

Appendix-II

THE PROFILE OF BALAT BORDER HAT:

Balat Border *Hat* is the second border *hat* that was opened along the international border between India and Bangladesh in Meghalaya Sector. It was inaugurated on May 01, 2012. It occupied an area of 70-square meters.

Location: Balat Border *Hat* is situated at zero line (Pillar No.1213) along the international border between India and Bangladesh. This *hat* is located near Balat, East Khasi Hills and at a distant of about 95 Kms from Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya.

Timing: Every Tuesday is a market day. The *hat* starts from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM in summer. While in winter season it starts from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the people living within 5 kms radius of the border are allowed to trade in this *hat*.

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.

Management: *Hat* Management Committee is entrusted with the task of ensuring smooth functioning of the *hat* as well as to ensure of entry/exit of the sellers and buyers assisted by Meghalaya Police and BSF from Indian side whereas the Border Guards Bangladesh from Bangladesh side. No tax is levied on the items sold and currencies of both the countries are accepted.

Commodities allowed to be traded in the Border Hat:

1. The items of trade include agricultural and horticultural products, spices and minor forest products (excluding timber).
2. Dairy and poultry products, juice etc
3. Cottage industry commodities, melamine, plastic goods etc
4. Handloom and handicraft products,

5. Garments and others.

The list of items allowed for trade may expanded or modified by mutual consent.

Volume of transaction: In June 2012, per head spending cap of \$50 was raised to \$100. Equal numbers of traders (25) from both sides are allowed to sell their locally produced crops and goods.