



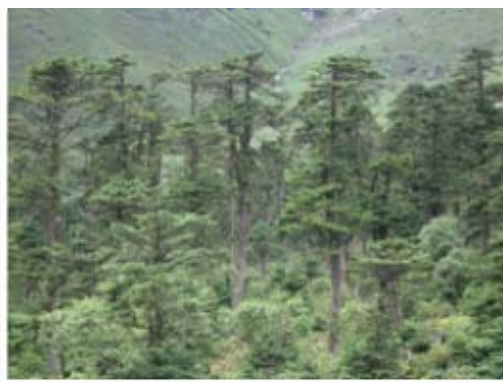
# Chapter II

## Schemes and Policies Implemented from 1995-96 till 2010-11

### **15 YEARS ACHIEVEMENT**

#### **1995:**

- ❖ Sikkim Government announces and adopts “Harit Kranti Dashak” for greener Sikkim through people’s participation.
- ❖ In bold step taken by the government, Cattle grazing in Reserve Forests, an age-old practice that had led to depletion of forest wealth, banned. Felling of trees in Reserve Forests has been restricted and export of timber outside the state has been banned. Tree felling rules for private holding has also been framed and implemented.
- ❖ The State Government took up the task to protect the existing natural forests and to bring the degraded forests and agricultural fallows under afforestation since 1995. **The positive response of the people has led to the increase of forest cover in the State from earlier 37.34% in 1975 to 47.59% at present.**



Conifer Forest



Broad-leaved Forest

#### **1997:**

- ❖ Ban on use of non-biodegradable materials like plastics, polybags etc.
  - ❖ Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) extended from 850 to 1784 sq. km. (25.10% of total geographical area).
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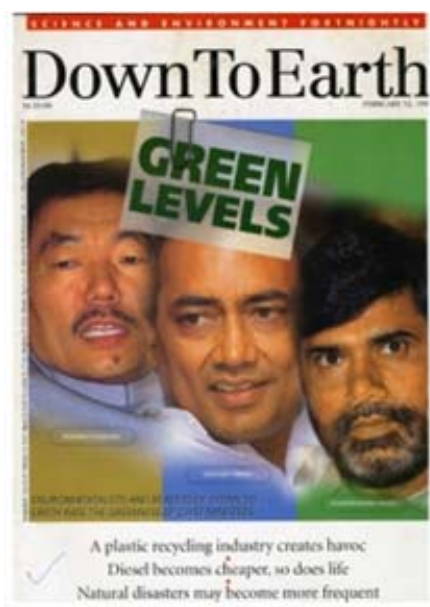
### 1998:

- ❖ State award “Rajya Van Samrakshan Evam Paryavaran Puraskar” constituted.
- ❖ Rathong Chu hydro-electric project and 170 sq. km. Proposed firing range in North Sikkim, abandoned.
- ❖ Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, West Sikkim declared.
- ❖ Introduction of participatory forest management involving active peoples’ participation through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) (26 June 1998). Seven Forest Development Agencies under Territorial and Wildlife Sectors with 158 Joint Forest management Committees covering 88518 ha. forest land and 49 Eco Development Committees have been constituted and are actively implementing the National Afforestation Programme.
- ❖ Subsequent notification issued for Eco-Development Committees (EDCs).



### 1999:

- ❖ Shri Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim adjudged Greenest Chief Minister of India by Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment.
- ❖ Government adopts new nomenclature ‘Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department’ in tune with changing focus and shift in approach and objective.
- ❖ Smriti Van (Memorial Forests) concept by Hon. Chief Minister at Bulbuley above Gangtok to take forestry programmes to people’s level. All strata of people, individuals, institutions, clubs, societies and nongovernmental organizations participate by planting trees in memory of children, marriage, death etc. at a common venue and care, own and nurture trees to maturity. Smriti Vans now at each Panchayat Unit.





- ❖ Government formulates, adopts State Forest, Environment and Land Use Policy in view of growing concern for protection of forests, environment and wildlife *vis-a-vis* increased developmental tempo.

#### 2000:

- ❖ Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve with area 2619.92 sq. km. declared.
- ❖ Total wildlife protected area 30.77% of total geographical area which is the highest in the country.
- ❖ Eco Clubs and Green fund for Schools and Colleges instituted.



#### 2001:

- ❖ Sacred peaks, caves, rocks, lakes, 'chhortens' and hot springs notified.
- ❖ Scaling of important peaks including the Mount Khangchendzonga banned.
- ❖ Network of JFMC/EDCs and Watershed Development Committees (WDCs) created.
- ❖ State Biodiversity Park at Tendong, South Sikkim established.

#### 2002:

- ❖ Environmental Education introduced in Schools from Nursery to Class-8.
- ❖ State Medicinal Plant Board (SMPB) set up to concretize action plan on medicinal plants in the State with Hon. Chief Minister as Chairman.
- ❖ Herbal Gardens created in different Panchayats; care and management with technical inputs from the forest department.
- ❖ Sikkim to go organic; ban on chemical fertilizers, pesticides to save our fields from the scourge of pollution.
- ❖ Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary, East Sikkim declared.





### 2003:

- ❖ Eleven Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Sikkim identified and recognized by government, the first-of-its-kind in the country.
- ❖ Government of India, through its scientific wing, the Forest Survey of India records increase of forest cover in the state by 2% between the period 1994-2003, the result of department's relentless regeneration efforts and the Government's intense policy focus.
- ❖ State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) documented.



### 2004:

- ❖ Green Indicators, 2004 a report developed by Noida-based group finds the Forest Protection Index of Sikkim to be the highest in the country with 0.903 points in protection of natural heritage.
- ❖ First Himalayan state to use Global Positioning System (GPS) for survey and demarcate Reserve Forest boundaries.

### 2005:

- ❖ Sikkim Ecology Fund and Environment Cess Act, 2005 framed. This Act provides for levy of cess on industries, traders and consumers for articles which pollute environment.

### 2006:

- ❖ ENVIS (Environmental Information System) Centre established and website ([www.sikenvvis.nic.in](http://www.sikenvvis.nic.in)) launched to reach information on status of environment and its related issues to wider level.
- ❖ Regulation of Trekking Rules, 2006 notified.
- ❖ Kitam Bird Sanctuary, South Sikkim declared.
- ❖ State Green Mission launched to integrate people with nature and invoke mass support for the cause. State Green Mission is one of the most innovative and effective policy articulations by State Government to realign people to the giant task of protecting, managing and regenerating the greenery in the state on their own with the





Department guiding and supervising various operations. It is now an annual ritual on 15 June with focus on mass participation of general public and government

- ❖ Constitution of State Biodiversity Board to oversee and manage the rich biodiversity of the State.
- ❖ Wetland Conservation Programme formulated and six wetland complexes included in National Wetland Conservation Programme.
- ❖ State Environment Agency constituted to coordinate and implement activities relating to environment awareness, education and information in the state.

#### 2007:

- ❖ State Glacial Commission formulated.
- ❖ National Bamboo Mission launched.
- ❖ Sikkim has become the first State in the country to constitute a high level team for the study of high altitude places in the light of the prevailing global warming scenario.

#### 2008:

- ❖ Shri Pawan Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim participated in the Governor's Global Climate Summit at California on invitation of the California Governor, Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger.



- ❖ Awarded following appreciation from Centre for Development Finance (CDF) at the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) ranks Sikkim
  - First in Natural Resource Management
  - First in performance in Land Use
  - Second best State in overall Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI).

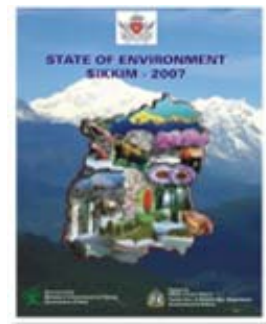




- ❖ Sikkim hosts the International Flower Festival at Saramsa Garden from 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> March.



- ❖ State of Environment (SoE) Report, the first of its kind in the state prepared and published.
- ❖ Eco-Tourism Directorate created.
- ❖ Hamro Van media venture on local cable TV launched for awareness.
- ❖ Chogyal Palden Thendup Namgyal Park, Gangtok, created.
- ❖ Sikkim Forests, Water Courses and Road Reserve (Preservation and Protection) Act 1988 got assent from President of India (16 May 2008).
- ❖ Setting up of State Council for Climate Change.



#### 2009:

- ❖ Department completes 100 years of service and celebrates its centenary year.
- ❖ State again ranked at the highest by Centre for Development Finance on ESI ranking on two categories
  - Reducing Pressure on environment.
  - State' Responses to maintain their environment.
- ❖ An innovative and unique programme conceptualized by the Honorable Chief Minister called 'Ten Minutes to Earth, 10 Minutes to Greenery' was launched and implemented on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 with wide public participation in an unprecedented scale. The event is now an annual ritual.





- ❖ Green School Programme (GSP) launched at the state level in Sikkim, the first of its kind in the country. Therein, three Government schools bagged national award based on all India ratings.
- ❖ Sling Dong Tinkitam Fairrieanum Conservation Reserve, South Sikkim for the protection of orchid *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum* and its environment declared.
- ❖ Working Plan under completion; Wildlife Management Plans completed and under implementation.
- ❖ Terms of Reference (TOR) signed between department and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded externally aided project with focus to promote ecotourism and natural resource conservation.
- ❖ Declaration of Sidkeong Tulku Bird Park at Rabdentse, Gyalshing, West Sikkim, Rangrang Butterfly Park under creation in North Sikkim.



### 2010:

- ❖ International Rhododendron Festival: The Government of Sikkim launched various events like Live Rhododendron Show; Nature Camps; Bird watching; Mountain biking and so on to celebrate the International Festival from 25<sup>th</sup> April- 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.
- ❖ International Conference on Rhododendrons was organized and hosted by the Department on April 2010 with eminent Scientists from Germany, Netherlands, Bhutan, Belgium and India.



- ❖ "Ten minutes to Earth" programme observed throughout the state on 25<sup>th</sup> June as a massive plantation drive. This first-of-its-kind event is a follow up of the HCM's unique initiative "10 minutes to Greenery" which was launched in 2009.
- ❖ Sikkim Delegate of Students, teachers and Office-in-charge of National Green Corps (NGC) participated in the first ever



National Conference of Children and Youth held at Hyderabad during August 2010. The activities of Sikkim NGC Eco Club Students were observed as the



Greenest of Greens in the country.