



# TEZPUR UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

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Tezpur University Opens Admission for Academic Year 2025-26



# VC's Corner



*I am pleased to inform you of the publication of another edition of our Newsletter. As it is the admission season, let me highlight some of our new initiatives. Tezpur University currently offers 85 academic programmes (UG, PG, PhD, Diploma, and Executive) across 28 departments within four Schools. Recognizing the evolving academic landscape, we have introduced eight innovative academic programmes starting from the 2025-26 Academic Year.*

*These are BA in Linguistics and Language Technology, BA in Sociology, M.Tech in Solar Energy Engineering, M.Tech in Manufacturing Technology and Automation, Master of Translation Studies, Dual Degree B.TechMBA, Executive Development Program in Renewable Energy and Energy Management and Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Markets.*

*I believe that with the support of our faculty, staff, and bright students, we shall be able to embrace innovation and skill development. I wish for a brighter future for all.*

## EDITORIAL



The Editorial team is happy to publish the February-March 2025 edition of the Newsletter. This edition carries several important achievements of the University. Notably, the receiving of the prestigious PURSE proposal shows the quality of our research work. We are a young university, but we are an ambitious university. Our aspirations are high. Every time we publish the Newsletter; we document these aspirations and emotions. This edition is no different. We hope you will like reading this edition as well.

Editorial Team





# Tezpur University Opens Admission for Academic Year 2025-26

Tezpur University (TU) has launched its admission portal to register students in various programmes of study during the academic year 2025-26. Tezpur University will admit students through the following entrance examinations, Tezpur University Entrance Examination (TUEE), Graduate Aptitude Test – Biotechnology (GAT-B), Common University Entrance Test-Under Graduate and Post Graduate (CUET-UG & PG-2025), The Joint Entrance Examination – Main (JEE-Mains), Common Entrance Examination for Design (CEED), UG- National Institute of Design (NID) Design Aptitude Test (DAT), and The Undergraduate Common Entrance Examination for Design (UCEED).

The University will also admit students based on scores from the National Eligibility Test (NET), State Eligibility Test (SLET), and Graduate

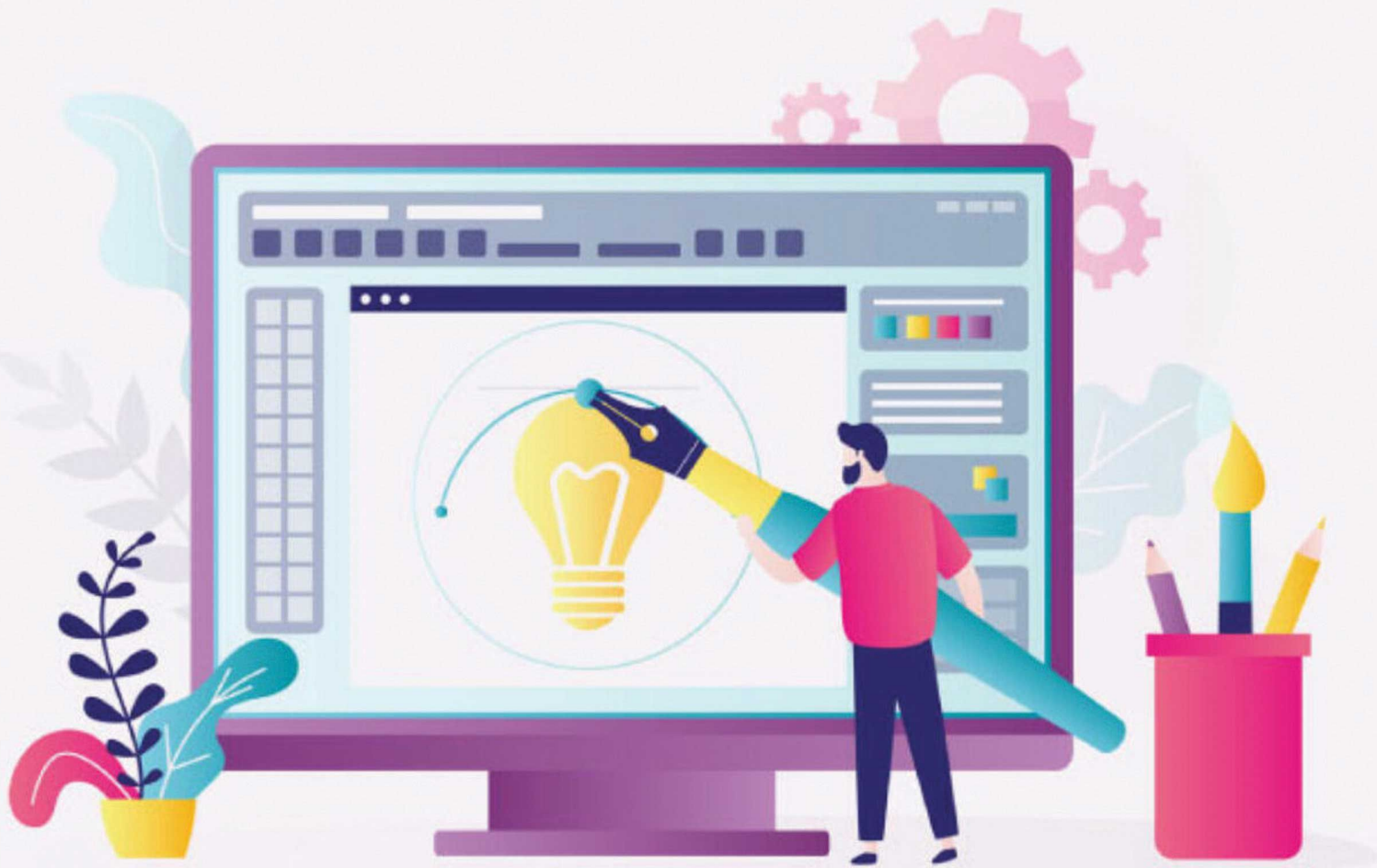
Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE).

Prospective students can explore a wide range of programmes in the Schools of Sciences, Engineering, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Management. The University currently offers eighty-five (85) academic programmes, encompassing UG, PG, Dual Degree, PhD, Diploma, and Executive programmes across diverse disciplines.

For detailed information on programmes offered, eligibility criteria, and the admission process, please visit: <https://www.tezu.ernet.in/academic/admission2025/>

Last date for online application submission is April 30, 2025. The tentative dates for the Tezpur University Entrance Examination (TUEE) are June 6-8, 2025.





# TU launched eight new innovative programmes

Recognizing the evolving academic landscape, TU has launched eight new innovative programmes from the 2025-26 Academic Year. These are BA in Linguistics and Language Technology, BA in Sociology, M.Tech in Solar Energy Engineering, M.Tech in Manufacturing Technology and Automation, Master of Translation Studies, Dual Degree B.TechMBA, Executive Development Program in Renewable Energy and Energy Management and Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Markets.

Notably, a dual degree B.Tech. and MBA program is Northeast India's first such programme. The Programme combines the studies of engineering and management into a single, integrated course. This typically takes five years to complete, as opposed to the six years it would take if pursued separately. This Dual Degree program aims to integrate two different yet converging fields. This allows students to learn about two areas that they are passionate about. This programme will increase their potential in both fields viz. Engineering and Management.





## Prestigious PURSE research grant to Tezpur University

Tezpur University has received the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India's prestigious PURSE research grant of Rs 10 crore. PURSE stands for 'Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence'.

The main objective of the project is to provide support for nurturing the research ecosystem and strengthening existing research infrastructure for scientific development. Under this scheme, the DST will provide financial assistance to the University for a period of four years to procure high-end advanced instrumentation facilities for cross-disciplinary applications, research manpower, consumables, instrument maintenance, scientific social responsibility initiatives, support for start-ups and industrial collaboration, and the organization of seminars and workshops.

The TU PURSE project builds upon the

advancement of research already achieved in various disciplines by TU researchers. The key areas of research are green hydrogen production, conversion of bio-waste to bio-fuels, and development of energy conversion and storage devices. Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor of TU, congratulated the entire team for the honor and thanked DST for awarding the prestigious grant. The proposal was presented in Delhi before a high-level committee by the Vice Chancellor himself.

The proposal had to be meticulously prepared, given the presence of several competing higher educational institutions. The TU PURSE Committee, with representation from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) departments, finalized the proposal including several thrust areas.





## Tezpur University Leads to Develop New Model Curriculum for Mass Communication

To reform Mass Communication programs in Indian Higher Education Institutions as per the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines, Tezpur University organized a two-day National Workshop on a Learning Outcome-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) at the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism (MCJ) during January 28-29, 2025. The University has been entrusted by the UGC with the crucial task of developing this curriculum. The LOCF committee is headed by Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor (VC) of Tezpur University.

The workshop brought together a distinguished panel of academicians and industry veterans, including Prof. B.P. Sanjay, former founding ViceChancellor of the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Prof. K.G. Suresh, Former Director General of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, Prof. Sanjay Dwivedi, former Director General of IIMC, New Delhi, Prof. Niranjana Vanalli, Vice Chancellor of Bangalore North University, Prof. Sisir K. Basu, Senior Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Prof. Biswajit Das, former founding Director of Centre for Culture, Media & Governance at Jamia Millia



Islamia, Prof. Sanjeev Bhanawat, Former Head at the Centre for Mass Communication at University of Rajasthan, Prof. Mira Desai, Head of the Department of Extension & Communication at SNDT Women's University, Prof. Vasuki Belavadi, Director of the Centre for Digital Learning, Training & Resources (CDLTR) at the University of Hyderabad, Prof. Govind Singh, Dean at the School of Media at Central University of Jammu, Prof. Heeraman Tiwari, Chairperson at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Om Prakash Singh, former Director of the Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya Institute of Hindi Journalism at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Dr. Biplab L. Choudhury, Professor at the Centre for Journalism & Mass Communication, Visva -

Bharati University, Dr. Uma Shankar Pandey, Head of Journalism and Mass Communication at Surendranath College for Women, University of Calcutta, Mr. P.J. Baruah, Executive Editor of Assam Tribune, Mr. Vishnu Achutha Menon, Assistant Professor at the Institute for Educational and Developmental Studies, Noida, and Prof. R.N. Kar, Principal, Shyam Lal College. Aligning LOCF with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, these esteemed experts collaboratively analyzed and tried to formulate a model curriculum for media education within the framework of NEP 2020. By prioritizing measurable and competency-driven outcomes, LOCF fosters a learner-centered, skill-oriented educational environment that resonates with NEP's overarching goals.



## 32nd Foundation Day of Tezpur University observed

Tezpur University marked its 32nd Foundation Day with Prof. V.K. Jain, former Vice-Chancellor, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the evolving role of universities from primarily teaching to actively contributing to national

growth through research and innovation, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary approaches and initiatives like the National Research Foundation and the One Nation One Subscription policy for scholarly journals. Shri



Brindaban Goswami, former Education Minister of Assam and MLA for Tezpur, as the Guest of Honour, urged the university to focus research on the optimal utilization of Assam's natural resources for regional development, reminding the community of its establishment following the Assam movement and the expectation to fulfill the aspirations of the new generation.

Presiding over the event, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh called upon the university community to draw inspiration from Assamese cultural icons Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Bishnu

Prasad Rava, Bhupen Hazarika, and Neelpawan Baruah, whose influence is deeply embedded in the university's symbols and spaces, stressing that their strength and sense of responsibility should originate from these local luminaries. The celebration also witnessed the inauguration of the first issue of the Tezpur University Multidisciplinary Research journal, a quarterly publication edited by Prof. D.C. Baruah, with Prof. Sankar Chandra Deka, Chairperson of the organising committee, providing an overview of the university's journey.

## Tezpur University Organized Alumni Meet



Tezpur University on January 20, 2025 hosted an alumni meet for graduates from the batches of 1995 to 2005. The event brought together former students from various departments, providing an opportunity for them to reconnect with their alma mater and fellow alumni.

Inaugurating the alumni meet, Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor of the University, thanked the alumni for being the torchbearers of the University. He said that from humble beginnings at Tezpur Law College, the University transformed into a prestigious Higher



Educational Institution, and much of its credit goes to the alumni. Prof. Singh requested the alumni to continue to share their wisdom for the growth of the University.

Dr. Debojit Boro, President, Tezpur University Alumni Association, while delivering his welcome address, hoped that the reunion would provide a valuable platform for alumni to reconnect with their roots, share their experiences, and contribute to the continued growth of Tezpur University.

Prof. Debarshi Prasad Nath, an alumnus of the

Department of English and currently a professor at the Department of Cultural Studies, narrated how the university was far ahead of its time when it comes to curriculum and the semester system. He also said that the university's work culture was laudable.

The alumni meet featured a variety of activities, including interactive sessions, engaging discussions with current faculty and students, providing insights into the university's latest developments and achievements, a campus tour, and alumni networking.



## 27th Annual Meet of Tezpur University

The 27th Annual Meet of Tezpur University was organised in a spirited manner. During the opening ceremony held on February 21, 2025 Shri Lakhya Konwar, Vice President, Sports Authority of Assam and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), graced the occasion as the chief guest. Also present was Shri Jiten Borthakur, President of the Sonitpur District Sports Association and Member of the Assam Olympic Association. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Konwar highlighted the attitudinal difference between Indian and Western higher educational institutions with regard to sports. He remarked that in the Indian educational system, academics are given top priority over sports, whereas in the West, sports are taken as seriously as academics. He cited the example of many top-notch higher educational institutions in the US and Europe that regularly produce Olympians and Olympic medalists.





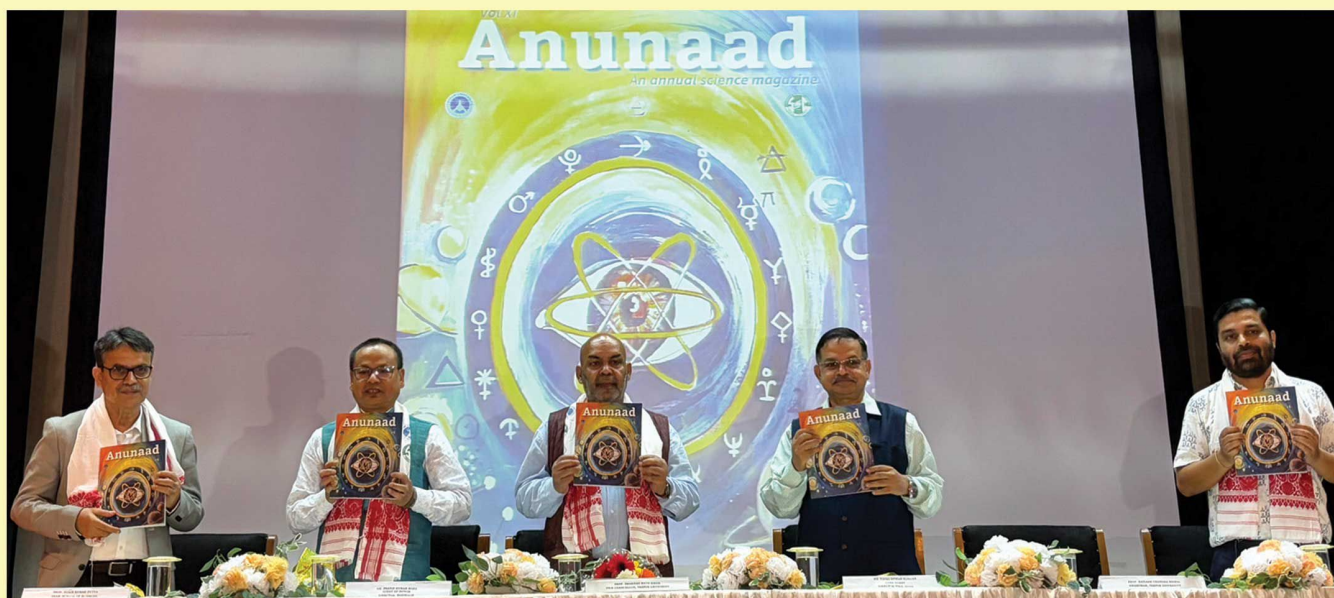
## 27th Annual Meet of Tezpur University





Prof. R. R. Hoque, Dean, Academic Affairs, TU while delivering the inaugural address (in the absence of the Vice Chancellor), spoke of the virtues of sports. He said that sports offer a holistic developmental experience, shaping not just our physical capabilities but also our character and inner strength. He also lamented the fact that, due to a lack of facilities, much promising sporting talent is lost by academic institutions.

The annual meet featured a host of sporting, literary and cultural activities.



## inSCIgnis Science Fest organised

The Students' Science Council of Tezpur University organized the 12th edition of inSCIgnis, the annual science festival on 28th February. inSCIgnis is organized on the occasion of National Science Day, which is celebrated in India on February 28 each year to commemorate the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman. The inaugural ceremony, held at the KBR auditorium of the University, was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Ujjwal Kumar Baruah, Project Director of International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor

tor-India (ITER), who served as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Pradip Kumar Bora, Director of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), who was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University, delivered the inaugural address and explained the theme for this year's inSCIgnis: "Curiosity: To Decode the Wonders of Reality Through Science." He emphasized that curiosity is the driving force behind every scientific endeavor. "It is through curiosity that we question the world around us; and



try to uncover the mysteries of the universe," the Vice Chancellor stated.

Mr. Ujjwal Kumar Baruah, Chief Guest, gave a presentation titled "Simulating the Sun: Fusing Atoms." He stated that the golden period of physics was in the 1960s and emphasized the importance of popularizing science through effective communication. He also highlighted that exceptional research papers are often written in one's mother tongue, citing Chinese research journals as an example. Dr. Pradip Kumar Bora stated that India's budgetary allocation for science and technology is quite low. He also pointed out that India ranks poorly on the innovation index. He noted that India's education

system previously promoted rote learning and emphasized that knowledge should be prioritized over marks. He cautioned that while celebrating our past achievements, we must avoid promoting pseudoscience.

Prof. Robin Kumar Dutta, Dean of the School of Sciences, stated that India is lagging behind leading countries in science. However, he advocated for focusing on indigenous research rather than blindly copying Western approaches.

The dignitaries inaugurated Anunaad, the annual science magazine, on the occasion. Various activities such as science exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and quizzes were organized on the occasion.



## Lecture Series on the works of Nobel Laureates organised

Tezpur University (TU) organised a highly insightful three-day Lecture Series titled "Frontier Knowledge, Imagination, and Initiatives," dedicated to exploring the significant contributions of the 2024 Nobel Laureates across various disciplines. The event, held from January 28-30, 2025 provided a platform for in-depth analysis and discussion of the groundbreaking works recognized by the prestigious Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace.



The lecture series brought together a distinguished panel of experts from across India, each offering their unique perspectives on the laureates' achievements. Prof. Partha Konar, a highly regarded theoretical physicist from the esteemed Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, delved into the complexities and implications of the Nobel Prize in Physics. The intricacies of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry were unravelled by Dr. Himangshu Prabal Goswami from the Department of Chemistry at Gauhati University. The fascinating realm of economics was explored through the lens of the Nobel Prize in Economics by Prof. Joydeep Baruah, associated with the Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University. The power of words and narratives celebrated by the Nobel Prize in Literature was examined by Prof.

Neerja Samajdar from the Centre for Korean Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Finally, the crucial aspects of global harmony and conflict resolution recognized by the Nobel Peace Prize were addressed by Prof. Chandan Kr. Sarma from the Department of History at Dibrugarh University. Prof. Sarma's lecture provided historical context and insightful analysis of the laureate's efforts in promoting peace and international cooperation. Dr. Kusum K. Singh of the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Guwahati, delivered a lecture on the works associated with the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The entire lecture series was meticulously coordinated by Prof. Utpal Bora, the dedicated Chairperson of the Organising Committee.



## IIMC Alumni Association Honor TU VC With Lifetime Achievement Award

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Alumni Association (IIMCAA) has conferred the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award upon Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University. This esteemed accolade recognizes Prof. Singh's exceptional contributions to the fields of journalism and academia. Prof. Singh studied Journalism at IIMC during the 1987-88 batch. His illustrious career spans over

two decades, during which he has held prominent positions such as Political Editor, Associate Editor, and Executive Editor at leading publications including Hindustan, Nav Bharat Times, Jansatta, and Dainik Bhaskar. A former Vice Chancellor of Patna University, he is also the founding Director of the School of Journalism and New Media Studies at Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. IIMC, a deemed-to-be-university, was established on



on August 17, 1965, in Delhi. The IIMC Alumni Association is a vibrant network of professionals who have graduated from the institute. The association fosters camaraderie among alumni, promotes professional development, and supports the growth of IIMC. The association also confers notable awards such as Journalist of the Year, PR Person of the Year,

and Indian Language Reporter of the Year.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Prof. Singh at the 9th IIMCAAwards ceremony held on Sunday (February 23) at Hyatt Regency, Delhi. The event was attended by distinguished alumni, faculty members, and industry leaders.



## Talk on Creative Works Depicting Indigenous Life

A special talk was organized by the Department of Assamese, Tezpur University on 7th February, 2025. The talk was delivered on the topic "Creative Works Depicting Indigenous Life: Dissecting " by Dr. Ratnottama Das Bikram, Professor, Department of Modern Indian Language and Literary Studies, Delhi University. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Juri Dutta, Head of the Department which was followed by a short introduction of the speaker by Dr. Jyotishman Das. Dr. Ratnottama Das Bikram began by specifying the definitions of tribal/indigenous literature and the usage of different words used for different tribes. She went on to talk about the

different genres of creative literature and the process of dissection of the construction process. After this, Dr. Rabin Deka, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, offered his comment on the lecture and thanked the Department of Assamese for hosting it. He also commended the Department of Assamese, Tezpur University for its growth in these few initial years of inception. The talk was followed by an interesting interactive session with the speaker. The lecture was attended by students, research scholars and faculty members of various departments of Tezpur University. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Anu Dutta, a research scholar of the department.





## Prospects and Possibilities of Golden Threads (Muga) discussed

Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University organised an ICSSR sponsored two-day International Conference titled "Prospects and Possibilities of Golden Threads (Muga) of Assam: A Path Towards Viksit Bharat" on 6th and 7th February 2025, in association with Gargi College, Kherajkhat College, N.N. Saikia College and S.B.M.S. College, Assam.

Dr. Juri Gogoi Konwar, Head, Dept of Cultural Studies, TU delivered the welcome address and Dr. Moushumi Kandali, Convenor, presented the conference objectives. Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Chief Guest and Former VC Sikkim Central University, Senior Professor, School of International Studies, JNU, Dr. Kartik Neog, Guest of Honour and Director, CMERTI, Prof. Bolin Kumar Konwar, Former VC of

Nagaland Central University, Prof. Chandan Kumar Sharma, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Mrinmoy Kumar Sarma, Dean, Research and Development, TU were present on the occasion. Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, chief guest, spoke about the need for globalizing a local commodity, i.e., Muga, to transform it into a viable product. The guest of honour, Dr. Kartik Neog, drew attention to the crucial fact that muga accounts for less than 1% of India's total silk production, highlighting the need for an inter-disciplinary forum. Keynote speaker Prof. Bolin K. Konwar threw light on various aspects of the cultivation of muga, such as the life cycle of the muga worm, its historical and cultural significance, and eco-geographical conditions.





## Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Agro-Food-Bio Systems organised

The Department of Food Engineering and Technology, Tezpur University, successfully organized a three-day National Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Agro-Food-Bio Systems (ET-SAFE-2025) during 13-15 February, 2025. The event brought together eminent academicians, researchers, industry experts, and students to discuss advance

ments and innovations in food technology. The conference was inaugurated on 13th February 2025, setting the stage for insightful discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions. Distinguished speakers from prestigious institutions, including IIT Tirupati, SLIET, CIT Kokrajhar, World Food India, and ICAR-NRRI Cuttack, graced the event with their expertise and insights. Their contributions enriched the deliberations, providing valuable perspectives on emerging trends and challenges in the field.

Over the course of the conference, four technical sessions were conducted, focusing on various aspects of food engineering and technology. These sessions facilitated engaging discussions on cutting-edge research and industry developments. In addition to the technical sessions, the conference hosted a food startup expo, offering a platform for entrepreneurs to

showcase innovative products and technologies. Various student activities were also organized, fostering interaction and knowledge exchange among young researchers.

The conference witnessed enthusiastic 100+ participation from numerous reputed institutes, including IIT Kharagpur, IIT Tirupati, IIT Delhi, NIT Roorkee, CIT Kokrajhar, Assam Agricultural University, and Rajiv Gandhi University. The diverse representation of institutions contributed to a rich academic and professional dialogue, further enhancing the significance of the event.

The conference concluded with a valedictory session on 15th February 2025, where key takeaways were discussed, and participants were recognized for their contributions. The event was a grand success, promoting collaboration, knowledge dissemination, and innovation in the field of food engineering and technology. The Department of Food Engineering and Technology, Tezpur University, extends its gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for their efforts in making this conference a meaningful and impactful experience.





## The North East Genomics Frontiers Summit

The Northeast Genomics Frontiers Summit 2025, organized by the Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INSA-INYAS) in collaboration with Tezpur University, and supported by the Genomics Analysis & Technology Conference (GATC), Mumbai, and the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST, Guwahati), concluded on February 8, 2025, with overwhelming success. The event, held at Tezpur University, Assam, brought together 32 eminent speakers, 110 participants, and 32 delegates from 27 universities, research institutes, and colleges across India. This landmark event marked the first time such a large-scale genomics summit was held in Northeast India, focusing on cutting-edge topics in genomics and computational biology.

The first day of the Northeast Genomics Frontiers Summit commenced with sessions on Clinical Genomics and Human Health, Metabolomics, Proteomics, Multiomics applications, and Discovery Genomics. The second day session focus areas were Bioinformatics, Systems Biology, AI/ML, OMICs data integration, Plant & Agricultural Genomics, etc.

A host of resource persons including Prof. (Dr.) Subhash Khanna, Founder & Director Swagat Super Speciality Hospital, Guwahati, Prof. (Dr.) Anupam Sarma, Professor, Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Dr. Rajesh Pandey, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IGIB, Dr. Ramu Adela, Associate Professor, NIPER Guwahati and others graced the event.





## Celebration of International Mother Language Day

On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day, the Department of Assamese at Tezpur University organized a Lecture cum Interactive session on 21 February 2025. Mr Manoj Kumar Goswami, the Editor-in Chief of NKTV/Amar Asom has graced the occasion as the invited speaker. In his speech, Manoj Kumar Goswami, the recipient of the 2022 Sahitya Akademi Award, delivered a lecture on the challenges and possibilities faced by the Assamese language in the current scenario. Drawing references to various endangered and flourishing languages worldwide, he also shared his views on the role of universities and the Assamese society as a whole in preserving and promoting the language. Emphasizing the importance of reading books, he highlighted the reading habits of well-known global personalities such as Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg as examples. The welcome speech was delivered by Dr. Juri Dutta, Head of the Assamese Department. The inaugural

address was given by Professor Raja Rafiqul Haque, Dean of Academic Affairs, who spoke about the importance of learning one's mother tongue and the void created in the world of knowledge when a language dies. Professor Chandan Kumar Sarma, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, elaborated on the significance of the day and the historical context behind it. The lecture was followed by an interactive session with the invited speaker. Performances in Bengali, Odia, and Nepali languages were also organized to celebrate the mother languages.

During the event, the annual brochure of the department and the fourth edition of the e-magazine 'Kishalay' were officially released by Manoj Kumar Goswami and Professor Chandan Kumar Sarma. The event was attended by students, faculty members from various departments of Tezpur University as well as by the journalists from Tezpur.





## Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp organised

In a significant step towards inculcating innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among students, Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), virtually inaugurated the five-day Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp at Tezpur University today.

The IDE Bootcamp, organized in collaboration with AICTE, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC), and knowledge partner Wadhwani Foundation, aims to provide a platform for students and young innovators to develop cutting-edge solutions to real-world challenges.

In his inaugural address, Prof. T.G. Sitharam emphasized the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in driving India's growth story. He said that programs like the IDE Bootcamp are essential to equip students with the skills and mindset needed to tackle global challenges and create sustainable solutions.

Dr. Abhay Jere, Chief Innovation Officer of the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC), highlighted the vision and background behind the IDE Bootcamp during his address. He lauded Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for envisioning this idea.

Presenting an entrepreneurial view, Mr. Shekib Ahmed, Director, BAGASA Plantations, said that

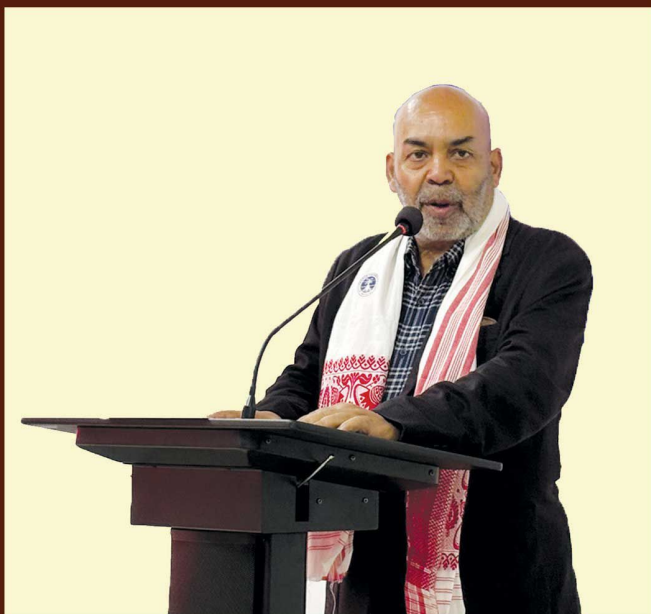
entrepreneurs are not born out of multinational offices; rather, they emerge from campuses. He further said that entrepreneurship and learning are inseparable—they go hand in hand. True entrepreneurship should focus on solving local problems, Mr. Ahmed added.

Gopakumar Viswanathan from the Wadhwani Foundation stated that for ideas to come to life, conversations need to happen, highlighting the importance of meaningful interactions to spark creativity and bring ideas to fruition.

Prof. Mrinmoy Kumar Sarma, Dean, Research and Development at Tezpur University; Prof. Sankar Chandra Deka, Dean, School of Engineering; Prof. Manuj Kumar Hazarika, Programme Coordinator; Dr. Hirak Ranjan Das, Indovation Manager; and Subhabrata Bhattacharjee, Senior Program Manager at the National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), shared their insights and perspectives during the event.

The bootcamp has attracted over 200 participants from across the country, including students, researchers, and young professionals. The program will focus on key areas such as product design, technology innovation, business modeling, and market strategies. Participants will also have access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources at Tezpur University to bring their ideas to life.





## **32nd Foundation Day**

### **Address by**

# **Prof Shambhu Nath Singh**

## **Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University**

It is with immense pride and joy that we gather today to celebrate the 32nd Foundation Day of Tezpur University. Result of the historic Assam movement, Tezpur University began its journey with a modest beginning – three departments and a handful of students.

At present our university is offering 80 academic programmes in PhD, PG, UG, Diploma, Certificate and Executive Programmes across 28 departments. We have more than 5000 including 27 International students.

Over the past thirty years, we have witnessed remarkable growth and transformation as an Educational Institution. We have expanded our academic horizons, established cutting-edge research facilities, and nurtured a vibrant campus life. Our alumni have made significant contributions to various fields, excelling in academia, industry, and public service. However, as we move forward, we must acknowledge the founding members and those who have tirelessly worked to build this institution.

An academic institution is known by its legacy. It is shaped by the contributions of its faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

If we are to build a legacy, we need not look further for inspiration. Whenever you enter this hallowed institution, you do so through Jyoti Toran – our main gate. It is designed based on the inspiration of Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala. The cultural doyen of Assamese society, who was far ahead of his time. His innovative spirit manifested in various aspects of his work. In cinema, he brought pioneering cinematic language to Assamese films. In arts and literature, he reflected his innovative thinking, often incorporating social and political commentary, challenging societal norms, and inspiring critical thinking among audiences.

Our university anthem is composed by none other than Bhupen Hazarika. A champion of Assamese culture and the cultures of the North-East region. In our anthem, the legend recognized the potential of science and technology to improve lives and address challenges.

Dear colleagues, we shall be able to move forward if we harness intellectual curiosity. Intellectual curiosity is the driving force behind human progress. Intellectual curiosity is paramount in educational institutions as it fuels a deeper understanding of learning. When we are curious, we ask insightful questions and seek connections beyond the classroom. This basic principle leads to critical thinking and a lifelong passion for knowledge. In an ever-evolving world, intellectually curious individuals are better equipped to adapt, innovate, and solve complex problems, making them valuable contributors to society.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, let us also reflect on the challenges that lie ahead. In the ever-evolving landscape of higher education, we must continuously strive for excellence in teaching, research, and innovation. We must adapt to the changing needs of our students and society. We need to embrace new technologies and new approaches.

I am confident that with the continued support of our stakeholders, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the brilliance of our students, Tezpur University will continue to soar to new heights.





## 32nd Foundation Day oration by Prof VK Jain, Chief Guest

It is truly a privilege and honor for me to be part of the 32nd Foundation Day Celebrations of Tezpur University, and thank you, Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh, honorable Vice Chancellor for providing me the opportunity to reconnect with the university. It has been such a huge privilege for me personally to be back in a university which I love so deeply and which is so close to my heart, and I have such wonderful memories of my association with some of my very good friends among the faculty and the officers of the university.

Tezpur University has had some very impressive achievements, both in terms of physical infrastructure as well as its academic programs. The single most important reason, to my mind, is the special talent which exists in the Faculty here. The considerable talent which exists in the Faculty here across all schools. Coupled with that, the second most important reason is the work ethics. The TU community discharge their responsibility as if it is their own University, and this is something which I have found very rarely in other places.

In 2018, when I assumed the charge of Vice Chancellor, by then this University already had a

certain reputation. I mean, it was the best university in the northeastern region, but also in the country, which is also reflected in its rankings over the years.

Some of the faculty, I think twice or thrice, were recipients of the Visitor's Best Researcher award. Then there were many occasions when our young students got this Young Gandhian Innovation Award in successive years, so there have been some very impressive achievements.

The Department of Food Engineering and Technology has the distinction of being the nodal technical institution under the Prime Minister PM FME scheme. The Department is playing advisory role to three states in the northeastern region: Meghalaya, Arunachal, and of course our own Assam.

The other notable achievement during my tenure was that of the Department of Environmental Science, which received Center of Excellence in climate change adaptation. Then, of course, not during my tenure-the PURSE Grant from DST. Credit goes to the present Administration and the group of Faculty who were responsible for drafting this proposal for PURSE,



I congratulate each one of you for getting the PURSE Grant during the able leadership of Professor Singh.

I would like to also make a special mention of the Energy Department, for doing quality research in renewable energy. The Department is also making an impact in the lives of the people in some nearby places. The same thing is true for the Chemistry Department; they are also having some programs in rural areas of India, not only in Assam. Then there is this Department of Social Work and Mass Communication and Journalism; they all are engaging with the communities in the neighbourhood.

So, it's not simply that the university is excelling in their academic pursuit or research pursuits, but it is the sensitivity which makes this University truly special. At the moment, as I understand, the university is in the implementation phase of various provisions of the NEP. I am happy to see Centre for Multi-disciplinary Research doing well. They are now having the PhD student enrollment to the fullest, and now the icing on the cake, today we had this release of multi-disciplinary research journal.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and other regulatory bodies are implementing the NEP. Key parts of this are the National Higher Education Qualification Framework and the National Credit Framework. These policies break down the traditional barriers between technical, general, and vocational education. Now, the skill levels in all three areas are aligned, from level 4 to PhD. Initiatives like the Academic Bank of Credit will allow students to earn extra credits and easily move between different institutions and programs. This flexibility, allowing movement from vocational to general or technical education, truly puts students first, which is the main aim of the NEP. The core idea is to make students central to all academic programs.

The UGC and the Indian government are also working to improve research quality in universities. Central Universities like ours, as well as IITs and IISERs, are privileged to have good access to research journals. However, sometimes faculty and students feel limited by the journals available. To address this, the government has launched the "One Nation One Subscription" program. In the first stage, around 600 institutions, including all Central Universities, IITs, IIMs, and IISERs, are part of this. The central

government has allocated approximately 6,000 crores for the next three years to provide access to around 13,000 journals from about 30 publishers to the academic community (faculty and students). This is a significant and valuable step. Another important initiative is the creation of the National Research Foundation. I believe these two efforts will greatly boost research and innovation in our country. Along with these initiatives, our university has decided to adopt the 4-year undergraduate program. This program will not only involve coursework but may also include research in the fourth year. Overall, the NEP aims to improve the quality of academic programs by including skills and internships, and importantly, to significantly encourage research and innovation. Traditionally, universities primarily focused on teaching and creating a workforce for the economy. However, the new education policy places a strong emphasis on creating wealth through knowledge and research. The fundamental idea of the NEP, which all central universities are gradually implementing despite resource limitations, is that our academic programs should empower our country socio-economically and also generate wealth. Universities must become key drivers of wealth creation for India. When the Prime Minister speaks of a 5 trillion economy and a developed India (Vikshit Bharat) by 2047, his confidence lies in the talent of our youth in higher education to achieve this dream. Therefore, the socio-economic development and wealth creation of the country are central goals.

Tezpur University is also succeeding in fostering a startup culture, with examples like Professor Pabitra Nath's and potentially Professor Nidhi Bhattacharya's ventures, as well as Mridul Dutta's project contributing to heritage protection. These successes showcase the university's talent and potential, supported by its collaborative environment, positioning it to contribute significantly to national development and wealth creation.

In conclusion, I wish you all the best. This university is very dear to me, and I hope it achieves the recognition it truly deserves. In fact, I believe its current A+ rating doesn't fully reflect its strengths compared to some other institutions. Under the leadership of Professor Singh and the Deans, I am sure Tezpur University will achieve even greater heights. Thank you for this opportunity. Jai AaiAxom, Jai Bharat





## 32nd Foundation Day address by **Shri Brindaban Goswami,** **Guest of Honour**

A Central university in Tezpur was our dream. The historical Tezpur town was well-known to everyone since ancient age. It was our dream that this university would be an excellent centre for academic studies and research and would be in the world map as one of the best universities,

Like Takshyashila, Nalanda, Ballavi, Bikramshila etc of ancient age, modern Tezpur would also be a centre for academic excellence and the society would be on intellectual platform. The new thinking process would evolve because of assimilation of meritorious students and teachers of the country and abroad and they will inspire the society to lead a life with new innovative thoughts. In spite of many constraints this university is prospering in a right way and has become a centre of knowledge, quenching the thirst of many aspiring intellectuals.

I was in constant touch with the authority of this university since its inception and extended my full support and co-operation as and when required. I was well informed even though I could not get in touch with the university authority for last few years. This institute has upheld the dignity of Tezpur and has given a new identity. The history of inception of Tezpur University was a critical one.

The former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi had declared that a central University would be established in Assam and a Campus of NEHU would be established in Barak Valley during his visit to Assam on 12th August, 1985. I got elected to state Assembly from Tezpur Constituency and took charge of Education Minister of Assam after this announcement by Late Rajiv Gandhi. We took decision to establish a central university at Tezpur and it was intimated to the Central Government. But the leadership of Barak Valley Vehemently opposed it and demanded that Central University should be established in Silchar of Barak Valley. This is a long history of course, we got full co-operation of then Union Human Resource Minister Late Nara Sinha Rao, Arjun Singh etc.

Union Human Resource Development Minister P. Shiv Shankar introduced the "Assam University Act" to be established in Silchar in the Parliament and Passed it, which we opposed. The then Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi on return from Itanagar wished us to meet him at Salonibariairpot, Tezpur and accordingly we met him. During this meeting he assured us that a Central University would be set up at Tezpur and Assam Univer...

present here to include Southeast Asia in their research works.

(4) Tezpur University should be hub of science and technology and should give light of knowledge to the people of Assam in particular and the country as a whole through scientific studies and research. It is our expectation that this university will flourish with new ideas and innovation.

Tezpur is the birth place / work place of many great legends of Assam e.g. Karmabir Chandranath Sarma, Lok Nayak Amiyo Kumar Das, Haribilash Agarwala, Chandra Kumar Agarwala, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Padmanath Gohain Baruah, Lambodar Bora, Kamala Kanta Bhattacharjya, Deshpran Lakhidhar Sarmah, Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rava, Natasurya Phani Sarma, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika etc.

I congratulate all the professors and students of this university for holding the dignity of this university and placing it on the national ranking as one of the best universities.

At the end, I thank the honourable vice-chancellor for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on this occasion. I wish all a happy new year, 2025. "This is my university, this is our university, Let us make it unique".





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