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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CM focuses on 'spiritualism', not tourism

TNN | Sep 25, 2015, 05.05 PM IST

RANCHI: Chief minister Raghubar Das on Thursday clarified that the government is going to develop Sammed Shikhar on Parasnath hill in Giridih as “an international seat of spiritualism and enlightenment”.

Welcoming a four-member Jain delegation from Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Das said the state was keen to provide infrastructure without disturbing its sanctity. “The government welcomes suggestions from the community leaders to preserve the holiness and sanctity of the place and develop the places around Madhuban to Parasanth for convenience of thousands of devotees who arrive here to pay obeisance,” he said.

Bhavik Lalan, apex court advocate and member of the delegation, said they were worried about the sanctity of the place after media reports described plans to develop the site as a tourist spot. “There is a difference between a pilgrimage and a tourist place as the later is associated with fun, frolic, adventure and rejoice whereas Sammed Shikhar epitomises spirituality and religious sanctity,” he said, adding that the community has reservations against construction of helipad on the hill.