

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX- I

The Profile of Kalaichar Border Hat:

Kalaichar Border *Hat* is the first border *hat* along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya sector. It was inaugurated on 23rd July, 2011.

Location: The *hat* is located at the zero line (Pillar No.1072 of Fencing) of the international border between India and Bangladesh. The *hat* occupies an area of 70 square metres. The distance is about 60 Kms from Tura, a major town of Garo Hills.

Timing: The *hat* starts at 10: AM and ends at 4: PM in summer and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in winter. Every Wednesday is a *hat*/market day. It is the common market place for the people of border areas of both countries within 5 kms radius of the international border between India and Bangladesh. Goods traded in the *hat* are free from any duty or tax.

Exit Point: The *hat* has two exist points- one from the Indian Territory for the citizens of India and another one for the Bangladesh citizens.

Facilities: Kalaichar Border *Hat* is provided with market sheds for the vendors from both the two countries. As of now 25 sellers are allowed from each side of the border to trade in this *hat*. Traders in the *hat* can exchange their currencies in bank operating along the two adjacent districts. At present SBI is opened in Kalaichar village to facilitate transaction for the Indian traders whereas Janata Bank is assigned to serve the Bangladesh traders.

Currency: Indian Rupees (INR) and Bangladesh Taka (BDT) are used for trade transaction in the *hat*. Moreover traders also exchange their goods through barter system.

Management: This *hat* functions under the supervision of the *Hat* Management Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner/ Additional Deputy Commissioner of the District having jurisdiction over the *hat* of each country. Identity Cards for both the buyers and sellers are issued by the respective Deputy Commissioners of South Garo Hills and Kurigram Districts of both the two countries- India and Bangladesh. The buyers/sellers are exempted from regulations/rules such as passport and visa. The buyers and sellers from India are allowed to enter the *hat* after thorough verification of their identity cards by Meghalaya Police and Border Security Force whereas the Bangladeshi sellers/buyers are allowed to enter the *hats* after thorough verification of their identity cards by the Border Guards Bangladesh. Goods are also allowed to bring to the *hat* after proper checking.

Commodities allowed to be traded in the Border Hat:

1. Locally produced vegetables, food items, fruits, betel leaf, betel nuts and spices.
2. Minor local forest produce such as bamboo, and bamboo-made materials, grass and broom stick but excluding timber.
3. Products of local cottage industries such as *gamchha*, *lungi* etc.
4. Small locally produced agriculture household implements include *dao*, plough, axe, spade, chisel etc.
5. Plastic goods, locally produced garments, melamine products, processed food items, plastic goods; fruit juice, handicraft items, etc are the general items that are being sold in the *hat*.

It is pertinent to note here that goods traded in the *hat* are strictly followed according to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries- India and Bangladesh.

Volume of Trade:

As per the agreement between the two countries, a buyer is allowed to trade up to USD 50.00. Presently the amount is raised up to USD 100.00.