

Kusmhi forest to emerge as eastern UP's eco-tourism hub with ₹4.84 cr push: Jaiveer Singh

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Uttar Pradesh is expanding its tourism focus beyond religious circuits, with a strong push to eco and sustainable tourism.

In line with this vision, an eco park is being developed in Gorakhpur's Kusmhi forest under a ₹4.84 crore project, with ₹50 lakh already released as the first instalment to accelerate work on the ground.

The project is part of the state's broader plan to position Gorakhpur as a key tourism hub in Purvanchal, while creating new livelihood opportunities through

nature-based tourism.

UP Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said on Monday the initiative reflects the government's focus on diversifying tourism. "Kusmhi forest holds strong potential, and we are developing it as a modern eco-tourism destination with facilities like Swiss cottages, tree houses, yoga centres and interpretation spaces," he said.

The eco park is being designed as a balanced mix of experience and sustainability. An attractive entrance gateway will be built at a cost of ₹15.58 lakh, while an interpretation centre worth ₹28.45 lakh will help visitors understand the forest ecosystem, biodiversity and conservation



practices.

Swiss cottages, costing over ₹1 crore, are being developed to offer immersive stays close to nature.

To enhance visitor comfort, a cafeteria upgrade worth ₹32.77 lakh is planned, along with tree houses and tent camping facilities at a cost of

₹30.88 lakh, offering adventure-based stays.

A dedicated yoga centre, being developed at ₹41.86 lakh, will provide a peaceful setting for wellness and meditation.

Supporting infrastructure such as bio-toilets, security fencing, septic systems, solar-powered utilities, parking and seating areas are also part of the project, ensuring that development remains eco-friendly and visitor-centric.

Located about 10 km from Gorakhpur railway station, Kusmhi forest sits on the route to Kushinagar and close to Gorakhpur airport, Ramgarh Tal and key Buddhist sites.

Its strategic location is expected to draw tourists, pilgrims and transit visitors looking for short nature experiences.

The project also aligns with the broader eco-tourism roadmap of the state. According to the Eco Tourism Development Board's framework, the focus is on creating sustainable infrastructure, promoting private participation, generating local livelihoods and ensuring ecological conservation.

Across Uttar Pradesh, multiple eco-tourism projects — from wetlands and tiger reserves to forest-based destinations — are being developed on similar lines, reflecting a structured and scalable model.

