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Anand Marriage Act to Come into Force in Sikkim from June 1

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The Central Government has announced that the provisions of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 will come into force in the state of Sikkim from 1 June 2026. The notification was issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice on 14 May 2026. This move will allow members of the Sikh community in Sikkim to directly register marriages performed through the traditional 'Anand Karaj' ceremony under a separate legal framework.?

Background of the Development

Earlier, due to the absence of state-level registration rules, many Sikh couples in Sikkim had to register their marriages under the Hind Marriage Act, 1955 for legal recognition. The implementation of the Anand Marriage Act in the state became possible after the framing of the Sikkim Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026.

The development follows a landmark judgment delivered by the Supreme Court of India in September 2025 in the Amanjot Singh Chadha vs Union of India case. The Supreme Court had directed states that had not framed registration rules under the Act to do so at the earliest.

About the Anand Marriage Act, 1909

The Anand Marriage Act, 1909 is a law that legally recognizes Sikh marriages solemnised through the Anand Karaj ceremony according to Sikh customs and traditions. The Act was originally enacted during British rule to remove doubts regarding the legal validity of Sikh marriages.

A significant amendment was made to the Act in 2012, which introduced provisions for registration of Sikh marriages through state-level mechanisms. However, implementation depended on individual states framing their own rules and procedures.

Significance of the Move

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The implementation of the Act in Sikkim is considered an important step toward protecting the religious and legal rights of the Sikh minority community in the state. It provides a separate legal identity to Sikh marriages and ensures easier registration under their own religious customs.

Additional Key Facts for Government Exams

Anand Karaj is the traditional Sikh marriage ceremony.

The Anand Marriage Act was enacted in 1909.

The 2012 amendment enabled registration of Sikh marriages.

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued the notification for Sikkim.

Sikkim Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026 were framed before implementation.

The Supreme Court judgment accelerating implementation was delivered in September 2025.

Sikh marriages were earlier commonly registered under the HindMarriage Act, 1955 in states lacking separate rules.