



TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

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YOGA MAHOTSAV BEGINS AT TEZPUR UNIVERSITY





I am happy to note that the University is publishing the April-June edition of the Newsletter. The month of Bohag (April) is special for us as we transition from winter to the vibrant spring. The first month of the Assamese calendar symbolises joyful spirit and renewed strength. The legend, Bhupen Hazarika had aptly described Bohag as just not a month or a season, but the lifeline of the Assamese people.

As an Institution of Higher Learning, we need to draw inspiration from Bohag and work towards achieving excellence with renewed strength. It is an ongoing process of continuous improvement, where everyone needs to be involved. I am happy to note that our faculty, students, and staff members are well-motivated and guided by a curious mindset. I hope to see them bringing innovative ideas in Teaching and Research.

Wishing you all a joyous festive season.

EDITORIAL

The month of April (Bohag) is a cherished month in Assam. This season is traditionally a time of celebration and growth, and our university has mirrored this spirit by organising several activities.

To celebrate the spirit of yoga, the university kick started the 51-day Yoga Mahotsav, outreach activities to empower local communities were organised during the period, and several quality seminars and workshops were held during the period. The academic community continued to excel, with faculty and students alike giving their best in research, innovation, and cultural pursuits. This edition documents the continuous journey of the University.

We thank all those who extended support and help in bringing out the present issue of the Newsletter.

-Editorial Team

International Museum Day observed

The Department of Cultural Studies on the occasion of International Museum Day organised weeklong activities to promote the role and significance of the museums. This year's theme declared by International Council of Museums (ICOM) was "Museums for Education and Research" focusing on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, i.e Quality Education and SDG 9- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure of United Nations. The weeklong activities were organised from May 13-18, 2024.

Inaugurating the event (on May 13, 2024), Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor (VC) emphasized the crucial role of museums in education and cultural preservation. "Museums serve as vital bridges between the past and the present, offering a study into history that enriches our understanding of contemporary life", Prof Singh said during the occasion. Recalling his visit to the Smithsonian, world's largest museum, Prof Singh further added that museums not only safeguard the past but also inspire present and future generations to learn from it.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Farheena Danta, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) said that the world recognizes the pivotal role museums play in education and research. "Museums are vibrant spaces that cultivate learning, inspire curiosity, and contribute to groundbreaking research", the Dean said.

Mr Abhilash Rajkhowa, District Museum Officer, Tezpur District Museum delivered an insightful



talk on the topic: Redefining Museum Visits: Exploring Fresh Perspective, where he explained the methods of preserving Museums.

In order to promote awareness about the importance of museums in the preservation of cultural heritage and the fostering of intercultural understanding, the Department organised exhibitions and guided museum tours of the Departmental Museum called Cultural Interpretation Centre and Neelpawan Baruah Museum of Modern Art throughout the week. The celebration attracted a diverse audience, including students, faculty, staff and local residents.



ICOM
international council of museums



Importance of exploring innovative methods in legal teaching discussed

The Department of Law in collaboration with Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), Tezpur University (TU) organized a day long national workshop on “Pedagogy in Law” on May 13, 2024.

The workshop brought together esteemed legal scholars and educators from across the country to deliberate on contemporary pedagogical practices in the field of law. Prof Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad delivered the first lecture of the workshop.

Prof Rao explained the importance of exploring innovative methods of legal teaching that involves venturing beyond traditional pedagogical approaches to engage students in dynamic and interactive learning experiences. He further said that by embracing innovation in legal teaching, educators can inspire a new generation of legal professionals in the coveted domain of Law.

Addressing as the Chief Guest, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, VC said that the theme of the workshop highlighted the crucial role of effective teach-

ing methodologies in legal education.

Speaking on the occasion as the Guest of honour, Prof Farheena Danta, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences, TU said that such workshop offers a platform to refine teaching techniques, adapt to evolving educational trends, and ultimately enhance instruction quality. For students pursuing their LL.M and aspiring to become educators themselves, this workshop is of utmost importance, the Dean added.

The other notable speakers at the workshop included Prof Debasis Poddar of National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam who delivered a talk on interdisciplinary perspectives in legal pedagogy and Prof Anu Mehra, Faculty of Law, Delhi University who discussed the topic-understanding student assessment and feedback.

Dr Madhumita Acharjee, Head (i/c), Dept. of Law and Dr Akhilesh Kumar, Director (i/c), MMTTC shared their expertise and experiences in leveraging pedagogy to create engaging and impactful learning experiences for law students.

Tezpur University initiates Project on Capacity Building to Challenge Gender Based Discrimination in Tea Gardens of Assam

In order to challenge gender-based discrimination in tea gardens of Assam, three Departments of the University, viz. the Department of Cultural studies, Department of Foreign languages and Department of Social work launched a transformative capacity-building program in selected tea gardens of Assam.

Speaking on the inaugural event on May 13, 2024, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, VC lauded the initiative. He said that women in the tea gardens make the largest workforce of women in Assam. Yet, their living and working condition is a concern. Prof Farheena Danta, Dean Humanities and Social Sciences emphasised the need for education. Addressing the gathering, Mr Stephen Ekka, Project Team leader, who has been working with the community for nearly two decades, lamented that Adivasis have suffered since British time and there is a sense of hopelessness prevailing in the community. Mr Himangshu Borah, Manager, Dherai Tea Estate also spoke on the importance of spreading awareness among the Adivasi community on this occasion.

The inaugural programme began with an invocation of an Adivasi poem celebrating the power of nature by Dr Moushumi Kandali, one of the

core team members of the project. Dr Hemjyoti Medhi, explained that the project shall adopt a multidisciplinary approach by bringing together three disciplines- Cultural Studies, Literature and Social work. The initiative will involve collaborations with local NGOs, tea garden management, and community leaders to ensure a holistic and sustainable approach. Dr Dr Samhita Barooah, Department of Social Work and Co Researcher in the project, offered the vote of thanks. The programme was conducted in both English and Sadri languages. Eminent NGO leaders Hema Das, Reeta Bannerjee and a host of community leaders and stakeholders from the Adivasi community attended the programme.

AWAAZ CAMPAIGN

Tezpur University Students' Science Council (TUSSC) organized a campaign against child sexual abuse. The campaign aimed to address the critical issue of child sexual abuse through education and empowerment. The campaign named "Awaz" emphasized the need to protect children.

Through a series of workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions with experts in the field, TUSSC highlighted the importance of creating safe spaces for children

and encouraging dialogue to break the silence surrounding this critical issue. University's faculty members-Dr Namami Sharma, Ms Angel Habamon Syiem and Dr. Gitanjali Ghosh acted as resource persons in the campaign.

Dr. Sharma conducted a body mapping session, emphasizing awareness and prevention. Dr. Gitanjali Ghosh and Angel Syiem conducted sessions on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and legal remedies.



YOGA MAHOTSAV BEGINS AT TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

In order to celebrate the spirit of Yoga, The Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences and National Service Scheme (NSS), TU wing kick started 51-day Yoga Mahotsav from May 02, 2024.

The event started with the lighting of the lamp by Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries present on the occasion.

Delivering the inaugural speech as the Chief Guest, Prof Singh emphasized the importance of Yoga for physical, mental and psychological well-being. “Everyone these days is discussing the physical wellbeing of practicing Yoga. However, there are ample benefits of mental wellbeing of yoga, once someone seriously practices yoga”, Prof Singh remarked. The Vice Chancellor urged the students to practice yoga to discipline their mind.

Prof. Papori Baruah, Head, (i/c), Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences, briefed the august gathering the number of activities scheduled to be held during the yoga Mahotsav. “The Mahotsav aims to showcase the profound benefits of yoga for having a balanced mind”, Prof Baruah said.

During the inaugural event, Mr. Nagendra Kumar Jain, Guest Faculty, Centre for Yoga and Sports Sciences, Mr Partha Pratim Das, Yoga Coach, and students of TU demonstrated various asanas, meditation and pranayama. A prayer was also performed during the event by the students.

The 51-day long fest includes a host of activities such as meditation camp, seminars, dhouti camp, vlogging competition etc. The Mahotsav shall conclude on June 21, 2024 when International Yoga Day will be held.

MCJ students visit Institute of Extension Education

The batch of Semester IV of MA MCJ programme of Department of Mass Communication & Journalism visited the Extension Education Institute at Khanapara, Guwahati on May 10th on an academic purpose for their course MC600 Science Communication under supervision of Course Instructor – Prof. Abhijit Bora. There was an extensive interaction with faculty members and staff of the Institute led by Prof. Rajumoni Bordoloi, Director on various aspects of Extension Education for educational purposes as well as science communication point of view. The students gained a lot of insight into the area which would be of high help for discharging their duties in the field of mass media in future. The students were presented with lot of materials academic study produced by the institute and audio-visual programmes for future usage. The Institute that has a mandate for the entire NER is functioning from its permanent base at Khanapara from the vicinity of Assam Agriculture University’s College of Veterinary Sciences.

Later on, the students also visited the Regional Science Centre, Khanapara as part of the excursion and acquired first hand experience in the direction of science communication through do-it-yourself and practical demonstration of many of the simple and complex aspects of science.





World Press Freedom Day observed

Department of Mass Communication & Journalism on May 03, 2024 observed World Press Freedom Day with a series of activities highlighting the importance of press freedom in a democratic society.

The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2024 was "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis". To celebrate the day, the Department especially invited the working journalists to share their experience by organising a panel discussion.

Addressing on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, himself a former journalist shared his insights on the day. Speaking on the significance of the day, he said that freedom without a free press is no freedom. "It may appear to be free, but it's a curtailed freedom", Prof Singh said. Expressing concern over the deteriorating Press Freedom Index of India, the Vice Chancellor said that Development and press freedom are intricately linked, forming the backbone of democratic societies. He gave examples of Scandinavian countries, which are doing well in press freedom index as well as in human development index. Prof Singh also said that people have high expectations from Media, but very few bothered to know their well-being and their challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean, Humanities

and Social Sciences, Prof Farheena Danta urged Media to provide informed news vis a vis breaking news without the substance. Prof Danta urged the Media to do research to bring out different perspective of an issue.

While delivering the welcome address, Prof Abhijit Bora, Head of the Department said that journalists encounter significant challenges in seeking and disseminating information on contemporary issues. Therefore, it is important for students of media to know the various challenges faced by the journalists.

A panel discussion on the topic: Press Freedom and Regional Media was organised on the occasion, where Dr Pranjit Hazarika, Editor, Ganakantha, Mr Sanjeev Hazarika, President, Sonitpur Journalists' Union, Mr Pranab Kumar Das, senior reporter, ETV Bharat, Mr Pulak Kumar Deka, Bureau Chief, News Live, Mr Raj Kumar Mahanta, senior correspondent, Asomiya Pratidin and Ms Ankita Gogoi, District Information and Public Relations Officer discussed various aspects on the topic.

A book titled-The Art and Craft of Journalism, authored by Prof Joya Chakraborty, Dr Anjuman Borah, Dr Muktikam Hazarika, Dr Tinam Bora of Mass Communication & Journalism department was launched during the event. The students of the department also performed a skit on the theme of the event.



Cyber Weekend 3.0

The Department of CSE organised the third edition of Cyber Weekend during May 11-12, 2024. The aim of the event was to develop technical temperament amongst the students. Like its previous two editions, Cyber Weekend 3.0 made the weekend a thrilling one. It included several tech events such as - e-gaming contests with FIFA 19, Tekken 8 and BGMI, Chess, CS Quiz and Coding Contest. Coding contest was organized in collaboration with the Google Developer Students Club, Tezpur University and Chess was managed by the TU Chess Club. Rest of the events were managed by the Navalogy Club, which is an autonomous club in the department of CSE coordinated by Dr. Nabajyoti Medhi.

Top e-gamers, chess players and programmers of Tezpur University took part in the tech event to make this edition one of the most successful ones. Winners were felicitated with winner/runners-up certificates after conclusion of the events and all the participants were encouraged with participation certificates. A talk on "Fintech and its Security Challenges", by Mr. Joy P. Saikia, Vice President, Bank of New York Mellon, San Francisco was also organised during the event.

Legal Awareness Camp organised



In a bid to empower school students with crucial insights into their rights and responsibilities, Department of Law on April 26, 2024 organised a comprehensive legal awareness programme at a nearby school- Madhav Dev Sishu Niketan, Napaam.

More than 200 students, ranging from nursery to class X, participated in the day-long event.

The camp featured street plays performed by second and fourth-semester students of the Master of Laws (LLM) programme. These plays addressed pressing issues such as sexual harassment of minors, child labour, and waste management. These enactments were crafted to raise awareness among the students.

The students of the Department also discussed on various legal themes such as- Child Labour and Right to Education, Laws Regarding Sexual Offences Against Children and Provision of Free Legal Aid in India and Role of Independent Judiciary in Upholding Justice.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Madhumita Acharjee, Head of the Department, underscored the inclusive nature of the event, emphasising its significance in educating students from diverse age groups.

Dr. Gitanjali Ghosh, another faculty member of the Department, highlighted the importance of informed citizenship and equitable justice.

Dr Debajit Kumar Sarmah, Dr Angel Habomam Syiem, Mr Prince Kumar and Mr Lekh Raj, faculty members of Department of Law alongwith Mr Ranjan Kumar Sharma, Principal of Madhav Dev Sishu Niketan were present on the occasion.

TU inks MoU with Indian Council of Medical Research for biomedical research

The University on April 28, 2024 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Regional Medical Research Centre, NE Region, Dibrugarh to carry out biomedical research in priority areas.

Through the agreement both the institutions shall work on a broad spectrum of research areas covering epidemiological, clinical and translational aspects of both communicable and non-communicable diseases with special emphasis on diseases of regional importance.

Dr Biren Das, Registrar, TU signed the MoU on behalf of the University, whereas Prof Natarajaseenivasan Kalimuthusamy, Director, ICMR-RMRC, Dibrugarh region signed on behalf of ICMR. Dr. Rajiv Behl, Secretary to Government of India, Department of Health Research and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Prof. Partha Pratim Sahu, Dean, School of Engineering and Prof. Dhanapati Deka, Dean, Research & Development from TU were present on the occasion.



DNA DAY OBSERVED




Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MBBT) on April 25, 2024 celebrated DNA Day with a series of engaging discussions and presentations focused on the significance of genome sequencing in modern science and medicine.

Prof Nitin Chaudhary, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati was present on the occasion.

DNA Day, celebrated globally on April 25th each year, commemorates the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA in 1953 by James Watson and Francis Crick, as well as the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003.

Delivering the inaugural address, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh, VC said that DNA Day serves as a reminder of the immense importance of DNA, the molecule that carries the blueprint of life, and the ongoing revolution in genomics. “The discovery of the structure of DNA proved to be one of the most important discoveries of the last century”, Prof Singh further said.

Delivering the guest lecture, Prof Chaudhary gave an insightful address on Genome Sequencing.

Highlighting the significance of DNA Day, which he told lies in celebrating the foundation of modern genetics. “Understanding the structure of DNA unlocked a new era of scientific exploration. Along with the sequencing of human genome, the discovery allowed researchers to decipher the genetic code, the language through which traits are passed down from generation to generation”, Prof Chaudhary said. This knowledge has had a profound impact on various fields, including Medicine, Forensics, Agriculture, Anthropology, etc., Prof Chaudhary further added.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rupak Mukhopadhyay, Head of the Department said that in the current era, mankind is highly dependent on biotechnological advancements and it was evident during Covid pandemic.

During the event Prof. Robin Kumar Dutta, Dean, School of Sciences was present alongwith faculty coordinators of the event- Dr. Surya Prakash G. Ponnamm and Dr. Sunita Kushwah of MBBT department. A quiz was also organised on the occasion.

Special Lecture on “Contemporary Assamese Short Stories”



The Department of Assamese hosted a special lecture titled “Contemporary Assamese Short Story: Linguistic and Thematic Varieties” on April 9, 2024. The lecture was delivered by Geetali Borah, a distinguished short story writer, novelist, and Associate Editor of the magazine Prakash. Following the talk there was an interactive session with the writer. Dr. Juri Dutta, Head of the Department, extended the welcome address and the lecture was attended by faculty members and students of Tezpur University. Dr. Moushumi Kandali, Dr. Subrat Jyoti Neog, Dr. Sanjib Deka, Jyotishman Das, Bhaskar Bhuyan, and Pinky Moni Gayan, as well as research scholars and post-graduate students, participated in the programme and interacted with the speaker. The program was moderated by Upasna Bora, a research scholar of the Department of Assamese.



Pandit Chetan Joshi performs

Pandit Chetan Joshi, renowned flutists in Indian Classical Music and a Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee mesmerized the audience at Tezpur University with a captivating performance on April 29, 2024. The event was jointly organized by TU and the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY), a voluntary youth movement that promotes various aspects of Indian cultural heritage. The event was organised to enliven the spirit of “Bohag” the festive month.

The event showcased Pandit Joshi’s mastery of the flute, leaving the audience spellbound with his soul-stirring melodies. Pandit Joshi delved into

a series of ragas, evoking a range of emotions and moods. Pradip Sarkar, a noted tabla artist gave him excellent company.

After the performance, Pandit Joshi interacted with the students and answered their curiosities. He said that Music is not only for entertainment but also for understanding our culture and our roots. He also explained the major difference between Indian music and western music. “Music is a feel, it touches your soul”, Pandit Joshi remarked.

Earlier, the musical evening began with a tabla performance by Shankarjyoti Saikia, a Ph.D. scholar of Department of Sociology.



SPIC MACAY at TU

Dr. Ambedkar’s Birth Anniversary Observed



The University joined the nation in observing 133rd birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar celebrated as Ambedkar Jayanti. On the occasion, the students, faculty and staff members paid floral tribute to Babasaheb at his grand portrait at the premises of the Dr. Ambedkar Chair in the HSS building of the University. In the programme, Registrar of the University Dr. Biren Das read out the Preamble to the Indian Constitution and Dr. Rajeev K. Doley, Nodal Officer, Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence, apprised the of students of the significance of the event. The event was initiated by Dr. Ambedkar Chair Professor Dr. Amiya Kr. Das

Two Days' Workshop on “Next Generation Networking”



In order to introduce researchers, students, and faculty members to the fields of next generation networking, the Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) organised a Two-Day Workshop on “Next Generation Networking” during May 11-12, 2024.

Prof. Sarat Saharia, Head of the Department of CSE delivered the welcome address. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. P. P. Sahu (Dean, SoE) and

faculty members from the CSE department. The coordinator, Dr. Nabajyoti Medhi, started the session with a lecture on evolution of networking technologies.

The workshop provided an overview of the tools and technologies used in modern networking to equip the participants with the necessary knowledge to get the complete essence during the lectures and hands-on sessions. Resource persons from Academia and Industry delivered lectures on the applications of several domains of the next generation networking such as - 5G/6G, LP-WAN, SDN, Network Slicing in Telecom and Cyber Security. 35 participants attended the workshop in-person in the department of CSE. Resource persons who are experts in their respective domains, delivered lectures and carried on hands-on sessions virtually.

During the two days, participants learned several aspects of next generation networking in an interactive way. There were a total of 5 lectures and hands-on sessions held during the workshop.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof. P. Deb, DPIIT Chair Professor has been conferred with the “Best IP Mentor Award 2024” in the 2nd Global IP Leadership Summit organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSO-CHAM) on April 25, 2024 at New Delhi.

Prof. Dhanapati Deka, Dean, Research & Development visited Institute of Materials and Environmental Chemistry, Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Budapest, Hungary as Visiting Scientist under DST sponsored Indo- Hungarian Collaborative Research Project-II.



Patents filed:

Two nos. of Patent application were filed during the period of April -May 2024.

1. Age Detection of Rice Grains by Miran Jyoti Buragohain, Subhankar Chakraborty and Santanu Sharma, Dept of ECE with appl. no. 202431035281.

2. Method and System to Obtain Enhanced Autofluorescence Signal From Microbial Species On a Portable Sensing Platform by Pabitra Nath, Biprav Chetry and Chunuranjan Dutta, Dept of Physics with appl. no. 202431035472.



Patents published:

1. Pahi: Next-Gen Responsive Bionic Arm 1.0 (appl. no. 202431015607) by Durlav Sonowal and Rajjul Hussain, Dept. of ECE.

2. Traction Control Using Magnetorheological Dampers For Electric Vehicle (appl. no. 202431012822) by Subhankar Chakraborty, Shantanu Sharma and Pronita Boro, Dept. of ECE.

Patent granted:

1. System for enhancing stability of bicycle by steering-back handlebar automatically by Dilip Dutta, Sudipta Saikia, Zahnupriya Kalita and Arpeeta Saikia, Dept. of Mechanical Engg. has been granted with Patent no. 535873.



STUDENTS' CORNER

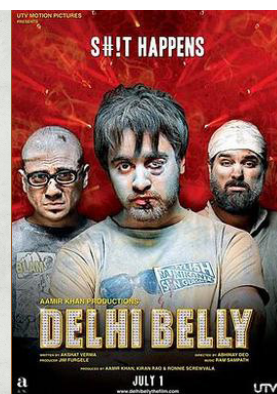


Anime Quiz/Movie Quiz/ Fan-dom Quiz

The student members of Adda Quiz Club organized Anime, Movie and Fandom Quiz on April 1st and April 3rd focusing on Harry Potter Series.

Movie Screening by Movie Club:

The Movie Club of TU has screened the Oscar-winning film - Anatomy of a Fall, and Delhi Belly. Students had an interactive session after every screening regarding cinema and society.



Bihu Husori Performance

The winning team of Bihu Husori held during the 26th Annual Meet, TU, Patkai Men's Hostel and New Women's Hostel, were invited to perform the Bihu recital at Dakshin-Paschim Tezpur Rongali Bihu Sanmilan, Chandmari, Tezpur on April 21, 2024. The performing team consisted of boarders from different hostels of the University.

International Dance Day

Nrityangan Dance Club and Tezpur University Students Council organised International Dance Day on April 29, 2024. The cultural program included dances such as- Classical, Sattriya, Odissi, Kathak; Folk- Assamese & Bengali; Assamese Modern, Western- Hip-Hop etc. The performers included students across disciplines and campus kids of varied ages.





Kanchonor Rongali

The University celebrated the cultural month of Bohag with Kanchonor Rongali. The event featured traditional games played during Bohag Bihu such as egg fights, blindfolded pot-breaking, music chair, etc. After the traditional games were played, a special Quiz on theme Bihu was organized by the students. Cultural program in the evening included Bihu Husori, Bihu, Bare Rohoniya- folk fusion, musical performances by the students.



Kobi Pronam

Students across disciplines, ages, came together to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Kobi Guru – Dr. Rabindranath Tagore on 11th May 2024 at Council Hall. The students took effort in the cultural event that included performances –Poetry, Rabindra Sangeet and Dance performance. The program ended with a Comic Act “Abhyorthono”.

Vice Chancellor, Prof Shambhu Nath Singh monitoring different community level outreach activities at Jhawani village, one of the five adopted villages of TU. Prof D C Baruah, Director, IQAC and Dr. Braja Bandhu Mishra, Finance Officer, TU is also seen.



**Transcript of the Inaugural Address of
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University on the occasion of
“International Conference on Perspectives and Innovations in
Open and Distance Learning”**

***Jointly organized by*
National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
and
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)**

**Keynote Address
Harnessing the power of AI Systems in Distance and Online Education
(1st April 2024)**



When we talk about different perspectives and innovations in open and distance learning, it reminds us of the boundless possibilities that lie ahead and the collective responsibility we share in shaping the future of Education. It is not just the beginning but the commencement of a journey towards innovation, collaboration, and progress. With hearts full of hope and minds open to new ideas, let us embark on this journey together, united in our pursuit of excellence and driven by our commitment to make a difference in the education system based on Education 5.0.

It was never thought of that the ultra-rapid advancements in Information and Communication Tech-

nologies, particularly, the groundbreaking advancements related to the Internet of Things (IoT), would lead to such massive transformations in our society, including transformations in our educational frameworks. The unprecedented pace of technological innovation has not only reshaped the way we live and interact but has also revolutionized the very essence of how we approach teaching and learning. From traditional classroom settings to the digital realms of online and distance education, the impact of these advancements has been profound, altering the landscape of education in many ways.

In the past, Open and Distance Learning (ODL) faced a significant challenge characterized by minimal interaction between teachers and learners, as well as no opportunity for discussion among peer groups, fostering a sense of isolation among students due to a lack of engagement with peers and teachers. However, with the advent of ICT-based tools and the continual emergence of new media, this issue has been effectively resolved. Learners now have the capability to engage virtually with instructors and their peers according to their needs, mitigating the previous barriers. Consequently, traditional face-to-face universities are undergoing a transformation into dual-mode institutions, acknowledging the vast potential of ICT-based tools in the era of Education 5.0 (Alharbi, 2023).

School education is the foundation of life and higher education as well, and no doubt that improving this foundation is paramount to enhance the overall national output and productivity. The National Institute of Open Schooling, which is largest open schooling system of the world, has been diligently undertaking efforts to combat the challenges of school dropouts, by reintegrating them into the mainstream of education. Furthermore, NIOS is dedicated to nurturing the ed-

educational needs of children from socio-economic disadvantaged groups, empowering them with the skills for lifelong learning and contributing to the nation's advancement as providing equitable and inclusive education is at the heart of National Education Policy 2020 and pivotal to Sustainable Development Goals.

As stated in NEP 2020, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Grades 6-8 stands at approximately 90%, GER for Grades 9-10 is about 80%, and the GER is only about 56% at the secondary level (GOI, 2020). If we are dedicated to enhancing both the overall GER and GER in higher education, it's imperative to boost GER at the Senior Secondary level. Technology-based programs offered by NIOS can be instrumental in making this difference, ushering in positive changes to increase the GER at the school level, consequently leading to improvements in GER at the higher education level as well. NEP 2020 has set a goal of achieving a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio from preschool to secondary level by 2030 (GOI, 2020), and to accomplish this, NIOS must play a pivotal role. This objective can be attained only through the utilization of modern Artificial Intelligence-based technologies (Education 5.0 tools) and online programs.

With the implementation of ABC ID now micro-credentials are the future of education. In the era of education 5.0, Online learning, MOOCs, Mobile Learning, Personalized Learning, Gamification, Virtual Laboratory are the essential component of education system, and we should not hesitate to utilize all these in teaching and learning. These tools are not only capable of effective teaching and learning but also these tools include many features which are absent in traditional face to face learning. For example, with the help of ICT mediated teaching and learning, a person with disability like persons with visual impairment, persons with hearing impairment, Specific Learning Disabilities can be provided personalized, accessible, self-directed learning and instructions can be imparted more effectively to them. Until unless we mainstream 'Divyangjan' in education system, we cannot say that our society is a just society or an inclusive society.

Skill development is need of the hour and ICT based, Artificial Intelligence based tools are capable enough to provide skill training through online and distance learning mode. In fact, these tools have revolutionized distance and online education by providing centralized platforms for course delivery, content management, assessment, and communication as having features of discussion forums, real-time chat, facilitating interactive and engaging learning experiences etc. A report of Social Financing India says that about 90% of Indian graduates are unemployable (Social Finance India, 2023), indicating an urgent need of providing foundations of vocational education at schooling level and NIOS may contribute to it in a better way because it has widespread network and capability of utilization of cutting-edge technology for imparting instructions.

Considering the paucity of time, I would be concluding with a request that in embracing modern technol-

ogies within education, one mustn't turn a blind eye to the potential pitfalls of AI-driven educational systems (Feffer et al., 2023; Pangrazio, 2024; Selwyn, 2022). Over dependence on AI tools in education may be quite dangerous, including the erosion of critical thinking skills of students as well as teachers, threats to academic integrity through plagiarism, constraints on personalized learning, over-dependence on technology, the diminishing role of educators, and concerns regarding privacy and data security. It's imperative to navigate this technological landscape with caution, ensuring that while leveraging AI advancements, we need to remain vigilant in safeguarding the integrity of education and the privacy of learners. Overall, the integration of AI-based systems in open schooling holds immense potential to enhance learning outcomes, increase efficiency, and promote inclusivity in education. However, it's essential to ensure that AI technologies are deployed ethically and responsibly, with careful consideration given to privacy, transparency, and equity concerns. We should not forget that technology is a good slave but a bad master.

This international conference on perspectives and innovations in Open and Distance Learning jointly organized by the National Institute of Open Schooling and Commonwealth Media Centre for South Asia will be a milestone for education system based on Education 5.0 and beyond in India. I anticipate that this conference will catalyse support for technology-driven education in numerous ways: by sharing best practices and innovative approaches, tackling various challenges associated with ICT-mediated instruction and pedagogy, and offering policy-level recommendations to enhance the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system. Let us contribute towards a Vikasit Bharat @ 2047 as envisioned by our vibrant and dynamic Hon'ble Prime Minister by harnessing the power of AI based systems.

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POLICY

In order to acknowledge and encourage the faculty members, staff members and students (both alumni and currently on roll) who are bestowed with state, national, and international awards/recognitions in any field of specialization, the University provides incentives on a yearly basis as per the following achievements:

Category A:

Teachers/staff/students who receive the following awards/recognitions/ achievements shall be considered for a commendation certificate and monetary benefit of Rs. 50,000/- on the Foundation Day of the University.

- (1) International Awards of highest standard (e.g. Nobel Prize, Booker Prize, Pulitzer Prize, Field Medal, Gandhi Peace Prize, World Food Prize, Grammy Award, Medals in Olympics, World Championship and other awards of same stature.)
- (2) Valued Continental Awards of highest standard (e.g. Ramon Magsaysay Award, Medals in Asiad/Commonwealth games and other awards of same stature)
- (3) Valued National Awards of highest standard (Padma Awards, Bhatnagar Award, Jnanpith award, Medals in National Games and other awards of same stature)

Category B:

Teachers/staff/students having received the following awards/recognitions/ achievements shall be considered for a public commendation and a certificate of appreciation letter on the Foundation Day of the University.

- (1) Awards/Recognitions of Societies of National/ International Institutions/Levels (e.g. Fellowship/

membership of International Bodies like FRS, national science chair)

(2) Valued awards of National/Regional Societies/ Institutions/Universities

(3) Awards established by Government of India/ State Governments (e.g. young scientists).

Category C:

Teachers/staffs/students having received the following awards/Recognitions/ achievements shall be considered for a commendation certificate on the Foundation Day of the University.

- (1) Awards restricted categories.
- (2) National/International Commendation Certificates.
- (3) Research/Social Awards with cash/citation/ medal.
- (4) Awards established by State/Regional societies.
- (5) Award in a conference of International Society of repute.

Category D:

Names and photos of the teachers/staffs/students having received the following awards shall be published in the university newsletter, annual report of the university and uploaded on the university website.

- (1) Valued awards of conferences
- (2) Potential for excellence and Centre of excellence
- (3) Major sponsored research grant/project
- (3) Recognitions from a reputed National/International Societies

The following faculty, students and research scholars were awarded during **31st Foundation Day of the University:**

CATEGORY B

Sl No	Name of the Individual(s)	Current Designation	Name of Department/Office	Whether individual is Faculty/Non-Teaching employee/Research Scholar/Student.	Name of the Award, Recognition, Fellowship/Work etc.	Name of the Awarding Agency	Category
1	Dr. Moon Moon Devi	Assistant Professor	Physics	Faculty	State Science Award 2022 in the category of Young Scientist Award	Assam Science Technology and Environment Council	B1
2	Mr. Janmejy Sarkar	Senior Research Fellow (SRF)	Department of Physics	Research Scholar	Directly involved and responsible for the integration and testing of SUIT module of India's space mission ADITYA-L1 of ISRO to study solar atmosphere.	IUCAA and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	B2

CATEGORY C

Sl No	Name of the Individual(s)	Current Designation	Name of Department/Office	Whether individual is Faculty/Non-Teaching employee/Research Scholar/Student. If the work is done in a Group, please mention all the names	Name of the Award, Recognition, Fellowship/Work etc.	Name of the Awarding Agency	Category
1	Suranjana Patowary	PhD student	Chemical Sciences	Research Scholar	Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship	Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK	C
2	Dr. Subrat Jyoti Neog	Associate Professor	Assamese	Faculty	Assam state film award, 2023	Govt of Assam	C1
3	Sriram M	Assistant Professor	Food Technology, SNS College of Technology	Individual - Student	AFSTI - Education and Publication Scholarship Award & AFSTI - Best Student Award	Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (India)	C
4	Dr. Manashita Borah	Assistant professor	Electrical Engineering	Faculty	Scientific contribution to the NASA project 'Lucy' in USA	NASA	C
5	Hridisha Bhuyan	Student	Electrical Engineering	Student	3rd position in AITSC-2023	National Cadet Corps (NCC)	C
6	Parismita Koch (Research Scholar) , Dr. Poonam Mishra (Supervisor)	Research Scholar and Professor	Food Engineering and Technology	Research Scholar and Faculty	Technology transfer of Pomelo marmalade	TRISAM brand	C
7	Lt (Dr) Hitesh Sharma	Assistant Professor	Education	Faculty	Best ANO award of Assam State	Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare	C
8	Dr. Ratul Kumar Baruah	Associate Professor	ECE	Faculty	1. Invitational "Initiation of International Collaboration" by "German Research Foundation" (DFG), no. GZ: KL 2961/15-1 at Technical University Dresden, Germany (a leading technical university in Germany) for a 3-month research stay in 2024 with German Innovator awardee Prof. Karl Leo's Group. 9.650 Euro is sanctioned as fellowship.	1-- "German Research Foundation" (DFG) Germany	C
9	Danriyoli Kausik Bhagawati.	Student (Integrated B.Sc B.Ed, 3rd Year)	Chemical Sciences	Student	1st position in artistic group event(yogasana)	ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action)	C
10	Prof. Nadan Sit	Professor	Food Engineering and Technology	Faculty	Dr. D B Wankhede Excellence Award	Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (India)	C
11	Dr. Pankaj Bharali	Assistant Professor	Chemical Sciences	Dr Pankaj Bharali (PI) and Dr Utpal Bora (CoPI)	Received Industrial R&D project work of 50000 USD from Shell India Markets Pvt Ltd	M/s Shell India Markets Pvt Ltd	C
12	Dr. Moushumi Kandali	Assistant Professor	Cultural Studies	Faculty	South Asia edition of the Laadli Media and Advertising Award		C
13	Reema Borah	PhD student	Cultural Studies	Research Scholar	Best Film on Social Issues of the 69th National Film Awards 2021 (Feature Films category) for her Assamese film Anunaad – the Resonance.	Ministry of I&B	C

CATEGORY D

Sl No	Name of the Individual(s)	Current Designation	Name of Department/Office	Category/Type of Award employee/Research Scholar/Student. If the work is done in a Group, please mention all the names	Name of the Award, Recognition, Fellowship/Work etc.	Name of the Awarding Agency	Category
2	Debanjana Biswas	MTech Student (second year)	Department of Food Engineering and Technology	MTech Student currently under the guidance of Dr. Soumya Ranjan Purohit	Best Poster Presentation Award	CSIR NEIST & Society for Ethnopharmacology	D1
3	Bhupali Deka	Research Scholar	Physics	Research Scholar, Name of the co-authors of the work are Prof Dambarudhar Mohanta, Vaishali Naik, Abhijit Saha	Our work has been selected as a journal's back cover page for issue on June 2023, Volume 260, No. 6 in Physica status solidi B (Publishing house: WILEY)	'Physica status solidi B' journal (Publishing house: WILEY)	D2
4	Lourembam Monika Devi	Research Scholar	Food Engineering and Technology	Research Scholar and supervisor (Lourembam Monika Devi, Prof Laxmikant S Badwaik)	JR AGRO Poster Competition Award	The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA)	D4
5	Sayed Afzal Ali	Research Scholar	Electrical Engineering	Dr. Md Rahat Mahboob, Prof. Tarikul Islam	Journal published: "A Simple Setup For Temperature Study Of Humidity Sensors, "A IEEE International Conference on Emerging Frontiers in Electrical and Electronic Technologies (ICEFEET), 2022		D
6	Amlan Jyoti Kalita	Research Scholar	ECE	Research Scholar	Best presentation in PhD Symposium	6th International Conference of the Robotic Society	D
7	Dr. Prasenjit Roy	Assistant Professor	Commerce	Faculty	Best Paper Award in International Seminar	Joint Seminar Program by Assam University, Alabama A&M University and North Eastern Hill University	D
8	Dr. Sushen Kirtania	Associate Professor	Mechanical Engineering	Shahana Parbin (Student), Sushen Kirtania (Faculty), and Satadru Kashyap (Faculty)	Best Paper Award in an International Conference	SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur Campus, Tamil Nadu, India.	D
9	Dr. Biswajit Ghose	Assistant Professor	Commerce	Faculty	Best Paper Award in International Conference	IIM Jammu	D
10	Dr. Biswajit Ghose	Assistant Professor	Commerce	Faculty	Best Paper Award in International Conference	Assam University	D
11	Dr. Biswajit Ghose	Assistant Professor	Commerce	Faculty	Best Paper Award in International Conference	Assam University	D
12	Mr. Niku Ahmed	Junior Research Fellow	Chemical Sciences	Research Scholar. Work done in group and contributed by Mr. Niku Ahmed, Dr. Prashurya Pritam Mudoi, Dr. Anup Choudhury, Dr. Nayanmoni Gogoi	Best Poster Presentation Award in 2nd Asian Conference on Molecular Magnetism	Asian Conference on Molecular Magnetism organized by IISER Bhopal	D
13	Maibam Pooya Chanu	PhD Student	Electronics and Communication Engineering	Research Scholar	Best Oral Presentation for Sessions on Rehabilitation, Assistive Devices and Humanoids	The Robotics Society "Advances in Robotics 2023"	D

14	Tushar Bhuyan	Research Scholar	Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University	Research Scholar	1st prize in the photography competition organised on the occasion of Northeast Cycling Awards 2023	Pedal for a Change	D
15	Dr. Pralay Kumar Karmakar, Joysmita Nandi, and Tanushree Bezbaruah	Professor, Research Assistant, and Research Scholar; respectively (as per above sequence)	Physics	Professor as the guiding, supervising, and communicating author (Coauthor: Joysmita Nandi and Tanushree Bezbaruah)	Best Poster Award (in the 3rd International Conference on Plasma Theory and Simulation (PTS-2023), JNU, New Delhi, India]	International PTS Society	D
16	Shamiran Baroi	Research Scholar	Chemical Science		Best Paper Award		D
17	Asadulla Asraf Ali	Research Scholar	Chemical Science		Cover Article in Current Science		D





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