Jhaldhaka Valley Initiative: Bindu

## The last hamlet village

**Bindu** is a the last hamlet village on the West Bengal-Bhutan border, situated on the banks of river Jaldhaka, the headwaters for the first hydroelectric power project of Independent India, Jaldhaka Hydel Project. To cater to the people of this area and adjoining Bhutan village Bakbaki Gajanand Mirania's father set up a grocery shop. After he passed away, Gajanand Mirania with the encouragement of **Help Tourism** team converted his grocery shop with residence into **Shivaji Tourist Inn**. This small initiative with just five rooms today has encouraged few such efforts at the Jhalong and Todey villages. Today tourists can take the opportunity to combine the Garumara and Jaldhaka initiatives with the Neora Valley initiative for an experience from the foothill Rhino forests to the high altitude of the East Himalayas.

## **Fact Sheet**

The small Tourist Inn has 05 rooms with private bath and cold shower. Homely food is available with the small kitchen. While one can sit on the River View gallery and relax, those who are interested can also visit the colourful local Baazar, The Bindu Dam or even take a 20 minutes nature walk to Bakbaki.

## **Activities/Tours**

Cardamom (plantation and processing) and orchard tour, Sightseeing tour to Godak village and Jaldhaka Hydel Project, Short and long treks to Tangta valley, Scenic drives through dense forests and rugged terrains.

## Access

New Jalpaiguri is the nearest railhead and Bagdogra is the nearest airport. Siliguri is 107 kms/3 hours drive. Taxis can be easily hired from Siliguri/Malbazar/Chalsa. Few buses also ply between Bindu-Malbazar/Siliguri route.