

## **Actions & achievements of Wildlife Board reviewed**

Efforts should be made to refurbish Trishna sanctuary to draw the nature lovers of the country as well as foreign tourists. Aiming at this, the forest department should be pro-active to introduce spectacle monkey point, log-hut, lake boating etc., said the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb in a webinar of Wildlife Board held yesterday.

The chief minister added, to protect forest from destruction, the community leaders also have to play responsible roles. He advised the forest department to rename the forest areas according to their local names. This will infuse interest in the local people to protect the forests around them. Additionally he directed the forest department to generate alternative income source for those who are cutting trees for livelihood.

The principal chief conservator of forest D.K. Sharma presented an overview of the actions taken on the decisions of the last board meeting. He informed, as per the latest decisions, birdwing species of butterfly has been declared State Butterfly. Besides, two-day Hornbill Festival has been organized in February, this year; approval has been received

from the National Wildlife Board for installation of two 33 KV power substations in Barpathari and Nidaya forest areas under Trishna sanctuary. Moreover, site has been identified for developing Bison Conservation Park in Patichhari.

The PCCF also said, Vulture Breeding Programme has been launched in Mungiakami under the aegis of forest department. Under this ten-year long programme Rs. 1 crore will be spent every year. Under the scheme the central government has already sanctioned Rs. 51 lakh as its first installment. To prevent elephant attacks in Mungiakami area an Elephant Anti-Depradation Camp will be established. The chief minister asked the department to consider how to compensate the farmers whose crops are affected by elephants.

The webinar was also attended by the forest minister Mewar Kumar Jamatia, principal secretary of forest department Varun Kumar Sahu, principal secretary to the chief minister J.K. Sinha, chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of eight districts' Wildlife Board, and other members of the Board.

## **Eco-friendly lights launched: vocal for local emphasized**

Keeping the Prime Minister's 'vocal for local' slogan ahead women of different

areas are moving towards self-sufficiency (Atmnirbhar). A mental spirit is getting built up on self-sufficiency. And only self-reliant people can build a self-reliant or Atmnirbhar state, stated the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb after launching the eco-friendly lights made by the women of a self-help groups in Nalchhar and Mohanbhog block, at the state secretariat yesterday.

These women groups have not only made bamboo-based lights, but also have commercially produced jiggery from locally available sugarcane and pineapple jelly. On this, the chief minister, appreciating the initiative of these groups, has said that endeavour at using bamboo of Tripura in multiple ways has continued. As this bamboo-based cottage industry has immense potential the state government is working towards its development. DM, Sepahijala Vishwashree B. and BDO of Mohanbhog were also present on this occasion.

#### **MGNREGA activities in Kakraban block**

A total of 4,05,451 mandays have been generated in Kakraban block under MGNREGA during the current financial year till now. Different works have been implemented in 17 gram panchayat under five villages of the block under the

scheme. An amount of Rs. 11,83,51,000 has been spent in implementation of these works. Pond-digging, land leveling, construction of irrigation canal and barrage for flood control, raising orchard, etc. have been done in these gram panchayats. In average 33.17 mandays have been generated through these activities. On the other hand, houses have been constructed for 119 families of the block under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana during the last financial year. Rs. 1 lakh 30 thousand has been spent for each unit of house.

#### **Assistance for animal husbandry in Khowai district**

The animal resources development department has provided financial assistance to six people of Teliamura and Kalyanpur blocks under Rashtriya Kishan Vikas Yojana during the current financial year. This assistance has been provided for making the rural people self-sufficient through animal husbandry. The assistance was for piggery and the beneficiaries were from Darikapur, Kalyanpur, and East Kunjaban gram panchayats of Kalyanpur block and Maiganga, Gamaibari, Moharchera gram panchayats of Teliamura block. Assistant director of the animal resources development department Dr. Uttam Saha has informed this.