

Meeting with VCs, college principals



Sabha president Dr. Kuladhar Saikia along with university VCs and college principals

Sabha's president Dr Kuladhar Saikia, vice president Smti Mrinalini Devi, general secretary Jadab Chandra Sharma and some senior officials met a batch of academicians comprising university vice chancellors and college principals at Radhagobinda Barua Hall in Guwahati office on December 8, 2021. Proceedings began with welcome address by general secretary Sharma and then explaining the purpose of assembly by Dr Balendra Kumar Das, the convenor of Jatiya Vidyayatanik Paramarsha Kosh of the Sabha.

It was followed by president Dr Saikia's opening speech in which he laid stress on the role of vice chancellors and principals in continuing developmental activities in the field of language, literature and culture. He said that the obstacles in such activities should be addressed properly and for this purpose a common effort is very much necessary. Dr Saikia appealed to all the heads of the educational institutions present at the meeting to contribute to the Sabha's digital archive from their own respective resources so that the archive becomes a huge stock of invaluable books of Assam in digitised format. Sabha, with best possible efforts, is trying to be responsive to the changes caused to the mindset of the readers by means of advanced sciences and technology, said Dr Saikia adding that at a time when Assam Government has taken such a step to eliminate Assamese language from the course of the Assam Public Service Commission, the leading educational institutions must join hands to stop this onslaught.

The meeting was attended by Dr Dipak Kumar Sharma (VC, Kumar Bhaskarverma University of Sanskrit and Ancient Studies), Dr Alak Kumar Burhagohain (former VC, Dibrugarh University), Dr Satyendra Nath Barman (principal, B Barua College and general secretary, Assam College Principals' Council), Dr Bishwajit Bhuyan (professor, Nagaon College and president, Assam College Teachers' Association), Dr Homeshwar Kalita (principal, Guwahati Commerce College), Dr Manoj Kumar Mahanta (principal, Pragjyotish College) and Dr Hrishikesh Barua (principal, K C Das Commerce College), and all of them assured of positive response to any move by the Sabha for protection, preservation and wider circulation of Assamese language, literature and culture.

Of the opinions put forward by the guest participants, mention may be made of Dr Dipak Kumar Sharma's comments on significance of the Central Government's New Education Policy in which stress was laid on Sanskrit-based Indian knowledge, role of translation, preservation of ancient manuscripts and *sachipaat*, imparting training on language-literature to the university students engaged in internship, Dr Alak Kumar Burhagohain's suggestion to make more effective the Sabha's book digitisation programme, to translate Dr Bhupen Hazarika's literary creations into English, to take up schemes to extensive study and research on phonetic distinction of local languages and others.