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BJP will win by a margin of 2-2.5 lakh votes



CM tries to woo voters with promises of development

Morigaon: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma campaigned in Morigaon for BJP candidate Devashish Sharma for the Nagaon parliamentary constituency by-election. Participating in a massive election rally at the school playground in Morigaon town, the Chief Minister tried to attract women voters by dancing, taking selfies and showering promises. To attract women voters present, the Chief Minister said in his speech - "We could not win the 2024 Nagaon Lok Sabha election, Pradyut Bordoloi became MP. But before the Assembly election he realized that by staying in Congress one cannot serve the people, cannot work for the people. He resigned and once again we will vote to elect a new MP. This time when we vote in the by-election, the government will remain the same. Modi will remain in Delhi and with your blessings, Mama's government will continue in Dispur. But if you make Devashish Sharma win in this by-election, our strength will increase further and we will be able to do more work for Assam." Regarding the schemes implemented by the government, he said - "For women, developmental schemes were taken up and in the first phase Rs 10,000 each *see page 7*

Zubeen Lives Through Music: Swaraj Jeet Kashyap's Assamese Lyrics Find Voice in Bollywood singer Kunal Ganjawala



Guwahati : Young Guwahati-based lyricist, poet and writer Swaraj Jeet Kashyap has brought Assamese lyrics to a wider audience with *see page 7*

Assam Rifles Conducts Educational Trip to Agnigarh and Chitrlekha Udyan

Jamugurihat : Assam Rifles organised an educational visit to Agnigarh and Chitrlekha Udyan, Tezpur, on Monday on the occasion of World Tourism Day with the youth of Lokra, informed a press release. The initiative aimed to enhance awareness about the region's rich history, heritage, and tourism potential while encouraging youth to take pride in India's glorious legacy and promote tourism.

Inauguration of a large commercial establishment named Assam Drugs and Distribute in Bezera - Hemanta Choudhury

Street Play 'Namo Seva Gatha - An Endless Story' staged in line with Sankalp Abhiyan

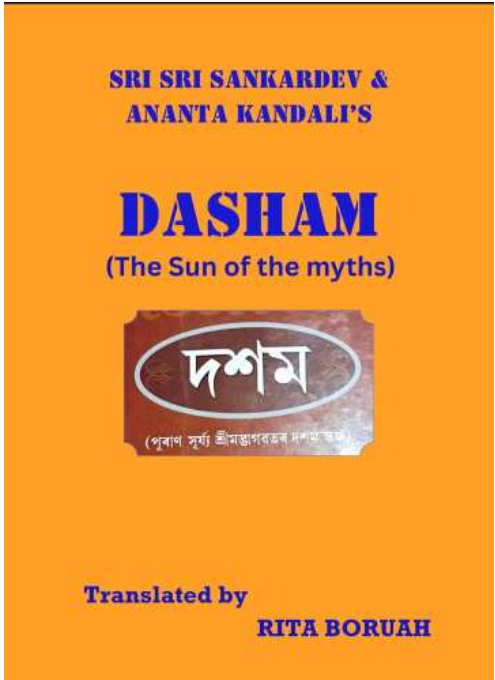


Ramen Bharali, Bamsar: On the occasion of the birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and to mark 25 years of continuous service and good governance under Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, a street play titled 'Namo Seva Gatha - An Endless Story' was staged on 29th September. *see page 7*



Ramen Bharali, Bamsar: A large commercial establishment named Assam Drugs and Distribute was inaugurated on 28th September at Bezera in Kamrup district by Hemanta Choudhury, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. "Located on the Bezera-Mangaldai road, this large wholesale medicine establishment was inaugurated with auspicious rituals. Speaking on the occasion, Hemanta Choudhury wished for the prosperity of *see page 5*

Srimadvagawata, Dasham, Canto
the tenth
Part-49 Advice



The slave to Krishna says,listen,
O the assemblers,
Life is as unstable as the bubbles of water.
Wealth, life,friends, all are of no use,
Like a dream it exists this moment, and vanishes the next.
For this,donot make the human body useless,
Hear with a sincerel heart Madhava's praise.
You have attained the birth that Brahma desires,
Donot sell the elixir of death for glass.
The Lord Himself told Uddhav,
The man, who is honest, is so clever.
One, who abandones and worships only me
The meaningless body becomes acquires liberty.
Listen more with caution, I tell you myself,
Even in the realm of Brahma. one cannot get rid of death.
With much effort,if one reaches the realm of Brahma,
Death takes it out of it under its custody.
Can not get rid of the violent hand Death,
Meets Death as he gets a birth.
In a single moment, the messengers of Death (Yamadutas) will strike terror,
Bind tightly, and drag to present before the Lord of Death (Yama).
Seeing the appearance of Yama,one will lose conscience,
Throwing into a terrible, deep hell,
They will make one suffer severe torment.
So, work to get liberation from the sea of sorrows
All and one praise repeatedly Rama.

■ Rita Boruah
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Veteran teacher Kumud
Saharia passes away at Rowta

Orang : The greater Orang area is mourning the demise of veteran teacher and noted social personality Kumud Saharia, a retired subject teacher of Orang Higher Secondary School, who passed away at a private nursing home at Rowta in the early hours of September 27. Saharia breathed his last at around 3.30 am at a private nursing home in Rowta, after he was admitted there following severe chest pain late on Saturday night. He had reportedly been suffering from a cardiac ailment for some time. A respected name in the academic fraternity of the area, Saharia joined Orang Higher Secondary School on February 29, 1992, after coming from Barhampur in Darrang district. He served the institution with dedication for nearly 31 years and retired from government service on January 31, 2023.

Invitation for Articles on the
Life, Works and Contributions of
Dr. Rina Rani Bardalai

Guwahati : A proposed bilingual edited volume is being prepared to document and critically reflect upon the life, works, achievements and multifaceted contributions of Dr. Rina Rani Bardalai, former Principal of Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Guwahati. The volume seeks to bring together scholarly, reflective and research-based writings on her academic and administrative leadership, literary activities, contribution to Ramayana literature, social engagement, professional achievements, human relationships and other significant areas associated with her life and work. Dr. Rina Rani Bardalai is remembered not only for her contribution to the field of education and institutional administration but also for her engagement with literature, cultural studies and social concerns. Her association with Kanya Mahavidyalaya and her wider intellectual and social activities have left meaningful impressions on students, teachers, colleagues, researchers and members of the broader community. The proposed volume will therefore endeavour to place her contributions within appropriate academic, literary, cultural, educational and social contexts. The volume will particularly welcome original research articles, scholarly essays, analytical papers, personal reflections and documented reminiscences relating to Dr. Bardalai's academic and administrative career, educational leadership, literary activities, writings and intellectual interests, Ramayana literature, cultural engagement, social contribution, institutional development, human relationships and other directly or indirectly connected areas of her life and work. Contributions may also examine her influence on students, colleagues and academic institutions, as well as significant experiences, memories and interactions that illuminate her personality and public contribution. The proposed edited volume will be bilingual, comprising articles in both English and Assamese. It will be edited by Dr. Guptajit Pathak and is proposed to be published in January 2027 by a reputed publication house from Guwahati. The volume will carry an ISBN and is intended to serve as a meaningful documentary and scholarly record of Dr. Rina Rani Bardalai's multifaceted contributions.

Invitation to Contribute

Articles and scholarly contributions are cordially invited from teachers, former and present colleagues, researchers, academicians, students, writers, cultural workers, well-wishers, friends and all persons who have been directly or indirectly associated with Dr. Rina Rani Bardalai. Contributors are requested to submit their original articles in English or Assamese on or before 5 December 2026.

Submission E-mail: pathakguptajit19@gmail.com

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The proposed volume seeks not merely to commemorate an individual but to preserve, examine and document the intellectual, educational, literary, cultural, administrative and human dimensions of a distinguished academic personality whose work and relationships have formed an important part of the institutional and social history of her time.

Editor: Dr. Guptajit Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Geetanagar, Guwahati, Assam

Nazira Co-District Commis-
sioner Pratibha Meshram
Inspects Flood Zones

Nazira : Nazira Co-District Commissioner Pratibha Meshram visited the severely flood-affected areas along Amguri Tol Line and Bamunpukhuri tea estate on Monday to assess the post-flood situation and review the condition of affected families. During the visit, the co-district commissioner inspected sites identified for the rehabilitation and relocation of families whose houses were completely washed away in the recent floods. The suitability of the proposed sites for resettlement was also assessed, with emphasis on ensuring appropriate rehabilitation measures for the affected families. Officials reviewed the ground situation and the requirements for relocating the families to safer and suitable locations as part of the post-flood rehabilitation process.

AI and its impact on Nature

■ Satyabrata Borah

Artificial intelligence feels invisible. We talk to it through glowing screens, asking for recipes, help with homework, original artwork, or quick summaries of complicated documents. Answers appear in seconds, making the process seem like magic. Invisible lines of code float in the digital cloud, far removed from the dirt, trees, and rivers of the physical world.

The physical reality tells a completely different story. Every digital thought processed by a computer system has a direct, measurable footprint on the natural world. High-powered software requires massive physical structures, giant banks of computers, millions of gallons of water, immense electric grids, and rare minerals dug straight out of the earth. Understanding the connection between modern technology and nature requires looking past our bright phone screens and stepping directly into the physical environments powering these machines.

The physical home of artificial intelligence is the data center. These facilities are giant warehouse buildings packed from floor to ceiling with specialized microchips, heavy processing units, and kilometers of thick power cables. Hundreds of thousands of these buildings sit across the globe, silently running calculation after calculation every single second of the day.

Running complex mathematical algorithms requires immense amounts of electrical energy. Building a smart system from scratch involves feeding it trillions of pieces of information, a learning period that keeps thousands of computer chips running at maximum capacity for weeks or months. Daily usage adds up even faster. Every single question asked, picture created, or code sequence generated demands a small spike of electricity. Multiply that single action by billions of daily requests around the globe, and the total energy usage becomes staggering.

Much of the world still relies on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas to supply the electric grid. When data centers pull massive amounts of power from local energy grids, power plants burn more fuel to keep up with the demand. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmo-

sphere. These gases trap heat around the Earth, altering global weather systems, melting polar ice caps, warming oceans, and driving extreme heatwaves. A simple request sent to a digital assistant carries a hidden carbon cost that reaches all the way into the atmosphere.

Electricity usage brings another critical environmental issue to the surface: water consumption. When high-performance processing chips run constantly, they get hot. Without proper cooling, the equipment melts, glitches, or shuts down completely. Keeping thousands of servers safe requires advanced air conditioning systems and water-cooling towers.

Water cooling involves pumping millions of gallons of fresh water through data center facilities to absorb heat from hot machinery. Some of this water evaporates into steam, taking it out of local water supplies. Other systems warm the water before releasing it back into nearby rivers or streams. Warm water releases into aquatic ecosystems reduce oxygen levels in the water, putting stress on local fish, plants, and wild animals.

Data centers often end up built in places experiencing severe droughts or long-term water shortages. Pumping millions of gallons of fresh underground water to cool computer chips leaves less drinking water for surrounding towns, less water for farming crops, and less moisture in local ecosystems. Rivers run lower, lakes shrink, and wildlife habitats dry up simply to keep local computer servers cold.

The physical materials required to build advanced computer hardware create another layer of environmental strain. Microchips, circuit boards, and high-speed memory modules rely on valuable metals like lithium, cobalt, copper, gold, and rare earth elements. Pulling these metals out of the ground requires heavy mining operations.

Mining strips away natural landscapes. Forests get cleared, grasslands get plowed over, and entire hillsides get carved open to make room for giant open-pit mines. Rainwater washes toxic chemicals used in the mining process out of the dig sites, contaminating nearby drinking water, lakes, and soils. Animals living in those forests lose their natural habitats, forcing populations to migrate, shrink, or face extinction.

Creating the hardware is only the first part of the material cycle; disposing of it presents another serious problem. Technology advances rapidly. Newer, faster, and more efficient processing chips appear every single year. Tech companies regularly pull out old hardware to install the latest models. This practice creates millions of tons of electronic waste annually.

Discarded circuit boards, damaged wiring, and old servers often end up sitting in massive landfills. Over time, rain breaks down the old plastic casings, allowing heavy metals like lead, mercury, and cadmium to seep deep into the soil and underground water tables. Soil contamination poisons plant life, while groundwater pollution harms animals drinking from local water sources.

The physical space needed for digital infrastructure impacts wildlife directly. Building a massive data center complex requires clearing hundreds of acres of natural land. Construction crews level forests, pave over wetlands, and fill in natural fields to build flat concrete foundations, access roads, and high-voltage power stations.

Replacing forests with acres of dark asphalt creates localized heat islands, altering regional air temperatures and driving away bird species, small mammals, and insects. Continuous hums from heavy cooling fans and high-voltage electrical transformers create noise pollution day and night. Wildlife relies heavily on sound for communication, hunting, and predator detection. Persistent industrial noise drives sensitive animal species away from their natural territories, disrupting regional food chains and breaking up delicate ecosystems.

Looking only at energy grids, water pipes, and hardware waste paints an incomplete picture. Smart digital tools also offer innovative ways to protect nature. Environmental researchers, wildlife biologists, and ocean scientists actively deploy advanced algorithms to track, monitor, and restore ecological health across the globe.

Forest monitoring offers a powerful example of technology helping the environment. Illegal logging operations destroy millions of acres of rainforest every year, wiping out animal habitats and releasing stored carbon into the air. Conservation groups hang small, solar-powered listening devices high in tropical forest

canopies. These devices record audio of the surrounding environment 24 hours a day. Algorithms listen to thousands of hours of jungle soundscapes, filtering out bird calls, rain drops, and wind currents to instantly detect the specific sound of a chainsaw or a logging truck. The system alerts rangers in real time, allowing them to stop illegal deforestation before acres of trees fall.

Wildlife protection efforts benefit in similar ways. Biologists place hidden camera traps across remote national parks to track endangered species like snow leopards, tigers, and wild elephants. In the past, human researchers spent thousands of hours reviewing millions of photos to spot a single hidden animal. Smart visual tools scan vast libraries of images in minutes, identifying specific species and individual animals by their unique coat patterns. Tracking animal populations quickly helps conservationists set up targeted protection zones, map migration corridors, and combat illegal poaching networks.

In the oceans, smart systems process satellite data, water temperatures, and sonar signals to track marine life. Algorithms map the paths of migrating whales in real time, allowing port authorities to alert nearby commercial shipping vessels. Ships slow down or alter their courses, preventing ship strikes that kill endangered marine mammals. Oceanographers use similar pattern-recognition tools to spot thermal stress in coral reefs, helping marine biologists step in to protect vulnerable ocean life before coral bleaching destroys whole marine ecosystems.

The agricultural sector offers another clear view of technology working to save natural resources. Traditional farming techniques often involve spraying entire fields with synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, along with pumping massive amounts of water onto crops. Chemical runoff washes into nearby streams, causing massive algae blooms that suffocate aquatic life.

Smart farming tools attached to tractors, drones, or satellites scan crops plant by plant. Algorithms identify which specific plants are suffering from insect damage or nutrient deficiencies. Specialized sprayers deliver tiny droplets of pesticide or fertilizer directly onto the precise plants needing treatment, leaving healthy crops

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Integrating Fine Arts into B.Ed. Curricula: Importance, Necessity, and Impact on Teacher Education in India



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Teacher education in India is undergoing a paradigm shift towards holistic, multidisciplinary, and experiential learning. Central to this transformation is the integration of fine arts spanning visual arts, performing arts, and craft traditions into Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) programs. Rather than viewing art as an isolated co-curricular activity, modern pedagogical frameworks position fine arts as an essential cognitive and instructional tool. Historical policy mandates, pedagogical necessity, and the transformative impact of embedding fine arts into B.Ed. curricula across Indian teacher-training institutions highlight the need for a shift toward holistic educator preparation.

For decades, the Indian education system prioritized rote memorization and rigid academic division over creative, kinesthetic expression. However, policy directives have progressively recognized that an educator’s pedagogical effectiveness depends heavily on their capacity to engage learners multi-sensorially.

The National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE 2009)

emphasized that art education should not be an afterthought, but an integral component of prospective teachers’ professional development (NCTE, 2009). Building on this foundation, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) explicitly calls for Art-Integrated Learning (AIL) as a cross-curricular pedagogical approach (MHRD, 2020). To realize NEP 2020’s vision of joy, creativity and deep conceptual understanding in school classrooms, B.Ed. programs must equip student-teachers with both the theory and practical skills of fine arts integration.

Integrating fine arts into pre-service teacher education addresses core educational objectives that traditional lecture-based training fails to cover:

Fine arts provide a bridge between abstract academic concepts and concrete sensory experience. When prospective teachers learn to illustrate mathematical concepts, dramatize historical events, or use music to teach language rhythm, they acquire tools to cater to diverse learning styles (visual, auditory and kinesthetic). Howard Gardner’s theory of Multiple Intelligences highlights how artistic engagement activates spatial, musical, and bodily-kinesthetic domains alongside traditional linguistic and logical domains (Gardner, 1983).

Teaching is fundamentally an interpersonal act. Engaging with visual and performing arts allows B.Ed. trainees to explore human emotions, cultural narratives, and varied perspectives. This aesthetic exposure nurtures empathy, self-awareness and emotional maturity qualities vital for managing inclusive, multi-ethnic classrooms across India.

Artistic creation requires experimentation, risk-taking, and learning from failure. By engaging in artistic practice during B.Ed. coursework, trainees break away from rigid textbook reliance, learning to design innovative low-cost/no-cost Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM) out of locally available resources.

Sl. No	Dimension	Practical Implementation	Educational Outcome
	Visual Arts & TLM	Sketching, diagramming, puppetry, poster design, model making and digital art.	Enhances visual communication, board work skills, and concrete illustration of complex ideas.
	Performing Arts	Educational theatre, role-play, storytelling, traditional folk music and expressive dance.	Improves classroom voice modulation, body language, confidence, and narrative pedagogy.
	Craft & Cultural Heritage	Local folk crafts (e.g., Madhubani, Warli, terracotta), eco-friendly materials and indigenous art forms.	Connects learning to local culture, promotes sustainability and fosters contextualized pedagogy.

To be effective, fine arts integration in B.Ed. programs must go beyond sporadic poster-making sessions. It requires systematic inclusion across three main dimensions:

Despite clear policy guidelines from bodies like the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) (NCTE, 2014) and NCERT, (NCERT, 2019) several structural challenges hinder effective fine arts integration in B.Ed. colleges:

1. Superficial Treatment: In many institutions, “Drama and Art in Education” is treated as an easy, compliance-driven course rather than a core pedagogical methodology.
2. Resource Constraints: Lack of dedicated art studios, qualified arts faculty and material budgets in teacher-training institutions.
3. Evaluation Gaps: Assessment rubrics often grade art products rather than the pedagogical process or creative reflection.

Strategic Recommendations:

- Interdisciplinary Curriculum Design: Mandate art integration across subject-specific pedagogy papers (e.g., Teaching of Mathematics, Teaching of Physical Sciences) rather than isolating art into a single paper.
- Faculty Empowerment: Conduct regular capacity-building workshops for B.Ed. faculty in collaboration with state Lalit Kala Academies and Sangeet Natak Academies.
- Continuous Process-Based Assessment: Shift assessment focuses toward reflective journals, portfolio documentation, and classroom micro-teaching

demonstrations using Art-Integrated Learning.

Integrating fine arts into Indian B.Ed. curricula is not a decorative luxury it is an educational necessity. As classrooms evolve to meet 21st century demands, teachers must transition from transmitters of static information to facilitators of dynamic, creative experiences. Empowering pre-service teachers through fine arts ensures that classrooms across India become vibrant centers of curiosity, critical inquiry and cultural grounding.

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MP Bijuli Kalita Medhi Chairs DISHA Meeting in Kamrup



Pankaj Nath : The District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting of Kamrup district in Assam was held on Monday under the chairpersonship of Bijuli Kalita Medhi, Member of Parliament, Guwahati, in the presence of MLAs Diganta Kalita, Rekibuddin Ahmed, Raju Mesh and Himangshu Shekhar Baishya, and Kamrup District Commissioner Deba Kumar Mishra. The meeting reviewed the progress of major infrastructure and development projects being implemented across the district. Detailed discussions were held on the Guwahati Ring Road project, including its key plan and latest updates. The progress of the 2nd Saraighat Rail-Cum-Road Bridge was also reviewed, with discussions focusing on the challenges and bottlenecks affecting its timely implementation. The Committee further deliberated on the implementation and progress of VB-G RAM G and various other development initiatives. Representatives of NHIDCL, National Highways, PWD (Roads & Buildings), Agriculture, Health & Family Welfare, So-

cial Welfare, Education and all concerned departments made presentations on the status of ongoing schemes and projects, highlighting key achievements, implementation challenges and areas requiring attention. MP Medhi directed all concerned officials to ensure that ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines. She stressed that implementation of development works should not cause unnecessary inconvenience or hindrance to the common public and called for prompt action to resolve bottlenecks. She further emphasised that public-related issues may be addressed effectively with the support and coordination of the concerned MLAs. She called upon all stakeholders to extend the necessary cooperation for the successful and timely completion of development projects. DC Mishra emphasised the need for close coordination and cooperation among all concerned departments and stakeholders for the smooth implementation of ongoing projects and schemes. The meeting was attended by Nipon Bhuyan, President, Kamrup Zila Parishad; Siddhartha Goswami, CEO, Zila Parishad; ADC Geetashri Lachit; ADC Biswajit Saikia; Nabajit Pathak, CDC, Rangia; Priyangshu Bharadwaj, CDC, Boko-Chaygaon; Bhaskar Jyoti Kalita, CDC, Palashbari; along with Heads of Departments and officials from the concerned departments.

Flood-hit Dhodang residents demand permanent road reconstruction in Golaghat

Arindam Bapanash, Bokakhat : Residents of Dhodang village in Assam's Golaghat district have renewed their demand for the permanent reconstruction of the flood-ravaged Dhodang-Budhbari road, alleging that the Public Works Department (PWD) has undertaken only superficial repair work instead of addressing the long-standing problem. The road, which connects more than ten interior villages to National Highway 37 at Numaligarh, is repeatedly damaged by annual floods caused by the Dhansiri river. During the monsoon, the route often remains submerged, disrupting transportation and leaving thousands of residents, including students, farmers, and patients, cut off from essential services. Locals said that despite repeated visits by Bokakhat MLA and Assam Cabinet Minister Atul Bora to assess the flood situation over the years, the road has not been included in any comprehensive project for recon-

struction as a wider, elevated, all-weather road. They questioned why such a critical flood-prone route has not received a permanent solution despite repeated appeals. The ongoing repair work has been taken up under the Mukhya Mantri Pakki Path Nirman Abhiyan (MMPNA) with funding under RIDF-XXXI through NABARD as part of the proposed 'Budhbari Ali to Dhodang via Budhbari Gaon' road project. According to official documents, the sanctioned length of the Dhodang section is only 1.260 km. Residents, however, pointed out that the road requiring restoration is nearly 5 km long. They claimed that the allocated amount of Rs 91.82 lakh has to be shared with another road project involving the Tinsuti Moriahola Ali in Kuruabahi, leaving only a limited amount for the Dhodang stretch. Residents alleged that the current work is merely a symbolic exercise intended to project development without providing a lasting solution.

Minister Biswajit Daimary reviews key initiatives for skill development, handloom sector and Viksit Assam @2047



Guwahati : Minister Shri Biswajit Daimary today chaired a series of meetings at Janata Bhawan to review major initiatives of Skill Development, Handloom and Cultural Heritage sectors. He reviewed the implementation roadmap of PM SETU for strengthening ITIs into modern, industry-oriented training hubs and stressed on strategic partnerships with ONGC, NRL, IOCL for better employment opportunities. He also reviewed the Mega Handloom Cluster at Sualkuchi and other HTS projects, including fund position and infrastructure requirements. In a separate meeting on Viksit Assam @2047, he reviewed plans for three Integrated Handloom Parks, permanent Handloom & Handicraft Sale Centres at district headquarters, and a Centre of Excellence at Sualkuchi. The Minister directed officials for time-bound, coordinated action to ensure tangible outcomes for youth, weavers and artisans.

Barpeta DC Appeals for Collaborative Efforts to Ensure Smooth and Incident-Free Durga Puja

Prasana Nath, Barpeta Road : District Commissioner of Barpeta, Shri Nabadeep Pathak, chaired a crucial meeting today to review preparations for the upcoming Durga Puja festival. Held in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Shri Sushanta Biswa Sarma, the meeting focused on maintaining law, order, and public safety across the district during the celebrations. “Highlighting public infrastructure, the District Commissioner strictly asked line departments, especially PwD (Roads), to finish all pending road repair work immediately to avoid accidents and traffic delays. He appealed to all government departments and puja committees to work together closely, stressing that joint effort is key to preventing any unwanted incidents.” Addressing representatives of various Durga Puja committees, DC Pathak issued clear instructions to ensure smooth management at all pandals. Organizers were asked to install CCTV cameras, arrange adequate fire safety equipment, and deploy volunteers to assist with crowd control.

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Inauguration of a large commercial establishment

the establishment, which has been built through the honest efforts of brothers Kamal Krishna Deka and Rakesh Deka of Salmara village. Bezera Zila Parishad member Kiran Kakati was present at the inauguration ceremony and delivered a speech.

History as a Skill Subject in NEP 2020

Pedagogical Imperatives and Long-Term Educational Impact



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For decades, history education in the Indian schooling apparatus suffered under the weight of static pedagogical frameworks. Characterized by rote memorization of dynastic dates, administrative timelines and monolithic narratives, the discipline was frequently reduced to an exercise in memory retention rather than critical inquiry. However, the introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a structural departure from this legacy. By replacing the traditional 10+2 framework with an integrative 5+3+3+4 pedagogical model, the policy dismantles long-standing academic silos and reframes humanities subjects through a skill-based lens (MHRD, 2020).

Within this reimagined architecture, history is transformed from a passive repository of factual information into an active skill subject. Under NEP 2020, history acts as a cognitive laboratory designed to cultivate critical inquiry, evidence verification, analytical synthesis and digital literacy. By treating history as a skill-based discipline, the policy aligns humanities instruction with 21st century educational imperatives, preparing learners to navigate a landscape dominated by information abundance and narrative ambiguity.

Transitioning history to a skill-based subject requires a fundamental overhaul of classroom instruction. Rather than viewing historical texts as absolute truths to be memorized, the NEP 2020 pedagogical model approaches history as a methodical inquiry process. Teachers shift from authoritative transmitters of

knowledge to facilitators of historical methodology. Core Skill Components of the New History Pedagogy

1. Source Criticism and Primary Evidence Analysis: Students learn to evaluate primary artifacts such as epigraphs, coinage, administrative records and oral traditions by interrogating provenance, perspective, and potential bias. This practice instills a systematic skepticism vital for assessing modern digital media.

2. Multiperspectivity and Contextual Logic: Historical events rarely possess a single narrative. Skill-based history trains students to examine events through social, economic and cultural lenses simultaneously, building intellectual agility and empathetic reasoning.
3. Causality and Structural Synthesis: Beyond identifying *what* occurred, students analyze *why* structural shifts transpired. This process involves distinguishing immediate triggers from long-term systemic causes, establishing a foundation for complex problem-solving.
4. Digital Humanities and Archival Literacy: Leveraging initiatives like the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) and DIKSHA, students interact with digitized archives and geographical mapping tools (Ministry of Education, Government of India. 2026). This integration links classical historical methods with modern computational techniques.

Experiential learning plays a central role in this pedagogical realignment. Field trips to heritage sites, simulated archaeological digs, local oral history documentation and archive management projects connect theoretical knowledge with practical execution



Hands-on archaeological simulation cultivating experiential inquiry
Courtesy: Hindustan Times

- (NCERT, 2023).
- A core tenet of NEP 2020 is the elimination of rigid distinctions between arts and sciences, as well as academic and vocational streams (Kalita, 2025). Treating history as a skill subject enables meaningful integration with diverse disciplines:
- History and Data Science: Analyzing historical trends, demographic shifts, and economic cycles using quantitative tools and statistical modeling.
 - History and Environmental Studies: Examining ecological histories, resource usage patterns and past climate impacts to inform modern sustainability practices.
 - History and Legal Studies: Studying constitutional development, legislative precedents, and jurisprudence history to enhance legal reasoning.

Furthermore, framing history around practical skills unlocks direct vocational pathways. Secondary and higher education frameworks under NEP 2020

datasets, identifying bias and articulating evidence-based arguments that are highly valued across diverse industries. Reinterpreting history as a skill subject delivers benefits that extend beyond individual academic achievement, shaping broader cognitive and democratic capacity.

- Cognitive and Civic Outcomes
- Mitigating Information Disorder: In an era marked by misinformative content, deepfake synthesis and algorithmic echo chambers, source verification skills trained in history classes serve as a crucial cognitive defense. Students accustomed to cross-referencing ancient inscriptions naturally apply similar scrutiny to digital media.
 - Fostering Nuanced Citizenship: Analyzing complex historical trajectories encourages intellectual humility and nuance. By engaging with divergent perspectives, learners develop civic empathy and a grounded understanding of pluralistic societies.

- Empowerment through Local Heritage: NEP 2020 emphasizes integrating local community histories alongside national and global narratives. Documenting local traditions, regional architecture and oral histories connects students directly with their immediate cultural environments, cultivating contextual pride anchored in rigorous inquiry.

Implementation Challenges and Strategic Solutions

While the policy vision is comprehensive, converting history into a skill-based subject across India's diverse educational

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Traditional vs. NEP 2020 History	
Traditional Content-Based Model	NEP 2020 Competency-Based Model
Rote memorization of dates/events	Source interrogation & evidence evaluation
Passive textbook acceptance	Multiperspective analysis of primary sources
Summative, high-stakes exams	Continuous formative assessment & projects
Isolated subject silos	Interdisciplinary & vocational integration

connect historical training with professional sectors, including heritage management, museum curation, archival science, digital cartography, tourism consultancy, and public policy research (UGC, 2025). History graduates develop transferable skills such as synthesizing large

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BJP will win by a margin of 2-2.5 lakh votes

was given and now Rs 25,000 and later Rs 50,000 will be given. We gave you 10,000, gave 25,000 but that is not enough. Mothers should be able to sell goods in the market and that is why this time we will build a market complex for women in Morigaon constituency, where only women will be able to sell their products. We can do another big thing in our Assam. Our women will be surprised to know that today we bring 30 lakh litres of milk daily from Bihar to Assam. Why? Because we cannot produce as much milk as we need in Assam. That is why this time we have taken another scheme - we will form dairy cooperative societies in every village with women in the forefront. We will give more money to women to buy cows and to rear them. Moreover, when milk is produced, apart from the market price of milk, we will arrange to give Rs 7 per litre extra from the government to women, so that we don't have to bring milk from outside for Assam, we can produce our own milk in Assam." Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma further said - "Semiconductor is coming up in Jagiroad. This time in the next five years, Morigaon and Jagiroad together must bring at least three more big industries here, so that our boys and girls can get employment here itself."

Zubeen Lives Through Music: Swaraj Jeet Kashyap’s Assamese Lyrics Find Voice in Bollywood singer Kunal Ganjawala

‘Tumi Jibon’, sung by renowned Bollywood playback singer Kunal Ganjawala. “The song began as a Hindi composition, ‘Tu Zindegi’. After hearing the initial Assamese lines, Kunal Ganjawala and composer Biswajit Chauhan encouraged Swaraj Jeet Kashyap to write the complete song in Assamese. Remarkably, Kashyap completed the lyrics in around two hours while he was in Upper Assam helping flood victims. He also lent his voice to the poetry section. “Released on 19 September under Mono Music, the song carries a special connection to late music icon Zubeen Garg. According to the project team, the composition had earlier been selected by Zubeen garg for a future project. “Today, ‘Tumi Jibon’ has taken on a new meaning as a musical tribute to Heart of Assam Zubeen Garg. Through Assamese words, a Bollywood voice and the emotion of a young writer, his memory continues to find its way into music.

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History as a Skill Subject in NEP 2020

landscape presents practical challenges:

1. Teacher Capacity Building: Traditional instructional methods remain deeply embedded. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) modules must train educators in inquiry-led instruction, primary source selection and digital tool integration.
2. Assessment Reform: Standardized summative exams often prioritize factual recall. Evaluation metrics must shift toward formative, performance-based assessments such as source-analysis portfolios, historical research projects and viva voce evaluations.
3. Resource Accessibility: Disparities in physical libraries, internet access and archival materials affect implementation. Expanding digital infrastructure through platforms like DIKSHA helps bridge these resource gaps across rural and urban institutions.

The positioning of history as a skill subject within NEP 2020 represents a vital structural evolution in humanities education. Moving away from passive memory exercises toward active empirical inquiry transforms history into a dynamic framework for intellectual development. By equipping students with source analysis capabilities, contextual reasoning and interdisciplinary versatility, this pedagogical shift prepares learners to engage thoughtfully with the complexities of the modern world.

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Street Play 'Namo Seva Gatha - An Endless

The play was organized by the Guwahati Mahanagar District Committee of Bharatiya Janata Party in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs, across various areas of University Mandal and Airport Mandal under Jalukbari constituency. The street play was formally inaugurated by Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya, State General Secretary of BJP Kisan Morcha, Assam. Speaking on the occasion, Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya said that the street play was staged at 4 locations of University Mandal and Airport Mandal as part of 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' on the instructions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. He said he was overwhelmed to be present at this special programme which presents Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public service, dedication to the nation and journey of development in theatrical form. In his speech, he said that this indomitable journey of public service will inspire everyone to move forward with the resolve to build a new India.

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AI and its impact on Nature

untouched. Smart irrigation systems read real-time weather forecasts and soil moisture sensors to deliver the exact amount of water crops need, saving billions of gallons of fresh water and keeping chemical pollutants out of natural waterways.

Modern power grids use smart predictive algorithms to balance energy generation. Clean energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines produce variable amounts of power depending on sunlight levels and wind speeds. Managing variable energy outputs can be challenging for traditional electrical grids. Advanced software predicts local weather shifts hours in advance, shifting energy usage across grid networks to store extra clean power when the sun shines and release it when energy demands peak. Balancing power supplies makes it easier for cities to transition away from dirty fossil fuels toward clean energy.

We find ourselves standing at a strange crossroads. On one hand, expanding digital infrastructure places immense pressure on water supplies, land availability, energy reserves, and natural habitats. On the other hand, data analysis tools give scientists unmatched capabilities to track environmental damage, optimize resource use, and protect vulnerable animal species.

The path forward depends entirely on choices made by technology developers, energy leaders, governments, and everyday consumers. Building data centers next to abundant renewable energy plants like geothermal facilities, wind farms, or solar arrays dramatically reduces carbon footprints. Developing closed-loop liquid cooling systems allows facilities to reuse the same batch of water repeatedly, protecting local groundwater aquifers and saving millions of gallons of fresh water. Designing chips to last longer and establishing strict recycling pipelines for old computer components cuts down on electronic waste entering landfills.

Everyday users play a role in shaping this digital future. Recognizing that every digital action carries a real-world footprint encourages mindful technology usage. Choosing efficient software models, avoiding repetitive digital requests, and using technology purposefully reduces unnecessary computational strains on power grids.

Technology lives in the physical world. The digital space relies on clean water, fresh air, stable climates, and healthy ecosystems to exist. Balancing computational growth with environmental care determines whether digital progress supports a healthy planet or pushes delicate ecosystems past their limits. Protecting the natural world requires viewing technology clearly: not as invisible magic in the sky, but as a powerful physical force tied directly to the Earth.

First-ever Indian Peafowl sighted at Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve



Mangaldoi : The Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve has recorded its first-ever confirmed sighting of the Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) - the National Bird of India. The historic documentation was made on Sunday, September 27, when noted wildlife photographer Nejb Ahmed and cinematographer Chandan Saikia spotted and pho-

tographed the bird inside the park. This is the first photographic evidence of the species from Orang. Prior to this, there were no official records of the Indian Peafowl in Orang National Park. The nearest previously documented sighting in the region was from Nunoi Wildlife Sanctuary in Udalguri district. Park Director and DFO Pradipa Baruah, said the sighting follows recent field reports from forest frontline staff, who had observed an unidentified bird resembling a peafowl over the last few days near the Rowmari and Hazaribagh Anti-Poaching Camps (APCs). Acting on these inputs, the team was able to secure photographic confirmation. "This is tremendous news for Orang National Park, especially ahead of the opening of the new tourist season. The presence of the Indian Peafowl underlines the thriving ecological health and diverse micro-habitats within the park," Baruah said.

Behali Butterfly Count-cum-Walk 2.0 concludes in Biswanath

Biswanath Chariali : The two-day Behali Butterfly Count-cum-Walk 2.0 concluded on September 27 at Behali Wildlife Sanctuary in Biswanath district. Organised by the Borgang Range Office, Department of Forest, in collaboration with Nature's Bonyopran, Wild Heart Foundation, Nature Conservation Society and other NGOs, the event aimed to document butterfly diversity and promote awareness about their conservation. The event was inaugurated by Sonitpur MP Ranjit Dutta in the presence of forest officials, natu-

ralists and environmentalists. Experts explored 10 trails and recorded more than 150 butterfly species. Night surveys also documented 35 moth species, four amphibian species, two snake species and two owl species. On the second day, around 189 students from colleges and institutions across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh participated. At the closing ceremony, the Biswanath district commissioner released the Behali Bird Count 2.0 Report, while the Behali MLA released the Butterfly Count Report 1.0.

Zubeen Garg Portrait Adorns Wall at Nath Chuburi in Changsari



Changsari, Kamrup : Popular young artist Parameswar Deka, who has earned a distinct identity across Assam through

his series of portraits of singer Zubeen Garg, recently painted an impressive portrait of the iconic artiste on the front wall of Chiranjib Nath's residence at Nath Chuburi in Greater Changsari village of Kamrup district. The portrait has drawn considerable appreciation from local residents and has become a talking point in the area. The artwork beautifully incorporates various elements of Assam's natural beauty, culture and musical heritage, giving the portrait a distinctive character. Residents of the locality praised the young artist for his creative work and wished him good health and a long life.

Shanti Dham public cemetery inaugurated in Konwerpur

Gaurisagar : Shanti Dham, a public cemetery constructed in Konwerpur Brahmin village on the outskirts of Gaurisagar in Sivasagar district, was formally inaugurated on Monday. The inaugural function was chaired by prominent educationist Govind Chandra Bora and was attended by Mohan Chandra Dutta, Assistant Secretary, Sadou Assam Moina Parijat; Padum Kumar Saikia, President, Konwerpur Press Club; and others.

BA Animal Feed Centre		BA Animal Feed Centre	
ইয়াত ব্ৰহ্মাৰ সকলো সামগ্ৰী পোৱা যায়।		ইয়াত গৰু, ছাগলী, হাঁহ, কুকুৰাৰ দানাব লগতে ব্ৰহ্মাৰ, হাঁহ, সোণালী, লোকেল পোৱালিৰ অৰ্ভাৰ লোৱা হয়।	
যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ 94350-61306, 86381-38348		যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ 94350-61306, 86381-38348	
মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয় এম বি ৰোড (নগাঁও চিভিল হাস্পতালৰ পিছফালে)		মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয় এম বি ৰোড (নগাঁও চিভিল হাস্পতালৰ পিছফালে)	

FINE DINE

Taste of Assam

ভাত

মাছ, মাংস, পৰুটা, 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)