

Brahmaputra River Dolphin Day on October 24



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Aaranyak is organizing a series of awareness programme as part of its 'Brahmaputra River Dolphin Day, 2011' on the occasion of the International Fresh Water Dolphin Day, i.e. 24th October. The programme is focused on spreading information and knowledge among the general public including students about Gangetic Dolphin (called "Xihu" in Assam), the National and State Aquatic Animal.

The programme is being organized in association with Zoological Society of London (ZSL), UK, for the first time in Assam. The programme will begin at 9.30 A.M on October 23rd at Sudmersion Hall, Cotton College with an interaction of children/ students. Interaction with experts on conservation of River Dolphin, Dr. Raj Amin of Zoological Society of London and Dr. Abdul Wakid, Head of Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Initiative, Aaranyak.

The interaction will be followed by a quiz on “Dolphin and freshwater ecosystem.” Students from Class VIII to XII standard from different schools and colleges will participate in the programme. The focal theme will be ‘Gangetic Dolphin and Fresh Water Ecosystem’ and there will be sub themes:

- Evolution & origin of River Dolphin
- Ecology of Gangetic dolphin
- Myths and beliefs related to them
- Creative arts related to dolphins: Literature, movies, music, drama etc.
- Present status and conservation issues.

It is worth to mention that any interested persons can join into the Quiz cum Interaction on the very day. The next phase of the programme will be held on October 24, the International River Dolphin Day, at Kukurmara on the bank of River Kulsi, the hub of Gangetic Dolphin in Kamrup district. The programme for the day is called “A Day with Dolphin at Kulsi River”.

It will basically revolve around young students/children of Kukurmara area, who will be facilitated with an interaction with experts and experienced conservationists on various aspects of conservation and ecosystem of River Dolphin.

The students will be participating in a group discussion on threats posed to Gangetic River Dolphin. They will also stage drama focused on various conservation issues to the State aquatic animal. A drama troupe of Salil Kanika will stage a performance at the public hall at Kukurmara in the afternoon of October 24th with the focus on conservation of River Dolphin and its ecosystem.

The series of programme will finally come to an end with stage show on River Dolphin conservation and threats posed to it at District Library auditorium in Guwahati from 4-30 to 7-30 P.M. on October 30th. The show will include a drama performance by Salil's group.

Salil Kanika is one of the few renowned personalities in the field of Conservation Drama in the world. His group will perform drama on various places in the state including Kamrup, Tinsukia, and Dibrugarh from October 24th to 30th.

editor

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