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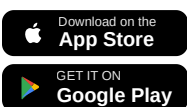


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SIKKIM

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24 October 2026

BUSINESS

All Banks Closed Across India on October 20, 2026, for Dussehra Holiday



Economic Times reported that Dussehra, falling on October 20, 2026, has been declared a bank holiday across India. Consequently, all branches of scheduled commercial banks—including public, private, and regional rural banks—will not conduct regular transactions on that day. Customers are

advised to plan ahead for cash withdrawals and counter services, as branch counters will remain closed.

Although the holiday is applied at the national level, specific scheduling for government or cooperative banks in certain states may differ. However, the

central bank has confirmed that it will remain fully closed on that day in accordance with the standard banking calendar.

Dussehra, also celebrated as Vijayadashami, symbolizes the victory of good over evil. Financial institutions

have requested customers to continue with transfers, bill payments, and other services using digital platforms, as online banking services will remain open.

Banks also noted that ATMs and POS terminals will provide cash withdrawal

facilities within normal limits, and emergency cash services will be available at designated locations.

The Dussehra holiday follows Diwali and Navratri, and the banking sector's pause during this festive period aligns with the national holiday calendar.

SARKARI YOJANA

Sikkim State Lottery results to be announced live at 6pm today



The Tuesday draw of the Sikkim State Lottery for 20 October 2026 was conducted live at 6pm today. Winners' numbers were announced on the official channel, and they will receive their prizes in the coming days. This lottery, run by the Sikkim government, is a significant source of revenue for local development projects. Participants whose numbers match the winning ones will be notified via the official website and SMS. The draw was part of the state's ongoing lottery programme under the 'Dear Prestige' brand.

DEFENCE

Arunachal soldier Lance Naik Abet Peloh killed in duty in North Sikkim

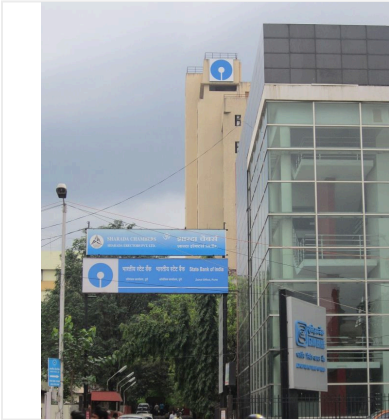


The Indian Army has confirmed that Lance Naik Abet Peloh from Arunachal Pradesh was killed while on duty in North Sikkim. The incident occurred during a routine patrol in the area, according to official statements. Investigations are underway to determine the nature of the incident, and the Army has promised compensation to the soldier's family. There have been no reports of other casualties.

The Army spokesperson emphasized that the incident was unexpected and that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure the safety of soldiers in the region. The soldier's unit is expected to hold a memorial service in his memory. The incident highlights the challenging terrain and security challenges in the North Sikkim region.

TECHNOLOGY

SBI cyber attack exposes 3,897 customer records on dark web; investigation launched



State Bank of India (SBI) has announced that personal data of 3,897 customers was compromised in a cyber attack, which was subsequently found on the dark web.

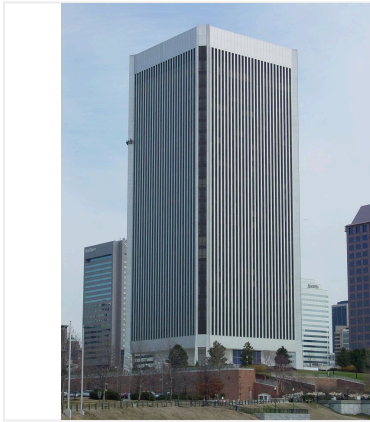
The breach involved the disclosure of sensitive information, although the bank has not revealed the exact nature of the data. It has initiated an internal investigation and is working with cybersecurity experts to determine the source and scope of the attack.

SBI has urged affected customers to monitor their accounts and change their passwords, and has promised to take corrective steps to strengthen its security framework.

This incident comes after a series of cyber incidents targeting financial institutions in India, highlighting the growing risks to digital banking.

BUSINESS

RBI declares bank holiday on October 21, 2026, in six states



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has declared a bank holiday on October 21, 2026, in its official calendar. According to the announcement, all banks in six states of the country will remain closed on that day, while normal operations will continue in other regions.

The RBI has not provided a detailed reason for the holiday, but such closures are typically due to local festivals, public holidays, or administrative reasons. Customers in the affected states are advised to plan their transactions in advance and use digital banking services.

Financial institutions have been instructed to inform their customers about the closure in advance to ensure minimal disruption to services such as cash withdrawals, check clearing, and fund transfers.

POLITICS

Sikkim Bar Association opposes Dushant Gautam's governor appointment over Ankita Bhandari controversy



The Sikkim Bar Association issued an official statement opposing the central government's decision to nominate Dushant Gautam as the state's next governor. The association said the appointment comes amid the Ankita Bhandari controversy, heightening tensions. The Bar Association noted that questions raised in the Ankita Bhandari case have cast doubt on the nominee's suitability and the timing of the decision. While all aspects of the controversy have not been made public, the association emphasized that any appointment should be free from public unrest or potential conflicts of interest. The association has appealed to the central ministry to reconsider the nomination and to consult local stakeholders before finalising the governor post. No official response from the government has been received to date.

TRAVEL

Sikkim Adventure Tourism Festival to be held Nov 1-7



The Sikkim Adventure Tourism Festival will begin on November 1 and run until November 7. The primary objective of the event is to showcase the diverse adventure activities available in the Himalayan state.

Organizers hope that the festival will attract enthusiasts interested in outdoor activities in the mountainous landscape. The timing of the event coincides with the peak season for some adventure sports in the region.

This initiative is part of broader efforts to promote Sikkim as a major destination for adventure tourism in India. The festival is likely to include various activities and exhibitions related to outdoor recreation.

TRAVEL

Weekly Adventure Tourism Festival to be held in all six districts of Sikkim



The state of Sikkim is preparing to host a Weekly Adventure Tourism Festival starting November 1. The event is a strategic effort to showcase the diverse outdoor recreational opportunities available in the Himalayan state.

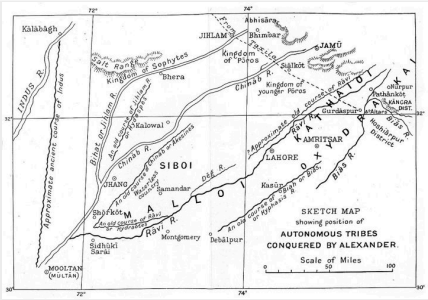
Unlike previous events, which were often limited to specific hubs, this festival will span all six districts of Sikkim. This extensive coverage aims to provide adventure enthusiasts with the opportunity to experience various terrains and activities across different parts of the state's geography.

The initiative is expected to boost local tourism infrastructure and provide a platform for local guides and service providers. Organizers hope that by spreading the event across multiple districts, the economic benefits of tourism can be distributed more evenly among various communities in the region.

The festival is expected to attract domestic and international tourists interested in high-altitude adventures, contributing to the state's growing reputation as a premier destination for outdoor sports.

TECHNOLOGY

Young Indians push innovation from self-driving cars to Martian energy solutions



India's new generation of engineers and entrepreneurs is attracting international attention with prototypes of autonomous cars featuring advanced sensor fusion and AI-driven decision-making. Simultaneously, young scientists are developing sustainable energy solutions for future missions to Mars, including high-efficiency solar arrays and compact power-storage systems. Both efforts highlight the direction of India's national technological advancement, redefining the country's role in the global tech landscape. Although the specific projects remain in the prototype stage, the momentum indicates that India is preparing to make significant technological contributions on both Earth and space in the coming years.

POLITICS

Dushyant Gautam to take oath as Sikkim Governor today



New Delhi has announced that Dushyant Gautam will take the oath as the Governor of Sikkim today. The oath-taking ceremony is likely to be held at the Raj Bhavan in Gangtok, where he will formally assume his responsibilities as the state's constitutional head.

Former senior officer Gautam was appointed by the President following the end of the previous Governor's term. As Governor, he will play a formal role as the head of the state, administer oaths to the Chief Minister and other officers, and ensure that state bills comply with the Constitution.

Political analysts have closely watched the oath-taking, as the Governor's office can play a significant role in legislative assent and situations such as President's Rule. Gautam's term will begin immediately after the oath, marking the latest change in Sikkim's constitutional leadership.

SCIENCE

Study reveals 7 distinct Golden Cat coat colors in West Kameng, 3 in Sikkim



A new research paper has revealed significant color diversity in Golden Cats in the Eastern Himalayas. According to the study, seven distinct coat patterns were found in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. Meanwhile, three distinct coat variants have been identified in Sikkim.

These findings indicate a high level of genetic diversity in the species, which may be important for conservation strategies. The Golden Cat, a medium-sized wild cat, is known for its elusive nature and limited distribution.

Scientists have emphasized the importance of habitat conservation in these areas to preserve this unique genetic diversity. Further studies are planned to understand the ecological factors behind this diversity.

TRAVEL

Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026: Activities, dates, packages, and what to expect



CNBC TV18 has reported on the Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026, a major event aimed at promoting the state's adventure tourism sector.

The festival will feature a series of adventure activities, dates, and special travel packages.

Organizers aim to showcase Sikkim's diverse landscapes, including high-altitude trekking trails and water-based adventure activities.

The event is expected to attract adventure enthusiasts, travel agencies, and media representatives, thereby boosting the local tourism economy.

Detailed information about specific activities and programs will be released as the event approaches.

POLITICS

Congress leader Dushyant Gautam accused of taking shelter at Raj Bhavan to evade Anukita case



Dushyant Gautam, a senior Congress leader, has been reported to be staying at Raj Bhavan, the official residence of the state governor, allegedly to evade legal action in the Anukita case.

The Anukita case involves charges against an individual named Anukita, and authorities claim that Gautam is using his official position to avoid arrest or court hearings.

The Congress party stated that Gautam's presence at Raj Bhavan is part of his official duties and that there is no attempt to evade the law.

Legal experts warn that using a government residence to avoid legal scrutiny could raise concerns about the misuse of public office, and an investigation into this matter is expected to be initiated.

The case is under investigation, with judicial and law enforcement agencies keeping a close eye on the situation.

CRIME

CBI Issues Narco-Analysis Notice to Urrmila Swarnavar in Bandari Case



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has issued a narco-analysis notice to Urrmila Swarnavar as part of its investigation into the Bandari case. The notice directs Swarnavar to undergo a process where she is administered a drug to elicit information, a procedure sometimes used by Indian police agencies. The CBI did not provide further details about the case or Swarnavar's role, stating that the investigation is ongoing. Narco-analysis is a controversial method but can be implemented under Indian law when deemed necessary. The agency said the results of this process will be incorporated into the overall investigation of the case.

LOCAL

Sikkim State Lottery results declared on Monday, October 19, 2026



The results of the Sikkim State Lottery were declared at 6 PM on Monday, October 19, 2026, following the state's official draw. The draw was conducted in accordance with state lottery rules, and the winning numbers and winners were announced. Officials confirmed that the results were released through the state lottery website and local media, ensuring transparency for participants.

BUSINESS

India declares bank holidays on October 21-23: Banks to remain closed



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has declared bank holidays on October 21, 22, and 23. All bank branches in the cities where these holidays apply will remain closed. This decision has been made in accordance with RBI directives.

All bank branches will be closed on these days, so customers are advised to plan their transactions in advance. While physical branches will not be available, digital banking platforms, mobile apps, and internet banking will continue to operate as usual.

ATM services and online fund transfers will not be affected, allowing customers to withdraw cash and conduct electronic transactions. For emergency needs, customers can rely on the 24-hour customer support helpline and mobile banking assistance.

The RBI has provided a list of affected cities on its official website, allowing customers to check whether their local branch will be closed during the holiday period.

BUSINESS

Bank holidays on October 21-23: Closure of all banks confirmed



The Reserve Bank of India has announced that all scheduled commercial banks will remain on holiday from October 21 to October 23. During this three-day period, routine banking services such as cash withdrawals, deposits, and fund transfers at branch counters will not be available.

Customers have been advised to plan their financial transactions in advance and use digital banking channels, which will remain operational during this period. The announcement also includes a detailed list of cities where branch closures will apply, enabling local residents to be informed of this service disruption.

This holiday coincides with national celebrations and will affect both public and private banks equally. Although branch operations will be suspended, ATMs and online platforms will remain functional, although cash availability may be limited in some areas.

Bank officials have requested the public to avoid visiting branches during the holiday and to use electronic payment methods wherever possible.

BUSINESS

India has made significant progress in diversifying oil imports, says Marco Rubio



US Senator Marco Rubio said that India has made notable progress in diversifying its crude oil imports, reducing dependence on limited suppliers.

He described this shift as a strategic effort to enhance energy security and mitigate price volatility associated with reliance on a single source.

Diversification will open new trade routes with various oil-producing countries, potentially stabilizing import costs and strengthening India's bargaining power in global markets.

Analysts believe this step is positive for the Indian economy, aligning with the broader goal of enhancing self-reliance and the resilience of the energy supply chain.

LOCAL

Wantara team visits PFA Sikkim Animal Rescue Center in Rangpo



A Wantara team arrived at the PFA Sikkim Animal Rescue Center in Rangpo on Tuesday as part of a collaborative effort to support animal welfare in the region.

During the visit, team members inspected the shelter's kennels, medical rooms, and rehabilitation areas, observing the daily care routines of the rescued animals.

They met with the center's director and volunteer staff to discuss potential avenues for partnership and resource sharing.

The trip is part of Wantara's broader initiative to strengthen local support networks for vulnerable populations by engaging with community organizations across India.

No formal agreement was reached during the visit, but both sides expressed enthusiasm for future collaboration.

TRAVEL

Sikkim to host first weekly adventure tourism festival starting November 1



The Sikkim Tourism Department has announced that the state will host its first weekly adventure tourism festival, starting from November 1, 2026.

The Sikkim Tourism Development Board has collaborated with local adventure clubs to organize the event, which will feature mountain trekking, river sports, and cultural heritage, aiming to attract adventure travelers from within India and abroad.

State officials believe that the festival will lead to a significant increase in tourist numbers during the off-season, benefiting hotels, guides, and support services, and further strengthening Sikkim's position as a Himalayan adventure destination.

BUSINESS

Banks to Remain Closed in Several States for Next Six Days, Holiday Schedule Issued



According to a new holiday calendar released by the Ministry of Finance, as reported by Times Bull, bank branches in several Indian states will remain closed for the next six days, starting today. This announcement is part of a comprehensive schedule of public holidays that affects banking operations.

While the specific list of states is not provided here, the complete list is available on the Times Bull website, allowing customers to confirm the status of their nearest branch. This closure includes all physical branches, while digital banking services, mobile apps, and ATMs will remain operational wherever possible.

Banks have requested customers to plan cash withdrawals, fund transfers, and other time-sensitive transactions before the closure. They can seek assistance during this period by contacting online platforms or customer care.

This temporary suspension of branch services during extended public holidays is common, enabling bank employees to receive equal leave while maintaining essential financial infrastructure through electronic channels.

POLITICS

Senior BJP leader and former Sikkim DGP R.K. Handa passes away



R.K. Handa, a respected figure in Sikkim's political and law enforcement circles, recently passed away. Handa served as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Sikkim, a role that underscored his commitment to maintaining law and order in the state. Beyond law enforcement, Handa was a prominent member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and actively participated in the state's political discourse. His contributions to both law enforcement and politics have left a lasting impact on Sikkim.

POLITICS

Kerala BJP chief calls Rahul Gandhi 'lazy' and 'lacking original ideas'



The Kerala BJP chief criticized Rahul Gandhi at a press conference, describing him as 'lazy' and stating that he lacks original ideas for the country.

He cited Gandhi's past campaigns and the absence of innovative proposals as evidence of his shortcomings.

Opposition leaders and supporters immediately condemned these remarks, describing them as an attempt to spread misinformation.

In response, the Congress party dismissed these allegations as a baseless political attack and rejected the attempt to undermine Rahul Gandhi's credibility.

JOBS & CAREER

Sikkim engineer earns ₹51,000 as a waiter in Dubai



An engineer from Sikkim has recently started working as a waiter in Dubai, where he earns ₹51,000 per month. Money Control highlighted this career shift in an article, emphasizing that there is no shame in choosing a different profession.

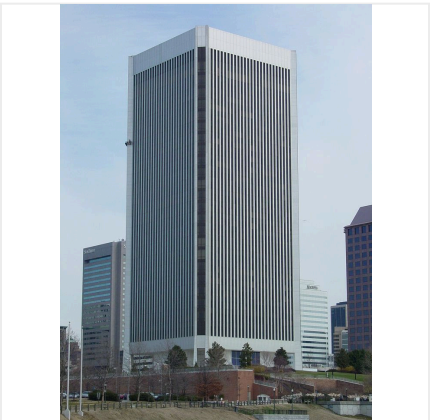
The engineer, whose name has not been disclosed, turned to the hospitality industry due to limited opportunities in his field abroad. Despite the change in profession, he takes pride in his earnings and experience.

According to Money Control, the amount of ₹51,000 represents a competitive salary for waiters in Dubai's service sector, especially for individuals with professional qualifications.

This story serves as a reminder that career paths can be diverse and that financial stability can be found in unexpected roles. It encourages readers to value their work in any industry.

BUSINESS

All banks to remain closed on Friday due to bank holiday



New Delhi – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued an official notice confirming that all scheduled banking institutions will remain closed on Friday. The notice states that the holiday has been declared in observance of a national-level event and will apply to banks in both the public and private sectors across the country.

The holiday is linked to a nationally recognized program, prompting the government and financial regulators to suspend regular banking services for the day. While physical branches will remain closed, the RBI has informed customers that digital channels, such as internet banking, mobile applications, and ATMs, will continue to function as usual.

Customers and businesses have been advised to plan their transactions in advance and complete necessary payments or fund transfers before the holiday. The RBI has also reminded corporate clients to factor this closure into their scheduling of salaries, tax filings, and other time-sensitive financial activities.

Financial analysts believe that such holidays are a regular occurrence and that the impact on the overall economy remains minimal due to the widespread availability of electronic banking services.

BUSINESS

India's consumer-facing businesses adapt to new trends and market opportunities



India's consumer-facing businesses are actively adjusting their business models to align with changing consumer priorities and new market opportunities. This shift places greater emphasis on digital connectivity, personalized offerings, and sustainability initiatives that resonate with modern buyers. Companies are also exploring untapped segments, such as rural e-commerce and specialized product lines, to expand their reach and drive growth.

