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INTERNATIONAL

Sikkim Showcases Traditional Crafts and Handloom at Bharat Mela 2026 in Bhutan



Sikkim's presentation was a highlight at Bharat Mela 2026, a cultural exhibition held in Bhutan.

A delegation from Sikkim presented a range of traditional crafts, handloom textiles, and local products, showcasing the region's rich artisanal heritage.

The exhibition aimed to promote Sikkim's cultural identity and strengthen ties with Bhutanese visitors and other participating countries.

BUSINESS

SICUN awarded 2026 Indian Cooperative Excellence Award



The Sikkim Cooperative Union (SICUN) has been awarded the 2026 Indian Cooperative Excellence Award. This recognition highlights the organization's sustained efforts and performance in advancing the cooperative movement in the state.

The award serves as a testament to SICUN's role in promoting cooperative principles and supporting its member societies. Although specific details regarding the award ceremony or selection criteria were not available in initial reports, the honor underscores the union's standing in the national cooperative landscape.

This achievement is expected to further strengthen morale in Sikkim's cooperative sector, inspiring continued development in line with cooperative ideals.

NATIONAL

Sikkim to Get First Rail Connectivity by June 2028 as Work Progresses on Sevoke–Rangpo Line



New Delhi has stated that the Himalayan state of Sikkim is likely to receive its first rail connection by June 2028. The Sevoke–Rangpo line, which spans approximately 45 km of difficult terrain from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim, is the most significant infrastructure project to date.

The line holds strategic importance; it will not only facilitate the transport of passengers and cargo but also strengthen defense logistics on the India-China border and give a new direction to tourism in the region.

Currently, civil works, tunnel construction, and bridge installation are advancing sequentially on the Sevoke–Rangpo project. Indian Railways, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Railways have jointly deployed heavy machinery and specialized teams to this challenging terrain.

Officials say the project will create employment opportunities for local residents and reduce the several-hour road journey between Siliguri and Gangtok to a matter of minutes by train. Additionally, the line will integrate Sikkim's lush fruit and vegetable producers into the national freight network by lowering logistics costs.

The June 2028 deadline reflects the government's commitment to completing the project before the next parliamentary session, which is expected to accelerate infrastructure development in the Northeast.

DEFENCE

Defence Minister inaugurates Chungthang-Lachen Road and Taram Chu Bridge in North Sikkim



The Defence Minister inaugurated two critical infrastructure projects in North Sikkim on Wednesday: the Chungthang-Lachen Road and the Taram Chu Bridge. The road, connecting Chungthang and Lachen, links difficult hilly terrains, reducing travel time and facilitating movement for citizens, tourists, and security personnel.

The bridge, constructed over the Taram Chu River, will provide permanent passage in an area prone to seasonal flooding and landslides. Officials stated that the bridge will strengthen supply chains for local communities and enhance logistical support for the Indian Army deployed along the border.

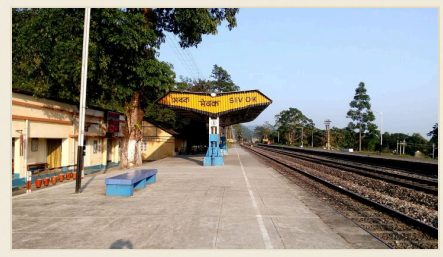
Both projects were implemented by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) as part of the central government's Frontier Development Plan. The Minister stated that improved connectivity would not only boost economic activities but also reinforce the strategic importance of the Himalayan border.

Local residents and traders attended the inauguration ceremony, expressing hope that the new road and bridge would make the scenic tourist destination of Lachen more accessible and create new livelihood opportunities.

This step reflects the government's commitment to connecting remote border districts to the national network and coordinating infrastructure development with defence readiness.

POLITICS

NFR Holds Meeting with Sikkim Government to Accelerate Sivok-Rangpo Rail Line



The National Rail Forum (NFR) met with officials of the Sikkim state government to discuss measures to speed up the Sivok-Rangpo rail project. Both sides highlighted the line's strategic importance, which will link Sivok in West Bengal with Rangpo in Sikkim and establish a direct rail connection in the Himalayan state. The roughly 44-kilometre route is expected to improve passenger and freight transport, boost tourism and strengthen defence logistics. Officials noted that progress has been slow due to challenging terrain and environmental clearances. During the meeting, NFR pledged to work with the state administration to remove obstacles, expedite the approval process and mobilise additional resources. Both parties are confident that accelerated work will bring the line closer to its scheduled completion date, further integrating Sikkim into the national rail network.

SSB provides medical aid to 82 villagers in Sikkim, supports livestock farmers



The Sikkim State Board (SSB) conducted a welfare campaign, reaching 82 villagers in remote hamlets to provide essential medical aid. The initiative included on-site health checkups, distribution of basic medicines, and preventive health advice, aiming to address the immediate needs of health-deprived areas.

Alongside healthcare services, the SSB extended practical support to livestock farmers in these villages. Veterinarians visited farms to conduct health checkups of cattle, goats, and other domestic animals, offering advice on nutrition and disease prevention.

Officials stated that this dual-focus program is designed to improve both human health and rural livelihoods, as health and livestock rearing are intertwined in Sikkim. The board plans to replicate this model in other districts by the end of the year.

TRAVEL

Tongasum Tourism Festival Highlights Darap as a Wellness Tourism Destination



The Tongasum Tourism Festival, held in the hilly region of Sikkim, declared the village of Darap as a leading wellness tourism site. Organisers highlighted Darap’s tranquil ambience and traditional practices as integral to holistic health.

Located in Sikkim’s remote mountains, Darap offers an ideal setting for yoga, meditation and nature-based therapies. By featuring the village in promotional material, the event aimed to draw tourists desiring authentic wellness experiences.

The announcement is part of a broader strategy to expand Sikkim’s tourism portfolio beyond adventure sports and cultural heritage. Officials said that including Darap will boost local livelihoods and encourage sustainable tourism practices.

Participants of the festival will be able to explore Darap’s natural trails and learn about the community’s traditional wellness rituals, presenting a unique blend of nature and culture.

Dear Crown Friday Lottery in Sikkim: ₹1 crore won



The Sikkim State Lottery Department announced the results of the Dear Crown Friday Lottery on 20 November 2026. One ticket holder won the grand prize of ₹1 crore. The lottery department has released the complete list of winners online, allowing participants to verify their ticket numbers against the official results. The Dear Crown Friday Lottery is a popular weekly draw in Sikkim, with a large number of participants hoping to win the enticing prizes.

POLITICS

Union Minister Anurag Thakur slams Rahul Gandhi for “headline-phobia” and alleged defamation of India



Union Minister Anurag Thakur, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, publicly accused opposition figure Rahul Gandhi of resorting to sensationalism to maintain media visibility. Thakur characterised Gandhi's recent statements as attempts to defame the nation and described this behavior as a “headline phobia”.

The remarks were made during a press interaction where Thakur responded to queries about the opposition's criticism of government policies. He asserted that Gandhi’s comments are aimed more at creating headlines than contributing constructively to public debate.

No official response from Rahul Gandhi or his party has been recorded at the time of reporting. The statement adds to the ongoing political rhetoric between the ruling BJP and the Congress party ahead of upcoming electoral contests.

Political analysts note that such exchanges are common in India's charged pre-election environment, where leaders often use strong language to rally their bases.

The incident underscores the heightened tension between the two major national parties as they vie for public attention and voter support.

A commemorative book is dedicated to Sikkim's literary giant Sanu Lama



Sikkim's literary world has released a commemorative book dedicated to the late Sanu Lama, who is revered as a pillar of Nepali literature in the region. This publication, compiled by fellow writers and scholars, includes essays, reminiscences, and selected works by Lama, showcasing his creative journey and influence on contemporary writers.

The book serves as both a tribute and a resource, illuminating the themes and stylistic innovations embedded in Lama's works. It underscores his role in promoting Nepali literature from the mountainous regions of Sikkim and his achievements in inspiring new generations of poets and novelists.

Organizers stated that the publication aims to preserve Lama's legacy for future generations and re-establish cultural ties between Sikkim and the wider Nepali literary world. The book will be distributed to state libraries, academic institutions, and literary organizations.

SPORTS

Junior National Badminton Championship Ramps Up Competition on Day Five



The Junior National Badminton Championship has entered its fifth day, with the competition intensifying as the young athletes push harder for the top positions.

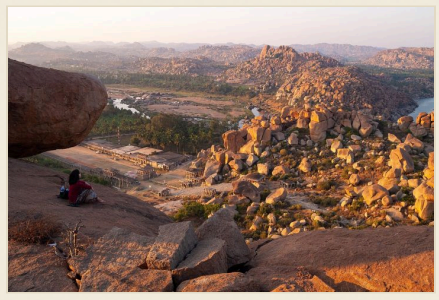
Day five saw a packed schedule of singles and doubles matches across the various age categories. The matches were marked by high skill levels and close scorelines, reflecting the depth of talent in the country’s junior circuit.

While no single player has yet secured an overall lead, several standout performances have emerged, keeping the standings fluid and the anticipation high for the remaining rounds.

The tournament, organized by the Badminton Association of India, will continue over the next two days before the finals, where the national titles will be decided.

EDUCATION

‘Ru Soam’ Initiative Trains 15 Sikkim Youths in Traditional Cane Bridge Construction



The Ru Soam revival initiative, a community-driven programme in Sikkim, has recently concluded a training session for 15 local youths, focusing on the construction of traditional cane bridges.

taught participants how to harvest, treat and weave cane into sturdy, eco-friendly footbridges that reflect the region’s cultural heritage. Trainers highlighted safety standards, durability and the potential of these structures to serve remote villages lacking modern infrastructure.

Organisers hope the newly skilled trainees will apply their knowledge in their home districts, creating employment opportunities while preserving an indigenous craft. The effort aligns with broader state policies aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods and cultural preservation.

BUSINESS

Gold Prices in Sikkim on Nov 21, 2026: 18K, 22K and 24K Rates Updated



Kotak Neo, the digital banking arm of Kotak Mahindra Bank, released the live gold rates for Sikkim on 21 November 2026.

The update listed the current market prices for 18-karat, 22-karat and 24-karat gold, enabling traders, jewelers and consumers in the state to gauge the latest valuation.

Such daily price disclosures are closely watched across India, as gold remains a preferred investment and cultural asset, and fluctuations can influence buying decisions during the festive season.

The rates were made available through Kotak Neo’s website and mobile app, where users can view real-time changes and compare with other regional benchmarks.

ENTERTAINMENT

GATC Drops New Studio Album 'Disintegrate'



Indian rock outfit GATC has unveiled its newest studio project, titled "Disintegrate," marking a significant addition to the country's contemporary music scene. The album showcases the band's signature blend of aggressive guitar work and thoughtful songwriting, aiming to resonate with both long-time fans and new listeners.

"Disintegrate" is available across major streaming platforms and physical formats, with tracks that explore themes of personal struggle, societal change, and resilience. The release follows GATC's earlier successes, solidifying their reputation as a leading voice in India's alternative music circuit.

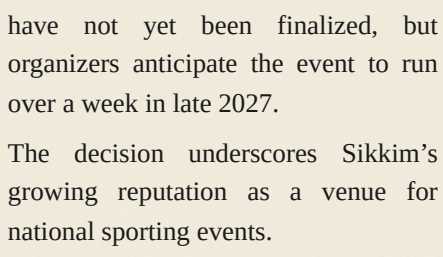
Band members have emphasized the collaborative nature of the project, noting that the album was crafted during a period of intense creativity and experimentation. Fans can expect a mix of high-energy anthems and melodic ballads, reflecting the band's evolution over the past decade.

The launch event, held in a prominent venue, featured a live performance that highlighted the album's standout tracks. Attendees praised the band's dynamic stage presence and the polished production quality of the new material.

to push the boundaries of Indian rock, offering fresh sounds that challenge conventional genre limits and inspire a growing community of music enthusiasts.

SPORTS

Sikkim to Host 3rd All-India Judges Badminton Championship 2027



Sikkim has been chosen to host the third All-India Judges Badminton Tournament in 2027, bringing judges from across the country to compete in a high-profile sporting event.

The tournament, organized by the All India Judges Badminton Association, is held biennially and seeks to promote fitness, teamwork and camaraderie among judiciary members.

Officials highlighted the state’s modern sporting facilities and scenic backdrop as ideal for the competition, which is expected to attract significant media coverage and boost local tourism.

Exact dates and participating states have not yet been finalized, but organizers anticipate the event to run over a week in late 2027.

The decision underscores Sikkim’s growing reputation as a venue for national sporting events.

POLITICS

BJP urges state to open talks with Centre on Companies Act



The BJP has urged the state government to initiate discussions with the Centre on the Companies Act.

The party has emphasised the importance of resolving ambiguities and ensuring the uniform application of corporate laws across the country.

It argued that the amended framework would benefit businesses by reducing compliance costs and promoting a more transparent investment climate.

The state government has not yet issued a statement on this request.

HEALTH

Bihar has lowest health spending, Sikkim highest: Data



The Times of India has presented a new comparison of state health budgets, highlighting significant disparities in per capita spending. Bihar, India's most populous state, recorded the lowest health expenditure for its residents, according to the latest financial data.

Sikkim topped the list in per capita health spending, reflecting its focused investment in health infrastructure and services.

These figures, drawn from current-year state financial reports, underscore the inequities in health financing in India, prompting policy analysts to call for a review of allocation formulas.

Experts say Bihar's limited spending could hinder access to essential health services, while Sikkim's higher investment aligns with its better health outcomes.

The central government has requested low-spending states to study the approaches of high-spending regions to strengthen public health services at the national level.

SARKARI YOJANA

Sikkim wins national award for street vendor loan distribution



The SVANidhi Excellence Award 2026 is conferred on states and union territories that have demonstrated outstanding performance in helping street vendors access financial assistance. Sikkim's achievement reflects the state government's commitment to empowering the informal sector and promoting grassroots economic development. The award ceremony was held at a recent event, where Sikkim was given this prestigious recognition for its effective loan distribution program.

World Bank team reviews livelihood scheme for women and youth in Sikkim's Dzongu



A World Bank team arrived in the Dzongu region of Sikkim to review a livelihood scheme. The primary objective of the scheme is to economically empower women and youth, who largely depend on agriculture and traditional crafts.

World Bank representatives met with local administrators and community representatives to assess the project's implementation, fund utilisation, and impact on household income. This review is part of the World Bank's broader efforts to strengthen inclusive economic development in India's hill states.

Preliminary observations indicate that the scheme has increased skill training opportunities for women and assisted youth in establishing small enterprises. The delegation will compile its findings into a report that will guide future funding and policy adjustments.

The visit underscores the collaboration between the World Bank and the Sikkim government to promote sustainable livelihoods in remote areas like Dzongu.

Sikkim Governor reviews development projects in Pakyong district



The Governor of Sikkim visited Pakyong district, inspecting several development sites and discussing progress with local officials.

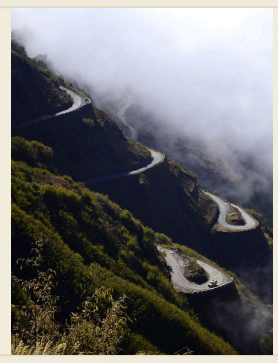
The inspection focused primarily on infrastructure development, including road improvements, water supply schemes, and educational facilities.

Key projects highlighted by the Governor included the expansion of the district hospital, the construction of a new community centre, and the implementation of a renewable energy pilot program.

The Governor emphasised the importance of timely implementation and community participation, assuring the state government of continued support.

TRAVEL

First Sikkim Riders Meet 2026 gives new direction to motorcycle tourism



The first Sikkim Riders Meet 2026 was organised, opening a new chapter for motorcycle tourism.

The event brings together riders from across the country to experience the scenic routes of Sikkim.

Organisers view it as a platform to promote the state's tourism potential and build a sustainable niche market.

businesses and inspire more motorcycle enthusiasts to visit Sikkim.

SPORTS

Cricbuzz gives Trent Rockets a special spotlight



Cricbuzz has highlighted the Trent Rockets, a women's cricket franchise known for its participation in India's Women's T20 Challenge. This coverage is part of the platform's ongoing reporting on women's cricket. The article shed light on the team's composition and recent performance, providing fans with a deeper insight into the team's potential.

TRAVEL

Vijay Varma captivated by Gangtok's natural beauty and cultural heritage



Actor Vijay Varma recently visited Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, and was impressed by the city's lush landscapes and rich cultural heritage. During his stay, he explored local markets, historic temples, and the serene surroundings of the nearby hills, where a blend of tradition and modernity is clearly visible. Varma praised the warm hospitality of the residents and the vibrant festivals that reflect the region's diverse ethnic traditions. The actor's positive remarks have highlighted Gangtok as a must-visit destination for travelers seeking natural beauty and cultural depth.

Sikkim launches pilot scheme to bring out-of-school children back to classrooms



The state Department of Education has announced a pilot initiative to identify out-of-school children across Sikkim and re-enroll them in schools. Officials stated that the scheme will focus on children who have dropped out due to economic, geographical, or social reasons.

The program will deploy community volunteers and local schools to conduct door-to-door surveys, assess learning gaps, and provide remedial classes before formal admission. Special teaching materials and remedial education will be provided to bring children up to grade-level standards.

The pilot will be implemented in selected districts for an initial six-month period, after which it may be expanded statewide based on impact assessments. Funds have been allocated from the education budget, and coordination will be maintained with NGOs experienced in child education.

Education experts view this step as aligned with the national goal of universal primary education, given that school attendance is often challenging in Sikkim's hilly terrain. Successful re-enrollment could serve as a model for other northeastern states.