

PRESS RELEASE

Mission LiFE Campaign Sensitizes masses in Guwahati

Guwahati, May 31: The Regional Office Guwahati Pollution Control Board of Assam (PCBA) joined hands with Guwahati Wildlife Division of Assam, and region's leading biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak (www.aaranyak.org) and Parijat Academy to organise two cleanliness drives and sensitisation programmes under Mission LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment, in Guwahati.

On 27 May the event was organised around Deepor Beel- a Ramsar site in Guwahati Assam, which was attended by Er. Gokul C Bhuyan, Additional Chief Environmental Engineer, HI, Regional Office Assam, Pollution Control Board, representatives from Aaranyak, officials from Guwahati Wildlife Division, and students and teachers from Parijat Academy, Guwahati.

The Deepor Beel, located around 10 km southwest of Guwahati, spans across 900 ha area Deepor Beel, and considered the largest wetland ecosystems in the Brahmaputra River valley. The wetland is primarily fed by the Kalmani and Basistha rivers, which carry sediment and nutrients into the beel, and thus supporting a rich biodiversity. It provides an excellent habitat and nesting sites to resident birds, and harbours an impressive diversity of winter migratory birds. It is a crucial elephant corridor, and provide livelihood to the local communities residing around its fringes.

During the event, Er. Gokul C Bhuyan emphasized on the need to adopt sustainable practices such as drip irrigation, talked about the importance of water conservation. He mentioned how a recent official raid jointly by PCBA and GMC helped seized Around 10 tonnes of single-use plastic. While, Aaranyak's Madhumita Borthakur, a senior GIS Analyst, provided insights on the need of organising such outreach programme. This was followed by a Mission LiFE pledge by all the participants present. Thereafter, the cleanliness drive was undertaken around Deepor Beel watchtower, which resulted in collection of four sacks full with plastic waste. These wastes will be disposed off properly by the PCBA. Parijat Academy's Seuti Teron shared the inspiring story of Parijat Academy founded by Uttom Teron, who is a recipient of the CNN IBN Real Heroes Award in 2002, and extended a heartfelt thank you for organising the event.

The second event in the series was organised at 10th mile, Khanapara Range of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary on 29 which was joined in by Adarsh Hindi Vidyapeeth High School. The programme sensitised the students, local youths and other representatives of the local community to practice a sustainable and harmonious lifestyle around protected areas. The programme was presided over by Mr. Bhuyan, in presence of Mahendra Lal Deb, Principal of the school forest officials from Khanapara Range and Avishek Sarkar from Aaranyak. The cleanliness drive was carried out in and around the Khanapara range by the students, members from local communities, officials from forest department, PCBA and Aaranyak.

*Press statement issued by Dr Alolika Sinha, Publicity Secretary, Aaranyak.
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