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Government Will Extend Every Possible Assistance to Flood-Affected People: Dr. Sarma

Dilip Saikia Directs All BJP Workers in Sivasagar, Jorhat and Charaideo to Stand with Flood-Affected Families



Guwahati : Following continuous heavy rainfall in Nagaland over the past few days, several areas of Upper Assam's Jorhat, Sivasagar and Charaideo districts have been severely affected by an unprecedented and unexpected flood. Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited several flood relief camps across Sivasagar, Jorhat and Charaideo districts to assess the situation firsthand. During his visit, he interacted with families taking shelter in the camps and assured them that all essential facilities including medical care, food supplies, safe drinking water and other basic necessities would be made available without interruption. Standing in solidarity with the flood-affected people, the Chief Minister assured them that the government would provide all necessary assistance



to help rebuild damaged homes and replace essential documents, books and other belongings lost in the floods. He also announced that the State Government would *see page 6*

IIM Guwahati begins MBA journey with first batch of 52 students

Long-cherished aspiration of the people of Assam and NE fulfilled: CM



Deepshikha Nath, Chhaygaon : Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma yesterday inaugurated the first Master of Business Administration (MBA) batch (2026-28) of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Guwahati at its transit campus located at Tech City, Bongora under Palasbari LAC in Kamrup district, marking a historic milestone in the higher education landscape of Assam and the North Eastern Region. The inaugural MBA batch comprises 52 students drawn from 18 different states of the country. The institute has commenced its academic journey under *see page 7*

A Visionary Roadmap for a Strong, Prosperous and Self-Reliant Assam under the leadership of Hon'ble CM Dr. Sarma

■ **Bhabendra Das**

State President
Shiromani Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth



Introduction

The Assam Budget 2026-27, presented under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, is not just an annual financial statement. It is a visionary document that reflects the government's commitment to all-round development, economic transformation,



and social empowerment. By focusing on infrastructure, employment, agriculture, education, health, social welfare, and sustainable urban *see page 7*

Bihure Birina Pat': An Exceptional Essay Collection by Author Sabita Devi

Ramen Bharali : Folk literature is the mirror of a community. Just as one sees one's reflection in a mirror, through folk literature, one can discover the literature, culture, and art of a community. Bihu is the folk festival of the Assamese people, their national festival, and the identity of the Assamese in Assam.

Sabita Devi, an accomplished writer

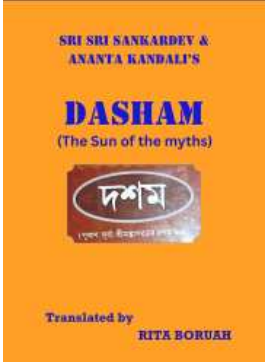
of Assam who has established herself in the literary world through various short stories, essays, children's literature, plays, and novels, has this time brought out a research-based essay collection for the public—compiling 27 essays focused exclusively on Bihu through her study of various texts.

The title of the

see page 3

**Srimadvagawata, Dasham,
Canto the tenth.
Part -42**

The Killing of Aghasur:
After it, o Listen to what I say,
A demon named Agha was hiding him-
self at that place.
He was the youngest brother of Bok, and
Putana,
Kansha sent him to kill Krishna.
Having seen the children playing with
Krishna,
The devil thought himself with rolling
eyes-
This Krishna had killed my brother and
sister,
Killing Him, today I should give both of them as per.
Thinking this, the devil became a python,
Then lied on by block ing the road.
Covering about eight miles with his body,
Lied down by opening his mouth like a mountain's hole already.
He kept his lower lip on the ground,
The upper lip touched the sky abound.
The both rows of teeth looked like two peaks,
Opening his tongue like a high way, he lied.
He breathed like a violent storm,
Two red eyes looked like two burning coals.
Taking it for a way of Brindabana,
Coming with the calves, the children discovered it's shape.
They talked among themselves,
It is opening it's mouth to eat us.
The upper lip looked like a piece of red sky
The lower one looked like a shade of clouds.
Both rows of teeth appeared to be a peak
The tongue appeared to be a big path.
It is planning to kill us,
It will lose its life in Krishna's hands.
Thinking this, the children stopped,
Looking back, they found Krishna laughed,û
O we need not fear in the least and clapped,
And entered the womb of Agha with jolly hearts.
Krishna knew the injustice they faced,
with opened mouth the snake came to swallow them.
The Remover of fear of His devotees thought Himself,
With a view to prevent it, He entered the womb of the snake.
All my calves are destroyed
Right now, the wicked will digest all of them.
How to rescue them and kill the demon,
Thinking it, He entered it's womb.
Concealing themselves in the clouds, the gods yelled,
Now we have to lose everything we possessed.
All the strongest comrades of Agha,
Laughed in pleasure, with great satisfaction.
As hard the demon tried to digest all,
Krishna blocked it's throat over all.
He made it lose its voice
It cried in sorrows by turning it's eyes.
Krishna filled it's womb with air,
Bursting its womb, the wicked lost its life.
Krishna discovered that all children along with the calves had died,
With a nectarine look, He gave them life.
Performing a god's work, taking them before Him,
They came out of the snake's torn womb.
Mysteriously, the blood and pus of Agha burnt and
Worshipped Krishna by disclosing a radiance all around.
Having seen all this, the three worlds were pleased,
Then they showered heavenly flowers upon Krishna's head.
The nymphs danced and the demigods played drum,
The gods blessed in loud voice with enormous pleasure.
Hearing it, Brahma appeared there,
Seeing the divine power of Krishna, became very strange.
When the skin of that python dried,
The children of the milkmen played on it for a long time.
All the children of the milkmen
Explained all this after a year.
It is not a strange of Krishna in the least
Agha got salvation by touching Whose feet.
Imagining Whose image in mind sincerely,
One, who thinks of Him seriously,
He can have the final condition of the Superior personage,
It is the truth, I have no more to tell.



■ **Rita Boruah**
99545-94823

Assam Budget 2026-27: Enriched with the Developmental Garland of Eighteen Pearls

In clause twenty-six (26) of the introduction, the budget proposals have been referred to as the 'Developmental Garland of Eighteen Pearls' (Ashtadash Mukutar Unnayani Mala). That means expenditure proposals have been made separately for 18 different sectors in the budget. For example-(1) Target of an additional 2 lakh employments, (2) Beneficiary schemes including providing financial assistance of Rs. 2,500 per month to Rs. 48,336 unemployed graduates, (3) Infrastructure development, self-reliance in energy, etc. Finance Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah also expressed hope that the 18 flagship schemes mentioned in the said 26th clause will guide the state towards building a secure, prosperous, and developed Assam.



■ **Dr. Homeswar Kalita**
Former Principal
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A government's budget is more than just numbers; it is an essential blueprint that shapes the economic, social, and educational progress of a state or nation for the coming financial year. When a budget is grounded in reality, it acts as a powerful catalyst for overall growth. Look no further than Assam: from 2016–17 right up to 2025–26, the state government's budgets have consistently driven meaningful, comprehensive development for the people of Assam. For instance, the per capita income of the state has increased from Rs. 60,817 in the year 2015–16 to Rs.1,85,429 in the year 2025–26. Similarly, the amount of Assam's own tax revenue has risen from Rs. 12,848 crores in the year 2015–16 to Rs. 39,294 crores in the year 2025–26. On the other hand, regarding capital expenditure, it has increased by nearly 12 times from Rs. 2,951 crores in the year 2015–16 to reach Rs. 26,531 crores in the year 2025–26. Parallel to economic development, public welfare is created. A structural framework is formed that creates a stable environment in social life as well.

Highlights of the 2026-27 Budget: In the 7th clause of the budget proposal speech, the Finance Minister declared that our target is 'Creating employment-oriented, all-inclusive, and knowledge-based Assam. On the other hand, in the 15th clause, the visionary perspective of the Prime Minister's historic announcement of 'Vision 2047 towards a developed India' has been declared as the 'guiding path' for the state. Therefore, it is natural that the budget is full of proposals to make the state strong.

The nature of Capital Expenditure and Revenue Expenditure: If a farmer buys a bigha of agricultural land and a tractor, his

income will increase by about ten to fifteen times compared to before. This is called capital expenditure. That means the more capital expenditure increases, the greater the potential for the state's progress is created. The opportunities for employment generation for the young men and women of the new generation increase. The standard of living of the public improves. On the other hand, the expenses incurred by the farmer on buying mustard oil, pulses, soap, sugar, tea leaves, clothes, or diesel and petrol for the tractor to maintain his daily life are called revenue expenditure (or frequently recurring expenditure). The lower the revenue expenditure of a family or a state, the better it is. Similarly, if the farmer has to take a bank loan while buying the bigha of land and the tractor, his decision is still praised as courageous and far-sighted. Because, by increasing his own income, he will not only be able to repay the bank loan but will also be capable of improving his own standard of living. On the contrary, if the farmer takes a bank loan to wear expensive clothes or to eat fish and meat, then it will only be called a self-destructive decision. This is because such an act will ruin the family.

Very Short-Term, Short-Term or Medium-Term, and Long-Term Expenditure:

Those proposed expenditures in the budget that benefit the public immediately upon being incurred are called very short-term expenditures. For example, as soon as the prices of mustard oil, pulses, rice, potatoes, gas cylinders, etc., decrease, the cost of a daily meal drops immediately. On the other hand, if the government subsidy is increased per maund of paddy produced and sold by a farmer, the farmer does not benefit immediately. The farmer receives the benefit only after four to five months when the paddy is harvested and sold. This is called short-term or medium-term expenditure.

Similarly, after dismantling an old wooden bridge over a river, if a strong concrete bridge is to be constructed there, the cost will increase manifold. Constructing the bridge might also take four to five years. But once completed, the public can use it for 70 to 80 years. This is called long-term expenditure or capital expenditure.

Developmental Garland of Eighteen Pearls (Ashtadash Mukutar Unnayani Mala):

In clause twenty-six (26) of the introduction, the budget **see page 4**

India's Hydrogen Train: Driving the Future of Green Mobility

■ **Lalit Nath**
Itakhola, Sonitpur

The story of Indian Railways has always been intertwined with the story of India's progress. When the country's first passenger train steamed from Bombay to Thane on 16 April 1853, it heralded a transportation revolution that reshaped the economic and social landscape of the nation. Steam locomotives eventually gave way to diesel engines, which were later complemented by electric traction. Today, India stands at the threshold of another transformative chapter. This time, the journey is powered not by fossil fuels but by hydrogen—a clean energy source that promises to redefine the future of rail transport.

The inauguration of India's first hydrogen-powered train on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana is far more than the launch of a new railway service. It represents the country's growing technological capability, its commitment to sustainable development and its determination to build a cleaner transportation system. At a time when climate change has become one of humanity's greatest challenges, the transition to clean mobility is no longer an option but a necessity. India's latest achievement is therefore both timely and significant. The train itself is an engineering milestone. Equipped with a 3,200-horsepower propulsion system, it is recognised as the world's most powerful hydrogen-powered train. It is also the longest hydrogen-powered train in the world, comprising ten coaches capable of carrying nearly 2,600 passengers. Designed to operate at a maximum speed of 75 kilometres per hour, the train demonstrates that Indian engineers and manufacturers are now capable of developing sophisticated clean-energy technologies that meet global standards. It is a powerful example of the country's growing technological confidence under the "Make in India" initiative.

The environmental significance of hydrogen-powered trains lies in the way they generate energy. Unlike diesel locomotives, they do not rely on the combustion of fossil fuels. Instead, electricity is produced inside the train through an advanced hydrogen fuel cell. Hydrogen stored in high-pressure tanks reacts electrochemi-

cally with oxygen from the atmosphere, generating electricity that powers the train's electric motors. Because there is no combustion, there are no emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides or harmful particulate matter. The only direct by-products are water vapour and a small amount of heat. This makes hydrogen-powered trains one of the cleanest forms of rail transport available today.

The launch of this train is closely aligned with India's broader environmental and energy goals. Transportation remains one of the largest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions. Although Indian Railways has electrified most of its network, diesel locomotives continue to operate on several remote, hilly and heritage routes where electrification is either technically difficult or economically unviable. Hydrogen-powered trains provide a practical and environmentally sustainable alternative for these routes without compromising operational efficiency.

The project also complements the National Green Hydrogen Mission, under which India aims to emerge as a global leader in the production and utilisation of green hydrogen. Success in the railway sector could encourage wider adoption of hydrogen technology in steel production, cement manufacturing, long-distance trucking, shipping and other hard-to-abate sectors. Such a transition would reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, strengthen energy security and contribute to a cleaner and more resilient economy.

Beyond its environmental benefits, the project carries considerable strategic significance. For decades, advanced clean-energy technologies have largely been pioneered by industrialised nations. India's hydrogen-powered train demonstrates that developing economies can also innovate, manufacture and deploy world-class technologies. It reflects the country's transition from being primarily a technology importer to becoming an increasingly confident technology developer.

Nevertheless, several challenges remain before hydrogen-powered trains can become commonplace. Green hydrogen production through electrolysis is still relatively expensive com-

pared with conventional fuels. Hydrogen storage and transportation require specialised infrastructure because the gas must be stored safely under very high pressure. Dedicated hydrogen production facilities and refuelling stations will also have to be established across the railway network. These investments are substantial and will require sustained policy support.

Yet the experience of renewable energy offers reason for optimism. Solar power, wind energy and electric vehicles were once considered too expensive for widespread adoption. Technological innovation, economies of scale and supportive government policies have steadily reduced their costs. Hydrogen technology is expected to follow a similar path. Investments made today are therefore investments in a cleaner environment, greater energy independence and long-term sustainable growth. From the steam locomotive that transformed nine-

teenth-century India to the hydrogen-powered train that symbolises the aspirations of twenty-first-century India, Indian Railways has continuously reinvented itself to meet the needs of changing times. The launch of the 3,200-horsepower, ten-coach hydrogen-powered train on the Jind-Sonipat route is not merely a technological achievement; it is a symbol of India's determination to build a sustainable future.

India's hydrogen-powered train is not simply about introducing a new railway technology. It is about driving the future of green mobility, reducing carbon emissions, strengthening energy security and demonstrating that economic development and environmental responsibility can move forward together. If successfully expanded across the country, this initiative could place India among the global leaders in sustainable transportation and inspire a new era of clean mobility for the world.

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Bihure Birina Pat': An Excep..

book, 'Bihure Birina Pat' (a line from a traditional Bihu folk song), is deeply touching. Just looking at the title makes one want to pick up the book and read it. What has the author written inside? Along with the title, the cover illustration is extremely appealing—a female dancer wearing traditional Bihu ornaments and attire, holding a Jaapi (traditional conical hat), looking as if she is ready to dance Bihu. Through this, one gets a sense of author Sabita Devi's vibrant spirit. Congratulations are also due to the cover artist, Lachit Kumar Deka.

Compiling 27 essays on various aspects of Bihu, the inclusion of relevant Bihu folk songs (Bihu Naam) and Sanskrit verses accompanying the essays makes every piece captivating and informative. It highlights her deeply cultivated mind and commitment to the language.

In the book's preliminary pages, the foreword written by Dr. Nripendra Nath Sarma highlights much about the book and the author. Similarly, another scholar and researcher of Assam, Sahityacharya Parag Kumar Bhattacharya, has enhanced the stature of the book with a concise yet highly thoughtful commentary about the author and the work. Starting from an overall picture of Bihu in Assam, author Sabita Devi has covered almost every aspect of the festival—such as the past and present of Bihu, the various forms of Bihu (Magh Bihu, Kati Bihu, Rongali Bihu, Sat Bihu), the dheki (traditional wooden foot-thrash husker) disappearing from Assamese society, Bihu sports and games, dietary habits, Garu Bihu (cattle festival), worshipping cattle during Garu Bihu, bathing the cattle, the past and present of the Assamese Jaapi, references to fish and aquatic life in Bihu songs, flowers, birds, nature, Assam's rivers, mountains, traditional ornaments, women's love and affection in Bihu songs, and even the Bhatheli festival celebrated in Lower Assam during Bihu. "Another notable topic the author did not forget to include in Bihure Birina Pat' is the essay on the mention of Bohag in the Bihu songs of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika during his birth centenary. Along with that, there is an essay titled "Mention of Bohag in the Bihu Songs and Music of Zubeen Garg" —the music legend of Assam and the world who was recently honored with the 'Xongit Xudhakor' title by Assam Sahitya Sabha. These two essays have made the book even more popular among readers.

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Assam Budget 2026-27: Enriched with the Developmental Garland

proposals have been referred to as the ‘Developmental Garland of Eighteen Pearls’. That means expenditure proposals have been made separately for 18 different sectors in the budget. For example:

1. Target of 2 lakh additional employments.
2. Beneficiary schemes including providing financial assistance of Rs. 2,500 per month to 48,336 unemployed graduates.
3. Infrastructure development, self-reliance in energy, etc.

Finance Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah also expressed hope that the 18 flagship schemes mentioned in the said 26th clause will guide the state towards building a secure, prosperous, and developed Assam.

Positive Aspects of the Budget
(1) Creation of New Employment:

The very first scheme of the budget is the announcement of 2 lakh employments within the next five years. Meaning, an average recruitment of 40,000 young men and women annually. Even critics admit that since the formation of the BJP-led government in 2016, there has been transparency in the recruitment sector, and corruption has become almost non-existent.

In the past five years, instead of the promise of 1 lakh recruitments made by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, nearly 1.64 lakh people were given government jobs, because of which the people of Assam deeply believe that this time’s announcement of 2 lakh recruitments is not a false election promise.

The state has been plagued by various types of terrorist activities for a long time. Furthermore, the constant negativity spewed by a section of arrogant, boastful, and negatively-minded self-proclaimed intellectual giants has kept the simple and innocent youth of the state misled and directionless. Creating new employment opportunities for 40,000 to 50,000 young men and women annually will certainly inspire these youth to build a bright Assam filled with hope.

(2) Infrastructure Development:
In the 3rd and 4th h announcements of the ‘Garland of Eighteen Pearls’ (Ashtadash Mala), the most crucial proposals for the long-term development of the state have been laid out. The 3rd announcement speaks about robust infrastructure development, while the 4th proposal mentions a “Himalayan-like” (massive) investment for the development of the power sector. For a race, a state, or a nation to progress rapidly on the path of development, the two factors that play the most vital roles are a transport-communication system and a 24 hour uninterrupted power supply. Over the past 10 years, roads, highways, and bridges have been rapidly constructed across every corner of Assam. Several new bridges have been built over the mighty Brahmaputra River, and construction work on a few more is currently underway. Many such

important schemes have also been adopted for the next five years. Even though the Central Government has an 80 percent or 90 percent partnership in some of these schemes, the public has been praising the promptness, capability, and determination of the State Government in executing the projects on time. Notable among these are—

(A) Construction of 800 km of high-quality roads within the next five years at an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 crores.

(B) In collaboration with the Central Government, notable projects include the Guwahati Ring Road worth Rs. 4,954 crores, the Greenfield Silchar High-Speed Corridor worth Rs. 22,864 crores, the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor worth Rs. 6,957 crores, and projects involving an expenditure of Rs. 18,662 crores for Gohpur Numaligarh Brahmaputra tunnel.

On the other hand, the budget also mentions important projects under consideration in collaboration with the Government of India. Those are-

- A project of Rs. 13,812 crores for the construction of a four-lane road from Baihata Chariali to Tezpur Mission Chariali.
- An elevated corridor construction project from Jalukbari to Guwahati Airport at an expenditure of Rs. 3,423 crores.
- A proposal to construct a new bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Morigaon and Darrang.

Development of the Power Sector:

During the summer season, the daily electricity requirement of Assam ranges from 2,800 megawatts to 3,000 megawatts. In contrast, the state’s own daily electricity production is only about 700 megawatts. This means nearly 2,200 megawatts of electricity has to be purchased daily from external sources. Without a guaranteed and continuous power supply, the development of trade, commerce, and industrial sectors in the state is impossible. The government will provide employment to 2 lakh people in five years. However, if the development of trade, commerce, and industry accelerates, about 2 to 3 lakh jobs will be created annually in the state. The State Government will also be able to strengthen its treasury by collecting taxes from these sources. It is a matter of great satisfaction for the state that a massive investment proposal of Rs. 77,353 crores has been put forward with a target to produce 8,457 megawatts of electricity under 6 different initiatives by the State Government. Such far-sighted schemes were not adopted in the past. Of course, in the case of such large investments, capital will be raised through the Central Government, externally aided projects, and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in addition to the State Government’s own resources.

Agriculture Sector and Irrigation:

For the development of Assam’s agriculture sector, a proposal has been made this time to modernize the irrigation system. Instead of the traditional open canals used previously, a proposal has been put forward for agricultural irrigation through ‘high-pressure pipelines’. It has been announced that an estimated expenditure of Rs. 3,000 crores to Rs. 4,000 crores will be incurred for this purpose. On the other hand, to distribute financial assistance to farmers against their produced crops, a decision has been made to increase the number of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO/FPC) from the previous 254 to 354. Financial assistance of Rs. 3 lakhs will be provided to each of these FPOs/FPCs.

Education and Medical Department:

Adequate funds have been allocated for the education department, which is the most crucial pillar in building a strong national life. A few particularly notable aspects in this regard are two modern integrated educational campuses will be constructed during the year. In addition to a university, these campuses will host a medical college, an engineering college, and an IIT. Each of the 7 newly established universities will be given Rs. 100 crores. Furthermore, Rs. 2 crores each will be given to 27 autonomous colleges. In addition to this, a proposal has been made to give Rs. 50 crores each to 8 state universities and Rs. 100 crores to Gauhati University. Four new medical colleges will also be established.

Beneficiary Schemes:

In addition to the previously announced schemes for students, alongside the ongoing Orunodoi scheme, women empowerment schemes, and schemes for tea garden laborers, financial assistance of Rs. 15,000 will be provided to pregnant women in tea gardens. A state subsidy of Rs. 5 per liter of milk will be provided to milk producers just like before.

Sectors Neglected by the Budget
(1) National Security:

To resist the threats posed to the existence of the Assamese community, the BJP alliance government has done a lot of work over the past 10 years. Nearly 1 lakh 46 thousand bighas of land have been reclaimed from the encroachment of suspected citizens. Measures have been taken to prevent child marriage. Primarily because of working for development and national security, the people who love the community voted in large numbers to make the BJP alone win 82 seats, and the alliance as a whole win a total of 102 seats with a massive mandate. Therefore, work for national security must be carried out with even greater courage and determination than before. Even now, about 28 lakh 50 thousand bighas of land in Assam remain

under the occupation of suspected foreign citizens. Standard police administration is not enough to reclaim such a vast amount of land, monitor it, and conserve it. For this purpose, there is a need for a new battalion enriched with around 20 thousand indigenous youths equipped with all kinds of modern equipment and weapons. This battalion should be assigned this responsibility by setting up permanent camps divided across a total of 6 zones on both banks of the Brahmaputra in Upper, Central, and Lower Assam.

Farmer–Monkey Conflict:
At present, thousands of villages in Assam are under the terror of the monkey menace. Already, due to squirrels, the production of coconut and betel nut in these villages has ceased. Now, due to the monkey menace, people in these villages have stopped cultivating vegetables (such as ridge gourd, cucumber, cabbage/cauliflower, potato, etc.) and fruits. As a result, the income of the farmers has decreased. No one from the agriculture department, news media, or the government has taken this matter seriously. This time’s budget has also ignored the issue.

Negative Aspect of the Budget:
There is ample ground to call this year’s budget an excellent budget. The fiscal deficit for the year is only Rs. 419.26 crores. Out of a total expenditure proposal of Rs. 1,56,714.88 crores, a proposal has been made for Rs. 1,18,562.23 crores as revenue expenditure and Rs. 38,152.65 crores as capital expenditure. Since capital expenditure has increased significantly compared to before, it can certainly be said that the future economic infrastructure of the state will become powerful. The issue that stands opposite to all these positive aspects is government debt. At present, the amount of debt of the Assam government has reached nearly Rs. 1 lakh 85 thousand crores. Moreover, a debt proposal of another Rs. 30 thousand crores has been made for this year. It is precisely because the current condition of Assam has improved significantly that the capacity to take loans has increased. However, relying solely on that will not suffice. The Assam government should take measures to gradually reduce the amount of debt every year.

Translator’s Note
The original article, authored by Dr. Homeswar Kalita, former Principal, Gauhati Commerce College, Guwahati, Assam, was published in the editorial page of the Assamese daily newspaper “Niyomiya Barta” on 15 July 2026. The present work is an English translation of the original Assamese article, translated by Mr. Guptajit Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Geetanagar College, Geetanagar, Guwahati–781021, Assam, India, whose contact details are as follows: E-mail: pathakguptajit19@gmail.com; **Mobile:** +91 90850 84275.

Letters to Editor

Eminent American Landscape Artist Barry DeBaun Praises Biography of Assamese Artist Parameswar Deka

Sir,
Through this letter, I wish to highlight an encouraging instance of international appreciation received by my biographical article, "Artist Parameswar Deka: Painting a Life of Humanity and Purpose," which was published in the popular English weekly newspaper The Assam Jyoti. The article, based on the life and achievements of eminent Assamese artist Parameswar Deka, was appreciated by renowned American landscape artist Barry DeBaun of the United States after he read it online. His appreciation reflects the universal appeal of art and literature and underscores the importance of documenting the lives of distinguished Assamese artists for a global audience.

Art and literature possess the unique power to transcend geographical boundaries, cultural differences, and linguistic barriers. They connect people through a shared appreciation of creativity, humanity, and excellence. My article sought to present not only Parameswar Deka's remarkable artistic journey but also his lifelong commitment to humanitarian values, social service, and cultural enrichment, which have earned him deep respect in Assam's artistic community.

A particularly memorable moment

came when Parameswar Deka shared the published article from The Assam Jyoti on his Facebook page. After reading it, renowned American landscape artist Barry DeBaun posted the following public comment: "Beautifully written article. Well deserved recognition. Congratulations!" His generous words of appreciation were both encouraging and deeply inspiring.

This recognition is significant not merely as a personal compliment but as an acknowledgement of the power of meaningful writing and the universal language of art. When an accomplished American landscape artist appreciates a biography of an Assamese painter published in The Assam Jyoti, it demonstrates that artistic excellence and compelling storytelling can resonate with readers across continents. It also highlights the growing international relevance of Assam's rich artistic and cultural heritage.

Assam has produced many gifted artists whose remarkable contributions deserve wider national and international recognition. Yet, many of their inspiring stories remain largely unknown beyond regional boundaries. Well-researched biographical writing plays a vital role in preserving these legacies and introducing them to a broader audience. Every such biography serves as a

bridge between cultures, enabling readers around the world to appreciate the richness and diversity of Assam's artistic traditions.

In today's digital era, a thoughtfully written newspaper article can reach readers worldwide within moments. Social media platforms have created new opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange, allowing artists, writers, and readers from different countries to connect and appreciate one another's work. Barry DeBaun's public appreciation of the article published in The Assam Jyoti is, therefore, not merely an encouraging comment but also a reminder that the stories of Assam's artists possess the power to inspire audiences far beyond India's borders.

I hope this inspiring episode encourages more writers, journalists, and researchers to document the lives and contributions of Assam's painters, sculptors, musicians, writers, and other cultural icons. Their achievements deserve to be preserved, celebrated, and shared with the world. By recording their lives through literature, we honour not only individual excellence but also strengthen the cultural identity and artistic legacy of Assam and India.

Yours faithfully
Heramba Nath,
Hindumaizali, Kamrup.

Assam's Dr. Sasanka Deka Receives Prestigious International 'History Maker Award 2025



Dr. Sasanka Deka

Heramba Nath, Baihata Chariali : Bringing laurels to Assam and the nation, Dr. Sasanka Deka, an eminent scientist from Baihata Chariali and Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Delhi, has been honoured with the prestigious "History Maker Award 2025" by the internationally recognised scientific organisation Metallurgists Without Borders. The award recognises his out-

standing contributions to materials chemistry, nanoscience, and sustainable energy research. Dr. Deka is internationally known for his pioneering research on advanced functional nanomaterials for clean energy conversion and storage. His work focuses on developing efficient and environmentally sustainable materials for hydrogen production, electrocatalysis, photocatalysis, supercapacitors, and next-generation energy technologies. His research has received wide recognition from scientists across the world and has contributed significantly to the advancement of renewable energy science. A native of Assam, Dr. Deka pursued his higher education at Gauhati University before earning his Ph.D. from the CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. He subsequently carried out advanced postdoctoral re-

search at the National Nanotechnology Laboratory, University of Salento, and the Italian Institute of Technology in Italy, where he further strengthened his expertise in nanomaterials and energy research. Currently serving as a Professor at the University of Delhi, Dr. Deka also holds the responsibility of Joint Director of the University's Science Instrumentation Centre. Throughout his academic career, he has authored more than 120 research papers in reputed international journals, secured patents, supervised numerous doctoral scholars, and successfully led several research projects funded by premier scientific agencies. His scientific excellence has earned him numerous national and international distinctions, including the TMS Foundation Shri Ram Arora Award (USA), the DAE-BRNS Young Scientist Award,

recognition from the Royal Society of Chemistry, and several prestigious research publication awards. He has also been recognised among the world's top two per cent scientists in the globally acclaimed Stanford University ranking, reflecting the global impact of his research and scholarly contributions. The conferment of the "History Maker Award 2025" marks yet another milestone in Dr.

Deka's distinguished career and has been warmly welcomed in his native Baihata Chariali. Academicians, students, and well-wishers have congratulated him, describing the honour as a moment of immense pride for Assam and India. They expressed confidence that his achievements will continue to inspire young researchers and encourage scientific innovation for the benefit of society.

Dibrugarh villagers pray to Brahmaputra amid renewed erosion threat

Dibrugarh : Fear of the Brahmaputra's relentless erosion continues to grip residents of Mohanaghat Tingkhong Bhanga Ali in Assam's Dibrugarh district. Having witnessed their homes and fertile agricultural land being swallowed by the river over the years, local villagers organised a special river worship ceremony, praying for protection from further erosion.

Grand Conclusion of Upasana Kala Kendra's Summer Workshop in Dibrugarh



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : The seven-day Summer Workshop organized by Upasana Kala Kendra, Dibrugarh, in collaboration with Sandhani Mahila Chora, Dibrugarh, and Srishti Prabhat, Guwahati, concluded with a colourful and grand closing ceremony. Following the welcome of the chief guest, distinguished guests, and other invitees, the programme was ceremonially inaugurated with the traditional lighting of the lamp and the chanting of Mangalacharan by the distinguished guest, former Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka. At the outset, Tarun Kumar Gogoi, President of Upasana Kala Kendra, delivered the welcome address. He explained the

significance of the workshop and expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the guests, trainers, parents, and well-wishers whose cooperation contributed to its successful organization.

The chief guest, distinguished guests, and other eminent personalities were felicitated with traditional Assamese honours, including phulam gamosa, cheleng, and xorai. The Vice-Chancellor of Majuli Cultural University, Dr. Nirod Barua, attended as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka, former Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, was present as the Distinguished Guest. Eminent poet and literary scholar Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika, social worker Atmaram Agarwala, and several other distinguished person-

alities also attended the event. Dr. Pankaj Kumar Shrutikar, President of the Workshop Committee, explained the objectives of the programme and highlighted the importance of such workshops in nurturing the creative talents of children and adolescents through the promotion of art and culture. Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika inaugurated the stage by delivering a brief address on the workshop's first theatrical presentation, "Jhumur". The cultural segment began with a captivating inaugural dance performed by the workshop participants. In his presidential address, Chief Guest Dr. Nirod Barua highly appreciated Upasana Kala Kendra for its long-standing contribution to the promotion of art and culture and for its role in shaping the personalities of the younger generation.

Thereafter, all the trainees who had imparted instruction in various disciplines during the workshop were felicitated. The trainees then presented a patriotic group song. On the oc-

casion, Jharna Saikia, the Founder President of Upasana Kala Kendra, spoke about the commemorative publication titled "Ek Barnil Jatra" which chronicles the institution's remarkable journey from 2004 to 2026. The souvenir was formally released by Dr. Kandarpa Kumar Deka, who congratulated everyone associated with its publication. He also praised the Summer Workshop Committee for bringing out such a meaningful publication. The trainees presented a short play titled "Aranyar Chokulu". They also performed Sattriya dance, Jhumur dance, and traditional drum performances of the Tea Tribe community, earning widespread appreciation from the audience. Resource persons including Krishna Pankaja Dutta, Chumi Phukan, Ajay Dutta, Sonaray Ghatowar, and several others conducted training sessions during the workshop. The invited dignitaries also shared their views and praised Upasana Kala Kendra for

its outstanding contribution to the promotion of art and culture, the propagation of human values, and the holistic development of children and adolescents. Among them were Nomal Gogoi, former President of the Dibrugarh District Sahitya Sabha, Badan Gogoi, the current President, and Parameswar Nalbariya. Niharika Shrutikar, President of Sandhani Mahila Chora, also addressed the gathering. "Certificates were distributed to all the participants of the workshop. Finally, Deepak Kumar Dutta, President of Upasana Kala Kendra, delivered the vote of thanks. The successful conclusion of the seven-day Summer Workshop was then formally declared with the singing of the National Anthem. The enthusiastic participation of parents, well-wishers, and lovers of art and culture made the event more meaningful and memorable. The programme was compered by Lakhkira Gogoi, Secretary of Sandhani Mahila Chora.

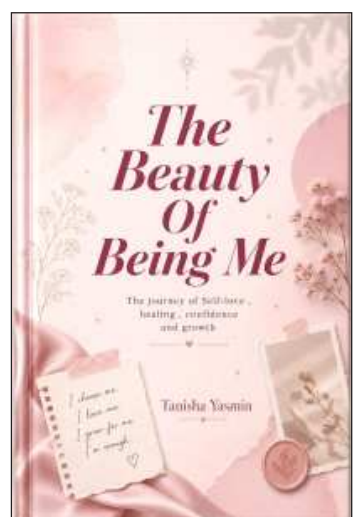
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Government Will Extend Every Possible Assistance to Flood-Affected

provide Rs. 4 lakh as immediate ex gratia assistance to the next of kin of every person who lost their life in this unfortunate disaster. Bharatiya Janata Party, Assam Pradesh President, Dilip Saikia directed the BJP district presidents, district in-charges and party workers in the affected districts to stand by the flood-affected people and extend every possible assistance during this difficult period. Earlier, on 20 July, while presiding over the proceedings of the Lok Sabha in his capacity as Pro Tem Speaker, Dilip Saikia called upon Members of Parliament to deliberate on the flood situation in Assam. This initiative, undertaken from the Chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker, will be remembered as a historic moment in India's parliamentary democracy, bringing national attention to Assam's flood crisis. Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has entrusted Water Resources and Flood Control Minister Sushanta Borgohain, along with Cabinet Ministers Bimal Borah, Keshab Mahanta and Ajanta Neog, with overseeing rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. The administration has already intensified rescue and relief efforts, including the deployment of helicopters to reach stranded residents. Addressing the ongoing flood situation in the State, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pijush Hazarika informed the Assam Legislative Assembly that while the government remains prepared to deal with routine natural disasters and flood situations, the unprecedented flooding in Charaideo, Sivasagar, Nazira and Jorhat occurred suddenly, leaving little time for advance preparedness. Nevertheless, he assured the House that the government would provide every possible assistance to those affected. The recent devastating floods have caused immense hardship, destroying homes, livelihoods and the aspirations of countless families. During this difficult period, the Government of Assam and the Bharatiya Janata Party remain firmly committed to standing with every affected family until normalcy is fully restored.

Young writer Tanisha Yasmin's book launch in Nagaon

Lakhya jyoti Bora : The first novel 'The Beauty of Being Me' by young writer Tanisha Yasmin was launched at the North East Folk Culture Research Centre, Arhi, Nagaon. The novel was launched by the author's mother Samsun Nehar, Children's writer Dulal Bora, Nagaon Government Higher Secondary School teacher Dr. Moon Moon Bora, Teacher Adilur Rahman, The principal of Kiranbala Girls School Debajani Bhuyan and Folk culture research person Hemanta Kumar Saikia on 22 July. Young writer Tanisha Yasmin thanked everyone present for the successful implementation of the programme.



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A Visionary Roadmap for a Strong, Prosperous and Self-Reliant Assam under the

development, this budget lays a strong foundation for building a better Assam.

Over the last few years, under Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma’s visionary leadership, Assam has witnessed unprecedented growth. His government has consistently prioritized transparent governance, effective implementation of welfare schemes, and massive investment in infrastructure, making Assam one of the fastest-growing states in India. The 2026-27 Budget further strengthens this momentum with a clear roadmap for the future.

Strong Economy and Growing Prosperity

One of the most notable achievements highlighted in the budget is Assam’s economic growth.

Per capita income has increased more than 3 times in the last decade — from Rs. 60,817 in 2015-16 to Rs. 1,85,429 in 2025-26.

The state’s own tax revenue has also grown significantly. From Rs. 12,848 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 39,294 crore in 2025-26. The government has set a target to increase the share of own revenue to 50% by 2031.

Record Investment in Infrastructure

The biggest foundation of development is infrastructure. The state’s capital expenditure has risen from Rs. 2,951 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 26,531 crore in 2025-26.

Key Announcements:

1. Assam Mala 4.0: Construction of 800 km of upgraded roads at a cost of ₹10,000 crore over the next 5 years
2. Rs. 5,000 Crore Mega Projects: Guwahati Ring Road, Silchar High-Speed Corridor, Kaziranga Elevated Corridor, Gohpur-Numaligarh Tunnel
3. Rs. 1,400 Crore Majuli-Jorhat Bridge: To be completed by December 2027

Employment and Youth Empowerment

The government’s biggest priority is employment. After providing 1.64 lakh government jobs in the last 5 years, the government has announced a target of 2 lakh more jobs in the next 5 years. This reflects the fulfillment of the BJP’s Sankalp Patra promise.

For Farmers

Recognizing agriculture as the backbone of Assam’s economy, the “Mukhyamantri Krishi Sa-Sanjuli Yojana” will continue. Linked with PM-KISAN, every eligible small and marginal farmer will receive Rs. 11,000 per year.

Social Security

1. Old Age Pension under Shahid Kushal Konwar Sarbojanin Briddha Pension Yojana
2. Widow Pension through Arunodoi Plus
3. From August, 621 Udasin Bhakats will receive Rs. 1,500 per month to preserve Assam’s Neo-Vaishnavite heritage

Education and Student Welfare

Scholarships and financial assistance for competitive exams for SC, ST, OBC, Tea Tribes, Tribal and Divyang students. More than 3.75 lakh students will benefit in 2026-27.

Women-Centric Welfare

Pregnant women in tea gardens will continue to receive Rs. 15,000 as maternal health and nutrition support. 35,000 women will benefit this year.

Transformation of Power Sector

Over the next 5 years: 15,000 circuit km of lines, 120 new sub-stations, 20,000 transformers to be installed. “Target to reduce T&D Loss from 13.4% to 8%.

Urban Development

New urban centers will be developed through the Assam Urban Development Mission. An Aerotropolis around LGBI Airport and a new Brahmaputra bridge will be built. Through GSCDA, Guwahati will be developed as the major Gateway to Northeast India.

Conclusion

This budget is a declaration of faith in Assam’s future. Through bold reforms, strategic investments, and clear developmental vision, the government has laid the foundation for an economically active, socially inclusive, and globally competitive Assam. Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam has entered a new era of trust, progress, and transformation.

IIM Guwahati begins MBA journey with first batch of 52 students

the mentorship of IIM Ahmedabad and will subsequently shift to its permanent campus at Morabhita and Dighalkuchi villages under the Palashbari Revenue Circle in Kamrup district. The permanent campus is being developed over 574 bighas of land and is expected to be completed within the next three years.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Dr. Sarma described the occasion as a landmark achievement in Assam's educational journey. He said, “It gives me immense pleasure and a deep sense of pride to be present on this historic occasion as the Indian Institute of Management, Guwahati formally launches its MBA programme. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the inaugural batch of students. Today marks the fulfilment of a long-cherished aspiration of the people of Assam and the North Eastern Region. With the commencement of its MBA programme, IIM Guwahati has become a proud member of the prestigious family of the Indian Institutes of Management, opening new avenues of opportunity for our younger generation.”

Expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, Dr. Sarma highlighted the Central Government's support in establishing the institution. Tracing the journey of the institute, the Chief Minister said that the Government of Assam had first written to the Union Minister of Education on 22 May 2022 and Prime Minister on 19 April 2023 requesting the establishment of an IIM in Assam. Responding positively, the Ministry of Education granted in-principle approval on 14 April 2024, while the Union Cabinet accorded formal approval in August 2025, paving the way for the establishment of IIM Guwahati.

Referring to the permanent campus, the Chief Minister said that till its construction is over, the State Government has developed a modern transit campus at Tech City, Bongora to ensure that academic activities commence without delay. With an investment of nearly Rs. 39 crore, the existing infrastructure has been comprehensively renovated and upgraded into a fully functional academic campus equipped with lecture halls, administrative offices, a library, residential accommodation for faculty and staff, and three hostel blocks.

The Chief Minister recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the academic session of IIM Guwahati on 14 February 2026, following which the institute commenced its Executive Education programmes. He expressed satisfaction that within just five months, the institute has successfully launched its flagship MBA programme.

Dr. Sarma said that with the commencement of the MBA programme, Assam has further strengthened its position as one of India's emerging centres of higher education. He said that alongside IIT Guwahati, AIIMS Guwahati, IIIT, NIPER, and the upcoming National Forensic Sciences University, IIM Guwahati has strengthened the State's ecosystem of premier national institutions spanning engineering, management, medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences and information technology.

The Chief Minister further stated that the establishment of IIM Guwahati as the 22nd Indian Institute of Management and the second IIM in the North East reflects the Government of India's commitment to ensuring that institutions of national excellence are accessible to talented youth from every part of the country.

Expressing confidence in the institute's future, Sarma said IIM Guwahati should work in close collaboration with the other institutions of national importance. Such partnerships, he said, would facilitate intellectual exchange, promote innovation, generate effective solutions to developmental challenges facing Assam and the North East and contribute significantly to the nation's economic growth.

Speaking at the programme, Professor Bharat Bhasker, Director of IIM Ahmedabad , said IIM Guwahati is the newest addition to the country's premier management institutions. He noted that after twenty one IIMs were established till 2023, one more has now been added in 2026.

Professor Bhasker said the world has entered a new era. He urged students to remain connected with local culture while developing leadership qualities and understanding governance systems. Welcoming the inaugural batch, he congratulated the 52 students admitted from 18 states across the country.

Minister of Education Dr. Ranoj Pegu, Palasbari MLA Himangshu Shekhar Baishya, Commissioner and Secretary, Higher Education Department Narayan Konwar, senior government officials, faculty members, students and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Brass Industry Museum Opens in Hajo to Safeguard Centuries-Old Craft Heritage



Nalbari : A major initiative has been launched to preserve and promote Hajo's centuries-old brass industry with the inauguration of a Brass Industry Museum at Bharalitola by Hajo-Sualkuchi MLA Prakash Das. The museum aims to introduce the region's traditional brass craft to younger generations while showcasing its rich heritage to a wider audience. Hajo has long been renowned for its skilled brass artisans, whose handcrafted products have been an integral part of Assam's culture and traditional lifestyle for

generations. However, rapid modernisation and declining interest among youth in traditional occupations have posed serious challenges to the survival of the craft. The newly established museum is expected to document the history, production techniques and artistic legacy of Hajo's brass industry while creating awareness about its cultural significance. It will also serve as a platform to honour the creativity and craftsmanship of local artisans. Speaking at the inauguration, Prakash Das said the museum would stand as a

symbol of Hajo's rich cultural heritage and provide due recognition to the dedication and hard work of brass artisans. During the event, he interacted with craftsmen, who shared their traditional methods of brass-making and highlighted the challenges faced by the industry. The initiative is expected to strengthen efforts to preserve the traditional craft, encourage young people to pursue the profession and attract tourists, researchers and art enthusiasts interested in Assam's cultural heritage. Residents have welcomed the museum, describing it as a significant step towards safeguarding Hajo's brass-making tradition. They also urged the government and concerned authorities to take further measures to support artisans, preserve the craft and ensure the long-term growth of the traditional brass industry.

Elderly woman drowns in floodwaters near Kaziranga National Park

Bokakhat : A 62-year-old woman died after drowning in floodwaters caused by incessant rainfall near Kaziranga National Park on Friday. According to reports, the incident occurred at Kawaimari in Nojan, near Kaziranga National Park, under the Kuthori Gaon Panchayat area of Bagori Police Outpost. The deceased has been identified as Jaleswari Gupta (62). Local residents said that the woman was on her way to a nearby house close to the national park in the morning when she was swept away and drowned in the rising floodwaters. With the assistance of the police, local people later recovered her body. Bagori Police sent the body for a post-mortem examination and subsequently handed it over to her family members.

Assam Rifles assists in conduct of cultural programme at Lokhra



Chandan Sarma, Tezpur : Assam Rifles assisted in conduct of cultural programme "Ontorongo Aalap – The Story of Historic Tezpur", organised by the North East Educational Trust and Anubhav Learning Centre on 21 July 2026 at Lokhra, Sonitpur District, Assam. The programme marked the culmination of the institution's Annual Summer Workshop, where students showcased their talent through cultural programme depicting the rich history

and cultural heritage of Tezpur. The event highlighted creativity, teamwork, confidence and artistic excellence of the young participants. The programme was attended by parents, students, District Education Officials, members of the local community and Assam Rifles personnel. Assam Rifles Battalion provided all the necessary support for the successful conduct of the event and continued to encourage initiatives that promote education, culture and youth development. Senior officials appreciated the efforts of the organisers in nurturing young talent and strengthening community participation. Through such initiatives, Assam Rifles continues to reaffirm its commitment towards fostering civil-military relations, encouraging educational and cultural development, and supporting meaningful community outreach programmes across its area of responsibility.

BA Animal Feed Centre

ইয়াত ব্ৰহ্মাৰ সকলো সামগ্ৰী পোৱা যায়।

ইয়াত গৰু, ভাগলী, হাঁহ, কুকুৰাৰ দানৰ লগতে ব্ৰহ্মাৰ, হাঁহ, সোণালী, লোকল পোৱালিৰ অৰ্ডাৰ লোৱা হয়।

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মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয়
এম বি ৰোড
(মৰ্ণাও চিভিল হাস্পতালৰ পিছফালে)

BA Animal Feed Centre

ইয়াত গৰু, ভাগলী, হাঁহ, কুকুৰাৰ দানৰ লগতে ব্ৰহ্মাৰ, হাঁহ, সোণালী, লোকল পোৱালিৰ অৰ্ডাৰ লোৱা হয়।

যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ
94350-61306, 86381-38348

মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয়
এম বি ৰোড
(মৰ্ণাও চিভিল হাস্পতালৰ পিছফালে)

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)**