

SAHITYA SABHA'S UNIQUE PROGRAMME TO OVERCOME CIVID-19 INERTIA  
**Singers, writers, poets, actors enthrall Dighalipukhuri bank**



(From left)  
 Biren Singha  
 Dr Anjanjyoti Choudhury  
 Dr Kuladhar Saikia  
 Rabijita Gogoi  
 Dr Manjumala Das &  
 Mainul Haque

Asam Sahitya Sabha today organised a central programme at Dighalipukhuripar park, Guwahati, in a unique manner to inspire people overcome the inertia caused by over-six-month-long countrywide lockdown due to Covid-19. Titled 'Pukhuriparar Saa Juroni : Stabdha Samay, Pratyasha Pratyay' (Ecstasy at the pond bank: Time stood still, but there were hopes, believes), the programme held under the joint auspices of the Sabha's cultural sub-committee and Guwahati Artists Guild, contained several segments: poetry recitation, dance, songs, mime show, intimate speech by senior citizens, physicians, actors and theatre directors, photograph exhibition and others. Moreover, a batch of renowned visual artists drew paintings on the spot inside the park while seven popular Assamese poets read out their poems on the stage.

The programme began with presentation of the Sabha anthem '*Chira Chenehi Mor Bhasha Janani...*' followed by welcome address by cultural sub-committee working president D N Basumatary and the Sabha president Dr Kuladhar Saikia. Dr Kuladhar Saikia, in his brief speech said that last year during over-six-month-long lockdown period due to Covid-19, the writers, artists and creative people of Assam like those of the entire nation suffered from utmost depression and frustration. "Our basic objective to hold this programme is to know the state of mind of the creative people in the field of literature and art-culture and how these people had continued their creative pursuits during that devastating period," said Dr Saikia.



(From left) A view of the photograph exhibition & Dr. Saikia intercting with painters at the same venue

The programme was inaugurated by noted academician, recitation artist and radio drama actress Dr Manjumala Das who after inauguration presented recitation of a portion of Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad's immortal poem '*Jyomoti Kunwarir Ukti*' in her own distinctive style and elegance.

Next artist on the stage was Dr Anjanjyoti Choudhury, noted singer and a physician by profession. Dr Choudhury said in brief his experience during the lockdown period and then rendered Dr Bhupen Hazarika's haunting melody '*Bistirna Parare Asankhya Janare...*'. Of the poets who read out their own poems mention may be made of Anis-uz-Zaman. Other items that impressed the audience include heartfelt speech by noted writer-lyricist Padmshree Eli Ahmed, painter-sculptor Biren Singha, actress-director Rabijita Gogoi, mime show by Sangeet Natak Awardee Mainul Haque, songs by Pahari Saikia and Trishna Devi and comedy show by Manmath Barua.

Amid the presentation of songs, poems and speeches, a collection of short story collection titled '*Park Khulise*' published by Asam Sahitya Sabha containing a series of short stories written-published during the lockdown period was released by president Dr Saikia, writer Apruba Kumar Saikia and senior journalists Achyut Patowary, Gautam Sarma and Mrinal Talukdar was ceremonially released. Writer-critic Jyoti Khataniar edited the book.

Two other significant programmes held simultaneously at the park were an exhibition of 24 photographs and on-the-spot painting by a batch of painters. The photographs exhibited were some of the moments of the lockdown period captured through the lens by nine noted photographers. Guwahati Artist Guild general secretary Kishore Kumar Das and senior photographer Sanjeev Gohain Barua narrated in brief about the painting workshop and the photograph exhibition respectively. Moreover, another senior visual artist Nikhileshwar Barua presented an analysis of the painting activities abroad and Assam during the lockdown period.

Two singers, Jinti Das and Rajib Sunny rendered modern songs in the programme anchored by Sanchita Talukdar and Rituparna Shivam. Two dance items were also presented by the artists of Swaraswati Dance Academy and child Himangshu Borthakur presented recitation of a poem by 'Bihogi Kobi' Raghunath Choudhary. Other poets who read out their own poems were: Bijoy Shankar Barman, Lutfu Hanum Selima Begum, Bibharani Talukdar, Ankur Ranjan Phukan, Moitreyee Pator and Pongkhi Kajal Kayastha.

In all, 24 photographs were displayed in the exhibition and these were the creations of Anjan Deka, Dr Paporu Sarma, Sanjiv Barman, Sanjib Basumatary, Bidyasagar Barua, Sanjib Gohain Barua, Pushpita Choudhury, Dipika Roy and Sanjivan Deka. Moreover, the visual artists who participated in the workshop held at the same venue were: Aminul Haque, Ratan Kumar Roy Hazong, Manoj Chakraborty, Poran Bonti Devi, Bandana Nath, Hiten Pathak, Alpana Phukan, Pallabi Bordoloi, Tulika Goswami, Chiranjib Barman, Dhruva Kalita, Jitu Baishya, Nomal Bhuyan, Rodali Chetia, Hemchandra Gogoi, Pranjit Das, Sukanya Shreya Dutta, Nikhil Das, Krishna Borgohain, Soruj Timung and Toufiq Ali.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks by the sub-committee associate convenor Dr Mrinmoy Nath. The formal conclusion was marked by the presentation of '*Asom Sangeet*', '*O Mor Aponaar Desh*'.