

Tezpur University released rare digitized historic documents of Assam

Centre for Assamese Studies, Tezpur University, under the inspiring leadership of Prof. Ranjit Kumar Dev Goswami, Professor, Srimanta Sankardeva Chair on 30/01/2018 released rare digitized historic documents of Assam.

In a programme held at the Council Hall of the University, Prof. M.M.Sarma, Vice-Chancellor of the University released the historic documents, which now can be accessed through the University's website.

The Centre under the leadership of Prof. Dev Goswami, Dr. Juri Dutta and research associate Dr. Sanjib Deka undertook a massive project of digitizing about four thousand old Assamese manuscripts and printed books. Several rare and old Assamese books and manuscripts, including the first edition of *The Kirtana* and the *Namaghosa* published by Haribilas Agarwala in 1876, rare *sanchi-paat* manuscripts of *Dasam Skandha Bhagavata* (Barpeta Satra), Ananta Kandali's *Ramayana* (Barpeta Satra), *Namaghosa* (Barhampur Binapani Library, Jamuguri), the first edition of Hemchandra Barua's *Hema Kosa* (1900), the personal diaries of Padmanath Gohain Baruah (1871-1946), K.K.Handiqui (1898-1982) many of the hand-written manuscripts of Jyotiprasad Agarwala (1903-1951), Chandrabala Barua (1907-1983), Maheswar Neog (1915-1995), Praphulladatta Goswami (1919-1994) and others.

The centre also digitized the important official letters and documents relating to the establishment of Gauhati University in 1948. Many of the books from local libraries, like the Tezpur Government M.V. School Library, Barhampur Binapani Library, Jamugurihaat and Media Archives, Guwahati, particularly its Benudhar Sarma collection have also been digitized.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dev Goswami described many anecdotes from the collections and opined that the digitalization will help other researchers and academicians immensely. He called these collections as gold dust and said that after the digitalization even those documents which were in poor conditions now can be read.