International Day of Democracy 2026 observed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 17: The NSS unit of Dispur College observed the International Day of Democracy 2026 at Hall A-202 on Tuesday with a two-part programme focusing on youth leadership, democratic values and community service.

The UN theme for this year is "When Every Voice Counts, Democracy Delivers.".

A mass awareness programme on the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027 and its associated quiz was organised with Jangjilong Aier, former regional director and incumbent youth officer, Regional Directorate of NSS-NER, Guwahati, Government of India as resource person.

VBYLD 2027, the 30th edition of India's National Youth Festival, is aimed at young people aged 15-29 and seeks to identify and nurture emerging leaders from non-political backgrounds.

Selected youth will get an opportunity to present their ideas before the Indian Prime Minister in New Delhi. The Viksit Bharat Challenge comprises an online quiz from August 17 to September 30, followed by an essay challenge, district presentations and State rounds.

Sutibra Malakar, Programme Officer, NSS unit, Dispur College, coordinator of the programme, spoke on the significance of democracy and the importance of experiential learning in making youth more skilled, employable and future-oriented.

Around 1,300 students and NSS volunteers of the college had already participated, placing the institution among those with the highest participation in Assam.

A best volunteer teacher award was presented to Violina Devi for teaching more than eight adult learners under the ULLAS-NILP scheme through the Akshar Jyoti Community Literacy Internship-2026, organised by the NSS unit and Internship and Apprenticeship Cell from July 1 to August 31 for 240 hours. More than 287 student volunteer teachers participated, reaching around 150 adult learners, stated a press release.

The NSS unit had also recently conferred the Sevabir Puraskar on 12 non-institutionalised volunteers for exemplary voluntary service at the college.

At the outset, Principal Dr Navajyoti Borah and Jangjilong Aier were felicitated. Dr Binoy Chetia, HoD, Department of English, and Timple Kaman, faculty member of the Department of English, were present.