

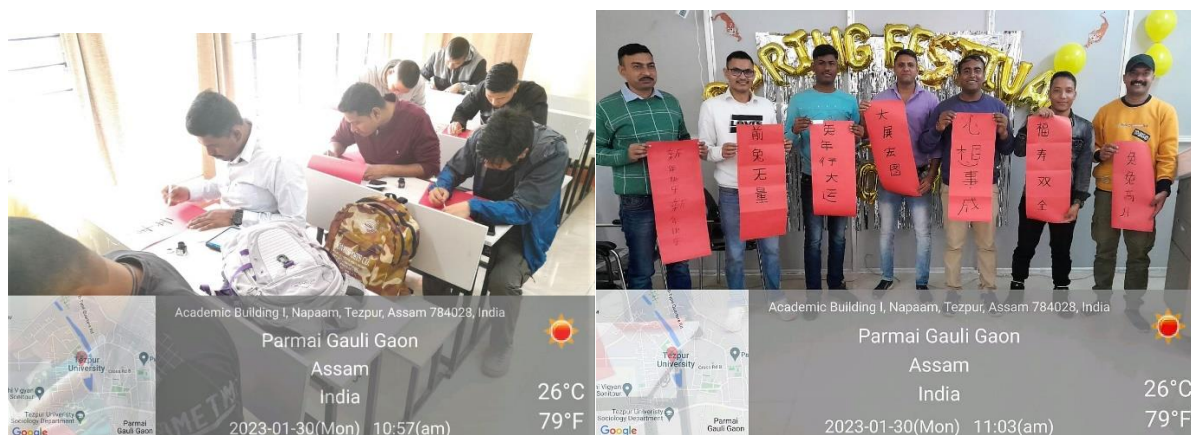
Spring Festival 春节

30th January 2023

Welcoming the advent of the Chinese New Year or the Spring Festival, the Department of Foreign Languages, Tezpur University, organised an event to celebrate the festival on 30th January 2023. Considered to be one of the most important traditional festivals of China, Spring festival marks the coming of a new year, and a new beginning with renewed hopes for health, longevity, and prosperity. 2023 the year of the Rabbit, was celebrated featuring various events showcasing Chinese culture.



With the assistance of Ms. Daveirou Lanamai, Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages, the event presented students' engagement in learning and understanding Chinese culture through different activities. Various performances such as poetry recitations, singing and storytelling which are associated with the festival were performed by the students. To help better understand the customs and traditions of celebrating the Spring Festival, the event was supplemented with other activities such as Chinese calligraphy, games and making of *Chūnlián* 春联 (Spring Festival Couplet).



While delivering a brief lecture on the event, Mr. Rathijit Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages described the significance of festivals, particularly the Spring Festival in China; he further pointed out how the Communist regime disregarded Spring Festival along with many other traditional festivals even after the founding of the PRC snubbing them as *old customs*. The lecture also highlighted how eventually these festivals got due recognition during the 80's and were promoted with the gradual progress of national economy. It also discussed the major contributions of folklorists who helped in reviving these festivals.



The event also screened Lixin Fan's *Last Train Home* 归途列车 (2009) a documentary that explores the 'largest human migration' which happens annually where millions of migrant workers heads home to celebrate the Spring festival with their families. On the backdrop of this largest human migration, the film further investigates the various social and economic issues faced by migrant workers in China while continuing to maintain China's position as 'factory of the world'. The day ended with a fruitful discussion on the documentary and sending out New Year's greetings.

