

**Minutes of 18th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 25th July, 2016
at Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, C-Block Assam Secretariat, Dispur**

The 18th Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board was presided over by Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam and Chairperson of the Assam State Biodiversity Board. A list the members and invitees present in this meeting is at **Annexure-1**

After welcoming the members and invitees present in the meeting the Chairman requested the Member Secretary of the Board to initiate Agenda-wise discussions. The Agenda-wise proceedings and decisions are as under:

1. The Minutes of the 17th Board Meeting were confirmed.
2. The Board was informed of the actions taken on agenda of previous meeting as below:
 - i. Under the Biodiversity Research Associate Program (BRAP) 52 Fellows have been engaged of which 10 were presently working with the Board.
On this matter the Board decided that:
 - a. More students shall be engaged under BRAP or for Internship by the Board.
 - b. Students from all the fields may be considered.
 - c. All the selected candidates shall be given a familiarizing-training on biodiversity issues. They shall be exposed to functioning of the Board and that of the BMCs.
 - d. The duration of engagement shall be made flexible e.g. form one month to 3 months, so that larger section of students may be sensitized about biodiversity related issues.
 - ii. The following proposals were under consideration the Government:
 - a. Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
 - b. Organizational structure and draft Service Regulation of the Board.
 - iii. Documentary "Biodiversity of Assam" was presented to Prince William and Princess Kate Middleton during their visit to Assam in April 2016. The other documentary "Amulya Jaibabaichitra" was being translated into English.
 - iv. Both the documentaries have been distributed to the Managers of Protected Areas and to the BMCs for screening during orientation workshops and capacity building of the EDCs.
 - v. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has initiated preparation of Assam Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (ABSAP).
 - vi. The Protocol developed for Notification of Threatened Taxa was presented to the Board. *The Board suggested that:*
 - a. The process may be initiated as suggested.

