

Pawan Chamling

Pawan Chamling has been the Chief Minister of Sikkim since December 12, 1994. He was elected to the office of the Chief Minister for the fifth consecutive term in May 2014. Active in social works from his early teens, Chamling's political journey had its formal beginning in 1973 when he actively joined political movement in Sikkim.

In 1982, he was elected unopposed as President of Yangang Gram Panchayat. In 1985, he was elected to the Sikkim Legislative Assembly from Damthang Constituency and served as Chairman of Sikkim Distilleries for five years. In 1989 election, he was re-elected with a record 96.6 % of total vote cast. He became Cabinet Minister in charge of Information and Public Relations, Industries and Printing Department till June 16, 1992.

A relentless worker for the poor and downtrodden, Pawan Chamling formed his own Sikkim Democratic Front party on March 4, 1993 and initiated a statewide campaign against the autocratic rule of the then government. Widely hailed as the "dark horse" by national and international media, Chamling, as the lone opposition MLA, created a history by searching for democracy with a lighted candle in his hand inside the State Assembly Hall on September 9, 1992. His party won Assembly election in 1994 and formed the government with absolute majority.

In recognition to his tireless effort at emotional integration of Sikkimese people into the mainstream, he was awarded the coveted "Bharat Shiromani Award" in 1996. Also voted as the "Greenest Chief Minister of India" in 1998, Chamling has consistently and extensively contributed to the environmental conservation of the Eastern Himalayas. Sikkim received the first Nirmal Rajya Award of India in 2008. Sikkim under Chief Minister Chamling also earned the rare distinction of becoming the first Organic State of India in 2016. For his achievement, Chamling was given the Sustainable Development Leadership Award 2016 on October 6, 2016 "in recognition of (his) vision and leadership in environment and sustainable development leading to the establishment of Sikkim as the first and only organic state". On September 8, 2017, Chamling was also given the One World Award in Germany for making Sikkim as the 100 % Organic State. During the Organic World Congress in November 2017, Chief Minister Chamling was nominated and named as the Ambassador of Organic Himalaya and Organic World.

Sikkim, ever since, has been an oasis of peace, tranquillity and communal harmony. As an exemplary State to ensure social equity and gender justice, Chief Minister Chamling has been able to address the hopes and aspirations of all sections of people of Sikkim.

A man of popular literature, Pawan Chamling has many volumes of poetry to his credit, some of them already rendered into English, Hindi and Bengali. He won his first literary award Chintan Puraskar in 1987 and later Poets' Foundation Award, 2002 and the Bhanu

Puraskar in 2010 for his special contribution towards preservation and development of literature, arts and culture. He writes powerful poetry with consummate simplicity and revolutionary overtones on themes centered on human dignity and equality. He has been the Editor of Nirman, a literary magazine since its inception in 1977.