



Report on International Day of Action for Rivers: Kolong River Cleanliness Drive



Report

The International Day of Action for Rivers was observed with great enthusiasm and commitment by the River Club, Department of Geography, MSSV, in collaboration with the NSS Cell, MSSV, through a river cleanliness drive focused on the Kolong River, a vital waterway for the Nagaon district. The International Rivers (then called the International River Network), Oakland, USA has invited to join the 28th International Day of Action for River by taking programme at local level across the globe. We took the opportunity to be part of the grand event. The event aimed to connect with the local community, raise awareness about river conservation, and inspire a sense of responsibility towards protecting river ecology.

Date: March 13, 2024 (Aligned with International Day of Action for Rivers - March 14th)

Location: Kolong River Bank, Near Neheru Bali Field, Nagaon Town, Assam

Objective: To raise awareness about the importance of river conservation and promote cleanliness of the Kolong River through a hands-on cleaning drive, celebrating the International Day of Action for Rivers.



Participants:

- Prof. Mridul Hazarika, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, MSSV
- Prof. Sarat Hazarika, Registrar, MSSV
- Dr. Bichitra Bikash, Coordinator, NSS Cell, MSSV and Deputy Registrar (Academic and Shri Debabrat Senapati, Assistant Librarian, MSSV
- Faculty members and students from the Department of Geography, MSSV
- Volunteers from NSS Cell, MSSV

All together around 70 participants were present in this programme.

Program Details:

Inaugural Session: The program commenced with a brief inaugural session held at Neheru Bali Field site on the Kolong River bank. The session included:

Welcome Address: Dr. Markynti Swer, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, MSSV, welcomed the participants and highlighted the significance of the International Day of Action for Rivers and the importance of the Kolong River for the local ecosystem and communities.

Speech on River Conservation: Prof. Mridul Hazrika, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, MSSV, delivered a speech emphasizing the importance of Rivers in Human Civilization and highlighting the critical role of rivers in sustaining life and the urgent need for collective action to protect them. The ecological importance of rivers, the threats they face due to pollution and unsustainable practices, and the need for community participation in river conservation efforts. Prof. Sarat Hazarika, Registrar, MSSV also delivered short speech underscored the vital role of the Kolong River in maintaining the ecological balance of the Nagon district and providing essential resources to the local communities. Dr. Bichitra Bikash, Coordinator, NSS Cell, MSSV motivated the volunteers and participants, emphasizing the importance of volunteerism and social responsibility in addressing environmental issues. Dr. Sourav Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Coordinator, River Club deliver vote of thanks to the Authorities, NSS Cell, MSSV, Volunteers and students for making the programme successful.

Cleanliness Drive: Following the inaugural session, the cleanliness drive commenced. Participants, equipped with gloves, garbage bags, and other necessary tools, worked diligently to remove plastic waste, debris, and other pollutants from the river bank. The drive covered a significant stretch of the Kolong River bank at Neheru Bali field area demonstrating the collective effort of the participants. After collecting The collected garbages were hand over to the people of Nagaon Minicipal Board authorities.



Awareness Campaign:

Concurrent with the cleanliness drive, Dr. Khangsembou Bungnamei, Assisnat Professor, Department of Geography lead the students and volunteers to join in writing impactful slogans on the railings of the river bridges. The main objective of writing the slogan was to aware the public about the harmful effects of river pollution and promote responsible waste disposal practices.



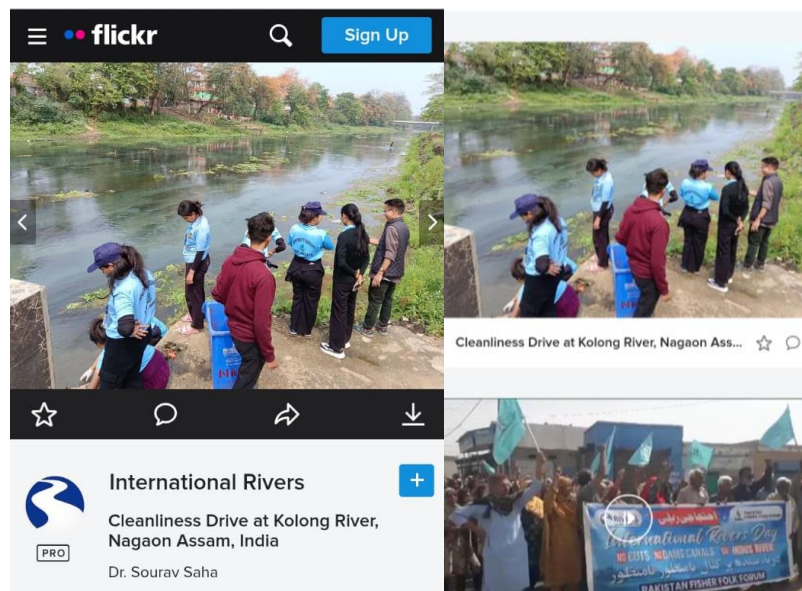


Observations and Outcomes:

- The event successfully mobilized students, faculty, and volunteers to participate in a hands-on river cleaning activity.
- A significant amount of waste was removed from the Kolong River bank, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment. It is found that plastics from domestic use and Idol immersions are the main contributor waste.
- The awareness campaign effectively disseminated information about river conservation and promoted responsible waste management practices.
- The event fostered a sense of community ownership and responsibility towards the Kolong River.

International News

It is noteworthy that The International Rivers (then called the International River Network), Oakland, USA has uploaded the photographs in their website along with the other events across the globe.



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