



Speech

of

Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram

On The Occasion of

International Clouded Leopard Day

At

Conference Hall, Dept. of Education
Mizoram University

On

05th August, 2024

- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Dear Friends

It is my pleasure to stand before you today on the occasion of International Clouded Leopard Day 2024. As we gather here in the beautiful state of Mizoram, we are reminded of the incredible natural heritage that our region is blessed with, and the responsibility we have to protect it for future generations.

The clouded leopard, with its enigmatic beauty and elusive nature, holds a special place in the rich tapestry of our biodiversity. This magnificent creature, which roams the dense forests of our state, symbolizes the pristine wilderness that we are fortunate to call home. However, it also stands as a poignant reminder of the challenges we face in conserving our wildlife amidst growing threats from habitat loss, poaching, and climate change.

Today, as we celebrate International Clouded Leopard Day, we reaffirm our commitment to the conservation of this majestic species and the ecosystems they inhabit. The theme for this year, "Conserving the Elusive," highlights the need for concerted efforts to protect not only the clouded leopard but also the myriad of other species that share its habitat.

In Mizoram, we are proud of the strides we have made in wildlife conservation. Our forests are teeming with life, and our conservation initiatives are setting examples for others to follow. The Mizoram State Forest Department, in collaboration with various national and international conservation organizations, has been working tirelessly to ensure the survival of the clouded leopard and other endangered species.

However, the journey is far from over. It is imperative that we continue to strengthen our efforts. This means enhancing our protected areas, investing in research and monitoring, and fostering community involvement in conservation activities. The people of Mizoram have always had a deep connection with nature, and it is this bond that will drive our conservation successes.

Education and awareness are also crucial. By fostering a greater understanding of the clouded leopard's role in our ecosystem, we can inspire a new generation of conservationists. Schools, colleges, and community groups must come together to spread the message of conservation and sustainability.

On this day, let us also acknowledge the unsung heroes of wildlife conservation—the forest guards, researchers, and local communities who work tirelessly on the front lines. Their dedication and passion are invaluable assets in our quest to protect our natural heritage.

As we celebrate the clouded leopard today, let us remember that the fight for conservation is not just about protecting a single species.

It is about preserving the intricate web of life that sustains us all. By safeguarding our wildlife, we are ensuring a healthier, more balanced world for future generations.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to the conservation of the clouded leopard.

Your efforts are making a difference, and together, we can build a future where humans and wildlife coexist in harmony.

Thank you and let us continue to work together for the protection of our precious natural world.

Jai Hind!