

Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity -2017**Theme: Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism**

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 as International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This year, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity at Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur, Majuli (Assam). The day-long programme was attended by a large number of students from various schools of Majuli district, their teachers, Scientists and Staff members of RFRI, local citizens and others.

The Programme started with ceremonial plantation programme which was inaugurated by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat by planting a sapling in the school premise. Sri Kumud Goswami, Principal, Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur, Majuli (Assam) and Sri Deben Hazarika, a prominent personality of Majuli also planted saplings.

Plantation programme was followed by different competitions among the students of different schools of Majuli district:

A) Drawing competition:**Senior Category (Class IX to X):**

Position	Name	School
1 st	Ms. Trina Das	Majuli Auniati Hemchandra High School
2 nd	Sri Lalit Payeng	Bengenaati Satra R.K.D. High School
3 rd	Sri Aditya Das Ms. Monalisha Sonowal	Kharjan Par Tribble High School Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari

Junior Category (Class VI to VIII):

Position	Name	School
1 st	Kumar Bishuraj Saikia	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari
2 nd	Sri Aditya Borah	Majuli Auniati Hemchandra H. S. School, Auniati
3 rd	Sri Bhaskarjyoti Saikia Sri Akash Nilim Saikia	Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur Amar Ghosh Holy Island School,

Drawing competition was conducted by Dr. Kundtala Baruah, Sri Debojit Neog and Sri Baidurjya Deka.

B) Extempore Speech Competition:**Senior Category (Class IX to X):**

Position	Name	School
1 st	Sri Anubhab Dutta	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari

2 nd	Sri Mondip Borah	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari
3 rd	Sri Paramesh Achirang	Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur

Junior Category(Class VI to VIII):

Position	Name	School
1 st	Sri Kushaljyoti Narah	Madhya Majuli Parijat H S School
2 nd	Sri Uddipta Payeng	Majuli Auniati Hemchandra H. S. School, Auniati
3 rd	Sri Gyandip Saikia	Island Academy, Kamalabari

Extempore Speech Competition was conducted by Dr. Indrani Bora, Dr. Prasanta Hazarika, Mrs. Priyakshi Gogoi, Mrs. Pranati Hazarika and Mrs. Nivedita Baruah

C). Instant Slogan Writing:

Senior Category (Class IX to X):

Position	Name	School
1 st	Ms.Sukanya Deka	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari
2 nd	Sri Santajit Sarkar	Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur
3 rd	Sri Rituraj Saikia	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari

Junior Category(Class VI to VIII):

Position	Name	School
1 st	Sri Kushahari Sonowal	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari
2 nd	Ms. Anikta Borah	Island Academy, Kamalabari
3 rd	Ms. Sumi Payeng	Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur

Slogan Writing Competition was conducted by Dr. D. Dutta, Sri Protul Hazarika and Sri Ashim Chetia

D) Quiz Competition:

An inter school Quiz Competition was also organized among the students of Classes IX to X. Total number of 12 teams participated in the preliminary round. Six teams qualified for main event. The competition was conducted by Sri Amarjyoti Saikia, budding Quiz Master of Jorhat and assisted by Sri Nilabh Chandra Das, Sri Sankar Sarma and other teachers of Majuli.

Three best teams were selected as follows:

Position	Name	School
1 st Team	Sri Sankarjyoti Borah Ms. Samannita Saikia	Keshabram Borah High School
2 nd Team	Sri Anubhab Dutta Sri Dibyajyoti Mech	Vivekandra Kendra Vidyalaya, Kamalabari
3 rd Team	Ms. Monali Borah Sri Kaustabh Saikia	Majuli Auniati Hemchandra H. S. School, Auniati
Best Audience	Ms. Princy Hazarika	Island Academy, Kamalabari

A Open Session, organized on the occasion, was chaired by Sri Kumud Goswami, Principal, Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur, Majuli (Assam) and attended by Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat as Chief Guest, Sri Naren Thakuria, Retired Principal, Majuli College, Majuli as Invited Speaker and others.

Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI and Chief Guest of the Open Session put emphasis on tourism potential of Majuli Island. He emphasised on the need of attracting more people to this Island District.

Sri Naren Thakuria delivered a popular talk on '*Biodiversity of Majuli and its Conservation*' in the Session and described about biodiversity resources of Majuli. He told that Majuli is the best gift of God and it is our duty to conserve this rich biodiversity. He sensitized the young students on biodiversity issues of Majuli and its conservation for human welfare.

Cultural programmes such as Borgeet, Chorus and School Song were performed by the students of Garamur Sri Sri Pitambardev Higher Secondary School, Garamur.

Certificates and Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions in the Open Session.

Sri R. K. Kalita, Training Coordinator, RFRI who had planned and coordinated all the activities of the Programme for its successful completion offered formal vote of thanks.

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