

VIRASAT gets off with a Glittering Start at Tezpur University

Feb 18th, 2013: Virasat 2013 of SPICMACAY got off to a brilliant start in a glittering ceremony today in the Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha Auditorium. The festival of Indian Classical traditions as well as folk arts was graced by Shri Arun Sarma, eminent litterateur, Padmashri and Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee. Professor Kiran Seth, founder President of SPICMACAY was the Guest of Honour for the evening. The evening started off with the lightning of the ceremonial lamp by the guests accompanied by Professor Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Vice-Chancellor Tezpur University, and Professor Amarjyoti Chaudhury, ProVice Chancellor, Tezpur University. The Pro Vice-Chancellor welcomed the guests to Tezpur, the cultural capital of Assam, and expressed his happiness at the array of stars from the fields of art and music that have descended on Tezpur University. In his Presidential address the Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University lauded the efforts of SPICMACAY in particular for the yeoman service towards upholding and spreading awareness about Indian heritage among the youths.



The inaugural ceremony was followed by a Tiwa Dance performed by a group from Morigaon led by Shri Nadiram Deuri. After the colourful number that set the mood for the evening, Kaivalya Kumar Gurav, Hindustani classical vocalist enthralled the connoisseurs with one *raag* after another in the true Kirana traditions of *murki* and *phirat* and kept the audience spellbound by his infallible rhythm.

The third performance of the evening was by another legend of Indian classical tradition of flute, Pandit Ronu Majumdar. An exponent of the *Maihar gharana* Pandit Majumdar received rapturous applause from the young crowd of enthusiasts drawn from Tezpur

University as well as students from Assam Valley School. He signed off the evening with a rendition of the popular bhajan '*Ram Ratan Dhan paayo*'.

Thus the first day of the festival came to a successful end and international artists such as Ustaad Wassem Ahmed Khan, Pandit Tejender Majumdar, Smt. Kavita Dwibedi are all set to perform in the next three days of the festival on the campus.