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Context: The Chief Minister of Sikkim has called upon the Central Government to advocate for a prohibition on climbing Mount Kanchenjunga from the Nepalese side, emphasizing its profound spiritual importance to the indigenous populations of Sikkim.



About Mount Kanchenjunga:

Location:

- Situated in the eastern Himalayas, it spans the border between India and Nepal, located 74 km north-northwest of Darjeeling.
- It rises to an altitude of 8,586 metres (28,169 ft), ranking as the third-highest mountain globally and the tallest peak in India.

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States Associated:

- It is positioned between Sikkim (India) and the Taplejung District (Nepal).
- The Indian territory is encompassed within the Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim.

Geographical Features:

- It consists of five notable peaks, known in Sikkimese culture as the “Five Treasures of the Snow.”
- It is encircled by four significant glaciers: Zemu Glacier (northeast), Talung Glacier (southeast), Yalung Glacier (southwest), and Kanchenjunga Glacier (northwest).
- Experiences substantial summer snowfall due to monsoonal rains, with less snowfall in winter.

Cultural Importance:

- Esteemed as a sacred mountain and the dwelling place of the guardian deity ‘Dzoe-Nga.’
- Regarded as inviolable by the Bhutia and Lepcha communities of Sikkim.
- Climbing is prohibited from the Indian side under the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, and Article 371(F), which safeguards Sikkim’s traditions following its merger with India.



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Historical Significance:

- It was once thought to be the highest peak until Mount Everest was verified as such in 1856.
- The first successful ascent was achieved in 1955 by Joe Brown and George Band (British expedition).
- Climbers customarily refrain from reaching the summit to respect religious beliefs.
- Charles Evans also directed an expedition on the southwest face in 1955.