



SIKKIM



Sikkim, the 22nd state of the Indian Union, is multi-ethnic and multilingual, with three main communities - Lepchas, Bhutias and Nepalis. Sikkim is bordered by Nepal to the west, China's Tibet Autonomous Region to the north and east, and Bhutan to the east. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. The state is situated in an ecological hotspot of the Eastern Himalayas. The state is known for its biodiversity, including alpine and subtropical climates, covering 1/4th of the biodiversity area of the country. The state is also the host to Mount Kanchenjunga, the highest peak in India and third highest on Earth. Sikkim is a hotspot for tourists and the popularity of the region which can be comprehended by the number of visitors that throng the state all year round. Sikkim is the first Indian state to be declared as 100% organic in 2016. In 2018, Sikkim received the UN Future Policy Gold Award for the world's best policies in the agroecological and sustainable organic initiative.

STATE SNAPSHOT



Area: 7,096 km

**Major Towns-Gangtok, Namchi,
Pakyong, Gyalshing, Soreng,
Mangan**



Population: 6,10,577

Nearest Airports – Pakyong and Bagdogra



Literacy Rate: **81.4%**

Near Rail Head - New Japaiguri (West Bengal) and Majitar (Sikkim- 2024)



GSDP per capita –
Rs 4,72,543 in 2022

Major Hydropower Potential:
8000 MW



Number of Districts:
06 districts

National Highways: NH 10, NH 310, NH 310A, NH 510, NH 710, NH 717A, NH 717B





CONNECTIVITY

- 7 National Highways; NH 10 links Siliguri to Gangtok.
- Pakyong Airport (4646 ft)- Greenfield RCS airport spread over 201 acres (81 ha) - one of the five highest airports in India
- Bagdogra Airport is located about 124 km from Gangtok; connectivity to major Indian cities
- Daily helicopter service connects Gangtok to Bagdogra
- The closest major railway stations are Siliguri Junction and New Jalpaiguri in neighbouring West Bengal.
- New Sikkim Railway Project launched to connect the town of Rangpo in Sikkim with Sevoke on the West Bengal border (expected to complete by 2024).

WHY SIKKIM?

- Strategic locational advantage and large international trade potential sharing its boundary with the neighbouring countries of Bhutan, China, and Nepal
- Sikkim covers just 0.2 % of the geographical area and 1/4th of the biodiversity area of the country.
- 30.77% of geographical area is under protected area network which is highest in the country
- Diverse climatic conditions from tropical moist to temperate and alpine zones are conducive for the growth of several agricultural and horticultural crops
- Kanchendzonga National Park is the only protected areas in the country and a UNESCO world heritage site under Mixed category (Culture and Nature).
- Environmentally responsible state taking major steps to help it develop into a tourism haven
- First Indian state to be declared as 100% organic in 2016
- Home to 315 glacier lakes and the world's third-highest mountain peak Mount Kanchenjunga
- High hydropower generation capacity, with an estimated potential of 8000 MW
- Highest per capita income amongst North-Eastern states
- English speaking populace with a high literacy rate of 81.4% which is more than the national average.
- Peaceful and stable governance



FOCUS SECTORS OF SIKKIM:

AGRI-HORTI FOOD PROCESSING

- Due to the abundance of fertile land, agriculture is the primary occupation of the people.
- Largest portfolio of certified organic farms: 75,000 hectares of agricultural land has been converted for sustainable cultivation
- 'Sikkim Organic Mission' promotes the organic produce of the state
- Large cardamom, organic tea, turmeric, ginger, cherry pepper, oranges, banana, guava are the major horticulture produce of the state
- Spices, pulses (black gram/ urad, rice bean), cereals (rice, maize, buckwheat, barley, finger millet), oilseeds (soybean, rapeseed, mustard) and other commercial crops present huge opportunity in food processing; Other important products include flour, tea, and fruits.
- 86% of the cardamom production of the nation. Ramsey, Golsey, Varlanegy and Sawney are some of the varieties of large cardamom found in the region.
- Locally available Lepidotrigona honey obtained from stingless honeybees has medicinal properties and is widely used by Nepali traditional healers.

PHARMACEUTICAL

- Sikkim is known as one of the most progressive states in the health sector in India.
- Awarded the "4th JRD Tata Memorial Award 2008", "Best Performance in Immunization" in Northeastern Zone in 2008, Florence Nightingale National Award to two Senior Nurses in 2009, and one Sr. Nurse in 2016.
- Manifold improvement in infrastructure, capacity building, manpower placement
- Comprehensive service delivery through 147 Sub Centres, 2 Community health centres, 24 Primary health centres, 4 District Hospitals, 1 State Referral hospital, and 1 Medical college on Private Public Partnership and NGOs
- Major pharma companies in the state include Cipla, Sun Pharma, Zydus Cadila, Alembic, IPCA, Alkem Lab, Intas Pharma, Torrent Pharma, and Unichem
- Potential Investment - Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO)





TOURISM

- More than 500 species of orchids, 700 species of butterflies and 574 species of birds
- Tourist arrivals, 2022: 19,94,218
- Tourism is one of the largest employers in the State
- Snow-covered lakes, fairs & vibrant cultural festivals, and Buddhist Monasteries are the main tourist attraction of the state
- Popular tourist destinations are Gangtok, Pelling, Yumthang valley, Tsomgo Lake, Nathula Pass, Goechala, Zuluk, Gurudongmar lake, Ravangla, Namchi and Temi Tea Garden, etc.
- Adventure tourism such as trekking, caravan and glamping are popular in the state
- More than 550 species of avian population
- Hot springs known for therapeutic value because of their high sulphur content and medicinal properties.
- Jopuno, Tinchengkhang, Frey's Peak, Lamo Angden and Byrmkhangse are the popular peaks of Sikkim for Mountaineering.
- The state also has a huge potential for rural tourism, homestays, ecotourism, glamping, heli tourism, ropeways, theme parks and amusement parks
- Religious and cultural tourism: Buddhist Circuit visit incorporates Rumtek and Enchey Monasteries in Gangtok, Pemayangtse in Pelling and Labrang Monastery on North Sikkim Highway.

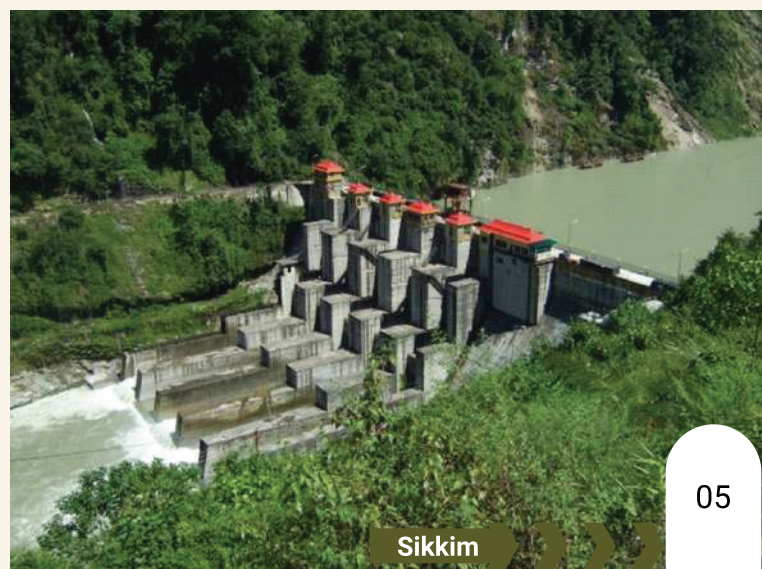
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Access to engineering and computer science graduates locally
- Sikkim Information Technology, Electronics and Telecommunication Policy – 2021
- Setting up of BPOs/ KPOs/ Data centres holds a huge investment opportunity
- Sikkim has potential to set up cyber cafes and information kiosks across the state
- Development of IT park at Pakyong and Saas Park
- Building an effective ICT infrastructure in the state: facilitate equitable access to broadband services across the state

EMERGING SECTORS OF SIKKIM:

HYDROPOWER

- Major Rivers Systems - Teesta and Rangit
- Major Hydro Power Potential – 8000 MW
- Potential Investment – 2000 MW
- Small Hydro Potential – 1000 MW



UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

- Key Enablers - Untapped Rivers and its tributaries High precipitation Average 350 cm, 161 rainy days More Environment & People Friendly Power Transmission Corridor 19 Power Transmission Corridors
- Potential Areas of Investment - Hydro Power Plant Power Equipment Manufacturing Hydro Power Design & Consultancy Services Research & Development Institute Building
- Support provided from the State Government - Lease Land for setting up Manufacturing of Power & Hydroelectric Equipment Office Space for Design and Consultancy Services Qualified Manpower through various Technical institutes - SMIT /NIT/CCIT/ATTC/ITIs Ease of Doing Business Single Window and time bound Clearances

ANIMATION VISUAL EFFECTS GAMING COMICS – EXTENDED REALITY (AVGC-XR) SECTOR

- Vision - Develop Sikkim in a AVGC hub of the North East India by 2030 Develop Gangtok and Namchi city as the preferred AVGC destination Focus on skill development to raise the skill levels Facilitate growth of state's AVGC-XR startups and entrepreneurs
- Potential - Stimulate growth of at least 100 AVGC-XR companies A potential to become hub of knowledge and pool of talent in the AVGC-XR sector within the State
- Core Competencies - Creative Talent Increased Technology Penetration Increased Local Consumption
- Opportunities - Creation of AVGC-XR clusters in the State of Sikkim Creation of Centre of Excellence for Animation, Gaming and Visual Effects/ Innovation Hub for AVGC Sector Talent and Skill Development/ Establishment of Design Institute in the State Establishment of Fine Arts Colleges & Digital Art Centres in the State

MEDICAL AND WELNESS TOURISM

- Habitat to 490 medicinal plants owing to large variations in altitude and climate
- Wide use of herbs by the different Indian Systems of Medicines like Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and Sowa Rigpa (traditional medicine system)
- Application in Cosmetic, Nutraceuticals, Food products, and Beverages; Tremendous demand from pharmaceuticals and other Herbal based Industries
- Potential to become healing destination
- Potential Investment Areas - Specialty Hospitals Medical Colleges Associated Institutes



HANDLOOM, HANDICRAFTS AND TEXTILES

- Thanka painting, wood carving, carpet weaving & tanga design, cane & bamboo craft and angora shawl products are some of the prominent products from the state
- Lifestyle products: lamp shades, baskets etc. made of indigenous material
- 3 sericulture farms in east, west, and south districts to promote sericulture
- Availability of nettle fibre, bamboo fibre, large cardamom plant fibre and natural dyes
- Major Handloom & Weaving Clusters
- Good Number of well trained Artisans
- Huge export potential to neighboring countries and Southeast Asian countries





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