



# CALL FOR PAPERS

## NATIONAL SEMINAR

On

### Assamese as a Classical Language

Revisiting Literary Tradition and Cultural Heritage

ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষা হিচাপে অসমীয়া ভাষা

সাহিত্যিক আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্য-পৰম্পৰাৰ পুনঃ অৱলোকন

*(On the occasion of Assamese being recognized as a Classical Language)*

**(9-10, May 2025)**

Organized By

**DEPARTMENT OF ASSAMESE**

**ASSAM UNIVERSITY (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY), DIPHU CAMPUS**

**DIPHU, KARBI ANGLONG, ASSAM**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission (200-250 words)	30, April 2025
Last Date for Full Paper Submission	5, May 2025
Email ID for Abstract & Full Paper Submission	assameseseminar.audc@gmail.com

## Concept Note (English)

On October 3, 2024, the Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has granted the status of Classical Language to Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali, and Prakrit languages. This has evolved into a significant movement embraced by people who have engaged in it for many years. Currently, 11 languages in India are classified as classical languages among the 22 official languages of India, including Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia. Language serves as a profound manifestation of cultural and collective identity. It embodies a dynamic manifestation of knowledge, reflecting particular cultural insights, serving as a connection to both history and what lies ahead, functioning as a means to articulate and comprehend the landscape and its rich cultural heritage and tradition, while also being essential for future survival. Each community, cultural group, or ethnic group possesses distinct values, beliefs, and lifestyles. The essence of culture is fundamentally intertwined with language. As a vehicle for conveying values, beliefs, and customs, it serves a significant social purpose and cultivates a sense of group identity and harmony.

The term "Bharatiya classical languages," commonly known as Shastriya Bhasha, signifies languages that embody a rich historical background, a wide range of literary traditions, and a unique cultural heritage. However, in conferring recognition upon the classical language, the Union Government explicitly pointed out the importance of this decision by stating that "classical languages are regarded as the stewards of Bharat's old and profound cultural heritage, maintaining their communities' rich history, literature, and traditions. By granting this status, the government intends to honor and preserve the linguistic landmarks of Bharat's rich cultural landscape, ensuring that future generations may access and appreciate these languages' deep historical origins. This action not only emphasizes the value of linguistic diversity, but also recognizes the critical role that different languages play in establishing the nation's cultural identity.

It is essential to examine, in the context of Assamese as a classical language, the diverse criteria set forth by the government to recognize and preserve the classical languages. The Assamese language meets the criteria of significant antiquity, indicating that it possesses ancient texts or a recorded history extending back at least 1500 to 2000 years. The literary tradition of the Assamese language is original and not derived from other linguistic communities. The modern form of this language is distinct from its earlier predecessors, which show how it developed. The antiquity shows the longstanding perseverance of the language and its influence throughout the history of Assam. The antiquity shows the long-lasting presence of the language and its impact throughout history of Assam. In ancient Indian literature, Assam was referred to by the names Kamarupa and Pragjyotishpur. Kamarupa referred to the kingdom that encompassed regions of western and northern Bengal.

It is essential to think on the origins of the Assamese language in this context. The Assamese language, an Indo-Aryan language, is recognized for its evolution prior to the 7th century A.D. from the Magadhi Prakrit language and is inscribed using the Assamese script. The precise origin of the Assamese language remains obscure; however, it is widely thought to have evolved from the Kamrupi dialect of the Prakrit language. Linguists posit that the Indo-Aryan language was predominantly used in the urban centers of Kamarupa. The earliest evidence of the Assamese language can be traced to two inscriptions discovered at Umachal in the Nilachala Hills belonging to the 4th-5th century A.D., and those discovered in the Nagajari Khanikar village in Golaghat in the 5th century A.D. These two inscriptions provide the -

most convincing archeological evidence for the antiquity of the Assamese language. The written tradition of the Assamese language can be traced back to the 10th and 11th century, A.D. Although the Charyapad, Sri-Krishna Kirtan etc. were found at that time, the complete development of the Assamese language cannot be traced.

One must also acknowledge that the overall development of the Assamese literary tradition can be traced back to the 13th century, A.D. During the pre-Sankardeva, Sankardeva, and post-Sankardeva periods, although literature predominantly flourished through translation, the Assamese people's connection to their land was clearly evident in these works. During that period, poets received patronage from many kings and significantly advanced the language and literature. The neo-Vaishnavite movement of Sankardeva is particularly noteworthy for its significant contribution to the advancement of Assamese literature and culture. In the post-Sankardeva era, we particularly come across the Carit Puthi (the biographies of several Vaishnava saints) and buranji. Carit Puthis were composed in colloquial language, distinguishing them from previous literature. Prose compositions, particularly buranjis, which are historical works, emerged in the 16th century, initially composed in the Ahom language but subsequently converted to the Assamese language.

The modern period of Assamese literature commenced with the advent of Christian missionaries in Assam. In the latter part of the 20th century, the population of Assamese speakers surpassed 15 million. At present, over 23 million people speak in the Assamese language. To the present day, the Assamese language has produced an abundance of literary works that embody the profound cultural heritage and traditions of the Assamese people. The literary tradition also illustrates the connections among various languages such as Sanskrit, Bangla and other ethnic communities across the broader regions of Northeast India. Assamese language is like an island among the sea of various non-Aryan languages. Many unique features differ from sister languages such as Bangla and Odia are developed due to the impact of those non-Aryan languages. Besides, the Assamese language plays a vital role as a "lingua franca" in facilitating communication across many ethnic groups in northeast India. The connections foster a sense of unity among diverse communities, ultimately contributing to a national identity rooted in distinctive features of the 'Bharatiya tradition'.

This seminar seeks to delve into the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and literature by celebrating Assamese as a classical language. It will also examine significant ancient texts that embody the heritage and traditions of the Assamese people, ensuring that this linguistic legacy is preserved for future generations. However, many ancient texts remain unrecorded in the contemporary linguistic framework. This seminar invites linguists, scholars, and researchers from the Assamese-speaking community nationwide to reexamine the cultural heritage, traditions, and literature of the Assamese language. Such exercise is to establish connections with other language groups, fostering harmony that will contribute to the preservation of Indian tradition through the celebration of diverse languages. This seminar will also look at the challenges and issues surrounding the documentation of the ancient literary tradition of the Assamese language, as well as the significance of this tradition in shaping the collective linguistic identity of the Assamese-speaking people.



## Concept Note (Assamese)

২০২৪ বৰ্ষৰ ৩ অক্টোবৰত ভাৰতৰ মাননীয় প্ৰধানমন্ত্ৰী নৰেন্দ্ৰ মোদী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ নেতৃত্বাধীন কেন্দ্ৰীয় কেবিনেটে অসমীয়া, বাংলা, মাৰাঠী, পালি আৰু প্ৰাকৃত ভাষাক ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষাৰ মৰ্যাদা প্ৰদান কৰে। বৰ্তমানলৈ ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষাৰ স্বীকৃতি লাভ কৰা মুঠ এঘাৰটা ভাৰতীয় ভাষাৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া ভাষাও অন্যতম। ভাষা এটাই ধ্ৰুপদী মৰ্যাদা পাবলৈ হ'লে ভাষাটোৰ এক সুপ্ৰাচীন ইতিহাস, উচ্চ মানসম্পন্ন প্ৰাচীনতম মৌলিক পাঠ, আধুনিক ৰূপৰ ভাষা-সাহিত্যৰ লগত প্ৰাচীন ৰূপৰ ভাষা-সাহিত্যৰ স্পষ্ট পাৰ্থক্য থকাৰ লগতে প্ৰাচীন ৰূপটোৰ পৰাই যে আধুনিক ৰূপটোৱে বিকাশ লাভ কৰিছে তাৰ উপযুক্ত সাক্ষ্য থাকিব লাগিব। উল্লিখিত গুণাবলীৰে সমৃদ্ধ তথা এক ঐশ্বৰ্যশালী সাহিত্যিক-পৰম্পৰা আৰু গৌৰৱময় সাংস্কৃতিক-ঐতিহ্যৰ অধিকাৰী অসমীয়া ভাষাক ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষাৰ স্বীকৃতিয়ে তাৰ অপৰিমেয় মহত্বক যেন সোণালী সূতাৰে বান্ধিলে।

ভাষাই কোনো এক জাতিৰ জ্ঞানৰ ধাৰাবাহিক ইতিহাস বহন কৰে; সাংস্কৃতিক অন্তৰ্দৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰতিফলন ঘটায়, অতীত, বৰ্তমান আৰু ভৱিষ্যতৰ সংযোগ সঁচু হিচাপে কাম কৰে। কোনো এক ভৌগোলিক পৰিৱেশত বসবাস কৰা লোকসকলৰ চহকী সাংস্কৃতিক-ঐতিহ্য আৰু পৰম্পৰাক বুজোৱাৰ লগতে প্ৰসাৰ কৰাতো গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ভূমিকা পালন কৰে ভাষাই। প্ৰতিটো সম্প্ৰদায় বা সাংস্কৃতিক গোট বা জনগোষ্ঠী সুকীয়া মূল্যবোধ, বিশ্বাস আৰু জীৱন-শৈলীৰ অধিকাৰী। সংস্কৃতিৰ সাৰমৰ্ম মৌলিকভাৱে ভাষাৰ লগত জড়িত হৈ থাকে। সেয়েহে মূল্যবোধ, বিশ্বাস আৰু ৰীতি-নীতি আদি প্ৰকাশৰ আহিলা হিচাপে ভাষাই এক উল্লেখযোগ্য সামাজিক উদ্দেশ্য সাধন কৰে আৰু গোট একোটাৰ স্বকীয় পৰিচয় দাঙি ধৰাৰ লগতে গোটসমূহৰ মাজত সমন্বয়ৰ অনুভূতিও গঢ়ি তোলে।

অসমীয়া ভাষাই অসম তথা ভাৰতৰ উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ বিভিন্ন জাতি-জনগোষ্ঠীসমূহৰ মাজত সংযোগী ভাষা হিচাপে এক গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ভূমিকা পালন কৰি আহিছে। নানা আৰ্যেতৰ ভাষাৰে বৈচিত্ৰ্যপূৰ্ণ উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চলত উদ্ভৱ আৰু বিকাশ লাভ কৰা একমাত্ৰ আৰ্যমূলীয় ভাষাটোৱেই হৈছে অসমীয়া ভাষা। যদিও আধুনিক ভাৰতীয় আৰ্যমূলীয় ভাষাসমূহৰ উদ্ভৱ খ্ৰীষ্টীয় দশম-একাদশ শতিকা বুলি ধৰা হয়, প্ৰাচীন ভাৰতীয় আৰ্যভাষাৰ পৰা এক সুকীয়া ৰূপত খ্ৰীষ্টীয় সপ্তম শতিকাৰ আগৰেপৰা যে অসমীয়া ভাষাটোৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈ বিকাশৰ পথত আগবাঢ়িছিল চীনা পৰিব্ৰাজক হিউৱেন চাঙৰ মন্তব্য আৰু প্ৰাচীন শিলালিপিসমূহে তাৰ প্ৰমাণ দাঙি ধৰে। অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ লিখিত প্ৰত্নৰূপ সংৰক্ষিত হোৱা চৰ্যাপদ, শ্ৰীকৃষ্ণ-কীৰ্ত্তন আৰু তাৰ পৰৱৰ্তী বিশুদ্ধ অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ নিদৰ্শন প্ৰাক-শংকৰী যুগৰ সাহিত্য, শংকৰী যুগৰ সাহিত্য, উত্তৰ-শংকৰী যুগৰ সাহিত্য আৰু আধুনিক যুগৰ বিভিন্ন সাহিত্যিক বিধাসমূহে অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ পৌৰাণিক ৰূপ আৰু আধুনিক ৰূপৰ পাৰ্থক্য স্পষ্ট কৰাৰ লগতে ধাৰাবাহিকতাৰো পূৰ্ণ নিদৰ্শন দাঙি ধৰিছে। অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ ইতিহাসৰ প্ৰতিটো কাল-পৰ্বৰ লগত এক শক্তিশালী সামাজিক-সাংস্কৃতিক আৰু বৌদ্ধিক পটভূমি জড়িত হৈ আছে। অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ ভৱিষ্যমুখী দিক্ নিৰ্ণয়ৰ পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতত উপৰিউক্ত দিশসমূহৰ পুনৰ অৱলোকন কৰাটো অত্যন্ত গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ।

তথ্য সমৃদ্ধ, গভীৰতাসম্পন্ন গৱেষণা পত্ৰৰ আলোচনাৰে বিশেষকৈ সাহিত্যিক পৰম্পৰা আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্যৰ পুনঃ অৱলোকনৰ জৰিয়তে ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষা হিচাপে অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ মহত্ব অনুসন্ধানৰ উদ্দেশ্যৰে এই আলোচনা-সত্ৰখনিৰ আয়োজন কৰা হৈছে।

### Registration Fee Details

Faculty, Teachers, Academicians (With paper presentation)	Rs.1000
Research Scholars and Students (With paper presentation)	Rs.500
Participants (Without paper presentation)	Rs.300

**Note:** Registration fee will be collected at the seminar venue.

### PRESENTATION MODE AND LANGUAGE

This seminar will be conducted in both Assamese and English (Offline mode). However, the main objective of the seminar is to revisit the literary tradition and cultural heritage of the Assamese language in light of its recent recognition as a Classical Language.

### ACCOMMODATION

Invited resource persons from outstation are provided with free accommodation at local hotels or guest houses. General delegates/participants will incur their own accommodation expenses. However, the seminar organizing committee will book hotels upon the request of delegates and participants.

### REGISTRATION

Paper presenters and general participants can submit their registration by clicking the following link.

<https://forms.gle/o4RW1rXSDSt6uNRg7>

## Themes and Subthemes

- Classical Languages: A Conceptual Framework
- Classical Languages and Cultural Heritage & Tradition
- Assamese Script and Its Antiquity
- The Antiquity of Assamese Language & Literary Tradition
- Assamese Language and Cultural Heritage-Tangible and Intangible
- Unique Characteristics of Assamese Language
- Element of Other Languages in Assamese Language
- Various Dialects of Assamese Language
- Assamese Language Movement
- Assamese Language and Bharatiya Tradition
- Assamese Language and Cultural Linkages with Sanskrit & Other Modern Indo-Aryan Languages (Bangla, Odia, Maithili, Bhojpuri etc.,)
- The Genres of Assamese Literature
- *Buranjis* Tradition and Rewritings History
- Documenting the Assamese Literary Tradition
- Ancient Literary Tradition of Assamese Language
- Assamese Language in Modern Tradition
- Linguistic Identity and Assamese Cultural Traditions
- Contribution of Assamese Literature/Scholars/Linguists etc.,
- Importance of Translations in the Development of Assamese Literature
- Assamese Literary Tradition and Identity Formation
- Assamese Language and Contemporary Tradition
- Assamese Language Tradition, and Documentation & Preservation

## উপ-বিষয়সমূহ

- ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষা: ধাৰণাগত সংৰচনা
- ধ্ৰুপদী ভাষা: সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্য আৰু পৰম্পৰা
- অসমীয়া লিপি আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰত্নত্বতা
- অসমীয়া ভাষা আৰু সাহিত্যিক পৰম্পৰাৰ প্ৰাচীনত্ব
- অসমীয়া ভাষা আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্য: মূৰ্ত আৰু বিমূৰ্ত ৰূপ
- অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ একক চৰিত্ৰ বা বৈশিষ্ট্যসমূহ
- অসমীয়া ভাষাত অন্য ভাষাৰ উপাদান
- অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ ৰূপভেদ
- অসমীয়া ভাষা আন্দোলন
- অসমীয়া ভাষা আৰু ভাৰতীয় পৰম্পৰা
- সংস্কৃত আৰু অন্যান্য নব্য ভাৰতীয় আৰ্যভাষা যেনে: বাংলা, ওড়ীয়া, ভোজপুৰী, মৈথিলী আদিৰ লগত অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ সাংস্কৃতিক যোগসূত্ৰ
- অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ বিবিধ বিধা
- বুৰঞ্জীৰ পৰম্পৰা আৰু ইতিহাসৰ পুনৰলিখন
- অসমীয়া সাহিত্যিক পৰম্পৰাৰ প্ৰলেখন বা তথ্যকৰণ
- অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ প্ৰাচীন সাহিত্যিক পৰম্পৰা
- আধুনিক সাহিত্যিক পৰম্পৰাত অসমীয়া ভাষা
- ভাষিক পৰিচয় আৰু অসমীয়া সাংস্কৃতিক পৰম্পৰা
- অসমীয়া ভাষালৈ বিভিন্ন সাহিত্যিক, ভাষাবিদ আৰু পণ্ডিতসকলৰ অৱদান
- অসমীয়া সাহিত্যৰ বিকাশত অনুবাদৰ গুৰুত্ব
- অসমীয়া সাহিত্যিক পৰম্পৰা আৰু পৰিচয় নিৰ্মাণ
- অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ সমকালীন ৰূপ
- অসমীয়া ভাষিক পৰম্পৰা: তথ্যকৰণ আৰু সংৰক্ষণ
- মূল বিষয়ৰ লগত সংগতি থকা যিকোনো উপ-বিষয় লিখিব পাৰিব

## OUTCOME OF THE SEMINAR

- The seminar will take part in panel discussions focused on the major issue of evaluating the importance of recognizing the Assamese language as a classical language.
- The submitted papers will be published in book format by reputed publishers. Individuals who submitted full papers before the deadline may be considered for publication. The primary condition for publishing will be the quality of the paper.

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

- **Language of the Abstract:** Assamese & English
- **Word Limit:** 200-250 words.
- **Font for English Language:** Times New Roman, Font Size: 12, Font Space:1.5
- **Font for Assamese Language:** Page Maker or Ramdhenu Software or Geetanjali Light Fonts
- It should include the title of the abstract, the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation or any, mailing address, E-mail ID, and contact number
- Authors are requested to send the abstract through E-mail ([assameseseminar.audc@gmail.com](mailto:assameseseminar.audc@gmail.com)) latest by **30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**
- A Committee will review the abstracts and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently.

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPER

- The length of the full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 3000 to 4000 words.
- Use Footnotes for references (MLA Referencing Style).
- The selected full version of the papers should be submitted in soft copy latest by **5<sup>th</sup> May, 2025**.



### **About the Assam University, Diphu Campus**

Assam University (Central University), Silchar, Assam was established by an Act of Parliament promulgated in 1989(Act 13) and enforced by a notification of the Government of India on 21st January, 1994. It was during the Vice-Chancellorship of Prof J.B. Bhattercherjee a campus at Diphu was conceived. And in the last week of March 2007, the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, approved six academic departments to be set up for a campus at Diphu in Karbi Anglong District, Assam, India-782460. Now it is consisting of 11 academic departments.

The Diphu campus envisages excellence in learner centric pedagogy with vibrant and innovative curriculum designed and developed to match the challenging scenario of contemporary corporate and academic world. The campus is a pioneering higher-level study centre in this remote eastern part of the country inculcating a unique value system of rich Indian culture and ethos for an amiable and socially dynamic academic atmosphere.

The Diphu Campus has carved a niche for itself since inception by offering different post-graduate courses and research facilities. Many of the departments propose different study centres. The campus with different departments provides state-of-the-art facilities to students coming from different parts of the state. From the beginning the campus has become vibrant in academic and extracurricular activities.

### **About Diphu (Karbi Anglong)**

The Diphu town is the head quarter of Karbi Anglong district in Assam State. Karbi Anglong is the largest amongst the 27 administrative districts of Assam state in north-eastern India. The Karbi tribe is one of the major tribes of Karbi Anglong, Diphu. The Diphu town is home to many indigenous communities and other communities from rest of the country. Other tribes include; Dimasas, Bodo, Garo, Rengma Naga, Adivasi etc and other communities includes Assamese, Bengalis. The town truly exhibits the peaceful and harmonious coexistence among them. It houses temples, churches, mosques and also a gurudwara. The town celebrates all the major festivals together with much fun-fare. Rongker, Bishu-Dima, Wangala, Bihu, Christmas, Durga Puja, Diwali and other festivals are celebrated with fervour and joy.

### **About the Department of Assamese**

The Department of Assamese, under Rabindranath Tagore School of Indian Languages & Cultural Studies was established in 2010 in Assam University Diphu Campus. The Department offers post graduate course in Assamese as well as M.Phil and Ph.D. program with course work. The syllabi of the P.G. program incorporates both traditional and non-traditional courses keeping in view of the rising demands in various fields like literature, language, comparative literature, culture, translation, advertising, film studies, textual criticism and so forth. The Department also envisages the introduction of various career-oriented courses in Assamese. The Departmental library aids the students and the research scholars with books and infrastructure. The faculties and the research scholars of the Department have actively involved by publishing their research papers in reputed journals. Most of them have also published their individual and edited books for enriching Assamese language and literature.

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