# **Gonit Sora: The Two Year Journey**

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Gonit Sora (http://gonitsora.com) is a multilingual website devoted to publishing articles related to mathematics for the students of North Eastern India. The website completed two years on April 20, 2013. This article discusses the website, its goals and future objectives.

#### 1. Introduction

The seed of the idea of a magazine devoted to students in Assam of India appealed to the first author (PJM), but due to various financial and administrative troubles it could not germinate properly. It was then that the two of us got together and decided to form an online magazine to cater to the students. In that way it would not be restrictive to a particular geographic location and can have both flexibility and greater reach. Thus on April 21, 2011 Gonit Sora (http://gonitsora.com) was launched with a few articles in English and Assamese and with just a team of two. Now after a span of two years, we have a very good and hardworking team of enthusiastic students and teachers and we post almost 10 articles on a variety of topics each month. At the time of writing the total number of articles published in the website is about 292.

To properly introduce the website, Gonit Sora is a multilingual website devoted to publishing good and original articles related to mathematics in general. But we are not restrictive in the article selection and almost everything that is connected with mathematics gets featured on the website. Many famous mathematicians have given interviews for the website and we also provide career counselling through our interactive comments on the website from time to time. Thus, Gonit Sora is not restrictive in its approach, and the fact that the team consists of students and lovers of mathematics have the added advantage of us being dynamic in our approach and open to experimentation. The enormous amount of support that we receive every month (more than 400,000 hits) only makes our goals and commitment stronger.

#### 2. Goals and Activities

From the time of its inception there has been a fixed set of goals for the website which can be surmised below

- To cater to the student community by posting relevant articles in all branches of mathematics,
- To focus on the human side of the subject which is almost always lost in the traditional classroom approach to teaching,
- iii. Create an online repository of mathematical articles and facts, which can be accessed free of cost by anyone willing to do so,
- iv. Digitise the regional mathematical content in India in a form that is suitable for the web,
- v. Organise workshops and outreach activities for school students to make them see the beauty and joy of doing mathematics, and
- vi. To create a platform for students and teachers alike to discuss ideas.

In this regard, we have come a long way since we started out. Below we mention a few of the activities that we are engaged in

- i. Posting articles every week on a topic related to mathematics,
- ii. Posting interviews with mathematicians like Bruce C Berndt, Terence Tao, S R S Varadhan, R Sujatha, etc. to motivate the study of the subject in the young students,
- iii. Digitising the Assamese texts in mathematics whose copyrights are either in the public domain or expired,
- iv. Collaborated with the Assam Academy of Mathematics to digitise their enormous mathematical content in terms of articles and books,
- V. Organising and facilitating workshops for Olympiad outreach activities for the school students in the North Eastern part of India, and
- vi. Answering queries posted on the website for the students, teachers and parents regarding mathematics, its study and problems.

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#### 3. Collaborations

For the achievement of our goals we have also collaborated with various organisations from time to time. This two way collaboration is planned so that both the parties can mutually benefit from one another. Till now we have the following collaborations:

- i. Assam Academy of Mathematics (AAM): To digitise their entire collection of books and articles published in Assamese. Till now we have digitised 3 books and many articles published by the AAM in their biannual publication, *Ganit Bikash*. We have also collaborated with AAM to make their in house mathematics journal, Journal of the Assam Academy of Mathematics (ISSN 2229-3884) available online, and it will be up on our website very soon.
- ii. **Xobdo.org:** To make a glossary of mathematical terms in the Assamese language. Xobdo.org is an online dictionary and they have shared with us their database for this purpose.
- iii. Asia Pacific Mathematics Newsletter: To publish the articles of the newsletter in the web so that it can be better accessed by the students of the North-Eastern region of India.
- iv. Friends of Assam and Seven Sisters (FASS): To organise various workshops, seminars, etc with the help of FASS in various places of Assam.
- v. **Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 (MPE):** To popularise the efforts of MPE in India, we have been a magazine partner of MPE since last year.

In the future we are working on collaborations with various other organisations and individuals so that we can serve the young students and lovers of mathematics in a better way.

## 4. Future Objectives

Although we are two years old but still there are lots of things that we are yet to do. The future only holds enormous opportunities for us and we would strive hard to make the achievement of our goals a success. In the coming days we plan on doing the following

- i. Create a forum for the discussion and deliberation of mathematical ideas,
- ii. Create a mathematical chronological database.
- iii. Expand to other languages like Bengali and Hindi,
- iv. Organise workshops on specific topics of mathematics,
- v. Create an offline presence in terms of printed materials, and
- vi. Create a database of mathematical notes for college and university students.

## 5. Conclusion

It has been noticed by us and we have even been informed by several of the readers of how much

it has made an impact in the way they view mathematics. In the comments of the website, students from all over India ask questions to career related things and get prompt and correct responses from our experts. This has enabled many students across India to make a good and timely career choice. We have been posting the admission tests of various institutes and organisations in India and many students have been benefited by these. The articles in the website cater to a wide range of mathematical topics and hence it has also enabled school and college teachers to go beyond their classroom teaching and add excitement and enjoyment to the subject they teach. With encouraging comments and messages that we receive almost everyday we have been very happy to learn that our humble efforts have helped at least a few students of the country and maybe encourage a few others to take up mathematics as their career choice.

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