## **Introduction**

**Poetry** stands as the zenith of philosophical reflection. Our lives, along with all academic disciplines, are steeped in philosophy. Consequently, poetry and philosophy are not just ends in themselves but also vital instruments for comprehending everything else. This notion has spurred the college community to set up the "**Poetry and Philosophy Centre**" (**PPC**), with the following vision at its core:

#### **Concept Note:**

Poetry is the most precise and vibrant use of language. It encapsulates and generates meaning, refining and expanding it in ways that continually reveal new truths and perspectives. In this process, poetry preserves and rejuvenates the essence of language, while preventing both individual and collective life from becoming emotionally and intellectually stagnant. It is poetry that grounds us with its magical journeys inward and outward, touching and informing us in a fundamentally unique way. Hence, our humanity is deeply rooted in poetry.

**Philosophy**, conversely, articulates and elucidates what poetry conveys. Philosophy's uniqueness lies in its omnipresence, influencing the core of all subjects and disciplines, a quality not reciprocated by other fields. While poetry condenses and suggests, philosophy states and elaborates. Due to these differing natures, scientists often turn to philosophy later in their lives and careers, and to poetry even later.

With these ideas in mind, the centre will amass books and journals on poetry and philosophy. Beyond collecting texts, it will host academic lectures, seminars, and workshops in collaboration with other departments, cells, and institutions. The centre will also publish works regularly, especially poetry created by students and participants in these workshops and courses. This initiative will infuse the teaching and learning process with philosophical and poetic dimensions, adding clarity, breadth, and depth to the subjects studied and taught.

The centre will be coordinated by a rotating interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary committee and is expected to receive adequate support from the authorities through periodically increased funding.

A coordination committee has been established to ensure the effective functioning of the centre, as outlined below.

### **Inauguration of the Centre:**

The Centre embarked on its journey with a grand inauguration on November 30, 2016, an event marked by the distinguished presence of Dr. Basanta Kumar Bhattacharyya. Renowned as the former Head of the Department of Assamese at Nalbari College and celebrated as an eminent writer and critic, Dr. Bhattacharyya graced the occasion with his profound insights and eloquent speech. The day unfolded with an air of anticipation as attendees gathered to witness the formal unveiling of the Centre. The atmosphere was charged with intellectual excitement, akin to the calm before a storm of enlightening ideas. Dr. Bhattacharyya, a luminary in the literary world, took center stage and captivated the audience with his moving address.

Dr. Bhattacharyya's speech was a masterclass in the art of oration. With the ease of a seasoned raconteur, he delved into the intricate relationship between poetry and philosophy. His words flowed like a meandering river, drawing listeners into the depths of his reflections. He painted vivid pictures with his language, making complex concepts accessible and engaging. His eloquence turned abstract ideas into tangible experiences, resonating deeply with all who were present. He began by exploring the essence of poetry, describing it as the soul's expression, a mirror reflecting the deepest recesses of human emotion and thought. Poetry, in his view, was not merely a form of artistic expression but a profound dialogue between the self and the universe. It was through poetry that the ineffable found voice, and the mundane was elevated to the sublime. Transitioning seamlessly, Dr. Bhattacharyya wove in the threads of philosophy, likening it to the guiding star that navigates the human spirit through the labyrinth of existence. Philosophy, he asserted, provides the framework within which poetry thrives. It is the philosophical underpinnings that lend poetry its depth and gravitas, allowing it to transcend time and space. He illustrated his points with references to both classical and contemporary works, drawing parallels that highlighted the enduring nature of this relationship. His analysis was not just academic but imbued with a genuine passion for the subject. He spoke of the transformative power of poetry and philosophy, how they challenge perceptions, provoke thought, and inspire change.

The audience, a mix of scholars, students, and literary enthusiasts, hung on his every word. There was a palpable sense of connection, as if each listener was partaking in a shared journey of discovery. Dr. Bhattacharyya's address was more than just a speech; it was an invitation to explore the boundless horizons of the human mind and spirit.

As he concluded, Dr. Bhattacharyya emphasized the Centre's role in fostering such intellectual pursuits. He envisioned it as a haven for thinkers, a crucible for creative and philosophical inquiry. His words were a clarion call to embrace the richness of poetic and philosophical thought, to cultivate an environment where ideas could flourish and inspire.

The inauguration of the Centre, with Dr. Bhattacharyya's inspiring address, set a lofty precedent. It was a fitting beginning for an institution dedicated to the exploration of literature and philosophy. The event left an indelible mark on all who attended, instilling a sense of purpose and a commitment to the Centre's mission.

#### **Committee for Poetry and Philosophy Centre [2016-17]:**



Dr. Dipak Goswami, Principal **Patron** 



Mrs. Gitima Buzar Baruah **Co-ordinator** 



Mrs. Kaberi Dutta



Mrs. Pranita Barman

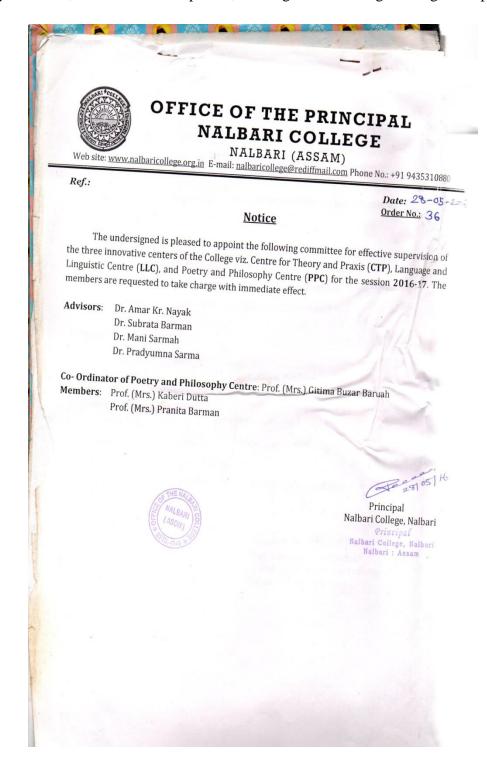
Members

# **Activities:**

1. A collection of poetry and philosophy books valued at over Rs. 50,000/- has been acquired for the Centre's Library.



2. The Centre organized a *Carnival of Poetry* on March 6, 2017, in collaboration with the Students' Union of the College. Numerous local poets, including several alumni and faculty members, recited their own poems, creating an enchanting evening atmosphere.



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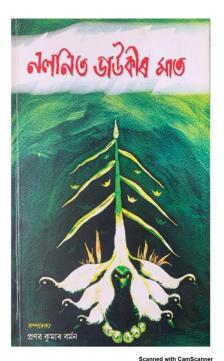


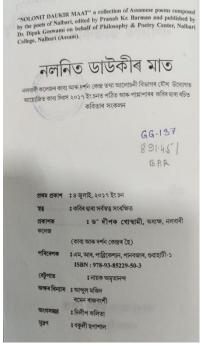




3. An Academic Talk is organized by the Centre in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy on 3 April 2017. The Former Head of the Department, Prof. Usha Goswami delivers the talk: "Change of Philosophical Thought in the Context of Indian Philosophy.

4. A compendium of poems, showcasing pieces read by local poets at the earlier mentioned event along with select works from the greater Nalbari area, was published and unveiled on July 4, 2017, coinciding with the Foundation Day of the College. Entitled "Nalanit Daukir Mat" and curated by the prominent young voice of Assamese poetry, Pranab Kumar Barman, the anthology was ceremoniously released by the illustrious Assamese poet Anubhab Tulasi (Prof. Dimbeswar Saikia).





5. In collaboration with Natun Sahitya Parisad, Nalbari Branch, a seminar was organized on August 30, 2017, to honor the progressive poet and critic, the late Prof. Bhabananda Dutta, the founding Head of the Department of Philosophy at Nalbari College. Additionally, a new committee was formed to oversee the Centre's activities for the 2017-18 year.