

SIKKIM STATEHOOD DAY (MAY 16)

The Himalayan state shows the way to an organic and sustainable future

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

May 16, 2023

Statehood Day greetings to the people of Sikkim. This state is blessed with rich natural beauty and is home to warm-hearted people. Sikkim has made great strides in areas like organic farming. Praying for the state's continuous growth and for the good health of its citizens.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

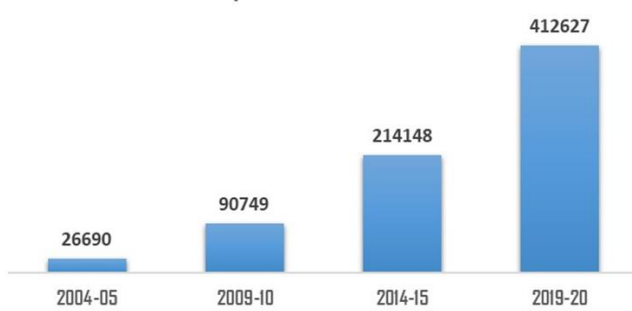
ABOUT SIKKIM

Sikkim, a state in India, is located in the northeastern part of the country, in the eastern Himalayas. It is one of the smallest states in India. Sikkim is bordered by Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north and northeast, by Bhutan to the southeast, by the Indian state of West Bengal to the south, and by Nepal to the west. The capital is Gangtok, in the southeastern part of the state. A part of the Eastern Himalaya, Sikkim is notable for its biodiversity, including alpine and subtropical climates, as well as being a host to Kangchenjunga, the highest peak in India and third highest on Earth. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. Almost 35% of the state is covered by the Khangchendzonga National Park.¹ Among the northeast states, the **per capita income of Sikkim is the highest.**

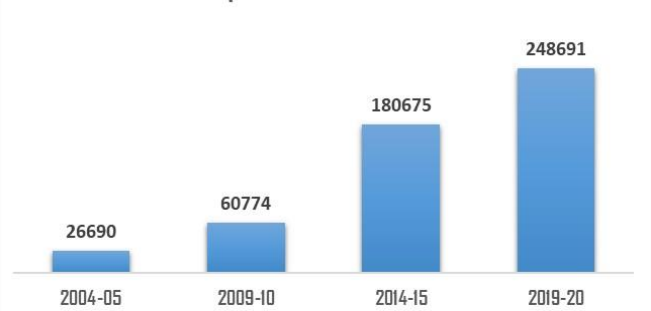


Home to 315 glacier lakes and world's 3rd highest mountain peak Mt. Kanchenjunga

Sikkim: Per Capital Net SDP at Current Prices



Sikkim: Per Capita Net SDP at Constant Prices



¹ <https://www.sikkimtourism.gov.in/Public/ExperienceSikkim/history>

SIKKIM: FIRST FULLY ORGANIC STATE²

Sikkim is the first 100 per cent organic state in the country. The process of converting Sikkim into a 100 per cent organic state was fast-tracked in 2010 with the launch of the Sikkim Organic Mission. In 2015, the entire agricultural area in the state was converted to certified organic; in 2016, the state was formally declared a 100 per cent organic state.

- ✿ The state government made a historic declaration through a resolution in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly on February 24, 2003³, for transforming Sikkim into a '**total organic State**'.
- ✿ The Sikkim State Organic Board was constituted on September 16, 2003, for outlining policy issues and strategic plans, as well as develop standards and regulations.
- ✿ The State Government stopped procuring chemical fertilizers and pesticides from 2004 onwards and also eliminated the existing subsidy to farmers for procurement of chemical pesticides.
- ✿ The State Government also created category-wise organic farming schemes and organic action plans to set the targets of conversion of traditional to organic farming.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS A PRIORITY IN SIKKIM

Besides the initiatives in organic farming, the Government of Sikkim has undertaken a number of other measures, with a view to promote environment conservation and sustainable development and contribute to the creation of a '**Green Sikkim**'.

- ✿ A ban on the consumption of pan masala/gutka was enforced in the entire State in the year 1995;
- ✿ In 1997, the Government passed an Act prohibiting the throwing of non-degradable garbage in public drains and sewerage.
- ✿ This was followed up in the same year by the passage of a law prohibiting smoking in public places and in public service vehicles plying in the State.
- ✿ On August 14, 1998, Sikkim became the first State in the country to impose a ban on plastics and non-degradable materials. Tourists were also prohibited from carrying plastic bags and containers under the extant rules.

² <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=100-percent-organic-farming-benefits-over-66%2C000-farming-families-in-Sikkim&id=401085>

³ <http://www.sikknvis.nic.in/ViewGeneralLatestNews.aspx?format=Print&id=5112>

- ✿ In 2001, the State Government imposed a complete ban on the collection of medicinal plants & non-timber forest produce for commercial purposes and framed statutory rules for the mandatory planting of ten saplings in lieu of one tree felled in private holdings.
- ✿ In 2009, the government started a unique programme called '10 Minutes to Earth'. Under this programme, on June 25 each year, the entire population of Sikkim plants a sapling each during a pre-announced 10-minute interval.
- ✿ In 2015, the State Government imposed a ban on the use of diclofenac sodium and the burning of agricultural wastes.
- ✿ In 2016, all the old trees in Government forests were identified as "Sikkim State Heritage Trees".
- ✿ In 2016, again, the State Government re-iterated the ban on the use of Styrofoam products, including the use of plastic bottled drinking water, in State Government functions and also banned the burning of tyres.

Shri Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim was conferred the prestigious '**Sustainable Development Leadership Award**' by His Excellency (HE), Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, during the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on October 06, 2016.



OTHER KEY AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT IN SIKKIM

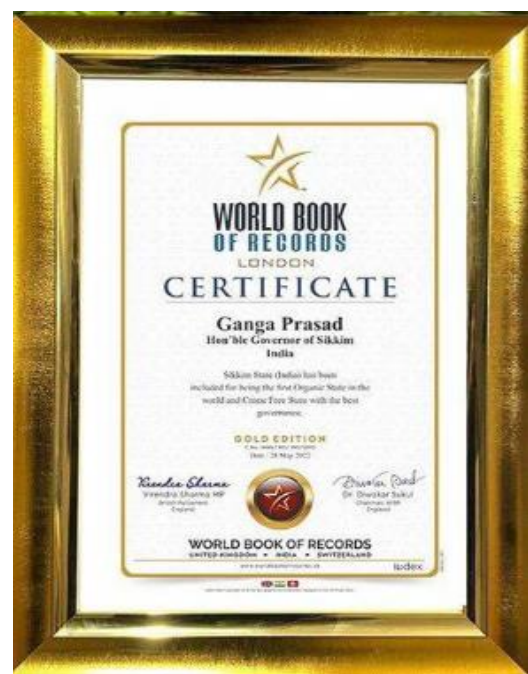
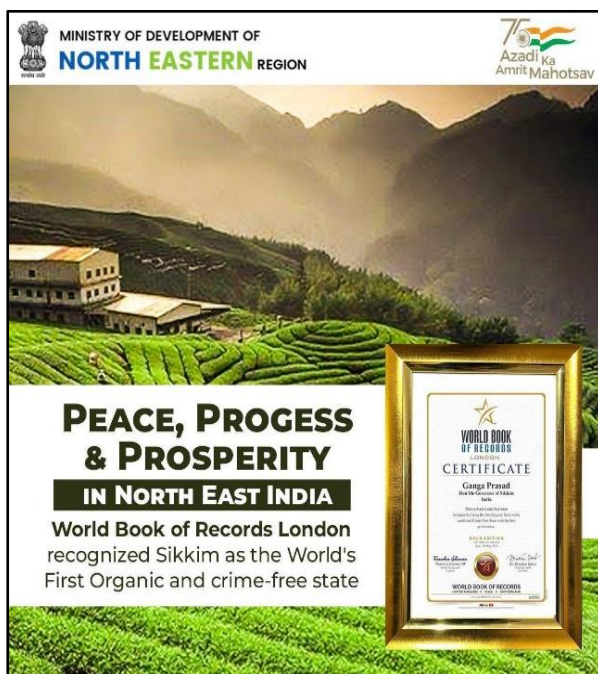
FIRST OPEN DEFECCATION FREE STATE

Sikkim attained the status of **FIRST ODF (Open Defecation Free) State in March 2016** well ahead of the rest of the states of the country. It was formally declared ODF State in the 65th Plenary Session of the NE Council held at Shillong on 27th May 2016.

Sikkim was awarded first place in the category of ODF PLUS IEC CAMPAIGN at the Swachh Bharat Purasakar 2019 organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, at Vigyan Bhawan on 6th September 2019.

CRIME FREE STATE

World Book of Records, London recognised Sikkim as the “World’s First Organic & Crime - Free State”.⁴



AIRPORT

Sikkim received its first airport at Pakyong, Gangtok in 2018.⁵

ROPEWAY

Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually launched a ropeway from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in Sikkim under the PM-DevINE Scheme on Feb 28, 2023.⁶



⁴ <https://twitter.com/kishanreddybip/status/1534895355351150593?s=20>

⁵ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1826762>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/nsitharamanoffc/status/1630429239865655296?s=20>

DESPITE DIFFICULT TERRAIN, A RAILWAY LINE WILL SOON CONNECT THE STATE

The overall progress of work on Sivok-Rangpo Rail Line Project in Sikkim has reached 53.2% (Feb 28, 2023).^{7 8 9}



TAP WATER CONNECTION

As of April 2023, more than 80% of households with tap water connection in Sikkim.¹⁰

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA - GRAMIN (PMAY-G)

As on April 2023, out of a total of 1409 targeted houses, 1123 (79%) have been completed.

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA

As on April 2023, a total of 13,798 LPG connections have been released under PMUY.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT - PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA

As on April, 2023, a total of 53,353 Ayushman cards have been created in Sikkim.¹¹

START UP IN SIKKIMS

As on January 09, 2023 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has recognized 10 Start-ups in Sikkim.¹²

⁷ https://twitter.com/MDoNER_India/status/1635589126765551616?s=20

⁸ <https://twitter.com/RailMinIndia/status/1617852638640631811?s=20>

⁹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1869565>

¹⁰ <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jimreport/JJMState.aspx>

¹¹ <https://dashboard.pmay.gov.in/pmi/#/>

¹² <https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/state-startup-policies/Sikkim-state-policy.html>

MOBILE ATM VAN

Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman flagged off Sikkim's **first solar-powered mobile ATM van** at MG Marg in Gangtok on Feb 28, 2023. ¹³

HYDROPOWER

Sikkim has a high hydropower generation capacity, with an estimated potential of 8000 Mw.¹⁴ Independent power producers have approved 29 hydroelectric power plants for development in the state. These projects are at various stages of construction and would have an installed capacity of around 5,350 MW when completed.¹⁵

TOURISM

- ✓ First Swadesh Darshan project in Sikkim inaugurated on 2019 by Shri. K.J. Alphons, Union Minister for Tourism. Under this project, the Ministry has developed tourism infrastructure facilities like Tourist Information Centre, Meditation Centre, Organic Eco Tourism centre, Log Huts, Zip Line, Flower Exhibition Centre, Walkways, Souvenir Shops, Cafeteria, Rain Shelters, Wayside Amenity, Last Mile Connectivity, Parking, Public Toilets etc ¹⁶
- ✓ Kitam Ecotourism Festival 2023, organised by Namchi Wildlife Division, Forest and Environment Department in collaboration with Kitam Tourism Development Cooperative Society Ltd. and Kitam- Manpur GPU from 29th- 31st March 2023.¹⁷
- ✓ The annual "Red Panda" event is held during the chilly winter months of December and January and is named after the unique state animal of Sikkim. It is one of the most anticipated cultural occasions since it allows visitors from all over the world to experience the traditions and culture of the Sikkimese people. ¹⁸
- ✓ Sikkim strives to highlight the natural beauty of cherry blossoms and organic tea grown at the renowned "Temi Tea Estate". Several nature enthusiasts flock to this destination to experience the fest and the ethereal beauty of the surroundings. ¹⁹



¹³ <https://newsonair.com/2023/02/28/fm-nirmala-sitharaman-reviews-implementation-of-central-govt-welfare-schemes-public-infrastructure-services-in-border-villages-of-sikkim-at-lachen/>

¹⁴ <https://www.investindia.gov.in/state/sikkim>

¹⁵ <https://www.investindia.gov.in/state/sikkim>

¹⁶ <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1561919>

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/TourismSikkim/status/1636668906633928705?s=20>

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/incredibleindia/status/1604006191079759872?s=20>

¹⁹ <https://twitter.com/incredibleindia/status/159749062867758976?s=20>

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- [PM inaugurates Pakyong Airport, as air connectivity reaches Sikkim, PIB, Sep 2018](#)
- [Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy Addressed The '47th Statehood Day' Celebrations in New Delhi, PIB, May 2022](#)
- [Rail Connectivity to Sikkim gets fast-tracked, PIB, Oct 2022](#)
- [Shri K J Alphons inaugurates the First Swadesh Darshan project in Sikkim, PIB, Jan 2019](#)
- [Sikkim Tourism Portal](#)
- [100 percent organic farming benefits over 66,000 farming families in Sikkim, AIR, Sep 2020](#)
- [Sustainable Development Leadership Award to Shri Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim, ENVIS Centre, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India, May 2023](#)
- [Sikkim - Chief Ministers Startup Scheme \(CMSS\)](#)
- Chart Source: RBI - [Current Prices, Constant Prices](#)

TWITTER LINKS

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NR/HP/RK/PPD/SS/MK