

PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL TOURISM AWARD FOR THE YEAR 2008-09

Ministry of Tourism Government of India gives away annual **award of excellence** to States and people engaged in Tourism promotion. This is a very prestigious award. Sikkim has been the recipient of this award for the last 8 years. And once again Sikkim is the proud recipient of the National Award in the category **“Best State for Tourism Related Programmes”**. The award ceremony was held on 3rd March in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The award was presented by Shri M Hamid Ansari, Hon’ble Vice President of India in the presence of the dignitaries viz; Kumari Selja, Hon’ble Union Minister for Tourism, Shri Sultan Ahmed, Hon’ble Minister of State for Tourism and Shri Sujit Banerjee, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The team from Sikkim was led by the Hon’ble Minister for Tourism, Shri Bhim Dhungel.

Sikkim has emerged as one of the best tourist destinations in the country. The destination development has taken a big boost in the last few years. With the sincere efforts of the State Government and stake holders Tourism in Sikkim has seen a major positive change for the betterment of the society as a whole. There has been a phenomenal increase in inflow of tourists in the State both domestic and foreign. Star category hotels have been constructed because of which Sikkim can now expect world class quality tourists. Village tourism and home stays facilities have promoted local culture and traditions and enhanced sustainable self employment.

With the declaration of 2010 as the Year of Tourism Sikkim will place itself in the forefront in the world tourism map. The Department would like to take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders and others related to promotion of tourism for their strong support and co-operation.