



Message from the Principal



It is with immense satisfaction that we present Volume 5, Issue 1 of The Chronicle, highlighting the significant milestones achieved by Darrang College (Autonomous) during the first six months of 2026.

Our institution continues to grow as a vibrant centre of learning where academic excellence is complemented by research, innovation, cultural enrichment, sportsmanship, and meaningful community engagement. The remarkable accomplishments of our faculty members and students at regional, national, and international levels reflect the values of dedication, perseverance, and excellence that define our academic community.

The recognition of Darrang College (Autonomous) for the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) and the expansion of our research and academic facilities mark important milestones in our journey towards becoming a multidisciplinary institution of national relevance. These developments reaffirm our commitment to implementing the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020 while creating an ecosystem that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.

I congratulate every member of the Darrang College fraternity for their invaluable contributions to the institution's continued progress. I am confident that, through our collective commitment and shared vision, we will continue to achieve greater milestones and uphold the legacy of excellence that distinguishes Darrang College (Autonomous).

With my best wishes to all our readers.

(Dr. Palash Moni Saikia)

Editorial

Dear Esteemed Members of the Darrang College Family,

Welcome to **Volume 5, Issue 1 (Jan-June, 2026 Issue)** of The Chronicle, a reflection of another eventful chapter in the journey of Darrang College (Autonomous). This edition chronicles the institution's continued pursuit of academic distinction, innovation, and social responsibility during the first half of 2026.

The pages that follow capture the diverse dimensions of campus life - from scholarly achievements and research accomplishments to student success in national-level examinations, sports, cultural activities, and entrepreneurship. Equally significant are the academic events, community outreach programmes, faculty development initiatives, and institutional milestones that have enriched our learning environment and strengthened our commitment to holistic education.

As we present this issue, we acknowledge the dedication of every member of the Darrang College community whose collective efforts continue to shape the institution's legacy. We hope this edition serves not only as a record of our accomplishments but also as an inspiration for greater achievements in the future.

(Dr. Rabindra Hazarika)

COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

Total No. of Students : 4133 | Total No. of Departments : 26 | Strength of the Teaching Faculty : 91 | Strength of the Non-Teaching Staff : 33
Students offered : Arts - Science - Commerce & BCA | PG Departments : 04 (Assamese - Botany - Geography - Zoology)
President of GB : Dr. Khargeswar Barkakaty, Former Vice-President, Darrang College

Achievements of the Students



Priti Saha Keshab Das Sagar Bhuyan Trinayan Koirala



Madhusmita Doimari Caroline Daimari Pooja Prasad Sagarika Rabi Das



Sandhya Devi Jintu Sarania Abhishek Rabha Chhandapran Garg



Sagarika Rabi Das Mrinal Das Jonali Das Abhigyan Hazarika

National Level Entrance Tests-2026 Qualifier

Name of the students	Department
JAM 2026 Qualifier	
Priti Saha	Chemistry
Keshab Das	Chemistry
Sagar Bhuyan	Chemistry
Trinayan Koirala	Chemistry
Madhusmita Daimari	Chemistry
Caroline Daimari	Chemistry
Pooja Prasad	Chemistry
Sagarika Rabi Das	Biotechnology
Sandhya Devi	Mathematics
Jintu Sarania	Mathematics
Abhishek Rabha	Mathematics
GATE-XL & GATE Biotech 2026	
Chhandapran Garg	Biotechnology
GAT-Biotechnology, 2026	
Mrinal Das,	Biotechnology
Sagarika Rabi Das	Biotechnology
Jonali Das	Biotechnology
IIT-JEE Advanced 2026	
Abhigyan Hazarika	HS Science (2026)



MR. DIPAK RAI

• **Dipak Rai**, B.Com. 4th Semester Darrang College (Autonomous), received two prestigious innovation and entrepreneurship grants of the North-eastern Region. His startup, Syrabit.ai - an AI-powered syllabus-aligned learning platform for SEBA and CBSE students—received the **NEWGEN IEDC Prototype Development Grant of ₹2.5 lakh**, sponsored jointly by IIE and IIT Guwahati, and the IIE-NEC

Entrepreneurship Development and Incubation Project Seed Fund of ₹5 lakh, sponsored by the Northeastern Council (NEC), Shillong. Recognized among the top-performing startups in the region, the venture was mentored by Dr. Sanjib Das and Mr. Bidyut Das of the Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC), Darrang College (Autonomous).



• **Joshupriya Das**, FYUGP 6th Semester, Department of Sociology, Darrang College (Autonomous), has got the opportunity to study at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) for the full-time M.Sc. in Sociology programme.



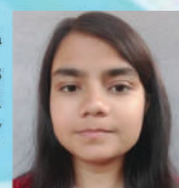
• The Girls' Volleyball Team of Darrang College (Autonomous) emerged as champions at the Gauhati University Inter-College Volleyball Tournament-2026, showcasing outstanding teamwork and sporting excellence.



• **Abhijit Baruah** a student of FYUGP 4th Semester of Mathematics Department secures first position in the online geo-tagged photo-with-caption competition on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026 organized by Assam Science Society, Tezpur Branch and Eco Club, Darrang College (A) in collaboration with Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), IQAC, Department of Chemistry and Department of Zoology, Darrang College (A) held on 5th June 2026.

• **Mr. Omkar Bansfor**, a FYUGP 4th Semester student of the Department of Mathematics, secured First Position in the Men's Powerlifting (Above 75 kg) event at the North East Graduate Congress-2026, held at the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya from 26-28 March 2026.

• **Ms. Nilakhi Borthakur**, a B.Sc. Biotechnology 4th Semester student, has been selected for the prestigious INSA Summer Fellowship 2026 at the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi.



Celebrating Tradition, Talent & Togetherness Highlights from College Week - 2026



Kaushtub Borthakur
Best Reciter



Asmita Hazarika
Best Literary Person (English)



Bibek Bikash
Best Actor



Siya Koch
Best Actress



Gyan Jyoti Borah
Best Athlete



Mayukh Medhi
Best Outdoor Player



Nisha Mani Deka
Best Indoor Player

Activities conducted by the College and Departments

❖ January 1 : New Year Celebration

Darrang College (A) family celebrated the beginning of New Year 2026 with the children's of Nabaprabhat. Every year since 2016 Darrang College celebrates the first day of New Year with the inmates of the orphanage home. Fruits, rice, biscuits, students' kit with colours, note book and other materials were distributed.



❖ January 26 : 77th Republic Day Celebration

The 77th Republic Day was celebrated at Darrang College (Autonomous) on 26 January 2026 with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm. Principal Dr. Palash Moni Saikia hoisted the National Flag and received the Guard of Honour presented by the NCC cadets. The celebration was followed by a cultural programme showcasing patriotic songs and performances by students. Faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students participated in the programme, reaffirming their commitment to the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.



❖ January 26 : NCC Unit Wins First Prize at Republic Day Parade

The 5th Assam Battalion, National Cadet Corps (NCC) Unit of Darrang College (Autonomous) secured the First Prize in the Republic Day Parade 2026 held at Tezpur, bringing pride and honour to the institution. Congratulations to the cadets and their Associate NCC Officer for this remarkable achievement.



❖ February 9-13 : Advanced Bioinformatics Course

A 30 hour course on Advanced Bioinformatics Applications was successfully conducted at Darrang College (Autonomous), Tezpur, from 9-13 February 2026. The programme was organized under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India-funded project, "Smart Bioinformatics Ecosystem: Leveraging AI and Cloud Technology for Innovation and Capacity Building in Bioinformatics," implemented by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with the Department of Zoology, Darrang College (Autonomous).



❖ February 20-21 : National Seminar on Indigenous Heritage

A two-day National Seminar on "Preserving Indigenous Heritage: The Cultural Identity of Assam's Indigenous Communities", sponsored by the State Bank of India, was organized by the Department of Economics and IQAC, Darrang College (Autonomous), in collaboration with the Directorate of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Samiti, and the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC). The seminar provided a platform for deliberations on preserving the cultural identity and heritage of Assam's indigenous communities.



❖ February 21 : International Mother Language Day

The Department of English, Darrang College (Autonomous), observed International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2026 by organizing a Self-Composed Poetry Reading Session. Students and faculty members presented original poems celebrating linguistic diversity, cultural heritage, and the importance of preserving mother languages. The programme promoted multilingualism, creativity, and appreciation of native languages.

The Department of Assamese, Darrang College (Autonomous), in collaboration with Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Assam Pranta, and IQAC also observed International Mother Language Day 2026 by organizing a lecture programme. Binita Bora Dev Choudhury delivered the keynote lecture, highlighting the significance of mother languages, linguistic diversity, and cultural heritage.



❖ February 28 : National Science Day Celebration

National Science Day 2026 was celebrated at Darrang College (Autonomous) on 28 February 2026. Organized by the Department of Physics in collaboration with the Assam Science Society, the programme featured a poster presentation competition on the theme "India's Future in Science and Technology: Viksit Bharat 2047" and a popular talk by Ranjit Das on "Artificial Intelligence: How It Should Be Used for Learning, Innovation and Nation Building."



❖ March 8 : International Women's Day Celebration

International Women's Day 2026 was celebrated at Darrang College (Autonomous) with a day-long programme organized by the Darrang College Women's Forum. The celebration included an on-the-spot article writing competition for students and a special lecture on "Give Equity, Gain Progress" delivered by Dr. Nirmali Gogoi, highlighting the importance of gender equity and women's empowerment.



❖ March 10 : Drug Awareness Programme

An awareness programme on drug addiction was organized at Darrang College (Autonomous) under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (Mission Spandan) by the Nasha Mukti Committee in collaboration with IQAC, the NSS Unit, the Red Ribbon Club, and the Brahma Kumaris. The programme aimed to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.



❖ March 14 : Workshop on Assamese Script

The Department of Assamese, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a workshop on Assamese Script and Ancient Assamese Script on 14 March 2026. The programme highlighted the historical evolution, significance, and preservation of the Assamese script, fostering greater appreciation of the state's rich linguistic and literary heritage.



❖ March 16–20 : Professional Development Programme for Non-Teaching Staff

IQAC, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a one-week Professional Development Programme for non-teaching staff from 16–20 March 2026. Inaugurated by Principal Dr. Palash Moni Saikia, the programme focused on enhancing IT skills, communication skills, computational work, Samarth portal management, and professional work ethics, aiming to strengthen administrative efficiency and digital competencies.



❖ March 16 : Mental Health and Wellness Talk

The Department of Economics, in collaboration with IQAC, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a talk on "Mental Health and Wellness" on 16 March 2026. The session was delivered by Priya Saxena and Nurnahar Ahmed of the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, who highlighted the importance of mental well-being and stress management. Students from various departments actively participated in the programme.



❖ March 17 – Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Rights

The IPR Cell, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a one-day workshop on "Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Rights" on 17 March 2026. The workshop featured Juri Borbora Saikia as the resource person and was attended by postgraduate students of Zoology, Botany, and Geography, along with research scholars and faculty members.



❖ March 20 – World Storytelling Day

The Departments of Assamese and English, Darrang College (Autonomous), observed World Storytelling Day 2026 on 20 March 2026 through literary programmes celebrating the art of storytelling. The Department of Assamese organized a lecture titled “সাহুকথাৰ জগতত এভূমুকি” at the Language Laboratory, where Niru Neog Bora delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the role of storytelling in preserving culture, values, and literary traditions. diversity and cultural heritage.



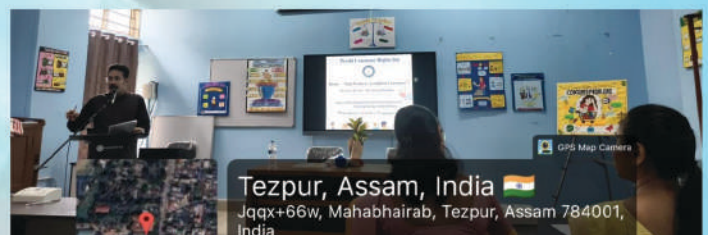
❖ March 31 – Felicitation on Superannuation

The Darrang College (Autonomous) family felicitated Pranab Jyoti Das, Vice Principal of the college on the occasion of his superannuation, recognizing his 35 years of dedicated service as a teacher and administrator. The college fraternity expressed its heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable contributions and wished him good health, happiness, and continued success in the years ahead.



❖ March 31 – World Consumer Rights Day

The Department of Community Science, Darrang College (Autonomous), observed World Consumer Rights Day 2026 on 31 March 2026 with an awareness programme. Anuraga Hazarika delivered an informative talk on consumer rights, product awareness, grievance redressal mechanisms, and the use of the e-Daakhil app, enhancing participants' awareness of consumer protection and responsible consumer practices.



❖ March 31 – Chatra Divas Celebration

Chatra Divas 2026, commemorating the birth anniversary of Upendra Nath Brahma, was observed at Darrang College (Autonomous) on 31 March 2026. The programme began with floral tributes and ceremonial lamp lighting in honour of Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma. Principal Dr. Palash Moni Saikia addressed the gathering, highlighting the life, ideals, and enduring contributions of Bodofa to society and the Bodo community.



❖ April 1 : Voter Awareness Campaign

The NSS Unit, IQAC, and Electoral Literacy Club of Darrang College (Autonomous), in collaboration with the District Administration, Sonitpur, organized a Voter Awareness Campaign. The programme featured an informative session by Ms. Sharon Thomas, Executive Officer, Tezpur Municipal Board, along with slogan writing, extempore speech, and signature campaign activities. The initiative aimed to promote informed and active participation in the democratic process.



❖ April 2 : বঙালীৰশিল্পহাট (Exhibition cum Sale)

বঙালীৰশিল্পহাট (Exhibition-cum-Sale), organized by the Department of Community Science in collaboration with IQAC, highlighted creativity, entrepreneurship, and cultural richness through an array of handmade products.



❖ April 7 : Assembly Election

Darrang College (Autonomous) served as an important election centre during the Assam Legislative Assembly Elections, providing infrastructure and logistical support for the smooth conduct of election-related activities in collaboration with the district administration.



❖ April 11 : Pre Rongali Bihu Celebration

The Darrang College Women's Forum, in collaboration with IQAC, organized a Pre-Rongali Bihu Celebration on 11 April 2026 at Darrang College (Autonomous). The programme featured traditional Bihu songs, dances, and cultural performances, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Assam. The occasion also marked the inauguration of the Women's Forum wall magazine, 'সুৰুজমুখী' (Surujmukhi), which aims to provide a platform for students to showcase their literary and creative talents.



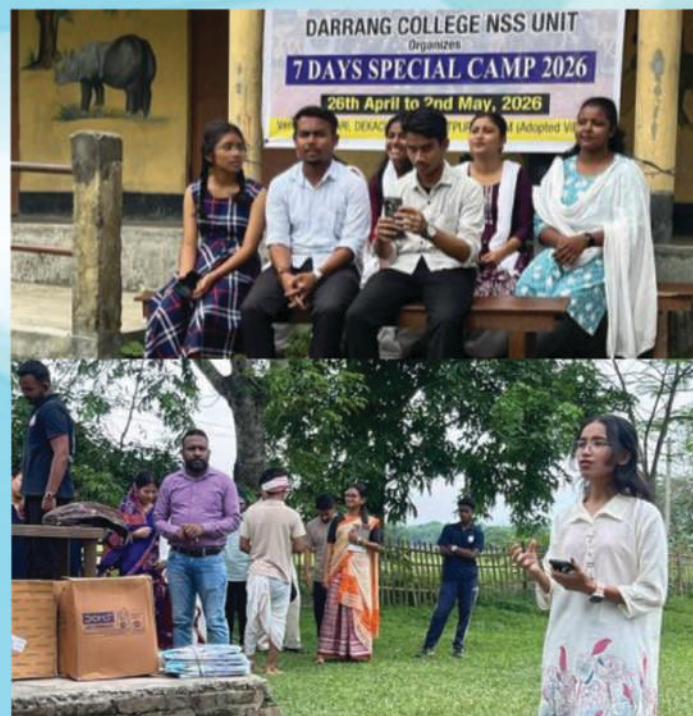
❖ April 22 : Observation of Earth Day

Earth Day was observed at Darrang College (Autonomous) on 22 April 2026 with an insightful lecture by Dr. Chandam Victoria Devi, Assistant Professor, NERIWLM, Tezpur. The programme emphasized environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and collective responsibility towards protecting the planet.



❖ April 26 : May 2

The NSS Unit of Darrang College (Autonomous) conducted its seven-day Special Camp 2026 at Bahbari Deka Chuburi (Ward No. 6), the college's adopted village, from 26th April to 2nd May, 2026. The camp focused on community service, social awareness, and rural development, providing volunteers with valuable experiential learning opportunities.



❖ May 8 - Interaction Programme on Research Funding and Innovation

On 8 May 2026, Darrang College (Autonomous) organized an interaction programme with its science faculty members featuring Dr. Shivprasad Amaravaya (DST, Government of India) and Prof. Prodeep Phukan (Director, CDC, Gauhati University). Initiated by IQAC and convened by Principal Dr. Palash Moni Saikia, the programme focused on extramural research funding, innovative proposal writing, and the utilization of I-STEM facilities to enhance research activities.



❖ May 11 – May 12 - Faculty Development Workshop on Digital Pedagogy and E-Learning Resources

IQAC, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a two-day Faculty Development Workshop on “Digital Pedagogy and Development of E-Learning Resources” on 11–12 May 2026. Resource persons Dr. Indrani Kalita and Dr. Sruti Sruba Bharali of KKSHOU conducted sessions on digital pedagogy, SWAYAM, e-content development, and proposal writing. Attended by 41 faculty members, the workshop aimed to strengthen digital competencies and promote innovative teaching practices.



❖ May 12 : 'Samalay' Marks Third Anniversary of the Centre for Performing Arts

The Centre for Performing Arts of Darrang College (Autonomous) celebrated its third anniversary with the cultural programme 'Samalay' on 12th May. Inaugurated by Dr. Khageswar Borkakaty, President of the Governing Body, the event featured the felicitation of the Centre's trainers and a series of vibrant performances by students in music, dance, drama, and yoga.



❖ May 16 : Inauguration of the Ornamental Fish and Aquatic Insects Culture and Research Facility Centre

On 16 May 2026, Darrang College (Autonomous) inaugurated the Ornamental Fish and Aquatic Insects Culture and Research Facility Centre and released Vol. IV, Issue II of the college newsletter, Darrang College(A) Chronicle. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Khageswar Barkakaty, President of the Governing Body, in the presence of Principal Dr. Palash Moni Saikia, faculty members, and students. The new research facility, established under the Department of Zoology, aims to promote research, biodiversity conservation, skill development, and entrepreneurship in the field of aquatic biology.



❖ May 27 : Certificate Distribution Ceremony of the Centre for Performing Arts

On 27th May 2026, the Centre for Performing Arts, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a certificate distribution ceremony for students who successfully completed its nine-month certificate courses in Vocal Music, Kathak, Sattriya, Drama, and Flute. The event recognized the students' achievements and promoted excellence in performing arts.



❖ June 1 : Friendly Women's Football Match

The Darrang College Women Football Club (DCWFC), in collaboration with IQAC, Darrang College (Autonomous), organized a Friendly Women's Football Match on 1 June 2026 between Darrang College Women Football Club and Puthimari Football Club. The event celebrated sportsmanship, teamwork, and the growing participation of women in football.



❖ June 5 : World Environment Day 2026 Observed

World Environment Day 2026 was observed at Darrang College (Autonomous) on 5 June under the theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." Organized jointly by the Assam Science Society, Tezpur Branch, and the Eco Club in collaboration with IQAC, IIC, and the Departments of Chemistry and Zoology, the programme included a plantation drive, an environmental awareness talk by Mr. Horendra Nath Morang, and student competitions on essay writing and environmental photography.



❖ June 21: Celebration of International Yoga Day

Darrang College (Autonomous) celebrated International Yoga Day 2026 on 21 June under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." Organized by the Yoga and Wellness Committee in collaboration with IQAC, the Students' Services Centre, and the NSS Unit, the programme featured a yoga session led by Ms. Hiramoni Kalita, promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being among participants.



Achievements of the Faculty Members



➤ Gulap Sonowal, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by Cotton University for his thesis entitled "Impact of Fluvio-Geomorphic Hazards on Sustainable Development in Dibru River Basin, North East India." He carried out his research under the supervision of Dr. Gitika Thakuria, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, Cotton University.



➤ Dr. Rashmi Rekha Gohain, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Science, has added several notable achievements to her academic profile during the year. She was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Her doctoral thesis, "Parental and Social Support of LGBTQ + Individuals and Their Psychosocial Well-being," was completed under the guidance of Dr. Sampreeti Gogoi, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.

➤ Dr. Rashmi Rekha Gohain, along with Ms. Saujanya Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Science received the Best Oral Presentation Award at the two-day National Conference on "Elderly Population: Critical Issues, Challenges and Solution," held on 17–18 March 2026 at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar.

➤ Dr. Rashmi Rekha Gohain together with Ms. Saujanya Das and Ms. Shilpi Sikha Saikia, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Science also secured the Second Best Oral Presentation Award under Theme 2, "Mental Health in Academic, Workplace and Institutional Settings," at the National Symposium on "Nurturing Mental Health: A Challenge for Psychological Well-being of Society in the 21st Century," organized by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, on 17 February 2026. The symposium was sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. In the same symposium, Dr. Rashmi Rekha Gohain was awarded the Third Best Oral Presentation Award under Theme 1, "Mental Health Across the Life Course," recognizing her outstanding research contribution.



➤ Minakshee Sarmah, Dept. of Biotechnology has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Gauhati University. Her doctoral research, entitled "Characterization of potential probiotic Microorganisms from Traditional Fermented Food and Gut Microflora of the Tai-Phake Community of Assam," was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Manab Deka, Department of Bioengineering and Technology, Gauhati University.



➤ Dr. Chittaranjan Baruah, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology has been continued as a member of the IUCN for the 2026–2029 quadrennium. He has also been inducted into the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) for the 2026–2029 term.



➤ Dr. Lakshmi Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, was appointed as the Vice Principal of Darrang College (Autonomous) with effect from 1 April 2026. A dedicated academician and administrator, Dr. Roy has made significant contributions to the institution through her commitment to teaching, research, and academic administration.



➤ Mr. Horendra Nath Morang, Associate Professor, Department of History, was felicitated by the Department of Tribal Affairs, Government of Assam, on 29 May 2026 during Janajatiya Garima Utsav for his outstanding contribution to society through innovative green initiatives.

➤ Dr. Dulal Ch. Das, Associate Professor, Dr. Gakul Kumar Das, Associate Professor, and Dr. Pallabika Sarmah, Assistant Professor, of the Postgraduate Department of Assamese have been recognized as Ph.D. Supervisors by Gauhati University. The achievement marks a significant milestone for the department and is expected to strengthen its research activities.

Publications of the Faculty Members

Research Paper:

- **Das, Abhijit, Bordoloi, Rajashree and Biswas, S. P. (2026).** Plankton Diversity and Macroinvertebrate Diversity Indices of Mara Bharali River in Sonitpur District of Assam, India. *Acervo Journal*, 11(3), 73-91. (Indexed in Scopus)
- **Basumatary, Raj Kusum & Hazarika, Rabindra. (2026).** Knowledge, attitude, practices and preventive methods against mosquito-borne diseases among rural tribal communities of Udalguri district, Assam, India. *International Journal of Mosquito Research*, 13(2), 52–57. <https://www.doi.org/10.22271/23487941.2026.v13.i2a.899> (Indexed in Scopus and Web of Science)
- **Das, P., Baruah Chittaranjan, Dutta R., Deka N. K., Borah P. (2026).** Qualitative and semi-quantitative phenotypic characterization of lactic acid bacteria isolated from two freshwater catfish species of Assam, Northeast India. *Journal of Applied and Natural Science*, 18(2), 575 - 585. (Scopus-Indexed) <https://doi.org/10.31018/jans.v18i2.7149>
- **Pegu, A., Das, P., Bordoloi, R., Saika, P. M., & Baruah, Chittaranjan. (2026).** Cancer preventive compounds from freshwater organisms: A systematic review. *Acervo Journal*, 11(3), 92-108.(Scopus-Indexed)

Book Chapters:

- **Roy, Saurav, & Gohain, Rashmi Rekha. (2026).** Digital Technology and Psychological Well-being among Youth. In Dr. Sampreety Gogoi & Dr. Ankita Dutta (Eds.), *Nurturing Mental Health: A Challenge for Psychological Well-being of Society in the 21st Century*. ISBN: 978-93-94944-54-1.
- **Das, Saujanya, Gohain, Rashmi Rekha, & Saikia, Shilpi Sikha. (2026).** Mental Health of College Students in the Modern Era: Challenges and Recommendations. In Dr. Sampreety Gogoi & Dr. Ankita Dutta (Eds.), *Nurturing Mental Health: A Challenge for Psychological Well-being of Society in the 21st Century*. ISBN: 978-93-94944-54-1.
- **Das, Saujanya, & Saikia, Dr. Debashree. (2026).** Women as Entrepreneurs: Innovative, Fabian and Imitative Perspectives. In Dr. Dhrubajyoti Saikia & Mr. Manob Jyoti Saikia (Eds.), *Dialogue: Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Society and Culture* (1st ed.). Authorspress. ISBN: 978-93-6095-307-2.
- **Das, Saujanya. (2026).** Traditional Attire as a Carrier of Cultural Identity. In Abhishek Verma & Ekta Jain (Eds.), *Classroom 2.0: Designing Classrooms for Tomorrow's Skills*. ISBN: 978-81-999146-5-0.
- **Gohain, Rashmi Rekha, Das, Saujanya, & Saikia, Shilpi Sikha. (2026).** Human Rights and Domestic Violence. In Dr. Abdul Foyes Md. Malik & Dr. Deepa Kannur (Eds.), *Human Rights and Environmental Justice: A Gendered Approach*. ISBN: 978-93-48856-42-5.
- **Saikia, Shilpi Sikha, Gohain, Rashmi Rekha, & Das, Saujanya. (2026).** The NGO Advocacy for Human Rights. In Dr. Abdul Foyes Md. Malik & Dr. Runoo Ravi (Eds.), *Human Rights and Environmental Justice: A Gendered Approach*. ISBN: 978-93-48856-18-0.
- **Das, Saujanya, Gohain, Rashmi Rekha, & Saikia, Shilpi Sikha. (2026).** Gender Stereotypes and Its Impact on Early Childhood. In Dr. Abdul Foyes Md. Malik & Dr. Deepa Kannur (Eds.), *Human Rights and Environmental Justice: A Gendered Approach*. ISBN: 978-93-48856-42-5.
- **Das, Saujanya. (2026).** Entrepreneurship and Innovation: A Comprehensive Review. In Dr. Abdul Foyes Md. Malik & Dr. Runoo Ravi (Eds.), *Paradigms and Praxis: The New Education Policy 2020*.
- **Saikia, Shilpi Sikha, & Nath, Kusumanjalee. (2026).** Eve-Teasing, Molestation, Sexual Abuse and Rape as Obstacles in the Path of Women Empowerment. In Dr. Deborah Darianmawali & Dr. Abdul Foyes Md. Malik (Eds.), *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*. ISBN: 978-93-48856-07-4.
- **Baruah, Chittaranjan & Bordoloi, R. (2026).** Diversity of eel species in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot: Taxonomic status, economic importance, present status, and prevailing threats. In T. Pullaiah (Ed.), *Biodiversity Hotspot of the Indo-Burma Region* (1st ed.). Apple Academic Press (Taylor & Francis).

Pokhila Lekthebi: The Melody Queen Who Preserved Indigenous Karbi Music Honoured With Padma Shri 2026



Among the recipients of the prestigious Padma Shri Award (2026), Pokhila Lekthebi stands out as an eminent cultural icon whose lifelong dedication has significantly contributed to the preservation and promotion of the indigenous musical traditions of Assam's Karbi community. Revered as the Queen of Melody, she has devoted more than five decades to safeguarding Karbi folk music while pioneering the development of modern Karbi musical expression, thereby ensuring the continuity and relevance of her community's cultural heritage.

Early Life and Musical Journey

Pokhila Lekthebi's public musical career began during the 1960s through her participation in cultural competitions organized by the Karbi community. Her exceptional vocal talent gained widespread recognition at the Karbi Youth Festival, where she emerged as a distinguished performer. She was awarded the prestigious Karbi Kungripi title in 1976 and again in 1978, establishing herself as one of the foremost cultural ambassadors of the Karbi people.

Contribution to Karbi Music

Pokhila Lekthebi played a pioneering role in transforming Karbi music at a time when modern compositions in the language were virtually absent. By creatively blending traditional Karbi folk elements with contemporary musical styles, she helped establish a modern Karbi music tradition without compromising its cultural authenticity. Collaborating with lyricists and fellow musicians, she composed and popularized songs that resonated with younger generations while preserving indigenous values and identity.

Over the course of her career, she has performed and recorded more than 300 songs encompassing both traditional folk melodies and modern compositions. Her repertoire reflects the cultural ethos of the Karbi community, celebrating its folklore, customs, language, and everyday life. Through these musical contributions, she has preserved valuable elements of Karbi oral tradition and strengthened cultural continuity across generations.

Cultural Significance

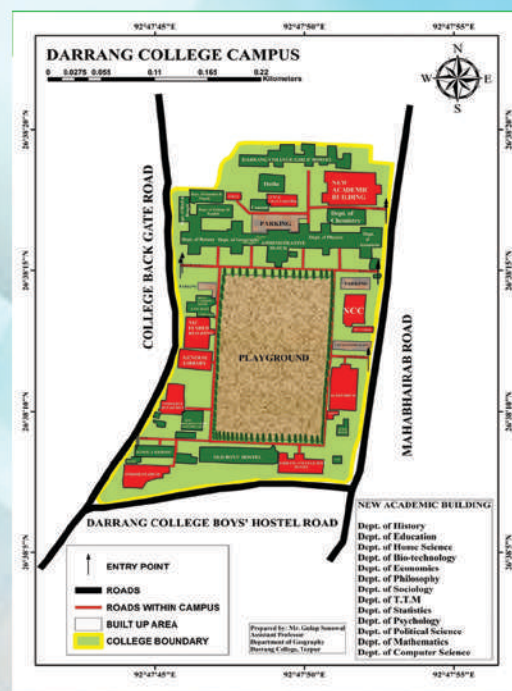
Beyond her artistic accomplishments, Pokhila Lekthebi has played a vital role in preserving the intangible cultural heritage of the Karbi community. In indigenous societies, music serves as a repository of language, history, and collective memory. By documenting, performing, and popularizing Karbi songs, she has reinforced community identity and inspired younger generations to embrace and sustain their cultural traditions. Her work remains an enduring example of how artistic practice can contribute to cultural resilience in an era of rapid globalization.

Smt. Pokhila Lekthebi work has earned her several prestigious awards and recognitions (as listed below):

- Swabha Shilpi Amulya Kakati Memorial Award (2009)
- Luit Gaurav Award (2018)
- Shilpi Award (2023) – The Government of Assam
- Assam Gaurav Award (2024) - One of the state's highest civilian honours, acknowledging her exceptional contribution to the preservation and promotion of indigenous music.
- Padma Shri (2026) in the field of Art- The Government of India.

Pokhila Lekthebi's remarkable journey exemplifies the transformative role of art in preserving cultural identity. Through her lifelong dedication to Karbi music, she has successfully bridged tradition and modernity, ensuring that the rich musical heritage of her community continues to flourish. Her legacy extends beyond artistic excellence; it represents cultural resilience, indigenous identity, and the enduring power of music as a medium for preserving heritage.

The conferment of the Padma Shri upon Pokhila Lekthebi is not merely a recognition of individual achievement but a national acknowledgment of the importance of safeguarding India's diverse cultural traditions through the unwavering commitment of artists devoted to their communities and heritage.



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E-Mail ID : dcchronicle2022@gmail.com

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Address : Darrang College, Tezpur - 784001, Assam, India

E-Mail ID : darrangcollege@gmail.com

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