## ARUNACHAL OBSERVER

Life cannot exist without trees: Forest man of India

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**PASIGHAT, Apr 03:** Life cannot exist without the presence of trees on the planet as it offer many environmental benefits and improve our air quality by filtering harmful dust and pollutants from the air we breathe, said Jadav Payeng, popularly known as Forest Man of India, here on Monday.

Attending an awareness camp cum plantation drive at the Siluk village under Mebo subdivision in the district, Payeng said that plantation is perceived to be the most engaging, environmentally-friendly activity that people can take part in to make the planet a better place to live in.

"By planting trees, we will create more oxygen to breathe and sustain our lives," he said.

Payeng appealed to organize more awareness campaign on the need of massive plantation adding that the concerted and noble efforts were required to prevent from natural disaster stating that forest and wildlife were very important for regulation of environment which in turn has direct and indirect impact on human beings.

While encouraging everyone for plantation, Payeng narrated his journey from a humble origin to becoming the Forest Man of India and elaborated his experience of transforming a barren sandbar to a lush green forest area of about 550 hectares in Kokilamukh, Jorhat.

He briefed how he single handedly planted an entire forest after a catastrophic drought and after a life-threatening flood which is now a heaven for animals and birds.

Payeng along with Pasighat East MLA Kaling Moyong, East Siang DC Tayi Taggu, DFO (T) Tashi Mize, ZPC Olen Rome, PMC Chief Councillor Okiam Moyong Borang, Mebo ADC Ainstein Koyu and other dignitaries present on the occasion planted hundreds of saplings.

Moyong and the DC also spoke on the occasion.

The awareness campaign cum plantation drive was organized by the Swacch Silluk Abhiyan (SSA). (DIPRO)

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