

# SINCE 1976 SIKKIM EXPRESS

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**SIKKIM AT A GLANCE**



Area : 7400 Sq.km  
 Capital : Gangtok  
 Altitude : 5,840 ft  
 Population : 6.10 Lakhs  
**Topography:** Hilly terrain elevation from 600 ft. to over 28,509 ft above sea level.  
**Climate:**  
**Summer**  
 Max - 21° C ; Min - 13° C  
**Winter**  
 Max - 13° C ; Min - 0.48° C  
**Rainfall :** 325 cm per annum  
 Language Spoken: Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, Tibetan, English, Hindi

## Glaciers, snow reserve are in better condition in Sikkim

GANGTOK, December 12 (IPR): Dr. Milap Chand Sharma, Associate Professor from JNU who is also a Member of the Sikkim Glacier Commission gave a presentation on November 29 to State Science & Technology minister Bhim Dhungel and department secretary ML Arrawata in Sikkim House regarding glacier studies which he has carried out in Sikkim.

As per Dr. Sharma's studies there would be no decrease in the accumulation of snow or ice reserves of the State in any foreseeable future.

According to the summarized observations of the researcher, Sikkim at tri junction of South West monsoon rains followed by winter rains as well as Mediterranean Westerly and this gives Sikkim State special advantage of having precipitation year around, which, at higher altitudes falls as snow due to lapse rate since average snowline is 5425 meters above sea level.

Dr. Sharma has taken help of the repeat photography of the snout position that is available for 1909, 1965, 1977 (La Touche, Raina, Puri). These photographic records have been extremely useful in determination and precise measurements of the frontal position. The Zemu terminal position has retreated only 5-7 meters since 1977, notwithstanding little surface thinning.

Individually, glaciers have behaved in a different manner to factors beyond the climate such as morphology of valley, shape and size, aspect and slope and etc. However, there are number of glaciers which retreated yet there are other glaciers which advanced during the same period of analysis.

Dr. Sharma has also informed that Sikkim being in Eastern Himalayas, the triple precipitation regime would always cater to better input as compared to the Western Himalayas. The 'Good Practices' are already in-place in the Sikkim Himalaya and these good practices will further increase in the future through dynamic leadership, which would only lead to reduced warming as compared to the so called late 20th century trend.

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