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Global issues need collaboration among nations: Bangla envoy

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 12: Today is the time of global collaboration and the world's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic best illustrates this. There are so many global issues that require collaboration among the world's nations.

This was observed by Ruhul Amin, Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Guwahati, while addressing the Swami Vivekananda memorial foundation day function of St Vivekananda English Academy, Maligaon, today.

The occasion marked the 160th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's most influential spiritual figures and a youth icon.

Amin also stressed the need for schools to inculcate values in students for their overall personality development. "Extracurricular activities including humanitarian and cultural ones is an ideal way to inculcate values in children and

mould minds towards nation-building," he said.

The Secretary of Board of Secondary Education Assam (SEBA) Naranarayan Nath, in his address, said that thrust was now being given on 'conceptualising education' instead of 'memorising education' as per the mandate of the National Education Policy.

"This will necessitate some changes in assessment as well. We will be having 50% objective marks (out of a total of 90 marks) in core subjects in core subjects in the HSLC exam," he said.

Nath also referred to the recent step of SEBA in introducing an Android app for spoken English in schools. Over four lakh students are using this app, which is the seventh most-downloaded app in Assam, he added.

Writer and critic Mayur Bora who delivered the Vivekananda Commemorative Lecture drawing a parallel between Vivekananda and the 15th-

century saint of Assam Srimanta Sankaradeva said that despite the time gap of over 400 years, both shared a common trait in their philosophy and activities.

"Both stood for egalitarian social values and opposed oppressive class distinctions perpetuated by the religious clergy and the rulers. Both tried to infuse liberalism and vigour in the thought process of the masses," he said.

Stating that Vivekananda was now being appropriated by many for their vested interests, Bora said that the Swami always stood for Hindu-Muslim unity. "He said very categorically that 'if any religion is approaching equality, it is Islam and Islam alone,'" he added.

The 29th foundation day of the school was also marked by the launch of a community engagement programme 'Yeh Dil Dhadakne Do' aimed at spreading heart care awareness amongst the public.