

Aaranyak observes Dolphin Day on the bank of Kulsi River



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Dolphin Day observed by Aaranyak at Kukurmara on the bank of Kulsi River in Kamrup district today evoked overwhelming response from the local community of the area.

Dolphin Day was observed by Aaranyak which is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO), under its Gangetic (River) Dolphin Research and Conservation Initiative to raise the level of awareness among the community on the urgent need for conservation of the endangered species of river dolphin.

Kukurmara was selected for the purpose as it is located on the bank of Kulsi River where at least 30 species of the endangered national aquatic animal reside and is an important site for river dolphin conservation. The programme was conducted in collaboration with Kamrup West Forest Division.

Today's awareness programmes also coincided with culmination of Aaranyak's innovative 'Dolphin Yatra' conducted along the course of Kulsi river.

The awareness programme started today with presentation of posters among the students. Over 100 students also took part in drawing competition organised on the occasion in three categories. Three awards were given to student participants in each of the three categories.

Twenty-two members of the community were felicitated on the occasion for their valued support for dolphin conservation efforts especially to boatmen, community youth who actively participated in dolphin yatra programme.

A public meeting was held during 2 P.M. to 4 P.M to discuss issues related to river dolphin conservation. Some more community members were felicitated in the meeting that was very well attended. The programme ended on a high note with staging of a drama that is key to Aaranyak's Dolphin Yatra that is focused on Brahmaputra River system.

by Dr M Firoz Ahmed

editor

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