

## International Women's Day celebrated in Guwahati

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, March 8: GNRC Hospitals, Dispur, celebrated International Women's Day today with a special felicitation ceremony, honouring three distinguished women leaders of Assam and also recognizing the unwavering contributions of its dedicated women employees.

Those who were honoured included eminent gynaecologist Dr Alaka Goswami, senior journalist with PTI and Gauhati Press Club president Sushmita Goswami, and noted Satriya dancer and entrepreneur Mridusmita Das Bora.

Additionally, GNRC honoured its women employees who have given over 25 years of service, including doctors, nurses, and support staff, acknowledging their commitment to patient care and healthcare excellence.

Addressing the gathering, Ranju Rani Das, principal, Asian Institute of Nursing Education, emphasized the crucial role of women in shaping the healthcare sector. "Women have always been the pillars of care and compassion in healthcare. Their resilience and commitment inspire us every day. It is heartening to see GNRC leading the way in recognizing and empowering women in this field, she said.

The three guests in their speeches stressed the need for woman empowerment, asserting that it held the key to an egalitarian society.

"Women's health is not just about medicine, it's about creating an ecosystem of support, awareness, and accessibility. I am grateful to GNRC for acknowledging the efforts of

women in healthcare," Dr Alaka Goswami observed.

Sushmita Goswami, in her speech, said that women in every profession bring a unique strength to the table. "Platforms like this remind us that recognition fuels progress and motivates us to achieve more," she added.

International Women's Day was celebrated at Dakshin Kamrup College, Mirza, which featured a lecture programme on socio-economic and cultural achievements and contribution of women in Kamrup. The lecture was delivered by Khalilur Rahman and Sonmani Thakuria, advocates from District Legal Services Authority, Aminagaon. The programme was organized by the Women's Forum of Dakshin Kamrup College, Mirza, in association with District Legal Services Authority, Aminagaon and Lions and Leo Club of Guwahati South.

The day was celebrated today at Central Jail Guwahati in association with Prisons Ministry India today. The chief guest of the programme was Parinita Bora, superintendent (attached) Central Jail Guwahati while the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Deba Kamal Barua, jailor, Central Jail Guwahati, and Sister Irene D'Souza, regional coordinator of the Prison Ministry. Invited guest Rumi Bhuyan delivered a motivational speech.

The occasion was also observed at Beltola College by Women Cell and IQAC of the college. The programme was led by Priyanka Basumatary, in-charge of Women Cell, highlighting theme: "Accelerate Action for Gender Equality." The event aimed to highlight the importance of taking con-



Dulumoni Kalita of Saraswati Bagdhwani Siksha Pratisthan, receiving the Mohini Gogoi Memorial Nari Karma Prerana Award from noted writer and social worker Rekha Baruah (centre), in Guwahati on Saturday. -AT photo

crete actions to further gender equality and empower women in all aspects of life.

The programme focused on raising awareness about safe WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and the significance of safe drinking water under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) initiative.

The Women's Cell of Dispur College, under the guidance of its principal Dr Navajyoti Borah, celebrated the International Women's Day at its Pratima Barua Pandey (PBP) auditorium today. The programme which was coordinated by Dr Monalisa Bhattacharya, convener, Women's Cell, Dispur College, started with a formal session which was attended by the guests of honour, Dr Mad-

humita Saikia, woman entrepreneur and principal, Signature Institute and Binita Devi, folklore scholar and recipient of Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Purashcar, 2022.

International Women's Day was also celebrated by the BSF Frontier Headquarters Guwahati and all the sectors and battalions under command on the theme of 'Accelerate Action' emphasizing the inclusiveness of inspiring women, fostering a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

Vandana Gaur along with a large number of 'prahari sanginis' celebrated the day by organizing various events. She highlighted the importance of Women's Day and also the

achievements made by women in different walks of life.

The Women's Study and Research Centre (WSRC) and IQAC of Narangi Anchalik Mahavidyalaya (NAM), Narengi, in collaboration with Dr Bhabendra Nath Hazarika and Pushpa Hazarika Memorial Trust, hosted a special programme today, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

The celebration aimed to recognize 'women's roles across diverse fields, promote gender equality and inspire students to reflect on achievements and challenges. The convenor of WSRC, NAM, opened the programme with a welcome speech.

A symbolic lamp-lighting ceremony, accompanied by

sloka chanting by Dr Saroj Kakoti, was followed by a heartfelt tribute to the late Sangeeta Barthakur, who passed away nine years ago. Dr Akashi Hazarika, the distinguished guest speaker, encouraged attendees to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence and conducted an awareness session on breast cancer.

The programme also included the presentation of the Late Sangeeta Borthakur Memorial Speech Competition awards by AK Barthakur, and the release of *Mirror*, a wall magazine by the Department of English.

In his address, principal Dr Lukendra Kakati dedicated the day to celebrating women worldwide and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to gender equality.

BJP Assam Pradesh Mahila Morcha, in collaboration with the Guwahati Metropolitan Mahila Morcha, celebrated the occasion at Kar Bhavan.

Distinguished guest Nilima Bhagawati, retired professor from Gauhati University's Education Department, delivered a speech, describing women as symbols of reverence, admiration, and divine power and emphasizing that Assamese women have consistently progressed alongside men in various fields, contributing to the vision of a developed Assam.

State Finance Minister Ajanta Neog, in her speech, praised the State's Arunodoi Scheme, describing it as a transformative initiative that empowers Assamese women by helping them turn their dreams into reality.

The event also honoured several prominent Assamese women for their remarkable contributions to society. BJP

president Dilip Saikia presented the honours, underscoring the party's dedication to empowering women.

Asom Lekhika Samaj celebrated the International Women's Day with a day-long schedule at Jayanta Kumar Lakhimi Barua Sadan, at Asam Sahitya Sabha premises here today.

A discussion on equal rights and self employment of women was held in the first half of the programme. Priti Hazarika, Kabita Gogoi Gohain, Madhuri Das, Arundhati Konwar, Pankaja Das and Pratibha Devi Dastidar were present as speakers in the event, which was chaired by Padumi Gogoi and moderated by Renu Mahanta.

The open session of the event was inaugurated by writer Suniti Sonowal and chaired by Padumi Gogoi, the president of the Asom Lekhika Samaj. Writer and social worker Rekha Baruah was present as the chief guest and academican Dayananda Pathak and senior advocate Nekibur Zaman were present as honourable guests in the open session.

Asom Lekhika Samaj honoured Dulumoni Kalita, from Saraswati Bagdhwani Siksha Pratisthan, Guwahati with the Mohini Gogoi Memorial Nari Karma Prerana award as part of the celebration. The Asom Lekhika Samaj Ratna Bota, Sangathanik Paradarshita Bota, Sangathanik Paradarshi Anuprerna Bota and Sobhapotir Bishes Anuprerna Bota were also conferred.

Addressing the event, Rekha Baruah spoke about the significance of International Women's Day and the importance of gender equality.