

Namchi is now the only all time Tourist destination: Minister

Namchi: The district town of South Sikkim, Namchi, is at present the only all time tourist destination which has the potential to draw more than 1000 tourist daily by the year 2015, said the Tourism Minister Bhim Dhungel on Tuesday. He was speaking as chief guest at Namchi Mahotsav 2009 which was inaugurated by Monday by Chief Minister Dr. Pawan Chamling.

Mr. Dhungel highlighted the rich tradition and cultural of Sikkim which, he said, adds to the prospect of the state tourism sector to advance in national and international level. He urged the educated unemployed youth of Sikkim to take tourism as a profession in view of the development of infrastructures done by the state government under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Chamling.

The cultural programme on the second day of the Mahotsav for the first time included kite festival as a special attraction. People were thrilled to witness locals tourists and experts from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, flying kites of various designs at Assangthang Helipad from 9 in the morning. Moreover sever colourful cultural events were impressively presented on the day.

Namchi reels Kites on Day2 of Mahotsav

Namchi, 03 Nov: The second day of Namchi Mahotsav treated visitors to an array of colourful programmes here today.

The first session of the day saw a unique Kite Festival take to the Namchi skies. As part of this exposition, kites of a multitude of designs were rolled off the helipad at Assangthang here from 9 AM onwards.

Locals and tourists had a gala time in the participatory display with kite specialists specially brought in from Ahmedabad. A rare indulgence for Sikkim, the kite flying opportunity was lapped up by all here today.

Later in the day, the festivities moved to cultural presentations by a plethora of cultural troupes from various corners of the State.

Tourism Minister Bhim Dhungel was present as the chief guest at the venue today.

Addressing the occasion, the Minister highlighted that Sikkim's cultural and traditional variety created a unique potential for tourism promotion in the national and international levels and should be thus nurtured by the locals as the hallmarks of the Sikkim experience.

He however rued that locals stakeholders have been lethargic in taking up the opportunities created which were being lapped up by service-providers from outside the State. He called on the local educated youth to join the tourism sector in larger numbers before the opportunities were all wasted away.

He highlighted that Namchi was among the best located destinations in Sikkim and had the potential to attract up to 1,000 visitors on a daily basis all year round by 2015. The State Government, he added, was committed to achieve this target and it was now up to the local stakeholders to step up to the plate and harvest this opportunity.

In the evening, the stage lit up for the ever-popular performances by folk and pop artists from Nepal and around the State.