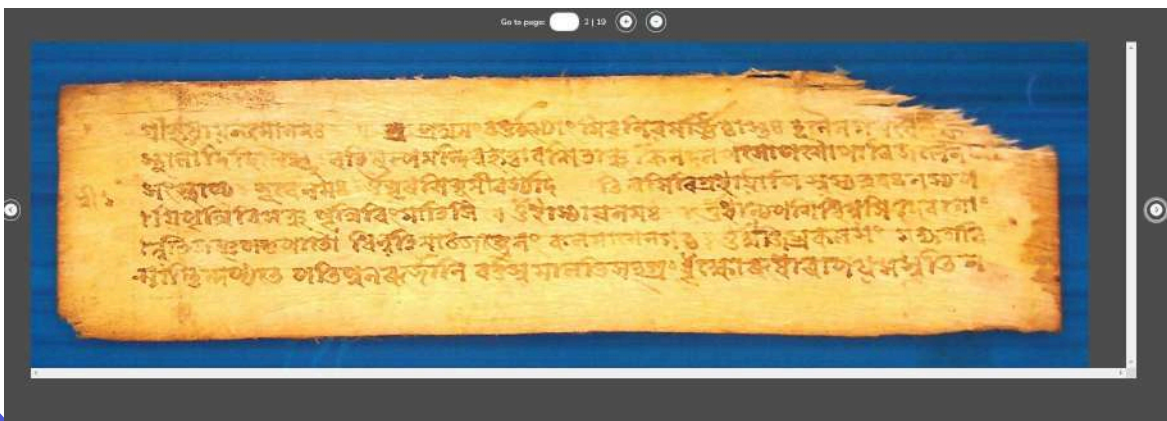


Annual Report 2024-25



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Secretary's message

Reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges of the year 2024-25, I am deeply gratified by what our team at Nanda Talukdar Foundation has achieved. From the historic Digitizing Assam initiative, which has protected invaluable cultural treasures from obscurity, to the resounding success of our 4th FolkTea Festival, our collective efforts have once again reinforced our commitment to Assam's heritage and community uplift.

Our ongoing efforts in cultural preservation, advocacy, and community empowerment have laid the groundwork for a sustainable future. Collaborative partnerships with prestigious institutions and strategic stakeholders have significantly expanded our reach and impact. Despite challenges inherent in large-scale initiatives, our dedicated team, sponsors, and community participants made remarkable strides this year.



Looking ahead, we are committed to fostering deeper community engagement, expanding our digital archives, enhancing sustainable practices in the tea industry, and advocating for wildlife conservation. On behalf of the Foundation, I extend sincere thanks to our partners, supporters, and community members who have been instrumental in our continuing success.

Mrinal Talukdar

Secretary, NTF

Organizational Overview

Vision

To preserve and promote Assamese heritage, empower communities through sustainable practices, and catalyze inclusive socio-cultural growth.

Mission

- To digitize and preserve Assamese literary and historical heritage.
- To foster cultural preservation and promote sustainable practices in the tea industry.
- To advocate for wildlife conservation and sustainable rural development.

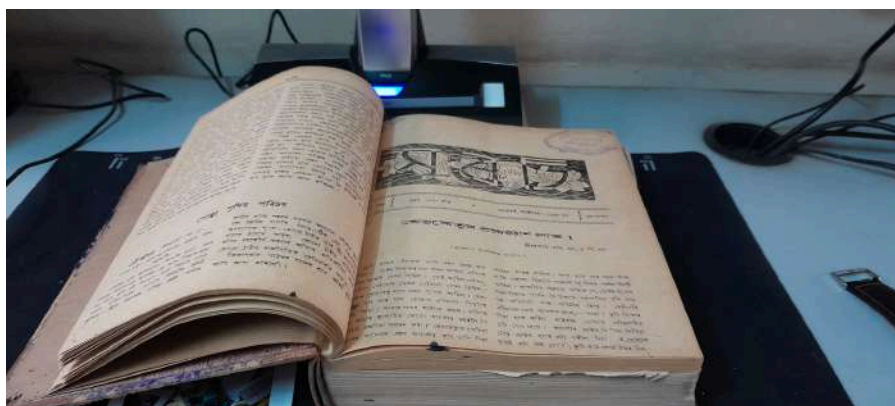


Sectors

1. Preservation
2. Sustainability
3. Advocacy
4. Publication
5. Consultancy

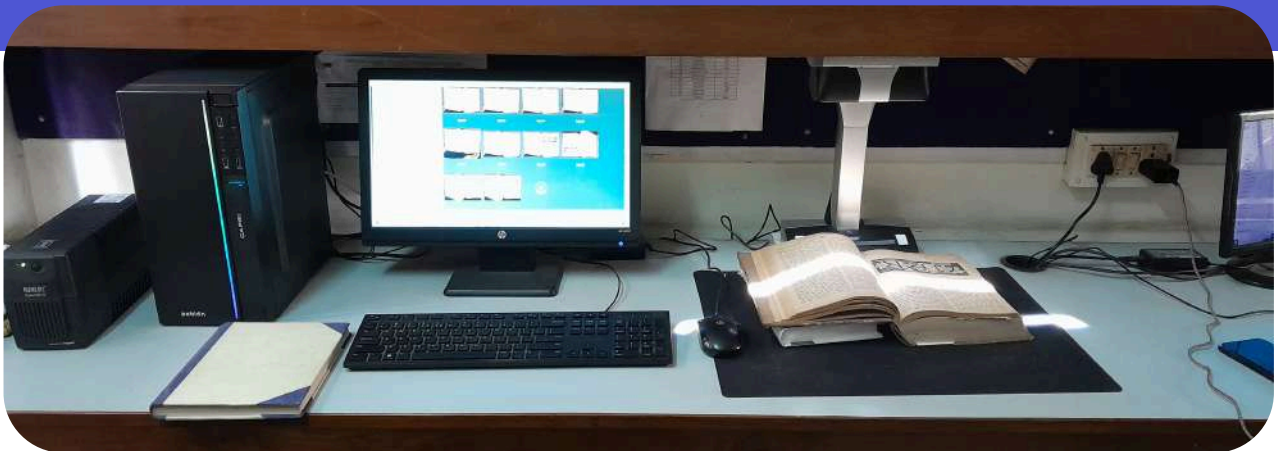
Governance

The Foundation operates under the strategic guidance of an experienced board and a professional management team dedicated to executing NTF's vision.



Digitizing Assam Project

Spearheaded by NTF, in collaboration with AJB Educational and Socio-Economic Trust, Guwahati, and significantly supported by ONGC through its CSR initiative, the Digitizing Assam Project continues as a landmark initiative. Over 1.29 million pages have been digitized in 36 months, accessible at www.assamarchive.org, including rare manuscripts and significant literary works such as "Orunudoy" and "Ramdhenu".



Collaboration with Dibrugarh University

Successfully digitized 53,000 rare Xasipat manuscripts, achieving the largest global online collection. The detailed MoU with Dibrugarh University ensured digitization of manuscripts in Old Assamese, Sanskrit, Tai, and Bengali, preserving crucial cultural narratives.



Future Collaborations

- Kamrup Anusandhan Samity: Digitization planned from April 2025.
- Axom Xahitya Xabha: Six-month digitization project scheduled at Chandra Kanta Handique Bhawan.





4th FolkTea Festival 2024

- **Date:** November 29 - December 1, 2024
- **Venue:** Hatipoti Tea Estate, Pabhoi, Biswanath Chariali

The 4th FolkTea Festival 2024, held at the picturesque Hatipoti Tea Estate in Biswanath Chariali, was a vibrant celebration of Assam's rich tea heritage and cultural diversity. This community-driven initiative brought together over 150 Small Tea Growers (STGs), Bought Leaf Factory (BLF) owners, cultural enthusiasts, policymakers, and tea industry leaders. Over three days, the festival served as a melting pot of tradition, innovation, and collaboration, delivering a powerful message about the resilience and legacy of Assam's tea industry.

The FolkTea Festival transcended being merely an event—it emerged as a movement aimed at reimagining tea as more than a commodity. Amid challenges like climate change and fluctuating market conditions, the festival provided a platform for introspection, dialogue, and celebration. The focus remained on preserving the cultural and emotional value of tea while equipping stakeholders with practical strategies to address emerging challenges. From captivating cultural performances to insightful discussions, the festival underscored tea as a story worth cherishing.



4th FolkTea Festival 2024



Festival Mission

At its core, the FolkTea Festival 2024 carried a message of resilience and cultural preservation, emphasizing tea as a cultural legacy rather than merely a commercial product. Experts and stakeholders underscored sustainability, urging adaptation to challenges such as climate change while respecting Assam's rich tea traditions. Bhaskar Hazarika of Hookmol Tea aptly summarized, "Tea is not just about numbers; it is a story of resilience, heritage, and connection."

Festival Sponsors

Oil India Limited
NEDFI
Tea Board of India
PCBA
ATDC
India Tourism
State Bank of India
FINTRA
Nameri Tea
Jivago Agro
Samiran Tea
Green Harvest Bio Tech
IDH
Thondhora Organic Manures
Crop Smart Agriculture Service

Looking Forward

The Folk Tea Festival focuses on enhancing sustainable livelihoods for small tea growers through knowledge sharing, skill-building, and sustainable practices. It collaborates with industry stakeholders to address key challenges and plans initiatives like workshops, annual conclaves, and agro-tourism. Ultimately, the festival aims to transform small tea gardens into thriving centers of economic growth and cultural pride.



Media for Wildlife Workshop

Date: December 2, 2025

Venue: Pabho, Biswanath Chariali

Organizers:

- Aaranyak
- Nanda Talukdar Foundation
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Wildlife Trust of India
- Assam Elephant Foundation

Workshop Overview

The Media for Wildlife workshop held at Pabhoi, Biswanath Chariali, successfully brought together media professionals and wildlife experts to discuss essential wildlife conservation issues. The workshop highlighted media's pivotal role in raising public awareness, shaping opinions, and influencing conservation policies.

Workshop Sessions

The workshop began with Pranay Bardoloi discussing global and local wildlife conservation challenges, emphasizing the media's critical role. Dr. Rathin Barman shared strategies for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, highlighting the importance of accurate reporting. Dr. Anupam Sarmah and Kaushik Barua addressed human-wildlife conflicts, particularly involving elephants and leopards in Assam, and discussed strategies for peaceful coexistence. Dr. Bibhab Talukdar spoke on wildlife crime prevention, stressing how media can aid in combating illegal activities. A campfire session, moderated by Mrinal Talukdar, encouraged discussions on biodiversity conservation beyond flagship species. The workshop concluded with a cultural evening, providing a platform for informal networking among participants and experts.





1. ULFA (In Assamese)

Authors: Mrinal Talukdar & Co-authors Kishor Kumar Kalita and Utpal Borpujari

Publisher: Prakashika

This Assamese-language publication meticulously analyzes the origins, evolution, and impact of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). Authored by Mrinal Talukdar and his co-authors, Kishor Kumar Kalita and others, the book offers detailed historical insights, providing readers a nuanced understanding of ULFA's ideological stance, operational dynamics, and the broader socio-political implications for Assam.

3. Secret Killings of Assam (English Edition)

This English-language book published by Prakashika provides a thorough analytical perspective on the clandestine killings in Assam. "Secret Killings of Assam" meticulously documents and analyses these covert events through comprehensive investigative research, historical documentation, and firsthand testimonials. The work serves as an essential resource for scholars, historians, policymakers, and readers interested in Assam's contemporary history and the complexities surrounding this dark chapter.

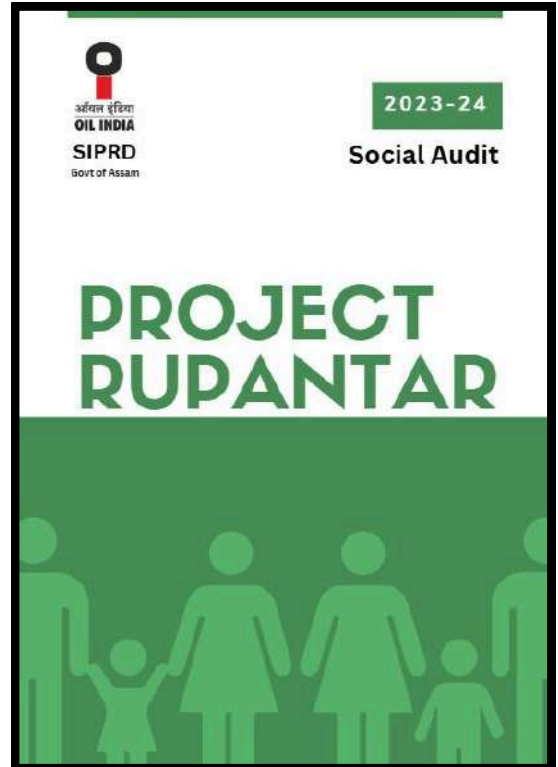
During the 2024-25 period, the Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) collaborated with Prakashika to republish three significant books, enhancing their availability and preserving critical historical narratives. The republished works are:



2. Guptahatya (Assamese)

Republished by Prakashika, "Guptahatya" extensively covers the dark and sensitive period known as the "Secret Killings" in Assam. The book documents clandestine operations that significantly affected the socio-political fabric of Assam during a critical period. Through detailed narratives and investigative accounts, "Guptahatya" aims to foster a deeper understanding and stimulate constructive dialogues on accountability, justice, and reconciliation.

Impact Assessment Report: Project Rupantar (2024-25)



29000 families

 **350 villages**

- Successfully reached over 29,000 families across 350 villages in Assam.
- Developed a total of 4,676 community groups, including:
 - 3,319 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)
 - 1,357 Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

The Nanda Talukdar Foundation conducted a comprehensive Social Audit for Project Rupantar, a joint Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative undertaken by the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD), Assam, and Oil India Limited (OIL). This initiative is designed to foster sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment, and holistic community development across rural regions of Assam. The audit was successfully completed in January 2025.

 **3319 JLGs**

Sectors of Operation

- Agriculture
- Handloom
- Biofloc fisheries
- Farm mechanization

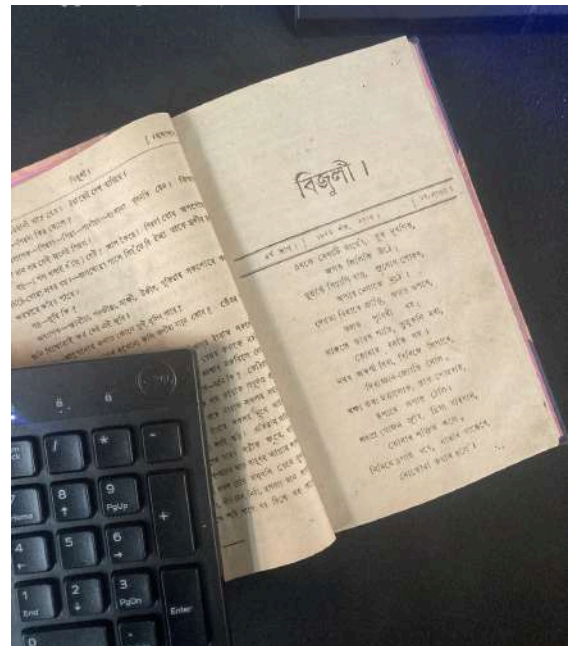
Detailed Activity Calendar (2024-2025)

- April 2024 – March 2025: Digitizing Assam Project (Ongoing Digitization Activities)
- October 2024: Release and publication of books by Prakashika
- November 29 – December 1, 2024: 4th FolkTea Festival, Hatipoti Tea Estate, Pabhoi, Biswanath Chariali
- December 2, 2024: Media for Wildlife Workshop, Pabho, Biswanath Chariali



Project Team Members

- Digitization : Kalyan Jyoti Hazarika, Drishti Nandana and Gautam Kabirta
- Accounts and Admin :Krishna Talukdar
- Chartered Accountant Parimal Kalita & Co.
- Field Operations: Uddipta Hazarika
- Adviser: Dr. Narayan Sarma, AJB
- Adviser: Dr. Satyakam Barthakur, D.U
- Tech. Adviser:Abhijit Bhuyan, Bohniman System



Chief Collaborators

- AJB Educational and Socio-Economic Trust, Guwahati
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
- Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh
- Axom Xahitya Xabha, Jorhat
- Tezpur University, Tezpur
- National Archives of India



About us

The Nanda Talukdar Foundation stands as a beacon of knowledge and preservation, dedicated to safeguarding Assam's rich literary, cultural, and historical heritage. Rooted in a legacy of intellectual pursuit, the foundation bridges the past with the present, fostering research, public discourse, and policy advocacy. With a deep commitment to truth and scholarship, it continues to illuminate untold stories, nurture independent thought, and champion the spirit of Assam's vibrant identity.

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