



## Conference Newsletter

Updates: Day 1&2

# Maria's Public School Welcomes the delegates



26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022: "Climate Calls 101", a conference cum camp on conservation education and sustainability, hosted by Maria's Public school observed a warm welcome to its delegates from Vidya Devi Jindal School, Hisar and Delhi Public School, Raipur in the school campus. The delegates were received at the airport by the schoolteachers at the airport in the evening and the faculty members alongside the Principal, Mrs. Mausumi Mahanta, Vice-principal, Mr. Anjan Gogoi and Dean of Academics, Mrs. Shahnaz Rahman respectively with the very own student barazza leaders in the school campus, who were dressed elegantly in their ethnic attires representing the diverse culture of the Northeast. The delegates were then given refreshments in the school cafeteria and a tour of the school whereby they interacted with the fellow Marian participants and the teachers. This was followed by their transfer to the campsite, Zizina Otis Resort

situated amidst the rich flora and fauna of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.

Upon reaching, all the students were assigned to their respective beds in the student dorms as well as the accompanying teachers who will be staying in the cozy and aesthetic clay huts. The evening rolled in with the exciting ice breaking activities which was a Marshmallow challenge where the students of each barazza were given one cello tape, 20 spaghetti sticks and one marshmallow each with which they had to make the tallest structure and balance the marshmallow without piercing it. The Barbets grabbed the winning points with a very innovative and eye-catching structure that the students brainstormed at. The rest of the night continued with a succulent dinner and an early good night to recharge for the next day filled with another set of fun and exciting activities.



## Starting Drill: Bird Watching



27<sup>th</sup> October 2022: The second day of “Climate Calls 101” had an early start with all the student delegates and accompanying teachers joining in for the bird watching session in the greeneries of the Pobitora Wildlife Century. It was a very detailed and informative session where the students coordinated with the teachers to find out the different scientific names of the various birds spotted as well as noting their behavior, location, and other features. The session was met with a pleasant coincidence of spotting the famous one horned rhino that is unique to Assam, in between the lush greenery of the sanctuary. The students then returned to the resort after a rejuvenating session and geared themselves up for another jam packed yet a fun day.



## Conference Announced Open



27<sup>th</sup> October 2022: The first half of the day started with the delegates and the teachers being addressed by the Founder Managing Trustee, Mrs. Nellie Ahmed Tanveer with her bold and inspiring words that never fails to steer determination among the students and teachers as she announced the conference officially open. It was then followed by some very thoughtful words by the Principal Mrs. Mausumi Mahanta who voiced her concerns about the degrading environment and stressed on various important issues and the need for the younger generation and children to take immediate action and raise their voice on climate crisis and global warming. The crowd was also addressed by the two Round Square chairs of the student council namely Saniya Kakoti and Jannat Naz Sadique Rahman respectively who presented their thoughts eloquently to the audience and our very own Round Square Representative of the school Dr. Biswajeet De who elaborated on the meaning of the conference title “Climate Crisis 101”.



## Plenary Session 1: Dr. Purnima Devi Barman



27<sup>th</sup> October 2022: Dr Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam who is prominently known for her conservation work with the Greater Adjutant Stork, known locally as the Hargila bird was the very first plenary speaker of the conference. Dr Barman engaged the audience with her vibrant aura and her zeal with which she has built an entire hargila army that is dedicated to conserve and spread awareness about the exotic bird. She spoke with utmost passion about her journey and how she started her work in building an all women community that celebrates the babyshower of a hargila bird, inspired a group of women to weave gamusas with hargila on it for a cause and hosts Bhagwat Geeta processions to make an impact and inspire more people. Dr Barman was apt in putting forward her concerns and inspiring everyone in the room to act, big or small, to help sustain the flora and fauna of our country and eventually the world, for she believes that “People don’t believe in lectures, people believe in actions”. The delegates and the teachers were eternally grateful to have had Dr Barman as one of the plenary speakers.

## Plenary Session 2: Kaushik Barua



27<sup>th</sup> October 2022: Mr. Kaushik Barua was the second plenary speaker of the day. He is an entrepreneur with business interests in civil and electrical engineering, financial market, healthcare, and logistics. His wildlife experience extends to an ex honorary Wildlife Warden of the State and is also a fourth-generation owner. Despite being an elephant person, Mr. Baruah presented a very articulate session on Rhino conservation and his role in controlling the incessant poaching of One Horned Rhinos in Assam for their horn. He explained how Rhinos are translocated from one habitat to another to ensure better living and health conditions as well as safety. He also presented few clips on how dogs are trained to identify poachers in the wild without harming the other animals living there along with some eye opening and visually pleasing videos on the day-to-day life of the Rhinos. Mr. Barua played an integral role in the programme of burning nearly 2,500 Rhino horns in one of the largest anti-poaching drives of its kind in Asia to set an example in addition to breaking the myth about Rhino horns being a valuable medicine for which they are mostly killed. The audience was extremely impressed with the tandem flow of thoughts and opinions that Mr. Barua put forward.

*“The Earth is what we all have in common.”-Wendell Berry*

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