

Gossaihat Eco Park: An introduction

Gossaihat is one of the excellent places to be with nature in Jalpaiguri under the Jalpaiguri Forest Division. It is one of the places that offer protection to faunal species as well. A place under Moraghat Range it has a dense forest, which shelters a diverse flora. The vast flora is responsible in providing natural habitat to lot many migratory birds and also heaven of free natural perpetuation.

Rationale of the scheme

The vast flora & fauna of Gossaihat was responsible in providing natural habitat to lot many migratory birds throughout the year. Attracted by the migratory birds' viz. Siberian birds, tourists from various corners of the country visited the place every year. But in the year 2012-13, it was observed by the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri during her visit to the spot that the migratory birds didn't turned up during the winter. This was no doubt a matter of great concern not only for the administration but also for the bird lovers.



During the rainy season, the earthen bundh was destructed owing to the overflow of the water. As a result, the stream dried up. The overflow occurred due to the siltation.

To rejuvenate the dried up stream, the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, after her visit to the site, directed all the concerned authorities to take up renovation work. Accordingly field visits were conducted by both Forest Department and District MGNREGS Cell and to end with the scheme of "Desiltation of Gossaihat water body and making boulder sausage wall for protection of bundh during 2013-14" was prepared.

Scheme at a glance

Name of the Scheme:	<u>Desiltation of Gossaihat water body and making boulder sausage wall for protection of bundh.</u>
AAP No.:	<u>0704107450/2013-14</u>
Estimated Mandays:	<u>21002 nos.</u>
Estimated Expenditure:	<u>₹ 3566496.00</u>
Status of the scheme:	<u>On - going</u>



The scheme was started during December, 2013 and is still on - going. As on 13th March, 2013 around 11579 nos. of mandays were generated by about 206 nos. of households most of whom belonged to the Rabha community. They all reside at the Gossaihat Forest Village and the Kukhlung Forest Village. Till date, an amount of ₹ 17, 48, 429.00 has been paid as un-skilled wage. The 206 nos. of households were provided around 56 days of job while executing the project.

Expected benefit of the scheme

Desiltation shall ensure water conservation and recharging of underground water level and help to make more water available for stream during winter. It shall also help in re-profiling the watercourse banks and in making the water course deeper and wider. During the scheme execution, the material was spread on the top of the bank and was also used for strengthening the nearby earthen roads.

The project, at this stage too, provided employment for hundreds of unskilled labours and the beneficiaries will have better economic condition. Most of the unskilled labour belong to the Rabha Tribes and comes from the Gossaihat Forest Village & Kukhlung Forest Village.

Besides on successful completion of the scheme, it is expected that the migratory birds will come back and make the Gossaihat Eco - park live again with there chirpings.....



Gossaihat Eco - Park as on today

