The area where world famous Parasnath Temple, situated in Giridih district, will be developed into an attractive tourist destination, Jharkhand government said. The speaker's direction came following a question by members on construction of ropeways in some tourist spots. The 4,431 ft high Parasnath hill is the highest peak south of the Himalayas. The oldest of the Jain temples is located atop it.

This is truly an ominous announcement for the future of our Teerthbhoomi. How can a Pilgrimage place be a pleasure place?

Once a place becomes a Tourist place, sanctity of the pilgrimage place will be permanently lost. Meat or alcohol will be thought of as essential for promotion of tourism. Honeymoon cottages will dot the hills within eyesight to Padukas of our Teerthankars. Ropeway will lessen the value of PADYATRA and fast food franchises will be everywhere.

We jains must come together to oppose commercialization of our sacred Teerths. Swetamber brothers and Digambar brothers have been fighting for years claiming ownership of the Teerth and now we see how dearly that can cost us.

Let's unite and fight to preserve what is rightfully ours. Even Britisher recognized those hills as belonging to Jains but a democratic government has failed to respect sentiments of members of an official minority religion. If we do not speak up this time, Girnar and Palitana may be the next Teerths that will be exploited.