

Assam: Raimona reserve forest named sixth national park in state

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Figure 1 Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Raimona reserve forest has been upgraded as the sixth national park of the state. (Photo: PTI)

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Raimona reserve forest in Kokrajhar district under the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), bordering Bhutan, has been upgraded as the sixth national park of the state.

He tweeted, “A landmark step in environment restoration by Govt of Assam. On #WorldEnvironmentDay, a reserve forest in BTR has been declared as Raimona National Park. The newly declared National Park will be another addition to the state's endeavour in preserving its rich flora and fauna.”

The other five national parks in the state are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

The Raimona National Park, which is within the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), is part of a contiguous forest patch with an area of 422 square kilometres, covering the northern part of the notified Ripu Reserve Forest along the Indo-Bhutan border. It is home to golden langur, Asian elephants, tigers, clouded leopards, Indian gaur, wild buffalo, spotted deer, hornbill, more than 150 species of butterflies, 170 species of birds and 380 varieties of plants and orchids.

Assam Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya has confirmed that Dehing Patkai will also be converted into a national park.

He tweeted, “It's a red letter day for Assam with announcement of Raimona National Park by Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. @himantabiswa on the #WorldEnvironmentDay2021 at Gandhi Mandap. With this new addition, the state has six national parks.”

All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) appreciated the Assam government's decision to declare Raimona reserve forest as the sixth national park in the state.

In a statement, ABSU general secretary Khanindra Basumatary said, “ABSU has expressed gratitude to the Assam government for such rich declaration to conserve the biodiversity of Raimona and bring to the face of the world community with its rich wild lives.”

The new national park will open up huge opportunities for ecotourism for the fringe villagers, who currently are partially or totally dependent on forest resources for their livelihood.

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/assam-raimona-reserve-forest-named-sixth-national-park-in-state-1811368-2021-06-06>