

Exposure Trip for Students from Manas National Park Fringes by Aaranyak

Guwahati 15 June: In an endeavour to promote environmental knowledge and conservation consciousness among the school going students from the fringe areas of Manas National Park, Aaranyak has started a series of field exposure visits from the month of June. The programme, at its inaugural phase will cover 10 schools from the areas falling under the Panbari, Bhuyanpara and Bansbari ranges of the natural heritage site. As a part of the exposure programme, 15 students and one teacher from each of the 10 schools will be taken inside the pristine forest ecosystems of the national park for gathering first-hand knowledge about the park and its biodiversity apart from discussion on its importance, global significance and ecological role. The initiative has been started with the students of Daudhara High School, Baksa on 8th of June, 2019.

As a part of the initiative, the students will be taught on various aspects of environmental conservation. Bird hunting being a common practice among the teenagers and students of the locality, the programme will also cover few of the students involved in such activities and thus, this exposure trip will also aim at changing their behavioural pattern from bird hunting to bird watching and admiring, so that later on they can influence their peers to conservation of species in the national park. As a part of the programme, these students from each of the schools will start a nature lover club in their respective schools and take up various activities to increase environmental awareness and education within the school. The exposure visit, which will continue up to the month of July, also aims at creating a cadre of new generation conservationists in the landscape, so that the park and its ecosystem can be protected and conserved for the future generation.

The programme has been taken up by Aaranyak in Manas Landscape with support from Stop Poaching Now (SPN), an US based charity organisation dedicated to the cause of wildlife conservation. Manas Tiger Conservation Programme (MTCP) led by Aaranyak in the Manas Landscape in association with Forest Department BTC, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Panthera and Awely has also supported the student exposure programme.

[Issued by Udayan Borthakur, Publicity Secretary, Aaranyak]

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