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PRESS RELEASE

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CM opens Kaziranga National Park for 2020-21

Opening of KNP would help in revival of state's tourism industry: CM

Dispur, October 21: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today formally opened the Kaziranga National Park for the tourists for the year 2020-21. The jeep safari would be started from today in Kohora and Bagori ranges of the national park while other two ranges would be opened from November for the visitors where elephant safari will also be started.

Addressing the media persons on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that from today onwards the national park has been opened for tourists, both domestic and foreign and he hoped that Assam's tourism sector would be revived after the COVID-19 induced lockdown situation with the opening of Kaziranga National Park. He also expressed optimism that the unemployed youths in and around Kaziranga would find meaningful employment again through jeep safari and other tourism activities.

Referring to one time financial assistance provided to people engaged in jeep safari by the State government to alleviate their economic stress brought by COVID-19, Sonowal said that state government would take more such initiatives in future for providing succour to the people engaged in tourism sector of the State. He also called on the people of the five districts covered by Kaziranga National Park and the local communities residing in the surrounding areas of the park to extend full hospitality to the visitors coming from outside so that the best picture of State can be presented to the outside world.

The Chief Minister also highlighted achievement of the State government in stopping rhino poaching to a great extent in last four and half years and he thanked the people of the nearby areas for extending their full cooperation in eliminating poaching incidents. He also called on the people to maintain all COVID-19 protocols in visiting the Kaziranga National Park and other such places of tourists interest so that the spread of the pandemic can be contained.

He also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on Tuesday underlining the need to make conscious efforts by everyone to arrest the spread of COVID-19 during the forthcoming festival period and urged everyone associated with tourism sector of the State to strictly follow COVID-19 protocols issued by competent health authorities. He also

urged the media persons to spread the news of opening of Kaziranga National Park for the year 2020-21 so that tourists from various places of the country and abroad can come and enjoy the natural beauty of the park while also contributing to revival of Assam's tourism industry.

The Chief Minister also took a jeep safari into the national park and he was accompanied by local MLA of Bokakhat and Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta, Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, MLA Rituparna Baruah, PCCF (Wild Life) AM Singh among others.

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