

'Eco & adventure tourism can showcase Arunachal'

DIPR

ITANAGAR, Aug 2: "Make Arunachal Pradesh come to national scene in adventure and eco-tourism," said the Governor Gen J J Singh, while participating in a hiking expedition, organized by Muskan Society in collaboration with Department of Tourism at Banderdewa near here today.

Interacting with the participants, Gen Singh said since Arunachal Pradesh got huge and natural pristine forest we must have full use of these god gifted bounties to showcase our State to the world. It is one of the few bio-diversity hotspots in the world, and has huge potential for adventure and eco-tourism. It is our bonded duty to preserve our green gold for our future, he said while stressing against deforestation and destruction of flora and fauna.

Acknowledging the initiative of Muskan Society which according to him will go a long way in bringing the people close to nature, he said it is the first experimental effort by the Society for promotion of eco and adventure tourism in the state. He expressed his hope that it will open the floodgate of such activities in the state.

An ace adventurer himself, Gen Singh gave some useful hiking tips to the participants to be followed while in the nature, besides exhorting them to avail maximum enjoyment from the nature, while respecting the eco-system.

While flagging off the expedition, the president of Muskan Society, Anupama Singh said this



is a small endeavour of Muskan to inculcate the spirit of adventure, appreciation for nature and care for our environment and mother earth, especially in the young minds at a tender age. Our state has enormous potential for adventure tourism. Regular organization of such events will go a long way in promoting adventure tourism in our State, she added.

Muskan, an NGO, is working for the cause of women empowerment, child care, health, education and upliftment of socially deprived people. She added as its first initiative, Muskan has contributed in setting up of the first Toy Train in Itanagar.

Tourism Director A K Singh while talking about adventure tourism in the state informed that the State govt is promoting aero sports like para sailing,

para gliding, micro-light and ballooning along with aquatic sports like river rafting, kayaking and angling. Among the terrestrial sports, he said the govt is promoting trekking, rock climbing, camping and mountaineering in addition to bird watching and wildlife safari within identified wildlife sanctuaries like Namdapha and D Ering wildlife sanctuaries.

Appreciating the Raj Bhavan and Muskan Society for taking initiative towards promotion of adventure sports, the Tourism director called for immediate identification the hiking and trekking routes in the state as per the feasibility and viability to promote it in a big way.

Participated by large numbers of hikers, including 35 students from VKV Banderdewa and other schools along with teachers,

members of Muskan Society, senior govt officers and police personnel from PTC Banderdewa and several officials from Raj Bhavan, the hiking expedition started from the PTC firing range, that went inside the forest, climbing several hillocks, came down through numbers of slippery tracks, and culminated near the Mandir.

Making it more interesting, singing and other activity competitions amongst the students were conducted by Gen Singh himself. As always advocating for plastic-free Arunachal, the Governor, while pointing at the throw away wrappers of sweets, plastic glass and bottles on the way by participants said, if we don't stop it now, we will be leaving an environment full of plastic wastage for our future generation. (PRO to Governor)