

'Gandhian ideals still relevant for nation-building'

GUWAHATI, Sept 13: "Gandhian values of non-violence and tolerance are still relevant today in the context of the socio-cultural and political integration of culturally diverse India," said Satya Narayan Sahu, former Press Secretary to the President of India, in his keynote lecture on the topic 'Challenges for nation building: perspective from Mahatma Gandhi' on the occasion of the inauguration of Uma Charan

Bania Lecture Series at Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College yesterday.

Sahu also mentioned some anecdotes related to the life of Gandhi reflecting his universal acceptance. "Gandhism will keep showing direction to the peoples around the world," he said.

The occasion was graced by Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Member of the Parliament. In his inaugural speech, Tasa stressed the need for

serious study of books and world view on the part of the students.

Kumar Sanjai Krishna, IAS, Manoranjan Banikya, Dr Amburam Gogoi, president of the college governing body, and other dignitaries along with teachers and students were also present on the occasion.

Dr Sikhamoni Konwar, Principal of the college, in her welcome address paid tribute to Uma Charan Bania and recalled

his life and works. She also acknowledged the contribution of the Bania family in building the Uma Charan Bania Memorial Library in the college.

The lecture was started with a *bhajan* by Dr Sangeeta Kakoti, and a *borgeet* was also presented on the occasion by college student Nimisha Dev Choudhury.

The programme was anchored by Dr Maramee Choudhury and Dr Anup Kr Deka.