

**A Report on**  
**International Day for Biological Diversity,**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014**

The Assam State Biodiversity Board celebrated the “International day for Biological Diversity” on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014 on the theme of “Island Biodiversity” at Dhaniala Range Office Campus, Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, a river Island of Brahmaputra situated in the Sonitpur District of Assam. This function was jointly organized by Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) and the Assam Forest Department. The event was sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai. The Hon’ble Minister (Environment & Forests), Assam who was to be the Chief Guest for the function could not attend due to his last minute engagement elsewhere. Chairman - Assam State Biodiversity Board, Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam presided over the function.

The other dignitaries on the dais included the Shri V.K. Vishnoi, IFS, PCCF & HoFF-Assam, Dr. A.K. Goswami, Member-ASBB, Shri Sahajananda Ojah, Chairman, Laokhowa & Burhachapori Conservation Society, Shri Lalit Gogoi, Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur District, Shri Nurul Huda, President, Nagaon Zilla Parishad and Shri A. K. Johari, CCF-Biodiversity & Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board.

Dr Ranjana Gupta, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wetlands) welcomed the Guests. Shri A.K. Johari, CCF (Biodiversity & CC) & Member Secretary-ASBB made an introductory presentation explaining the significance of the theme of the function.

As part of the celebrations, Painting and Quiz competitions for fringe village school children were organized for generating awareness amongst the school children and local people. About 2200 school children from 58 different government schools participated in the competitions. A state level photography competition was also organized as part of the occasion.

The function was also attended by Additional PCCFs, CCFs, CFs, all local DFOs, ACFs and Range Forest Officers of the Forests Department. Representatives of Government Departments such as Agriculture, Fishery, Horticulture, Veterinary & Educational Institutions, several NGOs, Presidents & Members of Anchalik Panchayats and Members of Biodiversity Management Committees of Sonitpur, Nagaon and Morigaon Districts, EDC members and over 500 school children and local people attended the function.

**Main events of the function included:**

1. **Photography Exhibition** – displaying all 157 entries received in the State level Photography Competition and other Wildlife & Biodiversity photographs by several amateur photographers.
2. **Release of publications:**
  - a. Booklet: “*Wonder Island Burhachapori*”, giving a glimpse of Island Biodiversity of Burhachapori with photographs and illustrations.
  - b. Assamese translation of the story book: “*The Land where the sticker tree grows*” by Malvika Tewari published in English by the NBA.
  - c. Special Calendar on “*200 birds of Laokhowa & Burhachapori Wild Life Sanctuaries*” by the Nagaon Wildlife Division.
3. **Release of a Documentary film** “*Blue-tailed Bee-eaters of Burhachapori*”.
4. **Address by Dignitaries** Shri V.K. Vishnoi, IFS, PCCF & HoFF-Assam, Dr. A.K. Goswami, Member-ASBB, Shri Sahajananda Ojah, Chairman, Laokhowa & Burhachapori Conservation Society, Shri Lalit Gogoi, Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur District and Shri Nurul Huda, President, Nagaon Zilla Parishad.
5. **Award of prizes:**
  - a. Photography Competition
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize : Cash prize of Rs 5000 & Certificate
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Cash prize of Rs 3000 & Certificate
    - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize : Cash prize of Rs 2000 & Certificate
    - iv. Appreciation Certificate to another 10 best entries.

- b. Painting Competition (Total Participants : 1507)
  - i. Group A: Class I - III (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Consolation prizes)
  - ii. Group B: Class IV - VI (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Consolation prizes)
  - iii. Group C: Class VII - IX (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Consolation prizes)
  - iv. Group D: Class X- XII (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Consolation prizes)
- c. Quiz Competition: (Total Participants : 696; 348 teams of 2 students each, from Class VI – X: - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Consolation prizes)

Each winner of the competitions was given a Certificate, Memento and a Prize in the form of a school bag containing story book, GK book, notepads, pen, pencil and colour pencil etc. All the participants were given a Certificate of participation.

- 6. **Field visit:** About 100 children participating in the final rounds of Quiz and Painting Competitions were taken on a field visit to the Burhachapori WLS for their exposure to Island biodiversity.

## Few Photographs of the Event



Chief Guest Addressing the function



PCCF & HoFF Addressing the function



CCF (Wetlands) giving the Welcome Address at the unction



Member Secretary-ASBB giving the introductory presentation



Release of the Booklet "Wonder Island Burhachapori by Chief Guest at the function



Release of the Story Book in Assamese by Chief Guest at the function

## Few Photographs of the Event

### Exhibition of the Photographs and Painting at the Function



Exhibition of Paintings



Exhibition of Photographs



Award winning photos of the Competition



Photograph entries of the Competition



DFO Nagaon (WL) briefing about the Competitions



Officials at the Exhibition

**Few Photographs of the Event**

**Prize Distribution for award winning students at the function**



Prize winners of Painting competition



Prize winners of Painting competition



Prize winners of Quiz competition



Prize winners of Quiz competition



Best School Prize winners of Quiz competition



Best School Prize winner of Painting competition

## Few Photographs of the Event

### Quiz Competition (Preliminary & Final Round)



Preliminary Round of Quiz competition



Preliminary Round of Quiz competition



Final Preliminary Round of Quiz competition



DFO interacting with the Participants



Final Round of Quiz competition



Final Round of Quiz competition

**Few Photographs of the Event**

**Painting Competition (Preliminary & Final Round)**



Preliminary Round of Painting competition



Preliminary Round of Painting competition



Preliminary Round of Painting competition



Preliminary Round of Painting competition



Final Round of Painting competition



Final Round of Painting competition