

National seminar on 'culinary heritage' organised at Sibsagar Girls' College

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, May 6: A two-day ICSSR-sponsored national seminar on the topic 'Commercializing Culinary Heritage: Exploring Indigenous Food and Beverage Offerings of Various Communities of Assam, India' was held on May 3 and 4 at Sibsagar Girls' College here in collaboration with Assam Women's University and Sivasagar zone of Assam College Teachers' Association (ACTA).

The seminar was virtually inaugurated by the vice chancellor of Assam Women's University, Prof Ajanta Borgohain Rajkonwar, while the welcome speech was delivered by the principal of the college, Dr Protim Sharma.

Delivering the keynote speech, Dr Ruma Bhattacharyya, retired professor of

the Department of Food Science and Nutrition of Assam Agricultural University (AAU), informed the audience about different categories of indigenous food and beverage items available in Assam and their nutritional as well as commercial value. She said, "If we are to commercialize our culinary heritage, we must have scientific

preservation techniques, market research, branding, packaging, patenting, etc."

Citing examples of indigenous products, she said that the Indian Army had once procured *komol saul* through consultations with AAU, Jorhat, for soldiers serving in Kashmir.

A chorus was also presented on the occasion by the

teaching staff of the college.

The chief guest, Prof HK Sarma of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dibrugarh University, enlightened the audience about the nutritional and medicinal properties of various indigenous food items of Assam.

Meghali Bora, a progressive woman entrepreneur from Jorhat, elaborated on her journey as an entrepreneur of indigenous food items of the State and showed the students and participants how one can be an innovative and successful entrepreneur in this sector. The seminar saw the participation of more than 150 research scholars, teachers, students and practitioners. Over one hundred research papers were presented both virtually and in person during the seminar.

