



Statehood Day of Sikkim

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Why in News

On the **Statehood Day of Sikkim** (16th May), the Prime Minister greeted the people of the state and praised the traditions and culture of the state highlighting its contributions to the national progress.

Key Points

- Sikkim is located in the **northeastern part** of the country, in the **eastern Himalayas** and is **one of the smallest states** in India.
- It derives its name from the **Limbu** (a tribe) words *su him*, meaning **'new house'**.
- **Capital: Gangtok.**
- **Borders:**
 - **Tibet Autonomous Region of China** to the north and northeast, **Bhutan** to the southeast, Indian state of **West Bengal** to the south and **Nepal** to the west.
 - Sikkim is of **great political and strategic importance** for India because of its location along several international boundaries.
- **History:**
 - Sikkim became a **protectorate of India in 1950** following the **Indo-Sikkimese Treaty**, with India assuming responsibility for the external relations, defense and strategic communications of Sikkim.
 - Sikkim became the **22nd state** of India on **16th May 1975**, following a **statehood demand** from the political leaders.
 - The **Namgyal dynasty** ruled Sikkim **until 1975**.

- **Geography:**
 - **Mount Kanchenjunga**, India's highest peak and the world's third highest mountain lies in Sikkim.
 - The **Kanchenjunga National Park** (KNP) (established in **1977**), near the peak is among the largest of India's high-elevation conservation areas.
 - KNP was designated a **World Heritage Site** in **2016** under the '**mixed**' category (sites containing elements of both natural and cultural significance).
 - Sikkim is drained by the **Teesta river and its tributaries** such as the Rangit, Lhonak, Talung and Lachung.
 - **Teesta river water conflict** is one of the most contentious issues between **India and Bangladesh**.
 - Teesta river is **a tributary of Brahmaputra river**.

