



Mount Khangchendzonga

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Sikkim has urged the Union Government to consider **restricting mountaineering** activities on [Mt. Khangchendzonga](#), acknowledging its profound **religious significance** to the **indigenous communities** of the state.

- **About Mt. Khangchendzonga:** It is **India's highest peak (8,568 meters)** and the **world's third-highest**, located on the **Sikkim-Nepal border**.
 - It is **sacred to Sikkim's indigenous people**, revered as the abode of the guardian deity **Dzoe-Nga (Pho-lha)**.
 - **Dzoe-Nga** is recognized as **guardians of the land** by **Ugyen Guru Rinpoche (Guru Padmasambhava)**, Sikkim's **Patron Saint**.
 - The **indigenous Lepcha community** traditionally followed the **Mun faith**, led by priests called **Bongthings**, and have a rich **oral tradition** of **poetry, songs, and myths**.
 - Climbing is **prohibited** on the **Sikkim side** but **permitted** from the **Nepal side**. The mountain was first successfully climbed in **1955** by **Charles Band and Joe Brown**.



- **About Khangchendzonga National Park:** It is a [UNESCO World Heritage Site \(2016\)](#) and a part of the [UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves \(2018\)](#).
 - It is **India's first Mixed World Heritage Site**, renowned for its **diverse ecosystem** comprising **plains, valleys, mountains, glaciers, lakes, and forests**.
 - It is part of the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot** and the [Dzongu Valley](#) in

North Sikkim is especially rich in **medicinal plants**.

- **Fauna:** Blood Pheasant (State Bird of Sikkim), **Red Panda**, [Snow Leopard](#), **Musk Deer** etc.

Read More: [Khangchendzonga To Be Included In The World Network of Biosphere Reserves](#)

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