Lecture on ballads in Assamese oral literature delivered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Sept 14: Distinguished Assamese folk music and culture scholar Dr Anil Saikia, a retired principal of Moran College, gave an in-depth assessment of the tradition of ballads in Assamese oral literature and tradition while delivering the' third Geetartha Baruah Memorial Lecture at Jorhat College (Amalgamated) on September 9.

Dr Saikia classified the ballads of Assam into four categories: historical, miraculous, realistic, and satirical. He emphasised how both individual and public grief shaped these ballads, providing examples for each category.

Saikia kept the audience enthralled with his scholarship and mellifluous singing. The songs he highlighted included 'Nahoror Geet', 'Joymotir Geet', 'Sati Radhikar Geet', 'Sikon Horihor Geet', 'Ajan Piror Sarit', 'Swargodeu Joydhwaj Singhor Geet', 'Badan Borphukonor Geet', 'Maniram Dewanor Geet', 'Phuloguri Dhawar Geet', 'Pothorughator Ronor Geet', 'Komola Kunwarir Geet', and 'Pogola Parvati Geet', among others.

Earlier, the programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Dr Smriti Rekha Baruah, a retired Librarian of Assam Agricultural University and the mother of Geetartha Baruah, who was an alumnus of the college.

Geetartha was gifted with talent in several spheres and lived his brief life of 23 years to the fullest, despite being confined to a wheelchair for several years due to a neuromuscular disorder.

Dr Soumitra Puzari, principal, Jorhat College, chaired the inaugural session, while Dr Jyotirmoy Bordoloi, assistant professor, Department of Assamese, briefly recollected memories of Geetartha Baruah, who had a passion for making drawings and paintings, listening to music, playing tabla and guitar, reading books, and writing poetry.

Dr Pabitrapran Goswami, a former principal of Jorhat College and an authority on Assamese Borgeet, was amongst those who attended the event.