

Resonance: the Festival of Ideas

To the giving and taking of benign ideas, every barrier should be encountered and every initiative, praised. This was rightly proved on the 24th of January, 2018 at Resonance: The Festival of Ideas, organized by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University as part of the year long Silver Jubilee Celebrations (21 January, 2018- 21 January, 2019).

Renowned actors Seema Biswas and Boloram Das, widely-read novelists Dhruba Hazarika and Ankush Saikia were invited on the occasion. These four celebrated persons coming from diverse backgrounds and spectrum participated in a lively panel discussion on the topic- "Literature, Theatre and Culture: the connections". The panel discussion which was held at packed Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha Auditorium was moderated by Tanya Brooks, a Research Scholar from the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Dr. Debasish Mohapatra, Associate Professor, Department of English & Foreign Languages was the Chief Coordinator of the event.

The Discussion began with Seema Biswas narrating her journey and experiences in the field of acting, since the very beginning. She shared with the audience her association with the National School of Drama, Delhi and went on to focus on the intrinsic relationship Theatre held with Literature. She encouraged the students to engage in the practical field of any art they felt inspired by, rather than just being confined to the academic boundaries. The captivating discussion was then taken forward by Ankush Saikia, who explained concisely how a book or a story can portray the culture of people against a specific backdrop of space and time. He further suggested the budding writers to develop a particular style of their own. Coming to Dhruba Hazarika, he delighted the audience by making special references to human behaviours and the tendency to imitate. He explained how just believing in one's own talent and nurturing it for the better can help him make his dreams come true. The discussion came to a conclusion with Boloram Das's remarks on the Film Industry and the need to develop complete acting skills before actually entering into the Film Industry. Das, whose journey begins from typical Assamese backgrounds, tells how he could not fulfil the dreams

of his parents for the sake of his own dream fulfilment. He emphasized that having a proper, formal training, irrespective of any field, can actually help a person behave with more responsibility and maturity. The discussion was immediately followed by a lively and animated interactive session with the audience.