



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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CM chairs 11th Meeting of State Board for Wildlife

Community involvement must for reducing man-animal conflict: CM

Dispur, Sept 4: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today chaired the 11th meeting of State Board for Wildlife, Assam at his conference room at Janata Bhawan. Issues related to preservation of wild life and bio-diversity in the state and reduction of man animal conflicts were discussed.

Saying that there should be a detailed study to mark the existing elephant corridors in the state, the chief minister said that local communities must be proactively involved in taking preventive measures for reducing man-elephant conflict. On being informed about initiatives such as creation of 'whatsapp' groups with railway staff, Forest Department officials and local community members for reducing incidents of elephant deaths on railway tracks, the chief minister appreciated such moves and called for sustained efforts in this regard.

Stressing on the need for amendments in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 for population control of elephants in the state, Sonowal said that unregulated pachyderm population and increased human pressure on the eco-system in the state have resulted in the scarcity of food for the elephants and their consequential venture into the human habitations and agricultural fields. He also suggested planting of banana trees and grasses in the reserve forests and other forest lands to meet the increased food requirement of the elephants.

He also underlined the necessity to regulate interstate elephant movement and transferring of state's elephants to other states and directed the Forest Department to ensure timely medical check-ups of the elephants by the veterinary doctors before being sent to other states on exchange.

Dwelling on the importance of making the young generation aware about their role in preservation of the environment and Assam's rich biodiversity, Sonowal directed the Forest Department to publish booklets on the state's environmental resources for distributing in the schools and colleges. Referring to the state government's aggressive drive to plant saplings in the state, Sonowal called for sensitisation campaign to make the youth take responsibility for environment protection. He also urged for increasing the green cover of Guwahati hills so that co-existence of wild life with human society could continue.

Elevated road project at Kaziranga National park or the flyover construction over a 38.84 km stretch of National Highway 37 passing through the Park also came up for discussion



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and the chief minister directed to ensure submission of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the same within October this year by PWD (NH Works). Once complete, it would be one of the top tourist attractions in the country and a prime example for wild life conservation initiatives, he remarked.

Increase of remuneration for fixed pay frontline employees of the Forest Department, swift payment of ex-gratia to the victims of man animal conflict, raising the amount of ex-gratia to the families of forest guards killed on duty by wild animals, sterilisation of monkeys as a measure of its population control were some of the other issues discussed in the meeting.

Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, MLAs Mrinal Saikia, Chakradhar Gogoi and Thaneswar Basumatary, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sanjay Lohia, Principal Conservator of Forest A.M. Singh were also present in the meeting along with other Board members.

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