

## Cycle Rally for conservation of wildlife in Kaziranga Park areas



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A cycle rally was set on the roll at Bokakhat this morning with an objective to generate awareness among the masses for conservation of precious wildlife in Kaziranga National Park and its fringe areas in Assam. The rally has been organised by Aaranyak, a society working for bio-diversity conservation in association with Upatyaka, a conservation organization and State Forest Department.

The rally which will culminate on January 5 at Garhpal, Sootea in Sonitpur district in the North Bank of Brahmaputra, was flagged off today at Bokakhat by local MLA Arun Phukan in presence of Kaziranga NP Director N.K. Vasu, prominent citizens of Bokakhat, officer-in-charge of Bokakhat Police station, Secretary general Dr Bibhab Talukdar and other officials/members of Aaranyak.

The cycle rally which is supported by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, will travel to the north bank of river Brahmaputra through Kaziranga NP spreading conservation awareness in villages in the next three days.

About 25 cyclists comprising of youth from fringe villages of Kaziranga NP participated in the rally. Bokakhat MLA, Arun Phukan while flagging off the rally appreciated the effort and underlined the need to further raise the awareness level among the people to ensure safety on wild animals of Kaziranga NP.

N.K. Vasu, Director of Kaziranga NP said that youth can play pivotal role in creating awareness for conservation of wildlife and offered his best wishes to cyclists so that they can achieve their goal.

Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Secretary General of Aaranyak stated the purpose of the cycle rally was to reach out fringe villagers of Kaziranga NP especially those in North Bank of river Brahmaputra. He mentioned that Aaranyak intended to create a young team around Kaziranga NP, along with its partner organisations to organise more such awareness cum education camps in near future.

The rally will reach Bishwanath Ghat this evening and will be flagged from there on second day by former minister Nurjamal Sarkar. It will culminate at Garhpal in Sootea on January 5.

The cycle rally will be associated with staging of street plays, holding of awareness meeting and showing documentary films along the route on the theme of wildlife conservation. MLA of Bishwanath Chariali, Prabin Hazarika and MLA of Sootea Padma Hazarika are scheduled grace the concluding function at Garhpal Gorkha Bhawan in Sootea on the afternoon of January 5. Officials and staff of Forest Department of Assam have been very helpful towards the event.

**Dr M Firoz Ahmed**

**Publicity Secretary, Aaranyak**

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editor

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