

23rd Dr J N Baruah Memorial Lecture held at CSIR-NEIST

The 23rd Dr J N Baruah Memorial Lecture was held at CSIR-NEIST on 1 September 2017 with a special programme at Dr J Baruah Auditorium. The programme was jointly organized by Dr J N Baruah Memorial Trust; Assam Science Society (Jorhat branch) and CSIR-NEIST. It is to be mentioned that Dr J N Baruah Memorial Lecture is held annually in honour and fond memory of Late Dr J N Baruah, Former Director of CSIR-NEIST and also an eminent scientist and educationist from Assam who contributed significantly in science and its popularization among the students. Padmabhushan Dr A V Rama Rao, Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Avra Laboratories Pvt.Ltd., Hyderabad graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the Memorial Lecture while Dr R S C Jayaraj, RFRI, Jorhat, attended as Guest of Honour. The function was presided over by Dr R C Boruah, Former Outstanding Scientist, CSIR-NEIST & President, Assam Science Society (Jorhat branch). Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivered the welcome address. Dr R L Bezbaruah, Life Member, Assam Science Society presented a gist of the activities and achievements of Late Dr J N Baruah.

Delivering the Memorial Lecture on the topic 'Science and its Relevance to Society', Dr Rama Rao spoke about his journey as a Scientist, Technologist and Entrepreneur in the field of natural products chemistry & drug development. With a rich background in organic chemistry, he very lucidly explained some of the complex compounds like Duanomycin, Glucasomine, Vancomycin, Diazepam and AZT (the first HIV drug) and his successful work in synthesizing these compounds which have directly impacted the Indian drug industry and outside. Dr Rao also spoke about his journey in establishing the Avra Laboratories and the various industrial projects handled by it for synthesis & drug development of compounds like Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Camptothecin. He appealed to all and particularly to the younger generation to strive in becoming a leader by nurturing the qualities like confidence, transparency, integrity, passion and zeal to innovate.

On the occasion, the bust of Late Dr J N Baruah was unveiled by the Chief Guest, Padmabhushan Dr A V Rama Rao in presence of the Director, CSIR-NEIST, dignitaries from the Assam Science Society (Jorhat branch) and Dr J N Baruah Memorial Trust besides the family members of Late Dr J N Baruah and CSIR-NEIST fraternity.

Delivering his speech as Guest of Honour, Dr Jayaraj appealed to all and particularly the Assam Science Society to promote & educate the importance of sustainable use of natural sources and to motivate the teachers to inculcate scientific temperament among the students.

Dr Manash Protim Baruah, son of Late Dr J N Baruah in his short speech extended his personal greetings and gratitude to the distinguished speaker for the exemplary lecture on this memorable day.

As a part of the event, this year the Late Dr J N Baruah Student Scholarship was awarded to Mr Partha J Dutta, a student of class XI (science) of Crescent Academy, Jorhat for having secured 83.8% marks in HSLC in 2017.

In his Presidential Address, Dr R C Boruah extended his gratitude to the Chief Guest for his

exemplary lecture which he said is important for a science oriented society and very much relevant to the significance of the day. He also appreciated the suggestions mentioned by Dr Jayaraj and said that as the President of the Science Society, he would address them soon.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks offered by Dr Prasanta Hazarika, Scientist, RFRI & Asst. Secy., Assam Science Society. The programme was attended by an august gathering of CSIR-NEIST fraternity, invited guests, dignitaries, members from the Assam Science Society & Dr J N Baruah Memorial Trust and school students.



Padmabhushan Dr A V Rama Rao, Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Avra Laboratories Pvt.Ltd., Hyderabad delivering the 23rd Dr J N Baurah Memorial Lecture on 'Science and its Relevance to Society'.



Dr A V Rama Rao, unveiling the bust of Late Dr J N Baruah in presence of Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST and other dignitaries.



A section of audience attending the programme at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium.