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LOCAL

Sikkim High Court directs state to frame sewage rules within three months

The Sikkim High Court issued a directive on Thursday ordering the state government to frame and implement rules under the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Act within three months.

The court noted that the Act, which came into force in 2016, requires detailed rules to guide the implementation of sewerage and sewage disposal infrastructure.

The government is now under pressure to expedite the rule-making process to ensure compliance with the Act and address growing issues related to sanitation and environmental protection.

The court also warned that further legal action could be taken in case of non-compliance.

The directive is expected to prompt the Urban Development Department to mobilize resources and experts for drafting the rules.

RELIGION

Karmapa arrives in Bhutan but unable to visit Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim



The Karmapa, the 17th head of the Karma Kagyu tradition, arrived in Bhutan on Thursday for his first official visit in several years. Bhutanese officials and senior monks welcomed him, highlighting the historical ties between Bhutan and the Karma Kagyu lineage.

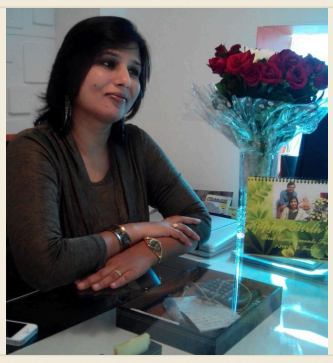
Despite the warm reception in Bhutan, the Karmapa's itinerary did not include a visit to Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim. He was denied entry due to administrative disputes at the monastery, and no alternative plans were announced.

The Bhutan trip will primarily focus on interfaith dialogue and cultural exchange, while talks continue between Indian authorities and the monastery's trustees regarding the status of Rumtek Monastery. Experts believe that the unresolved entry issue could strain relations within the Karma Kagyu tradition and among its Indian followers.

No clear information has been provided regarding a future visit to Rumtek Monastery. Representatives of the Karmapa stated that they are working toward a peaceful solution that respects the monastery's heritage and the wishes of its devotees.

LIFESTYLE

Shubhra Saxena discusses conscious living and the purpose of existence at SALF 2026



Author and speaker Shubhra Saxena shed light on conscious living and the purpose of human existence at the Sikkim Arts and Literature Festival (SALF) 2026. She explained how it is possible to adopt mindfulness in daily life and connect personal goals with deeper philosophical questions.

As part of SALF's cultural program, the session attracted a diverse group of students, scholars, and general audiences interested in spirituality and self-development. Saxena stated that conscious living is not merely a personal choice but a collective responsibility that impacts social welfare.

No policy announcements were made during the discussion, but it aligns with the festival's objective of fostering thoughtful dialogue, which is ongoing alongside various literary and artistic presentations in Sikkim this year.

The festival's schedule will continue this week, featuring panels, presentations, and exhibitions that highlight the intersection of art, literature, and human experience in the Himalayan state of Sikkim.

SCIENCE

New Book Chronicles 40 Years of the Indian Ocean



Mid-Day reported that a new book will chronicle the 40-year journey of the Indian Ocean, highlighting scientific, environmental, and commercial achievements. The volume will compile data from research expeditions, climate monitoring, and maritime trade from the early 1980s to the present.

The book is expected to be published by the end of this year and will illustrate how global temperature rise, pollution, and shifting trade routes have impacted the ocean's physical and biological systems. It will also highlight key findings from Indian and international research teams.

While detailed information about the author and publisher has not yet been released, the book is poised to become an essential reference for scholars, policymakers, and readers interested in the role of the Indian Ocean.

SCIENCE

International Mathematics Conference Begins in Gangtok



The international conference on Computational Mathematics and Applications has begun in Gangtok, Sikkim, marking a significant gathering of specialists in the field. The event provides a platform for researchers, academics and professionals to share their latest findings, engage in discussion and explore new frontiers in computational mathematics. It is expected to attract participants from various countries, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on a global scale.

SCIENCE

New Mollicutes fungus discovered in Sikkim Himalayas



During a wildlife survey in the Sikkim Himalayas, scientists recorded a new species of the genus Mollicutes. The sample was collected from the moist, shaded understory of a dense forest at high altitude, where microbial diversity is rich.

Mollicutes fungi are typically saprophytes, helping to decompose dead organic matter and recycle nutrients. The discovery of this new species enhances our understanding of Himalayan fungal diversity and highlights the region's importance as a center of biodiversity.

Scientists have stated that detailed taxonomic studies and DNA sequencing are required to confirm the specific characteristics of this species. The discovery could spur further ecological studies and underscores the need to conserve fragile alpine habitats.

TRAVEL

Sikkim Showcases Cultural Heritage and Tourism on National Unity Day



Sikkim performed folk dances, music, and traditional crafts through its cultural troupe during the National Unity Day celebrations in the eastern region. The event was organized by the State Tourism Department in collaboration with local cultural organizations, aiming to showcase the region's diverse heritage to a national audience.

Officials noted that the performances reflected the distinct traditions of the Lepcha, Bhutia, and Nepali communities, which form the foundation of Sikkim's identity. Stalls featuring local handicrafts, organic products, and promotional materials for trekking trails, monasteries, and eco-tourism were also set up alongside the stage.

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The program is part of a broader strategy to boost tourism numbers ahead of the peak season. The State Tourism Minister said that increased visibility during national celebrations attracts domestic and international tourists to authentic Himalayan experiences.

Attendees from various sectors, including media representatives, had the opportunity to tour the exhibition area and learn about new tourism packages, adventure sports facilities, and community-based homestays.

Overall, the festival provided a platform to establish Sikkim as a culturally rich and environmentally responsible destination, aligning with the central theme of national unity and diversity.

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal and Bhutan Demand Himalayan Climate Agenda at COP31



Nepal and Bhutan have jointly requested a dedicated Himalayan climate agenda at the upcoming COP31 climate conference. Both countries argue that high-altitude mountain regions face specific environmental challenges that are not adequately addressed in general climate negotiations. Their proposal aims to integrate scientific research, adaptation funds, and regional cooperation into a single framework. By raising this issue at COP31, Nepal and Bhutan seek special support for glacial melt, biodiversity loss, and the livelihoods of mountain communities. This initiative highlights the need for specific climate action for vulnerable regions on the global stage.

LOCAL

Sikkim Celebrates Its 12 Official Languages



The Sikkim Department of Culture organized a formal event to celebrate the state's 12 official languages, including Nepali, Bhutia, and Lepcha.

During the event, representatives from each linguistic community raised a symbolic glass, signifying unity and respect for the diverse languages spoken in the state.

The toast was part of a broader cultural program aimed at preserving Sikkim's linguistic heritage and promoting inclusive governance. It emphasized that the voices of all linguistic groups are heard and valued.

reinforce the importance of multilingualism, ensuring that all voices are included in the state's social and political life.

RELIGION

Siblaac Appeals to Sikkim Government for Early Return of 17th Karmapa to Rumtek



Siblaac issued a statement on Monday urging the Sikkim state government to expedite the return of the 17th Karmapa to Rumtek Monastery.

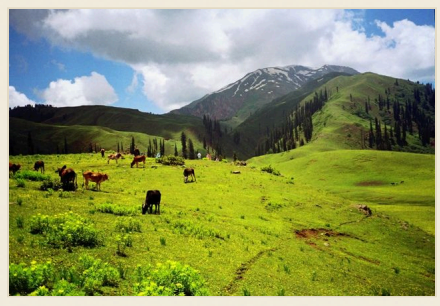
The Karmapa, a senior leader in Tibetan Buddhism, has been absent from Rumtek since an administrative dispute. His return is considered essential for maintaining religious harmony in the region.

In the statement, Siblaac highlighted the significance of Rumtek as a major pilgrimage site and requested the government's assistance in making necessary arrangements, including security and transportation.

The Sikkim government has not yet responded publicly, but officials have stated that they are reviewing the situation and will attempt to find a resolution in collaboration with the relevant parties.

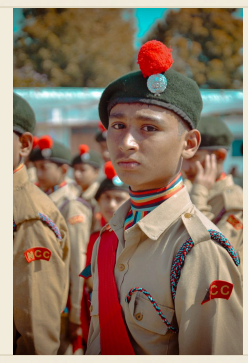
AGRICULTURE

India plans to establish a Siri cow breeding center in Sikkim



The Ministry of Agriculture announced a new initiative to set up a Siri cow breeding center in Sikkim. The center will focus on the rearing and conservation of the native Siri breed, which is well suited to the region's hilly terrain. The project aims to boost dairy production while safeguarding genetic diversity. Officials say the facility will also provide training and support to local farmers, improving animal health and milk yields. Construction is expected to begin in the coming months, with the center becoming operational by the end of 2025.

Bihar NCC Cadet Shivam Kumar Climbs 18,500-Foot Glacier in North Sikkim Without Oxygen



Shivam Kumar, an NCC cadet from Bihar, successfully climbed an 18,500-foot glacier in North Sikkim without supplemental oxygen, according to Patna Press. The ascent took place in a high-altitude region where mountaineers face challenging glacial conditions.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has consistently promoted physical fitness and adventure sports among its members. Kumar's achievement reflects the rigorous training and endurance developed within the organization. By climbing to such heights without oxygen, he demonstrated extraordinary patience and mountaineering skill.

Patna Press described the achievement as a source of pride for the cadet and his home state, while details regarding the duration of the climb or the specific route have not yet been made public. Nevertheless, this feat adds a new chapter to the growing list of high-altitude challenges undertaken by young Indian mountaineers.

SPORTS

First Regional Inter-School Basketball Championship Kicks Off in Soreong, Sikkim



The first regional inter-school basketball championship began today in Soreong, Sikkim, featuring teams from neighboring schools. Organizers described it as a step toward promoting basketball at the grassroots level. According to a report by Sikkim Express, this competition is being held for the first time in the region, aiming to provide a competitive platform for young athletes and strengthen camaraderie among schools. Participants will showcase their skills on standard courts. Local officials and spectators attended the opening ceremony, underscoring the community's enthusiasm for expanding sporting opportunities for students. The championship will run for several days, culminating in a final match to determine the regional school champion.

Sikkim Speaker Calls for Preservation of Indigenous Languages and Cultural Heritage



Smt. Raj Kumari Thapa, Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly

The Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly called on Thursday for the preservation of the state's indigenous languages and cultural heritage in a speech.

He noted that Sikkim is home to several ethnic groups, each with its own distinct language, such as Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, and Limbu. These languages are at risk due to rapid modernization and a lack of formal support.

The Speaker called for the establishment of language preservation programs, the inclusion of local languages in school curricula, and support for cultural festivals that showcase traditional arts, music, and crafts.

He also appealed for collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions to document oral histories and develop digital resources for future generations.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen regional identity and preserve Sikkim's unique cultural fabric.

TRAVEL

Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026 Inaugurated in Nanchi



Nanchi, Sikkim – The Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest 2026 was inaugurated today, underscoring the state's new focus on adventure tourism. Organized by the State Tourism Department, the festival brought together adventure operators, local businesses, and tourists on a single platform.

The fest aims to showcase Sikkim's diverse topography, ranging from Himalayan foothills to river valleys, for activities such as trekking, mountain biking, and water sports. Officials stated that the program would boost seasonal job creation and promote sustainable tourism.

Several stakeholders from Eastern India participated in the inauguration ceremony, where state representatives reiterated their commitment to strengthening infrastructure and safety standards for adventure travelers. The fest will run for several days, featuring exhibitions, workshops, and live performances.

This initiative aligns with the broader goal of establishing Sikkim as a major hub for adventure tourism in India, moving beyond its traditional cultural and ecological attractions.

Pradeep Ray Wins 25th Mr. Sikkim Bodybuilding Championship 2026



Pradeep Ray secured the top spot at the 25th Mr. Sikkim Bodybuilding Championship held in 2026. Athletes from across the state competed for the prestigious title, with local bodybuilding authorities organizing the event. Ray's performance in the final round impressed the jury, earning him the highest score. The championship is now in its 25th edition, continuing to promote fitness and bodybuilding culture. The organizers congratulated Ray, citing his dedication as a benchmark for emerging bodybuilders in the state.

NATIONAL

Sikkim Celebrates National Unity Day with Grand Festivities



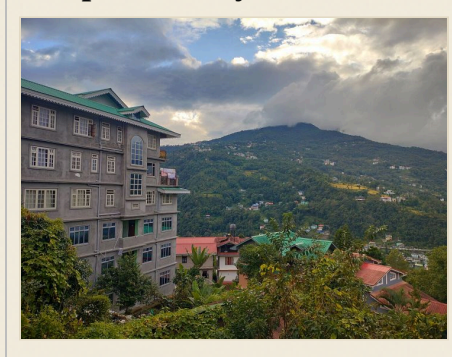
Sikkim celebrated National Unity Day with several official programs organized by the state administration. Government officials participated in flag-hoisting ceremonies and highlighted the importance of unity among diverse Indian communities.

Cultural performances were organized in various districts of the state, showcasing Sikkim's rich heritage and highlighting the concept of unity in diversity. Local schools and community groups also participated in reinforcing this message.

Regional media provided extensive coverage of these events, underscoring Sikkim's commitment to national unity and respect for its cultural identity.

WEATHER

Cyclone Arnaab's Impact Drops Gangtok's Maximum Temperature by 11.4°C



Cyclone Arnaab, which was circulating as a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal, has now reached India's northeastern region. In Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, meteorological departments have recorded a drop of 11.4°C in the maximum temperature, a significant change from the previous day's figures. The new maximum temperature has reached a record low for this season, reflecting the cooling effect of the cyclone's passage. Officials have advised residents to stay indoors and monitor weather updates as the system moves inland.

widespread cooling trend observed in the region, caused by the cyclone's winds bringing in cold air masses. Local authorities have urged people to prepare for sudden weather changes and follow official advice.

Given the cyclone's impact on the weather, particularly in hilly areas where temperature fluctuations can be more pronounced, this event highlights its effect on the local climate. Residents and travelers in Gangtok are advised to stay updated through reliable weather channels.

Meteorological departments are closely monitoring the situation and will issue further updates if conditions change.

LOCAL

Two killed, one critically injured as boulders fall on vehicle in Sikkim's Mangyan



A vehicle traveling on a road in Mangyan, Sikkim, was destroyed after boulders suddenly fell on it. Two passengers died at the scene, while a woman in the car sustained critical injuries and was immediately rushed to the nearest hospital.

Local police and emergency services reached the scene to secure the area and provide first aid to the injured. The affected stretch of road was temporarily closed while debris was cleared and safety inspections were conducted.

Initial reports indicate that recent heavy rainfall created conditions conducive to boulder falls, a phenomenon frequently observed in Sikkim's hilly regions. Officials have advised travelers to exercise caution and avoid using the road until it is declared safe.

An investigation into the exact cause of the landslide is ongoing, and the district administration is monitoring weather conditions while coordinating relief efforts for the victims' families.

Snowfall in East Sikkim turns region into a winter paradise



Sudden snowfall in the hilly areas of East Sikkim has draped the entire region in a white blanket, creating a picturesque winter scene. Snow has covered house roofs, pine trees, and winding mountain roads, with images rapidly going viral on social media. Locals reported that the snow made rural roads slippery, causing difficulties in daily commuting. The administration has issued an advisory urging drivers to remain cautious and has deployed additional personnel to clear major roads. This unexpected weather has also attracted trekkers and photographers eager to witness the rare snow-covered landscapes in a state typically known for its warm climate.

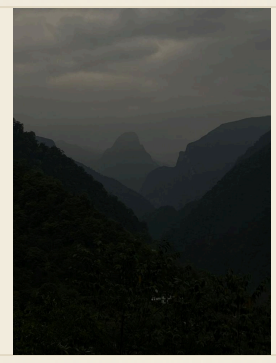
BUSINESS

Rajeev Ranjan Singh decides to launch projects worth Rs 2.51 crore in Sikkim



Rajeev Ranjan Singh has announced a new investment initiative in the state of Sikkim. Projects worth a total of Rs 2.51 crore will be launched in various parts of the state. This move is part of Singh's broader strategy to support regional development through private investment.

Sikkim launches first adventure tourism festival, opens Dzongu Trail



The Sikkim Tourism Department has launched the state's first adventure tourism festival, opening a new direction for the Himalayan region.

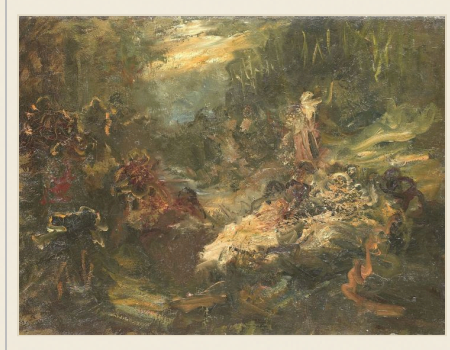
The festival features activities such as trekking, mountain biking, and river rafting, designed to attract domestic and international adventure enthusiasts.

The centerpiece of the event is the inauguration of the Dzongu Trail, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and opens a new pathway for eco-friendly tourism.

Officials hope that the festival and the new trail will increase visitor numbers, create employment opportunities for local communities, and promote sustainable tourism practices across the state.

TRAVEL

Sikkim Forest Minister inaugurates Kersong Kurmit Trail in Dzongu



The Sikkim Forest Minister inaugurated the Kersong Kurmit Trail during the Sikkim Adventure Tourism Fest.

The trail is located in Dzongu, an area known for its rich biodiversity.

The inauguration is part of the state's initiative to promote adventure tourism and protect natural heritage.

festival, and the new trail will provide trekkers with new routes through the region.

SARKARI YOJANA

Central schemes reviewed in North Sikkim; minister launches special regional initiatives



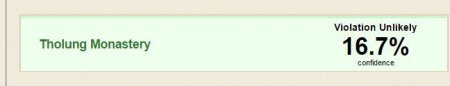
A central minister from New Delhi visited North Sikkim to review the progress of central government schemes. During the visit, he met with the state Chief Minister, district officials, and local representatives to understand the impact of schemes in areas such as health, education, and rural development.

Highlighting gaps in implementation, the minister urged state agencies to work faster, particularly in remote villages. In response, special initiatives for various regions were launched, aimed at strengthening key areas identified during the review.

These initiatives include additional financial assistance and set timelines for monitoring progress, along with the formation of a joint committee for regular inspections. Officials state that these steps will improve the socio-economic indicators of this hilly region.

The visit underscores the central government's commitment to ensuring that major schemes reach the least-served areas of the country, particularly aligning with the development goals of the northeastern states.

Sikkim Literary Festival Concludes Three-Day Program



The Sikkim Literary Festival (SALF) concluded after a three-day literary program. Held in the state's capital, the festival saw authors, poets, and readers participate in readings, discussions, and cultural exchanges. Organisers described the event as a means to promote regional literature and foster dialogue among writers from across the country. Attendees praised the inclusive atmosphere and the opportunity to engage directly with literature in both English and local languages. The closing ceremony marked the end of this year's edition, while hinting at the possibility of similar events in the future.

POLITICS

Rahul Gandhi Says Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar Could Be Sentenced to Jail Over Vote Theft



Senior leader Rahul Gandhi of the Indian National Congress publicly stated that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar could face imprisonment for vote theft. He made the remark during a recent public address, emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability in the electoral process. Gandhi said that any official found manipulating election results should receive strict legal punishment. The Election Commission has yet to issue an official comment on the allegation, which was first reported by Sikkim Express. The statement adds a new layer to the ongoing political debate on electoral integrity ahead of upcoming elections.