

Elephant calf rescued near Assam-Arunachal borde



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Jayanta Kumar Das 23 December 2012 Updated 23 Dec 9704 views

A two months old wild elephant calf (male) was rescued which had been found near Assam-Arunachal border on December 17. According to information the Sarkari Gaonburah of Sikaridanga village informed forest officials of Mazbat Range Office about the presence of a lone wild elephant calf in the morning of December 17. A forest rescue team headed by MP Sarma, ACF, Dhansiri Forest Division rescued the calf on the same day at 12.30 pm.

Another rescue team headed by Dr.Abhijit Bhawal of Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WTI) Kaziranga arrived at Mazbat in the evening to take care of the calf. According to them the calf could have been accidentally sliding down from Arunachal hills. Rescue team unsuccessfully tried to reunite the calf with its mother in the night and in the morning hours of December 18 at Dimachang and Sikaridanga near Arunachal hills. Neither its mother nor its herd could be located. Finally the calf was taken to Kaziranga Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre of WTI in the afternoon of December 18. Dr.Rathin Barman,Director,of the rescue centre told this correspondent on December 22, that the baby elephant was in good health responding to its treatment.

Jayanta Kumar Das

Environmental journalist.

BY JAYANTA KUMAR DAS

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Training on mental health support for flood-hit communities begins in Jorhat



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AT News 12 October 2026 252 views

GUWAHATI, October 12, 2026 — A five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on mental health and psychosocial support for flood-affected communities began at Bosco Institute in Jorhat on October 9, bringing together more than 40 young people representing organisations and flood-affected communities across Assam.

The programme, being held from October 9 to 13, is a joint initiative of the Inter Agency Group (IAG), Jorhat, a humanitarian coordination platform of local organisations, and Bosco Institute, Jorhat. It aims to strengthen the capacity of local organisations, community volunteers and frontline workers to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by floods and other disasters.

Participants from various flood-affected districts are being trained to share their knowledge and skills with community members, volunteers and frontline workers in their respective areas, helping build a wider network of local support.

The sessions are being facilitated by Dr Subhasis Bhadra and Dr Ajay Kumar Goyal of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS). The training covers psychological distress, basic psychosocial support and appropriate responses to the needs of disaster-affected people.

Speaking at the inaugural programme, Bosco Institute Director Fr Jerry Thomas said disaster recovery involved more than rebuilding homes and restoring livelihoods, as people also needed to regain a sense of safety, dignity and hope. He said the initiative sought to equip young people and local organisations to recognise psychosocial needs and provide timely and compassionate support.

Tirtha Prasad Saikia, convenor of IAG, Jorhat, said mental health and psychosocial support should be an integral part of humanitarian response.

Flood-affected communities often continue to experience emotional and psychological distress long after floodwaters recede, he said, adding that the initiative aimed to build a network of trained local resource persons who could bring support closer to affected communities.

The organisers noted that the impact of floods extends beyond the immediate loss of homes, livelihoods and assets. Fear, anxiety, grief, stress and uncertainty can persist for months, particularly among children, women, older people and families affected by repeated displacement and livelihood losses.

The training also seeks to strengthen referral pathways for people who require specialised mental health services, while developing local capacities to support communities during emergencies and the recovery phase.

At the conclusion of the programme on October 13, participants are expected to take their learning back to their respective organisations and communities, contributing to stronger community-based mental health and psychosocial support across flood-affected areas of Assam.

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