

NANDA TALUKDAR
FOUNDATION

2023 Annual Report

Prepared by

Mrinal Talukdar
Secretary, NTF

www.ntfghy.org

INTRODUCTION



The Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) is pleased to present its comprehensive annual report for the year 2024, detailing our initiatives, achievements, and impact in fostering cultural preservation, community development, and social welfare in Assam. Despite facing challenges and adversities, NTF remained resolute in its commitment to serving the people of Assam and advancing our mission of positive change.



As we reflect on the past year, it is with a sense of pride that we present the Nanda Talukdar Foundation's Annual Report for 2024. Our journey towards digitizing Assam's literary heritage and integrating our cultural identity with modern initiatives has been both challenging and rewarding. This report outlines our key projects, achievements, and the impact we've made on the community we serve.

A Year's Overview

Digitizing Assam: Preserving Literary Heritage



On May 11, 2024 a significant milestone in the preservation of Assamese literary heritage was marked with the inauguration of the "Digitizing Asom" project by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. Held at Janata Bhawan, this initiative aims to digitize and preserve rare Assamese journals and books published between 1813 and 1970, ensuring their accessibility to the public through the website www.assamarchive.org. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma, in his address, emphasized the profound historical significance of Assamese literature and its evolution over the years.

He paid tribute to literary luminaries such as Lakshminath Bezbaruah, Chandra Kumar Agarwala, and Hemchandra Goswami, highlighting their invaluable contributions to the cultural tapestry of Assam. Dr. Sarma underscored the importance of digitization in the digital era, emphasizing its role in preserving and propagating Assamese literary works globally.





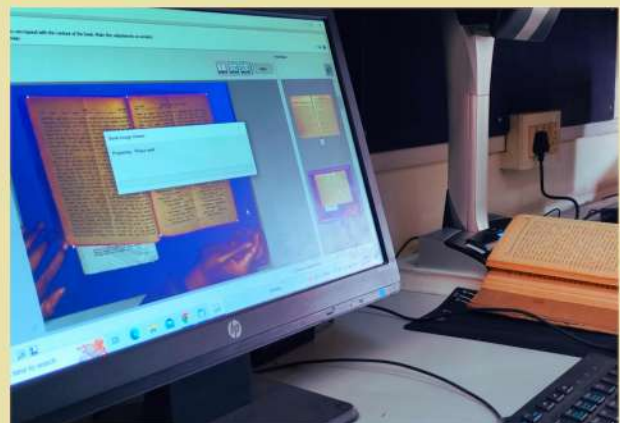
Dr. Sarma commended Mrinal Talukdar, Secretary of the Nanda Talukdar Foundation, for his unwavering dedication to the project spanning over two decades. He urged the public to contribute any rare works they possess for digitization, emphasizing the collaborative nature of the initiative in preserving Assam's literary legacy.

Assuring continued governmental support, including financial assistance, Dr. Sarma reiterated the commitment to the completion and expansion of the "Digitizing Asom" project. He announced ongoing efforts to digitize government operations, stating that all files in Deputy Commissioner offices and Directorates must be processed digitally from June 1. The event also witnessed the participation of Dr. Dilip Dutta Choudhury and Dr. Narayan Sarma from the Assam Jatiyo Bidyalay Educational & Socio-Economic Trust, further underscoring the collaborative efforts towards preserving Assamese literature for future generations.

Partnership Between ABILAC and NTF

In a momentous endeavor to safeguard Assam's rich literary heritage, the Anundoram Borooah Institute of Language Art & Culture (ABILAC) has forged a strategic partnership with the Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on January 6, 2024. This landmark agreement aims to digitize and grant access to a vast collection of rare books housed within the ABILAC library in Rajaduar, North Guwahati.

The collaboration between ABILAC and NTF, valid for the next 12 months, seeks to expand this digital archive by incorporating more of Assam's rare books and journals.





Axom Xahitya Xabha and North Lakhimpur College handover digital content

The Axom Sahitya Sabha and North Lakhimpur College, in a solemn function held on January 26, 2024, at the India Club, formally handed over the digital content they have digitized from their own stock of books and journals to be preserved in the Digitizing Assam project for posterity.

The digital content of Axom Sahitya Sabha was ceremonially handed over by the President of the Sabha, Dr. Surya Kanta Hazarika, while 40 years of Prantik was handed over by Prof. Aurbinda Rajkhowa of North Lakhimpur College.

In addition, five individuals who have supported the project since its inception were felicitated as a mark of respect for their contributions to society.

Later, the 40 years of Prantik was formally presented to the founder and current editor, Pradeep Baruah, at his residence.



3rd "folkTea Festival held successfully



Rural Tourism Folk Music

The third edition of the "folkTea Festival" culminated successfully at the Hatipoti Tea Estate near Biswanath Chariali, Assam, from November 24-26. Set amidst the scenic backdrop of a tea garden, this unique festival harmoniously blends Assam's rich tea heritage with cultural and adventure activities, offering a refreshing perspective on the 200-year-old industry.

Organized under the auspices of the Nanda Talukdar Foundation and led by Mrinal Talukdar, the festival aspires to intertwine Assam's tea culture with its broader cultural identity. The tranquil ambiance of the festival, with its simple thatched stage and subtle lighting, created an enchanting atmosphere under the starlit sky, accentuated by lanterns.



Featuring a diverse lineup of events, the festival included traditional Bhaonas, captivating performances by artists like Rupam Bhuyan and Joi Barua, stargazing sessions, jamming sessions, camping, and exhilarating car rallies. Notably, the festival emphasized inclusivity, offering activities such as art workshops by the Government College of Art & Craft and stargazing sessions conducted by Dr. Kishore Barua and the Pragjyotishpur Amateur Association.



In addition to commemorating Assam tea's bicentenary with special exhibitions and culinary showcases by Chef Atul Lahkar, the festival served as a platform for meaningful dialogues on environmentalism and Assam's cultural landscapes. The evenings were enriched with soulful performances, including Jhumur and Baul music, further enhancing the cultural immersion. The festival concluded with an exhilarating car rally to Arunachal Pradesh, leaving an indelible mark on participants, including distinguished visitors like Joi Barua and Farhana Ahmed, who lauded the festival's innovative approach to celebrating Assam's tea culture.

Supported by esteemed sponsors such as Oil India Limited, the Tea Board of India, State Bank of India, ATDC, and various other contributors, the "folkTea Festival" has evolved into a prominent cultural event, spotlighting Assam's soft power on the global stage and amplifying its cultural richness beyond conventional narratives.



Social Audit

The foundation conducted a rigorous social audit of Project Rupantar, SIPRD, Duliajan, with a steadfast commitment to promoting transparency and accountability in government programs. This comprehensive audit delved into the project's implementation, impact, and outcomes, meticulously assessing its effectiveness and identifying areas for enhancement to ensure optimal resource utilization.

Collaborating closely with the local community and civil society organizations, the audit process was inclusive and participatory, allowing for diverse perspectives to be considered. The findings gleaned from the audit were transparently shared with government officials and stakeholders, fostering open dialogue and collective efforts towards improvement.

Project Rupantar, a transformative CSR initiative led by the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD) in partnership with Oil India Limited (OIL), has firmly entrenched itself in the expansive catchment areas of Assam.



This visionary initiative is dedicated to addressing the evolving needs and aspirations of rural communities, leaving an indelible mark on the socio-economic landscape of the region.

Amidst the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the invaluable role of Project Rupantar has become increasingly evident. Its holistic approach, encompassing the modernization of agricultural practices and the empowerment of women through CSR initiatives, underscores its unwavering commitment to holistic development, even amidst adversity.

The social audit has shed light on the commendable impact of Project Rupantar across various sectors, including agriculture and handloom. While significant progress has been achieved, there remain identified opportunities for growth, particularly in areas such as technical education and beneficiary selection. Noteworthy efforts in biofloc farming and agricultural transportation underscore the project's dedication to sustainability and efficiency.

Last Year's

GRANT & SUPPORT

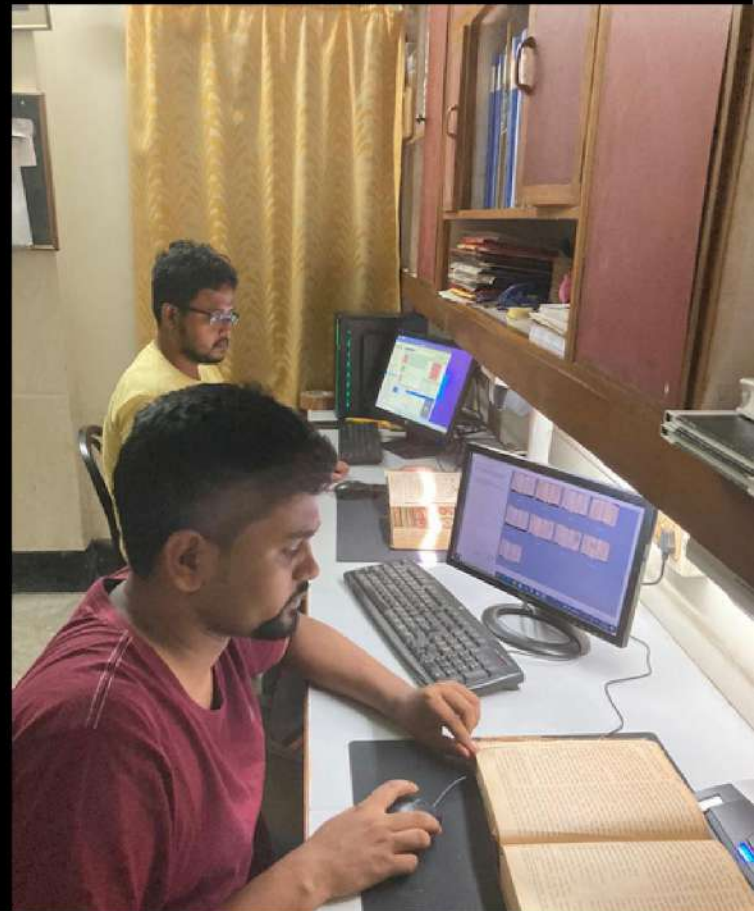
The Nanda Talukdar Foundation is grateful for following persons and organization for its support to carry out the projects

Individual donors:

1. Aditya Goswami
2. Ahsan Ahmed
3. Niloy Das
4. Naba Goswami
5. Dipli Saikia (Maina Saikia)
6. Pankaj Barua
7. Pranjal Barua
8. Niranjana Mahanta
9. Ranjan Gogoi
10. Trailokya Borgohain
11. Saidul Islam
12. Tayebullah Family
13. Kangkan Dutta

Organizational donors:

1. Govt of Assam
2. Oil India Limited
3. Indra Dhanush Gas Limited
4. Assam Jatiya Bidyalay Educational and Socio-economic Trust
5. Numaligarh Refinery Limited



The Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) embarks on a multifaceted mission. Its primary focus lies in digitizing rare Assamese literature, ensuring preservation and accessibility for future generations through innovative technologies. Concurrently, NTF promotes Assam tea with a gentle narrative, weaving rural tourism, folk culture, and camping experiences into a tapestry that celebrates the region's heritage and sustains its communities.

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