



# NEWSLETTER

The Biannual Newsletter of Dibrugarh University

23rd April 2014



## Record Turnout in the XIV DU Convocation

The XIV Convocation of Dibrugarh University was held on 25 March 2014. A total of 15,273 candidates of the University, including Ph.D and M.Phil, were awarded various degrees during the ceremonial convocation by His Excellency, the Governor of Assam and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University Sjt. Janaki Ballav Patnaik. Professor Basudev Chatterji, eminent Historian and the Chairperson of the Indian Council of Historical Research delivered the Convocation Address as the Chief Guest of the occasion. The Degree of D.Litt (*honoris causa*) was conferred on two distinguished scholars –Professor Mrinal Miri, a noted Scholar of Philosophy and an eminent Academician and Ven. Sasana Bangsha Mahathera, an eminent Philosopher and Scholar of Buddhism. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alak K. Buragohain, presented the Welcome Address followed by the Inaugural speech of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, Sjt. Janaki Ballav Patnaik, who also presided the Convocation. A total of 9,265 certificates were issued in all including 72 for Ph.D and 18 for M.Phil.

(Contd. p 27)

## In This Issue

Note from the Vice-Chancellor	02
Special Feature	05
Vandana Shiva Talks on Monoculture	10
Eighteenth National Space Science Symposium held	11
Eleventh Indian Anthropological Congress held	11
Academic Audit conducted in DUJET	14
Associate Village Programme as Extension Activities	15
Fourteenth DU Convocation Report	27



## A Note from the Vice-Chancellor

By the time this issue of the *DU News Letter* comes out of the press, we will have ushered in the Assamese new year. The pervasive resonance of *Rangali Bihu* and the soft fragrance of *Bohag* shall keep us enthralled in the festive season. As we return to work, refreshed and reinvigorated, we begin with new resolutions to elevate our University into even greater heights. While a country as large as ours is engaged in addressing the biggest challenges of equity and access in the field of higher education, we must remain focussed on excellence in education and research as well. In this context, it does augur well for any University to remain in constant intellectual ferment with scholars, scientists and experts from various parts of the country and the world through seminars, conferences and workshops. The last six months have been quite eventful during which the campus had around one thousand and five hundred footfalls in connection with three major conferences. The 8<sup>th</sup> North East Business Summit, held in November 2013, which the University organised under the aegis of the DoNER Ministry, Government of India and the Indian Chamber of Commerce, gave us an opportunity to showcase our University before a number of foreign delegates from the US, Italy, French, South Korea and the Ministerial delegations from several South East Asian countries including, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia and Brunei. Next, the 18<sup>th</sup> National Seminar in Space Science (NSSS-2014) of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was organised by the Centre for Atmospheric Studies in January-February, 2014. This national event which was organised for the second time in the North East after almost 30 years, witnessed participation of about 650 delegates from all over the country including a good number from our own University, besides a few NRI space scientists from abroad. The Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) organised the Indian Anthropological Congress in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology of this University in February, 2014. Several eminent Anthropologists from within and outside the country participated in the four day Congress.

It is also heartening to take note that most of the academic departments which have been selected by the UGC for the Special Assistance Programme (SAP) at the DRS-I level are doing well and a few of these has been elevated to DRS-II and the Department of Assamese has been elevated to a Centre for Advance Studies. Six out of the Eight Science Departments are selected under the Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology in Higher Education Institutions (FIST) of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Centre for Biotechnology has been selected as one of the Biotech Hubs by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. While these are encouraging signs of academic dynamism, there is much to be done by us in terms of research output. If the number of extramural projects and the project



values is a reflection of the extent of our engagement in committed research activity, then we can make our own assessment from the following data. During 2012-13 the number of funded projects of the faculties of the four Universities of Assam with the project values in INR in the parenthesis are –Gauhati University 56 (Rs.5.06 Crores), Dibrugarh University 30 (Rs.4.49 Crores), Assam University 138 (Rs. 6.45 Crores) and Tezpur University 142 (Rs. 60 Crores). Obviously there is scope for us to do much more.

Academic collaboration with Universities and Institutes of repute is yet another way to infuse the elements of excellence in quality teaching and research. Moves are afoot to transform a few individual level collaborations of some faculty members with one or two Universities abroad to institutional level collaborations. The location of our University in the geostrategically important North East in close proximity to the international borders assumes great significance in the context of forging academic collaborations with several good Universities in the South East Asian countries. It is pertinent to mention that in the aftermath of the 8<sup>th</sup> North East Business Summit held in the University in November 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding with Kasetsart University, Bangkok, is to be formalised very shortly. It hardly needs to reiterate that presence of international students and faculties in the University adds a different dimension to its intellectual horizon and help build reputation for our University.

A Virtual Class room has been made operational in the University with support from the UGC which will go a long way in extending the reach of our University to the remotest parts of upper Assam.

The University is observing the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Raxaraj Lakshminath Bezbaroa in a befitting manner. A comprehensive bibliography of all writings of Bezbaroa has been published by the Publication Division of the University. The monthly colloquium and the Scholar in Residence programme have been regularly held with much enthusiasm and meaningful intellectual fervour.





Periodic academic audit of the courses and programmes offered by the University is essential to maintain the quality of the education, research and the standard of governance. A comprehensive academic audit of the Institute of Engineering and Technology has already been concluded. The academic audit for the other Departments and Centres of Studies shall commence from May, 2014.

The shift to the semester system obviously has the concomitant issues of insufficiency in the number of teachers and infrastructures. The Government's role in creating infrastructure and faculty positions is undoubtedly critical for the success of the semester system. While these are important for effective implementation of the semester system and the consequent enhancement in the quality of education extended to the students, the larger issues relate to a shift in the mindset to develop an organic relationship with the taught. This organic relationship elevates the process of human resource development to a meaningful level. This shift requires efforts creation of awareness amongst all stakeholders of the higher education and strategic approaches. Our University has already initiated moves in this direction involving the Principals of colleges. Organization of an awareness programme on the various aspects of the semester system amongst the office bearers of the College Unions of the affiliated colleges by the Post Graduate Students Union of our University recently is indeed a timely and praiseworthy move.

The *Fourteenth Convocation* of the University was held on 25th March, 2014. about fifteen thousand students were conferred various degrees in the convocation. The D. Litt., *honoris causa* was conferred on two eminent scholars- Professor Mrinal Miri, former Vice Chancellor North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, a scholar of Philosophy of international repute and currently an honourable member of the Rajya Sabha; and the venerable Sasana Bangsha Mahathera who is an eminent scholar of Buddhist studies in Pali.

Living up to our social commitment, we have embraced a village in our neighbourhood as an 'Associate Village'. A number of meaningful programmes involving the villagers of this village are being taken up with our research students, faculty members, doctors of the University Health Centre and non-teaching staff.

Thus, we forge ahead with our mission to spread the light of knowledge with conviction, commitment and courage.

## Forthcoming Events

- The *Seventh DU Colloquium* talk will be delivered by Dr. B. K. Sinha, Former Professor of ISI, Kolkata on Economic Rise of the Great Indian Middle Class on 8 May 2014.
- A Workshop will be held from 10-12 May 2014 on *Human Rights*. Resource persons include C. Gonsalves, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, S. Kakarala, NLS, Bangalore and Dr. R. Goswami, NUJS, Kolkata.
- A National Seminar will be held by the Dept. of Chemistry on 19-21 November 2014 on *Recent Trends In Fundamental And Applied Chemical Sciences*. The Resource Persons Include Prof. K. Bhattacharyya, IACS, Kolkata, Dr. S. Pal, Director, NCL, Pune, etc.
- *Academic Audit* for all the Departments and Centres of DU will be conducted in May 2014.



## Eleventh Indian Anthropological Congress held in DU

The Department of Anthropology, DU organized the *11<sup>th</sup> Indian Anthropological Congress 2014* in collaboration with *Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA)* and *Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal* at Dibrugarh University during 21-23 February 2014. The focal theme chosen for deliberations during the congress was *Human Variation, Plurality and Diversities: Anthropological Perspectives*. Prof. M. N. Dutta, Registrar, DU and Chairperson, Organizing Committee of the 11th Indian Anthropological Congress-2014 welcomed the delegates and also stated the significance of the Congress for the anthropology community and anthropology department of Dibrugarh University in particular. Inaugurating the Congress, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain expressed the commitments to create facilities at Dibrugarh University so that anthropologists from all over the world could come forward to this part of the country, which sits on a repository of multiple diversities and to explore the unexplored. Renowned Anthropologist, Prof. Ajit Kumar Danda, Member Secretary INCAA spoke at length about INCAA. On this occasion, Prof. A. C. Bhagabati, formerly Vice Chancellor, Arunachal University and presently Vice Chairperson, INCAA released a number of publications brought out by INCAA. Prof. R. K. Mutalkar, formerly of Pune University, and Chairman INCAA presided the inaugural session. The oration in honour of Prof. B.M.Das was delivered by Prof. Ranjan Deka, an alumnus of Dibrugarh University and presently a faculty of Cincinnati University on a topic – *Mapping Complex Traits in Adriatic Islands: Anthropology Laid the Foundations*. Prof. T. N. Madan delivered Prof. S.C. Dube memorial oration on *Traditions, Transformations, Transcreations: The Making and Remaking of 'Modern' Hinduism*. A Round Table on the theme *Unrest, Insurgency and Beyond* was also organized which was well attended. About 260 professional anthropologists representing 28 Indian Universities and Research Institutions from all over the country; and six participants from abroad have participated in the scientific deliberations.



# Editorial

A big thank you to all of you for showing your appreciation for the last issue of the Dibrugarh University Newsletter published in October 2013. Since it is a biannual exercise, the next issue is, by default, slated for April 2014 release. We have received valuable inputs and feedbacks, more bouquets than brickbats thankfully, with suggestions and recommendations for further improvement. The discerning varsity fraternity seems to have appreciated it both for its content-heavy feel and its strong production value. We will try to maintain the standard, which is, keeping a fine balance between content and form, as they both tend to be integral to the structure of the newsletter genre. Therefore, we have retained almost all the categories, with *Special Feature* given emphasis as well, despite it not being directly related to the activities of our university. This particular issue attempts to delve into the factors that hamper Indian universities from being ranked among the top 200 universities in the world by organizations such as *Times Higher Education (THE)*, *Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU)* of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and *Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)*. A few questions that arise are, for instance, how valid could be the claims of these accrediting organisations? Are certain power structures at work in legitimising such claims? Are the western parameters for ascertaining the value, quality and worth of institutes the benchmarks to aspire for by the rest? Conspiracy theories, which could well be facts, would of course run rife whenever such global surveys are conducted under universalising parameters. But, does it necessarily imply foreclosure to all the supposed 'fictions' (which could well be facts) generated by the ideologically-mediated ranking organisations functioning under global capital? The *Special Feature* tries to underscore some of these pertinent issues objectively (if that is possible). This issue could be termed as a Convocation Special Edition insofar as the *XIV Convocation* of Dibrugarh University held on 25 March 2014 turned out to be a resounding success, if one could pass over minor technical glitches which an event of this gargantuan scale may, despite one's best efforts and preparedness, engender. It was a huge confluence of scholars, staff and students across the disciplines, and we have devoted ample space to it, to relieve/re-live the moment. A newsletter tends to be good or bad depending upon the institutes' activities *per se*. We have had a great deal of activities the past six-months, and we hope that these will get reflected here in the manner it deserves. Otherwise, we would have failed in our task. The varsity is on the threshold of entering into its fiftieth year since its modest inception on 1 July 1965. We look forward to the Golden Jubilee year, and hope that the entire year would be *choc-a-bloc* with activities celebrating the institution's chequered history and its many achievements, drawing upon its positives to devise a roadmap – a vision statement – for another fifty years of great inclusive growth and academic success. Long live Dibrugarh University!



Vice-Chancellor Distributing School bag among needy childrens at 65th Republic Day.



Tug-of-War between VC XI and Registrar XI at 65th Republic Day.

## DU celebrates the 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day

The 65<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was observed with pomp and gaiety at Dibrugarh University. The National flag was hoisted by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Alak Kr. Buragohain in the University playground. He took the salute from a number of marching contingents from the University and the neighbouring schools. In his speech, Prof. Buragohain recalled the invaluable contribution of the makers of the Indian constitution. Paying rich tribute to the nation builders, he stated that India has emerged as the biggest and one of the best democracies in the world today only on the strength and extraordinary vision embodied in our constitution. Prof. Buragohain pointed out the special responsibilities of all citizens, especially those from the University about our commitment to live by the spirit of our constitution. He emphasised on our responsibility in enabling the future generation to appreciate the significance of the Indian constitution. As part of the celebration, Prof. Buragohain and the faculty members and the non-teaching staff distributed school bags to the children of the workers of the University. A friendly *Tug of War* and a volleyball match were organised between the Registrar's Eleven and the Vice-Chancellor's Eleven.





## Indian Universities Outranked: Rankings as a Gratuitous Exercise or as Constructive Benchmarks?

Poor performance by Indian Universities in the rankings brought out by organizations like *Times Higher Education (THE)*, *Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU)* of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (CWCU), and *Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)* has led to much debate among Indian academicians, policy makers, civil society and media.

In the *THE* rankings, which ranks 400 institutes, India does not have a single institute among the top 200. Panjab University (PU) has made an impressive debut in the 226-250 bracket, while IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Kharagpur and IIT-Roorkee are in the 351-400 segment. These four IITs and PU are the only five Indian institutes among the 400, ranked by the *THE* organization. Other Universities which are much-coveted by Indian students like Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Pune University, University of Hyderabad, Universities of Bombay and Calcutta are conspicuously absent from the list.

For the second consecutive year, the California Institute of Technology has topped the *THE* list, followed by Harvard University, which shares second place with the University of Oxford. Stanford University (fourth), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (fifth), Princeton University (sixth), University of Cambridge (seventh), University of California, Berkeley (eighth), University of Chicago (ninth) and Imperial College London (tenth) complete the top 10. The US, with seven institutes in the top 10 and 77 in the top 200, dominates the *THE* rankings. Japan's University of Tokyo, at 23rd place, is the top Asian institute.

The *THE* World University Rankings uses 13 separate performance indicators

to examine a University's strengths against all its core missions — teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The performance indicators for the *THE* 2013-2014 World University Rankings were grouped into five areas:

- Teaching: the learning environment (worth 30 per cent of the overall ranking score)
- Research: volume, income and reputation (worth 30 per cent)
- Citations: research influence (worth 30 per cent)
- Industry income: innovation (worth 2.5 per cent)
- International outlook: staff, students and research (worth 7.5 per cent).

In the *Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU)*, which is conducted by researchers at the Center for World-Class Universities of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (CWCU), the Universities are ranked by several indicators of academic or research performance, including alumni and staff winning Nobel Prize and Fields Medals, highly cited researchers, papers published in journals like *Nature* and *Science*, papers indexed in major citation indices, and the per capita academic performance of an institution. For each indicator, the highest scoring institution is assigned a score of 100, and other institutions are calculated as a percentage of the top score. The distribution of data for each indicator is examined for any significant distorting effect; standard statistical techniques are used to adjust the indicator if necessary. Scores for each indicator are weighted as shown below to arrive at a final overall score for an institution. The highest scoring institution is assigned a score of 100, and other institutions are calculated as a percentage of the top score. An institution's rank reflects the number of institutions that sit above it. Indian Institute of Science was the only Indian University ranked in the top 500 by the *Academic Ranking of World Universities*, at 301-400th place overall in 2013.



Special Feature

## Indicators and Weights for ARWU

Criteria	Indicator	Code	Weight
<u>Quality of Education</u>	<u>Alumni</u> of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Alumni	10%
Quality of Faculty	Staff of an institution winning Nobel <u>Prizes</u> and Fields Medals	Award	20%
	Highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories	HiCi	20%
Research <u>Output</u>	Papers published in Nature and <u>Science</u> *	N&S	20%
	Papers <u>indexed</u> in Science <u>Citation</u> Index-expanded and Social Science Citation Index	PUB	20%
Per <u>Capita</u> Performance	Per capita <u>academic performance</u> of an institution	PCP	10%
Total			100%

\* For institutions specialized in humanities and social sciences such as London School of Economics, N&S is not considered, and the weight of N&S is relocated to other indicators.

First compiled in 2004, the *QS World University Rankings* currently considers over 2,000 institutions, and ranks over 800. The top 400 are ranked individually, whereas those placed 401 and over are ranked in groups. The top 10 Universities in the *QS World University Rankings 2013/2014* are, once again, all in either the US or UK. Around 11 Indian institutes feature in the top 800 of the global list with the highest ranking going to IIT Delhi which is placed 222 in the list. Two other made it to the top 300—IIT Bombay (233) and IIT Kanpur (295). IIT Madras is ranked 313 while IIT Kharagpur stands at 346. The other Indian institutes to make it to the top 800 list include IIT Rourkee (401), Delhi University (441), IIT Guwahati and Mumbai University both at (601) with University of Pune and Kolkata at 701. *The QS World University Rankings* are based on four key pillars—research, teaching, employability and internationalization. The methodology consists of six indicators: academic reputation (40%), employer reputation (10%), and faculty student ratio (20%), citations per faculty (20%), international students (5%) and international faculty (5%).

There are several reactions to such rankings and league tables in India. Some criticize such rankings as invalid and unscientific and even as perpetuating some kind of hegemonic control over research and innovation. Others see them as useful benchmarks and yardsticks for Universities across the world to consider while evaluating their merits and weaknesses. Others react with dismay at India's lackluster performance and some attempt to rationalize the reasons behind Indian Universities not making the cut.

There can be several reasons behind India's poor showing in the rankings. First, India's higher education system must cater to the current educational needs of the country. India has many institutions, with hundreds of attached undergraduate colleges that they must manage which diverts them from

pursuing research goals in a more specialized manner. India also has many research-only institutions that have almost no undergraduate or postgraduate teaching – many of these are not included in international University rankings. Secondly, there are several logistical hurdles imposed by governmental restrictions, which prevent Indian Universities from faring better in such rankings. For instance, the IITs are not allowed to admit international students at the BTech level and restrictions on government assistantships dissuade international PhD students. Additionally Indian rules allow institutes like the IITs to hire international faculty only on a contract basis that too only for up to five years, and the salary has to be at least \$25,000 annually. These hurdles or 'higher education protectionism', prevent Indian Universities from competing evenly as far as the criteria of 'internationalization of campuses' is concerned which is an important parameter for the ranking agencies.

Thirdly, there are several methodological issues which hinder India's chances of performing better in the rankings. For instance, 33 percent of the weightage is based on 'reputation' in the *THE* rankings. Organizations like *THE* approach Universities to advertise in their guides, attend their seminars, participate in their conferences, in other words are aggressively marketing their products through which institutions can enhance their 'reputation' and thereby gain a higher rank as far as this parameter is concerned. Indian Universities, if the rankings are any indicator, have not adequately accepted these overtures of the ranking organizations and thus the poor performance in yet another indicator. Moreover, 'reputation' is based on the opinion of some academics chosen from different parts of the world. This has been seen as an unscientific basis for any study as academics in one part of the world, despite forces of globalization, cannot be aware of the state of Universities in every other part of the globe.





Fourthly, the manner in which 'citations' are used as a basis for the rankings has been viewed as skewed in favour of a few Universities which have international collaborations. For instance, Panjab University's high rank in the citations parameter was greatly helped by the fact that its high energy physics group is part of global experiments at *CERN* and *Fermi Labs*, and papers from that project have very high citations, thus the high score.

In addition, it has been stated that such ranking agencies give more importance to certain kinds of research — the research that appears in 'recognised' international refereed journals, most of which are in English which limits the scope for academics who publish in other languages. Publication in 'high impact factor journals' is considered important, but most of these journals remain bastions of the Western world, demanding a uniformity in research styles and forms, which leads to a perpetuation of existing systems of 'legitimate' research.

However, there are several opinions in India which while agreeing that such rankings are not a comprehensive arbiter or the final say on quality, insist that they need to be considered by India as they provide an insight into what counts as valuable and good across the world. It is pertinent that Indian Universities take note of the consensus on benchmarks. These rankings also put into perspectives the many lacunae in India's higher education system.

Indian Universities are in short supply given the fact that more than 50% of Indians are below the age of 25 which implies that most of India is at the college-University going age or will soon be at that age. Every year some institutes like Delhi University sees astronomical increase in the number of applicants and thus the unfathomable rise in the cut-off marks (sometimes even at 100%) for admission into courses in its colleges. However, is this demand by students a sign of the health of the institutes in question? Or is securing a seat even in the most-coveted Indian institute not enough according to global standards? There are serious reservations emanating from several quarters in India about the incompetence of Indian Universities, even those which are supposedly 'in-demand' inside India but cannot compete globally on any recognizable parameter.

Several issues have been identified as underlying India's inability to compete globally. Teaching as a career is not attractive for Indians which leads to an inadequate number of well-qualified, competent and committed teachers. Although India expanded the higher education sector in terms of enrollment, number of institutions and number of Universities but quality of infrastructure, faculty, learning and research environment did not simultaneously improve. The poor showing of Indian Universities in the global rankings is also an indicator of the fact that most Indian higher education institutes continue to focus on teaching rather than on research.

Several opinions in India agree about the need to support education reforms and improve research standards in Indian Universities. It is undoubted that greater government expenditure should be channeled into the education sector, however, institutes which are responsible for the state of higher education in India like the MHRD, UGC must insist on accreditation being strong, meaningful and the basis of funding and or approvals. Releasing monetary grants by institutions like the ICSSR, UGC for hosting seminars and conferences to colleges and Universities should be followed by reports submission on the innovations and advances in research which occurred in the events, and these reports should form the basis for the next release of funds.

In a race to fulfill the requirements needed under the assured *Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)* most faculties in Indian Universities are engaged in a frenzy to publish papers and attend seminars, with little time and effort available for investing in attaining eminence in specific research areas. CAS ensures a sense of false security for those in the teaching profession without demanding quality research work from them in return.





India's higher education sector can be greatly benefited by the involvement of Indian diaspora especially those who are working in institutes abroad. Moreover, removing logistical barriers which prevent foreign students and faculties from becoming part of Indian institutes will help India boost its score in the rankings and will also lead to exchange of ideas, views, and study methods thereby broadening the academic horizons of students in the Indian higher education institutes.

Global rankings of Universities based on studies conducted by one organization or the other obviously cannot be the absolute truth of the standard of an institute or the health of higher education in a nation. However, rankings do provide benchmarks and can be held as yardsticks to introspect about the nature of higher education being provided in a nation. Every country needs to be mindful of its traditions and local context while setting the rules for higher education in its institutions and India is no different. The rankings provide an opportunity to all stakeholders to assess the current higher education system, make the required adjustments and mould a system whereby the institutes are not simply designed in a manner that pleases such ranking organizations but helps Universities provide meaningful education where both learning and research are concerned.

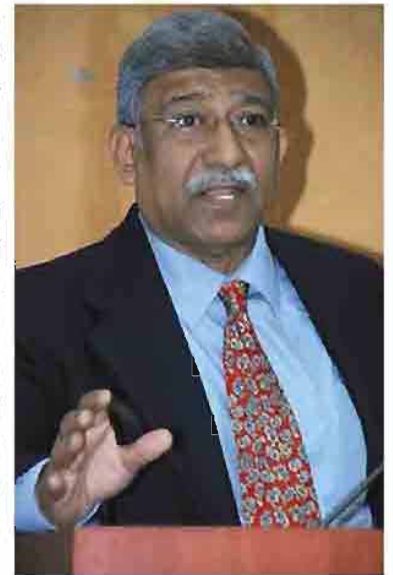
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## Colloquium Deliberations

### Noted Professor of Eminence Delivers a Talk on Human Origins and Diversities

The *Third DU Colloquium* was organized on 20 December 2013. The guest speaker of the colloquium was Prof. Muhammad Abdul Kalam, Professor of Eminence, Department of Sociology, Tezpur University. He delivered a talk on *Human Origins and Diversities: Physical and Socio-Cultural Facets*. Prof. Abdul Kalam was the former Chairperson (Dean) in the School of Social Sciences, University of Madras, and has held numerous positions in different educational institutes and administrative organizations. His areas of interest include migration, identity politics and ethnicity. Prof. Sarthak Sengupta, the Head, Department of Anthropology, Dibrugarh University delivered the



welcome note. Prof. Kalam's lecture emphasized the importance of understanding the socio-cultural aspect of human evolution and he presented a brief history of the evolution of humans and migration. He elaborated on the interrelationships between the development of technology and social organization of human societies. Stressing on the necessity to understand and respect the diverse socio-cultural practices of different groups of people, Prof. Kalam enriched the talk by giving pertinent anecdotes from everyday lives of the people. The talk was followed by an interactive session between the speaker and scholars, which was moderated by Prof. Nitul Gogoi. Relevant discussion on the concepts of evolution and its socio-cultural dimension came up during the session.

### Prof. R K Dev Goswami Delivers a Talk on Bezbaroa and Assamese Culture

The *Fourth DU Colloquium* organized was held on 7 February 2014. The guest speaker of the Colloquium was Professor Ranjit Kr. Dev Goswami, Professor of English, Gauhati University, and an eminent scholar of Vaishnavite Studies who delivered his talk on *Bezbaroa aru Asomiya Sanskriti*. The welcome address was delivered by Professor D. Nath of the Department of History, DU. Prof. Dev Goswami observed that the ideology of Assamese culture is closely associated with Lakshminath Bezbaroa. He stressed that Bezbaroa welcomed democratic values to Assamese culture and language. He embellished the Assamese language and culture in a new way. He also followed the path shown by harbingers like Ananda Ram Dhekial Phukan, Hem Chandra Barua, Gunabhiram Barua etc. to enlighten the Assamese mind and society. Annada Shankar Roy considered Bezbaroa to be one of the great intellectuals of the





third generation during the time of the Indian renaissance. Bezbaroa propagated equality of woman and eradication of the caste system in the Assamese community and society. He also gave the Assamese language a distinct form and identity, and he brought an end to the linguistic differences between the languages of upper and lower Assam.

## Eminent Scientist Prof. Samir Bhattacharya delivers a talk on Religion and Science

Prof. Samir Bhattacharya, Senior Scientist, National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), and Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology, School of Life Sciences, Visva Bharati, delivered the *Fifth DU Colloquium* talk on the topic Religion and Science on 3 March 2014 In DU. The welcome address was presented by Prof. D.S. Borah, the Head of the Department of Life Sciences. In his lecture Prof. Bhattacharyya argued that both religion and science have commonalities; both search the truth, both desire to find the suitable way to avail the truth and both create followers who could make advancement in this search. He stated that a seeker of spirituality might not like science but that should not influence him to denigrate it; similarly in the case of a scientist, who might not accept the existence of God, it is not fair for him to provoke non-existence of God because he or she never attempted to seek this knowledge. He referred to the lives of many great scientists like Galileo, Darwin and Albert Einstein who firmly believed in the idea that the realms of religion and science are clearly marked off from each other, nevertheless there existed between the two strong reciprocal relationships and dependencies. Prof. Bhattacharya advocated that the main source of the present-day conflicts between the spheres of religion and of science lies in this concept of a personal God. There are many religions and their path to reach the ultimate reality is different although the destination is the same. In science, the proof of the truth has to be verified by means of experimentation. To embrace both science and spirituality as dependable systems for understanding the process and meaning of life, the first requirement is a broad mindset with wider vision. He also observed that both science and religion should strive to achieve the highest form of freedom for mankind and to create a kind of society which is free from all forms of artificial barriers of caste and sects and recognize the common bond of brotherhood for the sake



of peace for humanity. He concluded his lecture with a phrase from Albert Einstein-"science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind" which suggested the idea that for the comprehensive growth and development of the society it must be firmly established on the principle of spiritual soul force and scientific empirical doctrines.

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## Dr. Aravind Yelery Speaks on Chinese Style of Federalism

Dr Aravind Yelery, Senior Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi spoke on the topic *Indian Perspective over Chinese Style of Federalism: Centre-Province Relationship* in the *Sixth DU Colloquium* on 28 March 2014. Dr Yelery shared his expertise on Chinese studies with the audience. Dr Yelery's oration was highly informative and cerebral in nature. The talk traversed historical, political, cultural, economic and social milieu; providing the audience



with invaluable insights on the state of Centre-Province Relationship in China. Dr Yelery provided a historical insight into the dynamics of federalism in China with references drawn from the erstwhile empires in China to Mao

Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and more contemporary leaders. Comparisons between the federal systems in Russia, India and China were drawn, in order to highlight the unique nature of federalism extant in China. Dr Yelery identified seismic transitions in the social, political, economic, military and external policy avenues, all of which contributed comprehensively to the evolution of federalism in China. The influential role of the provinces in China was highlighted by the speaker, with a view to underline the fact that despite a powerful centre, regionalism was strong in the country. Among other issues, Dr Yelery emphasized the worship of privatization in communist China and the proliferation of shadow banking. Dr Yelery concluded his deliberation by stressing that the system of federalism in China, albeit its unique style, was sound and that it would be further streamlined in the near future. The talk was followed by a lively interaction period where the speaker answered several questions posed by the audience.

## Letters to the Editor

■ Congratulations! It is a commendable publication coming as it does with a new V.C. I hope it will be continued as a life-line of the University. However, I would like to suggest incorporation of news from the affiliated colleges of the University also as they are very much a part of it. The special feature was a welcome addition.

Best wishes,

**Prof. Paramanonda Mahanta**

■ Heartiest congratulations on the publication of the Newsletter 2013, DU. It is an encouraging step from DU to share the activities including research, achievements and innovative thoughts in the campus with the intellectual community of the globe. We expect the continuation of such steps in the future.

**Dr. Bulumoni Kalita**



## News & Events

### Prof. Alak K Buragohain on the *Contemporary Value of Indigenous Knowledge System at DURSA Meet*



Dibrugarh University Vice Chancellor Professor Alak Kumar Buragohain, who is engaged in research in the field of Drug Discovery from Medicinal Plants, delivered the keynote speech on *Indigenous Knowledge System: Is it Relevant Today?* in a talk organized by the Research Scholars' Association, Dibrugarh University on 9 December

2013. Highlighting the traditional knowledge system regarding drugs, he said that plants are the sources of many drugs. He also talked about the relevance of Ayurveda in contemporary medicinal science. According to him, the survival instinct of man basically drove the human race to discover certain things which became landmarks in the course of time. Agriculture is one of the first and foremost practices of that sort which transformed the human civilization. He further said that the material things which are nowadays mostly the outcome of science and technology at times overpower the traditional cultural values. This also makes the present day society to look down upon the cumulative knowledge of thousands of years prevailing in a particular culture. If the people give up the traditional practices, one day they will be turned into cultural refugees in the modern world. He insisted on finding out scientific meaning hidden in some good cultural practices in the local societies by the researchers and students of the university. "We should not be carried away from the thousand years' of collective knowledge by the tide of so called modern knowledge of science and technology. In fact we should find out the utilitarian aspect of the traditional knowledge in the modern times", he added. The lecture was followed by interaction between the Vice Chancellor and the faculty members, research scholars and the students of the university.

### Renowned Environmentalist Dr. Vandana Shiva at DU *Busts Neoliberal Myths on Monoculture, Green Revolution, and Genetic Engineering*

The Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University in collaboration with Action Aid India (NERO) and People's Right Forum, Assam organised a program comprising of a lecture each by Dr. Vandana Shiva and Dr. Mira Shiva in the New Conference Hall of Dibrugarh University on 11 November 2013. Dr. Alpana Borgohain, Head of the Department of Political Science delivered the welcome address and introduced both the speakers. Dr. Vandana Shiva, the author of many books and world renowned eco-feminist and environmentalist, spoke on the topic – *Challenges to Sustainable Farming from Globalisation and Climate Change*. Her lecture revolved around the pertinent issues of loss of biodiversity in the country and the world. She began her discussion by raising her concern towards the loss of diversity of Indian fruits and seeds. The tragedies of Punjab and Bhopal were instrumental in moulding her interest in agricultural issues. She observed that the concept of monoculture in crop

patterns has led to several problems in the world today, and the non-sustainability of Green Revolution has also been proven. It has adversely affected water availability as well as soil and health, and unleashed a vicious circle where the cost of production became higher than the earnings of the farmers which, in turn, had an impact on Minimum Selling Price. The system of procurement from farmers ran into problems and we now face a situation where 17 million tonnes of grains rot while malnutrition and hunger claim the lives of many. Dr. Vandana Shiva called this the 'clogged artery of the Food Distribution System'. She expressed that some highly dishonest activity had created an agrarian crisis in India. One of these was the impact of monopoly created by the *Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)* regime. Dr Shiva targeted her ire against the multinational firm Monsanto, which indulged in bio-piracy when it took seeds and put toxic genes in it. Genetic engineering, she claimed, had infiltrated the system with widespread adversarial ramifications. Corporations had the power to silence research which prevented the masses from learning about the reality of consuming genetically engineered products. She further claimed that the trading mechanism was under pressure from agents seeking to impose patenting on seeds, which was originally not allowed under Indian Law. Additionally, agents were attempting to break quantitative regulations



thereby disrupting a series of related produces and processes. Moreover, she indicated that there was an effort to criminalise diversity by imposing fines on farmers who strayed from uniformity in food, which benefitted the large global conglomerates alone. Dr. Vandana Shiva stressed that her work was part of a mission to defend people's rights and a pro-earth movement. She concluded by urging the citizens of Assam to preserve their precious resources, freedom and democracy and defend these by way of facts and independent knowledge.

Dr. Mira Shiva, an internationally acclaimed public health activist, spoke on the topic *Genetically Modified (GM) Food and Health Concerns*. She began by stating facts about the pitiable health conditions prevailing in India. In India, 46-48% children under 5 years of age are malnourished and 36.6% women have BMI less than 18.5%. This is leading to the situation where neo-natal deaths are perpetually on the rise. Dr. Mira Shiva expressed that the IPR regime has been instituted to protect big companies and was not promoting public health. Several big Indian companies have had mergers and





acquisitions by foreign companies which bode ill for the access to food and medicine for the masses. These mergers and acquisitions and patenting had led to a rise in prices of drugs. The TRIPS and FTAs being signed by countries like India with the European Union and other actors have frightening clauses in them which favour big business at the cost of the health care access of the general public. Dr. Mira Shiva elaborated on the BT brinjal phenomena and stated that tampering with seeds lead to genetic pollution and contamination which can result in serious public health implications. She also commented on the link between pricing control and the patent process. The destruction of diversity of seeds and foods has led to an increase of diseases like diabetes among the population of the country. She ended her talk by showing the audience some ways in which adulterated food and junk food have infiltrated our minds and systems and stressed the need to persevere traditional skills and knowledge of the peoples in the face of the challenge of corporations and patents regime.

The Vice-Chancellor of DU, Dr. Alak Kumar Buragohain, who is also a biologist, with keen interest in the issue of genetically engineered products, stressed on the grave implications of corporatisation of our food and culture at the cost of our invaluable traditional knowledge on bio-diversity expressed his views on the Global conspiracy which preys on the gullible. This was followed by a lively interaction. The Vote Of Thanks was delivered by Amrita Pritam Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science. The program was resounding success and was attended by over 180 people ranging from civil society members to media persons to teaching and administrative staff of Dibrugarh University and students from several departments.

## *Eighteenth National Space Science Symposium held in DU*

The 18th National Space Science Symposium was held in DU from 29 January to 1 February 2014. The principal objective of the symposium, sponsored by ISRO, in association with the Astronomical Society of India, was to provide a



scientific forum for the Indian space scientist to present new results in atmospheric science, space science, planetary exploration and astronomy and astrophysics. It also enabled discussion on space and ground based astronomy programmes and projects being pursued at various research laboratories, institutes and Universities in India. Five parallel sessions were conducted in areas relevant to Space Science and Astronomy during the symposium attended by three hundred sixteen participants from across the country. The symposium was inaugurated by the renowned scientist Sri A.S. Kiran Kumar, Padmasree, Director, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad. Prof. A. K. Kembhavi, Director, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune inaugurated the volume of abstracts and Prof. J. N. Goswami, Director, Physical Research Laboratory; Ahmedabad inaugurated

the ISRO exhibition held simultaneously with the symposium. Vice-Chancellor Prof. A.K. Buragohain presided over the well-attended inaugural function. Prof. J. N. Goswami delivered a popular lecture on the Origin of the Solar System. Twelve distinguished scientists delivered plenary and interdisciplinary lectures on the occasion of the symposium. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. K. Buragohain also participated in the panel discussion on the concluding day and gave away the awards to the best oral and poster presentations.

## *Eleventh Indian Anthropological Congress 2014 Observed*

The Department of Anthropology, DU organized the 11th Indian Anthropological Congress 2014 in collaboration with Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal at Dibrugarh University during 21-23 February 2014. The focal theme chosen for deliberations during the congress was *Human Variation, Plurality and Diversities: Anthropological Perspectives*. Prof. M. N. Dutta, Registrar, DU and Chairperson, Organizing Committee of the 11th Indian Anthropological Congress 2014 welcomed the delegates and



also stated the significance of the Congress for the anthropology community and anthropology department of Dibrugarh University in particular. Inaugurating the Congress, the Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain expressed the commitments to create facilities at Dibrugarh University so that anthropologists from all over the world could come forward to this part of the country, which sits on a repository of multiple diversities and to explore the unexplored terrain. Renowned Anthropologist, Prof. Ajit Kumar Danda, Member Secretary INCAA spoke at length about





## News & Events

### DU Staff and Students Interact with Foreign Delegates at the Ninth North East Business Summit

The 9<sup>th</sup> North East Business Summit (NEBS) 2013, an annual flagship event jointly organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to promote investment and business opportunities in the North Eastern part of India got underway in the DU premises on 22-23 November 2013. As part of the event an interactive session was held at the New Conference Hall, DU, wherein faculty members



from various departments shared their experiences of overseas collaboration with some foreign delegates of the NEBS that included the US Consulate members from New Delhi and ministerial representatives from Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei and Thailand. Prof. Pranjal Borbora from the Department of Commerce, Prof. Nitul Kr. Gogoi and Prof. Sarthak Sengupta from the Department of Anthropology, Prof. Bhim Kanta Baruah, Professor in Assamese and the Director i/c of the Centre of Language Studies, Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi from the Dept. of Petroleum Technology, Dr. Surajit Borkotokey from the Department of Mathematics and Dr. Mithun J. Sharma from the Centre of Management Studies made presentations on their collaborative work with Universities abroad. The interactive session was inaugurated by Prof. Alak K Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor, DU. Teachers, research scholars and student representatives from the various departments actively interacted with the foreign dignitaries. The interactive session was moderated by Dr. Rajib Handique, Associate Professor, Department of History, DU. A Plenary Session on Higher Education was chaired by Prof. Buragohain. Several eminent academicians including Prof. Abdul Aziz, former Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. M.A. Kalam, former Dean School of Social Sciences, University of Madras presented their views.

### CMS Observes Sanmilian 2013

*Sanmilian 2013*, the annual intellectual convergence hosted by Centre for Management Studies, DU was held on 8- 10 November 2013. This was the tenth edition of the convergence and was for the first time a three-day affair. The theme of this year's edition was *Corporate Governance: The Era of*

*Technology and Transparency*. The convergence was inaugurated by Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor, DU in the presence of Mr. V K Verma, General Manager, Learning and Development, Oil India Limited and Mr. B P Bakshi, a father figure for the industry in this part of the country besides other distinguished guests, faculty members, delegates and students. Mr. N K Bharali, Director (HR & BD) who was supposed to give the keynote address could not do so because of some exigencies and he addressed the gathering via a recorded address on video. The *Souvenir of Sanmilian 2013* was inaugurated by Mr. Bakshi. Shristi - the exhibition was also inaugurated by Mr. Bakshi. The first event of the convergence was *Super Investor*, a financial investment competition which started in with the opening trade in BSE/NSE and ended with the closing trade at the exchanges. It was won by Mr. Dibyajyoti Borah and Md. Imran Hussain, Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University. Manthan - the panel discussion on the theme was held after the inaugural session with Dr. T R Sarma, Associate Professor, Tezpur University as the Moderator. The panelists were Mr. K Sensowa, Chairman, Bharatiya Cha Parishad, COI. (Retd.) P K Ghosh, Executive Director, Jalan Group of Industries and Mr. A Das, Head (Personnel), OIL. The next event of the day, *Straight Talk* was moderated by Prof. A Saha, Professor, Dibrugarh University with Mr. D Goswami, Senior Technical Director and State Informatics Officer, NIC (Assam) as the expert who replied to queries from the audience on the theme. The final event of the first day was *BizMantra* - the open business quiz hosted by Mr. S Dutta. It was won by Mr. Mayurakshya Bharadwaj and Mr. Biswajeet Kachari of Dibrugarh University Institute of Engineering & Technology. The events *Khoj* - the treasure hunt and *AdLab* - the IMC competition also started in the evening of the first day and concluded on the next day. *AdLab* was judged by Md. A Hoque, Founder and Director, Resonance Brand Communications, Guwahati. *Khoj* was won by Tinsukia



College represented by Mr. Anurag Gupta, Mr. Lohit Singh, Mr. Nabajit Sonowal and Mr. Suvratz Bhattacharjee, *AdLab* was won by Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University represented by Ms. Angana Changmai, Mr. Sunil Das, Mr. Kalyan Mandal and Mr. Chiranjit Dhadumia. On the second day, *Agni* - the paper presentation competition - was held. It was judged by Mr.





Veeru Singh Sokhi, Coordinator, Gurukul Junior College, Dibrugarh and Mr. Gautam Barthakur, Assistant Professor, SIPE Law Collge, Dibrugarh. In the UG group, Ms. Mansi Agarawal & Ms. Vidushi Goyal from G S Lohia Girls' College, Tinsukia emerged winners and the PG group was won by Ms. Amenla Walling and Mr. Y L Mungshing from Nagaland University. The best presenter in the UG group was Mansi Agarawal while in the PG group, it was Amenla Walling. The prelims of *Rhythm* - the singing star was held on the second day while the finals were held on the third day. It was judged by Syed Sadullah and Ms. Mamta Borthakur. Ms. Monikanka Borah, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dibrugarh University won the competition in a close finish. The convergence ended with *Autumn Aura* - the cultural extravaganza on the concluding day. The total prize money for the the events was Rs. 50,000 - the highest till now. In all, 74 student and academic delegates from Tezpur University, Kaziranga University, Nagaland University, NERIST and Dibrugarh University participated in the convergence. The colleges that participated were Tinsukia College, G S Lohia Girls' College, Women's College, Tinsukia, DHSK Commerce College, Dibrugarh among others.

## Two Week Intensive Course on Preparation for Civil Services Examination

The Equal Opportunity and Career Counselling Cell of DU conducted a *Two Week Intensive Course on Preparation for Civil Services Examination* from 29 October 2013 to 10 November 2013. 90 students of Dibrugarh University attended the course. The programme was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor who stressed on the need for good governance of the country. Four IAS Officers of Assam-Meghalaya cadre addressed the participants in the course. Sri Puru Gupta, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Tinsukia District, Dr. Lakshmanan S. Iyer, IAS, SDO Sadiya, Mr Adil Khan, IAS, SDO Margherita, Ms. Aruna Rajoria, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh District shared their experiences in the preparation for the civil service examination with the participants. The following faculty members of Dibrugarh University - Dr. Rajib Handique of the Department of History, Prof. V. K. Verma of the Centre for Geography and Sri Borun Dey of the Department of Political Science, also shared ideas in their areas of expertise. In the second phase of the course,

Resource Persons from one of the leading coaching centres of the country - Khan Study Group (KSG) of New Delhi conducted intensive sessions on preparation for Civil Services Examination. Dr. A.R. Khan the founder of KSG addressed the participants on 4 November 2013 by delivering a motivational talk and gave a broad overview of the strategies for success in cracking the Indian Civil Services Examinations which is known to be one of the toughest in



the world. Shri Apurv K. Parsai of KSG lectured on Indian Polity, Governance Issues, Geography and Social Issues on 5 and 6 November 2013. Sri P.P. Singh of KSG dealt with topics on History, Economy, Technology and Current Affairs on 7 and 8 November, 2013. Shri. S. Monga of KSG dealt with Civil Services Aptitude Test, Ethics and related themes of General Studies on 9 and 10 November, 2013. The Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University in his valedictory remark on 10 November, 2013 declared that a Club for Entry into Services would soon be inaugurated where selected participants would get the opportunity to discuss issues related to such examinations, apart from attending special talks by experts. They will also have access to newspapers, books and magazines, he assured.

## Panel Discussion on the Occasion of Industry Academia Interface Week at DU

The first ever *Industry Academia Interface (IAI) Week* organized by Department of Commerce, DU in collaboration with the Department of Economics and Centre for Management Studies flagged off on 10 March 2014 in the Centre for Management Studies. The occasion was graced by the Vice-Chancellor of DU, Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain, Mr. V.K. Verma, General Manager L&D, Oil India Limited; Dullajan, Mr. R. Kallta, DGM (HR), IOCL (AOD); Digboi and Mr. P.K. Mati, DGM (HR), BCPL; Dibrugarh.

The welcome address was presented by Prof. P. Bezborah of the Dept. of Commerce who was also the coordinator of the IAI Week. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alak Kr Buragohain in his inaugural speech emphasized on industry academia relationship from an historical perspective. In his views higher educational institutions need to transform themselves and focus on sustained academic growth. At times, it has been observed that the students in the higher educational institutions found themselves unprepared for the industry and on the other hand large numbers of jobs in industries are also found to be lying vacant. He put emphasis on building a constant industry academia relationship



## News & Events

and believed that this is the only way to bridge the gap.

The panel discussion after the inaugural session was conducted by Mr. V.K. Verma, General Manager T&D, Oil India Limited, Duliajan; Mr. R. Kallita, DGM (HR), IOCL (AOD);, Digboi; and Mr. P.K. Mati, DGM (HR), BCPL, Dibrugarh and the session were moderated by Prof. Ajanta B. Rajkonwar of Department of Commerce, DU. The topic of the discussion was *Employability of University Graduates: An Industry Perspective*. The discussion started with sharing of experiences on the topic by Mr. V.K. Verma. In his words, innovative quality, right attitude, knowledge, matured thinking are the criteria they are looking forward for in prospective recruits. He emphasised that industry needs



competent personnel. In his words, academic institutions should conduct programmes for visiting industries with students so as to give them practical exposure. Mr. Mati in his speech remarked that academic institutions are still following traditional educational processes which has augmented the problem of multiple unemployment, so curriculum of the academic institutions need to be developed based on industry requirement. He also put emphasis on practical knowledge, along with vision and skill development programme. Mr. R. Kalita focussed upon practical approaches to education. In his words, 60% of the graduates do not get recruited because of lack of English communication skills. He also pointed out that shortage of skilled teachers in the educational institutions has compounds the problem. During the session several queries were made by participants to the panel that were addressed to their satisfaction. In the concluding remark, the moderator Prof. A. Rajkonwar has pointed out that academic institutions look forward to industries to build a tie-up and share their database so as to develop the requisite manpower in the academic institutions for the industries.

### Academic Audit of DUIET

Under the initiative of the Vice-Chancellor, DU, Prof. A.K. Buragohain, an *Academic Audit* was conducted during 12-14 February 2014, in DUIET under the supervision of the eminent scientist, Dr. P.G. Rao, Retd, Director of North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat. The members of the committee who carried out the Audit also included Prof. Pinakeswar Mahanta, Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT, Guahati, Prof. Manabendra Bhuyan, Dept. of Electronics and Communications

Engineering, Tezpur University, Prof. Shymantamoni Hazarika, Dept. of CSE, Tezpur University and Mr. Binanda Deka, Director, Production, Oil and Gas (Retd.), Oil India Limited, Duliajan. It was reported that the infrastructure and the course curriculum is upto the mark and there is vast scope for improvement in the future.

### Workshop on Creative Writing in English

The Department of English organised a four day workshop on *Creative Writing in English* from 20 - 23 March 2014. Eminent writers from the North East, Arup Kumar Dutta, Mitra Phukan, Dhruva Hazarika, Dr Shrutimala Duara, and Dr Bibhas Choudhury were invited as resource persons. Dr Ananda Bormudol, faculty of the Department presided over the inaugural session on 20 March. Mridul Bordoloi, Head i/c of the Department delivered the welcome address. Thereafter, the chief guest, Prof. A K Buragohain, Vice Chancellor, formally inaugurated the workshop. A one minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the eminent writer Khushwant Singh who had passed away earlier that morning. This was followed by the vote of thanks from Dr Payal Jain. In the *Plenary Session: Writers Speak*, the resource persons shared their ideas with the participants. Mr Arup K Dutta said that every individual is blessed with creative imagination. It is an innate quality and requires some kind of a spark to take it to a sublime level. In her speech Ms Mitra Phukan said that people can be creative in many different ways. It comes in different media and is a process



of give-and-take. Mr Dhruva Hazarika said that there is creativity all around, and one must have an eye for it. Dr. Shrutimala Duara said that creativity is about everyday things and one should feel strongly about it. Dr. Bibhash Choudhury also shared his views on creative writing. The resource persons read out excerpts from their writing. The technical sessions from 21 to 23 March were designed to cover various aspects of creative writing: representation in a second language, children's literature, short story, poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction writing, reaching the market, and translation and editing. The sessions were basically activity oriented and it gave the





participants ample scope to exercise their creativity. The workshop concluded with a short valedictory function in which some of the participants shared their experiences. A decision was also taken to start a Dibrugarh Chapter of the *North East Writer's Forum* with its centre at the Department of English to give a platform to upcoming writers from this part of the region. The valedictory session concluded with a vote of thanks from Lakhpriya Gogoi, faculty of the Department.

Dibrugarh University Institute Of Engineering And Technology (DUIET)



Research, Consultancy and Other Project of DUIET

- The All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi sanctioned a project for *Infrastructure Development of DUIET* under NEQIP to increase the employability of the students. The grant amounting to Rs. 7.0 crore for the period 2013-16 was sanctioned. The first installment of Rs. 1.75 crore was released on 25 March 2014.
- *Geotechnical Consultancy* work was awarded by Oil India Limited Duliajan in the year 2013 to Dibrugarh University Institute of Engineering and Technology. The scope of work includes the detailed Geotechnical Investigation for two new tank farms in Duliajan and Moran. The other was the Natural Gas based captive power plant at Khumsai, Arunachal Pradesh. The amount mobilized was Rs. 15 Lakhs, with Dr. Mukul Chandra Bora as the Investigator.
- The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering was awarded a project titled *Multuser MIMO In 3GPP Long Term Evolution (LTE) standard using Soft-computing Tools*, funded by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), amounting to Rs. 55.5 Lakhs, with Miss Parishmita Gogoi, Assistant Professor in ECE as the Principal Investigator and Mr. Bhargava Jyoti Saikia, Assistant Professor in ECE as the Co- Investigator.



Associate Village Programme  
DU Extension Activities



The Vice-Chancellor, Alak K Buragohain, inaugurated the newly instituted extension service programme named as *Associate Village Programme* to reach out to the neighbouring villages of DU in Pohari Khania village on 1 February 2014. DU is committed towards extension activities in neighboring areas by undertaking short-term computer courses for students, skill-based short term courses for entrepreneurial development and health awareness programmes.





## Departmental Activities

### Department of Assamese

■ A National Seminar on *Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance and its Impact on Contemporary Writings* was held on 12 -13 February 2014, in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi to mark the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of *Sahityarathee* Lakshminath Bezbaroa. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, eminent Bengali writer, Director, Granthana Bibhag, Visvabharati, Kolkata. The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade, eminent Marathi Scholar, retired Visiting Professor of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London and retired Gurudeo Tagore Chair Professor of Mumbai University. Scholars from different parts of India participated in the seminar and discussed the impact of 19th century renaissance on Indian literature.

■ The *14th Lila Gogoi Memorial Lecture* was held on 25 February 2014 in the Conference Hall of the Department of Assamese. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Prabin Chandra Das, Retd. Professor in Folklore, Gauhati University. The



topic was *Lokakatha aru Loka Kathar Aitiyya Bichar*.

■ Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Lakshminath Bezbaroa Chair, and Prof. Bhimkanta Baruah, Department of Assamese, DU inaugurated *Anviksha*, a peer reviewed research journal of the Department of Assamese, on 3 March 2014. The journal is edited by Prof. Nirajana Mahanta Bezbora.

### Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Performing Arts

■ *Sattriya Divas* was celebrated on 15 November 2013 and Prof. Nagen Salkia delivered a talk on *Aesthetics in Sattriya Dance*.

■ A *20 Day Theatre workshop* was held on *Stanislavsky Acting System and Michael Chekov Acting Method* from 4 - 23 November 2013 under the supervision of Anupam Kaushik Borah where the students of M.A. in Performing Arts (Theatre Art) participated.

■ A *7 Day Theatre Workshop on Michael Chekhov Acting Method* was organized by the Centre from 4 - 10 December 2013 under the Supervision of renowned Theatre Director Bidyawati Phukan.

■ A *20 Day Theatre Workshop on Design and Scenography* was held under the guidance of Monimala Das from 15 December 2013.

■ A play *Raja Kotha* was performed by the 1st Semester Theatre Art Students as their annual class room production under the guidance of eminent theatre Director Abnish Sarmah of Assam on 23 January 2014.

■ The students of the Centre participated in *Sattriya Nritya Parva* organized by Sattriya Kendra and Sangeet Natak Academy, Guwahati at Rabindra Bhawan on 16 November 2013.

■ The students of the Centre participated in the *Cultural Night* organized on the occasion of *North East Business Summit* on 30 January 2014 in DU.

■ The students of the Centre participated in *INCAA* on 21 -22 February 2014 organized by Department of Anthropology, DU.

■ The students of the Centre participated in the *DU Inter-College Youth*





*Festival* on 21 - 23 January 2014 held at Tinsukia College, Tinsukia. Miss Kangkana Kakoti bagged the 3rd position in *Bhajan* and 2nd position in *Bhupendra Sangeet* respectively. The students also received the 2nd position for *Folk Group Song*.

■ The students of the Centre performed *Dhrupad* on the occasion of Prof. Nagen Saikia's birthday organized by Rotary Club of Duliajan on 11 February 2014.

## Centre for Studies in Biotechnology

■ The 4th semester students of MSc Biotechnology visited Dehradun under the charge of Assistant Professor, Mr. Debajit Borah in January 2014 as part of their field study trip. The Institutes visited were the Forest Research Institute,



Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Institute of Petroleum and Mepromax Private Limited.

■ A 3-Day DBT-sponsored Workshop on *Biochemistry And Molecular Biology Techniques* was organized by the Institutional Biotech Hub (IBT HUB), Centre for Studies in Biotechnology, DU from 19 - 21 March 2014 for research scholars and college teachers. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alak K Buragohain inaugurated the workshop. Dr. Jagadish Mahanta, Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (N. E. Region) - Indian Council of Medical Research, Dibrugarh was invited as the Chief Guest. The faculties of the Centre and Dr. Robin Doley, Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Tezpur University, served as the Resource Persons.

## Department of Commerce

■ Ms. Dipsikha Das, a student of the Department of Commerce, DU, participated in the *East Zone Inter-University Badminton Tournament 2013-14* held at Birla Institute of Technology, Misra, Ranchi from 4-9 November 2013. The DU Team comprising of Ms. Dipsikha Das, Ms. Mridusmita Phukan (Sibsagar Girls' College) and Ms. Daisy Chetiya (H.P.B. Girls' College) were the *Runners-up* in the team event.

## Department of Economics

■ Dr. Ananta Kumar Giri of Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai delivered a talk on *Economics, Sociology and Beyond: Windows and Horizons* in the Department of Economics on 12.12.13.

■ The Department started a Project on *Baseline Survey and Need Assessment of OIL's Dairy Project* in collaboration with the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) on 27.12.13

## Department of English



The Department of English, DU organised an invited lecture titled *Teaching Modern Poetry* by Prof. Dilip Kr. Baruah, former Professor and Head, Department of English, DU on 3 October 2013. The event was organised to felicitate Prof. Baruah's immense contribution to the field of literary scholarship. Prof. Baruah in his lecture stressed on the function of imagination in poetry. Citing W.B. Yeats' poem *Sailing to Byzantium* as an example of modernist temperament, he gave an insight into the act of teaching modern poetry. The event was chaired by Dr. Ananda Bormudoi. The event was attended by eminent scholars like Prof. Nagen Saikia, Prof. Apama Dutta Mahanta, Prof. Paramananda Mahanta, Dr. K.K. Borgohain, Dr. Atul Goswami among others who shared with the audience their experiences with Prof. Baruah. Many of the former students of Prof. Baruah like Mr. Munin Sharma, Mr. Prateek Chowdhury among others joined the occasion. Dr. Anurag Bhattacharya from the Department of English proposed the vote of thanks.

## Department of Geography

■ The Centre for Studies in Geography, DU, organized an annual event *Geo-Lino 2013* on 20 November 2013 on the occasion of *Geography Awareness Week (GAW)*. In connection with the celebration of *GAW2013*, a talk was organized on the topic *Relevance of Geography in the Changing Global Context* by renowned geographer Prof. Abani Kumar Bhagawati, Department of Geography, Gauhati University. Dr. V.K.Verma, visiting faculty, spoke on the need of geographical knowledge and released the first volume and first issue of the Journal titled *Asian Journal of Spatial Science* published by Geographical Society, DU. The first issue of the Centre's *Newsletter (Bi-annual)* was released by invited speaker Prof. Abani Kumar Bhagawati.

■ Himangshu Ballung, Second Semester student of Centre for Studies in Geography, DU, was the national finalist in Knimbus Young Innovator of the year 2014. Held in IIT, Delhi on 7 March 2014, his project *Sustainable Power Generation* was selected as the most feasible project. He was among the top five contestant among 7000 contestants and 1050 projects across the country and selected as the Brand Ambassador of North East by Knimbus. He has also been awarded 1st prize in the *Essay Competition* among the degree and post graduate students within Assam on the topic *Wildlife habitats of Assam: Pressure and Threats*, organized by North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) on January 22-23 2014.



## Centre for Juridical Studies

■ Symposium on *Law and Philosophy* held on 30 October 2013. Prof. Sibnath Sarma, Department of Philosophy, Gauhati University spoke on the aforesaid title and suggested interdisciplinary study on Law and Philosophy.

■ A Workshop was organised by the Centre for Juridical Studies on 07 November 2013 on the theme *Efficacy of Industrial Disputes Act in the present era of Globalisation*. In this event the Chief Resource Person was Mr. P.K. Mati, D.G.M. (HR), BCPL, Dibrugarh.

■ A seminar on the occasion of *World Human Rights Day* was held on 10 December 2013. The theme was *Human Rights Vs. Women Rights*.

■ A Workshop on *Moot Court Preparation* was organised by the Centre for Juridical Studies, in collaboration with different Law Colleges under Dibrugarh University on 22 February 2014. Mr. D. Senapati, Advocate, Gauhati High Court was the Chief Resource Person.

■ The Centre sent a selected group of students to partake different *Legal Activities* in SOA University, Oddisha in Legal Spectra 2013 from 04 October 2013 to 07 October 2013 and the following students achieved prizes.

o Anupom Sonar and Khirasindhu Saikia secured 2nd Position in the *Legal Quiz Competition*.

■ A *Legal Aid Camp* was organised by the Centre for Juridical Studies in collaboration with the District Legal Service Authority, Dibrugarh on 22 December 2013 at Lohar Patty, Dibrugarh.

■ *World Consumer Day* was observed in the Centre for Juridical Studies on 14 March 2014. Mr. B.L. Sarma, Former Presiding Officer, Industrial Tribunal, Dibrugarh was the chief guest for the function.

■ A One day Institutional Seminar on *Live-in-Relationship – A Socio Legal Issue* was held on 20 March 2014.

■ On 02 April 2014 students of the Centre for Juridical Studies organised an *Awareness Camp* to sensitize the Voters on the effectiveness of NOTA option.

## Centre for Studies in Language

■ A Workshop was held on 5 March 2014 on the theme *Traditional Skill and Knowledge of Tai People of North-East India*. 11 papers were presented in the workshop where Prof. Willaisac Kingkham, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand delivered the Keynote Address. Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor, DU inaugurated the workshop and the inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Ananda Bormudoi of the Department of English. The Welcome Address was delivered by Prof. Bhim Kanta Boruah, Director of the Workshop. The workshop was of Audio visual nature.

## Centre for Library and Information Science Studies

■ The Centre for Library and Information Science Studies (CLISS) organised a three day training programme on *Management of E-Resources for Library Professionals of Assam* from 10-12 April 2014. This was the fifth event the centre has organized in collaboration with National Library, Govt of India, Kolkata. The programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest, P K Rajkhowa, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh. A total of 45 participants turned up for the workshop and experts from different parts of North East India served as Resource Person in various sessions. The training programme highlighted various issues related to e-resources management.

## Department of Mathematics



The 126th Birth anniversary of the Indian Mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was celebrated by the Department of Mathematics, DU which organized a two-day programme, *Remembering Ramajujan : A Symposium on Mathematics* during 21-22 December 2013 in DU. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.K. Buragohain inaugurated the symposium. More than 100 participants from different schools and colleges under DU participated in the symposium. Dr. Bijoy Kumar Deva Sarma, Retd. Professor, NEHU, Shillong, Dr. Dhiren Kumar Basnet from Tezpur University and Dr. Mukunda Rajbonshi, Retd. Principal, Lakhimpur Girls' College acted as Resource Persons. Competitions on extempore speech, quiz and poster presentation were held on the occasion. The importance of mathematics from the Indian tradition and the contributions of Ramanujan to the world of mathematics were discussed at length in the symposium.

## Department of Petroleum Technology

■ Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi, Associate Professor and Head of Department was invited as a delegate to *Petrotech 2014* during 12-15 January 2014 under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India organized by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. at Indian Expo. Greater Noida. She shared the IOR/EOR Technical session on 14 January 2014 at the *11th International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition, Petrotech 2014*.

■ Eleven 3rd semester M.Tech students were selected on the basis of an online competition of *ReYuvanation* to attend *Petrotech 2014* as sponsored delegates. The students also won the 2nd Prize in the *Technical Quiz*.







■ Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi was invited as a Visiting Faculty to the Department of Energy of Tezpur University from 28 March 2014 to 2 April 2014.

■ Out of a total of fifty selected students on merit basis from India, four of the 3rd semester students also got the chance to undergo their Dissertation work for the partial fulfillment of Post-Graduate Degree of Master of Technology in Petroleum Exploration and Production of Dibrugarh University at ONGC, Sibsagar with a stipend of Rs 35,000/- per student for six months.

■ ONGC extended a scholarship of an amount of Rs. 60,000/- under *Industry-Academia Interface* for the highest aggregate marks secured in the 1st year of the M.Tech. course (Petroleum Exploration and Production). This was conferred to Mr. Biju Das for the session 2012-13.

■ *Best Engineering Graduate and Best Lady Engineering Graduate* of Gauhati University for the session 2013-14 were conferred to the 2nd semester M.Tech student, Ms. Naznin Ahmed.

■ First place in the *Poster Presentation* was conferred to Mr. Jai Prakash Kohar (M.Tech 3rd Semester) and Mr. Bidyut Bikash Hazarika (M.Tech 2nd Semester) for their poster titled, *Development of Old Marginal Field old field by application of Biotechnology with special emphasis on Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery*, in *Petroconclave 2013*, sponsored by Oil India Limited at Dibrugarh University, on 7-8 October 2013 under the PG Category.

■ The following students were awarded the third place in *Technical Quiz Competition of SPE Sub-Continental Meet, 2014* at MIT, Pune held on 15 February 2014: Mr. Kalpajit Hazarika, Mr. Jai Prakash Kohar and Mr. Bidyut Bikash Hazarika.

## Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

■ The *Pharmacists' Welfare Fund (PWF)*, Assam donated Rs. 10,000/- to Mr. Pavan Kr. Das, a pharmacist working under Govt. of Assam, for his treatment on 28.10.2013. Mr. Das is suffering from renal failure. The cheque was handed over to Mr. Das at the hospital by Mr. M.S. Goswami, President, *Pharmacists' Welfare Fund*. The Secretary, *All Assam Pharmacists' Service Association* and two other members were also present at the time of handing over the cheque. PWF is a newly formed fund of the *Indian Pharmaceutical Association*, Assam State Branch. The primary objective of the fund is to offer financial help to needy pharmacy professionals on health ground. Interested personnel may donate to the fund through Mr. H.K. Sharma, General Secretary, *Pharmacists' Welfare Fund*, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, DU. Cheque should be payable to *Pharmacists' Welfare Fund*, payable at State Bank of India, Dibrugarh University branch.

## Centre for Studies in Philosophy

■ *World Philosophy Day* was observed in DU on 21 November 2013. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Paramananda Mahanta, Retired Professor, Department of Physics, DU. Professor Sauravpran Goswami, Department of Philosophy, Gauhati University was invited to deliver a lecture on the topic *Philosophy-Science Interface* under the broad theme, *Philosophy, Science*

*and Technology*. The meeting was inaugurated by Prof. N. K. Handique, Director i/c of Centre for Studies in Philosophy, DU. He delivered a speech regarding the importance of Philosophy, Science and Technology. Prof. Goswami, spoke on the topic – *Philosophy-Science Interface*.

## Centre for studies in Physical Educations and Sports

■ The *Inter-School Mass Demonstration Programme* was organised by the Centre for Studies in Physical Education and Sports. Students of B.P.Ed. were deputed to the various schools around DU to impart physical education to the school students under *Physical Education Programme* for 15 days starting from 28 February 2014. In this event, ten schools participated. March Past and Mass Demonstration competitions were held. Dr. Nirode Boruah Director, DU Distance Education and Prof. Mukut Hazarika, Dept. Of Education graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Borpathar Girls High school bagged the first position in March Past and Sankardev Vidya Niketan were the winners in the Mass Demonstration.

■ For the students of M.P.Ed. programme the Centre for Studies in Physical Education and Sports conducted an *Educational Tour cum-Leadership Camp* from 22 - 26 February 2014. The tour was conducted at *Roing, Myodia and Mehao* lake, Arunachal Pradesh. During the tour they went for Trekking and other Adventure Sports activities.

■ For the students of B.P.Ed. programme the Centre for Studies in Physical Education and Sports conducted an *Educational Tour* from 12 - 15 March 2014. The tour was conducted at Guwahati. They visited LIPE ERC, Sports Authority of India, Nehru Stadium, IIT etc. and interacted with experts.

## The following students of the Centre represented DU in Inter-University Tournaments.

■ Miss Dipshikah Boruah participated in the *All India Inter-University Taekwondo Tournament* held at Sathyabam University, Chennai in January 2014

■ Mr. Mridul Dutta, Mr. Jintu Saikia, Mr. Dhruvajyoti Saikia, Aslle Chase participated in *East Zone Inter-University Football Tournament* held at West Bengal State University in January 2014.

■ Dibrugarh University Sports Board conducted various intercollegiate tournaments in association with various Dibrugarh University affiliated colleges as follows:-

■ *Inter-college Table Tennis Tournament* at N.L.B. City College on 2 – 3 October 2013.

■ *Inter-college Women Football Tournament* at H.P.B. Girls College from 5-8 October 2014.

■ *Inter-college Badminton Tournament* at North Lakhimpur College on 21-22 October 2013

■ *Inter-college Handball Tournament* at Demow College on 28- 29 October 2013.

■ *Inter-college Taekwondo Tournament* at Namrup College on 6-7 November 2013.

■ *Inter-college Boxing Tournament* at Margherita College on 8-9 November 2013.

■ *Inter-college Archery Tournament* at D.K.D. College, Dergaon on 11-12



November 2013.

- *Inter-college Weight Lifting Tournament* at S.P.P. College, Namti on 16-17 December 2013.
- *Inter-college Cricket Tournament* at D.U. Campus on 16-31 December 2013.
- *Inter-college Kabaddi Tournament* at B.P.B.M. College, Borhat on 27-28 December 2013
- *Inter-college Youth Festival* at Tinsukia College from 21-23 January 2014.
- *Inter-college Volleyball Tournament* at Naharkatia College from 31 January to 1 February 2014.
- *Inter-college Athletics Tournament* at Amguri College from 3-5 February 2014.

### ■ Inter-University Participation

Dibrugarh University Sports Board participated in the following inter-University tournaments of All India University Association.

- *East Zone Inter-University Football (Men) tournament* held at West Bengal State University, West Bengal from 3-7 October 2013
- *East Zone Inter-University Badminton (Men/Women) tournament* held at Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi from 5-10 November 2013. Women team qualified for the All India Inter University Tournament.
- *All India Inter University Boxing (Men) tournaments* held at Banaras Hindu University from 3-12 January 2014.
- *All India Inter University Taekwondo (Men/Women) tournaments* held at Sathyabama University, Chennai 7-12 January 2014.
- *East Zone Inter University Table Tennis (Men) tournament* held at Calcutta University from 11-13 February 2014.

### Department of Physics

■ The DRS-I in the Department of Physics has been elevated to DRS-II with *Atmospheric Physics* as the thrust area. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on 7 January 2014. Prof V K Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Doon University, Dehradun and Prof R P Singh, BHU attended the meeting as UGC nominated experts and had an overview of the current research activities in the area and the proposed objectives for the duration of the project.

### Department of Political Science

■ The Department of Political Science in association with the Institute of Chinese Studies New Delhi organised a *Scholar in Residence Programme* from 17-28 March 2014 in which Dr Aravind Yelery, a senior fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi took classes in the Department on various topics relating to China such as history, political system, economic system, foreign policy and political processes and issues of China's internal politics. His classes facilitated the faculty and students to have a better understanding of China.

■ A lecture was delivered by Prof Sanjukta Bhattacharya of the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, on the topic *The Third World* on 14 November 2013 in the Department of Political Science.

■ *Dr Manjula Dowerah Bhuyan Memorial Endowment Award* for the session 2012-13 was given to Ms Deepjyoti Nath, who secured the highest aggregate marks in the 1st and 2nd Semester PG exams in Political Science on 14 November 2013.

■ The Department Journal-*Journal of Politics* Vol XV. ISSN 2277-5617, December 2013, was released in the Department on 13 February 2014.

■ *SVEEP ( Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation)* Cell of



District Administration, Dibrugarh in collaboration with the Department of Political Science and Department of Economics, DU, organized a rally *Walk for Democracy* rally on 29 March 2014 from Old High School Field to Chowkidingee field to promote mass awareness among eligible voters to come out and vote in the Lok Sabha Elections, April 2014.

■ The Department of Political Science, DU held a *Poster-Making Competition* on 30 March 2014 in the Educational-cum-Recreationl Park of the University.



The competition was held as part of a voter awareness initiative by DU in light of the upcoming elections. Around sixty participants of varied ages joined the competition. The first prize was awarded to the post-graduate student group comprising of Nilakshi Das, Joyshree Borthakur and Prerona Bhagawati. The second prize was awarded to the group comprising of Pahari Dutta, Deboleena Sengupta and Preetishree Borkakoty. The third prize was awarded to Dr Bikash Deka, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University. Ten consolation prizes were also awarded.





## Department of Statistics

■ A five day *North-East Training Programme on Statistical Data Analysis* was organized by the Department of Statistics and the Department of Mathematics, DU during 26-30 November 2013 in collaboration with *Bayesian and Interdisciplinary Research Unit (BIRU)* of ISI, Kolkata in DU. Six resource persons- Prof. Rita Saharay, Prof. Ayanendra Nath Basu, Prof. Samarjit Bose, Prof. Amita Paul and Dr. Diganta Mukherjee from the ISI, Kolkata deliberated on the basics of *Statistical Data Analysis*. Statistical methods to interpret research findings about the basics of Data Analysis with the R software formed the basic objective of the Workshop. Prof. Subrata Chakraborty, Department of Statistics and Dr. Surajit Borkotokey, Department of Mathematics, DU were the coordinators.

■ A five day workshop on *Data Mining* was organized by the Department of Statistics during 3-7 February 2014 in collaboration with Applied Statistical Unit Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Five Resource Persons- Prof. Debasis Sengupta, Prof. Probal Chaudhuri, Prof. Anil Ghosh, Prof. Prasada Rao and Prof. Sushma Bendre from the ISI, Kolkata deliberated on different aspects of *Data Mining*. Prof. B. Gogoi, Department of Statistics was the coordinator.

■ A Workshop on *Statistical Modelling in Addressing Biological Phenomena* was organised by Department of Statistics, DU on 25 February – 01 March 2014. Vice-Chancellor, DU, Prof. A.K. Buragohain, Dr. S. Roy, Tezpur University ; Prof. B. Gogoi, Prof. S.C. Kakaty, Prof. J. Hazarika, Dr. M.P. Barman, Department of Statistics, D.U. and Dr. T. Ali, Department of Mathematics, DU acted as resource persons.

## Centre for Tea and Agro Studies

■ The Centre for Tea and Agro Studies organised a Workshop for *Small Tea Growers* on 18 January 2014. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alak Kumar Buragohain inaugurated the Programme with a short deliberation. Prof. P.K.Borua, Director i/c of CTAS, DU spoke about the Centre and its courses. Mr Siddhartha Sharma, Senior General Manager J. Thomas and Co. Pvt. Ltd, Mr P.Bordoloi, Senior Tea Consultant, Dibrugarh and Mr Diganta Kr. Bora, SMS, KVK Tinsukia served as resource persons of the workshop. The workshop was attended by twenty seven participants from Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

• The following Companies recruited students from the Centre for Tea and Agro Studies - James Warren Tea Ltd, Assam Company Ltd, Solidaridad, Yule Ltd, APPL, Laxmi Tea, Budlipar Ltd. and few other proprietor gardens.



Prof. Willaisac Kingkham, Dr. A. Bormudoi, Prof. A. K. Buragohain and Prof. B.K. Boruah in the Inaugural function of the workshop on Tai People's traditional skill and knowledge



Dr. A. Bormudoi, P.K. Rajkhowa, ADC, Prof. B. K. Baruah in the inaugural function on the programme on Management of E-Resources for Library professionals of Assam

## DU Scholar-in-Residence Programme

DU has been conducting a *Scholar-in-Residence Programme* in which eminent academicians have interacted with faculties and students of the University on their areas of expertise. Till now there have been four such interactions involving scholars of the calibre of M.A Kalam, Professor of Eminence, Tezpur



University, Prof. M. Vikram Reddy, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Pondicherry University, Prof. Samir Bhattacharya, Senior Scientist, National Academy of Science, India and Professor Emeritus, Department of Zoology, School of Life Science, Vishwa Bharati, Kolkata, Dr Aravind Yelery, Senior Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi. The interactions were thought provoking, insightful, informative and research-oriented. The faculties and students found the sessions intellectually stimulating and highly fruitful.



## Directorate of Distance Education

### Final Year Learners' Meet

The Directorate of Distance Education (DDE), DU, organized the *Final Year Meet* for the learners of DDE, DU on 26 November 2013. The objective of *Final Year Meet* was to reorient the learners of the DDE with the *Open and Distance Learning (ODL)* system. Moreover students were advised to attend counseling sessions provided by DDE, DU. Altogether 300 learners have participated in the Final Year Meet.

### Workshop for the Coordinators of the Study Centers

The Directorate of Distance Education, DU, organized a *One -Day Workshop* for the *Coordinators of the Study Centers of the Directorate* on 27 November 2013. The Workshop was organized to orient the Coordinators towards ODL system, to discuss the problems and challenges faced by them. Around 100 coordinators attended the workshop.

### Inauguration of Virtual Classroom

On 19 November 2013, the inauguration of the *Virtual Classroom* of the Directorate of Distance Education, Dibrugarh University took place. Prof. Alak K Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University has inaugurated it. The Virtual classroom is currently located at Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) on the second floor of the Information Technology (IT) building of Dibrugarh University. On this occasion, Prof. Rajbir Singh, Director, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC,UGC), New Delhi, delivered an attractive and interactive talk on the various aspects of Virtual Education and the role played by the Consortium for Educational Communication in the spread of virtual education throughout the country.

### Farewell of Dr. Sarat Chandra Sarma

On 3 February, 2014, the Directorate bade farewell to Dr. Sarat Chandra Sarma, who was serving as the Honorary Teacher of Sociology. On this occasion, he was honoured with a *Phulam Gamosha, Japi and a Xorai*. He delivered an emotional and heartfelt speech thanking one and all for making his life after retirement both active and busy. Some of the members of the Directorate too shared their feelings on this occasion.

### Assemblage: Cultural and Sports Meet

The Directorate of Distance Education for the first time organized a cultural and sports meet for its learners- *Assemblage* from 8-11 February 2014. Prof. Alak Kr. Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor, DU inaugurated this event. This four day meet comprised of many cultural, literary and sports events like dance and singing competition of various categories, quiz and extempore speech competition, short story writing, poems and articles, volley ball, tug of war etc.



### Vocational Training Programmes

#### *DTP Designing, Printing and Binding*

The Directorate of Distance Education (DDE), Dibrugarh University organised One-Month vocational training programme on *DTP Designing, Printing and Binding*, sponsored by Distance Education Bureau (DEB), UGC, New Delhi from 12 February to 14 March 2014. Altogether 52 participants took part. The participants were trained in MS-Word, Pagemaker, Leap Office, Photoshop, Offset Printing, Screen Printing, Flex Printing, Pasting Binding, Hardboard Binding, Jute Binding and Register Binding etc. Resource Persons from respective field provided the training to the participants.

#### *Audio and Video Production*

A *Vocational Training Programme (Skill Development) on Audio and Video Production* was organized by the Directorate of Distance Education (DDE), Dibrugarh University, from the 12 - 22 February 2014. This 11-day training programme was sponsored by the Distance Education Bureau (DEB), UGC, New Delhi. The training programme had thirty-five participants, from different educational and social backgrounds. Of them, 10 had Higher Secondary, 14







had BA, and 11 had MA as their highest qualification. Almost all of them were from the surrounding villages and towns of Dibrugarh University. To guide and train these participants there were eleven Resource Persons, having expertise in the field of audio production, video and film



making. This programme was well-structured and it covered both theoretical and practical components involved in Audio-Video Production. There were 38 theory sessions and 14 practical sessions. The participants were divided into six groups during the training programme and were asked to prepare a project -a short video/film of maximum 10 minutes. On the last day, a session was devoted to presentations of the aforesaid projects, which were judged by a panel of three invited judges.

### *Script Writing, Anchoring and News Reading in Radio and Television*

The Directorate organized vocational training programme on *Script Writing, Anchoring and News Reading in Radio and Television* from 22 February to 5 March 2014. The training programme was conducted in three phases viz., in



the University premises, *All India Radio, Dibrugarh* and *Doordarshan Kendra, Dibrugarh*. A number of renowned Radio and Television personalities and eminent scholars were the Resources Person in this training programme. The training programme encompassed important contents like basic concepts of *Script Writing, Pronunciation, essentials of News Reading and Anchoring, presentation and Editing of technical sessions in Radio*, how to face the Camera, Anchoring and Reporting in outdoor as well as in studio and News Reading using Teleprompter to name a few. Almost 80 participants, from the University as well as different parts of Upper Assam completed this training programme.

### *Security Guard Training*

From 24 February 2014 to 23 March, 2014, the Directorate successfully organized a one- month *Vocational Skill Development Programme on Security Guard Training*. It was sponsored by the Distance Education Bureau (DEB) of the University Grants Commission. A total of 99 participants took part. They underwent Physical Training and theoretical classes regarding the different aspects of the basics of Security and its management. The participants also got a firsthand practical exposure to different *Security Gadgets, Wireless Communication, Fire Fighting, Computers, First Aid and Rescue Operation*. For conducting this training programme, people from varied fields, both from inside and outside the University were invited as Resource Persons.

### *Workshop for Non-Teaching Staff of the Study Centres*

The Directorate of Distance Education, Dibrugarh University organized a One day *Workshop for Non-Teaching Staff of Study Centres* under DDE, DU, sponsored by Distance Education Bureau (DEB), UGC, New Delhi on 23 March 2014. The participants were given training on maintenance of file, maintenance of accounts and software maintenance. 90 participants from different study centres under DDE, DU participated in the workshop.





## Awards and Achievements

### Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika Honoured



Asom Lekhika Sangstha has honoured Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Sahityarathee Lakshminath Bezbaroa Chair with the 2013 *Prabina Saikia Literature Award*. The meeting was organized at Pragjyotish Sanskritik Prkalpa at Machkhowa, Guwahati on 30 March 2014 and it was presided over by the association's president, Dr Inu Mahanta Kalita. Prof. Amarjyoti Choudhury, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University was the Chief Guest of the function. Instituted In 1999 by *Asom Lekhika Sangstha*, the award is given to a female Assamese writer for outstanding contribution to creative writing. The award carries a cash prize, a citation and a trophy.

### Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi Elected

Dr. Subrata Borgohain Gogoi was elected as an Executive Member of the *Indian Geophysical Union (IGU)* by the General Body held on 10 March 2014 at NGRI, Hyderabad for a period of two years from April 2014 to April 2016.

### Dimpee Baishya Sets the Stage Ablaze

Dimpee Baishya, student of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Performing Arts, DU, performed in *Art Education* at Lalit Kala Kendra auditorium, organized by Lalit Kala Kendra on 23 January 2014, in New Delhi. She performed in the

stage composition of *Sattriya Dance* (Concept & Choreography by Jatin Goswami, Padmashree Awardee) at various places in Assam from 6-14 March 2014. She performed in *Prativa Utsav 2014* at Bharatiyam Cultural complex in Kolkatta on 28 March 2014.

### IQAC Organizes a Workshop on Semesterization and CBCS

A two-day workshop titled *Semesterization And Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) In Higher Learning Institutions : In Quest Of Quality Education* was organized by the IQAC, DU on 7-8 February 2014. The workshop was attended by 68 participants from various colleges. The workshop was divided into three parts –Plenary sessions followed by Paper Presentations and Questioning Hours, Panel discussion, discourse and questioning and interaction hours, Road-maps. The workshop started with the Welcome Address by the Director IQAC, Prof. A.K. Buragohain, Vice-Chancellor, DU, who also inaugurated the workshop followed by his Keynote Address. Prof. Utpal Sarmah, Department of Computer Science, Tezpur University delivered the first plenary talk on *CBCS and the Larger Context* wherein he stated the dividends and pitfalls of the CBCS and provided suggestions, followed by an interaction. A panel discussion on *Reflection on Experiences of CBCS and Semester System in Dibrugarh University*, followed. On the second day Prof. M. Hazarika, Dept. of Education, DU, delivered the speech on *Modes of Pedagogy in Tertiary Level*. Prof. Jogen Kalita, Gauhati University, delivered the plenary speech on *Measures Relating to Systemic Corrections in CBCS*. The workshop ended with the *Roadmap Session* chaired by Prof. J.G. Handique. The experts concurred at the end of the workshop that the CBCS system was lacking on several fronts. For instance, the evaluation mechanism of the students require reviewing; the curriculum development needs to be a continuous process; inquiry-oriented syllabi blended with skill-based and vocation electives is necessary; interdisciplinary elective needs to be provided to make the CBCS effective, among others.







## Students' Activities

### Activities of the Post-Graduate Students Union

- **Candlelit Vigil:** Lighting of candles at Jyoti Batchora on 30 October 2013 in the memory of the victims of the Guwahati bomb blast.
- **Inter-College Competition:** The University team participated in many Inter-College events organized under Dibrugarh University namely Cricket, Athletics, Taekwondo, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Table Tennis, Badminton and Football.
- **Inter-College Youth Festival:** The Inter-College Youth Festival 2014 was organized by Dibrugarh University Sports Board. In this mega event 48 colleges participated.
- **Saraswati Puja:** Saraswati Puja was celebrated this Year centrally in the Day Activity Centre on 4 February 2014.
- **Lt. Nilim Chowdhury Memorial Inter-Hostel Volleyball Competition:** DUPGSU organized the Lt. Nilim Chowdhury Memorial Inter-Hostel Volleyball Competition on 16 February 2014 in Volleyball Ground-I, DU.
- **Submission of Demand Sheet:** A Demand Sheet prepared by evaluating various sectors of the University was submitted to the Vice Chancellor, DU on 24 February 2014
- **Varsity Week 2014:** Varsity Week was organized from 3-9 March 2014 in the Dibrugarh University campus.
- **14th DU Convocation:** The DUPGSU members were actively involved in organizing the 14th Convocation of Dibrugarh University.
- **General Secretary Meet:** Held on 30 March, 2014 at the New Conference Hall, DU. In the meeting the General Secretaries of about 38 colleges affiliated under DU attended.

### Article published

- Deepjyoti Nath, "Portrayal of Women in Television-Commercials: An Analysis from Gender Perspective" in *Media and Society*, ISBN no.-978-93-82030-65-2. (Dept. of Political Science, DU).

### Papers Presented

- Nilakshi Das and Puja Dihingia, "Impact of Globalisation on the Traditional Skill and Knowledge of Ethnic Women" in the ICSSR sponsored national seminar on *Traditional Skill And Knowledge of Ethnic Women and Economic Development in North-East India*, organised by Department of

History, Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya on 26-27 October 2013. (Dept. of Political Science, DU).

- Punendra Das and Nilakshi Das, "Reducing Discrimination and Violence against Dalit Women through Education and Empowerment" in the International Seminar on *Social Exclusion And Discrimination Of Dalits In India: Some Reflections In Comparative Context*, organised by The Department Of Bengali, Assam University, Centre for Bangladesh studies, Assam University and G.C College, Silchar, sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi and MAKAIAS, Kolkata on 10-11 March 2014.
- Punendra Das and Nilakshi Das, "Increase the Socio-Economic Status of Women in North-East India through Empowerment" in the ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on *Socio-Economic Status of Women in North-East India: Issues and Challenges*, organised by department of Economics, Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya on 20-21 January 2014. (Dept. of Political Science, DU).
- Preety Sahu and Neha Gupta, "Causes and Consequences of Domestic Violence Against Women Assam : Case Analysis" in the ICSSR sponsored National Seminar on *Socio-Economic Status of Women in North-East India: Issues and Challenges* at Moran Mahila Mahavidyalay, 20-21 January 2014.



## Miscellaneous

### DU Students in Adventure Sports

Thirteen Students of the Centre for Studies in Physical Education and Sports of Dibrugarh University, accompanied by two faculty members participated in a *Fifteen Day Adventure Sports Training Programme* at Manipur Mountaineering



and Trekking Association from 10 – 24 March 2014. The main objective of the Training programme was to improve the leadership quality and all round development of the students. DU students were trained in *Map reading, Trekking, Climbing, Parasailing, Boating, Mountaineering and Rock Climbing, Jungle survival, Solo Nights* and various types of rope notes. They were also given training on *Disaster Management and First Aid*. Mr. Deban Mohan, a Dibrugarh University student was adjudged the best trainee.

### Centre for Technology and Incubation Inaugurated




The Centre for Technology and Incubation was inaugurated on 15 February 2014 for nurturing the students intellectual wealth through a perfect blend of the traditional as well as contemporary ways and means for the comprehensive development of one's personality. The Centre is oriented towards research based projects, especially cost-effective endeavours. Dr. P.G. Rao, Chemical Engineer of Distinction, and the Former President of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Mr. Uddhab Bharali is the Founder Director of the Centre.

### Orientation Programme on Management of Diversity and Equity in Universities and Colleges

Dipak Kr Doley, Asst. Professor, Dept of English, participated as the Co-ordinator of the Equal Opportunity Cell, DU in the *Orientation Programme on Management of Diversity and Equity in Universities and Colleges*, from 2 - 6 December 2013, which was organized by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, (NUEPA), New Delhi . The theme of the programme revolved around the issues of exclusion and imperatives of inclusion of disadvantaged groups. The programme consisted of four components, namely, lecture-discussion on select themes of inclusion both in the macro context of policy and the micro context of institutions; panel discussion on the issue of exclusion and inclusion of select disadvantaged groups; presentations on the status and working of Special Cells/ Equal Opportunity Cells by the participating institutions including innovative and best practices; and evolving strategy for making Equal Opportunity Cells as effective



institutional mechanism for capacity building and implementation of inclusive policies based on group work.



## OBITUARY

- Sri Mukut Singha Phukan, an employee, passed away on 28.12.2013
- Sri Dhiren Barman, an employee, passed away on 02.01.2014.
- Dr S.N. Narahari Pandit, ex-Professor and Head, Dept of Statistics, passed away on 15.01.2014.
- Smti Dhandai Tanti, an employee, passed away on 16.01.2014.
- Dr Inamul Haque, former Professor Dept of Chemistry, passed away on 02.02.2014.
- Sri Anup Saikia, an employee, passed away on 25.02.2014.
- Dr. Binoyananda Dowerah, former faculty, Dept of Petroleum Technology, passed away on 18.03.2014.

*The song is ended, but the melody lingers on...*  
-Irving Berlin





## Fourteenth DU Convocation

(Contd. from page 1)

### The Chancellor Lauds DU for Promoting Women's Education

His Excellency, The Governor of Assam and The Hon'ble Chancellor, Dibrugarh University Sjt. Janaki Ballabh Patnaik's address on the occasion of the XIV Convocation of the University commenced by pointing out the unique advantages which the University is naturally bestowed with, like the 'remarkable ethno-cultural diversity' and 'close proximity to the vast South east Asian land' which endow the institution with manifold opportunities to harness and academic prospects to explore. The Chancellor also took this opportunity to commend Dibrugarh 'University for its untiring efforts towards its goals for achieving excellence in teaching learning and research' while at the same time pointed out some alarming factors which hinder higher education in Assam, for instance, 'the very dismal Gross Enrolment Ratio (in Higher Education) for Assam which is 7.04 against the national average of 13.58' and 'Growth Rate in the number of Higher Education Institutes in Assam which is 7.78% as against the national rate of 9.58%'. He underlined the fact that 'Universities and the Colleges are the institutes where the vast untapped creative and innovative potentials of the youth can be nurtured to a formidable strength'. The Chancellor also noted that it is important to educate and empower women and lauded Dibrugarh University as 60% of its students are females. With these observations, His Excellency, The Governor of Assam formally inaugurated the XIV Convocation.

### The Chief Guest Emphasizes on Inclusion of Humanities as a Core Discipline

Prof. Basudev Chatterji, the Chairperson of the Indian Council for Historical Research., shared his 'thoughts on education, and in particular on Universities'. Prof. Chatterji began by expressing that 'historically, education, and especially Universities, have played a central transformatory role' and that 'Universities have been the custodians of the intellectual capital of the world and promoters of culture and specialized knowledge'. With regard to the school system, Prof. Chatterji opined that in 'India where material, social and cultural endowments are so unevenly distributed, our school system needs to make massive advances not only in terms of numbers but in terms of quality'. The speaker stressed the indispensability of a 'good system of school education' as 'schools are, after all, where children are trained in the joy and pleasure of learning. It is here that the best from the wealth of tradition is transferred from one generation to another, and is continually renewed'. It was expressed that 'the most fundamental principle is not to clutter the mind of young children with too much information and too many disparate ideas' and that 'from the start,

schools should build upon the natural (Einstein calls it 'divine') curiosity with which children are endowed'.

On the question of the medium of instruction, Prof. Chatterji stated that 'undoubtedly primary education is best imparted through the mother-tongue' and that 'after class V, children can be introduced to at least two other useful languages'. The speaker the desirability of a multi-lingual school system, as it "resists the tyranny of linguistic majoritarianism which only generates the highly flawed idea of 'identity politics'; it promotes social inclusiveness; it equalizes opportunity for social mobility; it helps geographical mobility; it enables interaction with a larger community; and it opens up ever widening horizons of learning". Regarding senior school, Prof. Chatterji stressed that 'humanities' must be an integral part of the curriculum as it provides young students understanding of the human condition which is useful for living an examined life but it was also stressed that 'for any of these to be achieved, dedicated teachers who are artist in nurturing young minds, derive pleasure from it and are passionate about it are required in increasingly large numbers and need to be continuously replenished. They have to teach through imaginative methods including a judicious mix of modern technologies and manual skills'. Speaking on the function of Colleges and Universities, Prof. Chatterji expressed that 'Universities have trained the pioneers of human civilizations and 'they are meant to be institutions of knowledge and higher research'. Commenting on the vital importance of a sound University system, the speaker remarked that 'universities are also the place where the youth enter an active phase of self development' and students are required to be 'given some leisure, freedom to think fearlessly and to interact with other minds in the University with a culture of argument and dissent' and it is most important that students "should not be over burdened with too many subjects (point



system) which leads to 'superficiality'. It was also noted that 'the quality of the faculty of colleges and Universities is central to their effective functioning' who have to 'execute the task of education and research'; and ensure ample 'contact and conversation with the young students' which is 'vital for imaginative teaching and research'.

The speaker traced a brief history of the Indian University system and highlighted that in India "modern universities were unencumbered by any ancient or medieval religious baggage as was the case in Europe" but by the 'middle nineteenth century, institutions of higher learning everywhere were meant for the select few, not the masses and this remained the case until well into the early decades of the twentieth century' and thus 'universities remained the preserve of the privileged classes'. It was noted that the situation improved in free India when 'the ideals of equality and social inclusiveness became a major impulse behind the expansion of universities' and 'there followed steady expansion of higher education all across the country while existing universities and colleges expanded with more students and more teachers. The benefit was most apparent in the case of women'. The hand of the government and socio-political movements in accommodating disadvantaged castes in higher education was lamented upon by the speaker especially its unconstructive consequences 'for maintaining academic standards'.

The speaker made some astute observations on certain other aspects of Indian Universities. It was noted that today "the impulse for 'expert knowledge' is driven by the global market forces making us acquisitive and greedy consumerists to the neglect of higher human values".

The speaker observed that "neglect of the 'humanities' – history, literature, philosophy - is rampant" which meant that the 'social values of peace, compassion and tolerance have been pushed to the background, leading to a loss of humanity. It was opined that the 'Humanities' prepares the 'youth for understanding life in his manifold form which await them in the future' and 'helps in understanding with sympathy the ups and downs of life, feelings, sentiments, and desires of fellow individuals'. The humanities help students "preserve the dignity of their individual selves in our alienating 'modern world'" and helps "to create the 'citizens' of the country whose 'ability to think independently and reasonably and guided by their conscience alone can guarantee the protection and improvement of our democracy'". The bureaucratized nature of management of institutions of higher learning was commented upon, with an emphasis on the intrusion of the UGC into the

autonomy of the Universities, a body which was originally created to uphold the autonomy and standard of institutions. It was also observed that 'there is too much pressure on the faculty to publish' which was redundant as 'the output of a University cannot be solely measured by the number of articles and books published by the teachers' and it has only led to the 'multiplication of journals and publishers of dubious credentials'. The lack of 'space for regular interaction amongst the university fraternity – a space for thinking aloud in conversation' was also lamented upon.

Finally, the speaker closed by making the following observations - 'Our Universities should open its gates to individuals...from every part of the world living and working together with individuals of different regions and nationalities helps mutual understanding and strengthens the idea of global communities. Local and regional and narrow, exclusivist community passions cannot allowed be to over ride the crying need for openness to the world; we do a disservice to humanity if we 'fragment' the world with 'narrow domestic walls'. Every university needs to open its doors and windows to the world and thereby find its place in the commonwealth of scholarship and science. Only then will they be able to realize the full potential of their power and fulfill their duties to the society and the world at large'

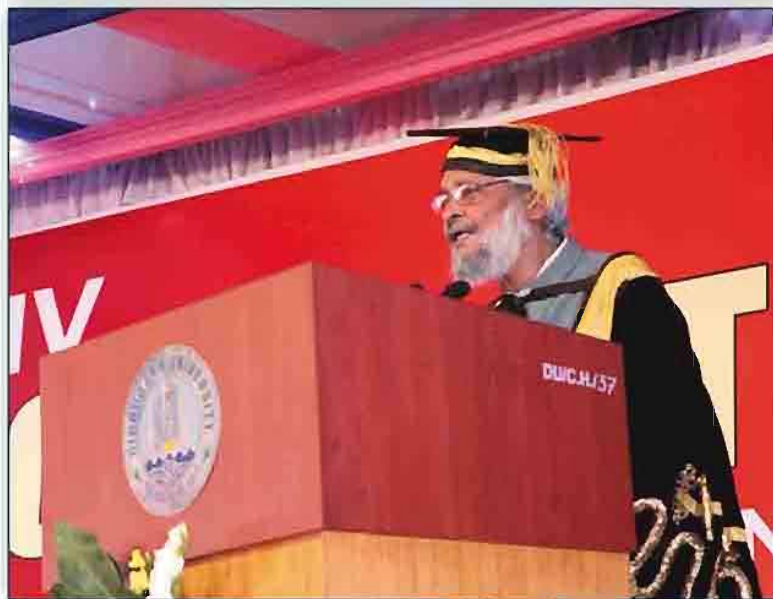
### The Vice-Chancellor Hails DU's Enduring Commitment towards Higher Education

The Vice-Chancellor, in his Welcome Address, hailed the occasion as historic for it marked 'the completion of fifty years of ceaseless endeavor of Dibrugarh University in bringing out a transformation of this region through educating people in this remote part of the

country'. He expressed that Dibrugarh University was 'extremely pleased to be able to confer the Degree of D.Litt. *honoris causa* on two distinguished scholars - Professor Mrinal Miri and Venerable Sashan Bangsha Mahathera'. The Vice Chancellor stressed that Dibrugarh University in its commitment to 'bring in generational transformation in this remote part of the country, concerted efforts are afoot towards enhancing the access of education in an inclusive manner'.









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## DU Student Wins Gold Prize at TISS Students' Film Festival

Mriganka Borah, a student of the Centre for Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication, DU, was awarded the Gold Prize at the 6th Cut.In Students' Film Festival 2013, held by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on 13 December 2013, for his short film entitled Let's Make Counting Easier for Them in the Public Services Announcement Genre. The short film highlighted the problem of child-labour in a novel way.

## MHRD Sponsored Events in the Department of Education, DU

- The Dept. of Education, DU organized a MHRD sponsored Awareness Programme on RTE Act, 2009 among the Elementary School teachers and students of Dhemaji district in Subahi Pather High School, Dhemaji on 6 November 2013. 30 teachers and 65 students of different schools of Dhemaji district participated in the Programme. Dr. Kamal Gogoi, Mr. Borun Dey and Mr. Pranjal Buragohain rendered their services as Resource Persons.
- The Dept. of Education organized a MHRD sponsored workshop on Revision of B. Ed Curriculum of Dibrugarh University among the Principals and Teachers of the B. Ed Colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University on 11-12 February 2014.



## Photo Gallery



93rd Court Meeting of DU



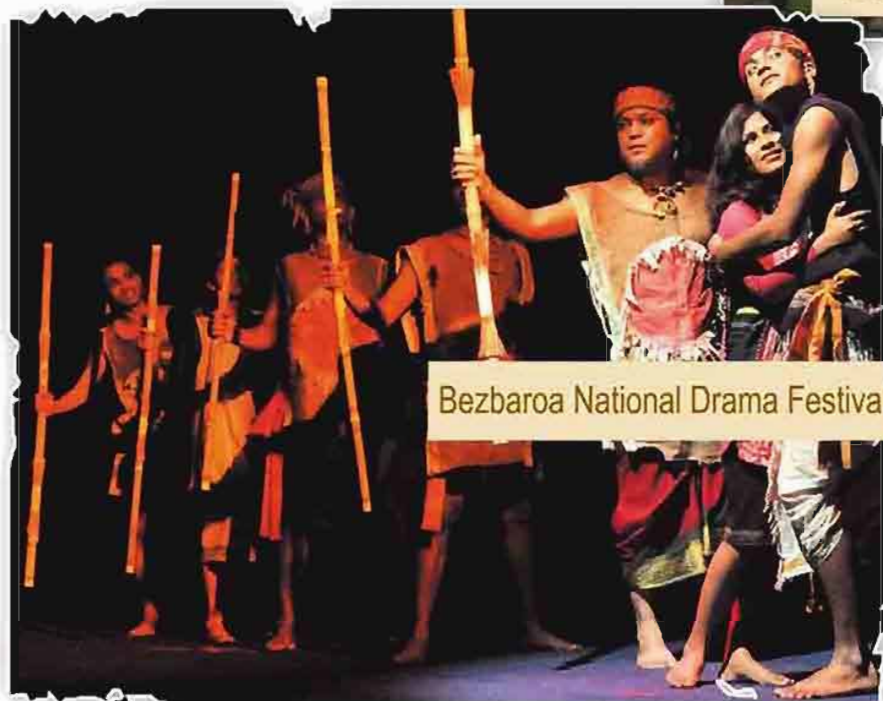
Shrutimala Duara in the Workshop on Creative Writing in English



Academic and diplomatic delegates from Thailand visit DU



Dhruba Hazarika and Arup K. Dutta at the Workshop on Creative Writing in English, DU.



Bezbaroa National Drama Festival



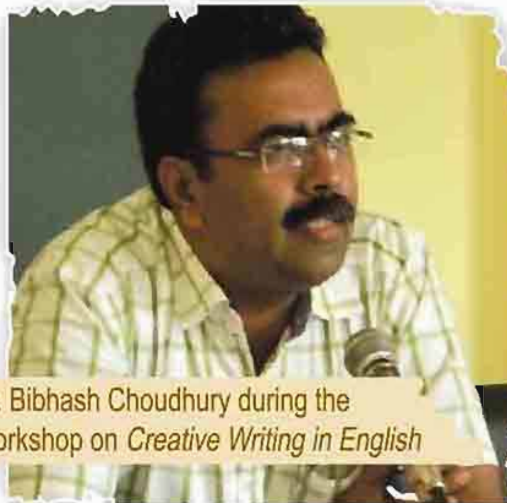
Seema Biswas' histrionics in full display



## Photo Gallery



Mitra Phukan in the Workshop on *Creative Writing in English*, DU



Dr. Bibhash Choudhury during the Workshop on *Creative Writing in English*



Miss DU Winners in the *Varsity Week*



Congregation at the *DU Convocation*



Executive Council Meeting of DU in progress



Legal Aid Camp Conducted by DU



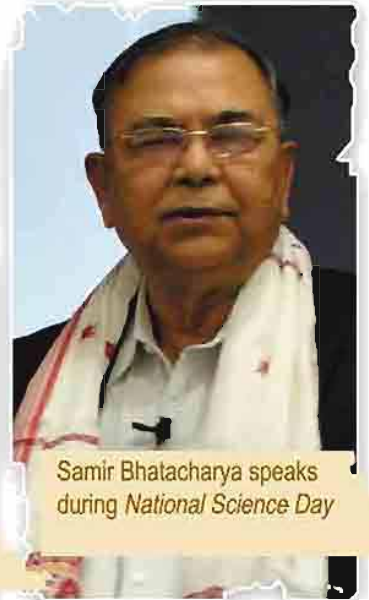
March-past in the *DU Varsity Week*



## Photo Gallery



Mask making Workshop Conducted



Samir Bhattacharya speaks during National Science Day



Indian Army Motivational Camp held in DU



NE Business Summit



NE Business Summit





Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Ambassador of India to Myanmar in interaction with DU authorities to explore the possibility of collaboration between DU and Universities of Myanmar relating to students' exchange programme



The VC interacting with delegates in NE Business Summit



Thai Royal Family with delegates grace DU with their presence

# NEWSLETTER

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