

RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN PELLING AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

Pelling, a magnificent place with beautiful natural scenery, situated in West Sikkim, is rapidly emerging as a giant attractive tourist spot of Himalayan range in the recent years. Due to the recent political turmoil running in Darjeeling and Dooars region, a heavy tourist flow has recently been taken place in Pelling with its entire counterpart in Sikkim. A number of hotels are being constructed along the both sides of the single narrow road from Lower Pelling to Upper Pelling. It is basically a sloppy land and hence, due to the growth of hotel and tourism industry, local environment is being degraded. Being a landslide prone zone, soil erosion is a common phenomena and mass tree felling due to over construction of new hotels; this phenomena is increasing at an alarming rate. But, tourism industry is an emerging industry in the current decade and of course, it increases the state income with small investment. Moreover, employment opportunity has also been increased at a large scale for the local inhabitants. Hence, to maintain the geological stability and natural ecosystem; tourism industry in Pelling should be developed in eco-friendly way.

KEYWORDS: Ecosystem, Environment, Landslide, Tourism Industry