

# THE ASSAM JYOTI

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## CM announces FIFA World Cup 2026 fan parks in Guwahati, Dibrugarh



**Guwahati:** Football fever is set to sweep Assam as the state government prepares to launch dedicated FIFA World Cup 2026 fan parks in Guwahati and Dibrugarh, allowing supporters to watch live matches together on giant screens. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the initiative, titled CM FIFA Fan Park, is being organised by the Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) to create a vibrant community viewing experience during the global football tournament. The first fan park will open at Latasil Playground in Guwahati on June 29, followed by another at Chowkidingee Field in Dibrugarh on June 30. Both venues will screen FIFA

World Cup matches live, allowing fans to enjoy the tournament in a festive atmosphere alongside fellow football enthusiasts. The initiative is aimed at encouraging collective celebrations of the world's biggest football event while providing accessible venues for supporters who wish to experience the matches in a stadium-like setting. Sharing the announcement on the social media platform X, the Chief Minister invited football lovers from Assam and other parts of the country to visit the fan parks and be part of the celebrations. He said the opportunity to cheer for his favourite teams with hundreds of fellow fans would make the World Cup experience even more special.

## Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika visits Barhampur constituency in Nagaon

Takes stock of projects, participates in seedlings plantation



**Birinchi kumar Deka, Nagaon :** Advancing the state's strategic push toward a robust horticulture sector and rural self-

sufficiency, Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, and Parliamentary Affairs, Pijush Hazarika, today conducted a high-level review of key agricultural and plantation sites in Barhampur constituency under Nagaon district. Minister Hazarika visited the 100-bigha Progeny Orchard at Kathiatoli under the Horticulture Department. Once fully operational, this expansive orchard is slated to play a critical role in distributing high-quality saplings of various fruit trees to local farmers, contributing immensely to boosting rural incomes. He stated that next year the Agriculture Department would target the distribution of several lakh saplings of various high-profit fruit trees to farmers so that horticulture becomes a main driver of Assam's agri *see page 10*

## Assam Health Minister Ashok Singhal Visits Assam Medical College in Dibrugarh

**M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh :** State Health and Medical Education Minister Ashok Singhal visited Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMC&H) in Dibrugarh for the first time after assum-

ing charge of the Health and Medical Education Department. During his visit, the minister reviewed the overall environment, infrastructure, and healthcare services of the state's *see page 10*

### Releases today

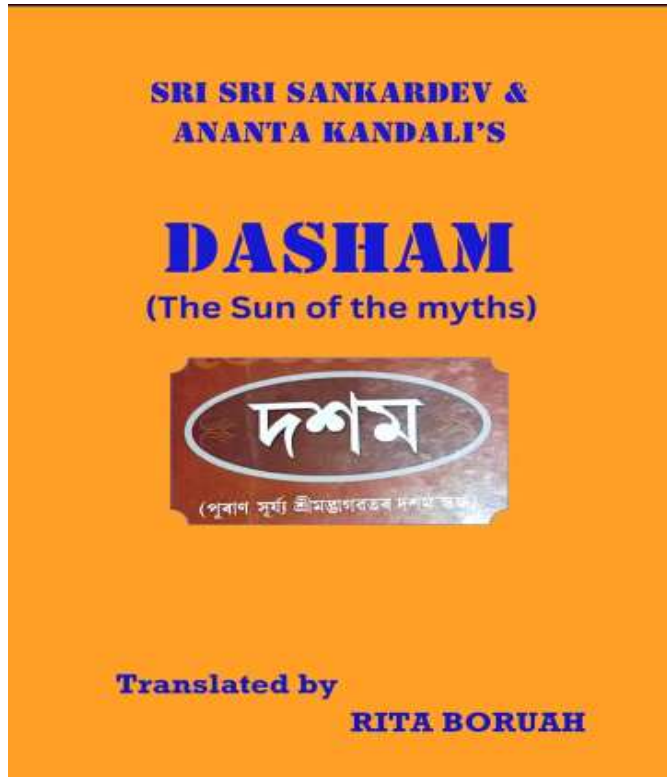
## Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2



**Probin Kumar Das, Sualkuchi:** The new generation may not be very familiar with the Assamese film "Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati", released on 18 November 1983. But the generation of the 1980s-90s is still compelled to remember *see page 10*

## Srimadvagawata, Dasham, Canto the tenth.

Advice  
Sobi  
(an Assamese metre)  
Chapter -39



O the assemblers,  
Hear the character of Krishna  
That destroys the sinners instantly,  
When hearing, one feels  
Asif nectar is falling in ears and pouring the essence of  
salvation incessantly.  
All the honest works, religion and caste and tribe  
Get success in it,  
All worships ,yajnas, yoga, fasting, offering and pil-  
grimage  
Get all religious moralites just with Krishna's praise.  
All enjoy every worldly pleasure and  
Live with wife and children,  
But donot perform the activities of the Vedas,  
Abandone own religion And are jeaous of others every  
now and then.  
They do not know the essence of wisdom  
Brahmacharya (Yogic and spiritual discipline), pilgrim-  
age and fasting,  
And never feel any vexation with worldly amusing.  
They abandone the religion "That make their heart pel-  
lucid  
Also avoid all other charm and incantation.  
When praise Hari with sincere heart,  
All unfortunates attain the spiritual destination What  
is impossible for the religious persons on earth.  
How bewildered men are  
Abandoning the praise of Hari, men die  
That destroys all diseases, still donot guess, like one in-  
sane.  
Lifespan diminishes moment by moment  
Still donot have conscience, due to a violent fascina-  
tion.  
Like a shadow of cloud  
Here one moment, gone the next  
Knowing it, pay attention to devotion, abandoned the life  
of disguised.  
Abandoning all sadness, acquire moral practices,  
One to all have Hari's praise.

■ Rita Boruah  
99545-94823

## Intense Drive by 'Raiz Goyrah' and Development Committee Against Anti-Social Activities and Illegal Li- quor Traders in Bamundi

**Prabin Kumar Das, Sualkuchi:** In Bamundi, an exemplary village in the Kamrup district, a recent rise in the number of illegal liquor traders has been observed to be spoiling the social environment. In response, a large delegation from the village's primary organizations—the Bamundi Raiz Goyrah and the Bamundi Development Committee—has launched an intense day-and-night drive against anti-social activities and illegal liquor traders over the past few days to restore peace and build a healthy society. "Madhab Kalita, President of the Raiz Goyrah and Development Committee, along with General Secretary Apurba Kalita, sent a stern warning to those involved in illegal liquor trading and anti-social activities, stating. The ongoing drive against illegal liquor traders and anti-so-

cial activities has received full support from the Bamundi Students' Union, Bamundi Tarun Sangha & Library, and the Bamundi Sports Association. Last night, while the drive was underway, the team caught an illegal liquor trader named Hitesh Kalita with a large quantity of illicit country-made liquor (suloi) and notified the Sualkuchi Police Station. "Upon receiving the information, the Sualkuchi Police arrived at the spot immediately, destroyed the illegal liquor, and took the trader into custody. Sualkuchi Police Station's police officer, Pabitra Kalita, who was present at the scene, thanked the Bamundi Raiz Goyrah for taking such an initiative and assured them that the Sualkuchi Police will always stand by the public against anti-social activities and illegal liquor trade.

## Morigaon DC orders probe into sexual ha- rassment allegations against school teacher

**Morigaon :** Morigaon District Commissioner Anamika Tewari has ordered an inquiry into a sexual harassment case involving a school teacher of Jaluguti High School, which was allegedly covered up by the Inspector of Schools for about one year and three months. After public complaints, the district commissioner ordered Executive Magistrate Kitanjali Kashyap to execute a proper investigation regarding the

whole incident and submit a report within seven days. It is alleged that the Inspector of Schools as well as the District Mission Coordinator, Apurba Thakuria, tried to cover up the incident where the science teacher of Jaluguti High School, Pranjal Kr Nath, has been accused of sexually harassing a teenage girl student of the school. In connection with the incident, the Principal of the school, Juna Rani Bhagawati, had begun an inquiry.

## Cover Song 'GAANE Ki AANE' Released on YouTube

There is good news for music lovers. The cover song 'GAANE Ki AANE' was released on the Srishti Sonic YouTube channel on 21st June. The song has been sung by Srishti (Julika) Borphukan. The Karaoke Music has been re-arranged by Kabinndra Daas, with support from Uddipta Sharm. Instrumental accompaniment for the song has been provided by Uddipta Sharm and Kabinndra Daas. The song is sung by Srishti (Julika) Borphukan, a law graduate and an accomplished vocalist. She was once adjudged the best performer in the women's wing of J.B. College, Jorhat, and later received inter-college level recognition. Over the years, Srishti has built a distinct identity among music lovers through popular audio cassettes such as Monmoyuri, Sapunor Marami, Sonaru 99, Jadu, Kiyon Anjali, and others. A



trained classical singer, she has also been deeply engaged in the practice of Borgeet. Several of her songs have been aired on Jorhat FM Radio, and her performances have featured on various satellite television channels. She earlier received widespread appreciation for the song 'Kun Tumi Duronir', sung alongside Zubeen Garg. Her solo song 'Xorotor Podulit' has also been released. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W57Weec5D1Q>

# Deepfake Technology: The New Crisis of Truth

■ **Lalit Nath**  
Itakhola, Sonitpur

The rapid advancement of information technology and the digital revolution have given a new dimension to our contemporary society. With the help of smartphones, the internet and social media, global information is accessible at our fingertips within seconds. However, alongside this technological leap, human society is also confronting some new and complex challenges. Among these, the most discussed, mysterious and alarming topic today is 'Deepfake' technology. Powered by Artificial Intelligence, these fabricated videos, audios and photographs are exerting a profound impact not only on individual lives but also on society as a whole, democracy and the global information ecosystem. By blurring the lines between truth and falsehood, deepfake technology has emerged as a severe global crisis. The word 'Deepfake' is a portmanteau of two English terms—'Deep Learning' and 'Fake'. Deep learning is an advanced branch of Artificial Intelligence where computers acquire the ability to analyze massive volumes of data and identify distinct patterns. Utilizing this technology, a person's face, body language, expressions, or voice can be meticulously analyzed and seamlessly superimposed onto any other video or audio. This results in the creation of synthetic media so flawless that it is incredibly difficult for an ordinary person to distinguish it from reality. Videos depicting you saying things you never uttered, or appearing in places you have never

visited, can be generated in an instant. While the use of this technology was previously limited to cinema, entertainment, or research, its current misuse has become deeply concerning. "The most devastating impact of deepfake technology is felt on an individual's social reputation and mental health. Public figures, artists, athletes, politicians and particularly women, have become primary targets. Cybercriminals harvest photographs and videos from social media or the internet to create objectionable or misleading content. Once these circulate on social media platforms, the victims face acute public humiliation, alongside severe mental anxiety and depression. In many instances, such malicious campaigns inflict irreparable damage on personal, familial and professional lives.

In recent times, the weaponisation of deepfakes has transcended personal boundaries to pose a grave threat to democracy and national security. Especially during elections, the risk of manipulating the voices and videos of political leaders or candidates to orchestrate mass confusion is rapidly rising. Forcing someone to deliver a speech they never made, or spreading doctored addresses to manipulate public opinion, is extremely detrimental to the democratic process. This can disrupt social harmony and severely complicate law-and-order situations. Consequently, verifying the authenticity of information is no longer just the responsibility of journalists or media houses, it has become an indispensable condition for safeguarding democracy. Financial

sectors are also grappling with new dimensions of this threat. Criminal syndicates are using AI to clone the voices of family members or acquaintances to scam individuals out of money under the guise of emergencies.

Hearing the exact voice of a loved one, many unsuspecting individuals fall prey to financial fraud. Recent incidents on both national and international levels highlight how deepfakes are targeting economic stability and interpersonal trust. "However, the most dangerous facet of deepfake technology is its capacity to distort the absolute concept of truth. When any video, audio, or photo can be altered with such absolute precision, discerning fact from fiction becomes nearly impossible. This leads to a dangerous psychological shift, people do not just start believing the lies, they also begin doubting actual facts. This scenario breeds a pervasive atmosphere of skepticism across society. When truth can be dismissed as fake and fakes can be passed off as truth, the foundational pillars of democracy, justice, and social cohesion begin to crumble. Therefore, the deepfake crisis is not merely a crisis of technology, it is fundamentally a crisis of truth.

Confronting this intricate challenge requires a multi-pronged approach. Firstly, governments must tighten cyber laws to ensure swift and exemplary punishment for perpetrators who misuse deepfakes. Secondly, just as AI is being used to create deepfakes, advanced 'Fake-detection' tools must be developed to counter them. Furthermore, social media giants like Facebook and

YouTube must adopt a more accountable role in identifying and regulating synthetic misinformation.

Nevertheless, a permanent solution cannot be confined to laws and technology alone. Public digital literacy and awareness are equally paramount. We must restrain ourselves from emotionally sharing or forwarding sensational videos, audios, or news clips the moment they appear on our feeds. It is the moral obligation of every conscious citizen to cross-check information using credible media outlets or established fact-checkers. Science and technology are inherently neither a curse nor a blessing, their impact depends entirely on human conscience and ethical usage. While deepfake technology opens doors to new creative possibilities, its malicious exploitation can shatter societal trust and peace. Hence, a collaborative effort combining legal frameworks, technological safeguards and public awareness is urgently required. In this digital era, keeping our eyes and ears open is the only way to remain secure. Questioning and analysing information rather than blindly believing it is the need of the hour. In the age of deepfakes, protecting the truth is not just a technical task—it is our ethical responsibility to preserve social trust and human values. This collective commitment to truth will liberate us from the darkness of deception and guide us toward the light of reason and reality. Only then will we succeed in keeping truth and humanity alive in this vast ocean of information.

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## All-India Cyclist Asha Malviya, Who Has Covered 64,000 Kilometres arrives in Dibrugarh

**M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh :** National-level cyclist, sportsperson, and mountaineer Asha Malviya from Madhya Pradesh arrived in Dibrugarh as part of her ongoing all-India cycling expedition aimed at spreading the message of women's empowerment, patriotism, and indomitable courage. The expedition commenced on January 11, coinciding with the 78th

Indian Army Day, from Jaipur, Rajasthan. Its primary objective is to cycle approximately 7,800 kilometres from India's western frontier to Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, the country's easternmost point. Now in the final phase of her journey, Malviya's remarkable expedition will conclude at Kibithu in Anjan District of AP. So far, she has successfully covered 8,120

kilometres. Passing through the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the expedition aims to inspire women and the younger generation to pursue their dreams with determination while fostering the spirit of national unity and service across the country. During

her visit to Dibrugarh, Asha Malviya met District Commissioner Vikram Kairi and Senior Superintendent of Police Abhijeet Gaurav Dilip, briefing them on the objectives of her nationwide campaign. The Dibrugarh district administration extended its wholehearted support to her commendable initiative and conveyed its best wishes for the successful completion of the remaining leg of

her journey. Speaking about the expedition, Asha Malviya said—"This journey is dedicated to spreading the message of women's empowerment, patriotism, and unwavering determination across the country". She also informed that through various expeditions this year, she has already cycled nearly 64,000 kilometres, using adventure sports as a means of creating social awareness.

## National Immunization Day Observed in Kamrup Target to Vaccinate Around 2 Lakh Children Against Polio



**Prabin Kumar Das, Sualkuchi :** A three-day polio immunization campaign commenced today in Kamrup district on the occasion of National Immunization Day. The district-level polio vaccination drive was officially launched by the District Commissioner of Kamrup, Deba Kumar Mishra, at the Singimari-Dadara Model Hospital under the Hajo Block Primary Health Centre. Additional District Commissioner (Health), Monica Borgohain, was also present at the event. According to the District Health Department, the campaign will run from June 28 to June 30, with a target to administer Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) to approximately 1,99,637 children aged 0 to 5 years. This initiative has been

undertaken to maintain the nation's polio-free status. Infrastructure and Personnel Deployment To ensure the successful implementation of the campaign, extensive arrangements have been made across the district: "Vaccination Booths: A total of 1,180 vaccination booths have been set up, including institutional booths at healthcare facilities and transit booths along major roads. Field Staff: A dedicated team of 4,486 healthcare workers 236 booth supervisors, and 54 block officers has been deployed. Monitoring: Multiple district and block-level supervisory teams are actively monitoring the program. Boat clinics have been deployed specifically to cover riverine and remote areas, ensuring that no eli-

gible child Administration and Logistics Speaking at the event, District Commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra emphasized that National Immunization Day is a vital public health initiative to protect children under five from polio. Expressing full confidence in the dedication and cooperation of the district's healthcare workers, he voiced optimism that the target would be achieved within the stipulated timeframe. He also appealed to all parents to ensure their children receive the polio vaccine. Prior to the launch, the District Commissioner chaired two District Task Force meetings to formulate detailed plans and establish smooth coordination for the campaign. The inaugural event was attended by State Surveillance Officer (IDSP) Dr. Bharati Borkakoti, Joint Director of Health Services Dr. Ajit Das, CM&HO, District Immunization Officer, SDM&HO of Hajo BHPC, the Deputy Superintendent of Singimari-Dadara Model Hospital, other health department officials, and local resi-

## International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Kamrup.



**Pankaj Nath, Kamrup :** An awareness programme was organized on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Friday at Dakhin Kamrup College, Mirza, to raise awareness among students and the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug free society. The programme commenced with a street play performed by the NSS Unit of Dakhin Kamrup College, highlighting the adverse consequences of substance abuse and the need for collective action to combat the menace. This was followed by the administration of the *Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan* pledge, reaffirming the participants' commitment to creating a drug free India. Dr. Sharmista Baruah, RO cum Faculty at the National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam, attended the programme as the resource person. She delivered an informative session on the overall consequences of drug abuse and emphasized the role of youth in preventing substance abuse through awareness and responsible decision making. The programme was attended by Additional District Commissioner Geetashri Lachit; Co-District Commissioner, Palashbari, Bhaskar Jyoti Kalita; the CDSP; Principal of Dakhin Kamrup College and the District Social Welfare Officer, Kamrup, along with faculty members, students, in charges of de-addiction and rehabilitation centres of Kamrup, angadwadi workers and officials. The awareness programme was organized by the District Social Welfare Office, Kamrup, in collaboration with the District Administration, Kamrup, as part of the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

## Yoga and Physical Exercise

### ■ Dr Jintu Borah

Good habits like doing yoga and physical exercise should be formed at an earlier age so that one can enjoy life. Such exercises increase the concentration level and they also increase memory power. How can we learn it first? The easiest way now is to watch youtube videos. When I learnt I followed one yoga and exercise book. Later on two- three books I have gone through. There I found three steps. "The steps are- first you have to do jumping to warm up your body. Your

stomach should be clean. You can drink water. After warm up you should do some physical exercise. Freehand exercises are best exercises. Their effects are long lasting. For whole body there are physical exercises. For hand, chest, waist, shoulder, knee, legs, arm, fingers, neck etc. You can do push up also. After doing some physical exercises you have to take some seconds rest and then can start yoga. The first yoga which I learnt was Padmasana; I also learnt Sarvangasana, Sirsasana, Mayurasana etc. To do some asanas

you have to take help of others. For example when you practice sirsha ashana to hold your legs up you have to take help of others. Every ashana is important. You will be benefitted. Except Brajasana every ashana is practice is empty stomach. For Sarvangasana and for Sirsasana light food can be taken. One has to do Savasana for ten to twelve seconds after doing every asana and at last one has to do Savasana for half-an hour. Yoga will keep you fit and will keep you positive in life. So try to practice yoga.

## Social Worker Jyoti Prasad Kanoi Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**Dibrugarh :** Renowned educationist, philanthropist, and social worker CA Jyoti Prasad Kanoi was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 'Northeast Education Eminence 2026' in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the fields of education and social service. The award was presented during a grand ceremony held on Sunday at the auditorium of Hotel Clubway Grand, Club Road, Jorhat. A special audio-visual presentation highlighting the remarkable contributions of CA Jyoti Prasad Kanoi to the education sector was screened during the programme and received warm appreciation from the audience. Carrying forward his family's rich legacy of promoting education, CA Jyoti Prasad Kanoi established the Jyoti Lalita Kanoi Foundation, through which hundreds of girls from economically weaker families have received financial assistance to pursue their education. Apart from his contribution to education, CA Kanoi has also played an active role in social welfare.

# Digital India at Eleven: Architecting a Digitally Sovereign India and Laying the Foundations of Viksit Bharat – Dr. Zafreen Mehjabin, Spokesperson, BJP Assam Pradesh

**Guwahati :** On the completion of eleven years of the Digital India Programme, BJP Assam Pradesh Spokesperson Dr. Zafreen Mehjabin stated that the initiative represents one of the most profound governance transformations undertaken in post-Independence India. Conceived under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Digital India has transcended the conventional objectives of digitising government services to emerge as a comprehensive framework for governance reform, institutional modernisation, economic transformation and citizen empowerment. It has redefined the interface between the State and its citizens by embedding transparency, efficiency, accountability and inclusivity into the architecture of governance while simultaneously positioning India as the global standard bearer of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

Dr. Mehjabin observed that before the launch of Digital India in 2015, public service delivery was largely characterised by procedural complexity, administrative delays, fragmented institutional systems and limited digital accessibility. Over the past eleven years, this paradigm has undergone a structural transformation. Governance has progressively shifted from a paper driven bureaucratic model to an integrated, technology enabled ecosystem where public services are delivered with greater speed, transparency and precision. Digital India has democratised access to governance by ensuring that technology is no longer the privilege of a few but an instrument of empowerment for every citizen, irrespective of geography or socio-economic background.

She remarked that the AM Trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile connectivity has become the foundational pillar of India's digital governance architecture and the world's largest financial inclusion ecosystem. With more than 57.78 crore Jan Dhan accounts, over 144 crore Aadhaar enrolments, and internet access reaching more than 109 crore citizens, India has successfully created an integrated digital identity and financial ecosystem unparalleled in scale. This architecture has enabled the seamless imple-

mentation of Direct Benefit Transfer, through which more than ₹51 lakh crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries across 176 crore transactions, virtually eliminating intermediaries, substantially reducing leakages and significantly enhancing fiscal transparency.

Dr. Mehjabin further stated that India's leadership in digital payments stands today as one of the most compelling demonstrations of Digital India's success. Completing a decade of transformative growth, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has expanded from merely 2 crore transactions in FY 2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore transactions during FY 2025-26, accounting for nearly 49 per cent of all global real-time digital payment transactions. The rapid international adoption of UPI across multiple countries further reflects India's emergence as a global architect of next-generation financial technology.

She highlighted that Digital India has substantially strengthened India's digital infrastructure by ensuring that connectivity reaches the last citizen. Through BharatNet, nearly 2.15 lakh Gram Panchayats, representing approximately 97 per cent of the national target, have been connected through almost seven lakh kilometres of optical fibre, while India today possesses more than 106.58 crore broadband subscribers. Complementing this digital infrastructure are more than 6.5 lakh Common Service Centres and 1.6 lakh digitally enabled post offices, which collectively serve as decentralised governance institutions delivering banking, healthcare, education, financial inclusion and public services to citizens residing in the remotest corners of the country.

Dr. Mehjabin noted that Digital India has simultaneously catalysed India's emergence as a globally competitive electronics manufacturing hub. Electronics production has expanded exponentially from ₹1.9 lakh crore in 2014-15 to nearly ₹12 lakh crore by March 2026, while India has emerged as the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer.

This remarkable transformation reflects the strategic success of policy initiatives such as Make

in India, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and sustained investments in indigenous manufacturing capabilities, thereby reinforcing India's technological self-reliance and industrial competitiveness.

She further observed that Digital India has institutionalised a new paradigm of governance through integrated digital platforms that seamlessly connect citizens with public institutions. DigiLocker, with over 70.69 crore registered users and more than 850 crore authenticated digital documents, has transformed document verification into a secure, paperless and interoperable ecosystem. Platforms such as UMANG, now offering over 2,572 citizen services, GSTN, e-Courts, e-Hospital, e-Sanjeevani, PM Gati Shakti, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and MyGov collectively represent a governance ecosystem where institutional efficiency is harmonised with citizen convenience.

Dr. Mehjabin stated that Digital India has also fundamentally reconfigured India's public healthcare delivery system. The e-Sanjeevani telemedicine platform has facilitated over 48 crore consultations, bringing specialist healthcare within the reach of rural and underserved populations. Simultaneously, the globally acclaimed CoWIN platform successfully managed more than 220 crore COVID-19 vaccinations, demonstrating India's extraordinary capability to deploy digital platforms at an unprecedented scale during public health emergencies. Initiatives such as Tele MANAS, eHospital, Online Registration System (ORS) and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission further reflect the Government's commitment to integrating digital innovation with universal healthcare delivery.

Highlighting the Government's commitment towards youth empowerment, Dr. Mehjabin remarked that MY Bharat has evolved into the world's largest Digital Public Infrastructure dedicated exclusively to young citizens. Since its inception in October 2023, the platform has registered over 2.21 crore youth, facilitated more than 1.52 lakh volunteer opportunities, sup-

ported 28,000 experiential learning programmes, and onboarded over 1.19 lakh partner organisations, thereby creating an integrated national ecosystem for leadership development, civic participation, skill enhancement and nation-building. “She further noted that Digital India has become the principal driver of technology enabled transformation across agriculture, education and human capital development. Through AgriStack, more than 9.2 crore Farmer IDs have been generated, enabling data-driven agricultural services including credit, crop insurance, procurement, subsidies and personalised advisory support. Simultaneously, educational platforms such as DIKSHA, SWAYAM, PM e-Vidya, SWAYAM Prabha and APAAR are democratising access to quality education, while initiatives including PMGDISHA, Skill India Digital Hub, FutureSkills Prime and the IndiaAI Mission are nurturing a digitally skilled workforce prepared for emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity and advanced analytics.

Dr. Mehjabin emphasised that the transformative impact of Digital India extends well beyond governance into the broader architecture of India's economic development. Today, the digital economy contributes nearly 12–14 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product and is projected to account for approximately 20 per cent within the coming decade. India's IT and ITeS sector generated an estimated USD 283 billion during FY 2024-25, while more than 2,100 Global Capability Centres presently employ nearly 26 lakh highly skilled professionals, reflecting India's growing stature as a global knowledge economy.

She further remarked that India's Digital Public Infrastructure has today become an international benchmark for scalable, secure and inclusive digital governance. Through the launch of India Stack Global and the Global DPI Repository during India's G20 Presidency, coupled with Digital Public Infrastructure cooperation agreements signed with 24 countries, India has emerged as a trusted global partner in technology diplomacy. Platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, *see page 8*

# Padmanabhaswamy Temple



The Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple, dedicated to Vishnu, in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of the state of Kerala, India. It is one of the 108 Divya Desams, the sacred abodes of Vishnu in the Sri Vaishnava tradition. It is widely considered as the world's richest Hindu temple. The name of the city of 'Thiruvananthapuram' in Malayalam and Tamil translates to "The City of Ananta" (Ananta being a form of Vishnu). The temple is built in an intricate fusion of the Kerala style and the Dravidian style of architecture, featuring high walls,

and a 16th-century gopuram. While as per some traditions the Ananthapura temple in Kumbala in Kasaragod district in Kerala is considered as the original spiritual seat of the deity ("Mulasthanam"), architecturally to some extent, the temple is a replica of the Adikesava Perumal temple in Thiruvattar in Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu. The principal deity is Padmanabhaswamy a form of Vishnu enshrined in the "Anantashayana" posture, engaged in eternal yogic sleep on his serpent mount, Shesha. Padmanabhaswamy is the tutelary deity of the Travancore royal family. The titular Maharaja of Travancore, Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma, is the current trustee of the temple.

## History

Several extant Hindu texts including the Vishnu Purana, Brahma Purana, Matsya Purana, Varaha Purana, Skanda Purana, Padma Purana, Vayu Purana and Bhagavata Purana mention the Padmanabhaswamy Temple. The Temple has been referred to in the Sangam period literature several times. Many conventional historians and scholars are of the opinion that one of the names that the Temple had, "The Golden Temple", was in cognisance of the Temple being already unimaginably wealthy by that point (early Sangam period). Many extant pieces of Sangam Tamil literature and poetry as well as later works of the 9th century of Tamil poet-saints like Nammalwar refer to the temple and the city as having walls of pure gold. Both the temple and the entire city are often eulogised as being made of gold, and the temple as heaven.

The temple is one of the 108 principal Divya Desams ("Holy Abodes") in Vaishnavism according to existing Tamil hymns from the seventh and eighth centuries C.E and is glorified in the Divya Prabandha. The Divya Prabandha glorifies this shrine as being among the 13 Divya Desam in Malai Nadu (corresponding to present-day Kerala with Kanyakumari District).

The 8th century Tamil poet Alvar Nammalvar sang the glories of Padmanabha.

It is believed that Parasurama purified and venerated the idol of Sree Padmanabhaswamy in Dvapara Yuga.

Parasurama entrusted 'Kshethra karyam' (Administration of the Temple) with seven Potti families – Koopakkara Potti, Vanchiyoor Athiyara Potti, Kollur Athiyara Potti, Muttavila Potti, Karuva Potti, Neythasserri Potti and Sreekaryathu Potti. King Adithya Vikrama of Vanchi (Venad) was directed by Parasurama to do 'Paripalanam' (Protection) of the Temple. Parasurama gave the Tantram of the Temple to Tharan-anallur Namboo-thiripad. This legend is narrated in detail in the Kerala Mahathmyam which forms part of the Brahmanda Puranam.

Another version regarding the consecration of the principal idol

of the Temple relates to the legendary sage Vilvaman-galathu Swamiyar. Swamiyar, who resided near Ananthapuram Temple in Kasaragod District, prayed to Vishnu for his darshan or "auspicious sight". The deity is believed to have come in the guise of a little boy who was mischievous. The boy defiled the idol which was kept for puja.

The sage became enraged at this and chased away the boy who disappeared before him. Realising the boy was no ordinary mortal, the sage wept for forgiveness and asked for another darshan as a sign. He heard a voice say "If you want to see me come to the Ananthavana (the unending forest or Ananthakadu). After a long search, when he was walking on the banks of the Laccadive Sea, he heard a pulaya lady warning her child that she would throw him in Ananthakadu. The moment the Swami heard the word Ananthakadu he was delighted. He



proceeded to Ananthakadu based on the directions of the lady of whom he enquired.

The sage reached Ananthakadu searching for the boy. There he saw the boy merging into an iluppa tree (Indian butter tree). The tree fell down and became Anantha Sayana Moorti (Vishnu reclining on the celestial snake Anantha). But the edifice that the deity assumed was of an extraordinarily large size, with His head at Thiruvattar near Thuckalay, Tamil Nadu, body or udal at Thiruvananthapuram, and lotus-feet at Thrippadapuram near Kulathoor and Technopark (Thrippappur), making him some eight miles in length. The sage requested the deity to shrink to a smaller proportion that would be thrice the length of his staff. Immediately the deity shrank to the form of the idol that is seen at present in the Temple.

But even then many iluppa trees obstructed a complete vision of the deity. The sage saw the deity in three parts – thirumukham, thiruvudal and

thrippadam. The swami prayed to Padmanabha to be forgiven. He offered rice kanji and uppumanga (salted mango pieces) in a coconut shell to the Perumal which he obtained from the pulaya woman. The spot where the Sage had darsan of the deity belonged to Koopakkara Potti and Karuva Potti.

With the assistance of the reigning King and some Brahmin households a temple was constructed. The

Ananthakadu Nagaraja Temple still exists to the northwest of the Padmanabhaswamy Temple. The samadhi (final resting place) of the swamiyar exists to the west of the

Padmanabhaswamy Temple. A Krishna temple was built over the samadhi. This temple, known as Vilvamangalam Sri Krishna Swami Temple, belongs to Thrissur Naduvil Madhom.

Mukilan, a Muslim marauder, invaded vast chunks of Venad in 1680 AD. He destroyed Budhapuram Bhaktadasa Perumal Temple owned by Neythasserri Potti.



# The Beauty of Serving Parents in Old Age

■ Heramba Nath

When evening folds the weary skies,  
And dusk ascends with tender sighs,  
When earth grows old, and silence sings  
Of bygone days and vanished springs,  
There blooms a grace no age can claim,  
A bond untouched by earthly fame —  
A thread of love, both firm and kind,  
That binds the heart, the soul, the mind.  
What splendour lies in marble halls?  
What echoes through the gilded walls?  
What treasure does the world bestow,  
That equals what the faithful know?  
The beauty born when hearts remain,  
To soothe old age, to ease its strain —  
When children rise with gentle hands,  
Fulfilling love's divine commands.  
Those hands that cradled tender years,  
That wiped away our childish tears,  
That fed our hopes, dispelled our fears,  
Now tremble as the evening nears.  
And in those eyes, once bright and clear,  
The light of memory disappears,  
And faltering steps and scattered thought,  
Demand the care that love had taught.  
Recall those nights when fevered brow,  
Was cooled by touch, was calmed somehow,  
When whispered hymns and fervent prayer  
Enfolded us with tender care.  
And shall we now, in life's late stage,  
Abandon them to silent age?  
Shall strangers take the sacred place,  
Where we should kneel in love and grace?  
The laurels poets proudly wear,  
The swords of heroes bold and rare,  
The crowns that kings have fought to gain,  
Are fleeting things, both pale and vain.  
For none shall shine, nor yet endure,  
As does the heart, devoted, pure —  
That serves its parents, weak and worn,  
With grace and love, though time has torn.

O heaven, mark this deed sublime,  
Inscribed beyond the bounds of time,  
That even angels bend to see,  
The child who serves devotedly.  
No monument nor temple high  
Shall gleam so bright against the sky,  
As humble hearts who softly tend  
The ones who bore them, to the end.  
When autumn leaves begin to fall,  
And mortal days grow faint and small,  
When shadows stretch and colours pale,  
And evening's hush begins to veil,  
There rises virtue's purest test —  
To grant the aged soul its rest,  
To be the light where once we leaned,  
The voice, the touch, our hearts had gleaned.  
Think on the days of tender spring,  
When innocence knew everything,  
When weathered hands and patient grace,  
Would lift us in a fond embrace.  
And now, the wheel of time turns round,  
Our footsteps on familiar ground,  
And bids us sow with loving will,  
The seeds they planted, tending still.  
For life is but a fleeting breath,  
A winding path that leads to death,  
And in that brief, uncertain span,  
The highest calling known to man,  
Is not to seek a throne or name,  
Nor chase the fickle winds of fame —  
But serve with care, with steady heart,  
The ones who loved us from the start.  
Let not ambition cloud the way,  
Nor worldly pleasures bid us stray,  
For wealth shall pass, and titles fall,  
And glory fade, beyond recall.  
But love endures, a sacred thread,  
That binds the living to the dead —  
A legacy no time can mar,  
A silent hymn, a guiding star.  
So vow we now, while yet we may,  
Before the night consumes the day,

To tend our parents as they wane,  
To soothe their loss, to share their pain,  
And by such grace, ourselves renew,  
As skies refresh with morning's hue.  
For in this task, so humbly done,  
Lies Beauty second unto none.  
No artist's hand, no poet's pen,  
No laureate among great men,  
Has wrought a work so vast, so wide,  
As hearts that walk with love beside,  
The failing form, the dimming gaze,  
The trembling voice, the twilight haze.  
And in that moment, time shall see,  
The soul ascend, serene and free.  
For heaven keeps a chamber bright,  
For those who serve in love's pure light,  
And when life's final dusk has flown,  
Their names shall be in mercy's tone.  
A grace no death can darken yet,  
A bond the stars shall not forget.  
O let us rise, with hearts made clear,  
While yet the hour of love is near.  
And in that final reckoning,  
When all the soul's deeds rise and cling,  
This one shall gleam, unmatched, supreme,  
A light no cloud nor night can dim.  
The beauty of a mortal span,  
Fulfilled within this sacred plan:  
To cradle age, to dry its tear,  
To cast aside all pride and fear,  
And hold, as life draws to its close,  
The hand that once dispersed our woes.  
O timeless task, O duty bright,  
O torch that burns beyond the night,  
No nobler deed shall mortals wear,  
Than love repaid with faithful care.  
And in that hour, both grave and grand,  
The soul shall bloom, and softly stand,  
At heaven's gate, with joy made whole —  
For serving love redeems the soul.

## Dibrugarh District Journalists' Association Holds Annual General Meeting

**Bipin Sharma Re-elected President, Manjit Bora Re-elected General Secretary**



**M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh :** The Annual General Meeting of the Dibrugarh District Journalist Association was successfully held at the association's office premises under the chairmanship of its President, Bipin Sarma. Organized by the Greater Dibrugarh Press Club, the significant meeting witnessed the active participation of journalists from different parts of the district, making the event highly meaningful. During the meeting, several important resolutions were adopted in support of the safety, welfare, and rights of journalists. The members particularly demanded the early introduction of a journal-

ists' insurance scheme, strengthening of the journalists' pension system, and an increase in the number of pension beneficiaries. In addition, several public-interest resolutions concerning the overall development of Dibrugarh were passed. These included the early upgradation of Dibrugarh Mohanbari Airport into an international airport, scientific measures to control erosion along the Brahmaputra River, improvement of healthcare services at Assam Medical College, widening of city roads to ease traffic congestion, expediting infrastructure development in Dibrugarh as the state's second capital, and the establishment of a modern multi-level car parking facility. With the objective of further strengthening the organizational structure, the meeting also adopted several key organizational decisions. At the delegates' meeting, attended by representatives from Khowang, Moran, Lahowal, Rajgarh, Tingkhang, Chabua, Barbarua, Tengakhat, and Duliajan, a strong new ex-

ecutive committee was unanimously formed for the upcoming term. Bipin Sarma was re-elected as President, while Manjit Bora was re-elected as General Secretary. The newly constituted committee includes Pabitra Borthakur as Working President; Jayanta Bhuyan and Nava Kumar Gogoi as Vice-Presidents; Krishna Gogoi and Muktamani Hazarika as Joint Secretaries; Pustak Phukan and Tapobrata Gogoi as Assistant Secretaries; Pranjal Saikia as Treasurer; and Homen Phukan as Office Secretary. Executive Committee members elected are Jitendra Srivastava, Babul Sonowal, Ratul Buragohain, Dibakar Dutta, Dinesh Das, Chandan Phukan, Arun Nag, Bapan Pal, and Thomas Buragohain. Senior journalists Rajib Borgohain and Manoranjan Hazarika were nominated as Advisors to the association. Notably, the programme commenced with the hoisting of the association's flag, floral tributes, and a one-minute silence in memory of departed colleagues.

# Dibrugarh's Kanoi College Celebrates 81st Foundation Day

## AMC Principal Dr. Sanjeeb Kakoty Conferred the Ashwini Charan Memorial Award



**M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh :** "Over the past decade, Dibrugarh Hanumanbux Surajmal Kanoi College (Autonomous) has witnessed unprecedented progress. From science and technology to education, literature, culture, and sports, I feel immensely proud of the institution's remarkable advancement." These remarks were made today by Dr. Ashwini Sharma, Executive Director of the United Nations North-East Relations Centre, Guwahati, Secretary General of the UNESCO Association, Guwahati, and an office bearer of several international organizations, while inaugurating the college's 81st Foundation Day celebrations as the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, Dr. Sharma stated that Kanoi College has successfully accomplished several pioneering initiatives in technology that have drawn global attention. Besides this, the college has excelled in environmental conservation, education, and sports, producing talented individuals who have brought laurels beyond the country's borders. Calling it a privilege to be present at the foundation day of such a historic institution, he said that he would continue extending his support to the college's constructive initiatives and would strive to present its globally significant achievements on the platforms of the United Nations and UNESCO. "Expressing satisfaction over the college's remarkable progress, Dr. Sharma announced that Kanoi College would be honoured with the "Gravel Mission Knowledge Award" by the United Nations North-East Relations Centre in recognition of its exceptional leadership in the UN and UNESCO Mission Knowledge Programme, in which the institution had recently participated. He also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the college Principal, Dr. Sashikanta Saikia. Furthermore, he informed the gathering that efforts would be made to facilitate an honour for Kanoi College directly from the United Nations Headquarters in New

York. "The guests were accorded a grand traditional welcome from the college's main entrance with Gayan-Bayan performances and an NCC guard of honour. Floral tributes were paid to the statues of the institution's chief founder Hanumanbux Kanai, founding Principal Dr. Yogiraj Basu, founding Vice-Principal Lakshmi Prasad Dutta, and founding Secretary Ashwini Charan Choudhury. Earlier in the morning, following the flag hoisting ceremony by Principal Dr. Sashikanta Saikia, an open session was held where the President of the Governing Body, Dr. Lathiram Saikia, praised the college's positive achievements and urged the faculty members to continue working for the institution's development. "Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation Mayor Dr. Saikat Patra expressed that he felt honoured to be present on the auspicious occasion of the college's Foundation Day. Delivering the welcome address, Principal Dr. Sashikanta Saikia paid heartfelt tribute to the institution's founding visionaries, including Hanumanbux Kanoi, Dr. Yogiraj Basu, Lakshmi Prasad Dutta, Ashwini Charan Choudhury, and all other respected founders and educationists. He remarked that their immense sacrifices and dreams had laid the foundation for one of Upper Assam's premier centres of higher education. He said that what stands today as a great institution began not merely with bricks, stones, sand, and cement, but with the seeds of genuine dreams and selfless dedication. Emphasizing that the 21st century is the era of information technology, Dr. Saikia stated that the college has been working towards becoming a fully modern, technology-driven institution, and several initiatives have already been completed to establish its presence on the global stage. During the programme, Dr. Sanjeeb Kakoty, Principal of Assam Medical College and an alumnus of Kanoi College, received the Ashwini Charan Choudhury Memorial Award. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed his admiration for the college's remarkable progress and fondly recalled his memorable days as a student. The college also honoured Ajay Hazarika of Dibrugarh with the Best Organiser Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the institution. Bhumika Gogoi, a student of the Department of Anthropology who secured the highest marks in the Bachelor of Arts examinations

this year, received the Dr. Lakshmi Prasad Dutta Memorial Award. As part of the Foundation Day celebrations, the Dr. Lakshmi Prasad Dutta Memorial Lecture was delivered by eminent writer and former Head of the Department of History at Jagannath Barooah University, Dr. Raktim Ranjan Saikia, on the topic "Economic Development of Ancient Assam in the Context of Material Culture." "The programme, coordinated by Dr. Chandana Goswami, Head of the Department of History, also witnessed the release and screening of the college anthem's videography. Several publications were formally released during the event, including the college's annual bulletin, the expanded development volume "Uttaran," a research publication of the college, and two books authored by former Acting Principal Dr. Atikuddin Ahmed titled "Bipanna Samayar Majedi" and "Kanoi College". To mark the occasion, the best sixth-semester student from every department of the college was honoured with certificates of excellence. Addressing the gathering, Governing Body member Jyoti Prasad Kanoi announced that all the Kanoi educational institutions would jointly honour Principal Dr. Sashikanta Saikia in recognition of his outstanding leadership and contributions. Among those present were Governing Body member Dr. Gopal Chandra Hazarika, Vice-Principal Dr. Partha Ganguly, Academic Council Member-Secretary Dr. Jyoti Prasad Phukan, Dr. Mridul Sharma, family members of Dr. Lakshmi Prasad Dutta—Rupanda Dutta, Sagar Dutta, and Dr. Mousumi Dutta; Principal of Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls' College, Dr. Anupjyoti Bharali; Principal of Kanoi Commerce College, Dr. Jaydev Gogoi; former principals, faculty members, alumni, current teachers, staff, distinguished citizens, and more than a hundred students. A documentary on the history and achievements of Kanoi College was also screened during the event. "The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Nitumoni Saikia, Assistant Professor of the Department of Anthropology. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Writers' Association of Assam, Chief Editor Udayanti Hazarika Dutta felicitated Principal Dr. Sashikanta Saikia as the institution's first well-wisher during the programme.

*Continue from page no 5*

## Digital India at Eleven: Architecting a Digitally Sovereign India and Laying the Foundations of Viksit Bharat – Dr. Zafreen Mehjabin,

DigiLocker, GeM, CoWIN, ONDC and Account Aggregator are increasingly informing digital governance frameworks across the world, affirming India's position as a thought leader in digital statecraft.

Dr. Mehjabin concluded by stating that the far reaching vision of Digital India has found meaningful expression in Assam, where digital governance has become a cornerstone of administrative reforms, transparent public service delivery, and inclusive development. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Dr.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam has witnessed remarkable progress in digital infrastructure, e-Governance, digital public services, entrepreneurship, agriculture, education, healthcare, artificial intelligence, electronics manufacturing, and innovation.

She further highlighted that flagship welfare initiatives such as Orunodoi, benefiting lakhs of economically vulnerable families, the PM-KISAN scheme, which provides direct income support to nearly 29 lakh farmers in Assam, and the Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan,

aimed at empowering nearly 40 lakh women through entrepreneurship, exemplify how digital platforms have made governance more transparent, efficient, and citizen-centric.

Dr. Mehjabin asserted that the continued convergence of the Digital India Mission with the Assam Government's development agenda will further transform the State into a knowledge driven, innovation-led, and investment friendly economy, while strengthening Assam's contribution towards the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

# Dibrugarh University Launches the Country's First Heritage Digitization Internship Programme

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Hazarika Oversees MoU Signing



**M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh :** In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India at the university level, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday (June 29, 2026) between Dibrugarh University and the Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF) under the Digitizing Assam 2.0 initiative to launch an app-based Heritage Digitization Internship Programme. Under this programme, students will have the opportunity to use a dedicated mobile application during their summer internship to digitize rare books, journals, manuscripts, and other historical documents available in their respective localities. The MoU signing

ceremony was attended and supervised by Dibrugarh University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Jiten Hazarika. Dr. Narayan Sarma, representing the Assam Jatiya Vidyalyaya Educational and Socio-Economic Trust, was also present at the event. As part of the internship, students will receive training in digitization, metadata creation, archival documentation, and digital preservation. All digitized materials will be stored in the digital repository of the Nanda Talukdar Foundation. The primary objective of the programme is to preserve Assam's literary and intellectual heritage while equipping students with modern

digital skills. The initiative has also received the support of the Govt of Assam. In a letter addressed to all universities in the state, Education Minister Dr. Ranaj Pegu urged them to actively participate in the Digitizing Assam 2.0 campaign. He noted that the digital repository already houses 2.76 million pages of rare books, journals, manuscripts, government records, and other archival materials. In the future, the repository is expected to serve as a significant knowledge base for developing Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven governance in Assam. "Launched in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP), the programme aims to integrate community participation, experiential learning, and modern technology to preserve Assam's knowledge heritage while setting a new benchmark for the rest of the country."

# Successful Conclusion of 'Pragati' Program in Jorhat: 'Pragati' Opens New Doors of Opportunities; MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa Highly Praises the Initiative

**Jorhat :** The concluding ceremony and career counseling session of the Jorhat District Administration's flagship initiative, 'Pragati' (Program for Relevant Aspirational Guidance and Aptitude Training Initiative), was successfully held today, June 30, 2026, at the Dr. Madhab Chandra Das Memorial Auditorium of Assam Agricultural University. Organized in alignment with Jorhat District Day, the project was executed by the Jorhat District Administration in collaboration with T.I.M.E. and TRIJOS Foundation, and sponsored by corporate partners ONGC and Vedanta. The 6-week program was conducted across 8 designated centers in the district, drawing participation from a total of 2,147 students. Out of these

attendees, 600 selected students will receive an additional 6 weeks of specialized guidance, while 50 highly meritorious students have been granted one year of completely free coaching. "During the day-long event, highly experienced and skilled resource persons from various fields utilized detailed PowerPoint presentations to provide students with comprehensive, data-driven insights into future planning and career development. Rather than focusing solely on syllabus details for competitive examinations, the speakers heavily emphasized building the right mindset for success, alongside practical discussions on perseverance, time management, effective study techniques, and personal development."

# Fifth Biennial Conference of ATASU Bokakhat Sub-Division Committee Held



**Arindam Bapanash, Bokakhat :** The fifth biennial conference of the Bokakhat Sub-Division Committee of the All Assam Tai Ahom Students' Union (ATASU) was held on Sunday at the Central Bihu Ground in Bokakhat with a day-long programme. "The main entrance gate of the conference was inaugurated by Jitu Sharma Rajkhowa, President of the Assam State Journalists' Association. The ATASU flag was hoisted by Bokakhat Sub-Division Committee President Bijoy Phukan along with Reception Committee President Cheniram Gogoi. The flag of the Komargaon Badulipar Branch was also ceremonially hoisted. A ceremonial lamp was lit before the portrait of Chaolung Sukapha by Bhadreswar Chetia, while floral tributes were paid by Uttam Saikia, Secretary of the Bokakhat Press Club. Tulsi Gogoi lit the ceremonial lamp before the portrait of national martyr Dimbeswar Gogoi, followed by floral tributes from writer Kalpana Chetia. A lamp was also lit before the portrait of late Chinmoyraj Phukan by Bokakhat Press Club President Bhabananda Kalita, while floral tributes were offered by Dalimi Sandikoi Gogoi. Later, drawing and essay competitions were organised for students from across the Bokakhat subdivision. In the afternoon, an open session was held under the chairmanship of Reception Committee President Cheniram Gogoi. During the programme, prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions, and 148 students of the Tai Ahom community who secured outstanding results in the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) and Higher Secondary (HS) Final Examinations were felicitated. Dr. Pranab Dhekiyal Phukan, Associate Professor of Sarupathar College, attended the open session as the keynote speaker. A book release programme was also organised, where Indrajit Phukan, Principal of Komargaon Higher Secondary School, formally unveiled the publication. The open session was attended by ATASU Central Committee President Basanta Gogoi, Bokakhat Municipal Board Chairperson Ratneswar Bora, and representatives of several community organisations, including the Gorkha Students' Union, Tea Tribes Students' Association, Chutia Students' Association, and other ethnic organisations. The programme concluded with the delegates' session and the election meeting held later in the evening."

*Continue from page no 1*

## Assam Health Minister Ashok Singhal Visits Assam Medical College in

oldest medical college. Upon arriving at the hospital, the minister chaired an important review meeting where detailed discussions were held on the institution's administration and its future developmental roadmap. Addressing a press conference later, Singhal highlighted several key issues. The minister praised the sincerity and dedication of the doctors and staff of AMC&H. He said that the institution has not only been providing quality healthcare services to patients but has also created an excellent environment for medical education. He informed that the review meeting extensively discussed strategies to include AMC&H among the top 50 medical and healthcare institutions in India in the coming years. Singhal also urged the medical college to undertake specialized research on various region-specific diseases and health issues prevalent in the area. Responding to a question from journalists regarding the overwhelming patient load at the hospital, the minister referred to the government's policy of decentralizing healthcare services. He said that AMC&H remains the primary referral centre for the most critical and complicated cases from Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Biswanath, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, and several other surrounding districts. Therefore, in the future, the medical college will focus primarily on treating critically ill patients. He clarified that patients suffering from common ailments, which can be effectively treated at district hospitals, community health centres, or primary health centres, need not travel to the medical college. The government has ensured the availability of adequate doctors and medicines at these healthcare facilities. He appealed to the public to avail themselves of the high-quality services offered by government medical institutions instead of spending money on private hospitals. Replying to another question regarding the shortage of doctors and healthcare workers in the state, the minister presented a detailed statistical overview. He explained that the health sector mainly requires two categories of personnel—support staff and doctors. According to him, Assam currently does not face any shortage of MBBS doctors. Every year, nearly 1,000 MBBS graduates and around 600 postgraduate medical graduates complete their education (against a total intake of 803 seats) and serve under the mandatory government service requirement. However, he urged the public to understand that producing a skilled specialist doctor is a lengthy process. He observed that many people mistakenly believe doctors become fully qualified within just a few years. In reality, an MBBS degree today is only a basic qualification. It takes approximately 12 to 14 years to train a super-specialist capable of independently heading a department or functioning as a senior consultant. Concluding the press conference, Singhal emphasized that the development of a medical institution is a gradual process and cannot be achieved overnight. He noted that AMC&H has taken nearly 80 years to reach its present stature, while Gauhati Medical College has completed around 65 years of growth. He added that medical education in Assam is steadily progressing. Efforts are currently underway at AMC&H to establish several new departments, upgrade existing ones, and introduce new Doctorate of Medicine (DM) super-specialty programmes. He remarked that such long-term visionary planning had not been undertaken in the past and appreciated the initiatives currently being implemented. The review meeting was attended by Cabinet Minister Bimal Borah, Dibrugarh MLA and Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee Prasanta Phukan, the Director of Medical Education, Commissioner and Secretary of the Health Department, Principal Dr. Sanjib Kakati, Superintendent Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhuyan, and heads of various departments.

## Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika visits Barhampur constituency in

economy. During the visit, the Minister detailed extensive discussions on the orchard's operational logistics and comprehensively assessed the immediate irrigation possibilities on-site to ensure optimal water supply. Highlighting the untapped potential of commercial cash crops, the Minister also participated in a mega coconut sapling plantation drive organized by the Nagaon Agriculture Department at Borkochari village under the Nonoi Agricultural Circle. Addressing the gathering Minister Hazarika pointed out that despite massive domestic demand, coconut production in Assam remains disproportionately low. Emphasizing that Assam's fertile soil is a divine blessing, he expressed firm confidence that scaling up coconut cultivation will unlock a massive market for local growers. He urged farmers to aggressively maximize the production of high-demand commodities to accelerate the growth of Assam's horticulture sector. Concluding the district tour, the Minister took part in a traditional paddy seedling plantation program at Borkochari village in Kondoli, Nagaon. Interacting with the local farming community on the ground, Pijush Hazarika took first-hand stock of their operational challenges. He issued strict directives to the departmental officials present to maintain a continuous log of farmers' grievances so that the government can extend prompt and comprehensive administrative support. During the tour, he was accompanied by Barhampur MLA Jitu Goswami, the District Commissioner of Nagaon, the Director of Horticulture, and other senior officials.

## Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2

the appreciation that film received at the time. Sometimes, the story of a film begins even before its release. Long before the story seen on screen, several other stories are born — of people, memories, struggles, relationships, and time. In that same spirit, amidst much curiosity, the Assamese film "Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2" will be released today, 3rd July. In the history of Assamese cinema, there are some names that create a special trust among audiences. Nip Barua, Nipan Goswami, Pranjal Saikia, Mridula Barua, Tapan Das, Jatin Bora, Utpal Das, Prastuti Parashar — these names do not merely represent artists; they carry the memories of the viewers. Utpal Das will be seen in a very significant role in "Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2", which is counting down to release. Alongside him are renowned actor Jatin Bora, actress Prastuti Parashar, and many experienced and talented artists including Tapan Das. Moreover, the film will also feature internationally acclaimed actor Adil Hussain. This ensemble is not just a casting choice; it is a confluence of multiple eras, multiple experiences, and multiple successes. There is also the name of director Biswajit Bora. Observing his style of work, it is evident that he does not create artificial divisions between commercial and artistic cinema. He shapes a film according to the needs of the story. That is why audience curiosity about his new film is natural. The recently released trailer of the film already indicates that "Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2" is not just an ordinary family film. It features advanced technical expertise, large-scale production design, a gathering of experienced artists, and elements that can touch the emotions of the audience. Discussions about it have now begun everywhere — in colleges, markets, and public places of the town. A significant number of people want to say that "Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2" will be a major success for the Assamese film industry. Although the Assamese film world has not yet been able to firmly establish itself as a full-fledged industry, it was able to move toward success thanks to the efforts of the youth heartthrob Zubeen Garg. People of the town still hope that a continuous stream of commercially successful, audience-loved, and quality films can smoothen that path. There was a time when audiences used to rush to cinema halls to watch Assamese films. The call uttered by Zubeen Garg during Mission China — "We will run and run, we will watch Assamese cinema" — was not just a promotional line; it was a cultural movement to keep Assamese cinema alive. The fire of that movement has not yet been extinguished, and that seems to be proven once again. Everyone seems hopeful about "Kokaideuota, Nati Aru Hati 2". If audiences across the state embrace the film wholeheartedly, then it is believed that this film could go beyond commercial success and open doors of new confidence, new energy, and new possibilities for the Assamese film industry.

## Body of 35-year-old man found near railway track at Sandha

**Nalbari :** A 35-year-old man's body was found near the railway track at Sandha in Nalbari district on Tuesday morning, triggering concern in the area. The deceased has been identified as Bijit Basumatary, a resident of Dhamdhama. Preliminary information suggests that he may have been hit by a train during the early hours of the morning. However, it is not yet clear whether the death was the result of a suicide or an accident.

## Palasbari MLA felicitates over 2,500 meritorious students, announces free competitive exam coaching



**Deepshikha Nath, Chhaygaon :** A grand felicitation programme for meritorious students who excelled in the recently declared High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) and Higher Secondary (HS) examinations was organised at Palasbari R B HS& MP School playground in Sarpara near Mirza on Saturday. The event was initiated by Palasbari MLA Himangshu Shekhar Baishya in collaboration with the South Kamrup District BJP and Sanmilita Janakalyan Mancha, a non-governmental organisation. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Kamrup District Commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra described the programme as a source of inspiration for students, stating that public recognition of academic achievements motivates young minds to strive for greater success. He urged students not to restrict their career aspirations to medicine and engineering alone, highlighting the vast opportunities available across diverse professional fields. He encouraged meritorious students to prepare for the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), while advising others to pursue vocational education in line with their aptitude and skills. Mishra also called upon students to become responsible citizens and contribute meaningfully to society, their families and the nation. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Baishya said the felicitated students represent the future of the Palasbari constituency. Stressing that the present era is highly

competitive, he urged students to build successful careers while remaining committed to the development of their native region. MLA Baishya also announced that free coaching classes for competitive examinations, including the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC), ADRE and other government recruitment examinations, would soon be introduced for students of the constituency. He further stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam is witnessing rapid development and expressed his commitment to making Palasbari one of the state's most progressive constituencies. Baishya added that he has already held discussions with the Chief Minister regarding several developmental initiatives for the constituency. Poet, litterateur and senior police officer Dr Nanda Sing Borkola, another distinguished speaker, emphasised that education is the most powerful force in society. He urged students not only to become successful professionals but also responsible and compassionate human beings. Expressing concern over the declining use of the Assamese language among some students studying in English-medium institutions, he stressed that language forms the identity of a nation and appealed to the younger generation to preserve and promote their mother tongue. Among those present were Palasbari Co-District Commissioner Bhaskar Jyoti Kalita, Palasbari Circle Officer Angkita Sharma, Principal of Dakshin Kamrup Girls' College Dr Narakanta Adhikari, Principal of Dakshin Kamrup College Dadul Deuri along with principals of various schools and colleges, parents and several other dignitaries. More than 5,000 people attended the programme, during which nearly 2,500 meritorious students from schools and colleges under Palasbari LAC including CBSE-affiliated institutions were felicitated with book kits, certificates of appreciation and traditional Assamese gamosas.

## Wild Elephant Damages Scooty, Disrupts Traffic on PM Neem Ali Road

**Bokakhat :** A large herd of wild elephants was seen roaming along the Prime Minister Neem Ali Road near the Numaligarh Refinery during the daytime on Tuesday. A scooty that had been parked beside the road was knocked over and damaged by one of the elephants in the herd. However, after an eyewitness shouted, the elephant stopped, preventing further damage. The herd remained near the scooter for some time before eventually moving away without causing any additional harm.

The elephants blocked the road for a considerable period, disrupting traffic. Meanwhile, in the Rongbong area, wild elephants have been entering villagers' compounds in search of jackfruit, creating fear and concern among locals.



## Allocation of Funds under VB G RAM G Will Ensure Rural Employment and Development: Dr. Devajit Mahanta

**Guwahati :** Following the renaming of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar & Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB G RAM G), the Government of India has released Rs. 95,692.31 crore for the nationwide implementation of the scheme from July 1, 2026. Assam will receive Rs. 1,929.70 crore from the Central Government under the scheme. The Government of Assam, led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has set a target of providing ₹1 crore annually to every Gram Panchayat through this scheme to strengthen rural infrastructure and ensure employment at the grassroots level. In addition to the Central allocation, the State Government will contribute Rs. 2,000 crore towards VB G RAM G. Every worker employed under the scheme will receive a daily wage of Rs. 300 for 125 days. The primary objective of the new VB G RAM G is to accelerate rural development in line with the vision of achieving a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The scheme aims to provide guaranteed employment for unskilled labour, promote local planning, maintain a balance between agricultural productivity and workers' welfare, generate employment, improve rural livelihoods, and transform the rural economy. The guaranteed employment period has been increased by 25 percent, from 100 days under MGNREGA to 125 days under VB G RAM G. Under the revised guidelines, no workers can be engaged under VB G RAM G during the crop sowing and harvesting seasons, which have been fixed at 60 days. This provision is intended to prevent labour shortages during critical agricultural periods while also ensuring that farmers themselves can benefit from employment opportunities under the scheme. Unlike MGNREGA, where the Central Government bore 100 percent of the employment generation cost, the new VB G RAM G will generally follow a 60:40 Centre-State funding pattern. However, for the eight Northeastern states, along with Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh, the funding ratio will be 90:10, with 90 percent contributed by the Central Government and 10 percent by the respective State Governments. In the press statement, BJP Assam Pradesh spokesperson Dr. Devajit Mahanta stated that between 2006 and 2014, during the Congress-led government, a total of Rs. 2,13,220 crore was allocated for MGNREGA. In comparison, the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has allocated Rs. 95,691.70 crore for VB G RAM G for a single financial year. Highlighting another significant feature of the scheme, Dr. Mahanta said that the utilisation of funds and execution of works under the new guidelines will be audited and monitored using modern technology. A joint committee comprising representatives of both the Central and State Governments will be constituted for this purpose. The committee will publish weekly public reports on the progress of works. To strengthen transparency and monitoring, the scheme will utilise GPS-enabled mobile technology along with Artificial Intelligence (AI) for comprehensive supervision of all works. Dr. Mahanta further stated that allegations of misuse of MGNREGA funds during the Congress government's tenure are widely acknowledged.

## Lokhra Battalion Organises 'A Day with Assam Rifles' at Lokhra



**Chandan Sarma, Tezpur :** Lokhra Battalion of Assam Rifles successfully organised "A Day with Assam Rifles" on 29 June 2026 at Lokhra with the aim of strengthening civil-military relations and inspiring the youth of the region. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Gyan Prakash Academy (EGO Trust School), local residents, and Army aspirants, who actively took part in the interac-

tive programme. During the event, participants had the opportunity to interact closely with Assam Rifles personnel and gain valuable insights into the life, values, and ethos of the Force. A series of engaging activities and events were organised, in which the students and local youth participated with great enthusiasm, energy, and team spirit. An interactive motivational session was also conducted, during which the participants shared their

aspirations and ambitions in life. Assam Rifles personnel encouraged and motivated them to pursue their dreams with dedication, discipline, and perseverance, while emphasising the importance of hard work, integrity, and determination in achieving success. The programme concluded on a positive note, fostering a stronger bond of trust, mutual respect, and affection between Assam Rifles and the local community. Such initiatives reflect Assam Rifles' continued commitment towards nation-building by empowering the youth, strengthening civil-military relations, and contributing to the overall development and well-being of the local population.

## Lokhra Battalion conducts national pulse polio immunization day



**Chandan Sarma, Tezpur :** Lokhra Battalion of Assam Rifles successfully conducted the National Pulse Polio Immunization Day on 28 June 2026 at the Unit MI Room as part of the Government of India's nationwide initiative to protect children against poliomyelitis. The immunization drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, with 48 children below five years of age receiving

the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV). The programme was organised with the objective of strengthening India's commitment to maintaining its polio-free status by ensuring immunization coverage for every eligible child. The Battalion Medical Team, in coordination with local health authorities, efficiently conducted the vaccination drive while creating awareness among parents and guardians re-

garding the importance of routine immunization in preventing vaccine-preventable diseases. The event was conducted smoothly with all necessary medical and administrative arrangements in place at the Unit MI Room. The active participation of parents and guardians reflected the community's trust in the healthcare initiatives undertaken by Assam Rifles and their commitment towards safeguarding the health and well-being of their children. Through such humanitarian and community healthcare initiatives, Assam Rifles continues to reaffirm its commitment towards nation-building by supporting national public health programmes, strengthening civil-military relations and contributing to the welfare of the local population.

## Thought-Provoking Lecture on "Srimanta Sankardeva and Guru Nanak" Held at Dibrugarh University

**M Hashim, Dibrugarh :** A special lecture program was organized by the Researchers' Forum of the Department of Assamese at Dibrugarh University. Presiding over the event, Forum President Ripu Kachari welcomed the participants. Professor Yojana Rawat of the Centre for Distance and Online Education, Panjab University, delivered an insightful lecture on the topic "Srimanta Sankardeva and Guru Nanak: Harbingers of Human Liberation". Present at the program were Professor Dr. Nirajana Mahanta Bezboruah, Dr. Satyakam Borthakur, and Assistant Professor Dr. Bhagyashree Sharma of the Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University, who offered words of appreciation and gratitude. The event was also attended by Assistant Professors Dr. Swati Kiran, Dr. Jitu Bora, Dr. Darpanjit Konwar, Dr. Jintu Hazarika, Dr. Dipshikha Buragohain (Part-time), Dr. Banisha Saikia (Part-time), and Dr. Jyotismita Dutta (Part-time) of the same department. Researchers and postgraduate students also participated in the program.

**BA Animal Feed Centre**

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মাসিক লগতে ব্ৰহ্মাণ্ড, হাঁহ, পেদাশী,  
সোজেল-পেদাশীৰ অৰ্জৰ লোৱা হয়।

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স্বৰ্ণা কাৰ্যালয়

এম টি ৰোড  
নৌকো-ব্ৰিটিছ হাৰাফাৰাৰ পিছফালে।

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নৌকো-ব্ৰিটিছ হাৰাফাৰাৰ পিছফালে।

# FINE DINE

Taste of Assam

**ভাত**

মাছ, মাংস, পৰঠা, 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)**