

# Experts plead for conservation of biodiversity

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**Patna:** Amid growing concerns over the loss of biodiversity, state officials and experts on Monday called for preserving biological resources for the well-being of future generations. This appeal came on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, which adopted the theme 'From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity' this year.

Secretary of Bihar State Biodiversity Board (BSBB), K Ganesh Kumar, underscored the need for collective action to protect and preserve Bihar's biodiversity. "Preserving biodiversity is crucial for the well-being of our future generations and for maintaining a healthy ecosystem," he said.

Kumar also stressed the significance of surveying and identifying Bihar's bio resources as a precursor to conservation efforts. He advocated for the cultivation of indigenous mango varieties, such as Biju, over other varieties like Kalmi. "Pressure groups from different regions of Bi-



Winners of the art and photography competitions show their certificates and mementos during a prize distribution function in Patna on Monday

har, including Mithila and Bhojpur, should strive for geo-tagging unique products from their respective areas," he said.

On the occasion, the BSBB also organised a prize distribution ceremony for art and photography competitions focused on biodiversity at Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park. The competitions, which was organised on May 19, saw participation from around 11,000 students representing 35 schools, including city schools

like St Michael's High School, Loyola High School, St Xavier's High School and Don Bosco Academy.

The art competition was divided into three groups, each with a distinct theme: Group A for classes I to IV focused on "Butterfly on Flower," Group B for classes V to VIII centered around "Frog on Leaf," and Group C for Classes IX to XII explored the theme of "Leaping Cheetah."

The 15th UN Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Bio-

logical Diversity concluded in December with an agreement on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

"The focus must now shift to the implementation of this framework for the benefit of the global community," said Mani Bhushan Jha, a senior associate at WRI, India Climate Program.

"Usage of 'Marcha rice', 'C Bhog' and 'Sona Chur' in the state should be promoted along with indigenous plants while doing the planning exercise," he said. He added that he recently held Vat-Savitri festival, a unique and distinctive traditional biodiversity conservation practices gaining momentum.

"Humans have exploited biodiversity the most out of our planet and this century has the greatest impact on it. Now, we need to be vigilant and make sure we do not further encroach on biodiversity reserves," said Asst. Director and HoD (Research) at the Institute and