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Tree homes in Parasnath soon

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Dhanbad: Like other tourist destinations in India, visitors to Parasnath will soon get to enjoy a luxurious stay complete with a night safari and other fun-filled activities amid the dense forests and hillocks on its foothills.

To promote eco-tourism, the state forest department has planned to build well-equipped tree houses in the forests on the foothills of the Parasnath hill as part of the Parasnath Action Plan (PAP). This apart, the department will also build small cottages and garden in the area.

A team of forest officers on Saturday visited the Jain shrine and identified nearly four hectares of land sprawled across the foothills for the same.

"Though the project is part of the PAP, it will be managed by the forest department. The department has already identified the plots along the foothills", said district programme officer (DPO), Dewesh Gautam, who is also the in-charge of the PAP in the district.

"We have sent an estimated cost of rupees five crore for the Tree House project, but now only Rs 75 lakh has been sanctioned," said the Giridih divisional forest officer (DFO), Kumar Ashish, adding that the department will initially build a tree house and three small cottages in the forest.

"As soon as the government releases the remaining fund, we will enhance the number of tree houses and cottages," the DFO added.

Gautam said a local-level committee will be constituted to look after management of the tree house, cottages and garden. The project will also provide the locals with a sustainable source of income.