

A journey through the unexplored Dibru-Saikhowa

As you approach the spiral road through Gujjan, you will step into a utopian world where men, animals and birds live together. The whole place reverberates in harmony, with the wilderness of grassland, woodland patches and wetlands that abound with an awe-inspiring range of wildlife. It is home to more than 500 bird species out of 1200 in the country, among which are 25 per cent of the country's endangered ones. Welcome to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

In this context, Dr K K Dwivedi - Deputy Commissioner of Tinsukia - has teamed up with naturalists, scientists, managers, eco-entrepreneurs, a lawyer and wildlife photographers, sharing their findings, insights and experiences of the park and are also keen to see it conserved for posterity as a world heritage. Gradually one realizes that Incredible Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is more than a coffee table book; it's a serious and genuine attempt in highlighting and conserving a national park which abounds in richness and has yet remain secluded from the global focus and attention. As one flips over the pages, one will find that the park offers a safe refuge to 36 species of mammals, 500 species of birds, 104 species of fishes, 43 species of reptiles, 105 species of butterflies and 680 species of plants as specified by Dr K K Dwivedi in the opening chapter. Anwaruddin



Choudhury's tireless effort takes you to a journey of the genesis of the park to the status of a national park in the book. Jayanta Das gives a very scintillating experience and opens the window to the world of mon-

keys and apes that wander through the trees and bushes. However, the most attractive chapter of this book is an elaborate depiction on birds, by Sumit Sen and the beautiful pictures captured in the lens by Dhritiman Mukherjee, which has adorned the book manifold. The life-like images of the snakes and amphibians can give a titillating and hair-raising feeling that can challenge any adventurous tourist to visit the park. The book also offers an interesting tale and experience of Joynal Abedin transformed from a hunter to a guardian of

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Bania and Sanjay Das.

The combination of water, grass and forest give an eye-catching view and its landscape changes with every season, thus offering something refreshing during each visit. This is well depicted by a K Baishya and Pranab Bujarbarua. Multicoloured butterflies, shy and apes sing, in time to the timeless beat of nature. The pages glide you through its floating forest in a quiet country boat, one is sure to get mesmerised by the sight of hundreds of migratory birds taking flight and leaving the

water rippling and air echoing.

The random Dibru flows through a vast vista of deciduous woodland and evergreen patches, where the blooming orchids become the cynosure to soothe the thirsty souls as highlighted by Khyanjeet Gogoi. The focus on tourism potentiality drawn by Manoj Jalan, aptly advocates the new concept of 'geo-tourism' for orientation and scientific study of different ethnic and indigenous groups through festivals, fairs and awareness camps to preserve and promote their cultures and traditions. Geo-tourism that includes eco-tourism can become a tool to focus the rich cultural heritage of the different ethnic groups to the global audience.

This book *Incredible Dibru-Saikhowa National Park* is a sincere endeavour to bring in constricted description with corresponding pictorial presentation of the amazing beauty and bio-diversity of the park. This book will help transform Dibru-Saikhowa into a top eco-tourism destination, which will in turn bring awareness towards the protection and conservation of its rich flora and fauna. Though this book the editor opens the gate to the 'incredible' Dibru-Saikhowa National Park hitherto unknown to the outside world for an unforgettable experience in the cradle of nature that one can cherish for a lifetime.

Antara P P Bhattacharjee

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