

Dr. Jaimini Bhagwati, IFS (Retd.) delivers Distinguished Lecture at Tezpur University



Tezpur University in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India organized a lecture by former Indian High Commissioner to UK, Dr. Jaimini Bhagwati, IFS (Retd.) as part of its distinguished lecture series at the Kalaguru Bishnuprasad Rabha Auditorium of the University on 23.02.2016. The lecture was attended by Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Manabendra Bhuyan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, and other Deans, faculty members, staff and students. Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Designated Nodal Officer briefed about the Distinguished Lecture Series and introduced Dr. Bhagwati to the audience.

In his lecture titled “Assam and its Neighbours”, Dr. Bhagwati beautifully articulated the comparative status of different socio-demographic indicators of Assam vis-à-vis its neighbouring Indian states and foreign countries. Citing the example of not yet completed Bogibeel Bridge project over river Brahmaputra for last 14 years, Dr. Bhagwati lamented the pathetic pace at which development projects in Assam has been moving forward. He emphasized on opening river routes on the river Brahmaputra for improving riverine infrastructure. He also analyzed how Assam lags behind Bangladesh in different socio-demographic indicators. Dr. Bhagwati suggested that one primary reason behind the favourable social sector indicators of Bangladesh is their investment in education of the girl child. He went on to emphasize that when the womenfolk are educated, it has a positive cascading effect on different socio-demographic indicators.

Dr. Bhagwati also shared with the audience his experience of working in the Indian Foreign Service and dealing with different nations in various High Commissions, Embassies and the South Block of Lutyen’s Delhi. He encouraged the young students to join the Foreign Service as well as other All India Services like IAS and IPS. Dr. Bhagwati also asserted the need for learning through one’s mother tongue. Later, he interacted with the audience and responded to their queries ranging from issues like ‘String of Pearls’ to revival of Silk Route. The distinguished lecture ended with Prof. Chandana Goswami proposing the Vote of Thanks.