

EASTMOJO

Assam: Forest cover increases to 222 sq km; govt to plant 10 cr saplings

33 high lands erected in Kaziranga for wild animals to take refuge during seasonal floods, announces CM Sarbananda Sonowal

Team EastMojo, Jul 25, 2020

Guwahati: Announcing that the forest coverage of the state has increased to 222 sq km, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the state government has taken steps to plant 10 crore saplings and has already erected 33 high lands in Kaziranga for the wild animals to take refuge during seasonal floods. Chief minister Sonowal also announced to set up a forest division for Borail forest range in Barak valley and asked the forest department to take necessary steps in this regard. Meanwhile, in a move to intensify surveillance and rein in man-animal conflict by the state forest department, chief minister Sonowal unveiled a surveillance quadcopter (drone) and an anti-depredation quick response vehicle at a programme held at the conference hall of chief minister's block in Janata Bhawan here. With the inauguration of the vehicle, an intensified 24X7 surveillance would be made possible over the forest cover of the state helping to rein in the increasing incidents of man-animal conflict. This surveillance drone would be able to narrow-cast any purported movement of the poachers and would delve a blow to poaching in the national parks, wild life sanctuaries and other reserve forests. Under this new initiative, the forest department introduces three numbers of special surveillance quadcopter and an anti-depredation quick response vehicle in the state.

Assam minister Pijush Hazarika planted around 6,000 Ezar trees (*Lagerstroemia Speciosa*) from Kahikuchi to Thekeraguri on NH 37 covering around 40 KMs recently Twitter

Speaking on the occasion, chief minister Sonowal said that the 21st century is the century of information and technology. In this century making good use of science and technology, the forest department has been taking several steps to intensify surveillance over the forest cover and thwart any purported move of poaching and illegal forest trade.

He also announced that his government in the last few years has apprehended 259 poachers. Moreover, starting its actions against encroachment of forest land, his government recovered 502 hectare land from the clutch of the illegal encroachers.



Source: <https://www.eastmojo.com/assam/2020/07/25/assam-forest-cover-increases-to-222-sq-km-govt-to-plant-10-cr-saplings>