



# LAND & PEOPLE

OF INDIAN STATES & UNION TERRITORIES

In 36 Volumes

Edited by : **S C Bhatt & Gopal K Bhargava**



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# SIKKIM

# LAND AND PEOPLE

of Indian States and Union Territories

(In 36 Volumes)

**Sikkim**

Volume - 24



*Editors*

**SC Bhatt**

**Gopal K. Bhargava**



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## Preface

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the voluminous work LAND AND PEOPLE OF INDIAN STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES has now been accomplished and all the thirty-six volumes including 28 States and 7 Union Territories and the National Volume summarising all State and UTs. are being presented to the readers. Never before has such a massive work been undertaken in this country containing multifarious information in a single publication.

The work facilitates insight into the historical evolution of each state, their rural and urban development, people inhabiting it, geography, social, cultural and economic progress, infrastructures, administrative layout, politics, tourism, planning outlay and much more.

All facts and figures have been carefully and authoritatively collected and nothing has been left to chance or conjecture. While approaching the subject objectively, we have rigidly applied documentary and professional standards. I hope thirty-six volumes would prove to be of immense help and become an invaluable companion to all researchers, writers, scholars, administrators, planners, tourists, librarians and all those who want to know anything about any State or UT.

Our sincere thanks are due to Ministries of: Agriculture, Textiles, Mines, Energy, Finance, Railways, Labour, Human Resource Development, Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development, Law Justice and Company Affairs, Tourism, Information and Broadcasting, Road Transport and Highways, Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Science and Technology, Publication Division of External Affairs, Meteorological Department, Census Commission, Backward Classes Commission, Election Commission, Central Statistical Organisation, National Crime Records Bureau, University Grants Commission, National Sample Survey Organisation, Directorate General of Health Services, Archaeological Survey of India, Registrar of Newspapers, Central Board of Irrigation and Power, Statistical Officers, State Editors (gazetteers).

State Librarians, Directors of State Information Centres and others connected with the government for the invaluable material they made available to us. We have consulted a large number of published works, drawn from them and owe a debt of gratitude to all such publishers, authors, editors and compilers. The credit for producing and furnishing us authentic data actually goes to them. We have only weaved and consolidated the details collected from them.

While working on this monumental and scholarly work under the expert guidance of the late SC Bhatt - father of this book, I never knew that I would have to complete his job alone. However, having been moulded in his frame, I feel satisfied to complete his work according to the guidelines imbibed in me. I had to collect and collate the information, check and recheck every detail. Every effort has been made to fine-tune the details correctly. However, it will be appreciated if suggestions, additions or omissions, if any, are pointed out for rectification in the next edition.

*Editor*



## **Introduction**

The erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim joined the Indian union in 1975. With a small physical setting, 7096 square kilometres, and only a half-million people, Sikkim may be among India's smallest states, but its biodiversity, topographical variation and ethnic diversity belie its size.

Sikkim is situated in the Eastern Himalayas, spread below the Mount Khanchendzonga, the third highest Mountain in the world and revered by the Sikkimese as their protective deity. Amidst the grandeur of the mountain peaks, lush valleys, fast flowing rivers, terraced hills, Sikkim offers her visitors a rare and singular experience. Within a matter of hours one can move from the sub-tropical heat of the lower valleys to the cold of the rugged mountain slopes that reach upto the areas of perpetual snow.

Sikkim is the 22nd state of India came into existence with effect from 26th April, 1975. Sikkim has been divided into four districts and each district has further been bifurcated into two sub-divisions for administrative purpose. Cradled in the manifold splendors of nature deep within the snow clad Himalayas is Sikkim's capital Gangtok. Wrapped in mists and clouds, a garden state with an incredible variety of rhododendrons and a host of other flowers.

A journey to Sikkim necessarily means awakening the senses and discovering the pristine and mystic beauty of the land. What one will find most fascinating is the journey itself-a continuum of sights, sounds, and feelings. Sikkim is a dream that one can realize and enjoy, now that the area is open to all. It is a state cloaked in the mystery of remoteness, and far away from the din and bustle of the modern world.

The capital Gangtok, which is situated in the east district, is the principle urban centre; in this district more than one third of population resides now. The capital of the state can be said to constitute the focal point of all socio-political and cultural activities. It is connected by well-developed road links with all four districts. Gangtok, is the principal

commercial centre of the state. Being the seat of the government, it has become the most important centre of administrative and political activities. The population of Gangtok is composed of all ethnic groups the Bhutia-Lepcha, the Nepali and the plainsmen.

The present population of Sikkim is primarily composed of different races or ethnic groups. They are the Lepchas, the Bhutia, the Nepali and the plainsmen. These different ethnic groups have their distinct languages and cultural pattern. This cultural diversity of the ethnic groups who have no common racial backgrounds has become the central point of socio-economic and political problems in Sikkim. Over centuries, the narrow fertile valleys of the inner Himalayas and the rugged hill tracts of the greater Himalayas have been settled by the Tibeto-Burmese, Tibeto-Mongoloid and Indo-Aryan races whom have adjusted themselves to the rigorous climate of this state. Thus Sikkim has become a state of multi-racial inhabitants.

The oldest inhabitants are the Rongs or Lepchas who migrated via Assam to this mountain state. Next came the Khampas from the Tibetan province of Kham, they are now commonly known as Bhutias. The Limbus who are considered by some as belonging to Lhasa gotra are believed to have migrated from Shigatse, Penam, Norpu, Giangtse etc of the Tsong province of Tibet. These Limbus and other Magar, Rai, Gurung, Murmi etc are allied races and in fact belong to the Kirati sub-cultural stock of the Nepali race who migrated to Sikkim from Nepal in the west.

English is the official language of Sikkim. The Lingua-franca is however Nepalese. It closely resembles Hindi. The Lepcha language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family. The languages of the Bhutias, Limbu, Murmi, Magar, Khamba and Mewar also belongs to it.

The south of Sikkim rises from north Bengal's rolling hills while the northern terrain is highly mountainous; the state's elevation ranges from a mere 300 metres above mean sea level to over 8000 metres. As a result, the variety of flora and fauna within this small state is Himalayan in scale, encompassing the tropical, the temperate and the alpine. The lower areas have an abundance of ferns and bamboo, the northern valleys are draped by pines, oak, chestnut, white magnolia and wild cherries, while in the upper reaches, rhododendrons and orchids, of which Sikkim has 600 species, stamp their colourful mark on the landscape. The third highest peak in the world, Kanchenjunga or Khangchendzonga (8598 metres), is on Sikkim's northwest frontier.

Sikkim is also blessed with a variety of animal life. 35 percent of India's birds are found in Sikkim, and it is the home of such endangered species as the red panda, the elusive snow leopard, the clouded leopard, the blue sheep, the musk deer, the Himalayan tahr, the lammergeyer, the Impeyan pheasant, the Satyr tragopan and the blood pheasant. 36 percent

of Sikkim is under forest cover, making it one of the most attractive destinations in South Asia for nature and wildlife enthusiasts. Agriculture has an history of its own in Sikkim. Sikkim's wealth is derived from agriculture and forests. The original inhabitants were not agriculturists. They led a very primitive life. Gathering of wild roots, fruits, hunting and fishing were their means of livelihood. The nature of the terrain and varied micro climatic conditions influence agriculture in Sikkim. Maize, paddy, wheat, barley and buck wheat are the main cereals grown in Sikkim. Sikkim has the largest area and the highest production of large cardamom in India. Cardamom and potatoes are two important cash crops. A special kind of tea much valued by the connoisseur for its taste and quality is also produced in the state.

The growth of industries is a recent phenomenon in Sikkim. The situation where there was no industry is now changing and giving place to a number of industrial units. They produce such items as fruit jams and juices, biscuits, other bakery products, beer, matches, washing soap, plastics, electric cables, barbed wires, watches, leather goods and industrial jewels. The main exports from Sikkim are cardamom, oranges, tea, potatoes, apples, liquors, wines, handicrafts, canned fruit and timber. The trade in the past has mainly been with Tibet through the passes of Nathu La and Jelep La. When Chinese invaded these parts and sealed the borders the pattern of trade has turned to India. Sikkim imports many consumer goods and manufactured goods from other parts of India. Food grains, Beverages, cloth, cosmetics, electrical equipment, engineering goods, synthetic goods, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, medicines and drugs, surgical equipments, sanitary goods, hardware, paints, Varnishes, machine tools etc are the important articles imported by Sikkim.

Sikkim had 30 newspapers in 2001 (2 Tri/Bi-Weeklies, 23 Weeklies, One each Fortnightly, Monthly and Quarterly and Two of other periodicals.

*Editor*

# 1

## History

The early history of Sikkim start in the 13th century with the signing of a blood-brotherhood treaty between the Lepcha Chief Thekong Tek and Tibetan prince Khye-Bumsa at Kabi Lungtsok in North Sikkim. This follows the historical visit of three revered saints to Yuksam in 1641 in West Sikkim where they met Phuntsog Namgyal, a sixth generation descendent of Khye Bumsa, and formally consecrated him as the first Chogyal of Sikkim at Yuksam in 1642, thus heraldintg the beginning of the Namgyal dynasty in Sikkim. With the march of history, events in Sikkim saw the state pass democracy and become an integral part of the Indian Union in 1975.

Sikkim was inhabited in pre-historic times by three tribes namely *Naong, Chang and the Mon*. The Lepcha who entered Sikkim sometimes later absorbed them completely. The origin of Lepchas is shrouded in mistery but it seems that they belonged to the clan of the *Nagas of the Mikir, Garo and Khasia* hills which lie to the south of the Bramaputra valley. Some believe they came from somewhere on the borders of Tibet and Burma. According to their own tradition they came to Sikkim from the east in company with Jindaxs, who went to Nepal and shared their tradition. The Lepchas were a very peace loving people, deeply religious and shy, which characteristics they still have retained. They were in fact the children of nature, and worshipped nature or spirits of nature. These Lepcha lived quite close to the nature by way of leading sustenance. Some of them practiced shifting cultivation and raised grains like maize and millets. They led a tribal life at the beck and call of their tribal leader.

The credit of organizing them into some sort of a society goes to a person called *Tur ve pa no*. He was eventually elected leader of king called "*Punu*" sometimes in A. D. 1400. He was killed in a battle and was succeeded by three Kings - *Tur Song Pa No, Tur Aeng Pa No and Tur Alu Pa No*. The monarchy came to an end with the death of the last king. The Lepchas now resorted to

the practice of electing a leader whose advice and counsel was sought on crucial matters and followed. The Tibetan migration in early 17th century led the Rongs to shift their habitats so as to avoid conflict. Meanwhile the struggle and conflicts among the followers of the "Yellow hats" and the "Red hats" in Tibet forced the latter to seek refuge in Sikkim, where they attained the status of aristocracy. Being aggressive they occupied lands, which was not registered by the docile Lepchas. These *Tibetan migrants* (the Bhutias as they came to be known) who were followers of the sect of 'Red Hats' now tried to convert these Sikkimese "*Worshippers of nature*" to *Buddhism*. They succeeded to some extent, though the Lepchas tried to keep themselves aloof as far as possible. In order to avoid any possible opposition from the Lepchas, these immigrants now chose one venerable person *Phuntsok Namgyal* as the temporal and spiritual leader of Sikkim, whose ancestry they traced from a legendary prince, who founded the Kingdom of Minvang in eastern Tibet in 9th century A.D. This dynasty ruled in the Chumbi and Teesta valley for a long time.

Somewhere in the Thirteenth century a prince named *Guru Tashi of Minyang dynasty in Tibet* had a divine vision that he should go south to seek his fortune in "*Denzong- the valley of rice*". As directed by the divine vision he along with his family, which included five sons, headed in the southern direction. The family during their wandering came across the *Sakya Kingdom* in which a monastery was being built at that time. The workers had not been successful in erecting pillars for the monastery. The elder son of *Guru Tashi Bumsa*" meaning the superior of ten thousand heroes.

*The Sakya King* offered his daughter in marriage to *Khye Bumsa*. *Guru Tashi* subsequently died and *Khye Bumsa* settled in *Chumbi Valley* and it was here that he established contacts with the Lepcha Chieftain *Thekong Tek in Gangtok*. *Khye Bumsa* being issueless went to Sikkim in the 13th century to seek the blessing of *Thekong Tek* who was also a religious leader. *Khye Bumsa* was not only blessed with three sons by the Rong chief but he also prophesied that his successors would be the rulers of Sikkim. Out of gratitude *Khye Bumsa* visited *Thekong Tek* a number of times. In due course of times the relationship ultimately culminated in a treaty of brotherhood between the two Chieftains at a place called *Kabi Longtsok*. This treaty brought about new ties of brotherhood between the Lepchas and the Bhutias.

*Mipon Rab* the third son of *Khye Bumsa* assumed the Chief-Ship after the death of his father. He had sons and the four principal clans of Sikkim are said to have sprung from these four sons. The fourth son *Guru Tashi* succeeded *Mipon Rab* and shifted to Gangtok. On the other hand after the death of *Thekong Tek* the Lepchas broke into minor clans. They also gradually turned to *Guru Tashi* for protection and leadership. *Guru Tashi* appointed a Lepcha, *Sambre* as his chief adviser and lieutenant. *Guru Tashi's* rule marked the absorption of the foreign ruling house into the native soil and also paved a

way for a regular monarchy. This way Guru Tashi became the first ruler of Sikkim and was crowned as such. He was followed by *Jowo Nagpo*, *Jowo Apha* and *Guru Tenzing* who pursued the policy creating progressively amicable relation with Lepchas.

*Phuntsok (or penchu) Namgyal* was the next ruler. He was Guru Tenzing's son (great grandson of Guru Tashi) and was born in 1604. Phuntsok Namgyal's crowning was charged with all the vivid fantasy and miraculous phenomenon that is befitting to so important an occasion. Three venerable lamas are said to have entered Sikkim from three different direction at the same time. They met at Yoksam (meaning three wise men) and began a debate on the desirability of having a temporal and religious head to rule over pagan Sikkim. Two of the lamas furthered their own claims but the third lama reminded them of the prophecy of Guru Padamsambhava that a man coming from east and *Phuntsok* by name would rule Sikkim. It was also told that none of them came from east hence the real man must be looked for. Messengers were sent to seek Phuntsok. Near Gangtok the desired youngman was found and lamas lost no time in crowning him the king. They seated him on a nearby rock slab and sprinkled water on him from the sacred urn. He was given one of Lhatsun Chenpo's (the lama told about prophecy) names, *Namgyal*, and the title of *Chogyal or religious king*. It happened in the year 1642. The Namgyal dynasty ruled over Sikkim as hereditary kings for about 332 years.

*Phuntsok Namgyal*, the first consecrated ruler ruled over a vast territory, many times the size of present Sikkim. His kingdom touched *Thang La* in the Tibet in the north, *Tagong La* near Paro in Bhutan in the east and the *Titalia* on the borders of West Bengal and Bihar in the south. The western border *Timar Chorten* on the Timar river in Nepal. Phuntsok though a distant descendant of *Indrabodhi* was now a Bhutia by his domicile. He was persuaded by the lamas enthroning him as *Chogyal* (Heavenly king or king who rules with righteousness) to seek recognition from *Dalai Lama of Tibet*. The *Dalai Lama* recognized *Phuntsok Namgyal* as the ruler of the southern slopes of the *Himalayas* (Sikkim) and is also credited to have sent ceremonial present such as the silken scarf bearing *Dalai Lama's seal*, the *mitre(hat) of the Guru Rimpoche*, the *devil dagger (Phurpa)* and the most precious sand image of the Guru. Consequently, the newly established Bhutia principality of *Namgyal Dynasty* was tied to Tibetan theocracy. Since then up to 19th century, the Bhutia rulers of Sikkim looked up to Tibet for protection against political foes. *Phuntsok Namgyal* proved to be an efficient and capable administrator. He divided his kingdom into twelve *Dzongs* i.e. districts and appointed *Dzongpana* i.e. governor for each. He also declared Mahayana Buddhism as the state religion, which continued to be the state religion under all the *Namgyal rulers*. He very tactfully kept the lepchas, Bhutias and Limbus together. The Governors were appointed from the lepchas who were then in majority. Since *Yatung* the greatest commercial Tibetan center being nearer to Gangtok posed some danger, he shifted his capital to Yoksom.

*Phunstok Namgyal* and the three saints immediately got to the task of successfully bringing the Lepcha tribes under the Buddhist fold. Politically, Sikkim expanded its borders, which include Chumbi valley, the present Darjeeling district and a part of present-day Nepal and Bhutan. The capital of Sikkim was established in Yoksam itself.

*Tensung Namgyal* succeeded his father Phuntsok Namgyal in 1670 and moved his capital to Rabdentse. He had three wives - a Tibetan, a Bhutanese and Limbu girl. The latter was the daughter of the Limbu chief *Yo Yo-Hang*. The chief's daughter brought with her seven girls who were later married into important families of Sikkim. Many of them rose to the rank of councilors to the King. These councilors later on came to be known as Kazis who enjoyed immense power and privileges.

*Chador Namgyal* a minor son from Tensung's second wife succeeded on the death of his father. *Pedi* the daughter from the first wife who came from Bhutan challenged the succession and invited Bhutanese intervention. Having come to know about this secret move Yungthing Yeshe a loyal minister took the minor king to *Lhasa*. During his asylum in *Lhasa*, *Chador Namgyal* distinguished himself in Buddhist learning and Tibetan literature. By dint of his acumen and scholarship he rose to the position of state astrologer to the Sixth Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama was so much pleased with the erudition of this young scholar that he bestowed high honors and titles on the young king. The young king also received an estate in central Tibet with sovereign rights. On the other hand Bhutanese forces had captured the Rabdentse palace and imprisoned the son of Yungthing Yeshe. But on the intervention of Tibet, King Deb of Bhutan withdrew. *Chador Namgyal* came back and drove out the rest of Bhutanese forces. The south-eastern tract was, however, lost to Sikkim as it had been heavily colonized by then. The Bhutanese after a short while made a second attempt to capture Sikkim territory. *Chador Namgyal* gave a tough resistance but areas now called as Kalimpong and Rhenock were lost forever. *Chador* was himself religious and took steps for the propagation of Buddhist religion in his territory. He commanded that the second of every three sons of Bhutia family must be ordained a monk of the Pemiongchi Monastery, which was also open to the Tsongs. He not only built the *Guru Lhakhang Tashiding* (1715) and patronised the sacred places but also adapted the religious dances (mystery plays) to keep alive the martial and native traditions and invented an alphabet for the Lepchas. However, *Pedi* the half sister of the ruler did not reconcile. She conspired with a Tibetan man of medicine and caused *Chador Namgyal's* death by way of blood letting from a main artery while the king was holidaying at *Ralang* hot water spring in 1716. A force was sent to *Namchi*, the doctor was executed and *Pedi* was strangled to death by a silk scarf.

*Gyurmed Namgyal* succeeded his father *Chador*. Consequently upon a Mongol (Dzungar) invasion on Tibet to persecute Nyingma sect, the Mindoling Abbot's sister. In his times the people were forced to work on the fortification

of Rabdentse in the fear of *Gurkhas* and *Bhutanese* raids. Many Tsongs who were not prepared to yield to forced labour fled to Limbuana, which became a rebel district and broke away from Sikkim even earlier to Gurkha expansion. A boundary dispute with Bhutan also arose. The Magar Chieftain Tashi Bidur also revolted, though he was subdued. Limbuana was, however, lost to Nepal. *Gyurmed* had no issue but while on his death bed at the age of 26 (1733) gave out that a nun in *Sanga Choling* was carrying his child. But some people do not believe it. It is said, he was impotent and generally shunned his wife.

Therefore, the story goes that in order to keep the *Namgyal Dynasty* going, the lama priest of Sikkim concocted a story that a nun was carrying the child of the King. Fortunately the nun delivered a male child and he was accepted as heir to *Gyurmed*. He was named as *Phuntsok* after the first temporal and the spiritual head of Sikkim.

*Phuntsok Namgyal II* was opposed by many people including some Bhutias on the plea of illegitimacy. *Tamdang* a close confidant and treasurer of *Gyurmed* not only opposed the succession but assured the powers of the ruler and continued to rule Sikkim for three years inspite of the opposition by pro-king faction. The Lepchas backed the baby king and fought the pretender under the leadership of *Chandzod Karwang*. *Tamdang* was defeated and fled to Tibet to seek guidance and help. But to keep Sikkim under their Tutelage the Tibetan authorities favoured the minority of the king. A convention representing all shades of Sikkimese population was held which defined the functions, powers and responsibilities of the Government. The system of annual taxation was also introduced to augment the state treasury. The Magar tribe, lost its chieftain during this time and asked the regent to appoint the deceased's son as chieftain. But the regent expressed his inability to comply with their demand. This act enraged the Magars who sought the help and protection from Bhutan. This way Sikkim lost Magars allegiance forever. In the year 1752 the Tsongs rose in arms, but were subdued and won over by tactfully by *Chandzod Karwang*. The rise of *Gurkhas* also posed a threat for Sikkim. The later years of *Phuntsok II* witnessed *Gurkhas* inroads in Sikkim under the leadership of *Raja Prithvi Narayan Shah* of Nepal who fomented the rebellious elements in Sikkim. Bhutan also invaded Sikkim and captured all area east of Tista, but withdrew to present frontiers after negotiation at *Rhenock*. The *Gurkha* inroads were beaten back seventeen times. A peace treaty with Nepal was signed in 1775, and *Gurkhas* promised to abstain from further attacks and collaboration with *Bhutanese*. But the *Gurkhas* at a later stage violated the treaty and occupied the land in western Sikkim. *Phuntsok II* had three queens but had a son *Tenzing Namgyal* from his second queen in 1769.

*Tenzing Namgyal* succeeded *Phuntsok Namgyal* in 1780. During the reign of *Tenzing Namgyal*, Nepali forces occupied large chunks of Sikkim territory. They attacked *Rabdantse* and the *Chogyal* had to flee to Tibet. The Nepalis excursions emboldened them to penetrate even into Tibet. This led to



the Chinese intervention and Nepal was defeated. In the Sino-Nepal treaty, Sikkim lost some of its land to Nepal, but monarchy was allowed to be restored in the country. *Tenzing Namgyal* died in Lhasa and his son *Tsudphud Namgyal* was sent to Sikkim in 1793 to succeed him as the monarch. *Rabdantse* was now, considered too insecure because of its proximity to the Nepal border and *Tshudphud Namgyal* shifted the capital to a place called Tumlong.

The defeat of Nepal by the Chinese did little to weaken the expansionist designs of the Nepalese. They continued to make attacks into the neighbouring British territories and Sikkim. British India successfully befriended Sikkim. They felt that by doing so the expanding powers of the *Gorkhas* would be curtailed. British also looked forward to establishing trade link with Tibet and it was felt that the route through Sikkim was the most feasible one. War between Nepal and British India broke out in 1814 and came to an end in 1816 with the defeat of the Nepalis and the subsequent signing of the *Treaty of Sugauli*. As a direct spin-off, British India signed another treaty with Sikkim in 1817 known as the *Treaty of Titalia* in which former territories, which the Nepalis captured, were restored to Sikkim. H. H. Risley writes in the Gazette of Sikkim, 1894, that by the *Treaty of Titalia* British India has assumed the position of Lord's paramount of Sikkim and a title to exercise a predominant influence in that State has remained undisputed.

The British became interested in *Darjeeling* both as a hill resort and an outpost from where Tibet and Sikkim would be easily accessible. Following a lot of pressure from the British, Sikkim finally gifted *Darjeeling* to British India on the understanding that a certain amount would be paid as annual subsidy to Sikkim. The gift deed was signed by the *Chogyal Tsudphud Namgyal* in 1835. The British appointed a superintendent in the ceded territory. The British however did not pay the compensation as had been stipulated and this led to a quick deterioration of relation between the two countries. There were also difference between the British Government and Sikkim over the status of people of Sikkim. Because of the increased importance of *Darjeeling*, many citizens of Sikkim mostly of the labor class started to settle there as British subjects. The migration disturbed the feudal lords in Sikkim who resorted to forcibly getting the migrants back to Sikkim. This annoyed the British Government, which considered these as acts of kidnapping of British citizens. The relations deteriorated to such an extent that when Dr. Campbell, the Superintendent of *Darjeeling* and Dr. Hooker visited Sikkim in connection with the latter's botanical research, they were captured and imprisoned in 1849. The British issued an ultimatum and the two captives were released after a month of detention. In February 1850, an expedition was sent to Sikkim, which resulted in the stoppage of the annual grant of Rs. 6000/- to the Maharaja of Sikkim and also the annexation of *Darjeeling* and a great portion of Sikkim to British India.

Sikkim resorted to making attacks into British territories and it was in November 1860 that the British sent an expeditionary force to Sikkim. This

force was driven back from *Rinchenpong* in Sikkim. A stronger force was sent in 1861 that resulted in the capture of the capital *Tumlong* and the signing of a Treaty between the British and Sikkimese the same year.

His son *Sidekeong Namgyal* succeeded *Tsugphud Namgyal* in 1863. The British Government started the payment of annual subsidy of Rs. 6000/- in 1850 for Darjeeling. In an attempt to keep good relation with Sikkim, the British enhanced the subsidy to Rs. 12000/- per annum.

*Chogyal Sidekong Namgyal* defied in 1874 issueless and was succeeded by his half brother *Thutob Namgyal*. There were serious difference between the Nepalese settlers and the original inhabitants of Sikkim and this led to British intervention. The settlement went in favour of the Nepali settlers and made *Thutob Namgyal* have ill feeling for the British. He retreated to *Chumbi* and became more aligned towards the Tibetans.

The British meanwhile were making concerted efforts to establish a trade links with Tibet and also imposed their influence. A delegation led by *Colman Macaulay*, Financial Secretary to the Bengal Government of British India was sent to Sikkim in 1884 to explore the possibility of establishing a trade route with Tibet through the Lachen Valley. This delegation visited *Tumlong* the capital where it met the *Maharaja*.

The Britishers started building of roads in Sikkim. This was viewed with suspicion by *Tibet* and in 1886, some Tibetan militia occupied *Lingtu* in Sikkim near *Jejepla* pass. In May 1888, the Tibetans attacked *Gnathang* below *Jejepla* but were driven away. In September of the same year the British called for reinforcements and the Tibetans were pushed back from *Lingtu*. A memorial was built at *Gnathang* for the few British soldiers who died in the engagement.

The Britishers appointed *Claude White* as the first political officer in Sikkim in 1889 and *Chogyal Thutob Namgyal* was virtually under his supervision. *Thutob Namgyal* shifted the capital from *Tumlong* to *Gangtok* in 1894. The *Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial (STNM) Hospital* built in 1917 is named in the memory of *Thutob Namgyal* who died in 1914.

Alarmed by the growing Russian influence in Tibet and also to assert itself, the British sent an expedition led by Col. *Younghusband* to Lhasa via *Jejepla* in 1904. The expedition met with resistance from the Tibetan army, which was defeated, and a treaty was dictated by *Younghusband* on Tibet. The Treaty secured monopoly-trading privileges in Tibet for the British. *Thutob Namgyal* was succeeded by his son *Sidekong Tulku* in 1914. Unfortunately he did not live long and died in the same year. He was succeeded by his half brother *Tashi Namgyal* who promulgated many reforms in the state.

In 1947 when India became independent, *Tashi Namgyal* was successful in getting a special status of protectorate for Sikkim. This was in face of stiff resistance from local parties like Sikkim State Congress who wanted a democratic setup and accession of Sikkim to the Union of India.

The treaty signed between India and Sikkim ratified the status of Sikkim as a protectorate with *Chogyal* as the Monarch. *Tashi Namgyal* died in 1963

the Chinese intervention and Nepal was defeated. In the Sino-Nepal treaty, Sikkim lost some of its land to Nepal, but monarchy was allowed to be restored in the country. *Tenzing Namgyal* died in Lhasa and his son *Tsudphud Namgyal* was sent to Sikkim in 1793 to succeed him as the monarch. *Rabdantse* was now, considered too insecure because of its proximity to the Nepal border and *Tshudphund Namgyal* shifted the capital to a place called Tumlong.

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## Physical Aspects

### **Location**

Sikkim, the 22nd state of the Indian union, is a small mountain state in eastern Himalayas. It is bounded by Tibet on the north, Nepal on the west, Bhutan on the east and West Bengal lies to its south. It is the least populous state in the union. Sikkim is strategically important for India. It lies astride the shortest route from India to Tibet.

Famous for Kanchendzonga, the third highest mountain in the world at 8,586m, the mountain kingdom of Sikkim has a tremendous variety of plant and wildlife besides a diverse ethnic mix of peoples with rich cultural traditions.

### **Area**

With an area of 7,300 sq. kms. and measuring approximately 100 kms. from North to South and 60 kms. from East to West, the elevation ranges from 244 mts. to over 8540 mts. above sea-level.

### **Altitude**

The kingdom of Sikkim is located between 28°07' 48" and 27°04' 46" north latitudes, and 88°00' 58" and 88°55' 25" east longitudes.

### **Climate**

Sikkim's climate varies from the tropical heat in the valleys to Alpine cold in the higher altitudes. The Tropical climate prevails in the deep valleys with elevation up to 5000 ft. The temperate climate zone comprises areas having elevations between 5000 ft and 13000 ft. Above 13000 ft are the Alpine climate Zones reaching upto 16000 ft which marks the beginning of the perpetually snow-bound zone.

The annual rainfall varies from 50-200 inches (mostly during May-October), and snow in the upper levels often accumulates to a thickness of 30m. The

high serrated, snow capped spurs and peaks of Kanchenjunga look attractive consisting of Kumbha Karna (7711 m.), Pendem (6706 m.), Narsingh (5825 m.), Kabru Dome (6545 m.), etc.

A number of glaciers descends from eastern slopes of Kanchenjunga into Sikkim where snow clad line is found above 5300 mtrs. The biggest of them is Zemu, from whose snout above Lachen monastery rises the river Teesta. Teesta is the main river and its main tributaries are Zemu, Lachung, Rangyong, Dikchu, Rongli, Rangpo and Rangit which form the main channel of drainage from the north to the south. It boasts of the great mount Kanchendzonga as its crown.

### Rivers

Tista or Teesta is the largest river of Sikkim. Winding its way through Sikkim the Teesta river divides the states into two parts. Teesta can be called as Ganga of the state of Sikkim as most of the Sikkim's settlements are found along the banks of this river. The Teesta comes out as a snout from the Zemu glacier above Lachen Gompha. It is joined by the Lhonk stream from the north. Another stream Lachung rises from Pauhunri and meets the Teesta at Chumthang. Rangit is another principle river.

### Forests

Sikkim supports 2646 sq. km. of forest cover, equivalent to 36% of the total land area. Forest types follow a complex altitudinal zonation sequence typical of the Kanchenjunga region. Tree species composition of forest associations depends on both altitude and local precipitation patterns, and may be summarized as follows (species names in parentheses refer to those tree taxa which typical dominate a particular association).

- *Subtropical deciduous monsoon forest* (*Shorea robusta*, *Terminalia* spp.) occurs in river basins below 1000 m.
- *Subtropical evergreen hill forest* (*Schima wallichii*, *Castanopsis tribuloides*) is abundant at 1000-2000 m.
- *Lower temperate broadleaf forest* (*Quercus* spp., *Lithocarpus* spp., *Lauraceae*) and upper temperate conifer (*Tsuga dumosa*) or deciduous (*Acer* spp., *Magnolia* sp.) forest occurs at 2000-3000.
- *Rhododendron forest* (*R. arboreum*, *Quercus semecarpifolia*, *Lyonia ovalifolia*) occurs at 2000-3000 m on drier slopes, and subalpine forest (*Abies* sp., *Betula utilis*) grows from 3000 m to altitudinal treeline at 4000 m.
- *Extensive moist alpine scrub* (*Juniperus* spp., *Rhododendron* spp., *Potentilla* spp.) occurs between treeline and the altitude of permanent rock and ice.
- *Lower Hill Forest*: This consists of three main types, viz., sal forest, dry mixed forest and wet mixed forest.
- *Sal Forest*: These are confined to Tista and Rangit river valleys. Principal associates of sal forest are Dabdabe (*garuga*

## Population

### Data Relevant to Population

**Decennial population report in 1901** 59014., **1921** : 81721, **1931** : 109808, **1941** : 121520, **1951** : 137725, **1961** : 162189, **1971** : 209843, **1981** : 316385, **1991** : 406457, **2001** : 540493.

**Estimated Birthrates Total, Rural, Urban, Estimated Death rate: Total, Rural, Urban, and Infant Mortality Rate per thousand reported** : Total. Rural, Urban of the state in 2000.

**Expectation of life reported in the State at birth** : Male, Female, at age 10 : Male, Female, at age 20 : Male, Female, at age 30 : Male, Female, at age 40 : Male, Female, at age 50 : Male, Female, at age 60 : Male, Female, at age 70 : or More : Male Female.

**Estimated mid year population as on 1st July 2001 Reported** : 1991 410, 1995 453, 1996 465, 1997 479, 1998 494, 1999 510, 2000 527, 2001 547.

**Distribution of Households by Type of Dwellings RURAL (Percentage):** National Sample Survey (NSS) 51st Round (July 1994 - June 1995)- Independent NA, Flat NA, Chawl/Basti NA, National Sample Survey (NSS) 56th Round (July 2000 - June 2001)- Independent House NA, Flat NA, Chawl/Basti NA.

**Distribution of Households by type of Dwellings URBAN (Percentage):** National Sample Survey (NSS), 51st Round (July 1994 - June 1995)- Independent NA, Flat NA, Chawl/Basti NA, National Sample Survey (NSS) 56th Round (July 2000 - June 2001)- Independent NA, Flat NA, Chawl/Basti NA.

**Table 3.3 Population: (0 - 6 years) 2001**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>
Persons	77,170
Males	38,856
Females	38,814
Sex Ratio	986

**Table 3.4 Percentage of Population: (0-6) to Total Population 2001**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Persons	14.28
Males	13.48
Females	15.19

(Source: Provisional Population Totals : India. Census of India 2001, Paper 1 of 2001)

### Demographic Details as per Census 2001

According to 2001 census, Sikkim has total population of which male population and female.

**Table 3.5 Total Population 2001**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>State</i>
Male	No.	23,410	132,745	68,227	63,835	288,217
Female	No.	17,613	112,045	63,279	59,339	252,276
Total	No.	41,023	244,790	131,506	123,174	540,493
<i>Percentage Population</i>						
Decennial population						
Growth rate (1991-2001)	%	31.32	37.17	33.37	25.48	32.98
Density of Population sq. km.		7	187	131	84	76
Sex ratio per 1000 males	No.	752	844	927	930	875

anthropologists and historians are still debating whether the Lepchas belong to one of the Naga tribes or are associated with the Jimdars and Mech in their eastward migration from Nepal.

The Bhutias are mainly descendants of the early settlers in Sikkim from Tibet and Bhutan who accompanied the ancestors of the first Chogyal, Phuntsok Namgyal. The members of the former Namgyal dynasty belong to this ethnic group. The early Bhutias had three distinctive social classes—the aristocracy, the quasi aristocracy – those belonging to the leading Bhutia families who were land holders and were called Kazis- and the commoners. When the monarchy was abolished, these social distinctions also lost their relevance.

The Nepalese community of Sikkim is itself a conglomeration of diverse ethnic groups, some speaking their own vernacular. Nepali is the lingua franca of all the Sikkimese people. These ethnic groups can be roughly divided between the Magars, Murmis, Tamangs, Gurungs, Rais, Limbus, Damis, Kamis, Bahuns and the Chhetris.

The Rais, Limbus, Magars, Murmis, Tamangs and Gurungs have somewhat similar physical characteristics inasmuch as they are all Mongoloid. But each group has its own distinctive culture. These ethnic groups have been known for their bravery and a large number of them have served as soldiers in the British and Indian armies. The major festivals of the Hindu Nepalese in Sikkim are Dasain, Teohar, Makar Sankranti and Baisakhi.

Sikkim is one of the most peaceful States in the country and the ethnic groups with their different languages, dialects, cultural backgrounds live in total harmony, symbolizing the essence of unity in diversity. Like the rainbow with its beautiful multicolored shades, the people in this small Himalayan State have set an example as to how different ethnic groups can coexist and mingle with each other in total peace and tranquility.

Sikkimese life is centred around Gangtok. Its Buddhist past is the root of its appeal for visitors, and remains evident at the impressive Institute of Tibetology, the Enchey Monastery, Pemayengtse and the marvellous Rumtek Monastery not far away, the last a thriving centre of Mahayana Buddhism. Sikkim's pride, the orchid, is nurtured at the Orchid Sanctuary and other sites in and around Gangtok. Among the festive attraction of this hilly capital is the flower show that is held over here every spring near White Hall, the Governor's residence on the ridge above town. Trekking in Sikkim is another adventure sports that attracts lot's of trekkers to visit the state.

Ruled by the Namgyal (Lepcha) clan since the 15th century, Sikkim lost much land to the British and to Nepal and Bhutan in the 18th century. With the defeat of the Nepali army by the British in 1817, southern Sikkim was given back to the ruler, in exchange for the hill that later became known as Darjeeling.

The state's cultural life is related to Tibetan religious and aesthetic traditions. The cultural climax of the year comes with the 2-day Phanglhapsol



dialects. It is contended that the language they speak is of the Tibeto-Burmese family.

The Lepchas are very intelligent, amiable and always cheerful. They are very modest, extremely hospitable people. They love sports and games and are sociable. They are innocent and good humoured. They are peace-loving people who avoid quarrels.

### ***Bhutias***

The Bhutias, who are all Buddhists, are quite distinct from the Lepchas. The Tibetan Bhutias entered Sikkim by way of Bhutan and settled in higher altitudes after driving the original inhabitants, the Lepchas into forests and lower valleys. They converted the indigenous Lepcha people to their religious faith, established matrimonial relations with them and thereby paved the way for cultural and social assimilation of the two races. This gave rise to a new race.

The matrimonial relation between the Tibetan nobles and Lepcha chiefs or Jongpons gave rise to a new affluent class of Kazis. The Sherpas are considered to have descended from the Bhutia-Lepcha cross stock. The Bhutias are mostly traders and Herdsman. But many of them are accustomed to cultivation now-a-days. The Bhutias are more assertive and industrious than the Lepchas. They are not fond of isolation as the Lecphas.

The Bhutia social structure is patriarchal. The practice of polyandry was very common among them. But with the passage of time and spread of education this practice finds no favour with the young modern Bhutias now-a-days. Normally, the Bhutias live in a joint family. Polyandry served to prevent the family from being spilt up and the property from being divided. There is no caste distinction among the Bhutias. Bhutia women generally enjoy a great deal of independence and they are treated as equal to men. Marriage is normally arranged and settled by the parents. In the affairs of marriage, maternal uncle and astrologer play an important role. Both man and woman can seek a divorce. If the matrimonial relation has to be served, the man or the wife would refer the case to the village elders. At present the aggrieved parties go to the court of law also. Traditionally, the parties who apply for separation has to pay a penalty and the actual expense incurred during marriage.

### ***The Nepali***

The Nepali immigration in Sikkim started long after the Bhutia settlement. The Nepali community is composed of different sub-cultural stocks with considerable differences in physical characteristic and customs. Each tribe is sub-divided into many classes. The most important of these tribes are : Limta, Gurung, Magar, Rai, Tamang, Mewar etc. Of the caste Hindus, there are the Brahmins, Thakurs, Chettris etc. Among the low caste tradesman there are the Sarki, Kami, Damai etc. The Nepalese are spread throughout the east, south and west of Sikkim. They are mostly Hindus but some of them are Buddhists.

## Scheduled Caste

History has referred to Dalits as people without a history of their own. They have been marginalized as objects in a country rather than being treated as its subjects -objects of philanthropic and social work rather than subjects of a nation who have equal rights as other citizens to all the benefits, which are given to them as worthy citizens. Rather than that they have been pushed around and subjugated and exploited at every point in their life. Thus, their status needs to be uplifted and all the atrocities meted out against them, put to a check. For this we need certain strict measures to uplift them through sanctions by law, which give them a chance to avail facilities like reservation in employment and education and thus emancipate themselves further in the mainstream of the country.

### **Need for Emancipation of Dalits**

After Independence there has been a growing awareness of arid concern for the degraded socio-economic condition of the Dalits and for this efforts are being made in collaboration with different organizations and institutions to inculcate and encourage them to enter the socio-economic fabric, of the Country. Serious and systematic efforts in this direction are being made to help these groups overcome their social handicaps. Despite such efforts only a slight improvement can be seen in the socio-economic life of the Dalits. For all that, the majority of them is still staggering under the burden of acute poverty. Blocked access to and control over strategic societal resources have prevented most of them from taking due advantage of modern facilities and modes of status mobility. It is indeed a pity that millions of them would be automatically debarred from entering modern occupations that yield higher income and status and ensure a better life style.

**Table 4.3**  
**Distribution of Individual Scheduled Castes Population by Sex**  
**(State/District) (2001)**

<i>State/District</i>	<i>Population (Nos.)</i>	<i>Male (Nos.)</i>	<i>Female Rate (%)</i>
<b>SIKKIM</b>	<b>27,165</b>	<b>13,807</b>	<b>13,358</b>
North	879	451	428
West	5,747	2,933	2,814
South	6,262	3,148	3,114
East	14,277	7,275	7,002

<i>State/District</i>	<i>Person (Nos.)</i>	<i>Male (Nos.)</i>	<i>Female (Nos.)</i>
<b>Damai (Nepali)</b>			
<b>SIKKIM</b>	<b>7,448</b>	<b>3,749</b>	<b>3,699</b>
North	262	137	125
West	1,461	718	743
South	1,839	908	931
East	3,886	1,986	1,900
<b>Generic Castes etc.</b>			
<b>SIKKIM</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>226</b>
North	1	1	-
West	17	15	2
South	73	40	33
East	408	217	191
<b>Kami (Nepali) etc.</b>			
<b>SIKKIM</b>	<b>17,950</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>8,811</b>
North	590	299	291
West	3,961	2,050	1,911
South	3,935	2,006	1,929
East	9,464	4,784	4,680
<b>Majhi (Nepali)</b>			
<b>SIKKIM</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>166</b>
West	14	9	5
South	133	55	78
East	198	115	83
<b>Sarki (Nepali)</b>			
<b>SIKKIM</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>456</b>
North	26	14	12
West	294	141	153
South	282	139	143
East	321	173	148

## Scheduled Tribe

The 'Scheduled Tribes' account for a sizeable proportion of the population of India. They constitute an important segment of the Indian social fabric. These communities belong to different ethno-lingual groups and profess diverse faiths. Living at disparate levels of socio-economic development, they are spread along the entire spectrum of social evolution in India-ranging from the Paleolithic hunters and gatherers of forest produce to the industrial workers. A perusal of the census data shows that their spatial distribution is characterized by a striking tendency of clustering and concentration in pockets which have suffered from isolation historically and are situated in areas where the environmental setting is by and large unsuited to sedentary agriculture. Perhaps this pattern of clustering and concentration has contributed significantly to the lack of adequate interaction between the tribal and the non-tribal communities within the population of India.

### **World of Tribal Communities**

Constrained by a rigorous environment which has fostered physical and social isolation for ages, the tribal communities have developed their own traditional mode of living. The *genre de vie* of the tribes have been marginally modified by exogenous forces and have a symbiotic relationship with the ecological conditions and the resource base of the enclaves of their concentration. It is in these enclaves that the tribes have tended to concentrate ever since the process of peopling started in India. While, the non-tribal communities in the neighbourhood of the pockets of tribal concentration have marched forward in the corridors of time spread over millennia from the early stages of food gathering and subsistence farming to the modern production systems based on advanced technology and the complex of multi-sectoral

**Table 5.1**  
**Statewise Distribution of Individual Scheduled Tribes Population**  
**by Sex and Literacy Rate (2001)**

<i>Tribe</i>		<i>Population (Nos.)</i>	<i>Male (Nos.)</i>	<i>Female (Nos.)</i>	<i>Literacy Rate (%)</i>
All Scheduled Tribes	Total	111405	56940	54465	67.14
	Rural	101909	52249	49660	65.37
	Urban	9496	4691	4805	84.89
Bhutia etc.	Total	70308	35770	34538	67.90
	Rural	62662	32022	30640	65.87
	Urban	7646	3748	3898	83.71
Lepcha	Total	40568	20853	19715	65.67
	Rural	38757	19928	18829	64.39
	Urban	1811	925	886	90.61
Generic Tribes etc.	Total	529	317	212	73.35
	Rural	490	299	191	75.17
	Urban	39	18	21	52.63

**Table 5.2 ST Population Ratio w.r.t. Population (2001)**

<i>State/District/Sub-District</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Urban</i>
<b>Sikkim</b>	<b>540,851</b>	<b>20.60</b>	<b>21.19</b>	<b>15.86</b>
<b>North</b>	<b>41,030</b>	<b>53.06</b>	<b>53.82</b>	<b>29.09</b>
Chungthang	10,502	44.87	44.87	0.00
Mangan	30,528	55.88	57.03	29.09
<b>West</b>	<b>123,256</b>	<b>19.33</b>	<b>19.47</b>	<b>10.31</b>
Gyalshing	64,419	21.20	21.22	18.96
Soreng	58,837	17.29	17.54	3.11
<b>East</b>	<b>245,040</b>	<b>18.50</b>	<b>19.07</b>	<b>16.39</b>
Gangtok	188,517	19.25	20.37	16.39
Pakyong	32,213	17.96	17.96	0.00
Rongli	24,310	13.33	13.33	0.00
<b>South</b>	<b>131,525</b>	<b>15.57</b>	<b>15.84</b>	<b>7.10</b>
Namchi	87,350	11.79	12.01	7.10
Ravong	44,175	23.05	23.05	0.00

## **Government and Politics**

### **State Figures on Police and Crimes**

**Incidence of Cognisable Crime Reported :** Murder 19, Decoity 2, Robbery 2, Burglary 74, Theft 61, Riots 17, Other crimes 257, Total 432.

**Juvenile Delinquency IPC Cases :** Murder NA, Culpable homicide not amounting to murder NA, Rape NA, Kidnapping and abduction NA, Dacoity NA, Robbery NA, Burglary 2, Theft 4, Riots NA, Criminal Breach of trust NA, Cheating NA, Counter feting NA, Other IPC Crimes 3, Total Cognizable Crimes 9.

**Juveniles apprehended under Cognizable Crime "Indian Penal Code" -**Boys 23, Girls NA, Total 23, "Local and Special Laws" Boys NA, Girls NA, Total NA.

**Juvenile Delinquency under Local and special Laws (cases Reported) :** Arms Act NA, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act NA, Gambling Act NA, Excise Act NA, Prohibition Act NA, Explosive and Explosive Substances Act NA, Immortal Traffic (Prevention Act) NA, Indian Railways Act NA, Other Crimes NA, Total NA.

**Particulars of Juveniles Arrested under IPC Cognizable Crime and Offences under Local and Special Laws :** *By Education* Illiterate 5, Primary 8, Above Primary but below Matric/Hr. Secondary 10, Matric/ Higher Secondary and above NA, Total 23, *By Family back ground-* living with parents 15, Living with guardians 8, Homeless NA, Total 23, *Economic set-up* Annual income upto Rs. 25000 NA, Annual income Rs. 25001-50000 6, Middle income from Rs. 50001-100000 15, Middle income from Rs. 100001-200000 2, Upper income above Rs. 200001 NA, Total 23, *Recidivism* New Delinquent 23, Old Delinquent NA, Total 23.

**Incidence of Suicides :** By sex all age group-Male 47, Female 37, *By age group*-upto 14 years 4, 15-29 years 37, 30-44 years 23, 45-59 years 13, Above 60 years 7, Bankruptcy or sudden change in Eco-status 7, Illness 17, Death of dear person 1, Dowry dispute NA, Drug abuse NA, Failure in examination NA, Fall in Social reputation NA, Family problems 34, Love affairs 1, Poverty 2, Property dispute NA, Unemployment NA, Causes not known 15, Other causes 7, Total 84.

**Number of Districts, DRDAs Block and Number of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State:** No. of Districts 4, No. of DRDAs 1, No. of Block NA, Gram Panchayas 159, Intermediate Panchayats (c), District Panchayats 4, Total 163 (as on 28-10-2002)

**Number of Elected Representatives in the Three tier Panchayati Raj System :** Gram Panchayat : Number 159, Elected Representative 873, Intermediate Panchayat : Number (c), Elected Representative (c), District Panchayat : Number 4, Elected Representative 92.

**Statewise Number of Elected Panchayat Representative in the Three Tiers Showing Breakup into SC/ST and Women (as on October 2002) :-** Gram Panchayat (GP)-SC 39, ST 263, Women 322, Total 873, Intermediate Panchayat (IP)- SC NA, ST NA, Women NA, Total NA, District Panchayat (DP)- SC 6, ST 36, Women 29, Total 92.

**Elections to the Lok Sabha (House of People) :** Number of constituencies 1, Number of Electors 255377, Number of Votes polled 208670, Number of valid votes polled 205133, Kutcha, Percentage of votes polled 81.71.

**Composition/Allocation of Seats in the Rajya Sabha:** All members 1, Women members NA.

Election to the Lok Sabha 1999-00 Expenditure Incured (Rs. 000) Electoral Officers 3700, Preparation of Electoral Rolls 1340, Conduct of Elections 11600, Total 16640.

## Political History

For long Sikkim was a tributary state of Indian Republic. The ruler was a Maharaja, but the foreign policy and defence affairs remained in the hands of India. On 26th April 1975, Sikkim had to undergo a change in political status to become a member state of the Indian Republic, outdating its old tradition in practice since 1861.

In 13th century Buddhism came in Sikkim from Tibet. In 15th century Namgayals were at the helm of the political power of Sikkim. In 1641, Dalai Lama of Lasha appointed Gialpo or 1st Buddhist King of Sikkim in its political history. In the past the state extended over a large area. The east of Nepal, Chumbi valley of Tibet, Ha valley of Bhutan, and the Terai region along with Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of India constituted old Sikkim.

## Education

### State Education Figures

**Number of Recognised Educational Institutions :** Universities 1, Institutions deemed to be Universities NA, Institutions of National Importance NA, DEGREE COLLEGES : Arts Science and Commerce Colleges 3, Oriental Learning Colleges NA, Agriculture Colleges NA, Law Colleges 1, Medical Colleges 1, Velerinary Science Colleges 1, Teacher Training Colleges 1, Engineering Colleges 1, Other Colleges NA, Total 7, Total for Higher Level Education 8, Board of Education NA, Pre-Primary/pre-Basic School 739, Primary/Jr. Basic School 535, Middle/Sr. Basic School 117, High/Higher Secondary School 99, School for Vocational professional 2, School for special education NA, School for other education 600, Grand total for all the institutions (general and technical) 2092.

**Enrolment according to Faculty and Stage :** *Arts Colleges*-Total 1763, Women 913, *Science College*-Total 566, Women 197, *Commerce College* Total 224, Women 55, Total Enrolment 2553, Total Women Enrolment 1165, *Professional Education Courses Education*-Total 92, Women 48, Engineering and Technical-Total 738, Women 124, Medical Total NA, Women NA, Agriculture-Total NA, Women NA, Veterinary Science-Total NA, Women NA, Law-Total 182, Women 98, Others-Total NA, Women NA, Total -Total 1012, Women 270.

**Number of Scholars by Courses and Stages in Recognised Institutions :** *School for General Education*- Nursery (Pre-Primary/Pre-Basic)-Total 19946, Women 9522, Primary (I-V)-Total 83413, Women 40535, Middle (VI-VIII)-Total 21955, Women 10764, High/Higher Secondary (IX-XII)-Total 11663, Women 5616, School for Vocational and Professional Education-Total 95, Women 11, School for special



**Table 8.3 Literacy by different age-group**

No. of	Literacy Literates (in '000s)	Literacy Rate	Literacy Rate among 10 - 14 years age group	Percent Rate among 15 - 19 years age group	population attending age school in the age-group	
					6 -10 years	11 - 13 years
Persons	462	82.2	88.4	89.6	63.3	79.2
Males	252	85.6	89.8	90.6	64.0	81.3
Females	210	78.6	86.9	88.6	62.6	77.1

**Table 8.4 Level of education**

	Below Primary	Primary but below middle	Middle but below matric	Matric but below graduate	Graduate and above
Persons	36.5	27.6	24.3	9.1	2.4
Males	33.7	27.8	24.4	10.7	3.4
Females	39.9	27.5	24.2	7.2	1.3

**Table 8.5 No. of literate person—by Sex**

Particulars	Unit	North	East	South	West	State
Male	No.	8690	58672	26923	22941	117226
Female	No.	4565	37607	16332	13211	71714
Total	No.	13255	96279	43254	36152	188940
<i>Literacy by sex</i>						
Male	%	63.64	73.10	63.18	54.92	65.74
Female	%	40.69	55.66	43.70	35.26	46.69
Total	%	53.47	65.13	54.08	45.62	56.94
S.T. Population	No.	17301	37632	16671	19297	90901
% age of S.T. population	%	55.38	21.09	16.91	19.66	22.36
S.C. Population	No.	1111	12482	5564	4927	24084
% age of S.C. Population	%	0.35	6.99	5.64	5.02	5.93
Total workers	No.	13786	68717	42187	44031	168721
% age of workers	%	44.13	38.51	42.78	44.86	41.51

**School Education System**

The education system is based upon 12 years of schooling (10+2), which

Master's degree is normally of two-year duration. It could either be course or research based. Admission to post graduate programs in engineering and technology is done on the basis of GATE.

Those interested in pursuing further studies may either directly register themselves for PhD or do a pre-doctoral program –Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) which is either completely research based or may also include some course work. It takes lesser time to complete PhD for those doing it after M.Phil. Postgraduate level diploma courses are also available which are generally of one-year duration.

The higher education system, comprising of various universities, colleges, professional institutes etc caters to around 7 million students. Though State Governments are responsible for establishment of State Universities and running them, Government of India is primarily responsible for framing major policies relating to higher education in the country.

### Educational Institutions

The number of primary schools is now 527 and that of middle schools 122, high schools 62, higher secondary schools 19 and there is also a college.

Educational expansion in Sikkim during the last decade has been phenomenal. Beside I.C.D.S. Centers, pre- primary classes function in most of our schools. Our Senior Secondary Schools are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi. The only Public School, T. N. Academy prepares students for examinations of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi.

**Table 8.6 Number of government educational institution As on 31.3.1997)**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>State</i>
Pre-Primary School	No.	76	235	212	216	739
Lower - Primary	No.	21	38	48	75	182
Primary School	No.	33	119	99	84	335
J. H. School	No.	9	44	38	31	122
Sec. School	No.	10	20	22	20	72
Sr. Sec. School	No.	2	13	6	6	27
T. T. I.	No.	-	1	-	-	1
S. I. E.	No.	-	1	-	-	1
Degree College	No.	-	1	1	-	2
Law College	No.	-	1	-	-	1
B. Ed. College	No.	-	-	1	-	1
STHNS (Sheda)	No.	-	1	-	-	1

Contd.

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Affiliated to</i>
6.	Loyola College of Education, Namchi, South Sikkim. (Missionary Institute) (Now. Govt.)	Damthang	North Bengal Uni.
7.	Damber Singh College, Deorali (Now. Govt.)	Rumtek	North Bengal Uni.
8.	Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Tadong, Sikkim	Rumtek	Manipal University of Health, Technology and Medical Sciences
9.	Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Tadong, Sikkim	Rumtek	Manipal University of Health, Technology and Medical Sciences
10.	Institute for Handicrafts, Gangtok	Gangtok	
11.	Industrial Technical Institute, Rangpo.	Central Pendam	

These are the specialized institution for giving the city a base of highly educated manpower, which will enable it to move rapidly into the information age.

### ***Manipal Institute of Medical Science***

This Hospital started functioning from March 1997. A building for a 500 (Five Hundred) bedded multiple facilities Referral Hospital is ready. This hospital will be the teaching hospital for the proposed Medical College at Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim. The skeletal Out-Patients and Inpatients facilities of the Referral Hospital is established. Hopefully the Medical College is likely to be functional by the end of the year. This is most likely going to be affiliated to "*Sikkim Manipal University of Health Technology and Medical Sciences*". It occupies a 28 acre campus with all latest facilities.

### ***Manipal Institute of Technology Sikkim***

Born on 14th June 1997 the Manipal Institute of Technology Sikkim started it's Academic Year from 1st July, '97. The Institute has the following disciplines.

#### ***Computer Engineering***

- Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering

by the Australian Government international development agency, AusAID. The aims of this program are to strengthen critical government organisations in India through investment in human resource development activities. The main focus is the delivery of cost effective training and capacity building in priority sectors providing long-term sustainable impact.

Three states of India are receiving assistance including Sikkim, a small northern state situated in the Himalayas between Nepal and Bhutan and sharing a border with China. Much of Sikkim is very isolated and has lacked the natural resources and infrastructure to generate industrial production. Given the difficulties of the terrain and the location, the Government of Sikkim has identified the development of high technology industries as a key priority and established two polytechnics to provide school leaver and workforce training.

RMIT staff are working with the Government of Sikkim to

- raise awareness and understanding of the integrated nature of the Australian VET system among key decision makers and technical training practitioners in Sikkim
- strengthen the curriculum development, course design and overall management and operational capacity of key personnel from two newly formed technical training institutes
- strengthen content knowledge of key trainers
- support development of courses, curriculum and materials
- assist with development of long-term professional and institutional networks and linkages between the Sikkim institutes and Australian VET providers.

#### List of University in the State

Sl.	University
1.	Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences

**Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical and Technological Sciences;** (Estd. 1995); Gangtok; Jurisdiction : Sikkim State. Courses of Study: BE; MSc; New Courses; MSc (Medical); BPT; BSc (Nursing); Diplomas in Nursing/ Radiography/MLT; MBBS (Proposed); Distance Education Programmes; BCA; BSc (Information Tech); MSc; MSc (Information Tech); PG; Diploma: Branches Information Technology, Telecom Technology and Medical Transcription, Electronic Commerce. Proposed Course: The Univ propose to start MBBS course from 2001-2002 academic session.

## Transport and Communication

### Figures Related to Transportation and Communication

**Number of Motor Vehicles Registered in the State :** Two wheelers 3994, Autorickshaw NA, Jeeps 2205, Cars 890, Taxis 3108, Buses 605, Goods Vehicles 1085, Miscellaneous 14, Total number of Vehicles 11901.

**Working of State Transport undertaking fleet Strength (Buses No.)** 88, Vehicles in Bus Scheduled Service No. NA, Kilometres performed (lakh km.) NA, Gross Revenue Receipts (Rs. in lakh) 1191, Current expenditure, total operating costs in Rs. lakh 1870, Net Revenue Rs. lakh -679.

**Total and Surfaced Road length :** Total 1851, Surfaced 1544, Highways Total 1750, Surfaced 1507, Urban Roads-Total 36, Surfaced 36, Project Roads-Total 65, Surfaced 1.

**Length of Highways by Authorities :** *National Highways*-Total 62, Surfaced 62, *State Highways*-Total 186, Surfaced 186, *Other PWD Roads*-Total 1502, Surfaced 1259, *Zilla Parishad Roads*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Village Panchayat Roads*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *CD/Panchayat Samiti Road*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Rural Roads Constructed under JRY*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, Total Highways 1750, Total surfaced 1507.

**Length of Urban Roads by Authorities :** *Municipal Road*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Railways Roads*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Port Roads*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Military Engineering Service Roads*-Total 36, Surfaced 36, *Total Urban Roads*-Total 36, Surfaced 36.

**Length of Project Roads by Authorities :** *Forest Department Road*-Total 65, Surfaced 1, *Irrigation Department Road*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Electricity Department Road*-Total NA, Surfaced NA, *Steel*

taking approximately 4 hours. There are regular scheduled flights operated by Indian Airlines from Delhi and Calcutta to Bagdogra. Taxis are available outside Bagdogra airport for Gangtok. The Sikkim Nationalised Transport (SNT) also runs a special 'Snow-Lion' mini bus service.

*Sikkim Helicopter Service*

For the more discerning traveller, Sikkim Tourism is proud to present the Sikkim Helicopter Service from Gangtok to Bagdogra airport and back. The five-seater helicopter offers an exclusive mode of transport not merely to enable connection flights, but to also see Sikkim from an entirely new view.

Sikkim helicopter service also conducts, besides the regular runs to Bagdogra airport and back, special mountain flights. Special flights are also conducted over West Sikkim and North Sikkim for a bird's eye-view of the monasteries and the exotic valley of flowers. All passengers on these sightseeing flights are awarded official certificates of participation by the STDC as souvenirs.

*Water Transport*

A trekkers paradise, Sikkim offers package treks to areas of unspoilt culture. An unforgettable experience amidst the valley of flowers, serene lakes, magnificent mountains. Far from the maddening crowd, the trekker becomes a part of the tranquil environment, so rare in the world.

River rafting tours are also to be organised on the Tista and Rangeet for the leisure seeker or the more adventurous, starting from the Himalayan ranges to the lower valleys.

**Communication**

Due to the expansion plan undertaken by the Department of Telecommunications, the remote Himalayan state of Sikkim is all set to usher in the state-of-the-art communication technology. In addition to the benefits of modern communication services, people of the state will soon be able to access the Internet too. This has become possible due to a record growth of almost 200 per cent in telecommunication services in this eastern Himalayan state during the last one year.

**Table 9.2 Details of Telecommunication in Sikkim**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>State</i>
Telephone Exchange (All Electronics)	No.	3	8	5	3	19
Telephone in use	No.	178	4575	909	440	6102
Public call Office	No.	-	5	-	1	6
Village/Gram Panchayat Telephones	No.	26	36	69	64	195

*Contd.*

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Public call Office	No.	-	5	-	1	6
Village/Gram Panchayat Telephones	No.	26	36	69	64	195

*Contd.*

## Language and Literature

The languages spoken by the people of Sikkim include Bhutia, Nepali, Lepcha, Limbu, Tibetan, English and Hindi.

Sikkim has four official languages of which only Nepali is recognized by the central government. Besides the languages officially recognized by central or state governments, there are other languages which don't have this recognition and their speakers are running political struggles to get this recognition. Hindi is the official language of India and therefore it has the status of official language in the state. Another language that has a official status in the state is English.

The population of Sikkim is is mainly Nepalese, but it includes Lepchas, who form the largest minority group, and Bhutias, a people of Tibetan origin.

The Nepali language is spoken and understood all over the state. This language is similar to Hindi and uses the Devangri script.

The language spoken by the bhutias is bhutia.

The Lepchas have their own language (Lepcha) and script. The Lepcha language is one of the eleven official languages recognized by the Sikkim government and is taught up to the high school level. Although this language is not very well developed but is rich in vocabulary related to the flora and fauna of Sikkim.

Lepchas refer to their language as 'Rong-aring' or 'Rongring' and falls under the Tibeto-Burman family of languages. There are quite a few amazing aspects about the Lepcha language. Words associated with obscenity are part of everyday vocabulary. It is not considered taboo to utter these words which, in any other language, one might hesitate or never utter in public.

The other interesting thing about the Lepcha language is that the Lepcha wiseman seem to have sat together to give names of various animate and inanimate objects. Hence, almost all the names of animals start with the letter



Contd.

		Persons	Males	Females
Kannada	Total	43	22	21
	Rural	36	15	21
	Urban	7	7	-
Kashmiri	Total	4	4	-
	Rural	-	-	-
	Urban	4	4	-
Malayalam	Total	710	491	219
	Rural	576	406	170
	Urban	134	85	49
Manipuri	Total	42	23	19
	Rural	35	16	19
	Urban	7	7	-
Marathi	Total	140	88	52
	Rural	131	79	52
	Urban	9	9	-
Nepali	Total	256,418	133,981	122,437
	Rural	237,347	123,937	113,410
	Urban	19,071	10,044	9,027
Oriya	Total	110	64	46
	Rural	82	45	37
	Urban	28	19	9
Punjabi	Total	526	306	220
	Rural	404	237	167
	Urban	122	69	53
Sindhi	Total	6	5	1
	Rural	5	4	1
	Urban	1	1	-
Tamil	Total	169	100	69
	Rural	141	78	63
	Urban	28	22	6
Telugu	Total	184	113	71
	Rural	144	91	53
	Urban	40	22	18
Urdu	Total	1,703	1,244	459
	Rural	900	645	255
	Urban	803	599	204

Contd.

## Medical Facilities

### Figures on Medical Facilities in the State

**Number of Hospitals, Dispensaries, and Beds :** Number of Hospitals 2, Number of Dispensaries 0, Number of Beds All types (000) 1.

**Number of Doctors Possessing Recognised Medical Qualification (under IMC Act) and Registered with State Medical Councils:** 1991 NA, 1997 NA, 1998 NA, 1999 NA, 2000 NA, 2001 NA, 2002 NA.

**Number of Registered Nursing Personal :** General Nursing Midwives NA, Health Visitor and Health Supervisor NA, Auxiliary nursing midwives NA,

**Other Important Numbers:** Number of Mental Hospitals NA, Number of beds available NA, Number of Patients admitted during the year NA, Number of Patients discharged during the year NA, Number of Patients died during the year 2000 NA.

**Number of sterilisations during the year 830, Culminative number of sterilisations:** Number 2q0863, Rate 38.6, Number of IUD insertions during the year 2001/02, 1098, Culminative number of IUD insertions : Number 26305, Rate 48.7, Number of Conventional contraceptive users during the years: Number 4725, Rate 8.8.

The medical and public health services have made significant contribution to the development of Sikkim. Out of the total inhabited villages of the district, 35.38 per cent villages have one type or another of medical facility within the village. The urban population in the state is as a whole well served by medical facilities. There are 13 beds per 1,000 urban population in the state. However, there is a large variation in the number of beds per 1,000 urban population in various districts/towns of the state. The highest number of beds, 77 per 1000

**Table 11.2 Health care facilities**

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>State</i>
Hospitals	No.	1	2	1	1	5
P.H.C.	No.	3	8	6	7	24
P. H. S. C.	No.	19	48	39	41	147
Beds	No.	80	500	220	120	920
Doctors	No.	12	104	28	21	165
Auxiliary Nurses and Mid Wives	No.	42	186	111	97	436
Staff Nurses	No.	5	81	8	4	98
Patients treated Indoor	No.	117	2786	2938	3826	9667
Patients treated Outdoor	No.	3903	99743	79201	74561	251408
Population per Doctor (including S.T.N.M.)	No.	3114	2052	4212	5590	2950

Source: Health Department

**Table 11.3 List of Hospitals in Sikkim as on 01-03-98**

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Hospital</i>	<i>District</i>
1.	S.T.N.M. Hospital	EAST
2.	SINGTAM Hospital	EAST
3.	NAMCHI Hospital	SOUTH
4.	GYALSHING Hospital	WEST
5.	MANGAN Hospital	NORTH
6.	G.B. PANT Hospital	EAST
7.	CENTRAL REFERRAL Hospital	EAST

**Table 11.4 Bed Strength for Inpatient Treatment as on 31-03-97**

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Health Institutions</i>	<i>Total No. of Beds.</i>				
		<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Central Referral Hospital, Gangtok	300	-	-	-	300
2.	Community Health Centre	100	50*	50*	100	300
3.	Primary Health Centre	80	70	30	60	240
4.	Temporary Hospitalisation Ward, Sajong (Leprosy)	20	-	-	-	20
5.	District Tuberculosis Centre, Namchi	-	-	-	60	60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>920</b>

\*New 100 bedded C. H. C. under construction at Gyalshing, West Sikkim and Mangan, North Sikkim.

## Industry

### Figures Related to Industries in the State

**Annual Survey of Industries (Factory Sector) (Value in Rs. Crores) others in numbers (1999-2001) :** Number in Factories 5063, Fixed capital 19945, Working capital 82, Productive capital 20027, Invested Capital 24679, Number of workers 176941, Total persons Engaged 234651, Wages to Workers 717, Total Emolument 1295, Value of benefit 249, Fuels consumed 2980, Materials consumed 16195, Total inputs 23149, Products and by-products 26450, Value of output 29960, Depreciation 1496, Net Value Added 5315, Rent Paid 158, Interest paid 2252, Gross Fixed capital Formation 1601, Materials Fuels etc 296, Value of addition in stock semi-Finished goods 44, Finished goods 124, Total 463.

**Mill production of cotton Yarn (in Mn. kg.) (2001-02):** 1-10 Counts 19, 11-20 counts 28, 21-30 counts 20, 31-40 counts 4, Above 40 counts NA, Total 71.

**Electricity-Installed capacity (kw) :** Nuclear NA, Steam NA, Gas NA, Diesel and Wind 5, Hydro 33, Total 38, Electricity Generated (gross) (crore kwh) : Nuclear NA, Steam NA, Gas NA, Diesel and Wind 1, Hydro 51, Total 52, Consumption in power station auxiliaries NA, Consumption 105.8, Per Capita consumption kwh 192.4.

**Electricity sold to ultimate consumers (crore kwh) :** Total Sold to ultimate Consumers 10.6, Domestic 5.3, Commercial 1.8, Industrial Power at low and medium voltage 1.9, Industrial Power at high voltage NA, Public lightning 1.6, Traction NA, Agriculture NA, Public water works and sewage pumping NA, Miscellaneous NA.

**Joint Stock Companies Ceased to Work by Industrial Activity :** Public Sector NA, Paid-up Capital (in lakh) NA, Private Sector NA, Paid up Capital (in lakhs) NA, Total Number NA, Total Paid up Capital (in lakh) NA.

**Performance of Employment Exchanges :** Employment Exchanges NA, Registration NA, Vacancies notified NA, Submissions NA, Placements NA, Live Register NA.

**Industrial Disputes :** Number of Dispute NA, Number of Workers involved NA, Number of mandays lost NA.

The growth of industries is a recent phenomenon in Sikkim. The situation where there was no industry is now changing and giving place to a number of industrial units. They produce such items as fruit jams and juices, biscuits, other bakery products, beer, matches, washing soap, plastics, electric cables, barbed wires, watches, leather goods and industrial jewels. The tax free status of the state in term of income tax and other inducements offered by Sikkim have become good attractions for entrepreneurs from within the state and other parts of the country to set up industrial units. Hundreds of licenses have been issued to the small scale units on a permanent or temporary basis. Tiny cottage units have been received incentives and other benefits from the department of industries.

### **Trade**

The main exports from Sikkim are cardamom, oranges, tea, potatoes, apples, liquors, wines, handicrafts, canned fruit and timber. The trade in the past has mainly been with Tibet through the passes of Nathu La and Jelep La. When Chinese invaded these parts and sealed the borders the pattern of trade has turned to India. Sikkim imports many consumer goods and manufactured goods from other parts of India. Food grains, Beverages, cloth, cosmetics, electrical equipment, engineering goods, synthetic goods, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, medicines and drugs, surgical equipments, sanitary goods, hardware, paints, Varnishes, machine tools etc are the important articles imported by Sikkim.

### **Electricity**

In the VII Plan the two Hydel Projects namely Rimbi Stage II and Rongnichu Stage II have been completed along with the Lachen Micro Hydel Project. Above all, Sikkim Government, extended a total number of 3000 free connections under the scheme of extending two point free domestic connections to the poor masses and provided electrification to all the district headquarters, towns and 90% of the total revenue blocks. Sikkim stood first in rank along with 12 States in the centpercent village electrified.

### ***Revamping the public sector undertakings***

The role of the State Public Sector Undertakings will be reviewed. Government will undertake business ventures only in the core sectors and in keeping with the policies of the Central Government, some of the public sector undertakings will be privatised and introduced shortly. The State Public Sector Undertakings in the core/thrust sectors will be revamped to improve their efficiency and functioning.

Sikkim Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (SIDICO) will also play a more active role in industrialisation process in the State. It will provide escort services to entrepreneurs proposing the set up projects valued at Rupees Fifty lakhs and above. An industrial information Centre will be established to provide information on industry and market trends. SIDICO will assist the Rehabilitation Cell of the Department of Industries to revamp the sick units in the State SIDICO itself is facing severe financial constraints due to defaults in repayment by many of its borrowers. Strong action will be taken to ensure speedy recovery of debts. Measures will be carried for its organisational and financial restructuring. Aggressive publicity drives for investment in industrial undertaking will be organised by SIDICO.

A Tea Development Corporation of Sikkim will be formed which shall be the nodal agency for propagation of the Tea industry in Sikkim. It will take steps to expand the Temi tea estate, acquire new gardens either wholly or partially owned by Government, and encourage small tea growers through special schemes and incentives.

### ***Creation of appropriate organisational arrangements***

The strategy for industrial development will be realised when it is implemented through appropriate organisational facilities. Industrial promotion in Sikkim will be handlooms, handicrafts, agriculture etc., will be the responsibility of the respective departments in co-ordination with the Director of industries.

For an all-round development and efficient monitoring of the ground conditions by the Director, the co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the different departments for power supply, water supply land development, road network and telecommunication is essential. Therefore, to encourage industry and attract investors, it is stated that all the departments are committed to the industrial policy and will take an active part in its implementation.

### ***Reorganisation of the Directorate of Industries***

The Director of Industries will play a key role in facilitating and co-ordinating activities related industrial development. Therefore, necessary steps for strengthening the department, as well as upgrading the facilities will be taken immediately.

The District Industries Centres (DIC) of the Directorate of Industries will help to co-ordinate the district level industrial, infrastructure development work and support local entrepreneurs in setting up units and Sub-offices will be opened in the North and West District.

## Agriculture

### Figures Related to State Agriculture

**Pattern of Land Utilization :** Area for Land utilization 710, Forests 257, Not available for cultivation 270, Permanent pastures and other grazing lands 69, Land under misc. Tree crops and groves 5, culturable waste land 1, Fallow lands other than current fallows 9, current fallows 4, Net area sown 95. Area sown more than once 26, Total cropped area 121.

**Area under Principal Crops (in thousand hectare) :** Rice 16, Jowar NA, Bajara NA, Maize 40, Ragi 5, Small millets 1, Wheat 8, Barely 1, Gram NA, Tur NA, other pulses 7, Total pulses 7, Ground nut NA, Sesamum NA, Rapeseed and mustard 6, Linseed NA, Castor seed NA, Total oil seed 10, Cotton lint NA, Jute NA. Mesta NA, Tea NA, Coffee NA, Natural rubber NA, Banana NA, Sugar cane NA, Tobacco NA, Potato 6, Black pepper NA, Turmeric NA. Chillies (dry) NA. Ginger (dry) NA, Coconut NA.

**Production of Principal Crops (in thousand tonne) :** Rice 22, Jowar NA, Bajara NA, Maize 54, Ragi 4, Small millets 1, Wheat 10, Barely 2, Gram NA, Tur NA, other pulses 6, Total pulses 6, Ground nut NA, Sesamum NA, Rapeseed and mustard 4, Linseed NA, Castor seed NA, Total oil seed 7, Cotton lint NA, Jute NA. Mesta NA, Tea NA, Coffee NA, Natural rubber NA, Banana NA, Sugar cane NA, Tobacco NA, Potato 26, Black pepper NA, Turmeric NA. Chillies (dry) NA. Ginger (dry) NA. Coconut NA.

**Average Field of Principal Crops (quintals per hectare) :** Rice 13.9, Jowar NA, Bajara NA, Maize 13.6, Ragi 9.1, Small millets 7.1, Wheat 13.1, Barely 18.2, Gram NA, Tur NA, other pulses 9.2, Total

quality is also produced in the state. A government Tea Estate is being developed in Kewzing in the western part of Sikkim. There is one more tea estate at Temi. Both these estates extends over an area of 400 acres. Under horticulture, large quantities of oranges and apple are raised. Vegetables, pineapple and banana are other cash crops of Sikkim.

**Table 15.1 Land holdings (Agriculture census 1990-91)**

Operational Holdings	No.	51.24	20271	12854	14448	52697
Area operated	Hect.	15444	34450	29336	32072	111302
Average area for holdings	Hect.	3.01	1.70	2.22	2.28	2.11

Source : Agriculture Department, Govt. of Sikkim

**Table 15.2 Classification of land**

Item	Unit	1980-81	1990-91
Net area shown	Hect.	78321	63254
Area under current follow	Hect.	4428	3906
Other uncultivated Land (Excluding other lands)	Hect.	4560	10830
Follow land other than current fallow	Hect.	9474	9204
Cultivable waste Land	Hect.	681	9807
Land not available for cultivation	Hect.	11604	14301

### Major Crops

The humid tropical zone foothills of Southern Sikkim constitute the maize cultivation belt. Needing high temperatures and good amount of rainfall, maize is sown in early summer and harvested in September-October. Maize is an exacting crop and required a good amount of human labour for thinning and weeding process. To save the land from soil erosion longitudinal ditches have to be prepared in Maize fields. Maize is a staple food of this belt. Maize is also used for preparation of poultry feed and beer.

Paddy is another important crop of Sikkim. Paddy is a crop mainly of river valleys. Along river beds the crop is raised with the help of irrigation. Small channels taken out of the rivers irrigate the surrounding land. On higher areas where temperature and rainfall conditions permit the cultivation of paddy, the crop is grown on terraced fields. In the river bottoms transplantation method has been employed but on the higher terraced fields broadcasting method is employed.

Now with the assistance of Agriculture Department new high yielding varieties of paddy are grown on the terraced farms with Japanese method.



### ***Production of Tea***

Tea grown in Sikkim is famous by its brand name 'Temi Tea'. Temi Tea estate is located in Temi, South Sikkim and is one of the best tea producing tea estate in the country. It was established in the year 1969 with an estimated area of 435 acres. It employs a total number of 406 workers and 43 staff members. It produces about 100 MT tea annually. During the year 1997-98 the production figure of Temi Tea garden has drastically improved by producing 1,16,000 Kgs. tea leaves which is the highest record ever achieved till date. During this year a total revenue of Rs. 2.18 crores was credited to the State exchequer. Temi tea garden received All India Quality Award ; from Tea Board of India for the two consecutive years i.e. 1994 and 1995.

The orthodox variety of tea of Temi Tea is very rich in flavour and has high export potential, which is only partially tapped thus far. To its credit, Temi Tea fetches one of the highest prices at the Kolkata Tea Auction. Under the assistance of Temi Tea Board, tea growers society like Sang-Martam Tea Growers' Cooperative Society has started flourishing which will further increase the products. Efforts are underway to source direct buyers in foreign markets for Sikkim's tea and the field is open for investors interested in increasing Sikkim's tea production capabilities.

The Sang Martam Small Tea was established in 1998. This is a society where small farmers will merge the land holdings pool together their lands to start tea plantation.

The total area of land under the cultivation of this society is around 75 acres. The society has a total of 140 members. Since the gestation period is long, tea plucking has started only recently. They are sending the green leaves to Temi Tea Factory for processing. However, a regular tea factory is being proposed. The tea produced will be of orthodox variety.

### ***Spice Production***

It is believed that ancient Indian merchants conquered the world with their large varieties of species. One of the major spices is cardamom. It has been a part of Indian food for time immemorial. Cardamom is an important cash crop. Cardamom production in the country during the recent years has fallen to about 25-30 per cent. Though the production in the country has increased in last 30 years there has been no major breakthrough in its productivity. Besides this, in order to boost its cultivation, import has been banned, but there are instances of illegal import into this country in order to meet the domestic requirements.

Thus it is very essential to properly investigate into the causes and factors, which led to loss of our past glory in this field. Implementation of IT can be a boon in analyzing and generating models in various fields of agriculture. This paper presents a case study of GIS implementation in finding large cardamom cultivation potential model in Sikkim Himalayas. To make a sample of our study we have selected a watershed named RateChhu situated

## Customs, Fairs and Festivals

Communities, Cultures, religions and customs of different hues intermingle freely here in Sikkim to constitute a homogeneous blend. Hindu temples coexist with Buddhist monasteries and there are even a few Christian churches, Muslim moandues and Sikh Gurdwaras. The predominant communities are the Lepchas, Bhutias and the Nepalis. In urban areas many plainsmen-Marwaris, Biharis, Bengalis, South Indians, Punjabis have also settled and they are mostly engaged in business and government service. Because of development and construction activities in the state, a small part of the population consists of migrant laborers from the plains and Nepal. There are also a few thousand Tibetan Refugees settled in Sikkim.

### **Customs**

#### ***Customs of Lepchas***

The original inhabitants of Sikkim are said to be Lepchas. They existed much before the Bhutias and Nepalese migrated to the state. Before adopting Buddhism or Christianity as their religion, the earliest Lepcha settlers were believers in the bone faith or mune faith. This faith was basically based on spirits, good and bad. They worshipped spirits of mountains, rivers and forests which was but natural for a tribe that co-existed so harmoniously with the rich natural surroundings. The Lepcha (Zongu) folklore is rich with stories. The Lepcha population is concentrated in the central part of the Sikkim. This is the area that encompasses the confluence of Lachen and Lachung rivers and Dickchu.

Life in a Lepcha dwelling is very simple. The male Lepcha wears a dress called a "pagi" made of cotton, which is stripped. The female Lepcha wear a two piece dress. The Lepchas speak the language lepcha,

*Dharma and signifies* The awakening of sentient beings from The sleeping state of Their ignorance. It persuades Them towards the path of noble deeds that are beneficial to others. Gautam blew the conch shell when he decided to preach the law. the Conch shell is blown in commemoration of this event whenever there is a special sermon by a high lama.

*Gyaltsen (banner of victory)*: This symbol signifies the fortune of having victory of good over the evil forces which hinders the success of noble goals and also proclaims the victory of piety over evil. It is used in processions.

*Sernya (pair of golden fishes)*: Symbolises resurrection of eternal life, rebirth etc. The pair signifies the ability to swim with ease without obstruction in the ocean of this world. They may also be taken to symbolise the eye of perception as fish can see through muddy water. The fish couple suggests mutual aid and indispensability between male and female material life.

*Pema (lotus flower)*: It symbolises the ultimate goal namely enlightenment. As the Lotus comes out of dirt but does not carry any dirt similarly law is free of all earthly matters.

*Palbheu (knot of eternity)*: It is law without beginning and without end which symbolises Eternity. The curly hair on the chest of Buddha has the appearance of Knot Eternity. It is also called as lucky net and symbolises Brahamajala representing all the theories and philosophies of the universe.

*Choekyi Khorlo (wheel of dharma)*: It symbolises the propagation of Buddha's teaching. The first sermon setting in motion of the cycle of law is symbolist in a wheel with eight spokes, which stand for eight fold path.

## **Fairs and Festivals**

### ***Festivals and Festivities***

The beauty of the country and with a people still preoccupied with the many mysteries of their religion, it is but natural that the important festivals are as splendid as they are colourful. The festivals of Sikkim can be said to belong to two cultural streams based on religion, the Nepali culture and the Bhutia-Lepcha culture.

Two important festivals of the Nepalese, the Dasain and the Tihar, are known as the Dussehra and Diwali respectively in other parts of India.

For the Buddhists there are two festivals of special significance, one dedicated to the protecting deity Kangchendzonga (in September) and the other in celebration of the New Year or Lhosar (in November). These colourful festivals are usually seen at Gangtok where they are staged in front of the

## Rural Development

A part of India for less than 30 years, Sikkim has nonetheless come to embody the best of South Asia's largest state: engaged and responsive governance, sustained and ecologically-sensitive commercial development, and large-scale investment in the state's people to make it a 21st century development dynamo. Sikkim is unique for its lush and rugged physical setting and human diversity, but it has also made a name for itself as one of the best-managed states in India.

As part of its development plan for Sikkim, the SDF government has mapped out a long-term strategy of accomplishing 100 percent literacy, poverty elimination, youth empowerment and sustainable fiscal health. Devolution of power to local communities and previously marginalised sections of the populace such as women are viewed as inalienable components in a programme of bottom-up development. Policy-makers also appreciate that infrastructure development must advance mindful of the natural needs of this ecologically diverse and fragile state. Its unique geo-strategic position makes Sikkim ideally placed for a day when the WTO regime diffuses nation-state boundaries, allowing Sikkim to become the focal point of regional trade between eastern India, Nepal, Tibet (China) and Bhutan.

When the SDF came to power in 1994, its primary objective was to rescue the state exchequer. In 1994, Sikkim had internal revenue generation of INR 40 crore; even meeting the cost of the salaries of government officials was a challenge. With its finances in such a precarious state, contractors and suppliers were loath to work in Sikkim. The SDF realised that the institutionalisation of certain fiscal processes was imperative before Sikkim could achieve badly needed stability in its fiscal regime.

In a bid to invigorate economic growth and social development, and bring some predictability to the system, the SDF undertook an intellectual

targeting an annual growth rate of 10 percent per annum, two percent more than the target national average. To help with this aim, he requested that the centre link Sikkim to the prime minister's 'golden quadrilateral' highway project that will join India's east and west. If achieved, this will reduce the state's dependence on the overburdened 31 A national highway that currently is its only road link to the rest of the country. He also petitioned New Delhi for an additional INR 100 crore in support of the Pakyong airport project. Making clear that human resource development was at the heart of Sikkim's development programme, Chamling also asked for a university to be established in Sikkim.

### **Rural Development Programmes**

#### *Janata Mela*

Literally, 'public fair', the Janata Mela completed its first phase in mid-December 2002 with the chief minister addressing a crowd of thousands in various places in the state. An exercise in direct contact, the Janata Mela is a forum for the chief minister to engage the people of Sikkim on government policies, encourage them to become self-reliant and empower them to ask for responsibility in governance by emphasising that it is the people's money that the government spends. It also provides a site of interaction between senior bureaucrats, who may otherwise not need to step out of Gangtok, and the people of rural Sikkim. At the fair, government departments such as those of animal husbandry, agriculture and horticulture, industries, welfare, health, information technology, forestry, the Sikkim Industries Development and Investment Corporation Limited and the State Trading Corporation of Sikkim, among others, set up stalls to disseminate information to the rural populace of the state.

This format of government-people interaction facilitates a two-way exchange allowing people to gather information on government projects and programmes and how to optimally utilise them, and provides a medium through which senior bureaucrats, by appearing in person to meet Sikkim's communities, get direct feedback on policies from citizen-stakeholders.

At the fairs, held in six constituencies in the first phase, the government distributed welfare benefits to people below the poverty line through measures such as Rural Housing Scheme cheques, GCI sheets for roofing, grants to panchayats, land for the landless, toilets, greenhouses and tarpaulin, unveiling food for work programmes, and releasing cheques for old age pensions. The 200 cooking gas connections distributed to impoverished people in each district embody the government's philosophy of balancing human development with ecological sensitivity by reducing dependence on limited forest resources while improving human living standards.

Addressing a thousands-strong gathering in Dentam, west Sikkim, the chief minister laid out the SDF government's development plans for the state and called on citizens to help Sikkim achieve internal revenue generation of INR 1000 crore by the year 2015. Stressing the need for self-reliance on a

## Urban Development

The office of Urban Development Department is located in the heart of Gangtok town opposite STNM Hospital. The building with traditional entrance gate has a clock tower, the only kind of the structure in the state. Manned by the dedicated officers and staff the UD&HD has multifarious functions. The urban areas prior to Sikkim became the 22nd state of India was looked after by Bazaar Department and after the merger, Gangtok Municipal Corporation Act was enacted.

The GMC was abolished under the Sikkim (Repeal and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1985 and its power and functions were reverted to Local Self Government. Vide Notification No. 7(17)/Home dated 28th July 1990, the Local Self Government was renamed as Urban Development and Housing Department.

*Administrative Section:* The Joint Secretary (adm) and his subordinates are entrusted with the work of administration of the department. He is assisted by under secretary and other staff for carrying out the function. The main function is general administration in terms of service matter. The manpower planning and development, implementation of the welfare measures for the employees working in the Department and coordination with other departments of the state government are other measure function of the administrative section.

*Accounts Section:* The Senior Accounts Officer, Accounts Officer and staff look after the finance function of the Department. The financial planning and control, monitoring of the revenue collection and preparation of budget and monitoring of the expenditure are the measure functions of the accounts section. The section is responsible for coordinating with the office of the Accountant General and the Finance and Planning Department of the

which was 406457. The literacy rate is 69.6 in 2001 as compared to 56.4 of 1991. About 30% of the total population reside in urban areas of Sikkim. The increase in economic activities in all sectors and increase in the literacy rate play important role in the urbanization of the State. In the absence of industries in the State, towns and bazaars are the main places for the economic activities of the State. The rural products are brought to the towns, bazaars and the rural marketing centres for which the basic infrastructure has to be matched. There are eight notified towns and 46 rural marketing centers. The eight notified towns are Gangtok, Singtam and Rangpo in the East, Mangan in the North, Jorethang, Naya bazaar and Namchi in the South and Gyalshing in the West.

The rapid urbanization has to be matched with the equal development of the infrastructure in the State. At present either the existing infrastructures are inadequate or over utilised or there are no vacant places for addition of infrastructures and civic amenities. With keeping in view of these the Department has number of programmes for facilitating the creation of infrastructures and basic amenities.

*Garbage Management:* With the rapid growth of urban population and increase in tourist traffic and increase there has been proportionate increase in the quantum of garbage and wastage in the town and bazaar areas. In the capital town of Gangtok itself around 26 MT of solid waste is produced daily.

In order to cope with the situation a land measuring around 12.18 acres has been acquired at Marchak about 15 km. away from Gangtok where the garbage from Gangtok and peripheral areas are dumped. Disposal of garbage presently is being done by Open Yard Degradation system. The State Government is in the process of installation of manure processing plant in the lines of Karnataka/ Bangalore KCDC model of converting biodegradable garbage into agricultural compost.

The project has been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation in a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 with the Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India and the Chief Minister of Sikkim. At present Department maintains fleet of garbage disposal trucks 8 Nos. in the north-east and two vehicles in the south-west districts. The Department has one cess pool vehicle which is used by the public on demand and on payment of Rs.500/- per trip to clean private septic tank.

Under the Sikkim Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1997 and The Sikkim Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Rules, 2001, no one is allowed to throw bio-degradable or non-biodegradable garbage in any public place or in any drain ventilation shaft pipe and fitting connected with the private or public drainage except in appropriate garbage receptacles. Any one violating this is punishable with the imprisonment for term which may extend to six months or with fine upto Rs.5,000/- or with both.

*From the year 2000, the Sanitation Rules for Towns of Sikkim has been extended to whole of Sikkim vide notification No. 104 (181)/ UD & HD/ 1996-2000 dt. 17.06.2000*

# Sikkim

Culturally and geographically close to Bhutan and ruled by Chogyals since 1642, Sikkim became a part of Indian Union in 1975. The tiny Himalayan state situated in Northeast is rich in flora having about 700 rare species of orchids, and over 4000 species of plants, herbs and flowers of myriad hues. Though industrially backward, agriculture, horticulture and floriculture are the chief sources of income for the locals.

# LAND & PEOPLE

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