

Literatia

2nd Edition 2022



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We feel immense pleasure to inform that we have come out with the second edition of Literatia, the annual E-magazine of Department of English. The magazine mainly highlights the different activities and social works, along with some other creative aspects done by the alumni and the students of the department.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the principal of our college, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta, for giving us this opportunity and supporting us in this noble venture. Moreover, we are grateful to the HOD, Priyanka Sharma for guiding us throughout the project. Last, but not the least, we would like to express our appreciation towards the current editorial board for making this E-magazine, a success. We would also like to convey our apologies in advance for any faults we have made and if we have offended the feelings of our readers.

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A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL DESK



It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Department of English is planning to publish its second volume of Departmental E-Magazine very shortly. This virtual platform will obviously enrich the habit of writing by our young minds which will stimulate them creative minds to create some good writings in future. I would like to thank all the Teachers and students of English Department for this noble endeavor.

I hope this will pave out the path to create writing habits of our students.

My best wishes to all of you.

Dr Manoj Kr. Mahanta Principal Pragjyotish College

A FEW WORDS FROM THE HOD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



It gives me immense pleasure in writing these few lines for the second deity of our E-Magazine 'Literatia'. The main aim of this magazine is to provide our students with opportunities because this is an obligation; we owe to our students. Our students are our future. In brainstorming and carry out this task of bringing out the annual E-magazine they get to be enlightened thus growing and developing as individuals. We, the teachers of the department of English aim to nurture creativity and inspire innovation. This magazine is no doubt a consolidated effort of the students and teachers of the department together but the teachers are here to support and encourage them. So, the hard work is done by the students. I also could like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Alumni of our department for their continuous support and encouragement.

Congratulations to the editorial board on the successful completion of this magazine. If the students are feeling motivated after the completion of this magazine and a smile of confidence are spreading on their face, then our real aim is fulfilled.

> Priyanka Sarmah HOD

Few words from the Alumni ...

At the very outset, I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to the Pragjyotish College family. I feel honoured and proud to be the part of this great famliy, which is known as Department of English, Pragjyotish College. I extend my warm regards to my department, which has immensely helped me to be a better person.



The journey throughout my graduation at Pragjyotish College has been a very interesting and full of bittersweet memories. Choosing the Department of English was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Here, I gained friendship and experiences which added a different perspective to my life, that I will carry on forever. It feels great to be taught by the amazing teachers who are the best in their respective fields. They always motivated and encouraged me to face risks and learn new things. During my graduation, Priyanka ma'am, Avijit sir and the other members of the department helped me to get into a lot of new things and supported me throughout.

Being one of the editors of the first edition of the E-magazine, Literatia, I feel very proud to know that the current students of the department are trying very hard to maintain the legacy of the prosperous E-magazine. Also, I congratulate the current editorial board for their efforts and their innovative ideas they have put forward for this project and other activities related to the department.

Once again, I thank you all for helping me to gather all the support, love and many beautiful memories; and making those past three years I have spent in this department extraordinary and unforgettable. I wish the Department of English always keep motivating students and encouraging them to do different things along with the studies.

Madan Mohan Borah Master of Business Administration, Dibrugarh University, Certified Fitness Trainer

Few words from the Alumni ...

I would like to extend my gratitude to the English department family and warm regards to my departmental teachers who have shaped me into a better person.

For some students, college is just college, you attend classes, graduate and then you begin your adult life. I don't think many students have ever stopped to think about how much of an impact their college has made to them, but I have and I can honestly say that I would be not where I



am today without my college and for that, I owe a huge thank you to my teachers who have pushed me to work harder. I had enjoyed my college life to the fullest and had some of the best college days of my life in this college. Being a student of one of the most reputed colleges of Gauhati University, that is, Pragjyotish College, I was fortunate enough to be able to join the English department and completed my degree with distinction marks but this would not have been possible without my teachers who were constantly my support system within those three years. The memories and friendship I made within those three years will forever be in my heart.

Today I am immensely proud that I was a member of the e-magazine and my juniors are doing a great job to maintain the legacy of the e-magazine of the department. Hope the current editorial board keep up with their efforts making the e-magazine successful and make the department proud with their work.

Sangeeta Laskar Master of Arts in Social Work, Gauhati University

Few words from the Editor

"Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree"

- Ezra Pound

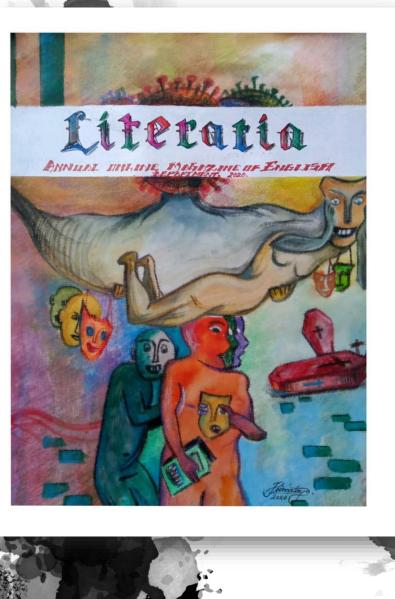
Welcome to the September edition of our E-magazine, Literatia. It gives me great pleasure to deliver our second E-magazine to you all. Our English department has come up with the innovative and unique idea of creating an e-magazine for both students and teachers to read and enjoy.

I am grateful to my teachers for their guidance, as well as the editorial members who assisted and worked with me throughout the magazine's composition. This would not have been accomplished without them.

A special word of thanks goes out to Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta, our college's principal, for supporting this admirable endeavor and believing in us.

I wish the editorial team success and I hope that I was able to make the magazine the best it could be possible.

PIZUSH KALITA Editor





Release of the First Edition of LITERATIA on 11 November, 2020





Postcard

Dear Mariam,
I'm sending you a button of my cotton shirt,
And a pinecone; that I colored blue.
I also colored my room, last autumn.
Your shawl, ruined by barbed wires; can I, have it?
It reminds me of the blue veins on your left wrist....

Last winter, I peeled a callow orange
And stretched my palm to the sun,
To make the orange a little ripe, a little sweet.
Leaning back on the chair, you put your feet on my lap.
You caressed the cuffs of your kurta on my nose,
The ittar from Srinagar, I remember the smell.

Boot stomps on your wooden door,
They can't smell the tender grass on your feet.
I remember when your fists turned into flowers.
And you swallowed a whole cloud.
There is a place on the back of your knee,
Where I kissed long before the dawn...

Tell me, do you still eat men like air?
They asked me to write down your address on the envelope,
But I wrote a poem instead

Joydeep Narayan Deb Alumna Master of Arts in Sociology, IGNOU Writer/ Journalist at Asomiya Pratidin Contributing Editor at Pratidin Time

Words or Dandelions?

My words wrench my heart twists and turns for it to bleed I grab it; Put it safe and locked.

My heart been captive confined to their rhythm Drop a pen, and they haunt me as phantom. In dark I write of dandelions, Their seeds adrift away from home, And in day I drag them under a shelter, together.

A chaos of course
But do I have anything to lose?
My bruises are concealed under the daylight
Just as dandelion seeds are home after midnight.

I see them
as my words, drifting apart in sunshine or
moonlight
they wrench me, in silence to bleed my heart.
I suffer eloquently
for my words to make way
but I write silences
that I could never say.

Neha Yadav Alumna Master of Arts in English, Gauhati University Model



A small fence

With the decay of "my bare nickel store box"

Here comes the end of a day

End of a sunset

End of a revolution

Darkness seeping through the holes of my tent

I see my mother whirling the wheel

To cloth me with the "Bihuwaan" the day I leave

Leave my tent

Leave my comrades

Leave my spirit

Where will I go???

Where is Home??

Where is the balance?

What I seek is an unjustifiable statement

A statement inciting a paradox between the playful words of nationalism and revolutionary

If every nickel counts, count them as a stained morsel of utter declaration

Declaring war against war

Minds against minds

Hearts against hearts

I have been buried till now

Near the sal tree under which Nalini wrote poems

Nalini, my bosom friend

A collector of treasures - collecting news articles, prints, papercuts, land evacuation notices...

No, he was not an immigrant

He was a man who read Bezbaruah and harboured Lenin

Who listened to Bhupen Da and recited Neruda

His wild boar stories were popular in our greeny abode

One day, a trembling voice said to me, "Brother, I have died with a Kalashnikov on my mouth..through which I uttered the famous Che's UN speech..sang your favourite "Xunor Axom Gorhim"...

I'm no more but I'm here

I'm THERE

We used to walk long trails for freshwater

Our commander probably hated us for our derogatory remarks against Atul, a frantic with an unbearable fragrance of country liquor

He claims he will die for plucking flowers

The commander says, he likes him among the herd of distraught recruits He laughs at Atul's limping when he sees Ranga-

the violent beast who bullied recruits to gouge fear out of them

A man ingrained with brutal punctuality; he punches the trees cursing the deep jungle

At nights, he would write letters to his beloved - a widow named Simuni, who lived in a small bordering town between India and Bhutan Her husband was a village thief who got killed in a dispute Her only son disowned her, she lives alone in a small cottage Wait!

Where was I?

Time is a little lethargic out here
I think I have to wait a few hours more
Until... Godot comes
To justify and give validation to my sacrifice
Please play "Ogni Jugor Firingoti Moi" while
I'm waiting...

Pritam Patowary

Alumna

Script- writer and Director (A Leap Short, Requiring for Hope)

The day I felt, I'm one of them

Autumn day, birds chirping, the leaves were cuddling themselves, And the wind whistles softly, as if it wanted to whisper something in my ear.

I was sitting next to a chinar tree,
And I felt a leaf fall on my lap.
I picked the leaf up,
And certainly, got lost in my feelings.
As it is known for its spreading crown
it changes its deep green leaves to blood red, amber, and yellow,
As the life of a man changes its maturity to the funeral.

Journey of a man is full of obstacles, like trees in inclement weather,
And later it wraps the burial ground with the leaves fallen.
As the relatives hugs the family on the funeral of their patriarch....
And suddenly, my phone rang!

Rahul Das B.A. 3rd Semester

Mother Nature

Blissfully I wander alone
By the shore late at night.
In solitude, I close my eyes
Feeling the serenity of the mother nature,
Where the owls hooting by the tree beside
The kans dancing along the rhythm of wind,
In the company of moon and stars
The fireflies being witness,
As a part of its symphony
Making my withered lips more lively
Wavering my heart once again
Which was closed forever and a day panoramic view
Enchanted by its beauty and in an awe, I acknowledge,
And admire its devise
Which captivated me before I knew

Poornima Basumatary B.A. 1st Semester

Some Hopes



Why are we sad? Why are we worried? Why are we in such a hurry? I know, I know we are humans.

And we can't control our emotions.

But still, we should try.

What will happen if we didn't get what we want. I am sure buddy; God will give us something better to flaunt.

Till then,

Be strong, be tough and do the hard work that no one can.

And one day you will be successful.

Karishma Dubey B.A.1st Semester

How The Internet Ruined Everything (Or Did It?)

Fake news is the latest culprit in the continuing saga of "How the Internet Ruined Everything". Here's how the story goes: a mix of cynical political operators and business opportunists have blanketed the internet, and social networks in particular, with wholly manufactured news stories and publications. It's hard to argue with the narrative, which has now been backed up with interviews by fake news producers, and with data on the spread of fake new stories. In answer to the big question this narrative raise—what now? —Jeff Jarvis and John Bothrick have written a terrific piece outlining some specific ways to combat fake news. Yet we are unlikely to prevail in this battle if we treat the problem of fake news as a creature of the internet—or, for that matter, as a problem unto itself. Fake news is part of a larger problem of "click journalism": media that focuses on getting online click-throughs, or on "clicking" with our preconceived bias.

Click journalism has plenty of precedents in the history of mass media, and particularly, in the history of American journalism. That history includes a period of journalism so disreputable that it coined a term: "yellow journalism." As described by Joseph Patrick McKerns in his 1976 History of American Journalism:

The yellow journalism of the 1890s and tabloid journalism of the 1920s and the 1930s stigmatized the press as a profit-motivated purveyor of cheap thrills and vicarious experiences. To its many critics, it seemed as though the press was using the freedom from regulation it enjoyed under the First Amendment to make money instead of using it to fulfil its vital role as an independent source of information in a democracy. The Commission on Freedom of the Press, chaired by Robert M. Hutchins, issued a report in 1947, "A Free and Responsible Press" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1947) which urged the press to be "socially responsible."

Thomas Arthur Gullason enumerates the features of yellow journalism as a dependence on "the familiar aspects of sensationalism—crime news, scandal and gossip, divorces and sex, and stress upon the reporting of disasters and sports"; "the lavish use of pictures, many of them without significance, inviting the abuses

of picture-stealing and 'faked' pictures;" and "impostures and frauds of various kinds, such as 'faked' interviews and stories."

In her 1910 critique of the newspaper industry, Frances Fenton quoted President Theodore Roosevelt's own accusation that contemporary newspapers "habitually and continually and as a matter of business practice every form of mendacity known to man, from the suppression of the truth and the suggestion of the false to the lie direct." Both at the time and in retrospect, critics of yellow journalism saw its sensationalism and dishonesty as a business strategy. Some writers have not hesitated to indict the entire newspaper business or profession-on such charges as deliberate suppression of certain kinds of news, distortion of news actually published, studied unfairness toward certain classes, political organizations and social movements, systematic catering to powerful groups of advertisers, brazen and vicious "faking," and reckless disregard of decency, proportion and taste for the sake of increased profits.

That profit motive was even cited as a driver of "The Spanish-American War", which by many accounts was fed by yellow journalism, and in particular, by the way the New York Press covered the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine in the port of Havana. Louis A. Pérez, himself part of the scholarly movement to question this tidy historical narrative, quotes a typical argument, made by Joseph E. Wisan in 1934: "the Spanish-American War would not have occurred had not the appearance of Hearst in New York journalism precipitated a bitter battle for newspaper circulation."

History is being made by an unscrupulous press, driven to sensationalize stories and fabricate facts in a quest for eyeballs and revenue. But it's not a straight line from the yellow journalism of a century ago to the fake news of today's internet, unless you want to skip over a bunch of decades in

which we had some expectation of the news being actually true. Both the waxing and waning of yellow journalism offer important insights into the problem of fake news as it exists today. First and foremost, we have to stop seeing this as a technology story: lousy, irresponsible media not only predates the internet, but it predates the printing press. The internet may have made fake news a bigger problem, and it has certainly made it a more complicated problem to tackle, but there is a longstanding tension between a public interest in conscientious reporting and private interests in salacious headlines and easy

profits. Just as important, we have to stop seeing this as a fake news story. While early twentieth-century media critics invariably cited outright fabrication as part of the yellow journalism phenomenon, they recognized that fake news was only part of a larger problem of sensationalistic hesadlines, intrusive reporting, and journalism that placed sales over accuracy.

We can feel superior for fact-checking what we share, and recognizing the difference between a true and a false headline. But we're not going to conquer the problem of fake news unless we reject the much broader set of stories, news sources, and websites in which they are situated: the ever-growing slice of online, print, and broadcast media that feeds us celebrity gossip and listicles in place of actual content.

Just as with the demise of yellow journalism, each of us has a role to play in shaping the relative profitability of quality journalism and the click journalism with which fake news is profoundly entangled. As long as we give our time, our money and our clicks to unreputable sites, fake news will continue to thrive. Or we can read, share and support the news and commentary produced by responsible media outlets, and see click journalism wither away, just as yellow journalism did a century ago.

Ishan Talukdar
Alumna
Diploma in Hotel Management
Master of Arts in Mass Communication, Cotton University
GN Manager, The Oberoi Hotel, Bangaluru

The Dead River

The Bharalu River originates in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya. It bifurcates into two rivulets: the Basistha River, which flows towards Deepor Beel, and the Bahini River, which flows via the heart of Guwahati City through densely populated residential, industrial, and commercial areas and joins the Brahmaputra at Bharalumukh. The river was once considered healthy as it provided pure water and varieties of fresh fish to the people residing on its bank. With time it has become "nallah" or "sewerage" because of rapid, unplanned, and haphazard developmental activities and urbanization processes on its bank. The river is filled with masses of rubbish, including plastic bottles, bags, and other plastic items. It carries a huge amount of city waste, including sewage, which turned it into natural drainage. The scenario of floods during the monsoon has gone from bad to worse due to the absence of separate sewerage systems and inefficient garbage management. The disposal of waste in the river harms not only the river but also the residents of the city, due to which artificial floods can be seen in areas like Anil Nagar. The State Pollution Control Board has marked Bharalu as one of the most polluted rivers stretches in the country. Moreover, the pollution level at Bharalu is regarded as one of the primary sources of contamination affecting the overall quality of Brahmaputra's water. Water pollution poses a serious threat to the environment as well as lives. The unchecked discharge of sewage and domestic waste into the rivers is a major cause of river pollution. We must try our best to improve the current situation of Bharalu.

Jasminara Begum Alumna

Master of Arts in Mass Communication, Journalism and Media Studies, Cotton University

WHY MEN CAN'T EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS?

I know there was something wrong when I was young, as none of my male friends could express their feelings to someone as it was labelled as girly act. WHY? I knew there was something wrong when I heard – "Daughters are more to be loving and caring", all of this made me realize at an early age that 'PATRIARCHY' isn't just affecting women but also affecting men and also creating a wrong message for the upcoming generation.

Society has made us conditioned ourselves to believe that men can never be weak. It was taught men to prove their "manliness" at times because a man who isn't masculine enough is apparently a Failure. It has been taught men should not be emotional, they have to be physically strong, aggressive, and competitive; but cannot be emotional. It has also been taught to man to avoid their feelings which result in men being less sensitive. It may not be a big issue but once we grow up, one can imagine how harmful all of it can be to men; since emotions are all natural! This eventually results a man being all arrogant, rude, less sensitive, and creating all kinds of mentality which might be a reason why sometimes a man becomes more insensitive to opposite gender.

Our masculinity is defined by how strong our muscles are and our tears become the sign of our weakness. People have made up a society where a man is encouraged not to show his feelings. No one can understand how hard it is to hide our feelings without expressing them when we want to do so. It has also been said that man is more emotional than women; they just hide it in a proper way. If someone teaches a child at an early age not to cry or if he is silenced when he cries, you cannot expect that child to understand you.

Yes, we men get depressed too. There are many men who were molested or abused; there are also a lot who are victims of domestic violence, and lots of activities are going on where man is being trolled down by women. But very few came in open to talk about it, we don't even share with our friends out of fear of being judged. According to research it has been claimed that 90% of men are more depressed around the world then women. But it doesn't mean women don't suffer depression. Then why do men suffer from it the most?

At a very young age we are taught to be PROTECTOR and PROVIDER. We are loaded with responsibilities and are taught to be tough and to support our family. We are TRAINED at an early age that we have to be financially independent at any cost...! It is been also claimed that suicide ratio of men is more than that of women. People confine; Instead of fighting back, he chooses to die! But no one noticed what he'd been carrying inside him since he was a child. So, I guess it would be better to let someone express than to see another one hanging.

Pizush Kalita B.A. 5th Semester

IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH

The English language came to India with the Britishers, who came as traders but stayed to rule the country. The foundation of the study of English in India was laid by the English Education Act of 1935, which followed the famous Minuet by Lord Macaulay in the same year.

In British India, English was the language of administration, a compulsory subject at colleges and schools and a medium of instruction for some subjects at the school and for all the subjects at the university level.

Nowadays, if we want to climb the social ladder, we must have the knowledge of English. English exercises a great influence on the educated classes of the country. In today's world, the importance of English cannot be denied and ignored, as it is the most common language spoken everywhere. The massive means of communication, English gives us a new way of thinking about the world.

Nowadays, English readership is also increasing. In these days of information technology, one can't think of making progress without knowledge of English. If we want to explore the world, we can only do so in English.

Abantika Mahanta B.A. 1st Semester

RISE OF E-COMMERCE

The onset of covid-19 pandemic from the year 2020, kept people bounded to their homes, restricting their daily needs and supplies. Even after the relaxation of the covid-19 restrictions in the present date, people discovered a new approach to buy and sell items online. This online marketing, which includes shopping platforms like Amazon, Flipkart and Myntra, is are collectively known as e-commerce. E-commerce (or electronic commerce) is the buying and selling of goods and services, or transmitting data and funds through an electronic network, generally the internet. These business transactions occur either as business-to-business (B2B), business-to-consumer (B2C), consumer-to-consumer or consumer-to-business.

E-commerce is dependent on the Internet. Customers can search through an online platform to find the required goods or services via devices like smartphones and laptops. Once the order has been placed, the data regarding the order is communicated back and forth with the server host of the ecommerce platform. This data regarding the order is transferred to a central computer known as an order manager. Once this order has been confirmed, a merchant system like UPI, internet banking, Paytm etc. that manages payment information redirects the user for payment through their devices connected to the platform. This is to make sure that the customer funds and store inventory are sufficient for the order to be processed. After the order is validated, the order manager will notify the store's web server. It will display a message notifying the customer that their order has been successfully processed. The order manager will then send order data to the warehouse or concerned department, informing it about particular goods or services ordered by a customer. Finally, products may be shipped to a customer, or access to a service may be granted.

E-commerce has hugely benefitted the public because of the speed of access, the wide availability of goods and services, easy accessibility and international reach. E-commerce sites are available 24/7, enabling visitors to browse and shop at any time. Businesses can provide services internationally to any customer online, avoid the costs of running physical stores, such as rent, inventory and cashiers (but include warehouse and shipping costs), and provide personalized product recommendations based on a customer's history and previous searches.

However, there are certain disadvantages of e-commerce that include limited customer service, consumers not being able to verify a product physically prior to purchase and the wait time for product shipping. If customers have a question or issue in a physical store, they can see a clerk, cashier or store manager for help. In an e-commerce store, customer service can be limited often leading to dissatisfaction with the service. Images are provided for a product available, but it's different from experiencing the product directly, for instance, trying on a shirt or dress. Also, customers must wait for the product to be shipped to them. There are security concerns regarding hackers creating fake websites or scammers stealing bank details.

As the e-commerce sector has risen in recent years, many analysts, economists and consumers have debated whether the online market will soon make physical stores obsolete. But, reaching out to the global market would not have been possible without high expenses to set up offices abroad. Consumer behaviour is now shifting towards e-commerce portals, just like it shifted to malls over a decade ago.

Abhigyan Pegu B.A. 1st Semester

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

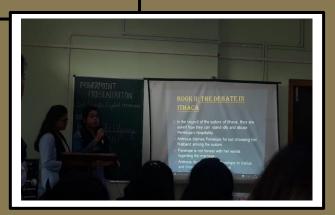
STUDENTS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME TO SONAPUR COLLEGE





A group of students from the Department of English visited Sonapur College for a student exchange programme.

ICT CLASSES



ICT ,an innovative classroom to learn about relationship between literature and computers.



HAJO ONGOING INTERNSHIP

An ongoing project carried out by the students of the department of English with the archeological department of India for the documentation of the historical aspects of Panchatirtha, Hajo.





OPEN AIR CLASS





Open Air Class, a new way of interesting classes away from the stereotypical teaching.

EXTENSION PROGRAMMES

PRAGATI PATHSHALA



A group of students from the English department, along with the teachers and our renowned principal, Mr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta, visited Pragati, a primary school in Santipur adopted by the Principal Office as part of our weekly Extension programme.



DONATION PROGRAMME AT RAILWAY SLUMS

In the dire situation of COVID-19, students of the English Department from Pragjyotish College seen distributing Clothes and daily Essentials to the people





OTHER DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES







ON 5TH JUNE, THE
DEPARTMENT ALSO
CELEBRATED ENVIRONMENT
DAY BY PLANTING
SAPLINGS ALL OVER THE
CAMPUS.



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES





The department has also been involved in many other activities that involve the students, which has allowed the department to strengthen their bond.





THE EDITORIAL TEAM

- Priyanka Sarmah (HOD, Advisor)
- Pinaz Mirza (Teacher in Charge)
- Pizush Kalita (Editor)
- Krishnakshi Patgiri
- Rahul Das
- Khushi Dwivedi
- Abhigyan Pegu
- Shreyas Jyoti Pathak