

A Brief Report:

National Seminar on

“Biodiversity: Conservation and sustainable utilization for Atmanirbhar Bharat”

The department of Botany, Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko has organised a National Seminar on **“Biodiversity: Conservation and sustainable utilization for Atmanirbhar Bharat”** in association with Botanical Society of Assam on 3rd and 4th June, 2022. The seminar was catalysed and financed by the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council. The seminar was concurrently held with the Biennial General Meeting of the Botanical Society of Assam (BSA).

“India will be Atmanirbhar when every citizen becomes self-reliant. Emphasizing on the exploration and sustainable use of bio resources available in the country, Professor G.D. Sharma renowned academician and Vice Chancellor of University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya said that bio resource based entrepreneurship development through value addition and technological intervention is one of the potential and emerging field where one can become atmanirbhar while delivering the Key note address of the National Seminar.

Dr. Tapan Dutta, Principal of the college and general secretary of Botanical Society of Assam explained the objectives of the seminar in his welcome address. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Krishnendu Acharya of Calcutta University, Prof. R.K. Sarma of USTM, Dr. Manju Rani Devi, former Head, department of Botany, Cotton College and President BSA, Sjt. Lakshi Kanta Sarma, President Governing Body of the college and Prof. Nilakshee Devi, former Dean, faculty of Science, Gauhati University and Treasurer, BSA. Many important issues pertaining to the sustainable use of resources, policies, threats and possibilities were raised and discussed by the resource persons in their deliberations. During the inaugural session, Botanical Society of Assam conferred BSA Lifetime Achievement Award-2022 to Prof. Sarada Kanta Sarma. Former Head, Botany and Dean, Gauhati University, Prof. Chandra Kanta Baruah former HoD, Botany, Gauhati University, Dr. Aparna Buzarbaruah, renowned lyricist, composer and former HoD, Botany, Cotton College, Dr. Manju Rani Devi, former, HoD, Botany, Cotton College and Prof. Tarun Ch. Sarma, department of Botany, Gauhati University in recognition and appreciation for years of dedicated service to the society through their valuable contributions in plant science.

The inaugural session was anchored by Mrs. Alimpa Bhuya Baruah, Assistant Professor from the department of English of the college.

As many as 127 participants registered for the seminar with a total of 76 research papers were presented by Scientist, faculty members, researchers and students from various institutions from Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Arunachal in five (05) parallel technical sessions on 3rd June and 22 papers were presented on 4th June in the 6th technical session. The technical sessions were Chaired by Prof. Partha Pratim Baruah of Gauhati University, Dr. Akan Das, founder

Director of AGT Biosciences, Dr. Papori Devi, HoD, Botany, Aryavidyapeeth College, Dr. Susanta Kumar Bhuyan, Dr. Rekha Chetry, of J.N. College, Dr. Surya Kalita of B.P. Chaliha College. Before the technical session on 4th June on the occasion of World Environment Day-2022, a special talk was organised on “Let’s live with Nature” which was delivered by Prof. ParthaPratimBaruah of Gauhati University. In the business session, the Executive Committee of Botanical Society of Assam for the session 2022-2024 was formed with Prof. Pradip Kumar Baruah of USTM as President, Dr. Anil Talukdar as Working President, Prof. Bhaben Tanti, HoD, Botany, Gauhati University as General Secretary and Prof. Nilakshee Devi of Gauhati University as Treasurer. The outgoing President Dr. Manju Rani Devi and General Secretary Dr. Tapan Dutta congratulated the new executive committee with anticipation that the new committee will carry forward the legacy of the society to a new height.

On 5th June as a part of celebration of World Environment Day a massive plantation programme was organised in the college campus by the Eco club, NCC, NSS, Ranger group, employees and Student’s union of the college were 50 numbers of indigenous fruits, timber and medicinally important tree saplings were planted.

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