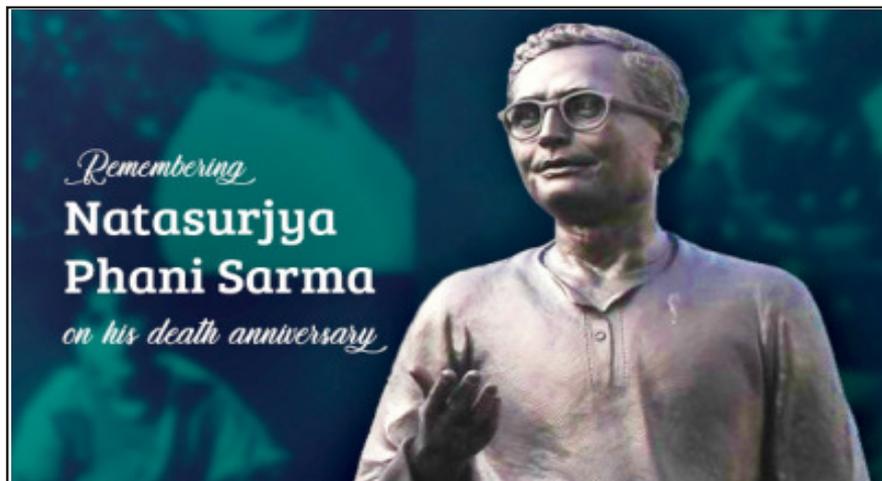


## Tribute paid to 'Natasurjya' Phani Sarma



Rich tribute was paid to 'Natasurjya' Phani Sarma, one of the most distinguished theatre personalities of Assam in a webinar organised by Ramdhenu Sub-Committee of Asam Sahitya Sabha with President Dr Kuladhar Saikia in the chair on July 31, 2021. Moderator Dr Sanjiv Kumar Sarma began the proceeding with a brief introduction of Phani Sarma which was followed by opening remark by President Dr Saikia in which he termed Phani Sarma as an in-born talent who took the whole amateur theatre scenario of Assam to a rare height with his enviable acting skill and brilliant directorial pursuits.

Eminent theatre director-playwright Dr Sitanath Lahkar who took part in the webinar as the main speaker presented a thought-provoking speech on the topic 'A glimpse into the theatre genius in Phani Sarma with special reference to the play 'Siraj''. Dr Lahkar said that each and every famous play of the world clearly reflect the life, philosophy and socio-political viewpoint of the playwright, and 'Siraj' is also no exception. Phani Sarma's attempt to highlight the bond of communal harmony among the Hindu and Muslim communities of Assam and his endeavour for more stress on the sense and values of humanity rather than religion clearly depict his deep concern for overall mental upliftment of the society, said Dr Lahkar while pointing at the character of Siraj Hazarika, the central character of the play.

Delivering the second speech in the webinar, noted theatre director, actress Rabijita Gogoi dwelt at length the present scenario of new and innovative styles of theatre production. Gogoi was of the opinion that since 90s, plays have been staged even without thorough text. She presented a brief narrative on the innovative styles of theatre production of Anuradha Bajaj, Nilam Man Singh Choudhury and others as examples. Gogoi also presented an articulate statement on the post-dramatic theatre, device theatre and some other new elements of contemporary theatre production.

Popular and talented singer Dr Sangeeta Kakati presented a song from the film 'Siraj' in the webinar which was designed by Manik Ahmed, the convenor of the sub-committee. Others who also took part in the webinar include Jina Rajkumari, Darathi Bharadwaj, Samragyi Kashyap, Soumya Jyoti Mahanta, Pankaj Jyoti Bhuyan, Tanuja Bora and others.