

Aranyak-MCJ Dept. workshop in wildlife crimes reporting

(March 11, 2022)

A sensitization workshop on Wildlife crimes and role of media was held on March 11th (forenoon) for the students of MCJ Department conducted by the renowned NGO Aranyak. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Secretary General and Chief Executive officer of the organization highlighted various aspects of wildlife, the need for its conservation, protection among others in the present-day world. He has informed that because of consistent efforts from all quarters concerned over the last few decades, population of rhinos in the country, specially in Assam has gone up in an impressive manner. He also informed that a steady and peaceful socio-political scenario was a highly-important precondition for flourishing of wildlife – both flora and fauna. Dr Talukdar informed that wildlife crime has been the fourth largest illegal trade across the world, next to narcotics, arms and human trafficking. Hence he urged upon the aspiring mediapersons for pursuing the cause seriously so that our wildlife prospered in a healthy way in the future. Mr Hiten Bora, official from Wildlife crime Control Bureau sensitized the students about different acts for prevention of wildlife crime and their provisions as well as what constituted such crimes. He has apprised the students about various Schedules of such acts and the implications of violating them so that the mass people can be made aware about them. Finally, Mr Bijoy Shankar Bora, Media Adviser for the organization discussed the nuances of reporting wildlife crimes with specific provisions and how to go about spotting news sources about them. As Mr Bora as been a veteran journalist with many years' experience in the field including The Assam Tribune, he is an expert in this direction.

It can be mentioned that Dr Talukdar is an established authority of most of the wildlife aspects in Assam, NER and also a few other states. He has been member of the National Wildlife Board and also several other prominent national and state-level bodies for wildlife protection and conservation. Aranyak also has been awarded the status of a research institution in its chosen field from the Union Government which is a rare honour.

This is a collaborative project between the MCJ Department and Aranyak and today's has been the second such activity for sensitization and awareness-creation drive for upcoming mediapersons. Each of the sessions was followed by an encouraging interactive question-answer session.

Earlier, HoD Prof. Joya Chakraborty welcomed the resource persons from Aranyak and spoke about the need for such collaborative efforts for exposing the students to practical knowledge of the various areas of the world.

Prof. Abhijit Bora, Coordinator for the programme in his speech emphasized on the significance of industry-academia interface for the benefit of the students for enhancing their skills in their chosen profession.

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(Abhijit Bora)

Link for photographs of the workshop ---

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J5NUObs9o1a4a7czJxWRacD6wgZh568t?usp=sharing>