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Chief Minister's announcement during discussion on 'Drug-Free Assam' in the Assembly

"With the cooperation of the House, we can be even tougher against drug dealers"



Guwahati: Assuring that Assam Police and the Assam Government will be even tougher against drugs, drug trafficking, and drug dealers — which have now become a serious menace in the state — Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma sought the cooperation of the Assam Legislative Assembly in this regard. The Chief Minister gave this assurance during the discussion on the topic 'Drug-Free Assam' on the floor of the Assembly. He said that if the House continues to extend its cooperation, the police will also be able to do a very good job. It may

be mentioned that under Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Congress MLA Zakir Hussain Sikdar drew the Chief Minister's attention to the issue of 'Drug-Free Assam'. Along with MLA Sikdar, several MLAs from the ruling BJP as well as other parties participated in the discussion and gave various suggestions to the government. Responding to this, the Chief Minister said: "Assam Police and the government will be tougher against drug dealers, but the cooperation of the House *see page 8*

Continuity of Assam's Development The Role of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma in the Transformation of Education, Health, and Employment

■ Prakash Koirala



If Assam's development history is analyzed impartially, it becomes clear that this history was not created in a single day, during the tenure of a single government, or as a result of a single decision. Development is a continuous process, where one era lays the foundation and another era strengthens that foundation and takes it to new heights.

After independence, the Congress governments laid the foundation of modern Assam's education, health, and administrative systems. On the other hand, after 2016, especially under the leadership of Sarbananda Sonowal and Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, a new chapter of rapid expansion, modernization, and employment generation began on that foundation.

Education Sector: From Foundation to Expansion

Among the institutions that played a revolutionary role in Assam's education sector after independence, Gauhati University is one of the foremost. Established in 1948, this university opened new doors for higher education in Assam. Following this, *see page 10*

Assam eyes stronger Japan ties in semiconductors, clean energy after India-Japan Summit



New Delhi : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the state is keen to play a greater role in

deepening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, with a focus on semiconductors, clean energy and Japanese language training. In a post on X, Sarma said he met Japanese Ambassador to India, Ono Keiichi, at his official residence in the national capital, where the envoy hosted him for Cha-no-yu, the traditional Japanese tea ceremony. "I am grateful to H.E. Mr. Ono Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, for hosting me at his residence in New Delhi for Cha-no-yu, the traditional *see page 10*

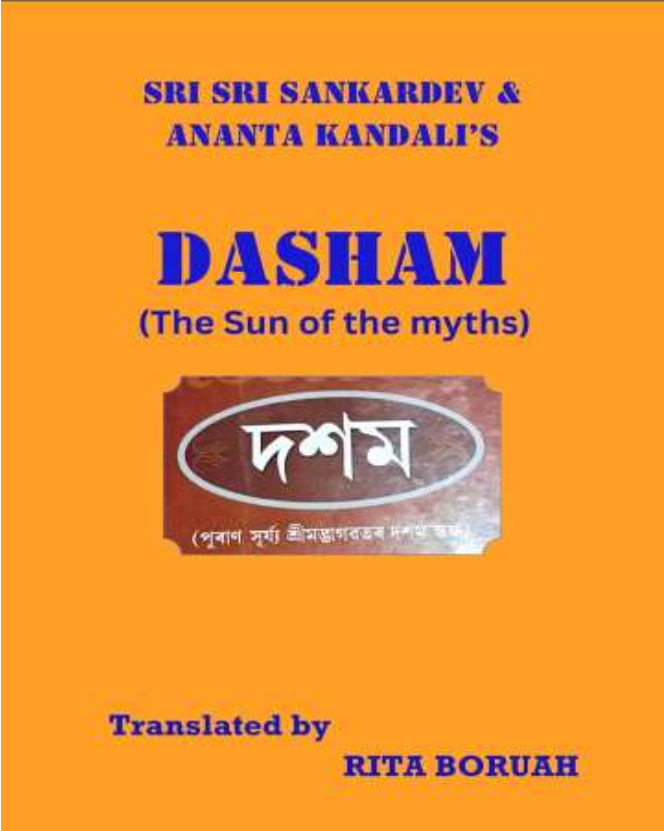
Produced by Pride East Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

A complete family film full of laughter-tears, suspense-romance and conflict 'Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2'

Ramen Bhorali, Bansor : Every journey begins with a dream. In 2010, Pride East Entertainment started a mission with the aim of collecting the stories rooted in our land, our people, and our culture, and contributing to the development of Assamese cinema. The fruits of that resolve are films like Ramdhenu, Porichoy, Bokul Ful and *see page 2*



Srimadvagawata, Dasham,
Canto the tenth.
Pada
(an Assamese metre)
Chapter -40



Hari ,like a fire stuck in his throat
Becoming senseless threw Him up, Bak Kansha's
friend, the evil spirit
Again ran in anger to attack Him.
Seeing it, Krishna rose instantly
Caught it by its beak promptly.
The children of the milk-men watched it with pleasure
Playfully torn it as if it was the leaves of vetiver.
Having seen it,the gods were very pleased
They showered flowers upon Krishna's head.
They played conch shell and prayed
To see it the milk men's children wondered.
All embraced Krishna and laughed in pleasure,
So as getting life,improves body's pleasure.
Taking the herd of calves
All came back to Braja
And explained the killing of Baka,in details.
Hearing it,the milkmen were very strange
Today,Nanda's son was born after death.
Standing around Krishna they looked at Him repeat-
edly
As if their eyes drank nectar with a mood of jolly.
The others said, oh what a marvellous it is
The child has faced endless plight of death,indeed.
The demons come to be envious to such a Being
And embrace death themselves like an insect in a fire,
pitifully.
The sage Garga said the truth,
Like Narayana, this child has virtues.
By this way the the milk-men and the maids
Talked of Krishna beyond knowing the sorrows of the
world.
By this way Rama-Krishna played incessantly
They entered six by
Crossing five instantly.

■ Rita Boruah
99545-94823

Certificate Distribution Ceremony
Under PM Shree Gaonwe Gaonwe
Jog Maha Abhijan in Kamrup



Prabin Kr Das, Sualkuchi: Under the initiative of PM Shree Gaonwe Gaonwe Jog Maha Abhijan, an 11-day integrated yoga training programme was organised in Kamrup district. The valedictory programme was held on Monday at the Conference Hall of the Integrated DC Office, Amingaon, where the District Commissioner, Kamrup, Deba Kumar Mishra, presented certificates of appreciation to the trainers in recognition of their contribution to the successful conduct of the programme. He subsequently distributed certificates to the participants who successfully com-

pleted the training. Addressing the gathering, the District Commissioner highlighted the growing acceptance of yoga across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He informed the gathering that the initiative was launched by the Governor of Assam, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, on June 21, 2026, at Gandhi Ashram, Sualkuchi. Referring to the historical significance of the venue, he noted that Mahatma Gandhi had visited the renowned silk weaving town on January 9, 1946, making it a fitting location for the launch of the initiative. The District

Commissioner urged schools and colleges to actively promote awareness about the benefits of yoga among students and the wider community. He expressed hope that more yoga centres would be established across the district in the future, enabling greater public participation in the practice. He also encouraged the trainees to carry forward the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme to every village, stating that their journey from the training centre to "Gaonwe Gaonwe" marks the beginning of a larger movement to make yoga accessible to all. "The programme was also attended by Additional District Commissioner (Health) Monika Borgohain; CM&HO; District Nodal Officer, AYUSH Mission; DPM (NHM) and other concerned officials.

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'Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2'

now films like Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati 2. Pride East has always believed that Assamese cinema needs a big platform. Through these films, we are committed to providing a platform to our talents and taking the Assamese film industry to the audience. Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2 is the next chapter of that positive journey. Enriched with a heart-touching story that celebrates family, relationships, traditions and the values that bind us together, Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2. Come, enjoy Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2 with your family and loved ones, and become a part of the continuous effort to take Assamese cinema to new heights. A complete family film full of laughter-tears, suspense-romance and conflict, 'Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2' had its grand release in theatres on 3rd July, resonating with thousands of viewers across the state. On the very first day of its release, thousands of appreciative viewers across the state watched the film in every show and were moved. Produced by Pride East Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2, the sequel to Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati of 43 years ago, left audiences in every theatre in the state emotional and nostalgic. Viewers enjoyed the new film which revived the 1980s film Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati with a fresh touch, and unanimously praised the efforts of Pride East Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. Audiences in every theatre in the state, after watching Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2 — a film that can be enjoyed with family and loved by every generation — commented that the shooting, acting, and action of the film were very good. Every viewer said that the film was good and that the expectation with which they came to watch it has been fulfilled. Viewers in many theatres also said that Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2 is one of the best Assamese films that can be watched with family. Some viewers called Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2 a beautiful gift to the people of Assam, and describing the film as realistic and very beautiful, urged the people of Assam to come and watch it. Commenting that the film has a blend of novelty, some viewers described it as a film that can compete with South Indian cinema. They said that due to beautiful direction, acting, and collective effort, the film is enjoyable and everyone should come to watch it. It can be mentioned that Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati-2 — which makes one nostalgic with an emotional journey and can be embraced by every generation — is an emotional bond in search of roots that has grown strong on the foundation of the old. This new film brings the fragrance of novelty on the foundation of the old story, along with the tune and emotion of evergreen songs. The memory of Brikodar from the 1980s Kokaideuota Nati Aru Hati has been presented in a new form in the new film. The evergreen song 'Ek Dui Tini Saari' featured in the film was performed in the 80s with child artist Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the current Chief Minister, in the role.

Artist Parameswar Deka: Painting a Life of Humility and Purpose

■ Heramba Nath

(A compelling account of Artist Parameswar Deka's inspiring journey—from humble beginnings to becoming one of Assam's respected portrait artists and dedicated art educators—whose extraordinary talent, unwavering humility, and selfless service continue to enrich the cultural heritage of the state and inspire future generations.)

In every generation, there are artists whose work transcends aesthetic appeal to reflect the emotions, values, and aspirations of society. Parameswar Deka is one such artist. Through his remarkable gift for portraiture, his quiet dedication to artistic excellence, and his unwavering commitment to nurturing young talent, he has established himself as one of Assam's respected contemporary artists. His journey is not defined by fame or self-promotion but by perseverance, humility, discipline, and an enduring desire to contribute to society through the transformative power of art.

Born on 2 April 1990 in the village of Paikana in Kamrup district, Assam, Parameswar Deka was raised in a modest family where honesty, hard work, humility, and simplicity formed the



foundation of everyday life. His father, Dayaram Deka, earns his livelihood through farming, while his mother, Kanchan Deka, has devoted her life to caring for the family with love and dedication. Growing up amidst the serene landscapes of rural Assam, he developed a deep appreciation for nature, culture, and the quiet beauty of ordinary life. These



early experiences nurtured his sensitivity, sharpened his powers of observation, and gradually laid the foundation for his artistic vision. From an early age, Parameswar displayed an unusual fascination with drawing. What began as a childhood pastime gradually evolved into a lifelong passion. Armed with little more than paper, pencils, and boundless imagination, he spent countless hours sketching the people, surroundings, and scenes that captured his attention. Long before receiving formal guidance, his natural curiosity and determination enabled him to cultivate the discipline that would later distinguish his artistic career.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Parameswar entered public service and currently serves as a Block Coordinator (Contractual) under Poshan Abhiyaan, the flagship nutrition mission of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. While carrying out his official responsibilities with sincerity, efficiency, and dedication, he has never allowed professional commitments to diminish his devotion to art. Instead, he has successfully balanced the demands of public service with an active and productive artistic life, demonstrating exceptional discipline, commitment, and time management.

For Parameswar, art has never been merely a hobby or recreational pursuit. It is a profound means of expressing emotions, preserving memories, celebrating remarkable personalities, and communicating ideas that words alone often fail to convey. Every

portrait he creates reflects not only technical precision but also emotional depth and genuine respect for the individual portrayed. Through his work, he strives to capture not merely physical likeness but also the unique character, dignity, and inner spirit of each subject.

Since 2015, Parameswar Deka has created more than 600 portraits, an achievement that speaks volumes about his dedication, consistency, and artistic productivity. His portraits have earned widespread appreciation for their realism, meticulous detailing, expressive quality, and striking resemblance to their subjects. Whether depicting eminent personalities, cultural icons, or ordinary individuals, each artwork demonstrates his keen observation, patient craftsmanship, and unwavering pursuit of excellence.

His artistic growth has been guided not only by persistent self-practice but also by a strong commitment to continuous learning. Recognising that every artist must remain a lifelong student, he has actively participated in numerous art workshops held in Guwahati and neighbouring areas. These workshops provided valuable opportunities to learn from experienced artists, exchange ideas with fellow practitioners, and refine his techniques through constructive interaction. Such experiences have broadened his creative outlook while strengthening both his technical skills and artistic confidence.

Over the years, Parameswar has steadily developed a distinctive reputation as a portrait artist whose works combine realism with emotional sensitivity. His ability to portray subtle facial expressions, delicate tonal variations, and lifelike features has earned admiration from art lovers and fellow artists alike. Each completed portrait bears testimony to his patience, concentration, and unwavering commitment to achieving artistic perfection. Rather than rushing to complete a work, he approaches every canvas with thoughtful preparation and meticulous care, believing that genuine art deserves both time and wholehearted dedication.

What distinguishes Parameswar Deka from many contemporary artists is his conviction that art should extend beyond



Parameswar Deka

personal achievement and serve a meaningful social purpose. He firmly believes that artistic talent carries a responsibility to inspire society, honour those who have contributed to humanity, and encourage positive public discourse. Guided by this philosophy, he has consistently used his creative abilities not only to produce beautiful works of art but also to communicate messages that promote appreciation, gratitude, and social awareness.

One notable example of this commitment was his initiative supporting the #BharatRatnaForRatanTata campaign. Through a series of carefully executed portraits of Ratan Tata, he expressed profound admiration for the industrialist and philanthropist whose vision, integrity, and humanitarian contributions have inspired millions across India. Likewise, he actively participated in the #JusticeForZubeenGarg campaign by producing several portraits of the celebrated Assamese singer Zubeen Garg. These artistic initiatives demonstrate his belief that art possesses the unique ability to unite people, express public sentiment, and contribute constructively to important social conversations.

Through years of unwavering dedication, disciplined practice, and sincere commitment to artistic excellence, Parameswar Deka has gradually earned the respect and admiration of students, fellow artists, and art enthusiasts across Assam. Yet, despite his growing recognition and impressive body of work, he continues to remain firmly grounded in the values of humility, simplicity, and service that have guided him since childhood. These enduring qualities have become the true hallmark of both his life and his artistic journey.

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The Role of Art Education Teachers in Enhancing Pedagogical Competence, Artistic Appreciation, Creative Skills and Holistic Development among B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. Students in Assam



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Art education plays a significant role in shaping the intellectual, emotional, creative and pedagogical abilities of future teachers. In the contemporary educational framework, the integration of art education into teacher-training programmes such as Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.) has become highly essential for promoting innovative teaching-learning practices and holistic development. The present article examines the role of art education teachers in enhancing pedagogical competence, artistic

appreciation, creativity and interdisciplinary understanding among teacher trainees in Assam. The study also highlights the importance of art-integrated learning in developing communication skills, emotional sensitivity, cultural awareness and critical thinking among future educators. The findings suggest that art education contributes significantly towards creating inclusive, student-centred and activity-based educational environments in teacher-training institutions (Ushadevi, 2025).

Art education has emerged as an essential component of modern teacher education because it promotes creativity, imagination, innovation and emotional development among learners. In teacher training institutions, particularly B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. programmes, art education enables future teachers to integrate aesthetic understanding with pedagogical practices. In Assam, where cultural diversity, folk traditions and indigenous artistic practices form an integral part of social life, art education possesses special relevance in teacher preparation programmes (Eisner, 2002).

The integration of artistic activities into teaching-learning processes helps student teachers develop communication skills, visual literacy, critical thinking and classroom management abilities. According to Dr.

Sl. No.	Areas of Contribution	Educational Impact
1	Creative Skill Development	Encourages imagination, originality and innovation
2	Pedagogical Enhancement	Promotes activity-based and learner-centred teaching
3	Artistic Appreciation	Develops aesthetic sensitivity and cultural awareness
4	Emotional Development	Enhances empathy, confidence and self-expression
5	Holistic Development	Supports intellectual, social and moral growth

Major Roles of Art Education Teachers

Ushadevi I U (2025), art-integrated learning enhances language proficiency, cultural understanding and creative engagement among B.Ed. students (Ushadevi, 2025). Elliot W. Eisner also emphasized that art education strengthens reflective thinking and meaningful classroom experiences through aesthetic engagement (Eisner, 2002).

Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences further supports the importance of art education in teacher-training institutions, as artistic activities contribute to linguistic, spatial, interpersonal and intrapersonal development among learners (Gardner, 1993). Similarly, John Dewey viewed art as a meaningful educational experience capable of connecting emotion, creativity and practical learning within society (Dewey, 1934).

Art-integrated education encourages experiential learning and interdisciplinary teaching methods. Teacher trainees engaged in artistic practices become more capable of designing innovative classroom activities and learner-centred pedagogical approaches. Such educational practices help student teachers develop communication and presentation skills, enhance imagination and creativity, improve emotional intelligence and empathy, and promote cultural understanding and aesthetic awareness. Art-based educational activities also strengthen self-confidence, self-

expression and reflective thinking among teacher trainees. These qualities are essential for future educators who are expected to create inclusive, interactive and student-friendly classrooms in contemporary educational settings (Tagore, 1917).

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also emphasizes art integration, experiential learning and multidisciplinary approaches as important dimensions of holistic education and teacher preparation (Government of India, 2020). Art-integrated learning therefore acts as an effective pedagogical tool for developing professional competence and innovative teaching abilities among B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. students.

Art education teachers play a transformative role in shaping the personality and professional competence of B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. students. Their responsibilities extend beyond classroom instruction and include the development of creative, emotional, cultural and pedagogical competencies among future teachers. Rabindranath Tagore strongly advocated the integration of art, music and creativity into education for the balanced development of personality and human values (Tagore, 1917).

Art education teachers encourage learners to participate actively in painting, craftwork, dramatization, music, storytelling and cultural activities. These practices help student teachers understand

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Author and Artist Dr. Aditi Deka Pathak with the trainees inspiring future educators through creativity, strong teaching skills and innovative learning practices for brighter classrooms and a better future

El Niño and India's Agricultural Crisis

■ **Lalit Nath**
Itakhola, Sonitpur

The southwest monsoon is the lifeblood of India's rural landscape and economy. It drives nearly 70% of the country's annual rainfall. Yet, as June 2026 draws to a close, the skies remain stubbornly clear and the anticipated rains are nowhere to be seen. This severe dry spell sends a chilling signal across India's agricultural heartland. Behind this erratic weather behavior lies a familiar global culprit, the warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, a phenomenon known as El Niño. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) have already sounded the alarm, confirming that a powerful 'Super El Niño' has consolidated its grip this year, threatening both food security and rural stability.

According to the latest IMD data, El Niño has severely sluggished the monsoon's progress, leading to an alarming 43% national rainfall deficit as of late June. This acute water scarcity strikes at the worst possible time, directly disrupting the sowing and transplantation cycle of crucial Kharif crops, including paddy, maize, cotton, pulses and oilseeds. In response, the Ministry of Agriculture has placed between 200 and 315 districts under close monitoring for drought-like conditions, with 111 of these districts entirely lacking sustainable irrigation infrastructure. Historical precedents offer a grim warning, reports from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) reveal that during the intense El Niño cycles of 2015–16 and 2023–24, India's rice production plunged by roughly 7%—a loss of nearly 3.4 million tonnes. Agricultural scientists fear that the 2026 cycle might replicate this bitter experience, severely crippling the yields of pulses and oilseeds alongside staples.

While Northeast India, particularly Assam, is traditionally synonymous with heavy rainfall and devastating summer floods, the 2026 El Niño has turned regional climate logic on its head. The global weather anomaly has left this riverine landscape uncharacteristically parched. A recent report by the Union Ministry of Water Resources highlights a startling statistic, in April 2026, the water storage capacity across natural water bodies and wetlands

in Assam and Eastern India plummeted to a mere 37.64%, registering a 10% drop compared to the same period last year. This hydrological deficit is now fracturing the backbone of Assam's rural economy, the Sali paddy cultivation. June is typically a month of frantic activity where farmers tend to their nurseries and begin transplantation, but the unprecedented heat and missing rains have left nursery beds baked and cracked. With groundwater tables receding rapidly, traditional shallow tube wells are failing to pump water, leaving thousands of hectares of fertile land from Lower to Upper Assam resembling arid wastes.

In states like Assam, where rural society and cultural fabric—including the celebration of seasonal festivals like Bihu—are intrinsically tied to the agricultural calendar, a crop failure is never just an agronomic issue. It directly erodes rural purchasing power, dampening the wider consumer economy and triggering a slump in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector, automobile sales and tractor markets. Furthermore, shrinking river volumes have crippled inland fisheries, stunted local vegetable cultivation and dried up grazing pastures for livestock. Combined with the stress on the region's iconic tea industry, small and marginal farmers are seeing their alternative avenues of income evaporate. On a macro-scale, this rural distress invariably triggers food inflation, which heavily weighs down the Consumer Price Index (CPI). When food prices spike, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is forced to keep interest rates elevated to curb inflation, making industrial credit expensive and slowing down overall economic growth. Simultaneously, the tinderbox conditions have sent temperatures soaring past 45°C in several regions, burning standing crops and severely reducing the productivity of agricultural laborers. As rivers dry up, hydropower generation has plummeted, even as extreme heat pushed national power demand past 240 GW. To meet this deficit, the government has had to rely heavily on coal-fired thermal plants—a defensive move that unfortunately accelerates the vicious cycle of carbon emissions and climate change. While the Central Government has activated district-level contingency plans, temporary firefighting measures will not suffice against a recurring global phenomenon. India needs a structural

rewrite of its agricultural policy through long-term, sustainable strategies. "To build genuine resilience, farmers in chronically water-stressed zones must be incentivized to transition away from water-intensive paddy toward climate-hardy alternatives like millets (jowar, bajra), maize and deep-rooted pulses. Alongside this, tech-driven extension services like the Grameen Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) must be modernized to deliver mandatory, localized and hyper-accurate weather alerts directly to farmers' mobile phones, enabling them to time their sowing scientifically. Precision water management, including micro-irrigation techniques such as drip and sprinkler systems, must be deployed at scale by accelerating the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) to ensure every drop of water counts. Finally, responsive

safety nets are critical; the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) must streamline its bureaucratic machinery to ensure that crop damage claims resulting from heatwaves or drought are assessed and paid out to farmers without delays. "The 2026 Super El Niño is not a passing seasonal crisis, it is a loud wake-up call. In this era of unchecked climate alteration, nature's unpredictable shifts are becoming our new baseline, meaning that clinging to outdated, water-profligate farming traditions is no longer an option. Transitioning to Climate-Resilient Agriculture is the only viable pathway to safeguard the food security of India's 1.4 billion people. Only a synchronised, deliberate effort by the state, agricultural scientists and the farming community can neutralise the heat of the Pacific and keep India's fields green. **Mobile : 99541-39493**

Certificate Distribution Ceremony Under PM Shree Gaonwe Gaonwe Jog Maha Abhijan in Kamrup

Pankaj Nath : Under the initiative of PM Shree Gaonwe Gaonwe Jog Maha Abhijan, an 11-day integrated yoga training programme was organised in



Kamrup district, Assam . The valedictory programme was held on Monday at the Conference Hall of the Integrated DC Office, Amingaon, where the District Commissioner, Kamrup, Deba Kumar Mishra, presented certificates of appreciation to the trainers in recognition of their contribution to the successful conduct of the programme. He subsequently distributed certificates to the participants who successfully completed the training. Addressing the gathering, the District Commissioner highlighted the growing acceptance of yoga across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He informed the gathering that the initiative was launched by the Governor of Assam, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, on June 21, 2026, at Gandhi Ashram, Sualkuchi. Referring to the historical significance of the venue, he noted that Mahatma Gandhi had visited the renowned silk weaving town on January 9, 1946, making it a fitting location for the launch of the initiative. The District Commissioner urged schools and colleges to actively promote awareness about the benefits of yoga among students and the wider community. He expressed hope that more yoga centres would be established across the district in the future, enabling greater public participation in the practice. He also encouraged the trainees to carry forward the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme to every village, stating that their journey from the training centre to "Gaonwe Gaonwe" marks the beginning of a larger movement to make yoga accessible to all. The programme was also attended by Additional District Commissioner (Health) Monika Borgohain; CM&HO (CD); District Nodal Officer, AYUSH Mission; DPM (NHM) and other concerned officials.

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Artist Parameswar Deka: Painting a Life of Humility

One of the most remarkable aspects of Parameswar Deka's life is his unwavering commitment to art education. He firmly believes that artistic knowledge acquires its greatest value when it is shared with others. Guided by this philosophy, he has devoted a significant part of his life to encouraging young learners to discover and develop their creative potential. "Every Sunday, he voluntarily conducts drawing and painting classes at Saraighat Art Society, founded by eminent artist and cartoonist Pradip Nath at Saraighat College. His service is driven not by financial gain but by a sincere desire to nurture the next generation of artists. For him, teaching is much more than demonstrating artistic techniques; it is an opportunity to cultivate imagination, patience, discipline, observation, and self-confidence among young minds.

As an art teacher, Parameswar is admired for his patience, humility, and approachable nature. He understands that every student possesses unique abilities and learns at a different pace. Rather than encouraging imitation, he inspires each learner to develop an individual artistic identity. Through constructive guidance, thoughtful encouragement, and personal attention, he helps students overcome self-doubt and gain confidence in their own creative abilities.

Many of his students have gradually refined their artistic skills under his careful mentorship. More importantly, they have learned to appreciate art as a lifelong journey of observation, imagination, dedication, and continuous learning. To them, Parameswar Deka is not merely an instructor but a mentor, motivator, and constant source of inspiration whose influence extends well beyond the classroom.

His commitment to artistic excellence is matched by an equally admirable strength of character. Those who know him personally often describe him as a gentle, soft-spoken, courteous, and compassionate individual. Despite receiving widespread appreciation for his artwork, he has remained remarkably humble and grounded. He neither seeks publicity nor measures success by public recognition. Instead, he allows the quality of his work and the sincerity of his actions to speak for themselves.

Friends, colleagues, students, and admirers frequently remark upon his calm temperament and respectful behaviour. He values harmony over conflict, cooperation over competition, and mutual respect over personal recognition. He consciously avoids unnecessary controversies and believes that genuine achievement is built through consistent effort, ethical

conduct, and unwavering dedication rather than through self-promotion.

Another defining quality of Parameswar Deka is his willingness to support and encourage fellow artists. He believes that art flourishes best in an atmosphere of mutual appreciation, collaboration, and shared learning. Whether interacting with experienced artists or beginners taking their first steps into the creative world, he readily offers guidance, encouragement, and sincere appreciation. His generosity of spirit has earned him the affection and respect of many within Assam's artistic community.

Many who have closely observed his work believe that Parameswar possesses an exceptional artistic gift. While years of disciplined practice, continuous learning, and unwavering perseverance have undoubtedly refined his abilities, his remarkable capacity to capture lifelike expressions, subtle emotions, and intricate details is widely admired. His portraits are appreciated not only for their technical precision but also for the emotional depth and human warmth they convey.

Every painting created by Parameswar Deka reflects his keen artistic vision, meticulous craftsmanship, and profound emotional sensitivity. Whether portraying distinguished personalities, the natural beauty of Assam, or the simple emotions of everyday life, his works possess a distinctive character that resonates with viewers. His paintings are not merely visual representations; they are thoughtful expressions of memory, culture, emotion, and human experience. Through colours, light, texture, and composition, he transforms ordinary subjects into enduring artistic expressions.

His artistic philosophy is rooted in the belief that creativity carries both privilege and responsibility. He regards art as a powerful medium capable of preserving history, celebrating culture, inspiring society, and strengthening human relationships. For him, every completed artwork represents not only an individual accomplishment but also a meaningful contribution to the cultural life of the community.

In an age when self-promotion often dominates public life, Parameswar Deka has quietly chosen a different path. His disciplined lifestyle, unwavering dedication, and sincere commitment to both art and society have earned him a distinctive place in Assam's cultural landscape. His life demonstrates that lasting respect is achieved not through loud acclaim but through integrity, perseverance, humility, and selfless service.

His growing popularity among

students, art enthusiasts, and admirers reflects the sincerity with which he approaches both his profession and his passion. He has never regarded art simply as a means of personal achievement but as a noble calling capable of enriching lives, preserving cultural heritage, and inspiring future generations. Every canvas he completes stands as a testament to patience, discipline, creativity, and an enduring love for artistic excellence.

The life and artistic journey of Parameswar Deka stand as a remarkable example of how talent, perseverance, discipline, and humility can shape a meaningful and purposeful life. From the quiet surroundings of a rural village to becoming one of Assam's respected portrait artists and dedicated art educators, his journey reflects the enduring truth that genuine success is achieved through consistent effort, continuous learning, and an unwavering commitment to one's ideals.

His contribution extends far beyond the impressive number of portraits he has created. Through every work of art, he seeks to preserve memories, honour remarkable individuals, celebrate cultural heritage, and inspire others to appreciate the beauty and significance of artistic expression. His paintings are admired not only for their realism and technical excellence but also for the sincerity, emotion, and humanity they convey. Each completed portrait represents a harmonious blend of artistic skill, patient craftsmanship, and heartfelt dedication.

Equally significant is his contribution as an art teacher and mentor. By generously sharing his knowledge and experience, he has encouraged numerous young learners to discover their own creative abilities and pursue artistic excellence with confidence. His guidance has helped many students understand that art is not merely a subject to be studied but a lifelong discipline that nurtures observation, imagination, patience, creativity, and self-expression. Through his teaching, his influence continues to extend well beyond his own artistic achievements.

Parameswar Deka's personality is as inspiring as his artistic accomplishments. His humility, simplicity, courteous nature, and deep respect for others have earned him admiration from students, fellow artists, colleagues, and members of the wider community. Despite receiving appreciation for his work, he has remained firmly grounded, believing that sincerity, integrity, and dedication are the true measures of success. His conduct serves as a reminder that genuine greatness is often expressed through quiet service rather than

public acclaim.

His life also illustrates the harmonious balance between professional responsibility and personal passion. While faithfully discharging his duties as a public servant, he has continued to devote himself to artistic creation and art education with remarkable consistency. His ability to balance these responsibilities reflects exceptional discipline, commitment, and a deep sense of purpose, offering an inspiring example to young people who aspire to pursue their dreams alongside their professional obligations.

As Assam continues to celebrate its rich artistic and cultural traditions, dedicated individuals such as Parameswar Deka play an invaluable role in preserving and enriching that heritage. Through his portraits, educational activities, and sincere commitment to society, he has made a meaningful contribution to the cultural life of the state. His work reminds us that art possesses the power to preserve history, strengthen cultural identity, inspire compassion, and build meaningful connections between people.

There is every reason to believe that Parameswar Deka's contribution to the world of art will continue to grow in the years ahead. With his unwavering dedication to artistic excellence, continuous learning, and service to society, he is well placed to inspire future generations of artists while further enriching the cultural heritage of Assam. As his artistic journey continues to unfold, his works are likely to remain a lasting source of inspiration for art lovers, students, and admirers alike.

The story of Parameswar Deka is ultimately a story of quiet determination, unwavering commitment, and selfless service. It reminds us that true success is measured not solely by awards or recognition but by the positive influence one leaves upon others through talent, character, knowledge, and compassion. His journey demonstrates that humility and excellence can exist side by side and that genuine artistry lies not only in creating beautiful works but also in inspiring others to discover the beauty within themselves.

With every portrait he completes, every student he encourages, and every creative endeavour he undertakes, Parameswar Deka continues to strengthen his place in Assam's artistic landscape. His life remains an inspiring testament to the enduring power of creativity, discipline, perseverance, and humanity. As he continues this remarkable journey, his artistic legacy will undoubtedly endure, enriching Assamese art and culture while inspiring generations to come.

How to read English books

■ Dr Jintu Borah

Now there is less problem with getting English novels, or any books because of the availability of books in the online stores as well as in offline stores. In our college time we got very few English books in our place as it is far from the city. But now the situation is really improving because of online delivery. How to start reading an English book either fiction or nonfiction, is a problem for many. So here I am going to share my personal experience of reading an English book. There should be a desire to read an English book at first. Start reading with children illustrated books, maybe cartoons, stories or the like. With this one must have cultivated the habit of reading by reading a newspaper. The headline reading and the small article reading will help initially. One daily newspaper publishes daily. But the reader can read the good article any day thereafter. So one should keep the article which is well written to read it when enough time will be there to read it. Even the writer takes time or days to write an article. When we start to read a novel then we should read the back cover, preface, to know something of the novel or the book. Then slowly we should read. I took six months to read my first novel, Pearl S Buck's "The Good Earth." Although I could not understand the novel completely yet it helps me read more. My next novel to read was Earnest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms". This novel also took me a couple of months to complete. But this was easier to read than the earlier one. In this way, in the subsequent reading in 'The God of Small Things' and others I could enhance the

pace of reading. When we start reading a novel or non-fiction book then we should not check unknown words in a dictionary every time. It slows the pace of reading. What I usually do is that if I get an unknown word frequently I write in a notebook and after finishing the reading time uninterruptedly till I get distracted, I check the word in my free time when I don't sit for reading. We should have many reading materials. I used to take different types of journals and newspapers in my student life. As I earned by taking tuition I don't think much of spending some money on buying more than two or three newspapers when I like to read. I take 'Wisdom' magazine, 'Outlook', 'India Today', 'The Competition Success', 'The Frontline', newspaper like 'The Assam Tribune', 'The Sentinel', 'The Hindu', 'The Telegraph', 'The Hindustan times', 'The Employment News' and many inspiring books of Shiv Khera, Dale Carenegi and the like writer. As a student of English literature in B.A and M.A. I have studied a fair amount of English books with Indian authors like Dr. Rghukul Tilak, Ramji Lal and others' interpretations. So I have formed the habit of reading. But in grown up life when we have to earn and the earning is not sound I get less time and even when I get time I spend it by watching TV and recently by indulging in social media for unawarely. So I decided to spend a small amount of time reading a book every day along with my other work and writing. I do not only read in English, but I read in Assamese also. So, I hope those who have not taken the venture of reading a book should start to read. And those who want to read an English book and finds difficulty in reading, for them this article may be helpful.

DU PG Students' Union Vice President Madhurya Chetia Arrested

M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : A sensational incident has rocked the historic Dibrugarh University. Police have arrested Madhurya Chetia, the Vice President of the Post-graduate Students' Union (PGSU), on allegations of collecting lakhs of rupees from students by promising to secure admission seats in the B.Ed. programme. The incident has sparked widespread outrage not only within the university campus but across the state. The controversy surrounding B.Ed. admissions at D U has once again raised serious questions about the transparency and credibility of the education system. According to allega-

tions, before the B.Ed. entrance examination, a racket had demanded between Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 1.5 lakh from aspiring candidates by promising guaranteed admission seats at the university and its affiliated institutions. It has also been alleged that the group had already collected amounts ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 70,000 from several students through both online and offline modes of payment. The matter came to light after a few vigilant university students conducted a discreet inquiry into the allegations and informed the university authorities. Following this, the university administration lodged a formal



complaint with the police. Acting on the FIR, the police launched an investigation and detained the Vice President of the DU Post-graduate Students' Union (PGSU), Madhurya Chetia. Preliminary police investigations suggest that the case may not involve just one student leader, but rather a larger organised network.

Tezpur's Blood Warrior and Social Worker Saurabh Jain Felicitated

Special Honour by Akhil Bharatiya Marwari Mahila Sammelan, Tezpur Branch



Chandan Sarma, Tezpur : Tezpur-based social worker Saurabh Jain, who has been dedicatedly serving the cause of humanity, nation-building, and voluntary blood donation for several years, was specially felicitated at a dignified ceremony organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Marwari Mahila Sammelan, Tezpur Branch. The organisation highly appreciated his selfless service, social leadership, and remarkable contribution to the voluntary blood donation movement. According to the organisation, Saurabh Jain has been actively associated with voluntary blood donation services since 2011. Over the years, he has played a significant role in arranging timely blood support for more than 16,000 needy patients. At present, he serves as the President of Defenders and Defenders for Blood, where he is actively connecting thousands of voluntary blood donors with this humanitarian mission while promoting awareness about blood donation across society. The organisation also stated that blood donation camps conducted under his guidance and support have consistently achieved remarkable success. The organisation described Saurabh Jain's four voluntary blood donations during the past year as a source of inspiration for society. According to the organisers, his selfless commitment extends far beyond donating blood; it reflects his dedication to saving human lives and serving the nation. He believes that true national service is not confined to the country's borders alone but is also reflected in the commitment to protecting the lives of those in need. After receiving the honour, Saurabh Jain expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Akhil Bharatiya Marwari Mahila Sammelan, Tezpur Branch for their constant encouragement and support. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue working with the organisation to strengthen blood donation awareness campaigns and inspire more people to join this noble humanitarian movement. He also reiterated that ensuring no patient's treatment suffers due to a shortage of blood remains one of his foremost life missions. The ceremony was also attended by Pinakish Bhuyan, Vice President of Defenders and Defenders for Blood. The President, office-bearers, and members of the organisation praised Saurabh Jain's selfless service, social commitment, and dedication towards the welfare of society and the nation, and extended their best wishes for his future endeavours.

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The Role of Art Education Teachers in

learner psychology, classroom diversity and innovative teaching strategies. Moreover, art educators help future teachers integrate local culture and indigenous artistic traditions into classroom teaching, thereby strengthening culturally responsive pedagogy in Assam.

Art education creates opportunities for teacher trainees to appreciate visual arts, music, drama, dance and folk traditions. In Assam, traditional art forms such as Bihu dance, mask-making, pottery, weaving and folk music can effectively be incorporated into teacher education programmes. Such practices help future teachers understand local culture and use culturally responsive pedagogy in classrooms (Ushadevi, 2025).

Creative activities including painting, poster-making, storytelling, dramatization and craftwork develop originality, imagination and problem-solving abilities among teacher trainees. According to the study conducted by Ushadevi (2025), visual and art-based activities significantly improved expressive communication, classroom engagement and creative participation among B.Ed. students (Ushadevi, 2025). Patton and Buffington also observed that evolving standards and technological integration in art education have strengthened innovation and student-centred learning practices in teacher education (Patton & Buffington, 2016).

Holistic development refers to the balanced growth of intellectual, emotional, social, physical and ethical dimensions of personality. Art education contributes significantly towards this multidimensional development. Teacher trainees participating in art-based educational activities become more cooperative, reflective and emotionally balanced. Art also promotes stress management, social interaction, ethical sensitivity and democratic participation.

Collaborative artistic projects help student teachers learn teamwork, leadership and communication skills. Sabol (2021) highlighted that art education creates adaptive, emotionally responsive and creative learning environments even during challenging educational circumstances (Sabol, 2021). Burke (2020) further observed that creative arts education encourages flexibility, innovation and active learner engagement in teacher education programmes (Burke, 2020).

The interdisciplinary nature of art education further supports inclusive education and accommodates diverse learning needs in classrooms. Consequently,

art education strengthens the pedagogical competence and social responsibility of future teachers in Assam.

Despite its importance, art education in teacher-training institutions of Assam faces several challenges. Many institutions suffer from a lack of trained art education teachers and insufficient infrastructural facilities. Limited use of art-integrated pedagogy, inadequate financial support, scarcity of teaching materials and less emphasis on practical artistic activities also affect the quality of teacher education programmes.

Additionally, many institutions continue to emphasize examination-oriented teaching methods rather than experiential and creative learning approaches. Addressing these challenges requires institutional support, educational policy implementation and professional training programmes for educators.

For strengthening art education in B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. institutions of Assam, several constructive measures may be adopted systematically. Art-integrated pedagogy should be incorporated meaningfully into teacher-training curricula so that future teachers can utilize creative and activity-based teaching methods effectively in classrooms. Teacher-training institutions should organize workshops, exhibitions, cultural programmes, art festivals and interdisciplinary activities regularly to encourage practical learning experiences and artistic engagement among students.

Indigenous art forms of Assam such as Bihu dance, traditional music, mask-making, pottery, weaving and folk theatre should be integrated into teacher education programmes to preserve local cultural heritage and promote culturally responsive pedagogy. Adequate infrastructural facilities, teaching materials, art laboratories and financial support should also be provided for conducting practical artistic activities successfully. Furthermore, professional development programmes, orientation courses and training workshops should be organized periodically for art education teachers to enhance their pedagogical skills, technological competence and innovative teaching practices in accordance with contemporary educational needs.

Art education is not merely an aesthetic discipline but an important educational tool for enhancing pedagogical competence, creativity and holistic development among future teachers. In the context of Assam, art education possesses immense potential to connect teacher education with cultural heritage,

innovation and learner-centred pedagogical practices.

The role of art education teachers is therefore highly significant in preparing competent, creative and socially responsible educators capable of meeting the demands of contemporary classrooms. Strengthening art education in B.Ed. and D.El.Ed. institutions can contribute meaningfully towards quality teacher education, cultural awareness and holistic educational transformation in Assam.

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"With the cooperation of the

must always be there.” Recalling the steps taken in the first term of his tenure as Chief Minister and referring to the criticism in the Assembly regarding police strictness, the Chief Minister said: “We had a discussion on drugs here and everyone has assured cooperation. I will certainly welcome that. The last time, when we took charge for the first time, we did a lot of good work. But whenever, for some reason, the police had to take strict action against drug dealers, there was a lot of criticism in the Assembly. No one does it intentionally, but if, for some reason, there is an encounter, or if someone gets shot in the leg, then a lot of protests were made from this House itself last time.” The Chief Minister also mentioned why the police have to be strict with drug dealers: “Drug dealers also have firearms and they even try to shoot at the police. Then if, for some reason, the police take action, I have seen that last time we even had to go to the Supreme Court and go through a lot of processes to prove ourselves. That is why I think the House should keep one thing in mind — after telling the police to be strict, I cannot say ‘be strict’ and then also say ‘but don’t react if someone tries to shoot you’ — that cannot happen.” Referring to those who say that everything should be done within the law, the Chief Minister added: “The law works with those who understand the law and fear it. When someone does not fear the law and tries to kill the police, then the police also have to take ‘action’. That is why I think that if the police ever have to take firm action, the House should appreciate it, understand it, and even ‘scrutinize’ every incident if needed. If we continue to get the cooperation of the House, the police will be able to do a very good job. If this positivity is maintained, the government will be able to do a lot of good work,” the Chief Minister said.

Dibrugarh District Primary Teachers' Association Holds Its 51st Biennial Conference

Minister Rameswar Teli Participates



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : The 51st Biennial Conference of the Dibrugarh District Primary Teachers' Association was successfully held on July 3 at the auditorium of Uttar Jaloni Primary School in Duliajan under the hospitality of the Tengakhat Branch Primary Teachers' Association. The event was conducted with a colourful and elaborate programme. The proceedings began in the morning with a cleanliness drive. Renowned environmentalist Dr. Nabin Baruah planted saplings within the school premises as part of the programme. The district association's flag was hoisted by its President, Bhadrasen Sonowal, while office-bearers of all eight branch units under the district association simultaneously hoisted their respective branch flags. The memorial tribute programme was attended by the President of the State Primary Teachers' Association, Nilakshi Gogoi. During the programme, all teachers, educators, and individuals associated with the district association who had passed away since its inception were remembered with respect. District General Secretary Pankaj Bora also paid floral tributes to the portraits of deceased eminent artists. The delegates' session, which began at 11:00 a.m., was inaugurated by former President of the Tengakhat Branch Teachers' Association, Atul Chandra Gogoi. Pawan

Kumar Jha, an All India member, attended the session as the state observer. The open session commenced at 2:30 p.m. under the chairmanship of Bhadrasen Sonowal. The welcome address was delivered by the Reception Committee President, Iqbal Singh. District General Secretary Pankaj Bora introduced and felicitated the invited guests and distinguished speakers. The district association's official magazine, 'Gurubanti', was released by former General Secretary of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and social worker Shankar Jyoti Baruah. Speaking as a keynote speaker at the open session, District Planning Officer Dipak Borgohain addressed various issues related to education. The session was further enriched by the presence of Ratul Chandra Goswami, a prominent teachers' leader and Chief Secretary of the Assam State Primary Teachers' Association. In his address, Goswami strongly criticised the government's practice of engaging teachers in one non-academic duty after another, thereby preventing them from carrying out their teaching responsibilities. He stated that such actions, which in his view were aimed at weakening public educational institutions, would not be accepted under any circumstances. He urged the government to abandon any strategy to close public educational institutions and instead

formulate plans to strengthen and improve their quality. He also spoke on the overall development of education, students, and the teaching community. The event was further enlivened by a variety of cultural performances presented by students as well as teachers. Despite his busy official schedule, Assam Cabinet Minister Rameswar Teli attended the programme. He was welcomed onto the stage by the Reception Committee Secretary, Mridul Bora, and was warmly received on behalf of the district. Immediately after the open session concluded, the election meeting was held. During the meeting, Bhadrasen Sonowal was unanimously re-elected as President and Pankaj Bora as General Secretary for the 2026–2028 term without any contest. The newly elected office-bearers are: “Vice-Presidents Anjumani Bora Kachari, Nabin Bora, and Amulya Gogoi; Assistant Secretaries Manoj Bora, Mridul Kalita, and Rijumani Nath; State Members Jyoti Deori, Chitra Jyoti Das, and Rubul Das; Cultural Secretary Debal Saikia; Sports Secretary Kshirod Handique Education and Seminar Secretary Labhita Das; Women's Cell Member Pritilekha Das; Treasurer Jatindra Nath Bora; and Office Secretary Prabin Mising. With these office-bearers, a 17-member new district committee of the Dibrugarh District Primary Teachers' Association was constituted.

Research Scholar Hiranya Hazarika Receives Best Paper Presenter Award at National Conference

Chandan Sarma, Tezpur : Research Scholar Hiranya Hazarika has brought laurels through his academic achievement by receiving the Best Paper Presenter Award at the ICSSR-Sponsored National Conference titled “Transforming Northeast India Towards Viksit Bharat, 2047: Opportunities and Challenges”, organized by Assam down town University. His research paper, “Climate Change, Literature, and Collective Futures: An Ecocritical Engagement with Cli-Fi and Climate Change Narratives,” was widely appreciated for its insightful exploration of the intersections between climate change, literature, sustainability, and collective futures. Adding to this accomplishment, his full re-



search paper has also been published in the conference proceedings volume titled “Transforming Northeast India Towards Viksit Bharat: Opportunities and Challenges.” The publication marks a significant milestone in his academic journey and reflects his continued engagement with contemporary environmental and literary discourses. During a recent visit to Assam down town University, Hiranya Hazarika had the privilege of personally receiving the award certificate and the conference proceedings volume from Dr. Deetimali Nath. The occasion was particularly special as Dr. Nath had taught him during his undergraduate studies at Cotton University. Describing the reunion as both emotional and inspiring, Hazarika expressed his gratitude for her continued guidance, encouragement, and blessings. He also conveyed his sincere appreciation to Dr. Aditya Bhatta, Conference Convener and Faculty Member of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Assam down town University, for his visionary leadership and for creating a meaningful academic platform for scholars and researchers. Hazarika further acknowledged the unwavering support of Dr. Ranjan Jyoti Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Assam down town University, whom he described as a brother and constant source of encouragement throughout his academic journey. He also dedicated the achievement to his parents, family members, well-wishers, and especially his Ph.D. Supervisors, whose mentorship, guidance, and faith in his potential have played a pivotal role in shaping his growth as a researcher. According to Hazarika, every academic milestone is a collective achievement built upon the blessings of parents, the wisdom of teachers, the guidance of mentors, and the support of friends and well-wishers who continue to inspire and encourage the pursuit of knowledge.

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The Role of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma in the Transformation of

Dibrugarh University (1965) and Assam Agricultural University (1969) were established. These institutions laid the groundwork for Assam’s intellectual, agricultural, and research-based development.

However, in the 21st century, the need and scope of education have increased manifold. In this context, the Assam Government has emphasized the establishment of new universities and the decentralization of higher education. According to data from the Assam Higher Education Department, "Currently, there are more than 14 state universities in the state," and together with several private and central universities, a broad spectrum of higher education has emerged. Bhattadev University (2017), Madhabdev University (2017), Majuli University of Culture (2017), etc., have further expanded opportunities for higher education.

In the field of higher education, emphasis has been placed not only on numerical expansion but also on qualitative excellence simultaneously. According to a report in The Times of India dated 24 August 2025, the number of NAAC-accredited colleges in Assam was 104 in 2021; in 2025, it increased to 202. That is, an increase of about 94 percent in four years. This data shows that at present, equal importance is being given to improving quality in the education sector.

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma: A Bridge Between Two Eras

Any discussion on the development of Assam’s education and health sectors remains incomplete without mentioning the name of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. Because he has held important responsibilities in the education and health departments not only as the current Chief Minister but also during the Congress government.

As Health Minister during the Congress era, he emphasized upgrading district hospitals, strengthening maternal and child healthcare, and implementing central schemes in the health sector. Similarly, during his tenure in charge of the Education Department, various steps were taken for school infrastructure development, teacher recruitment, and expansion of educational opportunities.

After the formation of the BJP government in 2016, as Health and Finance Minister in Sarbananda Sonowal’s cabinet, Dr. Sarma emphasized the establishment of new medical colleges and the expansion of the health sector. The work of establishing medical colleges in places like Dhubri, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, and Kokrajhar progressed rapidly during this time.

After becoming Chief Minister in 2021, this momentum in the education and health sectors increased further. Steps such as the operationalization of AIIMS Guwahati, new medical colleges, increase in MBBS seats, establishment of nursing colleges, and development of higher education have given a new direction to Assam’s education and health sectors.

Therefore, in Assam’s development history, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma is seen not only as the current Chief Minister but also as an important bridge between the foundations of the Congress era and the present expansion. Various phases of his political life have consistently influenced the development of Assam’s education and health sectors.

With AIIMS Guwahati becoming operational, a new door of possibility has opened in

Assam’s healthcare. Nevertheless, from the perspective of public convenience, there is still scope for further development in some areas. Particularly, the limitation of many services after 2 PM, shortage of doctors and departmental staff, the need for fully functional blood banks, the need to make the OPD system more convenient, and making the appointment system more flexible rather than limiting it to specific hours — along with considering phased moves toward 24×7 services if possible — would greatly benefit ordinary patients.

Medical Education: A New Revolution

The most notable change in Assam’s health sector is seen in the field of medical education. In 2014, there were only 6 government medical colleges in the state. Many students had to go outside the state for medical education. But by 2025, the number of medical colleges in Assam increased to 14. Dhubri, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Kokrajhar, Tinsukia, and Pragjyotishpur Medical College are notable examples of this expansion.

According to data from the National Medical Commission (NMC), there were about 726 MBBS seats in Assam in 2014. In the 2025–26 academic year, this number is approaching 1,825. This increase is not just a matter of statistics; it is also an indicator of the increase in the number of Assam’s future doctors, health workers, and medical researchers.

Health Infrastructure: From Guwahati-Centric Healthcare to the Districts

At one time, people had to go to Guwahati or outside the state for advanced treatment. But in recent times, the expansion of health infrastructure has changed this picture. The operationalization of AIIMS Guwahati, the establishment of a cancer treatment network in collaboration with Tata Trusts, new nursing colleges, medical colleges, and the upgradation of district hospitals have improved the quality of healthcare.

Especially, the expansion of healthcare in areas like Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, and Nalbari has taken healthcare out of Guwahati-centricity.

Development and Employment: The Invisible but Important Dimension

When we discuss development, we usually talk about new buildings, universities, or hospitals. But the most important aspect of development is employment creation. A new university is not just an educational institution; it is an opportunity for new employment for professors, assistant professors, researchers, librarians, and administrative staff.

Similarly, a new medical college means new appointments for hundreds of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians, X-ray technicians, administrative officers, and support staff.

According to various recruitment notifications from the Assam Government’s Education and Health Departments, thousands of posts for teachers, doctors, nurses, and health workers have been filled in the last few years. In addition, many jobs have been indirectly created in private healthcare, the pharmaceutical industry, diagnostic centers, and the education sector.

Foundation and Momentum: An Impartial Assessment of History

In the interest of academic integrity, it must be acknowledged that many current developments are dependent on institutions built in the post-independence period. Without insti-

tutions like Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, or Assam Medical College, there would have been no foundation for the current expansion.

However, statistics show that after 2016, the pace of expansion in the education and health sectors has accelerated. This change is clear, especially in medical education, increase in MBBS seats, number of NAAC-accredited colleges, and health infrastructure.

Therefore, in historical judgment, it is logical to term the Congress era as the “Foundation Era” and the present time as the “Expansion and Delivery Era.”

Assam’s development history is not a matter of political competition; it is a story of continuous nation-building.

"In the discussion of the recent transformation of Assam’s education, health, and employment sectors, the name of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma is particularly noteworthy. As Education and Health Minister during the Congress government and now as Chief Minister, he has been closely associated with these sectors in two different phases. Therefore, in the recent chapter of Assam’s development, he can be evaluated not merely as a political leader, but as a policy-maker, implementer, and driving force of expansion."

The Congress era laid the basic foundation of the education and health sectors. On the other hand, in recent times, based on that foundation, new universities, medical colleges, health infrastructure, and employment opportunities have been created.

If we want to truly assess development in Assam today, we must seek the answer to the question — not just who started it, but who expanded it how much and how much benefit was delivered to the people.

Data and statistics show that Assam is moving forward on a path of new transformation in education, health, and employment.

Mobile : 88761-39358

Assam eyes stronger Japan ties in semi-conductors, clean energy after India-Japan Summit

Japanese tea ceremony," the Chief Minister wrote. ““Sarma said the two sides held a 'productive exchange' on emerging areas of co-operation and discussed the outcomes of the recently concluded India-Japan Summit, particularly the opportunities it offers Assam in semiconductor research, clean energy and Japanese language training. The Chief Minister said he reaffirmed Assam’s commitment to contributing meaningfully to the growing strategic partnership between India and Japan. The meeting comes amid expanding engagement between Assam and Japan across sectors such as industry, technology, skill development and infrastructure. The state has been actively seeking Japanese investments and technical collaboration, especially in high-technology manufacturing, renewable energy and human resource development, as part of its broader push to attract global investment.

New chapter for small tea farmers in Assam: Farmer registration drive begins from Bishwanath and Bihali



Pankaj Nath, : Piyush Hazarika, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Department, Government of Assam, on Friday formally launched the farmer registration of small tea growers in two separate programmes in Bishwanath district. The campaign is linked to the ongoing farmer registration portal across Assam, which now includes tea and plantation category land, so that small tea growers can get official farmer ID. The first programme started with a gathering held in the Bihali region, where Minister Piyush Hazarika addressed the small tea farmers present and explained how they will be directly connected to government schemes and facilities through farmer registration. On this occasion, District Agriculture Officer, local public representatives, former MLAs, dignitaries associated with plantation and agriculture sector and representatives of farmers' organizations were present. This platform formed the basis for the formal launch of the registration process for small tea growers under Bihali Assembly Constituency. The second major event took place at Kamalakanta Natya Samaj Auditorium in Bishwanath Chariali, where the Agriculture Minister

again addressed the small tea farmers and said that the state government has for the first time formally recognized small tea growers as farmers. He explained that through farmer registration, these producers will be able to get the benefits of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, crop insurance, subsidy on farm machinery, fertilizers and other agricultural related government facilities from a single platform. The Minister also appealed to all eligible small tea growers to get registration done at the earliest. The Farmer Registration Portal developed by the state government is a centralized digital database that connects the farmer's personal information, Aadhaar and land records to ensure their easy access to subsidies, crop insurance and various agricultural schemes. The decision to include tea and plantation land in the portal has been described by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Agriculture Minister Piyush Hazarika as a "historic step" for small tea growers as it will enable them to get formal farmer identification, loans at cheaper rates and benefits of schemes without middlemen. The government estimates that through this registration process, lakhs of small tea growers in the state will be directly benefited, who were not able to fully connect with many central and state-level agricultural schemes till now. This initiative will not only strengthen the income and security of small tea farmers, who are the backbone of the tea industry, but will also provide a long-term support to the rural economy of Assam.

Professor Dr. Diganta Sarma of D U Selected for the Chemical Research Society of India Bronze Medal 2027



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : Professor Dr. Diganta Sarma of the Department of Chemistry, Dibrugarh University, has been selected for the prestigious Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) Bronze Medal 2027. Dr. Sarma has been

chosen for this honour in recognition of his significant contributions to the field of chemistry. Notably, the Chemical Research Society of India annually confers this medal on distinguished researchers who have demonstrated excellence and made outstanding contributions across various branches of chemical sciences. Among the 23 researchers selected from across the country for the CRSI Bronze Medal 2027, Dr. Diganta Sarma is the only scientist from Assam to receive this recognition. The award is regarded as one of the most prestigious honours in the

field of chemistry and is presented to researchers who have made exceptional contributions through high-quality and impactful research. Academicians have expressed hope that Dr. Sarma's research achievements will make a significant contribution to chemical science research at Dibrugarh University as well as in Assam. Congratulating Dr. Sarma on his achievement, the Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, Professor Dr. Jiten Hazarika and the Registrar Dr. Parmananda Sonowal, extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

Sila Forest Unit Acts Swiftly as Black tiger Sparks Fear in Banglagore, Nijasindurighopa and Borgaon



Pankaj Nath, Guwahati : Two black tiger have been roaming openly around the villages of Banglagore, Nijasindurighopa and Borgaon , near the Sila beat office in the Sila Forest range of Kamrup district, causing alarm among local residents. Villagers say the Tigers — believed to have come down from the nearby Kali Pahar area — have been sighted close to settlements and have been wandering around these villages for several days. So far there have been no reports of human injuries, but the tiger have entered villages and killed two to four cattle and goats, inflicting economic losses and heightening fear among the community. Villagers informed forest officials, informing them of the animals' movements and the locations where they have been seen. On receiving the information, Sila Forest range officer Siddharth Pegu and Sila beat officer Inal Haque, responded promptly and visited the area to assess the situation. Following the assessment, the Sila range office discusses with affected villagers about the black tiger ' activity, likely movement routes and potential sheltering spots. Based on the discussion, forest personnel identified high-probability locations and today set a heavy-duty cage trap at one such site with the intention of safely capturing a tiger. The forest department has also deployed additional staff in the area to maintain heightened vigilance. These teams have been tasked with monitoring the animals' presence and movements around the villages and maintaining regular contact with residents. Officials are advising villagers on necessary precautions to avoid any untoward incidents while working to capture the animals safely and relocate them back to the forest or, if required, to a zoo. The department emphasized that their priority is the safety of both people and the black tiger . Local authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and will update residents about further steps as the operation progresses.

Defunct High-Mast Lights in Nazira Spark Public Demand for Immediate Repairs

Nazira : High-mast (Hi-Max) lights installed at various locations across Nazira town nearly seven years ago for public convenience have remained non-functional for a long time, causing inconvenience to residents, pedestrians, and business owners. These costly lighting systems, set up to improve visibility and safety in the town, have fallen into disrepair, forcing people to navigate through darkness at night in several areas.

Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika launches distribution of 1 lakh saplings and pulse seeds



Guwahati : Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pijush Hazarika, today attended the "Ceremonial Distribution of Seeds and Planting Materials" organized by

Assam Agricultural University (AAU) at the Horticulture Research Station campus in Kahikuchi, Kamrup. Thanking AAU for the initiative, the Minister announced that the Agriculture Department has set an ambitious target to distribute 1 crore high-yielding horticulture saplings across the state. Emphasizing fruit and cash crop cultivation, he stated that systematically multi-cropping assets like coconut, black pepper, pineapple, and dragon fruit on the same land would multiply economic benefits for farming families. Minister Hazarika issued a strong call to the state's youth to embrace com-

mercial farming rather than migrating for menial jobs. He urged them to work hard and find practical solutions to challenges rather than blaming manageable factors like squirrel menace or unverified mobile tower radiation for low yields. Underscoring the government's commitment to protecting farmers' interests, the Minister warned that strict action would be taken against vendors selling fertilizers above the maximum retail price. He also highlighted that the timely distribution of paddy seeds this year has significantly benefited local growers. Furthermore, he noted ongoing departmental efforts to expand farmer registra-

tions so more individuals can access central benefits under PM-KISAN and PM Fasal Bima Yojana, while urging farmers to utilize the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). Addressing national trade deficits, the Minister urged local cultivators to focus on oil palm and pulses to reduce India's heavy import bills. He also cautioned against vested interest groups attempting to build a negative narrative around

ethanol blending in petrol, noting that such misinformation ultimately hurts farmers' economic interests. As part of the day's proceedings, the Minister ceremonially distributed fruit saplings, black and brown gram seeds, and spraying machines to nearly 100 farmers. The event was attended by AAU Vice-Chancellor Dipjyoti Rajkhowa and Director of Horticulture Nripen Ch Das, among other dignitaries.

Lokhra Battalion organises international plastic free day awariness marathon at Lokhra



Chandan Sarma, Tezpur : Lokhra Battalion of Assam Rifles successfully organised an International Plastic Free Day Awareness Marathon on 03 July 2026 at Lokhra with the objective of promoting environmental conservation and creating awareness about the harmful effects of single-use plastics. The event aimed to encourage the local community to adopt sustainable practices and contribute towards building a cleaner, greener and plastic-free environment. The marathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from Assam Rifles personnel, students, local residents, youth and members of the civil community, who joined the event with

great zeal and commitment towards the environmental cause. Participants carried messages promoting responsible waste management, reduction in plastic usage and protection of the environment. During the event, Assam Rifles personnel interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of eliminating single-use plastics from daily life. The gathering was sensitised on the need to adopt eco-friendly alternatives, maintain cleanliness in public places and actively contribute towards preserving nature for future generations. The marathon served as a platform to inspire collective responsibility towards environmental protection and sustainable living. The event concluded on a positive note with participants reaffirming their commitment towards reducing plastic consumption and spreading awareness within their communities. The initiative further strengthened the bond between Assam Rifles and the local population while reflecting Assam Rifles' continued commitment towards environmental stewardship, community welfare and nation-building.

BA Animal Feed Centre
ইয়াত বান্ধাৰ জাতক সৰুসৰু খাদ্যৰ পোতা পাৰ
ইয়াত বান্ধাৰ, ছাগলী, মাক, কুকুৰাৰ
মামুলি বগতে প্ৰাইলক, হাঁহ, সেগালা,
কোকেলা পোতাৰ অৰ্জাৰ পোতা হয়।
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সুখা কামৰাজ
এম বি বোড
নেটৱৰ্ক ডিজিটেল মাপকাঠিৰ পিছতহে।

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FINE DINE
Taste of Assam

ভাত
মাছ, মাংস, পৰ্ভা, পুৰি, ৰুটি

- Chowmin
- Burger
- Chicken Item
- Maggi
- Biryani
- Pasta
- Fried Rice
- Roll
- Mutton Item
- Paneer
- Pakora
- Coffee
- Tea

**A.T. Road, Near Morigaon Bus Stand
Nagaon (Assam)**