we cherish democracy as the complete process of overall development of the country and the essential realization of people's power as final and all abiding.
  - We cherish the view that Sikkim and the Sikkimese should be fully protected as per the constitution. We oppose all such forces that seek to misguide people on unconstitutional and undemocratic issues.
  - We cherish rule of law. We oppose people who divide people on class, group and community.
  - We cherish progress of every single individual. We oppose any form of disparity based on social, political, cultural and economic difference.
  - We cherish welfare of every single Sikkimese. But we hold the view that safeguarding of one's interest and welfare should not, in any way, impinge upon the interest of others.
  - We cherish equal rights and responsibility of women together with their male counterpart.
  - We cherish to transform Sikkim into a fully developed and modern state.
- We cherish to promote Sikkim's cause through progressive thought and deeds. We oppose people, teeth and nail, who seek to push Sikkim backward to make it backward.

## **Targets for the next 5 years**

We shall strive to achieve over 85 per cent literacy rate in the state

- We shall cover 100 per cent infants by immunization
- We shall achieve Hepatitis 'B' vaccination cover to 100 per cent children below the age group of 10.
- We shall bring down the Infant Mortality Rate to 30
- We shall generate internal revenue of Rs. 500 crores
- We shall raise net state domestic product to Rs. 1600 crores

- We shall raise our per capita income to Rs. 28,000/
  - We shall increase food grain production to 1.3lakh tons
  - We shall increase horticulture production to 1.20 lakh tons
  - We shall achieve tourist arrival of over 6 lakhs per annum
  - We shall bring down the percentage of population below poverty line to 20 per cent.
  - We shall construct a Herbarium in the state for promotion and conservation of our natural medicinal base.
  - We shall set up a Research Institute on Water Resources on Himalayas in order to develop water resources of the Himalayan region
  - We shall establish an Institute of Bio-Diversity and Natural Resources Management Centre in the state
  - We shall undertake industrialization of Sikkim on the strength of the available natural resources.
  - We shall set up a Planning and Development Board in each district to work out people-centric and result-oriented planning at the district level.
  - We shall keep Sikkim free from casteist tendency and propaganda that may divide our compact society.
  - We shall preserve and promote our traditional handicraft and handloom in the state.
  - We have pushed our State into a stage of 'feel proud' situation through historical works and achievements. In the days to come, we shall continue to provide appreciation grant to all people who work in the interest of state and the people.
- "Development Dividend" shall be given to the selected, committed and outstanding government employees including muster roll, casual and temporary staff in the State to recognize their contribution and encourage them in the future.
- "You Have Done Well Grant" shall be given to the selected and registered NGOs in the State.
  - "Keep it Up Grant" shall be given each to the selected and registered tourism and travel agents in the State.
  - "Creative Performance Grant" shall be given to selected writers and intellectuals to enable them to consult libraries, archives and visit other institutions for intellectual exchanges anywhere in India.
  - "Positive Journalism Grant" shall be given to the selected accredited journalists.
  - "We respect you grant" shall be given to all those veterans above 70 years.
  - "Sikkim State Appreciation Pension" of monthly Rs 1,000/ - shall be given to the outstanding sportspersons, the Sahitya Academy Awardees in Nepali literature from all over India and Sangeet Natak Academic and Lalit Kala Akadenil award winners of Sikkim.
  - "State Laurels Grant" shall be given to all the sportspersons who have represented Sikkim and participated in the National games.

- "Most Progressive Farmer" grant shall be given to the most progressive, committed farmer of the State.
- Kaushal Vikas Kosh (Skill Development Fund) of Rs 5 Crore shall be launched to undertake varieties of skill development trainings, vocational courses and other capacity building exercises for the youth.
- The Career Development Fund of Rs. 5 crores shall also be launched
- The Government shall announce a Health Insurance Policy for all the Sikkimese people above 45 years.
- We shall simplify the licensing system for establishment of industrial units in the state.
- Centre for career focus shall be established for the youths.
- We will keep the state free from drug trafficking and abuse. We have ensured that no one is treated lower because of the accident of his/her birth. All Sikkimese shall continue to live with due respect and enjoy their rights unhampered. The tenets of social justice shall be further consolidated. We shall further consolidate on our improved environment of social and political justice whereby the marginalized people shall join the social mainstream and move ahead shoulder to shoulder with fellow citizens. We have created an environment for the people to live as a proud Sikkimese as per the constitutional provision- and this has to continue in the future. We will introduce a basic shift in our traditional way of farming and our trade to encourage our people towards a more innovative and productive occupation. Many new schemes shall be undertaken in each household to generate more income for our people. We will make every Sikkimese hardworking, skilled, competent and talented and encourage them to undertake productive works.

In the next five years. We will:

- intensify our campaign to make Sikkim poverty free
- raise our internal revenue to Rs. 500 crores
- electrify each household. We will continue with our policy to provide free electricity to all BPL families up to 100 units
- connect all GPUs with all-weather road
- launch the 'one family-one job' policy in the state
- allot one acre of land to the landless Sikkimese
- Completely abolish child labour in the state. No one need to live unclothed and hungry.
- All children shall attend schools
- Each district will have one degree college and the state shall have a Science College, one technical college and one Agriculture College
- groom 5 outstanding sportspersons of the national standing
- Ninety percent of our work shall complete towards promoting Sikkim as the total organic state
- increase our forest coverage by another five percent
- make Sikkim as the most developed state of the country by achieving the target of annual economic growth rate of 10 percent

- Further improve our literacy rate to 85 per cent.
- Every Sikkimese will get the opportunity, the facility and the means to excel in life
- Fully safeguard the political freedom of our people, economic equality, culture and tradition, communal harmony, peace and unity and we claim and commit that We have the best plans and strategy to protect Sikkim
- We shall make Sikkim the land of means and opportunity
- We shall prevent our farmers and tillers from falling prey to black marketers. We will earmark a regulated price for their products
- We shall support just and proficient institutions in the state
- We shall explore various other sources to make every Sikkimese the master of his own destiny
- We shall prevent social behavior from getting corrupt and instead make it stronger and capable

The entire image of Sikkim has undergone an overwhelming transformation because of Pawan Chamling's vision, firm commitment, positive guidance and innovative policy decisions. Many path-breaking works have been accomplished, unprecedented in the history of Sikkim. The many outstanding achievements of the SDF government were made possible by Dr. Chamling's these many attributes. By achieving a steady decline in poverty indices, productive employment avenues, by smoothing out development disparities, we are on our advanced journey to make Sikkim, new, prosperous and self-contained state in the country.

#### **Our demands with the Centre**

- All the rights and protections of the Sikkimese people as guaranteed under Article 371F of the Constitution of India should be kept inviolate.
- The minority Bhutia-Lepcha community should continue to enjoy all protections as provided under the constitution.
- Giving due honour to Sikkim's history and tradition, seats should be reserved for the Nepalese of Sikkimese origin in the State Assembly.
- The number of seats in both Houses of Parliament should be increased to 2 each from the existing 1 each for the state of Sikkim. Similarly, the number of State Assembly seats should be increased from the existing 32 to 40.
- Seats should be reserved for the Limbus and Tamangs in the Assembly at the earliest.
- Bhutia-Lepcha and Limbu languages should be included in the eighth Scheduled of the Constitution.
- Chettri-Bahun-Newar-Sanyasi should be included in the OBC list at the centre.
- Rai, Manger, Gurung, Sunuwar, Thami, Jogi, Dewan and Yakha communities should be accorded the tribal status.
- Nepali community in India should be declared as minority at the national level.
- Sikkim should be declared as a Tribal State.

- A special economic package of Rs. 3000 crores should be released for the development of Sikkim.
- The centre should write off all loans borrowed by the previous government.
- Central Direct Tax Act 1961 should not be enforced in Sikkim keeping the State out of the purview of Wealth tax, Income tax and Gift tax.
- Sikkim should be kept out of the purview of Excise Tax.
- Sikkim should be linked with the Golden Quadrilateral under the National Highway Development Project.
- An alternative Highway should be built for the state of Sikkim
- Eminent Sikkimese public figures should be appointed in the National Commissions including in the Planning Commission and other high Constitutional offices like that of Governors, High Commissioners, and Judges and Ambassadors.
- For complete emotional integration of Sikkimese into the national main stream, more Sikkimese people should be absorbed in central administrative posts.
- For the development and conservation of entire Himalayan belt, National Institute of Himalayan Research and Development should be established in Sikkim.
- For conservation and promotion of medicinal plants available in the state, an Advanced Centre for Medicinal Plants and Bio-technology shall be set up in Sikkim.
- The Centre should grant approval for establishment of a State University in Sikkim