



COTTON UNIVERSITY

Newsletter

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Cotton University wins accolades at National Youth Fest

The Cotton University contingent succeeded in marking its place in the 35th National Inter-University Youth Festival held at Amity University in Uttar Pradesh during February 3-7, 2020. The team of Plawan Sarma, Raktim Ranjan Baishya and Mondeep Bayan won the first prize in Quiz. They are students of Zoology, Political Science and History departments respectively. With this win, Cotton University bagged the overall champion title in the literary category.

The team of students also won bronze in Folk Orchestra and Folk Dance competitions. The University was also adjudged the second runners-up in the prestigious Cultural Procession event.

More than 90 universities from across five zones in India participated in the Youth Festival. The festival is supported by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The 37-member team of Cotton University was led by faculty members Dr Sayanika Dutta and Muktikam Hazarika.



International Seminar on Nationalism held

The Department of English of Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science of Cotton University, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), CIT, Kokrajhar, and GLC College, Barpeta, organised an international conference on 'Re-configuring Nationalism: Protest and Acquiescence' during February 6-8, 2020. Dr Maya Tudor from Oxford University delivered the keynote address on 'Nationalism and Democracy in Comparative Perspective: Insights from Asia' at Bodoland University on February 6.

All the technical sessions were held during February 6-7. The valedictory session was held on February 8 at Cotton University. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr Maureen Waters O'Neill, Eakin Visiting Fellow in Canadian Studies, McGill University, Canada, on 'Nationalism in Multicultural State: A Comparative Perspective with an emphasis on Canadian experiences'. Dr Tudor from Oxford University also graced the occasion. The session was chaired by Prof Nani Gopal Mahanta of Gauhati University.

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Academic building under construction



Vice Chancellor laying the foundation stone of the Geology building



Prof Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, Vice Chancellor

In the last issue of this Newsletter, I wrote about the necessity of online platforms like Coursera, edX, Swayam etc. to supplement the traditional in-person education system. With the appearance of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all education systems all over the world have shifted completely online. The backbone of these online education systems are communication systems such as Zoom, WebEx, Skype and Meet. These communication systems are being used not just for education, but also for office work, keeping touch with family and even for social gatherings and virtual parties. Online communications will of course never replace the value of personal human contact. However, in this case there is simply no alternative. This pandemic is a temporary phenomenon, and scientists all over the world are hard at work in developing vaccines. Therefore, despite the constraints of online communications, and despite whatever personal reservations people have, necessity has forced us to accept

online communications, online shopping and working from home as temporary solutions until these vaccines become available. Until then, it is critically important for all of us to be responsible to ourselves, our families and the rest of society by avoiding human contact as much as possible. Together, we will outlast this virus. I am happy to learn that the present issue of Cotton University Newsletter has stayed on its course even with the numerous challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and in its pursuit has persevered to document the institution's stepping stones to success. The present issue highlighted with the significant activities carried out by the students and faculty members in the various areas of teaching, learning and research and development will apparently reflect the dynamic spirit and vibrant nature of our University.

From the Registrar's Desk

Prof Diganta Kumar Das, Registrar

The year 2020 will remain etched in our memories forever. The beginning of the year took the world by a storm in the form of a pandemic. As fear and uncertainty engulfed our minds, we had greater challenges to face as a higher education institution. Apart from the obvious health concerns, loss of classes, fear of losing the academic year, uncertainty among the students and the teaching fraternity regarding the future course of action was unsettling during the initial days. But Cotton University soon rose to the occasion as faculties adopted online tools and methods to reach out to the students fearing loss of an academic year. I can happily boast that our faculties, to a great extent, were able to make up for the loss of the traditional teaching-learning method by adopting all online means to take classes. While it is impossible to do away with the need of traditional face-to-face teaching-learning, this pandemic has certainly left us thinking about the future of education and how we need to prepare ourselves for such uncertainties that may arise in the future. Blended learning needs to be the new normal. It aims at providing students the best of traditional face-to-face learning and online learning experiences. While digital hiccups do exist, I hope we would be able to adapt with the changing times and situations and deliver our best as an institution of higher learning! My best wishes to one and all!



Dr Dhrubajyoti Das, Editor

Editorial

The COVID-19 pandemic has pressed the world to radically rediscover ways of dealing with the 'new normal.' The increasing period under the trauma of pandemic has made the academic world virtually dwindling. As seen in the last few months many alternatives have been developed to bring education onto the track. One such alternative is the digital platform that has proven much effective, particularly in retaining the spirit of academia dipped down during the lock-down and shut-down period. The campuses of universities and colleges have been affected significantly by the back to back lock-down and shut-down, causing hiccups in implicating for higher education. Over the past months, institutions have been forced to cancel classes and seal the campuses in India. At this juncture the most effective tool to keep students involved and active with education has been online classes. This virtual platform, to some extent, has reduced the pressure on the students and the higher education institutions

during these difficult times. However this shift is not an easy task in a country like India with the different socio-economic conditions of students and the qualities of educational institutions. As felt in reality although online education has turned propitious to higher education institutions in our country during pandemic, moving all programs virtual seems to be challenging. While the bigger universities may possibly be well-fed with strong online systems, the smaller may grapple with the weight of the demand. As digital learning is now in vogue, the university course curators should redesign course content that is viable with online system regardless of its degree. As a matter of fact the multidisciplinary and modular pedagogy may eventually work with the purpose. To see a blend of e-learning and conventional in person-teaching enhanced by traditional universities and the Ed-Tech sector has been a strong possibility in the post-pandemic times.

Activities of Dr Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Library

Workshop for Empowerment of Visually Impaired held

A one-day North East Regional workshop on 'Empowering Visually Impaired Students through Education and Technique' was held on February 15, 2020 at the Conference Hall of MCB Building, Cotton University. The program was organised by Dr S.K. Bhuyan Library, Cotton University. Dr Zabeen Ahmed, Librarian of Cotton University, was the Convener of the program. During the inaugural ceremony, Dr Ahmed spoke on the importance of the workshop for general public and cross sections of the society. Mrs Ketaki Bardalai, Executive Director of Shishu Sarathi, presided over the inaugural session as Chief Guest along with Prof Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, Vice Chancellor of Cotton University and Prof Diganta Kr. Das, Registrar of Cotton University. Prof Goswami informed the gathering about the importance of empowering visually challenged and talked about various facilities available for the visually and physically impaired at Dr Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Library, Cotton University and asked the visually impaired students from various institutions to make use of those facilities. Leikhu Leishram from the National Federation of the Blind gave valuable description about how to empower the visually challenged through modern Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) and highlighted various problems faced by them. Kishore Mohan Bhattacharya from the Department of History, Gauhati University, addressed the issue of appropriate education and training for the visually impaired in the current education system and requested the Government of Assam to take initiatives for the blind people and requested trained manpower in the blind schools. Dr Dipak Bhuyan, renowned Ophthalmologist of Assam, imparted his resourceful guidance on the healthcare education in empowering visually challenged persons. He also highlighted the problems and prospects of the visually impaired and requested sighted people to donate their eyes after death with a view to restore vision in people suffering from corneal blindness.

Manjita Baruah, Additional Director, Directorate of Employment & Craftsmanship Training, Government of Assam, addressed the employability opportunities for visually impaired students and also highlighted the reservation policies in regards to visually impaired after proper education and training. The program was anchored by Iman Raja, an alumnus of the National Institute of Design. Active participation from students, teachers and administrators from various blind schools, institutions and associations from different parts of North East India was observed in the workshop. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Deepjyoti Kalita, Assistant Professor, Department of Library & Information Science, Cotton University.

Sign Language Awareness Programme conducted

As per the call of the United Nations, the entire world observed the International Sign Language Week during September 20-26, 2019 with the aim of spreading sign language awareness among common people. Dr Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Library, Cotton University, also organised a training programme on September 24, 2019, in the Conference Hall for the students, faculty and staff of Cotton University in collaboration with the Assam Association of the Deaf. This event was organised to educate the teachers, students, employees about sign language and how normal people can help in communicating with the hearing impaired by learning sign language.

Felicitation Programme

A felicitation programme was organised by Dr Suryya Kumar Bhuyan Library, Cotton University, in association with the University Women's Association of Assam on September 21, 2019 at Conference Hall, MCB Building. Three eminent women from Assam - Prof Lakshahira Das, Nirupama Borgohain and Sudakshina Sharma - were felicitated in the programme. It was attended by a good number of faculties and students.

Snapshots of Varsity Week, 2020



Dr Hiren Gohain addressing the inaugural programme of the Literary and Fine Arts event



Cotton conducts plantation drive at Sonapur

Cotton University has been celebrating World Environment Day on June 5 every year with various programmes with the active participation of students, faculties and non-teaching staff. This year, the University proposed to observe World Environment Month starting from June 5, 2020 under the initiative of the honourable Vice Chancellor. A plantation drive was carried out at the State Training Centre, Bharat Scouts and Guides at Sonapur area. Nearly 100 saplings of various economically important trees were planted at the campus of the Training Centre. The participating trainees were very much enthusiastic and took part in the plantation drive wholeheartedly. Prof Diganta Kr. Das, Registrar of Cotton University, headed the drive and planted various kinds of saplings in and around the campus with the help of the Scouts and Guides cadets. A few University staff and others were also present during the plantation drive.



Spring Fest: Cotton bags 3rd prize in drama competition

A team of Cotton University bagged the 3rd prize in Rangmanch, a drama competition, organised as a part of the Spring Fest by IIT Kharagpur on January 25, 2020. The drama staged by Cottonians 'Ek Aur Shakuntala' managed to win the hearts of the audience and judges. A team of 20 members participated in the festival and took part in different events such as dance and beat boxing apart from drama.

COVID CAPSULE



☞ The Department of Chemistry, Cotton University prepared a hand sanitizer solution to be used in various branches and departments of the university. Under the initiative of Vice Chancellor Prof Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, the Department prepared it to be used as a measure to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. Prof Goswami inaugurated the use of the sanitizer in the Chemistry department in the presence of Registrar Prof Diganta Kr. Das, Head of the Department of Chemistry Dr Prahas Chandra Sarma, coordinator of the project Dr Manjit Kumar Bhattacharya and others. Dr Sangeeta Agarwal of the department and research scholars Hiren Nath, Amal Das, Bidyut Das and Pranoy Sarma worked in the project.

☞ All hostels of Cotton University were requisitioned during COVID-19 pandemic for accommodating interstate passengers coming from outside Assam w.e.f May 25, 2020. Rajani Kanta Bardoloi Boys' Hostel, Sita Nath Brahma Choudhury Boys' Hostel and Mahendra Nath Deka Phukon Boys' Hostel were used as quarantine centers and around 100 boarders were accommodated there in.

☞ In response to an appeal made by the Government of Assam with a view to collect funds to combat with the COVID-19 crisis, all teaching and non-teaching staff of Cotton University donated their one-day salary to the Chief Minister Relief Fund for Corona.



☞ As directed by the UGC, the UBA team of Cotton University conducted a study in the five adopted villages viz, *Satargaon, Chakardeo-Kalitapara, Keotpara, Nijpanbari* and *Hajongbori* during June 19-26, 2020. The major focuses of the study in these adopted villages were as follows: (i) To understand the levels of awareness among the villagers regarding COVID-19. (ii) To identify the ways adopted by the villagers to withstand various challenges posed by the pandemic. (iii) To comprehend the best measures adopted by the villagers to combat the challenges posed by COVID-19. It is to be noted that the entire study was conducted taking into consideration the guidelines on COVID-19 precautionary measures issued by both the State and the Central Governments. A detailed report on the study was submitted to the UGC on June 30, 2020.

☞ As part of the Assam Cares Initiative of the Government of Assam, Kumar Shivam Das, a UG 4th semester student of the Department of Chemistry, made a record 203 calls on a single day to help the stranded people. Also, Reviricha Bora, a PG 4th semester student of the Department of CS & IT, made a record 403 calls on a single day.

January

A one-day national seminar on 'The Prophet Muhammad: Religion – Education – Humanity – Society' was organised by the Department of Arabic, Persian and Urdu in association with Huda Islamic University, Kerala on January 22, 2020.

February

A talk on the National Budget 2020-21 by Prof Binod Khadria (Retd.), JNU, Delhi, was organised by the Department of Economics on February 5, 2020.

An aptitude survey was conducted by the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, sponsored by American Consulate, Kolkata and implemented by Change Initiatives, Kolkata on 'Widening the Support Circle: Women in STEM' on February 5, 2020.

A two-day international seminar on 'Cultural Exchanges and the Civilization Affinity between India, Iran & Arab World: A Review' was organised by the Department of Arabic, Persian and Urdu in association with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language during February 7-8, 2020.

The Department of Zoology celebrated the Annual Day of the Zoological Society of Cotton University on February 29, 2020.

Nejib Ahmed was invited by the Department of Zoology to deliver a talk on 'Nitty-gritty in Wildlife Photography' on February 29, 2020.



Dr Dhiren Dutta delivering a talk on 'Infertility: A Social Stigma? Evolution in reproductive technologies to counter the menace' organised by the Department of Zoology on February 29, 2020

March

A national seminar was organised by the Department of History in association with The Asiatic Society, Kolkata on 'Excursions in History: Power and contestations in the historical writings of North-East India' during March 6-7, 2020.

An interactive lecture on 'Mind-Body Dualism' by Prof (Dr) Rituparna Barooah, Head of Physiology, NEIGRIHMS, Shillong, was organised by the Department of Psychology on March 12, 2020.

An interactive lecture on 'Research Ethics' by Prof (Dr) Rituparna Barooah, Head of Physiology, NEIGRIHMS, Shillong, was organised by the Department of Psychology on March 13, 2020.



Dean of IJNM, Kanchan Kaur addressing a Lecture Series on 'Fake News and Digital verification' and 'Social Media for Journalists' organised by the Department of Mass Communication, Journalism & Media Studies in association with IJNM, Bangalore on March 13, 2020. Assistant Professor of English, IJNM, Sangeetha Alwar was also present as a resource person

Former Academic Officer of SEBA, Sawpon Dowerah (L) during a three-day workshop for UG and PG students on 'Communicative English and Writing for Media' organised by the Department of Mass Communication, Journalism & Media Studies during March 5-7, 2020. Assistant Editor of The Assam Tribune, Partha Pratim Hazarika and Head of the Department of English, Cotton University, Santanu Phukan were also invited as resource persons



May

A webinar was organised by the Department of Sociology in collaboration with Maitreyi College, Delhi University, on the theme 'Home and the World in a Pandemic: Redefining the Normal' on May 7, 2020.

June

A webinar on 'How to Read Scientific Literature and Introduction to MANAV-The Human Atlas Initiative' was organised by the Department of Zoology in association with IISER, Pune on June 6, 2020

A DBT, Govt. of India sponsored international e-conference on 'Foldscope and its applications' was organised by the Department of Zoology during June 20-21, 2020.

Dr Abu Bakkar Siddique, Associate Professor, Department of Arabic, Persian and Urdu, presented a paper titled 'Poetry of Abdul Aziz al-Maqaleh: A Critical Study' in a seminar organised by the Department of Arabic, Rangia College on February 11, 2020; Presented a paper titled 'Portrayal of National Sentiments in the Poetry of Rashid Salim Al-Khuri: A Study' at a seminar organised by the Department of Arabic, Gauhati University on February 20, 2020.

Dr Anjana Singha Naorem, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, presented a paper titled 'First Documentation of Diversity of Pentatomidae from Cotton University Campus' at the 107th Indian Science Congress held at Bengaluru during January 3-7, 2020.

Dr Devartha Morang, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, presented a paper titled 'Motives of Prayer: Divinity or Personal' in the Asian-African Philosophy Congress and 94th Session of Indian Philosophical Congress, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, held during March 7-11, 2020.

Dr Dhrubajyoti Das, Associate Professor, Department of English, presented a paper entitled 'Negotiating Progress and Preservation: A Study on Changing Human Values and Impact of Environment' in an international seminar on 'Environmental Degradation and Sustainable Development: Local+Regional+Global' organised by Gossaigaon College, Kokrajhar during February 3-5, 2020.

Dr Dimpy Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, presented a paper titled 'Stress, Coping Strategies & Quality of Life among Parents of Children with Autism' at the 7th International SIVUS Conference on Developmental Disabilities at Rajshahi University, Bangladesh during January 24-25, 2020.

Dr Fazlur Rahman, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Arabic, Persian and Urdu, presented a paper titled 'Cultural Relation between India and Central Asia: Past & Present' in a seminar organised by the Department of Persian, Gauhati University during February 8-9, 2020.

Jyotimala Doley, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, presented a paper titled 'Role of Abhijan NGO in restoration of the environmental development at Bokakhat sub-Division in Golaghat district in Assam' in a seminar organised by Gossaigaon College, Kokrajhar during February 3-5, 2020.

Dr Kusum Kunja Malakar, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, presented a paper titled 'Adhunik Samay me Gandhi Baad ke Prasingigta' in a seminar organised by the Department of Hindi, Rajib Gandhi University and Bharatya Hindi Parishad, Arunachal Pradesh during February 17-19, 2020.

Dr Mayuri Chabukdhara, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, presented a paper titled 'Colocasia starch/zinc oxide nanocomposite film as a sustainable material for food packaging applications' in an international conference on 'Engineering Sciences and Technologies for Environmental Care' organised at NEIST Jorhat, Assam during February 20-22, 2020.

Dr Narayan Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, presented papers titled 'Impact of urbanisation on the distribution of rhesus macaque in Guwahati City, Assam, India', 'Comparative activity budget and effect of provisioning on the behaviour of rhesus macaque (Macacamulatta) in different disturbance regimes in Guwahati,

Assam', 'What future for the primates of Upper Brahmaputra Valley, Northeastern India?' and 'Distribution and conservation status of capped langurs Trachypitecuspileatus in fragmented forests of Upper Brahmaputra Valley of Assam' at the 7th Asian Primate Symposium 2020 and 1st International Conference on Human-Primate Interface organised by Gauhati University during February 8-10, 2020; Presented a paper titled 'Effects of local disturbances on frugivorous birds in fragmented tropical rainforests' at the 7th Frugivores and Seed Dispersal Symposium organised by the Corbett Landscape, India during March 2-6, 2020.

Dr Noor Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Arabic, Persian and Urdu, presented a paper titled 'Shā'ir al-Mahjar Mishal Nu'man Ma'luf: Khasa'isuhu al-She'riyyah' in a seminar organised by the Department of Arabic, Gauhati University on February 20, 2020

Dr Nurjahan Rahmatullah, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, presented a paper titled 'Gandhi and Gandhi darshan' in a seminar organised by the Department of Hindi, Rajib Gandhi University and Bharatya Hindi Parishad, Arunachal Pradesh during February 17-19, 2020.

Pratisha Borborah, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, presented a paper titled 'Bringing the World Home: Social Media and Identity' in a national conference held on March 7, 2020.

Dr Rupon Basumatary, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, presented a paper titled 'Do floods determine the household level livelihood strategy choices? Evidence from the flood-prone district in Assam, India' at the 56th Annual Conference of The Indian Econometric Society (TIES), National Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu during January 8-10, 2020.

Dr Samikshya Gohain, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, presented a paper titled 'The Tai Phake Tribes and their Religion' in a national seminar organised by the Department of Philosophy, Dispur College and ACTA, during February 6-8, 2020.

Dr Tarali Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, presented a paper titled 'Perception of Teachers and students on MOOCS - A study' in an international conference on 'Emerging Research Paradigm for Sustainable Development: A Move Towards Quality Enhancement in Education' organised by Christ University (Deemed to be), Bangalore, Karnataka during January 16-18, 2020; Presented a paper titled 'Education and its Influence on Awareness on Waste Management and Waste Management Practices followed by Residents of Goalpara district, Assam' in an international conference on 'Environmental Degradation and Sustainable Development' organised by the Department of Economics, Gossaigaon College, in collaboration with the IQAC during February 3-5, 2020.



Cotton University Registrar Prof Diganta Kr Das felicitating Rajat Kamal awardee musician Anurag Saikia in a programme organised by Cotton University NABEEN

Dr Anjana Singha Naorem, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, was invited to deliver a talk on 'Foldscope as a tool to diagnose bug feeding' in an international e-conference on 'Foldscope and its Applications' organised by the Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar on June 20, 2020.

Dr Dimpy Mahanta, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, was invited to speak on 'COVID-19 and its Psychological Impact' by the Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar Orissa on April 2, 2020; Invited to speak on 'Challenges to Lifestyle and Mental Health in COVID Era' by Sri Aurobindo College, Delhi University on May 1, 2020; Invited to speak on 'Issues, Challenges & Career Opportunities during & Post COVID' by the Counselling Cell, Higher Education Department (HED) of Jammu on June 26, 2020; Invited to speak on 'Quantitative versus Qualitative Research Designs' at the 1st North-East IJO-NEROSA Regional Workshop on 'Research Methodology & Scientific Publication' organised by the NEIGRIHMS, Meghalaya on February 22, 2020.

Dr Fazlur Rahman, Associate Prof. & Head, Department of Arabic, Persian and Urdu, was invited by the Assam University, Silchar, to speak on 'Learning of Arabic Language in Assam through Madrassa system of Education' on March 5, 2020.

Dr Jonali Devi, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology was invited to speak on 'Conservation of Cultural Heritage' in an interactive programme organised by Arya Vidyapeeth College on June 8, 2020.

Dr Kusum Kunja Malakar, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, was invited to speak on 'Gandhi Darshan' by the Rajib Gandhi University during February 18-19, 2020.

Dr Leena Borah, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, was invited to speak on 'Celebrate Biodiversity – Time for Nature' by the Royal Global University, Guwahati on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2020; Invited by the State Agriculture Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Govt. of Assam, Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, Khanapara, to speak on 'Climate Change Adaptations, Local coping strategies, indigenous knowledge in climate change adaptation' on February 11, 2020.

Dr Mala Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, was invited to speak on 'Development of Geographical Thought with special reference to Post Modernism' by the Sonapur College, Guwahati on June 14, 2020.

Dr Manjil Hazarika, Assistant Professor, Department of Archaeology, was invited by the Jahangir Nagar University, Dhaka, to speak on 'Archaeology of Northeast India: Recent Investigations' on February 2, 2020; Invited to an international workshop on 'Historical Research Methodology' organised by the Department of History, Gauhati University during February 25–March 2, 2020 to speak on 'Sources and Techniques for Ethno-history' and 'Ethnography and Ethno-history through Archaeology: Ethnoarchaeology in Northeast India'; Invited as a resource person to deliberate on 'Archaeology and the reconstruction of History' in a Refresher Course in History organised by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Gauhati University during March 16-29, 2020; Invited by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Guwahati Regional Centre during June 15-19, 2020 to speak on 'Role of Archaeology in Search and Conservation of Heritage'.

Dr Manjit K. Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry was invited to deliver a talk on 'Crystal Engineering of Coordination Compounds: Exploring Chemistry beyond Molecules' in a national seminar on 'Science, Technology & Innovation' organised by the Department of Chemistry, Arya Vidyapeeth College on February 29, 2020; Invited to deliver a talk on 'Crystal Engineering in Coordination Solids of Transition Metals: Synthons and Cooperative Interplay of Non-covalent Contacts' in an international conference on 'Emerging Trends in Chemical Sciences' (ETCS_2020) organised by Gauhati University during February 13-15, 2020.

Dr Mayuri Chabukdhara, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, was invited to speak on 'An integrated approach for groundwater quality assessment with special reference to heavy metals and fluoride contamination' in an international conference on 'Engineering Sciences and Technologies for Environmental Care' organised by the NEIST Jorhat, Assam, during February 20-22, 2020.

Muktikam Hazarika, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Journalism & Media Studies was invited to speak on 'Gender and ICTs: Theory and Research' on June 1, 2020 in the 3rd Webinar Series organised by the Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Dr Narayan Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Wildlife Sciences, was invited to speak on 'Biodiversity: Our Solutions are in Nature' in a webinar organised by the IQAC, BN College, Dhubri, Assam, on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2020; Invited by the Assam Science Technology & Environment Council (ASTEC), Guwahati, Assam to speak on 'Ecology, Diversity, and Conservation of Primates' on February 17, 2020; Invited by BN College, Dhubri, Assam, to speak on 'Citizen Science' on March 12, 2020.

Dr Nurjahan Rahmatullah, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, was invited to speak on 'Aaj Bhi Gandhi ki prachangikta hai' by the Rajib Gandhi University during February 18-19, 2020.

Dr Prasun Barman, Associate Professor, Department of Bengali, was invited as a speaker to speak on 'Vidyasagar: An Assessment in Present Context' by Sri Agrasen College, Dalkhola, West Bengal on February 11, 2020; Invited to speak on 'Bengali Literature in North-East India' in a national webinar series on Bengali Literature organised by the Prabhat Kumar College, West Bengal held during June 19-30, 2020.

Dr Simashree Bora, Assistant Professor, Sociology, was invited as an External Supervisor, Viva Voce for Capstone Project (B.A. Liberal Arts) by the Jyoti Dalal School of Liberal Arts, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai on April 9, 2020; Invited as a Panel Member (Admission) for personal interview process for B.A. Liberal Arts, 2020 by the Jyoti Dalal School of Liberal Arts, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai on June 10, 2020.

Dr Tarali Kalita, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, was invited to speak on 'Teaching Methodology in Zoology & Innovative techniques' by the Newman College, Thodapuzha, Kerala on March 6, 2020.

Dr Tarali Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, was invited by the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council to speak on 'Development of Secondary Education in India and Assam' on June 5 and June 24, 2020. The programme was aired on Akashvani, Guwahati.

Dr Uma Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, was invited to deliver a talk on 'Chemoprotective role of Mastoparan and methanolic extract of *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) in combination against NNK induced target organs Carcinoma in mouse model' in an international symposium on 'Emerging Trends and Challenges in Cancer Chemoprevention, Diagnosis and Therapeutics' organised by the Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Tezpur University during February 17-18, 2020.

Dr Upala Barua, Head and Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology was invited to speak on 'Field Experiences in Northeast India' by IGNOU on June 29, 2020.

Publications in UGC-CARE listed journals by Faculty Members and Research Scholars of Cotton University in the year 2019

Ambeswar Gogoi (Assamese). Eco-criticism and Short Stories of Mahim Bora: A study. *Aitihya The Heritage*, 10(1).

Akalesh Kumar Verma (Zoology). Antimalarial activity of a novel series of artemisinin-derived 1, 2, 3-triazole dimers. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine*, 12,195-203.

Akalesh Kumar Verma (Zoology) **Manjit K. Bhattacharyya** (Chemistry). Energetically significant unconventional π - π contacts involving fumarate in a novel coordination polymer of Zn(II): In-vitro anticancer evaluation and theoretical studies. *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, 493(1), 1-13.

Alok C Kalita (Chemistry). Effect of biomass addition on the devolatilization kinetics, mechanisms and thermodynamics of a northeast Indian low rank sub-bituminous coal. *Fuel*, 256.

Ankur Kanti Guha (Chemistry). [1] Designing metal-free frustrated Lewis pairs for dihydrogen activation based on a carbene–borane system, *Polyhedron*, 168, 1-7. [2] Ultra-Weak Metal–Metal Bonding: Is There a Beryllium–Beryllium Triple Bond?, *ChemPhysChem*, 20(4), 516-518. [3] Re-visiting the Antioxidant Activity of Se- and Te- Carbohydrates: A Theoretical Study, *Chemistry Select*, 4(4), 1470-1475. [4] Exploring the reactivity of carbene supported diboraanthracene towards dihydrogen activation. *Polyhedron*, 170(15), 663-673. [5] Hydrogen activation by isomeric aromatic phosphabenzene: A theoretical study. *Polyhedron*, 170 (15), 690-694. [6] Viability of half sandwich complexes of borole with group 14 (II) ions: Structure, stability and reactivity, *Polyhedron*, 170,1-6. [7] Revisiting ultra-weak metal-metal bonding, *Chemical Physics Letters*, 730,411-415.

Ankur Kanti Guha (Chemistry), **Akalesh Kumar Verma** (Zoology), **Manjit K. Bhattacharyya** (Chemistry). Energetically favorable anti-electrostatic hydrogen bonded cationic clusters in Ni(II) 3,5-dimethylpyrazole complexes: Anticancer evaluation and theoretical studies, *Polyhedron*, 168(1), 113-126.

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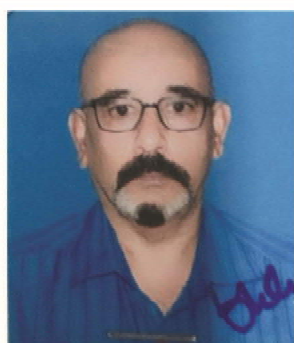
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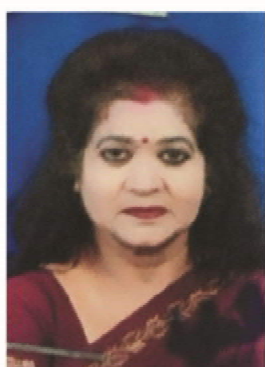
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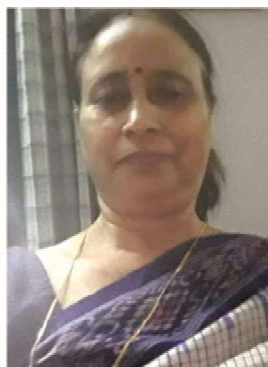
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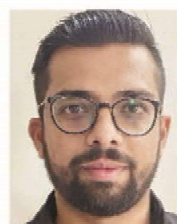
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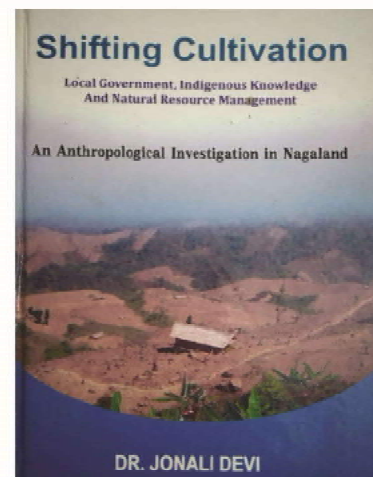
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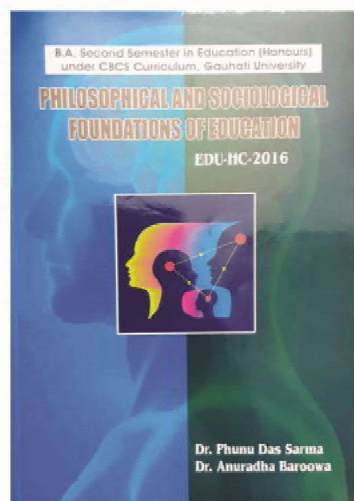
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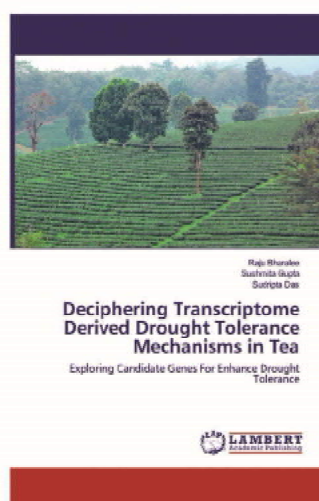
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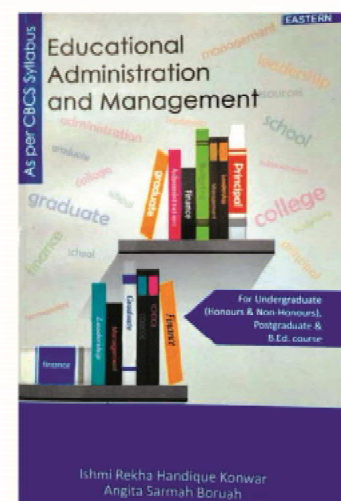


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Students' Achievements

Raktim Ronojoy Neog (UG 3rd Semester, Department of Political Science) won the '1st Best Team' Award in the District Level Debate Competition organised by the Kamrup Metropolitan Election District, Guwahati, on account of National Voter's Day, 2020, at the Chemistry Department, Cotton University on January 22, 2020; Won the 'Verbal Mention' Award in the Model United Nations (MUN) Virtual Conference organised by the Youth India Conclave during May 2-3, 2020; Won the 'Special Mention' Award in the Model United Nations (MUN) Virtual Conference organised by the Assam Diplomatic Conference during May 12-13, 2020.

Raktim Ranjan Baishya (UG 5th Semester, Department of Political Science) won the Champion award in the North East level quiz competition Quiz-a-thon, organised by SMCH on January 12, 2020; Won the Champion award in Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Memorial Quiz organised by BBEC, Kokrajhar on February 18, 2020.

Srutismrita Basistha (UG 3rd Semester, Department of Political Science) won the 1st prize in the State level Essay Competition organised by the Assam Science Society and the Assam Science and Technology University; Won the 1st prize in the State level Essay Competition organised by the Nature and Natural Resources Department, CRSDT; Won the 3rd prize in the State level Essay Competition organised by the Dahi Regional Students' Union, Darrang.

Disha Sarma (PG 2nd Sem, Department of Mass Communication, Journalism and Media Studies) won the 2nd best actress award in the All India Multilanguage Drama and Dance Competition organised by AraRangmanch, Bihar on March 3, 2020.

Report on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) activities during January to June, 2020

1. Republic Day Gram Sabhas

On the occasion of the 71st Republic Day of India, 2020, awareness programmes on 'Menstrual hygiene, Health and Waste management' were organised for girl students from classes VI to X and the womenfolk in collaboration with the Foundation for Integrated Support and Solution (FISS) and Youth for Seva, at Hajongburi and Nijpanburi villages on January 29, 2020.



Nij Panburi



Hajongburi

UBA teams also organised talks for the villagers at Chakardo-Kalitapara and Satargaon villages on the negative impact of plastic on our environment and health. The villagers were encouraged to minimise the use of plastic by distributing cloth bags for their daily use. The program received overwhelming response and involvement of the villagers. An awareness talk on bird conservation was also held.



Kalitapara Village



Satargaon Village

Activities during lockdown due to COVID-19 (March-June, 2020)

(a) **Spreading awareness:** Since the beginning of the lockdown, members of the UBA Cell, Cotton University, have been in touch with the village headmen (Gaonburhas) and School Headmasters of the five villages to assess their awareness on the illness and safety measures that need to be taken. Leaflets on awareness of COVID-19, basic care and precautions (in Assamese language) were sent to the Headmasters for distribution amongst the villagers. The villagers seem to be sufficiently aware as the Government appointed ASHA workers have also been constantly supervising and speaking to members of every household.

(b) **Distribution of ration:** The UBA Cell of Cotton University distributed dry ration and other necessities to 18 extremely needy families of Chakardeo-Kalitapara village on April 16, 2020 and to 64 needy families of Nijpanburi in Chandrapur, Kamrup district on April 23, 2020. The joint coordinator of UBA Cell Dr Narayan Sharma, accompanied by students, visited the villages to distribute the materials with due permission and cooperation of the DCP (Admin), Guwahati. The distributed packets contained rice, pulses, oil, salt, sugar, tea, potatoes, onions and pieces of soap. It is to be noted that these initiatives have been possible due to the generous contributions of the members of faculty of Cotton University.



Distribution of dry ration at Nijpanburi and Chakardeo-Kalitapara villages by Dr Narayan Sharma

(c) **Planting and distribution of saplings:** As a part of the World Environment Month being observed by Cotton University, Guwahati, a team of members of the UBA Cell comprising the Coordinator of UBA Cell, Dr Sangeeta Barthakur, Dr Indrani Sarma and Dr Mausumi Ganguly visited the adopted villages Chakardeo-Kalitapara and Satargaon on June 9, 2020 and Keotpara on June 19, 2020 for planting and distribution of saplings of essential trees like neem, lemon, guava, mango, pomegranate, jamun etc. The team planted a few saplings in every village and distributed around 200 saplings to the villagers to plant either in their homes or at strategic locations in and around the villages. The need to care for the plants till they grow up was stressed upon. This is an endeavour to strive for a greener world.



Planting and distribution of saplings by Dr Sangeeta Barthakur, Dr Mausumi Ganguly and Dr Indrani Sarma

(d) Study on the impact of covid-19: Details have been given in page no. 4.

Activities of CU Women's Forum

1. CUWF celebrated its 17th Foundation Day by organising the 9th Late Parul Phukan Memorial Lecture on March 5, 2020. Renowned novelist, writer and social thinker Dr Arupa Patangia Kalita deliberated on the topic 'Dharma, Naari aru Sahitya' (Religion, Women and Literature). Prof Bhabesh Ch. Goswami, Vice Chancellor of Cotton University, was the Guest of Honour in the function.

2. International Women's Day was celebrated by CUWF in association with the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) on March 7, 2020 on the theme 'I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights' with a poster campaign led by the students of the University and a talk on gender justice, rights and a safe campus by Gita Rani Bhattacharya, Program Director of the Assam Mahila Samata Society. Prof Diganta Kr. Das, Registrar of Cotton University, Dr Rakhee Kalita Moral, Head, CWS and Dr Sangeeta Barthakur, Secretary, CUWF also spoke on related topics. Students from all classes across the disciplines painted, sketched and used graffiti in slogans in posters to draw attention to the urgent need for an equal world and women's empowering spaces.



Noted poet Samir Tanti interacting with students in a programme organised by Cotton University New Writers' and Artists' Association (NABEEN) on February 21, 2020

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