◆ ADVT ◆
ADVERTISE HERE
98700 06472 · need24.digital

NEED 24 NEWS
हर ख़बर, हर शहर
Every Story, Every City

◆ ADVT ◆
ADVERTISE HERE
98700 06472 · need24.digital

DIGITAL E-PAPER

PRGI APPLICATION UNDER PROCESS
Application No. T/GJ/2026/0619/2304/1577

GST
GSTIN 24CINPG0564Q1ZT

UDYAM REGISTERED
UDYAM-GJ-14-0003714

◆ DIGITAL NEWS NETWORK ◆
India's Trusted Multilingual Digital News Network
11+ Languages | 24×7 Live | e-Paper Daily

Download Our App
Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

www.need24.digital
info@need24.in
+91 98700 06472
FOLLOW US:

तेज़ | सटीक | निष्पक्ष | जनहित में | सच की आवाज़ | जन-जन की आवाज़ | निडर पत्रकारिता



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.

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.

SARKARI YOJANA

## 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.

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

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.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

## GATC Releases New Studio Album 'Disintegrate'



Indian rock band GATC has released its latest studio album, "Disintegrate," marking a significant contribution to the country's contemporary music landscape. The album blends the band's signature hard-rock riffs with thought-provoking songwriting, aiming to appeal to both long-time fans and new listeners.

"Disintegrate" is available on major streaming platforms and in physical formats, featuring tracks based on themes of personal struggle, social change, and resilience. With this release, GATC has solidified its reputation, establishing itself as a leading voice in India's alternative music scene.

Band members 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 mellow ballads that reflect the band's evolution over the past decade.

The launch event was held at a prominent venue, where key tracks from the album were highlighted during a live performance. Attendees praised the band's dynamic stage presence and the polished production quality of the new material.

With "Disintegrate," GATC pushes the boundaries of Indian rock, introducing new sounds that challenge traditional stylistic limits and inspire a growing community of music lovers.

BUSINESS

## Gold Prices in Sikkim on November 21, 2026: 18K, 22K, and 24K Rates




Kotak Neo, the digital branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank, released live gold prices for Sikkim on November 21, 2026.

The update included current market rates for 18-carat, 22-carat, and 24-carat gold, allowing traders, jewelers, and consumers in the state to stay informed about the latest valuations.

Gold is a major investment and cultural asset in India; consequently, daily price information influences buyer decisions, particularly during the festive season.

These rates were made available in real-time on Kotak Neo's website and mobile application, where users can compare them with other regional benchmarks.

JOBS & CAREER

## 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.

rates for 18-carat, 22-carat, and 24-carat gold, allowing traders, jewelers, and consumers in the state to stay informed about the latest valuations.

Gold is a major investment and cultural asset in India; consequently, daily price information influences buyer decisions, particularly during the festive season.

These rates were made available in real-time on Kotak Neo's website and mobile application, where users can compare them with other regional benchmarks.

JOBS & CAREER

## 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.

SPORTS

## Sikkim selects 23-member team for National Powerlifting Championship



Sikkim has selected a 23-member team to compete in the National Powerlifting Championship, as announced by the state's sports authorities. The team will represent the state.

The championship serves as a significant platform for weightlifters across India, allowing them to showcase their strength and qualify for high-level competitions. Sikkim's team will compete in various weight categories.

The authorities believe that the team's participation will increase the sport's visibility in the state and inspire young athletes towards powerlifting. The exact venue and dates for the competition have not yet been announced.

## 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.

SPORTS

## Junior National Badminton Semifinals buzz in Gangtok



The semifinals of the Junior National Badminton Championship were held in Gangtok, Sikkim, where a large crowd watched the young athletes in action. Players from across the country lit up the courts with their skill and energy.

Intense competition and close rallies left the spectators spellbound, with every semifinal showcasing brilliant net play and smashes. The audience's applause acknowledged the players' hard work.

Organizers said that these semifinals are setting a strong stage for the finals, where the national title will be decided and potential future stars will emerge.

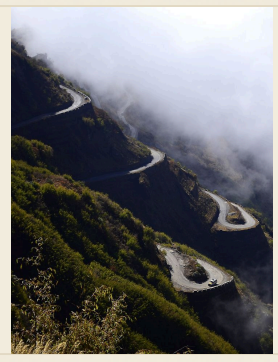
SPORTS

## 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.

## 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.

The meet is expected to boost local businesses and inspire more motorcycle enthusiasts to visit Sikkim.

TRAVEL

## Vijay Varma Immersed in Sikkim's Beauty: A 5-Day Itinerary




Actor Vijay Varma recently embarked on a five-day exploration of Sikkim, a region known for its lush landscapes and vibrant culture. The travel itinerary, curated by local guides, took him from the capital, Gangtok, to the serene Tso Moriri Lake and the historic Rumtek Monastery. On the third day, Varma trekked through the green valleys of North Sikkim, where he sampled traditional momos and local tea. The final leg of the journey involved a visit to the Yumthang Valley, where the actor noted the region's unique flora and the warmth of its people. Varma's journey highlights Sikkim's year-round appeal as a tourist destination.

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.

BUSINESS

## PM Modi Says Indians Cut Gold Buying, Prices Fall



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Indians have responded to his call to reduce gold purchases, resulting in a decline in gold prices. He noted that this collective shift by consumers has alleviated upward pressure on the metal. Analysts suggest that this drop may benefit families who traditionally view gold as a form of savings. The government's message reflects a broader effort to reduce dependence on precious metals amidst global market volatility.

BUSINESS

## Raid on CISCO Bank in Suspected ₹3.23 Crore Fraud Case



On Thursday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids on 14 locations linked to CISCO Bank. The raids are part of an investigation into a suspected fraud case involving ₹3.23 crore. The exact nature of the alleged fraud and the individuals involved have not yet been officially disclosed by authorities. The investigation is ongoing, and further details are expected to be released soon.

## Sikkim BJP ST Front Presents Three Tribal Demands to Union Minister




In a recent meeting, the Sikkim BJP Scheduled Tribes Front presented three long-standing demands of the state's tribal communities to a Union Minister.

These demands, which had been pending for years, were formally presented during the session.

The meeting provided the Front with a platform to highlight the issues faced by tribal groups in Sikkim.

The presentation signals the BJP's focus on tribal issues and could influence upcoming policy decisions.

TRAVEL

## Sikkim Announces New Permit Rules and Increased Entry Fees for Tourist Vehicles



Sikkim has announced the implementation of new permit rules for tourist vehicles starting January 1. The state government has also revised the entry fees for these vehicles, although the specific amounts were not disclosed. The objective of these changes is to streamline tourism operations, improve traffic management, and increase tourism revenue. Vehicle operators will be required to obtain a permit before entering the state, and local authorities will be responsible for enforcement.

EDUCATION

## Sikkim Government Decides to Award Top Schools Starting 2027




The Sikkim government has announced a new scheme to award schools with the highest academic performance starting from the 2027 academic year. This initiative is part of the state's broader education policy, aimed at promoting excellence and improving overall school performance in the region.

Under the scheme, schools will be evaluated based on student outcomes, teacher qualifications, and infrastructure development. Schools that secure top positions will receive monetary awards and certificates of recognition at a formal award ceremony.

Education officials stated that the program will be implemented in phases, with the first awardees expected to be announced in 2028. This step is seen as an effort to raise educational standards and motivate both teachers and students.

## Sikkim Sports Minister Inaugurates 45-km Tso Moriri XCM Mountain Cycling Race



Sikkim's Sports Minister officially inaugurated a 45-km cross-country mountain cycling race in Tso Moriri, marking a new milestone in the state's sports calendar.

The race, which covers rugged terrain and steep climbs, will start from the lake's perimeter and pass through Himalayan trails.

Participants from across the state gathered at the start line, eager to test their endurance on the challenging course.

broader efforts to promote cycling tourism and develop local sports infrastructure.

The finish line is set at a designated point near the lake, where riders will complete the full distance.

## Sikkim Receives SVANidhi Excellence Award for Best Credit Disbursement



Sikkim has been awarded the SVANidhi Excellence Award for outstanding performance in credit disbursement. Presented by the Finance Ministry, the award recognizes the state's high credit disbursement ratio and efficient use of funds. Sikkim's credit disbursement model helps provide easy access to credit for small businesses and entrepreneurs, thereby boosting local economic development. This record has set a benchmark for other states looking to improve their credit disbursement metrics. The award highlights the importance of effective implementation of government financial schemes.