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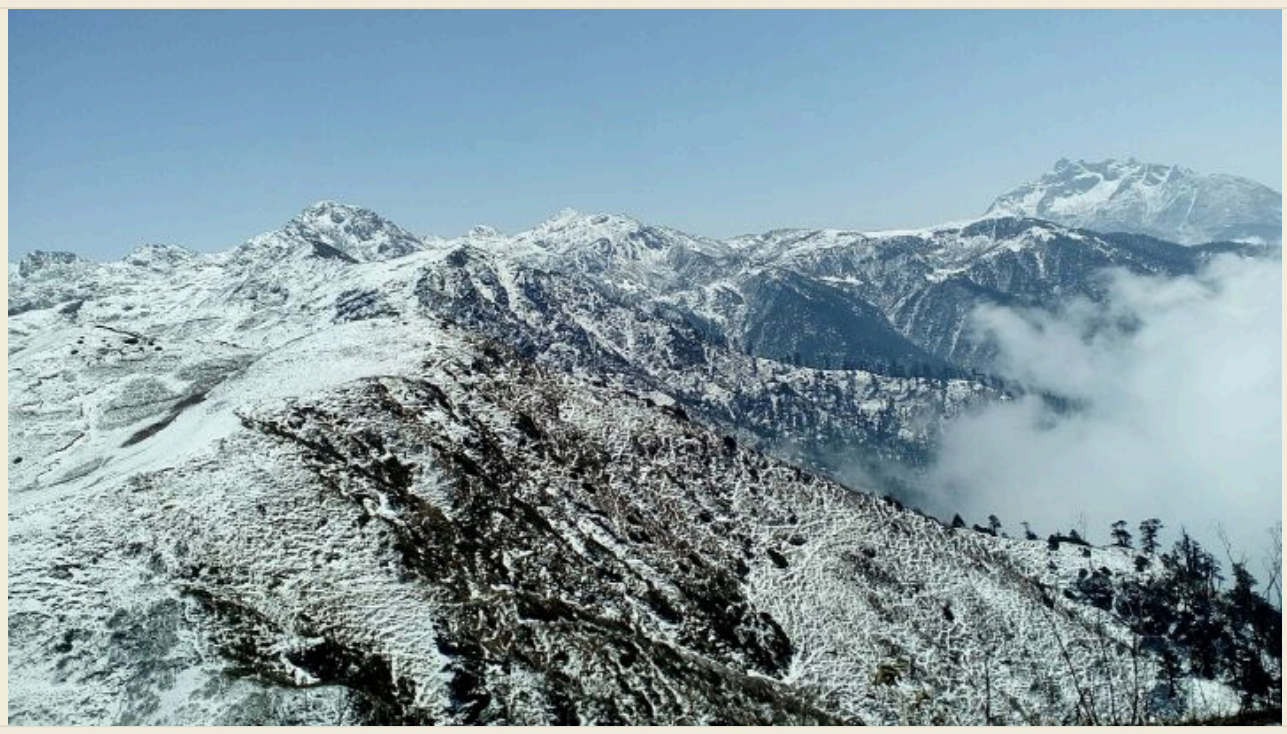
WEATHER

Sudden Snow, Hail and Rain Hit Sikkim and North Bengal



A sudden weather shift brought heavy snowfall, hail and rain to Sikkim and North Bengal, causing widespread disruption. Roads in the hilly areas have become slippery, and many local transport services have been suspended for safety. The meteorological department has warned of avalanche risk and advised residents to stay indoors. The abrupt change has also impacted agricultural activities, with farmers reporting damage to crops and livestock. Local authorities are closely monitoring the situation and have set up emergency shelters for affected communities. Residents are urged to follow official guidance and avoid unnecessary travel until conditions improve.

SPORTS

Sikkim to Host 49th Junior National Badminton Championships 2026



Sikkim has been chosen to host the 49th Junior National Badminton Championships in 2026, a decision announced by the Badminton Association of India.

The selection highlights the growing popularity of badminton in the northeastern states and aims to provide young players with world-class facilities.

Officials believe the event will attract participants from across the country, boosting local tourism and showcasing Sikkim's natural beauty.

Preparations for the event are underway, including the upgrading of existing courts and ensuring facilities meet the standards of the national federation.

The championship will span several days, featuring competitors from various age groups and serving as a platform to discover future national stars.

DEFENCE

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh Celebrates Diwali with the Army in Sikkim



On 14 October 2023, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh joined the Indian Army in Sikkim to observe Diwali at a military cantonment. The minister lit a ceremonial lamp and delivered a brief address, wishing the troops prosperity. Senior officers and newly recruited soldiers participated, underscoring the government's commitment to boosting morale of forces deployed in the North-Eastern region. The event formed part of the army's annual Diwali programme and was broadcast on AIR.

WEATHER

Magnitude 4.9 earthquake strikes Sikkim-Nepal border



A magnitude 4.9 earthquake was recorded in the area along the border between Sikkim, India, and neighboring Nepal, according to Pratinidhi Times. Light tremors were felt in several settlements near the border, and local authorities issued an advisory urging caution.

The Himalayan region, which includes Sikkim, is prone to continuous seismic activity due to the collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. Scientists keep such moderate-magnitude earthquakes under constant surveillance, as they can indicate tectonic stress.

As of the time of reporting, official sources have not confirmed any casualties or property damage. Emergency services are on standby to assess potential impacts, and surveys will continue for further updates.

WEATHER

Magnitude 4.9 earthquake hits West Sikkim; light tremors felt in Gangtok



A magnitude 4.9 earthquake, classified as moderate, struck the hilly regions of West Sikkim. The tremor was centered in the remote western part of Sikkim, an area that experiences periodic seismic activity.

Residents in Gangtok, the state capital, located approximately 70 kilometers away, felt light tremors, but no reports of damage or injuries were received. Local authorities confirmed that the shaking was minor and that no immediate damage occurred.

Disaster management teams and the India Meteorological Department are monitoring the situation and have advised caution regarding potential aftershocks.

SPORTS

Sikkim CM Congratulates Participants at Junior National Badminton Championship



Sikkim's Chief Minister sent a message of congratulations to players participating in the upcoming Junior National Badminton Championship, highlighting the importance of nurturing young sporting talent. The message, released through a press statement, underscores the government's commitment to supporting grassroots sports initiatives in the state. The junior championship, which features players from across India, serves as a platform to provide emerging badminton players with competitive experience at the national level. In his remarks, the Chief Minister stated that promoting sports participation among the youth aligns with broader goals of health, discipline, and national pride. He called on schools and local clubs to maintain training environments so that future champions can be prepared.

DEFENCE

Soldiers Rescue Over 900 Tourists and Locals Trapped by Heavy Snowfall at Nathu La



The Indian Army launched a large-scale rescue operation after more than 900 tourists and local residents were stranded at Nathu La pass due to heavy snowfall. Soldiers cleared snow-blocked roads and transported the stranded individuals to safe locations. The operation was carried out over several days, with soldiers working in harsh winter conditions. Local authorities praised the army's swift response and coordination with rescue teams. The incident highlighted the challenges of travel in high-altitude Himalayan regions during winter.

AGRICULTURE

Sikkim's Last Tibetan Shepherd Faces Time Crunch as 55 Sheep Are at Risk



Sikkim's last Tibetan shepherd, a member of a small community that was once based on grazing, is now facing an immediate crisis.

Sikkim's Last Tibetan Shepherd Faces Time Crunch as 55 Sheep Are at Risk



Sikkim's last Tibetan shepherd, a member of a small community that was once based on grazing, is now facing an immediate crisis.

The shepherd, who tends to 55 sheep, has stated that time is rapidly running out for sufficient grazing.

Due to limited pastures and the pressure of changing land use, the shepherd's livelihood and the survival of his flock are at risk.

This situation highlights the insecurity of traditional animal husbandry practices in the Himalayan region and underscores the need for timely assistance to preserve this cultural heritage.

LOCAL

Mangan Municipal Council wins Clean City Award for the fifth consecutive year



The Mangan Municipal Council has been awarded the Clean City Award for the fifth consecutive year, marking a significant achievement for the local administration.

The award, conferred by the relevant authorities, recognizes the city's consistent efforts in cleanliness and waste management.

Municipal Council officials expressed their gratitude and highlighted the importance of community participation in achieving this milestone.

This honor further strengthens Mangan's reputation as a model city for sanitation and civic administration in Sikkim.

INTERNATIONAL

Sikkim Birding Map Unveiled at Texas International Bird Fair



Sikkim's birding map was presented to attendees at the International Bird Fair held in Texas.

The map highlights the state's key habitats, showcasing the diversity of bird species found across Sikkim's varied ecosystems.

The unveiling was part of the fair's efforts to promote global bird conservation and showcase emerging destinations for bird-watching tourism.

Experts and enthusiasts from around the world participated, discussing how such tools can aid in conservation planning and eco-tourism development. bird watchers, researchers, and policymakers regarding Sikkim's bird diversity.

BUSINESS

Sikkim's Contribution: 5% of India's Industrial Drugs Transported via a Single Highway



Sikkim is playing a pivotal role in India's pharmaceutical sector, accounting for roughly five percent of the nation's industrial drug output. The majority of the state's production is concentrated in a few specialized plants that meet national demand. Logistical data indicate that almost the entire volume of this drug production is transported via a single highway, which links the state's industrial hubs with the country's major distribution centers. Reliance on this single route underscores the importance of maintaining efficiency in the drug supply chain. The concentration of both production and transportation in Sikkim highlights the state's strategic role in ensuring the timely supply of essential medicines.

LOCAL

Sikkim's Key Route NH-10 to Remain Closed at Night Until December 13



NH-10, Sikkim's main route connecting Gangtok to other parts of India, will remain closed at night until December 13.

The night closure is part of an erosion control program initiated after recent landslides in the area.

Travelers will need to use alternative routes at night, and the Transport Department has advised checking official updates.

Work to stabilize the slopes is expected to be completed by the 13th, after which the road will reopen.

Officials are monitoring the situation and will issue further instructions if necessary.

AUTOMOBILE

Night Closure of NH-10 Near Sikkim



The Transport Department has issued an order to close a section of National Highway 10, located near the Sikkim border, during night hours. This restriction will be in effect from sunset to sunrise, halting all non-essential vehicles on this stretch. been taken to ensure regular maintenance work and safety on the high-altitude route. Drivers are requested to plan their journeys accordingly and avoid using this road at night.

Travelers who need to go beyond the closed section are advised to take alternative routes or postpone their travel until daylight. Updates regarding any changes in the situation will be released through official channels.

POLITICS

Sikkim High Court quashes criminal case over Darjeeling-Sikkim unification talks



On Tuesday, the Sikkim High Court quashed a criminal case related to discussions regarding the potential unification of Darjeeling and Sikkim. The court stated that the issue is part of a political and constitutional debate, not a criminal offense.

The case arose after police charged several activists and local leaders under the Indian Penal Code for organizing a meeting on the possibility of merging parts of Darjeeling with Sikkim.

In its ruling, the court emphasized the protection of freedom of expression and democratic discourse on constitutional issues. It was held that discussing a political proposal cannot be considered criminal unless it incites violence or illegal activity.

Legal experts welcomed the decision, noting that it reinforces the judiciary's role in protecting political discourse. The order may have implications for similar cases related to regional autonomy movements in other states.

The court did not comment on the validity of the unification proposal, allowing the political debate to continue on the public platform.

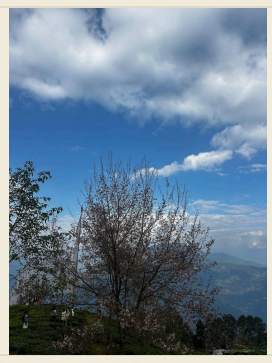
NATIONAL

Magar and Gurung Communities in Sikkim Celebrate Ancient Sorathi Dance



In the hilly state of Sikkim, the Magar and Gurung communities preserve their cultural heritage through the vibrant Sorathi dance. This traditional dance form narrates an ancient story passed down through generations, deeply linked to their history and identity. The rhythmic movements and colorful costumes of the Sorathi dance captivate audiences and offer a glimpse into the cultural traditions of these communities.

Sikkim's Cherry Blossom Season: A Must-Visit in November



Sikkim, the small Himalayan state, is becoming a major tourist destination in November due to the blooming of cherry blossoms. The cool weather this month is ideal for the flowers to bloom, creating enchanting views across the region.

Tourists can visit beautiful spots such as Yumthang Valley and Khangchendzonga National Park, where pink and white cherry blossoms adorn the mountains. Local guides and hospitality services have been enhanced to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

The state government has incorporated the cherry blossom season into its broader tourism strategy, aiming to boost economic activity and showcase Sikkim's natural beauty. Visitors are advised to plan their trips early, as peak bloom usually lasts for a few weeks in late November.

Travel agencies are offering special packages that include guided treks, cultural experiences, and accommodation in eco-friendly resorts. This initiative is expected to generate significant revenue for local communities while preserving the pristine environment of the hills.

BUSINESS

ONGC to operate Venezuela oil blocks, gaining access to world's largest reserves



ONGC has announced it will become the operator for several oil blocks in Venezuela, a move following an agreement signed between the two parties earlier this month. This step marks a significant expansion of the Indian oil major's overseas portfolio.

Venezuela holds the world's largest proven crude oil reserves, and the operatorship will allow ONGC to oversee exploration, development, and production in these blocks. The company stated that this partnership will strengthen its supply chain and diversify its sources of crude oil.

Experts believe the agreement could enhance India's energy security by providing a stable source of high-quality crude oil, while also strengthening ONGC's position in the South American oil sector. The company said it would mobilize technical and financial resources to commence operations in accordance with Venezuelan regulations.

The deal also reflects the trend of Indian energy companies securing strategic footholds in global markets amidst volatility.

Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang Promises Equal Opportunities for All Children



Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang told reporters that his government is committed to providing equal opportunities for growth and learning to every child, regardless of their background. He stated that the state will prioritize inclusive education, healthcare, and nutrition to bridge existing gaps.

The statement, reported by Northeast Today, comes amid ongoing efforts to strengthen child welfare programs in the northeastern region. Tamang said that coordinated action among government departments is essential to translate policies into tangible benefits in both remote and urban areas.

While specific initiatives were not mentioned, the Chief Minister said that existing schemes would be reviewed and expanded to better serve marginalized groups. He called on civil society and community leaders to collaborate to monitor progress and address challenges.

This commitment reflects Sikkim's broader agenda for social equality and aligns with national child development goals. Officials said that periodic evaluations would be conducted to measure the impact of this new focus on equal opportunities for children.

DEFENCE

Indian Army Rescues Tourists Stranded Near China Border in Himalayas



The Indian Army launched a rapid operation to rescue tourists stranded near the China border in the Himalayas.

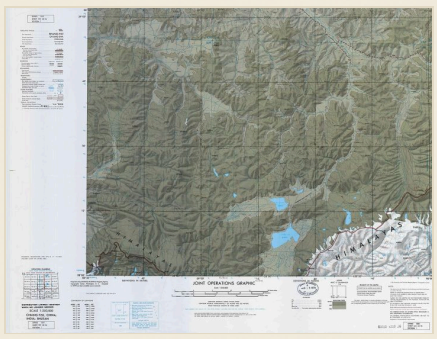
The tourists were stranded in a remote area due to heavy snowfall, where visibility had dropped and temperatures had plummeted.

Soldiers, equipped with specialized gear and helicopter support, reached the site within hours, provided immediate medical assistance, and transported the tourists to the nearest base camp wrapped in insulated blankets.

The rescue took place in challenging weather conditions with temperatures below freezing. Army officials praised the coordination between ground units and air support, which ensured the safety of all affected tourists.

Local authorities have warned travelers to exercise caution in high-altitude areas, particularly during winter. The incident highlights the importance of preparedness and rapid response in the Himalayan region.

Sikkim Imposes One-Month Night Traffic Ban on NH-10



Sikkim authorities have imposed a night traffic ban on NH-10 for a period of one month. The ban will be in effect throughout the night on the entire highway. Travelers have been advised to use alternative routes and travel during daylight hours.

TRAVEL

Sikkim's Green Lake Trek Reopens, Attracting Adventurers After Four Years



Sikkim's renowned Green Lake Trek, a major attraction for the state's adventure tourism, has officially reopened after a four-year closure. This decision was made following extensive efforts by local authorities to ensure the safety and accessibility of the trail.

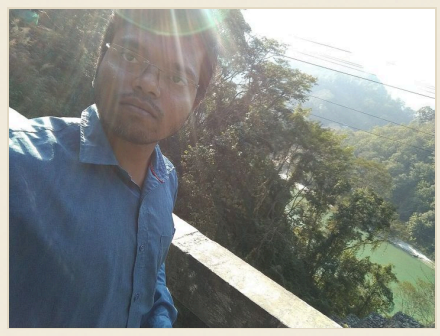
The trek is famous for its challenging mountain paths and several pristine high-altitude lakes, and it is now attracting both experienced trekkers and new adventurous travelers. Guides and local tourism operators are ready to welcome visitors, emphasizing the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Tourism officials stated that the reopening of the trek will boost the local economy, and an increase in the number of travelers is expected in the upcoming trekking season. Travelers are advised to check weather conditions and necessary permits before their journey.

reflects Sikkim's commitment to promoting sustainable adventure tourism and protecting its fragile ecosystem.

WEATHER

Early Morning Earthquake Shakes North Bengal and Sikkim



An earthquake was felt in the northern districts of North Bengal and the adjoining state of Sikkim in the early morning. Residents in both areas reported feeling the tremors, leading local authorities to maintain a state of alert. No damage or injuries have been confirmed so far, and agencies are monitoring the situation for potential aftershocks. This event highlights the seismic sensitivity of the Himalayan foothills, where such tremors are frequent. Officials have advised the public to remain vigilant and follow safety guidelines while further investigations are underway.

POLITICS

Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang Calls for Preservation of Cultural Heritage at Milam More Dhusi-Bhailo Festival



Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang participated in the MP Dhusi-Bhailo Festival held at Milam More, where traditional songs, dances, and cultural programs were performed. In his address, he emphasized the need to preserve the state’s unique cultural traditions, which he described as an integral part of Sikkim’s identity.

communities, cultural organizations, and government agencies to collaborate in documenting, promoting, and preserving these traditions. He stated that cultural heritage not only promotes tourism and economic development but also strengthens social cohesion.

Organized by local authorities, the festival featured performances by folk artists and encouraged youth participation, reflecting the government’s broader plan to keep traditional arts alive. Tamang’s remarks were well-received by the audience, underscoring the administration’s commitment to cultural preservation.

The event concluded with a traditional procession, sending a message that Sikkim’s cultural heritage remains vibrant and active today.

ENTERTAINMENT

Sikkim Band 'Girish and the Chronicles' to Open for Guns N' Roses in India



Sikkim rock band Girish and the Chronicles has been named the opening act for Guns N' Roses' Indian tour. The announcement was made by the concert organizers of Guns N' Roses, marking a significant moment for the local music scene.

This collaboration brings together international star power and emerging regional artists, offering audiences a blend of classic hard rock and fresh regional flair. While the exact dates and venues for the shows have not yet been announced, the collaboration is expected to attract fans from across the country.

its energetic performances and original compositions, and the band will perform a set before the main act. The band's participation has paved the way for artists from the northeastern states to gain recognition on the national touring circuit.

Industry insiders say this opportunity could open the door for more regional artists to secure spots on major international tours. Fans of both bands are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the tour schedule.

SARKARI YOJANA

Sikkim State Lottery Results Announced for November 12, 2026



The Sikkim State Lottery Office released the official results for the draw on November 12, 2026, this morning. The Sentinel immediately published the winning ticket numbers through its live update service.

This state-run lottery regularly generates revenue, and results are available on the official lottery portal and authorized retail outlets in Sikkim. Participants are advised to match their tickets with the published numbers promptly.

Winners are required to present the original ticket, valid identification proof, and a claim form within the prescribed time limit. Unclaimed prizes will be transferred to the state's development fund in accordance with existing rules.

The Sentinel's live update service has become a key source for timely information on state-run schemes, ensuring transparency in the process.

Congress Accuses Centre of Inadequate Response to Sikkim Airspace Violation



In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Congress party accused the central government of failing to adequately address the reported violation of the airspace in the northeastern state of Sikkim. According to the party, a Chinese aircraft entered Indian airspace without permission. Congress has called for a transparent investigation and urged the Ministry of Defence to issue a strong response. The party also called for a review of border protocols to prevent such incidents in the future.