

Assamese Film Day Celebrated



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Angshuman Dev Choudhury 25 March 2016 6027 views

The first [Assamese](#) film Joymoti, produced by Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala was screened on 20th March 1935 at the Kamrup Natya Samiti auditorium (now known [as](#) Kumar bhaskar Natya Mandir) at Guwahati.

To commemorate this occasion, Kamrup Nataya Samiti, Dr. [Bhupen Hazarika](#) Foundation (BHF) and [Pragjyoti Communications](#) organized the first ever [Assamese](#) Cinema Day at the Bishnu [Nirmala](#) Auditorium. The centenary of the Kamarup Natya Samiti (1912) was also [celebrated](#) on the occasion.

Several artists and [writers](#) were felicitated on the occasion. Kheerada Kumari Barua, wife of late Prashuram Barua who had played the role of Gadapani in Joymoti, recalled the struggle associated with Joymoti. She recalled how Jyotiprasad had faced immense difficulties while making the film. She also lamented that Aideu Handique, playing the protagonist in Joymoti, who had faced tremendous social stigma for acting in the film was never given due recognition by the government or various organisations.

Eminent columnist Dilip Kumar Hazarika recalled the thrill of watching Joymoti for the first time. The [chief](#) Convenor of Kamrup Natya Samiti, Dhirendranath Barua recalled the first screening of Joymoti and how women from Uzan Bajar, Latashil and other localities came in large numbers to watch the film.

Jyotiprasad Agarwala's Daughter Satayashri [Das](#), Dr. [Bhupen Hazarika](#)'s sister Kabita Barua, brother Samar Hazarika BHF [President](#) and eminent educationist Dr. Kulendu Pathak, Bimal Medhi of Kamrup Natya Samiti, eminent actor Nipon Goswami, Sadhan Hazarika, music director Ramen Barua, [author](#) Rabendra Kumar [Das](#) and Dr. Roman Sharma among others were present on the occasion. 'Jyoti Prapat', the memorial volume on Jyoti Prasad edited by BHF Secretary Dipanka Hazarika was inaugurated by Satyashri [Das](#). In the evening the film 'Rupkownwar Jyotiprasad Agarwal Aru Joymoti', by Dr. [Bhupen Hazarika](#) was screened.

An all Assam quiz competition on 'Jyotiprasad and Joymoti' was conducted by quiz master Nabakanta Baishya. More than 20 teams from all [over](#) Assam participated in the competition. The teams comprising of Bijit [Das](#) and dhrubvajyoti Barman from Nalbari College, Debashish Dutta and Nilotpall Goswami, Abdul Momin and Derajuddin Ahmed won first, second and third prizes respectively. The winners were awarded with cash prizes, certificates and books. The day long programme was moderated by eminent cultural activist, book editor and Secretary of the BHF, Dipanka Hazarika. It was also decided that 20th March will be [celebrated as Assamese Film](#) Day every year.

Angshuman Dev Choudhury

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