

## **1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of ELTAI Assam Chapter held successfully**

The first International conference of ELTAI Assam Chapter, partially sponsored by ICSSR was held at Tinsukia College, Tinsukia, in collaboration with the Department of English, Tinsukia College and Oil India Limited on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017. The conference had ***Language, Ethnicity and Identity: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Perspectives*** as its broad theme. Besides, there were several sub-themes on which 212 students, research scholars and teachers of various disciplines and from different parts of India and abroad presented their papers. The Keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Z N Patil, former Professor, EFLU Hyderabad on the topic ***Language, Ethnicity and Identity: A few reflections***. Professor Chirapat Prapandvidya, Advisor to Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand graced the conference as the Featured speaker and spoke on the topic ***The Writing System of the Thai: Its History and Development***. Besides the parallel technical sessions, there was also a Panel Discussion on ***Language and Ethnic Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***. Prof Z N Patil, Prof Ratanaporn Sethakul, Former Professor of History, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand and Maitreyee B Chowdhury, noted author and blogger acted as the Panellists. Dr Anindya Syam Choudhury, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar and Dr Mridul Bordoloi, Head of the Department of English, Dibrugarh University were the Plenary Speakers. They spoke on ***Reconceptualizing Language and Language Practices in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*** and ***Thinking beyond Identity and Ethnicity: Pressing Issues to Address in the Post-Millennial Era*** respectively. There was also a special counselling session for college students on ***Communication Skills in English and Employability Prospects in the Corporate World*** in which students from different colleges participated. Mr. Tridiv Hazarika, Chief Manager (Public Affairs) of Oil India Limited was the Resource Person for the session. Mr. Shriram Singh, Regional Manager, State Bank of India made a brief presentation on aspects and avenues of cashless banking. The students of Tinsukia College presented a colourful cultural programme on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February which was followed by a banquet which was sponsored by Mr. Sanjay Kishan, MLA, Tinsukia Legislative Assembly Constituency. State Bank of India was the co-sponsor of the conference.

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