

**ANNUAL REPORT OF ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT FOR THE**  
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Lying in the lap of the mighty Himalayas, the tiny State of Sikkim is one of the most beautiful states of the Indian Union. Though it has joined the Union of India as late as 1975 it has now proved itself as one of the most prosperous and progressive state. Sikkim is presently famous not only in the country but also world over as a attractive and peace loving state.

Although Sikkim is a small state yet it is a heavenly abode where about 700 religious institutions like Buddhist monasteries, Manilhakhangs, Tshamkhangs, Hindu Mandirs, Christian Churches, Muslim Mosques, Sikh Gurudwaras, Sai Temples and the like exists in harmony. Apart from these religious institutions Sikkim is also dotted with 9 Sacred Peaks, 6 Sacred Caves, 7 Sacred Rocks and 11 Sacred Lakes.

Despite the existence of such a large number of religious institutions belonging to different faiths, people in Sikkim live in peace and harmony.

Sikkim has a unique Department called the Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs which is not found anywhere else in India. This Department plays a vital role in the preservation and development of the most valuable and rich heritage of the state. The Department also takes care of the religious needs of the people of Sikkim.

- The main role of the Department is to extend financial assistance for renovation, repair and construction of religious institutions within the state of Sikkim.
- The Department provides financial assistance to conduct religious functions and pujas.
- It also encourages for the promotion of higher Buddhist Studies, Religious Arts and Handicrafts. For this purpose, the Department has started 87 Monastic Schools, 7 Sanskrit Pathshalas and one Traditional Art School.
- The Department also looks after the Temple complex at Bodhgaya and Darjeeling and controls their management.