

SIKKIM...

Where Nature Smiles



TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION

DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

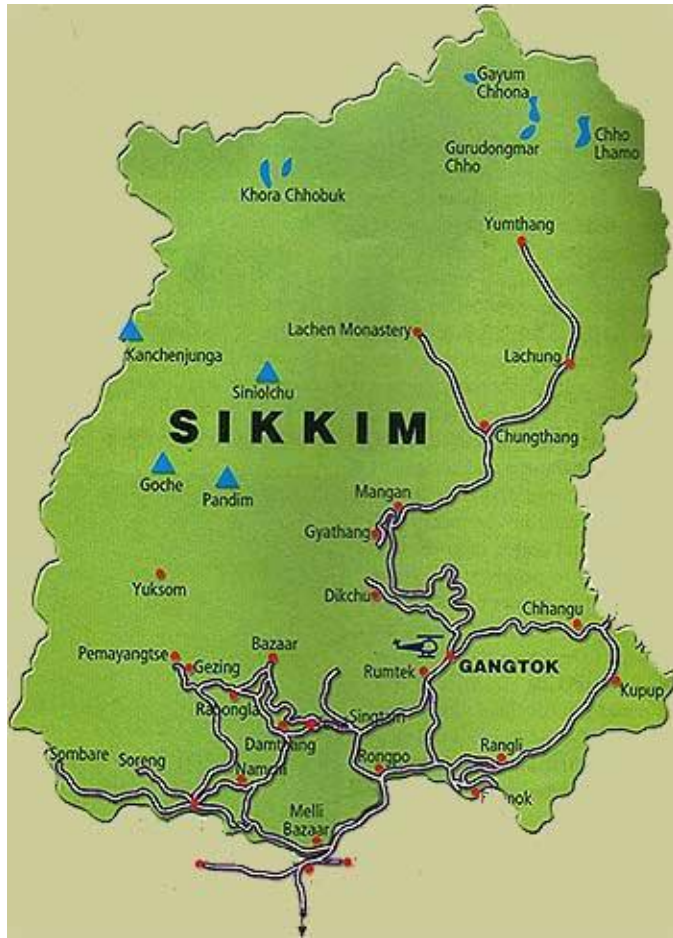
PARYATAN BHAWAN,

TADONG, EAST SIKKIM

www.sikkimtourism.gov.in



SIKKIM: Basic Information



Area

7,096 sq. km.

Population

6,10,577(census 2011)

Capital

Gangtok

Districts

Six (Gangtok, Pakyong, Mangan, Namchi , Soreng and Gyalshing)

Airport

One i.e.Pakyong Airport



PRESENT STATUS OF HELICOPTER SERVICE IN SIKKIM

- ▶ Flying hours subsidy provided by MHA- 1200 hrs per Annum.
- ▶ Fixed Monthly Charge – Rs.28,43,481/-
- ▶ Hourly charge – Rs.33040/-
- ▶ Operator - M/S Pawan Hans Limited (PHL)
- ▶ Lease tenure with M/s PHL - Upto 31st October 2023.
- ▶ Flying hours utilized in last six Years-
 - ▶ 2017-18 - 710 hrs
 - ▶ 2018-19 – 604 hrs
 - ▶ 2019-20 – 370 hrs
 - ▶ 2020-21 - 254 hrs
 - ▶ 2021-22 - 363 hrs
 - ▶ 2022-23 - 260 hrs
- ▶ Low consumption of flying hours attributed to unpredictable weather and also stringent Visual Flying Rules (VFR)

HELICOPTER SERVICES & NEED TO OPERATE TWO HELICOPTERS

- ▶ Heliservice managed by Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation conducts regular flights from Gangtok-Bagdogra-Gangtok. Other services include Medical/Rescue/Emergency, chartered flights. Additional flights include Gangtok Joyride, Mountain flights, Aerial view of Chaardham/Tathagat Tsal, Tsomgo lake and North Sikkim.
- ▶ Presently state government is operating single engine helicopter and due to which VVIP flying is restricted. The department of Tourism and Civil Aviation is completing a tender for a twin engine large helicopter shortly.
- ▶ We need to operate two Helicopters one Single engine and one Twin engine in order to utilize 1200 Hrs flying time provided by MoCA/MHA per annum. Single engine can be utilized for Tourist joy ride and district connectivity; Double engine can be utilized for Bagdogra- Gangtok, Gangtok Pakyong and VIP charter flights.
- ▶ The existing 1200hrs subsidy can be utilized between the two helicopters.

NEED TO DEVELOP HELIPORTS IN 3 PLACES FOR ENHANCING AIR CONNECTIVITY

- ▶ Existing Helipads are 17 nos
- ▶ RANGPO – During bad weather at Gangtok the helicopter can operate from Rangpo the border town for seamless connectivity between Sikkim and Bagdogra.
- ▶ PELLING – The West District of Gyalshing does not have an active Heliport hence the need to have one operational Heliport.
- ▶ MANGAN – Presently we have a small helipad but the need of the hour is to have a proper Heliport both for connectivity as well as for emergencies. The helipad was extensively used during the recent GLOF over river Teesta and the 2011 6.8 earthquake in the state.
- ▶ We require financial assistance to construct and operate Heliports at these places at the earliest.

VFR (VISUAL FLYING RULES)

- ▶ Presently the VFR (Visual Flying Rules) is about 5 KMs. The Pilots presently operating Helicopters refuse to fly even when the weather seems fine for flying. When this happens the flight gets cancelled and the passengers get annoyed and we often have to arrange vehicle to ply them to Siliguri/ Bagdogra incurring extra cost and losses.
- ▶ In order to mitigate this problem, we require special VFR of about 2.5 KMs at least so that flights don't get cancelled at the whims and fancies of the Pilot.
- ▶ Actual VFR is 5 kms whereas as special case for Pakyong Airport the VFR has been reduced to 2.5 Kms resulting existing operator i.e Spice jet to have a landing frequency increased to 90% from 50%. If similar facility is extended for Helicopter operation i.e implementation of special VFR by DGCA then the uptime will significantly increase

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SCHEME

- If the RCS(MoCA) scheme is implemented in North East, states will greatly benefitted. Sikkim can operate an additional Helicopter from Pakyong Airport in 90:10 pattern under the MoCA. Presently only Spicejet is operating flights from Pakyong under RCS. This will benefit the connectivity and Tourism in NE States.

Pakyong Airport, Sikkim



Pakyong Airport, Sikkim



CONNECTIVITY



- **NEAREST RAILHEAD** : NEW JALPAIGURI (NJP), (WEST BENGAL),
114 KMS FROM GANGTOK.
- **AIRPORT:** **PAKYONG GREENFIELD AIRPORT – 32 KMS FROM
GANGTOK .**

**BAGDOGRA AIRPORT IN WEST BENGAL -124 KMS FROM
GANGTOK.**
- **BY ROAD:** **NH 10, CONNECTS SIKKIM TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY
THROUGH SILIGURI CORRIDOR IN WEST BENGAL.**

Pakyong Airport

(Brief Background)

- Pakyong Airport situated at a height of 4646ft and is one of the five highest airports in India. It is also the first Greenfield airport constructed in the North-eastern Region of India under RCS scheme of Govt. of India and the only airport in the state of Sikkim.
- The Airport has a runway length of 1.7 Km and caters to Bombardier Q 400 type aircraft 78 seater.
- It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 24th September 2018
- Commercial flight operation started on 4th October 2018.

- Spice Jet was awarded the Pakyong to Kolkata and Guwahati sectors under the second round of bidding for the Government of India's "UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme" in January 2018.
- The Airport is spread over 201 acres, featuring runway of dimension 1700x40m, Isolation bay of 79 x 64 m and taxiway 116 m x 15m and Apron of size 106 m x 76 m.
- Passenger Terminal Building having an area of 2380.00sqm with a capacity of 100 passengers and car park area for 80 vehicles and a Fire Station cum ATC tower having state of art technology is the part of the Airport Complex.

- Navigation facilities includes DVOR (Dopler very high frequency Omni Range), High Intensity Runway Lights (HIRL), Airport Beacon and PAPI (Precision approach Path Indicator)
- Pakyong Airport is licensed by DGCA under DAY (Visual Flight Rules) wherein visibility requirement is 5 kms.
- To make Pakyong Airport under IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) Condition, feasibility study was made for installation of DVOR and ILS Instrument by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) & AAI but, due to hill obstructions / proximity around Pakyong Airport, ICAO recommended to use RNP Y Procedure having Satellite based Technology. wherein, visibility requirement is 2.4 km w.e.f 23rd Jan 2021 through which it was expected to decrease cancellation of flight due to weather condition.

Spice Jet Flight Details 2022

Year	Month	No Days		Kolkata		Delhi	
2022	Jan	17	18	828	862	1011	850
	Feb	08	09	510	394	562	445
	March	13	13	944	825	965	770
	April	15	15	676	590	796	726
	May	08	09	429	415	582	534
	June	01		64	58		
	August	06	06	191	172	348	225
	September	06	05	339	232	305	173
	October	06	06	379	362	415	341

Spice Jet Flight Details 2023

Year	Month	No Days		Kolkata		Delhi	
2023	March	01	03	81	63	185	149
	April		19			1423	1130
	May		19			1382	981
	June		05			359	225
	September		12			730	504
	October		01				69

Benefits of Pakyong Airport to the State

- connectivity of the State with other parts of the Country – a crucial factor for the development of a land-locked State like Sikkim.
- The airport has given big boost to the State in terms of tourism and given impetus to the trade.
- Due to the absence of rail link to the State, its critical dependence on a sole highway has been considerably reduced.
- Due to its easy accessibility from New Delhi and quick connectivity, it has also helped the State to promote itself as a High End Tourist destination and as an ideal MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism destination.
- Further, due to its strategic location near the Indo –China Border, the airport has given a major boost to the movement of armed forces and defense equipments.
- Besides, it has also brought relief to the local people in times of medical emergencies due to quick and convenient transfer of patients from the State to major hospitals in New Delhi.

Urgent Issues

- The airport is non –functional as of now due to subsidence in certain portion of RE (Reinforced Earth) Wall, however the runway and other infrastructure is intact and is safe for normal flight operations. Immediate restoration of flight connectivity to Pakyong Airport is urgently requested.
- Revision of MOU with AAI in a comprehensive manner for future operations.
- Waiving of Payment of Hiring Charges of Security Equipment by the State Government.
- In addition to Spicejet other operators are to be allowed to fly.

- There is a substantial increase of foreign Tourists specially from Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Hence it is requested to provide direct connectivity to the above countries.
- To be declared as International airport

Need of International connectivity

- There is a substantial increase of foreign Tourists specially from Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Hence it is requested to provide direct connectivity to the above countries through Pakyong airport.
- To be declared as International airport



THANK YOU
for your time...

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