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The Assam Tribune

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM **GUWAHATI** & **DIBRUGARH**

Pages 20 Price: ₹ 9.00

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

8 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

TU prepares bill to protect local gamosa weavers

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, May 1: In order to safeguard the interests of the local weavers or *sipinis* of Assam through the Intellectual Property Management, Tezpur University presented the draft 'Assam Gamosa Heritage (Protection) Bill 2023' to Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Minister of Handloom, Textiles & Sericulture, Govt of Assam, at the Secretariat Complex in a meeting held at the conference hall of the ministry recently.

The draft bill is an outcome of the University Grants Commission (UGC)-funded project titled 'Reviving cultural artefact *gamosa* through Intellectual Property Management in Assam and innovative supply chain' under the Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE), Tezpur University.



The objective of the bill is to create an Act through the Parliament to revive *gamosa* in a manner that would safeguard the economic as well as intellectual property rights of weavers (*sipinis*) and create a conducive environment for a regional innovation system on the basis of the geographical indication (GI) tag that has already been granted.

Dr Mridul Dutta, coordinator of the project, presented four areas of intervention: documentation of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions of *gamosa* institutions; establishing a standard operating procedure for *gosain kapur*, *thapona kapur*, *bihuwan*, *dora boron* and *tiyoni* as enlisted in GI for *gamosa* of Assam; implement block chain solutions to ascertain client supply chain integrity and restrict design infringement.

A fruitful discussion was held for initiating review of the document. Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Dilip Kumar Borah, secretary, Ministry of Handloom Textiles & Sericulture; PK Mahanta, director, Department of Handloom & Textiles; Dr Jaideep Baruah, director, ASTEC; Dr Jayanta Deva Sarma, deputy director, Department of Handloom & Textiles; Akhtar Fun Ali Bora, retired judge and chairperson, Legislation Drafting Committee; Dr Biren Das, registrar, Tezpur University; Dr Smita Barua Deka, principal, Tezpur Law College, and G Sarkar, former deputy director, Handloom & Textiles, Assam, took part in the discussion. Brahma appreciated the endeavour of Tezpur University and directed the handloom and textiles department to pursue the matter.