

THE ASSAM JYOTI

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Centre approves Rs. 5,000 crore PMAY housing package for flood-affected Assam



New Delhi : The Government of India has approved housing assistance worth approximately Rs. 5,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) for flood-affected families in

Assam, with the Union Government also extending further support for agriculture and rural development in the state. The decisions were taken during a meeting between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the national capital on Tuesday. During the meeting, Chouhan formally handed over the approval for 3.8 lakh new houses under PMAY-G to Assam. The Union Minister also assured that additional PMAY houses would be sanctioned for flood-affected areas to facilitate the early rehabilitation and rebuilding of families whose homes have been damaged by floods. According to the Union Minister, the survey period under

PMAY-G has also been extended by 15 days to ensure that no eligible flood-affected family is left out of the housing assistance programme. The Centre has further decided to extend the benefits of PMAY to eligible families of tea garden workers through a digital survey after they receive land pattas. The measure is aimed at expanding access to permanent housing among tea garden communities in Assam. The meeting also focused on the impact of floods on agriculture and the need to strengthen support for affected farmers. Action plans worth Rs. 832.70 crore under the Agriculture Unnati Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been approved for flood-affected farmers. In addition, *see page 7*

Minister Pijush Hazarika Interacts with 1,000+ CM-AAA Beneficiaries in Jagiroad

Beneficiaries must use funds only for entrepreneurship: Minister Hazarika



Jagiroad : Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation and Parliamentary Affairs Pijush Hazarika today held an extensive inter-

action with over 1,000 beneficiaries of the Chief Minister's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhiyan (CM-AAA) in Jagiroad to evaluate the ground-level status of enterprises established under the flagship scheme. Reviewing the progress of various business ventures, the Minister stressed the urgent need to shift focus toward production-oriented sectors such as poultry, piggery, fishery, horticulture, and multi-cropping alongside traditional trading. He requested the Industry Department to prioritize beneficiaries engaged in agriculture and production, emphasizing that enhancing local productivity is crucial to *see page 7*

Gauhati University hosts first-ever job fair with 65 companies

Azara : Gauhati University organised its first-ever job fair on the university campus on Monday, bringing together 65 companies and more than 540 job aspirants as part of an

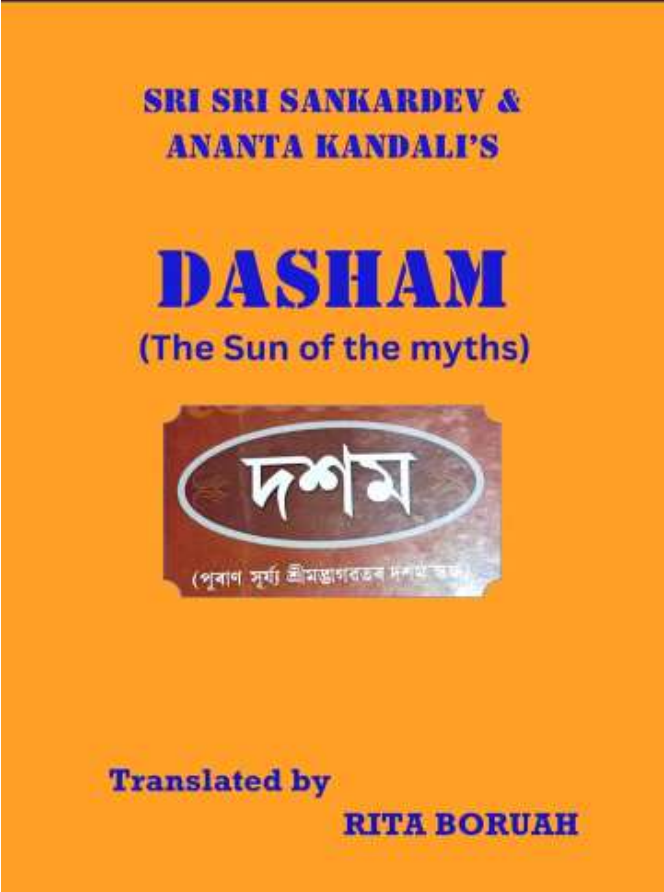
initiative to strengthen employability, career opportunities, and industry-academia engagement. Organised by the Job Fair Committee, Gauhati University, the event provided *see page 7*

Demand for establishing "Satellite City" at Laheshwari Chapori in the Brahmaputra



Ramen Bharali, Bansar : "We must have the Satellite City. For the development of future generations, establish the Satellite City at Laheshwari Chapori" - With this slogan, hundreds of men and women supporters took to the streets in support of the Assam Government's proposed "Satellite City". At a meeting held on 23rd August at the public auditorium near Laha's Shahid Bedi, under the initiative of the All Laheshwari Yuva Unnayan Samiti, the demand for setting up the "Satellite City" was strongly raised. The meeting was presided over by the committee's president Manoj Kumar Das. Attending the meeting, active member Dhanjit Nath said that the Satellite City proposed by the Assam Government at Laheshwari Chapori *see page 7*

Srimadvagawata, Dasham,
Canto the tenth
Part-46
Advice



O the assemblers ,please hear the essence of the Maha
vagawata
Make yourself over to Krishna.
It is the Sun of the myths
The exposure of devotion
The rescue of the essence of all the Vedas.
And hear it's primitive truth,
The Vedas became the fabulous tree
And the Maha vagawata is it's fruit.
There is neither heart of the tree nor sweet skin
It was not there for so long
In the heaven,earth or in the middle of the seven re-
gions.
It tastes like nectar,
Only the essence of pleasure
In those days,was in the Paradise.
After in the mercy of Krishna
Passed the half of the age
Brahma got it in the leaf of the lotus.
Brahma gave it to Narada
Narada brought it to Byas.
Did not break in the least
Joining to one another
Came down to earth through the mouth of Shuka.
Drink this juice according to your destiny
Destroy all jeopardies
By hearing the praise of Krishna with honest com-
pany.
The time snake swallows your age moment by mo-
ment
Knowing it ,find out the resource of your path.
Our life is as fickle as the water of a lotus leaf.
Madhava is my parents
The dispeller of fear
Beyond Him,nobody is there
Hence spell the words Hari
Life is of no use beyond Hari.

■ Rita Boruah

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22nd Annual Session of Al-Amin Jan
Kalyan Samaj Concluded; Educational
Grants Worth Over Rs.12 Lakh Distrib-
uted Among Needy Students

M Hashim Ali, Guwahati
: The 22nd annual session of the voluntary organisation "Al-Amin Jan Kalyan Samaj" based in Panjabari, Guwahati, was held on August 22. The session took place at the Dr. Bani Kanta Kakati Auditorium at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra and was presided over by Hasibur Rahman. Eminent litterateur, writer and journalist Mukut Sarma attended the programme as the chief guest. The organisation's General Secretary, Dr. M. Lutfur Rahman, presented the annual report, while the Finance Secretary placed before the gathering details of the organisation's income and expenditure during the previous year, its sources of funds and the expenses incurred. As in previous years, the organisation distributed educational assistance this year as well to helpless, economically disadvan-
taged and meritorious stu-
dents of the society. Cheques amounting to Rs. 12.42 lakh were distrib-
uted for educational
purposes.It is noteworthy
that during the previous
year, financial assistance
was provided to more than
70,000 patients suffering
from cancer, heart disease
and those undergoing di-



alysis. This year, assis-
tance was also extended to
economically disadvan-
taged students who had
passed the Highschool and
Higher Secondary exami-
nations, enabling them to
pursue higher education.
During the programme an
informative book titled
"Career Opportunities
HSLC Onwards" was
released.The family of
Hotel Dynasty presented
the Late Adilur Rahman
Award to two meritorious
students. Shahnaz Begum
also presented awards of
Rs. 25,000 each to two
MBBS students in
memory of Late Gani
Uddin Ahmed and
Hamida Begum. Dr.
Taufiqur Rahman
Borbora, Chairman of the
Al-Amin Trust, an-
nounced that, beginning
this year, the family would
institute an annual award
of Rs. 25,000 in memory
of his elder brother, Late
Dr. Safiquar Rahman
Borbora. The award will

be given to one economi-
cally disadvantaged and
meritorious student who
qualifies through NEET,
selected on the basis of
merit.It may be mentioned
that Dr. Safiquar Rahman
Borbora passed away in
Guwahati on June 22,
2026. Speaking as the
chief guest, eminent
litterateur and thinker
Mukut Sharma strongly
criticised, with reasoned
arguments, the supersti-
tions and extremism being
practised by some sections
of both Muslim and Hindu
societies in the name of
religion. He remarked that
religious scriptures never
mislead people, but some
individuals exploit reli-
gious sentiments for their
own power and vested
interests.It is noteworthy
that Mukut Sharma has
already authored the
widely discussed book "A
Brahmin's Perspective on
the Quran", which has re-
ceived considerable ap-
preciation from readers.

Meeting Held to Review Flash Flood
Mitigation Measures in Jagiroad

Birinchikr Deka : A meeting to review and discuss measures for mitigating the recurring flash flood problem in Jagiroad town was held today at the Conference Hall of the District Commissioner's Of-
fice, Morigaon. The meeting was chaired by District Commissioner, Morigaon, Srishti Singh, IAS, and attended by Hriday Kumar Das, ACS, Co-District Commissioner, Jagiroad, along with of-
ficials from the Forest Department, PWD and PRI representatives. The meeting deliberated on the causes and vulnerable locations associated with flash flooding and discussed coordinated measures for



improving drainage and water-flow man-
agement. The concerned departments
were advised to undertake necessary
measures in a coordinated and time-
bound manner to minimise the impact of
flash floods in Jagiroad town.

From Malow Ali to the World

The Journey of Dr. Debanjan Borthakur



Dr. Debanjan Borthakur

(This biography traces the remarkable journey of Dr. Debanjan Borthakur — a psychologist, researcher, teacher and writer from Malow Ali, Jorhat, whose academic path has taken him from Assam to the United States and Canada. His doctoral and postdoctoral work explores human–AI interaction, digital health, mental health and responsible technology, while his Assamese and English writing keeps him closely connected to language, literature and society. His story reflects how education, intellectual curiosity, cultural roots and social responsibility can come together in an international career.)

Dr. Debanjan Borthakur is a young scholar, psychologist, researcher and writer from Malow Ali in the Jorhat district of Assam. His journey reflects a combination of Assamese cultural roots, a broad educational background, and an expanding interest in psychology, artificial intelligence and human well-being.

He comes from a family with a strong connection to education and professional life. His father, Pronob Borthakur, served as Assistant Comptroller at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, while his mother, Mina Borthakur, is a homemaker. His family comprises his parents, his sister and his wife, Jonali Baruah.

Jorhat has remained an important part of his identity. It is the place where his educational journey began and where his early interests took shape, and although his later academic career carried him to different institutions and countries, his connection with Assam has continued unbroken — sustained through his writing, his cultural activities, and his ongoing participation in Assamese public discourse.

His school education began at Balyabhavan, Jorhat, and continued at J.B. College, Jorhat, after which he pursued a Bachelor of Engineer-

■ Heramba Nath

ing degree under Dibrugarh University. His educational path then moved beyond Assam and India altogether: he completed an M.Sc. at the University of Rhode Island in the United States, and subsequently a second M.Sc. at McMaster University in Canada. This movement from engineering into advanced study across different academic environments gave him a broad educational foundation, one from which his later work would increasingly turn toward psychology, human behaviour and the relationship between people and emerging technologies.“ He eventually pursued doctoral studies in Psychology at the University of Toronto, completing his Ph.D. in 2026 under the supervision of Prof. Jason E. Plaks.

His doctoral research focused on the psychology of human–AI interaction, examining a question of growing importance in modern society: how human behaviour and social judgement change when people interact with an artificial intelligence system instead of another human being.

Fairness formed one of the central threads of this research — how perceptions of fairness operate when artificial intelligence becomes part of a social interaction or a decision-making process. Trust was another important component: as AI becomes more deeply involved in matters that affect people's lives, whether or not people trust these systems has become a significant question in its own right. His research also examined social decision-making, exploring how human choices — ordinarily shaped by the identity and characteristics of the person one is interacting with — might unfold differently when the interaction partner is an artificial intelligence rather than another person. The study further incorporated individual differences and psychophysiological measures, allowing it to account for variation between individuals as well as the physiological dimensions of human response.

Taken together, his doctoral work placed psychology at the centre of an interdisciplinary field bridging artificial intelligence and human behaviour, and it laid the foundation for the research interests he would go on to pursue after completing his Ph.D.

Following his doctoral studies, Debanjan continued his academic work in Canada as a Connected Minds Postdoctoral Fellow at York

University, Toronto. His postdoctoral interests — human–AI interaction, digital health, mental health, responsible AI, and AI-assisted decision-making — represent a natural continuation of the questions raised in his doctoral research, while extending them further into health and the practical applications of technology.

Human–AI interaction has become especially significant because artificial intelligence is no longer confined to specialised technological environments; it is now woven into communication, information services, healthcare, decision-making and countless other corners of daily life, making the relationship between humans and intelligent systems a subject his research addresses directly. His interest in responsible AI adds a further dimension to this work, since the development of artificial intelligence raises questions not only of technological capability but of fairness, trust, decision-making and human consequence. His interest in digital health and mental health brings the discussion closer still to everyday well-being.

Alongside research, Debanjan has built substantial experience in university teaching. At the University of Toronto, he taught courses including Social Psychology of Emotion, Intergroup Relations, and Physiology and Psychology of Emotion — subjects closely tied to his wider interests in human behaviour, emotion, social relationships and psychological process. Teaching has given him a second avenue of academic contribution alongside research: where research investigates open questions, teaching communicates established knowledge and draws students into emerging ideas.

His academic experience, taken as a whole, spans psychology, artificial intelligence, human–AI interaction and health-related interdisciplinary research, and has been supported by several fellowships and research awards — among them the Connected Minds Postdoctoral Fellowship, the University of Toronto Fellowship, the NSERC-CREATE Graduate Research Award, and the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience Research Award. He has also taken part in academic conferences, seminars and research workshops relating to psychology, artificial intelligence, human–AI interaction, social psychology, health and interdisciplinary research.

His academic path, in short, traces a broad movement across disciplines and institutions — from his early education in Jorhat, through higher education in India, the United States and Canada, to specialised research in psychology and human–AI interaction.

Yet his academic identity is only one part of his life. Alongside research and teaching, Debanjan has developed a substantial interest in writing and public communication — a means of expressing ideas and engaging with contemporary social questions such as discrimination, workplace bullying and mobbing, intergroup relations, social justice, environmental issues, and the social implications of technology. These subjects reflect his interest in how people interact with one another and how social environments shape psychological well-being; his training in psychology provides the intellectual foundation, while his writing carries these questions before a wider public.

He has contributed to both Assamese and English publications. His writing has appeared in Asomiya Pratidin, Amar Asom, Dainik Janambhumi, Niyomiya Barta and Saptahik Janambhumi, as well as in The Assam Tribune, American Diversity Report, OHS Canada, Talent Canada and Frontiers Weekly — a presence across both languages that reflects two dimensions of his communication at once: an ongoing connection with his native language and culture, and an engagement with an international academic and professional environment.

His literary work has also produced two books — Eta Kola Sati Aru Ejon Boga Manuh (2024) and Monostatwik Dristikun (2025) — recognised through the Jubo Lekhok Xonman award, and marking a further dimension of his identity as a writer. This literary engagement is especially notable given the international shape of his academic career: although his professional life has developed largely through institutions outside Assam, he has continued to take part in Assamese literary and public discourse. For Debanjan, Assamese language and literature remain an important form of cultural connection — an avenue through which he stays engaged with the intellectual and cultural life of Assam even while working abroad.

His public writing also reflects a deeper conviction: that academic knowledge should not remain confined to universities and research institutions, and that *see page 5*

Guwahati Fancy Bazar : MS Road, HB Road to Become No-Vending Zones from September 1



Guwahati: Authorities are set to introduce a new traffic management system in Fancy Bazar from September 1, with street vending to be prohibited on MS Road and HB Road as part of efforts to tackle congestion in the commercial hub. The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired by Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Kaushik Rai at the Kamrup (Metro) District

Commissioner's office. Officials discussed measures to regulate traffic, parking and vending activities on SS Road, MS Road and HB Road. As per the plan, commercial vehicles will be allowed to use the three roads only between 9 pm and 7 am. Public vehicle parking will also be permitted, while handcarts and pushcarts will be allowed to operate. Although SS Road has also been in-

cluded in the broader traffic management plan, the government has not yet announced a date for enforcing the no-vending rule there. The implementation date will be decided separately. The latest move comes amid efforts to improve traffic circulation and pedestrian movement in Fancy Bazar, one of Guwahati's most crowded business districts. Minister Kaushik Rai directed officials to coordinate closely during the implementation and ensure that the new arrangements do not disrupt legitimate commercial activities. The administration expects the measures to create more space for pedestrians, reduce roadside congestion and bring greater order to traffic and vending activities in the area.

KKHSOU Conducts Awareness Programmes on ODL System and Ongoing Admissions

Guwahati : The Krishna Kanta Handique State Open University (KKHSOU) conducted two awareness programmes on the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system and its ongoing admission process at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and Biswanath College of Education in Biswanath on 24th August, 2026. At DIET, Biswanath, Prof Joydeep Baruah, Director of the Surya Kumar Bhuyan School of Social Sciences, KKHSOU; Dr Ridip Dev Choudhury, Dean-in-Charge, Study Centre, KKHSOU; Mr Brihatrabar Pegu, Assistant Regional Director, Lakhimpur Regional Centre, KKHSOU; Mr Chandan Kumar Bhuyan, Principal, DIET, Biswanath; and Dr Naresh Thakur, Coordinator, Biswanath College Study Centre, KKHSOU, attended the programme. Prof Baruah delivered a detailed lecture on the ODL system, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and KKHSOU. He highlighted the various programmes offered by the university, along with the flexibility and opportunities provided through distance learning. He also spoke about KKHSOU's credibility and recognition as an institution of higher learning. Dr Choudhury discussed the university's

academic activities and functions and shared success stories of KKHSOU learners, noting that several learners had successfully cleared NET and SLET examinations. He also briefed participants about the Self-Learning Materials (SLM) and e-SLM resources available through the university's website, as well as academic support and learner services. Dr Thakur explained the role and functioning of the Study Centre and how it assists learners throughout their academic journey. The programme was attended by newly enrolled B.Ed trainees of DIET, Biswanath. A similar awareness programme was held at Biswanath College of Education in the presence of Principal Dr Beauty Hazarika and the KKHSOU team. Dr Thakur again spoke about the role of the Study Centre in providing academic support to learners enrolled in various programmes.

Mr Ranjan Saikia, representing the media, spoke about the role of electronic and print media in creating awareness about the ODL system and KKHSOU. He encouraged local media professionals to consider relevant Journalism and Mass Communication programmes offered by the university to enhance their professional knowledge and skills.

Udalguri Civil Hospital provides 11,423 free dialysis sessions to 124 patients

Orang : In a significant healthcare initiative aimed at providing affordable and accessible treatment to kidney patients, the dialysis centre at Udalguri District Civil Hospital has provided a total of 11,423 free dialysis sessions to 124 patients since its inception. The dialysis centre was established on April 9, 2023, under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP). Since then, the centre has been providing dialysis services free of cost to patients, offering crucial support to those requiring regular renal treatment. The centre is equipped with four negative-pressure haemodialysis machines and one HCV-reactive machine, enabling healthcare personnel to provide quality dialysis services to patients.

Family of Assam student alleges medical negligence after gall-bladder surgery death



Bokakhat : The family of Jyotsmita Bora, daughter of the Late Kumud Bora and Babita Bora of Kachupathar village near Numaligarh, has blamed medical negligence for her demise. According to the family, Jyotsmita had been receiving treatment at Ultra Healthcare in Telgaram, Numaligarh, under Dr Bhaskar Hazarika. On the doctor's advice, she was admitted to HGM Nursing Home in Golaghat on July 25 for surgery to remove gallbladder stones. According to reports, Jyotsmita was discharged from the hospital on the eighth day after the gallbladder surgery. However, soon after she was brought home, her health deteriorated. Following the doctor's advice, the family readmitted her to HGM Hospital. Meanwhile, Dr Hazarika informed the family that Jyotsmita was suffering from internal bleeding and would require another surgery. The family, however, disagreed with the doctor and informed him that they did not want her to undergo another operation. Following this, Dr Bhaskar Hazarika reportedly issued a referral letter to the family, advising them to take Jyotsmita to another hospital for treatment. With no other option, the distressed family admitted Jyotsmita to Gauhati Medical College & Hospital (GMCH) for advanced treatment. However, the family has alleged that Jyotsmita died on August 20 due to incorrect treatment. The issue has attracted widespread attention after Jyotsmita's family posted on social media alleging that her death was caused by medical negligence. The family, along with locals, has demanded a high-level investigation into the matter.

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scientific and psychological ideas carry greater value when communicated to ordinary readers and connected to issues affecting society. This belief follows naturally from his own research, which touches on human–AI interaction, fairness, trust, decision-making and psychological responses to technology — subjects that his writing lets him discuss in a form accessible to a much wider readership.“ Mental health is a related concern, both academically and socially, and his interest in digital health extends this concern into the technological sphere through his involvement in developing AnxieBreathe, a digital platform focused on breathwork, stress and mental well-being. This involvement reflects a broader instinct: rather than treating research as an isolated academic activity, Debanjan is interested in how psychological knowledge can be translated into forms genuinely useful in people's daily lives — an instinct that also underlies his interest in responsible artificial intelligence, since questions of responsibility, fairness and human welfare grow only more relevant as AI becomes further woven into society. His research and public interests meet, in this way, at several points at once: psychology, technology, health and society.

Beyond academic and literary activity, Debanjan is socially engaged as well, with interests spanning animal-welfare advocacy and questions of psychological safety — the latter closely tied to his writing on workplace bullying and mobbing, issues that can affect a person's dignity, relationships, confidence and overall well-being. His engagement with social justice and discrimination reflects a related interest in the conditions under which people interact within society, while environmental issues form another strand of his public writing, extending his concerns beyond psychology and technology into broader questions of society and the natural world.“ Across these different areas runs a common thread: an emphasis on human welfare, responsible behaviour and an awareness of contemporary problems. Throughout, his connection to Assamese culture — sustained through his literary work and his participation in Assamese public discourse — shows that geographical distance has not separated him from his cultural background. His academic career in North America exists comfortably alongside his continuing involvement in Assamese writing, and this coexistence of international education and Assamese cultural expression is one of the defining features of his profile.

Outside his professional life, his interests include writing, reading and chess — reading nourishing his intellectual and literary pursuits, chess reflecting his enjoyment of strategic and analytical thought — along with travel, particularly to places where he can experience nature, different cultures and different ways of life. His interest in nature is especially drawn to pattern: the structures, repetitions, forms and underlying order visible throughout the natural world, an appreciation that stands apart from his professional research even as both are rooted in observation and curiosity.

He describes himself primarily as a researcher and writer rather than as an artist in the conventional sense, with

writing as his principal creative form. His personal outlook is similarly well defined: he identifies as agnostic and does not worship any God; his ideal person is Mahatma Gandhi, admired for his non-violence, truth, moral courage, self-discipline and service to others; and his favourite singer and artist is Zubeen Garg, a significant figure in Assamese cultural life. These personal preferences offer a glimpse of the values and interests that sit quietly alongside his academic career.

For Debanjan, a contribution to society can take several forms — research, teaching, writing and social engagement are all ways in which knowledge and professional experience can be put to use beyond personal achievement. He holds firmly to the belief that academic knowledge should be shared with ordinary readers and connected to contemporary social concerns. His particular areas of contribution — mental health, responsible artificial intelligence, psychological safety, social justice, animal welfare and human well-being — extend his career well beyond the traditional boundaries of an academic profession: research forms the foundation, while teaching, literature, public writing and social engagement each add their own avenue of contribution.

His journey, taken as a whole, illustrates the continuing relationship between his Assamese identity and his international academic life. From the literary and cultural environment of Jorhat to research institutions in Canada, he has maintained meaningful ties to both worlds — and it is this combination of scholarship, writing and social awareness that has become the defining feature of his public profile, preparing the ground for the next stage of a journey that continues to unfold, both professionally and personally.

Debanjan's journey is one of continuous learning and intellectual development, shaped by education, research, writing and a sustained interest in contemporary society. From his early life in Malow Ali, Jorhat, to his present academic work in Toronto, his path has crossed different institutions, disciplines and countries. Yet throughout this journey, his connection with Assam, and with Assamese language and literature, has remained an important part of his identity. His academic career has developed through a wide educational background. After studying at Balyabhavan and J.B. College in Jorhat, he pursued a B.E. under Dibrugarh University. His subsequent studies took him to the University of Rhode Island in the United States, where he completed an M.Sc., and then to McMaster University in Canada, where he completed a second M.Sc. His academic interests eventually led him to psychology, culminating in a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, completed in 2026 under the supervision of Prof. Jason E. Plaks. His doctoral research focused on the psychology of human–AI interaction — particularly the ways in which fairness, trust and social decision-making change when the interaction partner is artificial intelligence rather than another human being. The research also incorporated individual differences and psychophysiological measures. This subject reflects a rapidly changing world, in which artificial intelligence

has moved from being primarily a technological concept to becoming part of people's everyday experience. As people increasingly turn to AI systems for information, communication, assistance and decision-making, understanding the psychological response to these systems becomes ever more important. Questions of trust are central to this shift. People may accept, question or reject an AI system's recommendations depending on how they perceive its reliability and fairness, and social decision-making becomes more complex once technology takes part in interactions once conducted primarily between human beings. By studying these questions from a psychological perspective, Debanjan's research contributes to a fuller understanding of the human side of technological development — considering not only what machines can accomplish, but how people perceive and respond to them.“ His present position as a Connected Minds Postdoctoral Fellow at York University, Toronto, allows him to continue developing these interests. His postdoctoral areas include human–AI interaction, digital health, mental health, responsible AI and AI-assisted decision-making — extending the concerns of his doctoral work into wider areas of human life and well-being. As AI use grows, questions of fairness, trust, human judgement and social consequence become increasingly important, and his interest in responsible AI reflects an awareness that technological progress must also account for the people who depend on these systems. His interest in digital health and mental health adds a further dimension: the relationship between technology and health is developing rapidly, creating new possibilities for communication, support and intervention, even as it demands close attention to psychological needs. His involvement in developing AnxieBreathe, a digital platform focused on breathwork, stress and mental well-being, reflects this same impulse — an effort to translate ideas about psychological well-being into practical, everyday applications. Teaching has also formed an important part of his academic life. At the University of Toronto, he taught courses including Social Psychology of Emotion, Intergroup Relations, and Physiology and Psychology of Emotion — subjects closely tied to emotion, relationships and social behaviour. Teaching gave him the opportunity to engage directly with students and to connect the generation of knowledge with its communication to others. His academic development has been supported by several fellowships and research awards, including the Connected Minds Postdoctoral Fellowship, the University of Toronto Fellowship, the NSERC-CREATE Graduate Research Award, and the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience Research Award. He has also participated in conferences, seminars and research workshops spanning psychology, artificial intelligence, human–AI interaction, social psychology, health and interdisciplinary research.

Alongside his academic career, Debanjan has built a significant identity as a writer. Writing is his principal form of creative expression, but it is also a means of communicating ideas and taking part in public discussion. His writing engages with discrimination,

workplace bullying and mobbing, intergroup relations, social justice, environmental issues and the social implications of technology — subjects that extend his psychological training into concerns affecting individuals and communities well beyond academic institutions. Issues such as discrimination and workplace bullying carry real psychological consequences, and questions of social justice and psychological safety are closely tied to how people experience their families, workplaces and communities. His contributions to newspapers and other publications have given him a platform for these concerns. His writing has appeared in Assamese publications including Asomiya Pratidin, Amar Asom, Dainik Janambhumi, Niyomiya Barta and Saptahik Janambhumi, and in English-language publications including The Assam Tribune, American Diversity Report, OHS Canada, Talent Canada and Frontiers Weekly. This range reflects his ability to write for different readerships: his Assamese work maintains a strong connection with his native cultural environment, while his English writing opens a path into wider discussions. Literature adds a further, distinctive dimension. He has published two books — Eta Kola Sati Aru Ejon Boga Manuh (2024) and Monostatwik Dristikun (2025) — a body of work recognised through the Jubo Lekhok Xonman award. This recognition marks him as a young Assamese writer whose literary interests have grown alongside an international academic career, even as the geographical distance between his research base in Canada and his place of origin might have made that connection harder to sustain. Through his books, his newspaper writing and his participation in Assamese public discourse, he continues to write for, and speak with, readers in Assam.

Central to this dual life is a belief that academic knowledge should not remain confined to universities and research institutions. Scientific ideas, Debanjan holds, become more meaningful once they can be understood by ordinary readers and connected to the concerns of everyday life — a belief particularly relevant to his own fields, since artificial intelligence, psychology and digital health can seem highly specialised even as the questions they raise, such as how people trust technology, make decisions, respond to digital systems, and experience stress, are thoroughly ordinary. His public writing offers a way of moving between the specialised world of research and the broader world of public understanding. His social engagement extends further still. He is involved in animal-welfare advocacy, reflecting a sense of compassion and responsibility beyond his immediate professional field, and he maintains an active interest in psychological safety — connected to his writing on workplace bullying and mobbing, which can affect a person's confidence, dignity and ability to function within a professional environment. His engagement with social justice and discrimination reflects a related concern with how social conditions shape people's lives and relationships, while his interest in environmental issues extends his concerns beyond psychology and technology into broader questions of society and the natural world. Taken together, research, *see page 6*

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From Malow Ali to the World The Journey of

teaching, writing and social engagement form, for him, different avenues toward the same end: connecting knowledge with people's lives." Debanjan's personal interests reveal a similarly intellectual and creative disposition. He enjoys writing, reading and chess — writing as both a professional and creative pursuit, reading as a continuing engagement with knowledge and ideas, and chess as a distinct form of mental discipline. He also enjoys travelling, particularly to places where he can experience nature, different cultures and different ways of life, and he holds a particular fascination for the patterns found in nature — the structures, repetitions, forms and underlying order that recur throughout the natural world, appreciated both aesthetically and as a source of questions about structure and complexity. He considers himself, first and foremost, a researcher and writer, with writing as his principal creative outlet. He is agnostic and does not worship any God. His ideal figure is Mahatma Gandhi, admired for his non-violence, truth, moral courage, self-discipline and service to others — values that connect naturally with the importance he places on kindness, sincerity and responsibility in his own life. His favourite singer and artist is Zubeen Garg, a reflection of his continuing appreciation for Assamese music and culture.

These cultural interests and personal values sit comfortably alongside a highly specialised academic career, giving his profile a character that is at once international and rooted in Assam. His research examines human behaviour and technology; his teaching communicates academic knowledge to students; his writing carries scientific, psychological and social ideas to a wider readership; and his involvement in psychological safety, social justice, animal welfare and human well-being reflects a broader concern for society. These are not separate compartments of his life but interconnected expressions of a single, sustained interest in knowledge, people and social responsibility. He does not treat professional success as an end in itself, but sees knowledge as something to be used — to understand problems, communicate ideas and contribute to human well-being. This is the same conviction that underlies his interest in digital health and mental well-being, where the value of research and technology ultimately depends on whether it improves people's lives. It is also reflected in the interdisciplinary cast of his work: psychology, artificial intelligence, health and social questions cannot always be considered in isolation, since technological change shapes behaviour and psychological experience just as psychological understanding shapes how technology is developed and used. His own educational path — from engineering, through two continents of graduate study, to a doctorate in psychology — illustrates this same openness to change. Studying in the United States and Canada exposed him to different academic environments, while his continued connection to Assam preserved another vital perspective. His books remain rooted in the Assamese literary tradition even as his research sits within international academic discussion; his newspaper writing moves naturally between

Assamese and English-language platforms. His career shows, in other words, that an international academic path need not come at the cost of one's cultural roots.

Debanjan's own advice to the younger generation reflects this same continuing attitude toward learning: follow your passion, but have the wisdom to make the right decisions at the right time; be selfless and kind to others; perform your duties sincerely; keep learning and keep moving forward. Success, he holds, will eventually come — but becoming a good human being matters just as much. This emphasis on character offers a useful lens on his own career. Degrees, research positions, fellowships and literary recognition are real achievements, but they do not by themselves define a person's contribution — how one uses knowledge, treats others, and meets one's social responsibilities matters just as much. In this sense, his advice to young people echoes the very qualities he admires in Gandhi: truth, moral courage, self-discipline, non-violence and service.

Debanjan's current postdoctoral interests — human–AI interaction, digital health, mental health, responsible AI, and AI-assisted decision-making — place him within a fast-developing field, one whose future will involve not only engineers and computer scientists but psychologists, social scientists and health professionals concerned with human behaviour and its social consequences. His interdisciplinary background positions him to contribute to these discussions, while his writing offers a parallel avenue for bringing such questions to readers outside the academy. His literary work, meanwhile, continues to give him an independent voice for reflecting on human experience through Assamese language and culture. His current work at York University marks one stage in an evolving path. His research may continue to develop alongside new advances in psychology, artificial intelligence, digital health and mental health; his literary career remains open to further books, articles and public writing; and his social interests will likely continue to shape the subjects he chooses to explore. What unites all of these threads is a single, abiding interest in people and the world around them — whether he is studying how people respond to AI, writing about social issues, teaching psychology, communicating scientific ideas, or engaging with questions of well-being.

His journey from Malow Ali to Toronto carries a significance beyond geography. It shows how a person can begin with a local educational and cultural foundation and gradually build an international academic career while retaining a strong connection with home — an Assamese identity sustained through language, literature, publications and cultural engagement, alongside an international identity built through research, teaching and postdoctoral work. The two dimensions coexist naturally, and perhaps that coexistence is the most distinctive feature of his biography. He is defined neither solely by his academic qualifications nor solely by his literary work, but by the interaction between scholarship, creativity, communication and social awareness: research that lets him investigate emerging questions, teaching that lets

him share knowledge, writing that lets him reach a wider society, literary work that keeps him connected to Assamese language and culture, and social engagement that carries him beyond his formal professional responsibilities. His story also suggests that success can be understood in more than one way. Academic achievement matters, but intellectual curiosity, creativity, social responsibility and personal character give that achievement its fuller meaning — a conviction reflected in his own belief that success will come in time, but that becoming a good human being matters just as much. That message carries particular weight for a generation entering a rapidly changing world, one in which young people will need not only the skill to use new technologies but the judgement and compassion to understand their social and human consequences.

As his postdoctoral work continues, human–AI interaction, digital health, mental health and responsible AI remain fields with substantial room for further study, and his interest in science communication offers a way of making such developments more accessible to the public. His literary work will likely continue to provide an independent creative voice, his Assamese cultural engagement will continue to anchor his sense of origin, and his social interests will continue to shape the questions he chooses to pursue. Debanjan's biography, in the end, is the story of a young Assamese scholar who has built an international academic career while holding fast to a literary and cultural identity rooted at home. His work in psychology and human–AI interaction places him within an emerging field of growing relevance to society; his teaching reflects his commitment to academic education; his fellowships and awards mark the stages of his research development; his books and newspaper writing establish him as a writer in his own right; his social interests reflect a concern for psychological safety, social justice, animal welfare and human well-being; and his work on AnxieBreathe reflects a practical interest in stress and mental well-being. His continued engagement with Assamese language and literature keeps that connection alive throughout.

It is, taken together, a story broader than a conventional academic profile — a story of movement from Jorhat into the international research community without a loss of connection to origin; of research paired with writing; of professional achievement paired with social responsibility; and of technological curiosity balanced by a steady interest in human values. As his journey continues, these threads are likely only to draw closer together: the questions raised by artificial intelligence will keep requiring psychological understanding, digital health will keep requiring attention to human experience, public communication will remain essential to making scientific knowledge accessible, and literature will continue to offer space for reflection and creative expression. His own philosophy offers a simple compass through these changing circumstances: remain curious, follow meaningful interests, make thoughtful decisions, fulfil responsibilities sincerely, keep learning, and treat people with kindness. His journey from Malow Ali, Jorhat, to the academic community of Toronto shows what can develop when education is

joined with curiosity, persistence and a willingness to explore new fields — and it shows, too, that international achievement and cultural belonging can exist comfortably together.

For Debanjan, the pursuit of knowledge is never separate from the wider responsibilities of life: research helps understand the world, teaching shares that understanding, writing communicates it, and social engagement connects it to the needs of society. That continuing effort to link knowledge with people is the thread running through his academic, literary and social journey — a journey still being written, both academically and literally. His doctorate and his current postdoctoral fellowship are real milestones, but they mark a beginning as much as an achievement, and with psychology, artificial intelligence, digital health, mental well-being, literature and public communication all forming part of his continuing interests, his journey holds real potential to contribute to both academic knowledge and public understanding.

Ultimately, the significance of Debanjan's journey lies not only in where he has studied, the awards he has received, or the positions he has held, but in how he has brought different interests together — scientific research with human concerns, international education with Assamese culture, academic knowledge with public writing, and professional ambition with a concern for character and social responsibility. His advice to the younger generation captures this outlook well: pursue your passion, think carefully before important decisions, remain kind and selfless, perform your duties sincerely, keep learning, and keep moving forward. Above all, his emphasis on becoming a good human being gives the entire journey its human dimension.

From the educational environment of Jorhat to the research community of Canada, Debanjan Borthakur has travelled a considerable distance — yet the journey remains connected to its origins even as it continues to develop. His academic work looks toward the future of psychology and artificial intelligence; his literary work stays rooted in Assamese language and culture; and his social interests remain concerned with human welfare and responsible participation in society. It is this combination — intellectual curiosity, creative expression, cultural connection and social responsibility — that gives his biography its distinctive character, and with his academic, literary and social journey still very much in progress, the story of Dr. Debanjan Borthakur remains an evolving account of learning, research, writing, and a continuing effort to make knowledge meaningful beyond the boundaries of the classroom or the laboratory.

Looking ahead, Dr. Debanjan Borthakur is likely to continue his work in psychology, research, education, writing and human–AI interaction. His future endeavours may focus on understanding human behaviour, promoting psychological well-being and encouraging the responsible development of technology. Through research, teaching and writing, he can continue to share knowledge, inspire young minds and contribute meaningfully to society. His journey ahead holds the promise of further learning, innovation and positive social impact.

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Demand for establishing "Satellite

will bring development to the Laha-Halogaon-Bamundi area. He further said that Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has never done anything that would harm the indigenous people of Assam and will never do so in the future. Rather, the construction of this Satellite City will prevent the erosion caused by the Brahmaputra River in this area and the farmers will be greatly benefited. Speaking at the meeting, former AASU worker Ajit Das said that the establishment of this Satellite City will not only open up avenues for solving the unemployment problem but will also free the farmers of this area from the problem of floods. On the other hand, when a section of the local people wanted to know what benefits they would get if the Satellite City is established in this area, the office bearers of the Samiti present at the meeting explained in detail. It may be mentioned that it has come to light that a section of the people, opposing the proposed Satellite City at Laheshwari Suti Chapori of the Brahmaputra, has already sent memorandums to the local MLA, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Minister. The meeting was attended by Laha-Kayatool Panchayat member Pulen Nath, All Laheshwari Yuva Unnayan Samiti Secretary Lakshman Nath, members and members of various organizations.

Centre approves Rs. 5,000 crore

Rs. 33.36 croreRs. 96.87 crore under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) have been approved. The Union Minister also handed over the sanction letter for Rs. 139 crore under RKVY to Assam to boost agricultural investment and promote sustainable farming in the state. Chouhan, in a post on X following the meeting, said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government stood with the people of Assam with complete sensitivity during the current crisis. He said the discussions covered the damage caused by floods, the problems faced by farmers and rural development, while reiterating the Centre's commitment to supporting Assam during the difficult period. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed gratitude to Chouhan for the priority accorded to Assam and for the swift decisions taken by the Union Government. The Chief Minister said the approval of 3.8 lakh new PMAY houses, involving an investment of nearly Rs. 5,000 crore, would provide crucial support to families affected by the floods. He also welcomed the assurance of additional houses for flood-affected areas and further housing support for Assam's tea garden communities. Sarma conveyed his gratitude to the Union Minister and the Government of India for standing firmly with the people of Assam throughout the state's flood response and for extending timely assistance for rehabilitation, agriculture and rural development.

Gauhati University hosts first-ever

students and alumni with an opportunity to interact directly with prospective employers and explore employment opportunities across various sectors. A total of 65 companies participated in the job fair through online and offline modes, representing sectors such as banking and financial services, information technology, healthcare, telecommunications, insurance, and education. As many as 392 candidates registered in advance, while around 150 candidates registered on the spot, taking the total participation to more than 540.

Minister Pijush Hazarika Interacts with

making Assam self-reliant in food products. Underlining the state's vision, Minister Hazarika described CM-AAA as a landmark initiative of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma aimed at fostering financial independence and sustainable entrepreneurship among the youth. However, he issued a firm warning that beneficiaries who fail to properly utilize the initial funds will be disqualified from receiving subsequent installments, reiterating that public money must strictly serve its intended purpose of economic empowerment. Encouraging the youth to utilize idle land, the Minister announced that the Agriculture Department will launch a large-scale sapling distribution drive next year, covering commercial fruit varieties including coconut, areca nut, guava, litchi, and apple ber. He also highlighted the high-earning potential of makhana (foxnut) cultivation, assuring full departmental support for interested farmers. Furthermore, he directed the District Agriculture Officer (DAO) of Morigaon to organize aggressive awareness camps across the district to help aspiring entrepreneurs leverage the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for setting up agri-business enterprises.

Veteran Samar Dalani social worker

Dhwajbir Subba passes away at 93

Jamugurihat : Dhwajbir Subba, a resident of Samar Dalani in Jamugurihat and a well-known social worker of the area, breathed his last due to a brief illness at his residence on Tuesday morning. He was 93. He was closely associated with many socio-cultural organisations of the Lakhengarh Samar Dalani area. He leaves behind his four sons, five daughters, and other relatives. His demise has cast a pall of gloom in the area.

New Generation Must Control Alcohol, Drugs and Mobile Phone Use to Address Half of Society's Problems: Anuradha Sarma Pujari



Arindam bapanash, Bokakhat : The new generation is being pushed towards destruction by three dangerous things—alcohol, drugs and excessive use of mobile phones. The younger generation must control the use of these three for the greater interest of society. If these three can be brought under control, half of the problems facing our society can be solved.”Renowned writer and journalist Anuradha Sarma Pujari made these remarks while delivering her acceptance speech after receiving the ‘Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaroa Literary Award 2026’ at the open session of the 10th Central Foundation Day celebration of the Sangrami Yuva Chhatra Parishad, Assam, held in Golaghat on Monday. “The programme was presided over by the organisation’s Central President Devajit Dutta. Speaking on the occasion, Pujari said that introducing a literary award in the name of Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaroa was a commendable initiative by the organisation and conveyed a significant message to society. Struggle is not confined to the streets. We must also understand whether we have been able to overcome the weaknesses within ourselves,” she said. “Emphasising the importance of preserving the Assamese language, Pujari said, “Learn other languages, but do not forget your own language.” Expressing deep concern over the declining use of Assamese in everyday life, she said that if Assamese is not regularly spoken and practised within homes, the language may gradually disappear from the speech of the next generation. “The noted writer was felicitated at a grand ceremony in Golaghat. The programme was held at the auditorium of the Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society. “The event began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Pabitra Pran Bora, a practitioner of Assamese art and culture, Vaishnavite devotee and member of the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The welcome address was delivered by senior journalist and President of the celebration committee Diganta Kumar Bhuyan. “The open session and award ceremony were formally inaugurated by Biswajit Phukan, MLA of Sarupathar constituency and Chairman of Assam Co-operative Apex Bank Limited. In his detailed address, Phukan highlighted the contributions of eminent literary figures to Assamese language and literature and spoke extensively about Assam’s national and community-based history of struggle. “The commemorative volume ‘Sangram’, edited by journalist Diganta Kumar Bora with Pallabika Barua as associate editor, was formally released by noted educationist and MLA of Dergaon constituency Dr. Mridul Kumar Dutta. The programme was conducted by Ranjit Bora, General Secretary of the Sangrami Yuva Chhatra Parishad, Assam.

Kamrup Gets Assam's First Base-Isolated Model DEOC



Pankaj Nath : Kamrup district in Assam has inaugurated a new Model District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC), marking a major upgrade in the state's disaster-response infrastructure. The centre was formally opened on Tuesday at the integrated Deputy Commissioner's office complex in the presence of Assam government Additional Chief Secretary and ASDMA Chief Executive Officer L. Sweety Changsan and Kamrup Deputy Commissioner-cum-DDMA Chairman Deba Kumar Mishra. Built by the District Disaster Management Authority with support from the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, the facility is designed to

strengthen preparedness, coordination, and emergency response in the district. A key feature of the new DEOC is its base-isolation technology, which is intended to reduce the impact of seismic vibrations and protect vital infrastructure during earthquakes. According to the report, this is the first district-level centre in Assam to use such an advanced earthquake-resistant system, setting a new benchmark for disaster-resilient construction in the state. The DEOC will function as a central control and coordination hub for disaster and emergency management in Kamrup. It is expected to play a critical role during floods, earthquakes, land-

slides, fires, industrial accidents and other emergencies by enabling rapid coordination, communication, situation assessment, information management and decision-making. The centre is planned to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Officials said the facility will also serve as a vital link between the district administration, emergency services, government departments, relief agencies and other stakeholders, helping ensure faster information exchange and more efficient use of manpower and resources during crises. The inauguration was attended by senior district and state officials, including Senior Superintendent of Police Shubashish Barua, Zila Parishad Chief Executive Officer Siddhartha Goswami, Additional Deputy Commissioner Vikram cetri, ASDMA engineering consultant Rajesh Dutta, and DDMA District Project Officer Dr. Rajeev Dutta Chaudhury.

NRL to Build Solar-Powered Elephant Monitoring Towers to Curb Human-Wildlife Conflict in Assam

Numaligarh : In a significant step towards reducing human-elephant conflict in Numaligarh-Morangi and adjoining areas, Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has undertaken a special initiative to monitor the movement of wild elephants and strengthen early warning mechanisms for local communities. Under this initiative, a total of 14 elephant monitoring towers are planned to be constructed in elephant-prone areas. Each monitoring tower is estimated to cost approximately Rs 5 lakh, taking the total estimated expenditure for 14 towers to approximately Rs 64.75 lakh. The monitoring towers are being planned not only as facilities for tracking elephant movement but also with the potential to support local environmental initiatives and agri-tourism. As per the available details, the monitor-

ing towers are proposed at elephant-prone locations including Dholagaon, No. 2 Kaibarta, Bogoriani, Kuruwabahi, Dhuliagaon, No. 5 Rongbong, No. 4 Rongbong, Borchapori, Mithamchapori, Ponka Sengamorajan, Hatimorajan, Difalopathar, Bhulaguri, and Kordoiguri. One of the key features of these monitoring towers will be the incorporation of environmentally friendly facilities. The towers are planned to have solar power systems for lighting and fans, along with facilities for heating water using solar energy. This will reduce dependence on conventional electricity and promote the use of renewable energy. The structures are also being planned in a manner that they can serve as resting spaces for farmers in addition to their primary function of monitoring elephant movement.

NGO Distributes School Supplies to Flood-Hit Bonkuwal Students, Boosting Return to Classes

Bokakhat : The Bonkuwal Government High Basic School, located in the greater Bonkuwal area under Bokakhat sub-division, was submerged by the floodwaters of the Dhansiri and Gelabil rivers. As a result, classes remained suspended for several days, leaving many students deprived of education. After the floodwaters receded, classes resumed at the school. Considering the need to encourage the students to return to their studies with enthusiasm, a non-governmental organisation named Project Humanity distributed school bags, notebooks, pens, pencils, and other educational materials to every student of the school. Representing the organisation, Debashish Bora, Saurav Saikia, Pratiksha Gandhia, and Gulanchasmita Jishi attended the programme.

BA Animal Feed Centre	BA Animal Feed Centre
ইয়াত ব্ৰহ্মাৰ সকলো সামগ্ৰী পোৱা যায়।	ইয়াত গৰু, ভাগলী, হাঁহ, কুকুৰাৰ দানাব লগতে ব্ৰহ্মাৰ, হাঁহ, সোণালী, লোকল পোৱালিৰ অৰ্ডাৰ লোৱা হয়।
যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ 94350-61306, 86381-38348	যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ 94350-61306, 86381-38348
মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয় এম বি ৰোড (মেৰীণ্ড ডিভিড হাৰ্পাতালৰ পিছফালে)	মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয় এম বি ৰোড (মেৰীণ্ড ডিভিড হাৰ্পাতালৰ 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)