

5. RONGMESEK: AN EMERGING ECO TOURIST HUB





At a time where eco-tourism is becoming a craze amongst local tourists and visitors from outside Meghalaya, Rongmesek village is steadily emerging as an alternative go-to destination, in addition to the existing tourist attractions of Ribhoi District, Meghalaya.

Situated on a hilltop, Rongmesek village is located 3 Kms away from the Guwahati - Shillong highway. The Rongmesek Tourism Promotion Society, under the Chairmanship of its founder who is also the Headman of Rongmesek village, Shri. Albinus Timung has in recent years been trying to project the village as a tourist destination. The Society has been able to identify certain locations carrying socio-cultural and historical significance to the place, as potential tourist attractions. With government support, two such spots, namely Mawkyndur Peak and Phrut Dak Lake were recently opened to the public.

From among the many exotic locations that Rongmesek village is blessed with, the most prominent spots are Mawkyndur Peak, Phrut Dak Lake and Umnget Falls.

Mawkyndur Peak

Believed to be the dwelling place of the deity of Mawkyndur, the top of Mawkyndur Peak offers a panoramic view of almost half of the plains of Ri Bhoi. On a clear day, particularly in the period September- November of the year, a view of the Himalayas could also be vividly seen. From the top of the peak, all along its slope towards Mawshawing village, there is a footpath with monoliths erected on both sides by the forebears leading up to Mawsyntai village.

Phrut Dak Lake

It was said that the Phrut Dak Lake was initially built by the three clans of the area, namely, the Timung, Taro and Bey clans. Reconstruction and beautification of the lake was done through MNREGS in the year 2011- 12. The beautiful lake, situated amidst pristine surroundings, offers angling and boating facilities to the visitors.

Umnget Falls

Umnget falls is a natural waterfall located 4 Kms from the National Highway. On the other side of the waterfall, there is a beautiful cave and a fresh water underground lake where different varieties of fish gather during the winter months and dispersing from the place on the arrival of spring.

In spite of the challenges, the resolve of the villagers of Rongmesek is sure to bring desired dividends which would ensure that the socio-economic condition of the village is boosted through tourism.