



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4th October 2018. Mumbai.

An appeal to Hon'ble CM of Jharkhand to honour his commitment to Jain community.

On the week of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, who relentless preached patience, tolerance and peace to the world, the entire Jain community comes together to appeal to save Mount Shikharji, located at Giridih district of Jharkhand, India.

The Shikharji mountain range, also called Parasnath hills has been of spiritual, cultural and religious importance to our nation even before the beginning of modern history. Inscriptions in Sanskrit older than 16th century only validate them.

The Save Shikharji is a movement to highlight the spiritual significance of India's national treasure where twenty of the twenty-four Jain tirthankaras along with many other monks attained Moksha thousands of years ago; even today people perform Parikrama around the entire Parasnath hill, and the pilgrimage to Shikharji peak is a round trip of 27 km.

People wanting to experience spiritual awakening and live a positive, peaceful life undertake the pilgrimage on foot through the Madhuban forest; which is unfortunately being neglected and is at the risk of being commercially exploited. We must act now to save it.

In September 2015, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Raghubar Das, had publicly committed to develop Shikharji as 'an international seat of spiritualism and enlightenment'. He even welcomed a Jain delegation and showed keen interest to provide infrastructure without disturbing its sanctity to preserve the holiness and sanctity of the hill.

More information about his commitment can be found in Times of India news article dated 25th September 2015 by visiting the link <http://bit.ly/cmstatement>.

Shikharji is where twenty tirthankaras attained salvation and other monks continue to attain their spiritual enlightenment, this makes every inch of the hill vibrate with spiritual energy which is not just restricted to the temple but dissipates through the entire hill. Reestablishing the sanctity of such a holy hill is not possible if we lose it now.



It has been three years and CM Raghubar Das commitments are entangled in red tape and bureaucracy, there has been no formal action to move the matter further from Jharkhandstate government. The lack of action from the Jharkhandstate government to declare Shikharjias 'a place of worship' is leading the hills tocommercial exploitation and unplanned, rampant urbanization, which is violating the spiritual sanctity of the place.

By declaring Shikharji has 'a place of worship'; the region stands to gain more:

- Conserve nation's spiritual abode and cultural treasure
- Promote peace, tolerance and acceptance
- Preserve history and protect it from vandalization
- Help protect the sensitive ecology and wildlife of Madhuban forest range
- Increase livelihood to local economy by outgrowing their dependence on forest and wildlife
- Encourage humanity to be more spiritually inclined to attain nirvana

We appeal to Government of Jharkhand to expedite his commitment made in 2015 to preserve the sanctity of the Shikharji, by declaring it as 'a place of worship' immediately; which will help conserve it for generations to come.

We appeal to every citizen of India to join hands to preserve and promote our invaluable spiritual abode by signing the petition at www.SaveShikharji.com and sharing on social media using hashtag #SaveShikharji

About Save Shikharji:

Save Shikharji is a not for profit movement by entire community of Jain to appeal to humanity to bring an expedited action to save Shikharji, by getting the government to declare it as 'a place of worship'.

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