

World Environment Day Celebrated at Kaziranga



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Aaranyak, a society for Biodiversity conservation in NE India and the Numaligarh Refinery Limited celebrated the World Environment Day on June 5 in a unique way simultaneously at 11 locations with as many events around the world famous Kaziranga National Park. The programme included audio-visual awareness talk, environmental games and more attracting street play on environmental pollution, loss of nature and natural resources due to negative behaviour of human being.

The natural world is a wonderful gift we have inherited and adorned with the resources we and our future generation are dependent on. The world's Natural Environment is in danger due to negative human behaviour that undermines the natural process. Correcting the harmful behaviour is the only means that human race would sustain on this earth for times to come.

Keeping this in mind we need to raise good stewards of the environment to care for issues like resource depletion, environmental pollution, land degradation, species extinctions and large scale deforestation. The spiritual connection to the Earth teaches children that they are a part of nature and must take care of both their surroundings and other people.

The day was started with a street play in the morning hours at the Bokakhat ASTC campus in the heart of the town where Mr Mrigesh Narayan Baruah, SDO (Civil) and senior forest officials from Kaziranga National Park, Mr N K Vasu, Director and Mr S K Seal Sarma, DFO were present. Mr. Baruah, SDO Civil lauded the effort of Aarnayak for its effort to create aware and responsible band of citizens of the state as well as effort of the Numaligarh Refinery Limited as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Mr Vasu, Director, Kaziranga NP expressed concern that the people were becoming greedy and hungry for natural resources all over and the same is also hurting the Kaziranga NP. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Seal Sarma, DFO, Kaziranga also expressed that if we the people do not come forward to save the environment and wildlife no one else can help save the animals and their habitat.

The recent trend of rhino poaching and involvement of younger generation in such crime is a major cause of concern for the authority. He appealed to the concerned citizen to come forward to assist the authorities in saving the pride of Assam, the one-horned Rhino in Kaziranga. All the events were also graced by several eminent citizens from different localities as well as local media.

Multiplying love and care for nature by creating awareness among the present and future generation is the sole purpose of this awareness campaign in the fringe areas of the Kaziranga National Park and around the Numaligarh Refinery, Golaghat. The first phase of the campaign had two components on the June 5- Street Play and School awareness.

School Awareness: Six schools -- DPS Numaligarh, Numaligarh High School, Bokakhat HS School, Diffolupathar High School, Kaziranga High School and Bagori High School -- were covered to create environmental awareness amongst the students and teachers. Six programme carried out simultaneously by three teams of experts from Aaranyak including M Firoz Ahmed, Dipankar Lahkar and Arif Hussain.

Street Drama: Five locations were selected to perform environmental and biodiversity conservation related street plays that included, Telgaram, Numaliharh, Bokakhat, Kuthori and Kohora. Trained and experienced performing artistes scripted and performed the drama that attempted to convey clear message on affects of environment pollution and the role people can play to minimize it. A dance song on earth was also performed before the drama by a team of young dancer led by Dipen Nath. The drama team was lead by Dibyajyoti Bora.

Secretary General of Aaranyak, Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar expressed his happiness saying the team of Aaranyak has tried very hard to make the people aware about environment and nature conservation around the park and the same would be continued until all the people are assisting the conservation of our animals and habitat.

The programme was coordinated by Mr.Uttam Saikia, Senior Journalists from Bokakhat and Mr Swapan Nath, Senior Journalist from Kohora. They played a pivotal role in selection of the drama, songs, target audience as local experts. The team also included Mr Ashok Dey of Aaranyak as overall coordinator of the events, while Mr Rehan Ali, Nirranjan Bhuyan and Ms Binita Baruwati volunteered in executing the events.

The Team Aaranyak conducted total 17 environmental awareness programmes all over Assam including several programmes in schools, colleges and in villages reaching several thousand populations directly and indirectly in the state.

It is worth mentioning that Aaranyak has been working for the last 24 years on various environmental issues with diverse impact on our society. Its tireless efforts have helped in creating a positive scenario in the region's conservation movement and it has been instrumental in protecting many of the endangered species of the region like rhino, elephant and tiger through its intervention. For the last many years it has been working in Kaziranga National Park (KNP) creating awareness, ensuring protection to animals and habitats by complimenting the management and trying to reduce the human wildlife conflict by organizing awareness meet.

Aaranyak is also planning to organize more such environmental awareness campaigns during the upcoming months all over the state.

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BY DR M FIROZ AHMED

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