

# THE ASSAM JYOTI

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## Meeting of Moran-Motok Community Organizations with Chief Minister



**Ramen Bharali, Bangshar:** With the aim of resolving the land-related issues of the Moran and Motok communities, Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma held an important meeting with various organizations of the two communities in Dibrugarh. The meeting held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Dibrugarh discussed in detail the land-related problems of the Moran and Motok communities. The Chief Minister assured that several steps would be taken to resolve these issues. In the meeting, it was informed that it has been decided to clearly mention the guidelines applicable for the Moran and Motok communities under Mission Basundhara-4.0 in the portal. It is expected that this will help the concerned applicants to easily know the rules and procedures related to land settlement. On the other hand, to make the online *see page 7*

With the support of BJP Kisan Morcha, Akanksha Krishi Group-A begins preliminary work for Rabi crop cultivation

**Farmer leader Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya** participates in ploughing work by sitting at the steering of a tractor



**Ramen Bharali, Bangshar :** Breaking through the autumn mist, a message of new hope echoed in the agricultural fields of Athiaboi on 27th

October. The fields are ready to welcome the Rabi crop, and the charioteer of this auspicious beginning was Bharatiya Janata Party Kisan Morcha's Assam State General Secretary, Shri Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya. On the morning of 27th October, he reached the vast agricultural fields of Athiaboi and with the support of BJP Kisan Morcha, Akanksha *see page 7*

**Flood of Joy on Birthday: Minister Colony Overflows with Love from Thousands of Fans**



**Ramen Bharali, Bangshar:** On the occasion of the birthday of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and everyone's favourite Hemanta Choudhury, a wave of enthusiasm has been seen across the state. As soon as the clock struck 12 at night on 27th October, a flood of devotees descended on Minister Colony in Guwahati. Thousands of fans and well-wishers thronged his residence with floral gamosas, cakes and endless good wishes. This sea of people, who came defying the darkness of the night, *see page 7*

**Railways Deploy Over 7,000 Special Trains to Ease Diwali and Chhath Puja Passenger Rush**

**Guwahati:** To tackle the unprecedented festive rush, Indian Railways has launched a massive operations drive, scheduling over 7,000 festival special trains across India for Diwali and Chhath Puja. This extensive deployment aims to accommodate millions of travelers heading home to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and the Northeastern states during peak festival weeks. Key corridors are seeing heavily fortified service. Northern Railway is leading operations out of Delhi hubs, while Central Railway has *see page 7*

## Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Birth Anniversary Celebrations Conclude in Bokakhat

**Arindam Bapanash, Bokakhat :** The two-day celebration of the 578th birth anniversary of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva, along with the 33rd Children, Youth, Aai and Matri Conference, concluded on Sunday at the Anantapur Primary Branch

Namghar under the Kaziranga Regional Branch. The event was organised by the Bokakhat District Branch, one of the district branches of the Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha, with a series of colourful programmes. "Children, youths and women from *see page 7*

# Kamrup DC inaugurates first PLC magazine on life skills education



**Deepshikha Nath, Chhaygon :** The District Commissioner of Kamrup on Tuesday inaugurated the first Professional Learning Community (PLC) magazine on Life Skills Education (LSE) at the DC Office conference hall at Amingaon. The magazine has been brought out by Samagra Shiksha, Kamrup, in collaboration with the Magic Bus India Foundation, a non-governmental organisation. The magazine documents the journey, experiences, achievements and learnings of PLC members under the Life Skills Education programme. It highlights good practices adopted by schools, innovative teaching approaches, student engagement and positive changes in the school environment through life skills education. The State lead of the Magic Bus India Foundation presented an overview of the Professional Learning Community initiative, explaining its objectives and role in strengthening life skills education. He highlighted how the PLC promotes peer learning, collaboration, experience-sharing and continuous professional development among teachers. “ The PLC initiative provides a common platform for teachers and education stakeholders to exchange experiences, reflect on classroom practices and learn from one another. The newly launched magazine seeks to document and showcase the collective efforts, innovative practices and achievements emerging from this collaborative process. Addressing the gathering, the District Commissioner appreciated the efforts of Samagra Shiksha, Kamrup, PLC members and the Magic Bus India Foundation in promoting life skills education. He encouraged the stakeholders to continue their collaborative efforts to strengthen teaching practices and improve learning outcomes for students across the district. Speaking on the occasion, Tapan Kalita, Inspector of Schools for Kamrup district, said that the department supports initiatives aimed at strengthening life skills education and improving the quality of education in schools. He emphasised the importance of collaboration among teachers and education stakeholders in creating a supportive learning environment for students. The programme was attended by the Additional District Commissioner (Education), District Programme Officers (DPOs), other district officials, PLC members and representatives of the Magic Bus India Foundation.

# Assam Skill University Launches Japanese Cultural Exchange Scheme Across Northeast India

**Guwahati:** Assam Skill University (ASU) has officially launched a dynamic Japanese cultural exchange programme across educational institutions in the Northeast to boost cross-border ties and language education. Organized in partnership with The Japan Foundation, New Delhi and the Indo-Japan Business Council (IJBC), the event kicked off at the ITI Birubari campus on Tuesday with 75 eager students. Participants engaged in interactive sessions exploring authentic traditions, including the delicate stroke arts of Japanese calligraphy, origami, wearing traditional Yukata attire, and practicing the Bon Odori dance. The tour serves as the practical core of the ongoing eight-month Japanese Language Teacher Development Programme (JLTDP), where candidates receive intensive mentorship from three native Japanese faculty members.

# NEADS calls for climate justice ahead of COP31 in Jorhat, Assam

**Jorhat :** The North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS), a grassroots development organisation based in Jorhat, Assam, has called for greater global cooperation on climate justice, locally led adaptation, and equitable climate finance ahead of the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), scheduled for November 2026 in Antalya, Turkey. NEADS stated that communities across Assam and Northeast India continue to experience the impacts of recurrent floods, riverbank erosion, flash floods, landslides, extreme rainfall, drought-like conditions, and climate-related livelihood losses. It further added that the region is home to globally significant ecosystems, including parts of the Himalaya and Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspots, alongside river basins, forests, and wetlands. These natural landscapes support rich biodiversity and sustain the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. NEADS believes that protecting these ecosystems, while strengthening the resilience of local communities, is an important part of addressing climate change

# Preparations for Raax begin in Bokakhat

**Bokakhat :** Keeping tradition alive, preparations for the annual Sharadiya Raax festival began on Sunday, on the occasion of Lakshmi Purnima. Raax festivities will be organised at around 40 venues across Bokakhat co-district, with theatrical rehearsals commencing on Monday. Kuruwabahi, home to one of the four satras established under royal patronage during the Ahom era, will host Raax celebrations at no fewer than 10 venues within the area alone. Among the venues where rehearsals began on Monday are the Kuruwabahi Yuvak Sangha, which pioneered the presentation of Raax on stage with modern artistic techniques; the Khatia Khali Anchalik Silpi Samaj Natya Mandir, which has completed 51 years; the Gopaldev Natya Mandir of the historic old Kuruwabahi Satra; the Alok Sandhani Silpi Samaj at Rajabari in Bokakhat; and the Milita Silpi Samaj, among others. With Raax Purnima falling on November 24, a month remains for preparations and rehearsals.



# Primate Watch 3.0 highlights conservation of India's only ape

**Dhubri :** The third edition of Primate Watch 3.0 was organised at Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary on October 25, bringing together 19 participants to promote awareness and engagement in primate conservation, with a special focus on the Western Hoolock Gibbon, India's only ape species. The programme featured a presentation by Dr Dilip Chetry, Director and Head of Aaranyak's Primate Research and Conservation Division, who highlighted the ecological importance of primates, the threats they face, and the need for conservation efforts. The highlight was a two-hour trek through the sanctuary, during which participants observed Western Hoolock Gibbons and Rhesus Macaques in their natural habitat.



# Paresh Baishya Rachanawali Released

■ Dalim Phukan

**Guwahati:** The fourth volume of Paresh Baishya Rachanawali, a collection of the writings of noted author-journalist and educationist Paresh Baishya, was released at a solemn function held at the Housefed Housing Complex in West Boragaon, Guwahati on 25th October ,2026.The volume comprises nine history-based books written by Baishya and edited by eminent educationist Dr Dayananda Pathak. The book was formally released by Dr Upendra Rabha Hakasam, Professor in the Department of Assamese at Gauhati University.“Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hakasam observed that although several writers in Assam had authored hundreds of books on individual subjects, Paresh Baishya had set a record by writing on a wide range of subjects in Assamese literature. He also pointed out that the works of many authors were lost during their lifetimes due to a lack of proper preservation, underscoring the importance of preserving literary contributions for future generations. Earlier, explaining the purpose of the programme, Paresh Baishya said that the fourth volume brought together several of

his valuable works. These include books on the history of newspapers and magazines in Assam, the history of parliamentary politics in the state, a brief history of Assam, the history of Asam Sahitya Sabha, the tradition of the theatre movement in Hajo, the history of Balisatra, and the Agni Baneshwar Devalaya, Bhringeshwar Devalaya and Dhareshwar Devalaya. Baishya further informed the gathering that arrangements had been made to donate copies of the complete collection to 100 government and leading private libraries across Assam for preservation.“He said that the first three volumes, published earlier, contained his works on children’s literature, literary journalism, folk culture, travel writing and translations. Baishya, who has authored more than 300 books, also shared his plan to publish his literary works in collected volumes during his lifetime. Taking part in the programme as an honoured guest, eminent educationist Dr Dayananda Pathak said that historical consciousness was the lifeblood of a nation. He observed that the fourth volume of Paresh Baishya Rachanawali, containing works on history, would serve as an excellent resource for research. Retired



Gauhati University professor Dr Bhupendra Raychaudhury, who attended the event as a distinguished guest, described Paresh Baishya as a remarkable figure in contemporary intellectual circles. He said that Baishya had become a role model for many through his uninterrupted literary pursuits and dynamic guidance in the field of education. Addressing the gathering, Indian Administrative Service officer and noted writer Thaneshwar Malakar highlighted the scarcity of diary literature in Assamese. He observed that Baishya had pioneered a distinct stream of Assamese diary literature by regularly publishing diaries that went beyond his personal life to reflect broader social realities. He expressed the hope that Baishya’s diaries would one day become subjects of academic research. Senior journalist of Asomiya Pratidin, Anjan Kumar

Sharma, also attended the programme as a distinguished guest. He said that, alongside his literary activities, Baishya had made an unprecedented contribution to Assam’s education sector through his initiative, Pohor Vidyalaya. Sharma also described him as an efficient administrator.“Retired Sipajhar College professor Dr Dibakar Chandra Das addressed the gathering and praised Baishya’s systematic and scientific approach to diary writing. Among those present at the programme were Dr Hemanta Hazarika, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Navjyoti College, Barpeta; Panchali Baishya; Purnima Das Baishya, trustee of the Paresh Baishya Foundation; literary enthusiast Dhiraj Kumar Deka; and distinguished teacher Jayanta Patgiri. They also shared their views on the occasion.

## Assam Steps Up to Fight Against Illicit Liquor with 30-Day Training

**Dergaon :** In a major effort to dismantle illegal liquor networks and safeguard public health, the Assam Excise Department has initiated a comprehensive 30-day residential training programme for 73 of its enforcement officers. The formal inauguration of the month-long course was held on Monday at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon. The training session was officially inaugurated by senior officer Virendra Mittal, who serves as the Commissioner and Secretary of the Excise Department. Addressing the officers during the opening ceremony, Mittal stressed the importance of dis-

cipline, technical precision, and unwavering commitment to public service in their field operations. Assam Excise Minister Atul Bora voiced strong support for the programme through a message on social media, emphasizing that the state government, guided by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, is resolved to eradicate the illegal liquor trade. Minister Bora noted that illicit alcohol poses a direct hazard to public health and community safety, adding that the specialized training would act as a crucial turning point in tightening enforcement across Assam, stated a press release.

## Youth attempts suicide at Kaithalkuchi railway station in Nalbari

**Nalbari :** A tense situation prevailed at Kaithalkuchi railway station on Sunday after a young man allegedly attempted suicide by climbing onto an iron structure carrying high-voltage overhead electric wires, reportedly fol-

lowing a family dispute. The incident disrupted railway services for nearly three hours. The youth was identified as Samir Ali, son of Mujib Ali, a resident of Kaithalkuchi Besimari under Belsor police station in Nalbari district.

## Pavitra Rabha to Receive Adya Sarma Shilpi Award 2026



**Nalbari :** Noted actor, director, playwright, and art director Pavitra Rabha will be conferred with the Adya Sarma Shilpi Award 2026 in recognition of his significant contributions to theatre and the cultural field. The award has been announced jointly by the Nalbari District Committee of the Assam Natya Sanmilan and Nalbari College. The award will be presented in connection with the Adya Sarma All Assam Drama Competition, scheduled to be held at Nalbari Natya Mandir on November 5, 6, and 7. Hailing from Tangla in Udalguri district, Pavitra Rabha is a popular actor among the younger generation. A graduate of the National School of Drama in New Delhi, he has established himself in the fields of acting, direction, playwriting, and art direction. Rabha has earned recognition for his performances in several films, including Mission China, Kanchanjangha, Teng, Charlie, and Mary Kom. Besides his work in cinema, he has made notable contributions to theatre and cultural activities as an organiser. He founded the cultural initiative Dapoon - The Mirror in Tangla and has been actively involved in promoting the talents of socially marginalised dwarf artistes.

# Satya Ram Rajbongshi : A Dedicated and Amiable Postal Professional

## ■ Heramba Nath

Satya Ram Rajbongshi, Sub Post-master at Bezera Post Office in Bezera, Kamrup district, Assam, is known for his amiable personality, courteous behaviour and effective communication skills. His friendly approach and respectful interaction with customers reflect his commitment to providing helpful and efficient postal services.

As a postal professional, Rajbongshi plays an important role in serving the public and facilitating postal services. He patiently explains procedures and other matters to customers whenever they have doubts or need clarification. His ability to communicate clearly and his willingness to assist people help customers access postal services with greater ease and confidence.

One of Rajbongshi's

most admirable qualities is his humble and composed nature. He carries himself without arrogance and remains calm and patient in his dealings with people. His polite behaviour, patience and respectful attitude towards customers reflect his strong moral character. These qualities make him not only an approachable postal professional but also a person worthy of appreciation and respect.

Rajbongshi resides at Gokhala, Maligaon, Guwahati. Originally, he hails from Bhomolahati village in Kamrup district, Assam, under Baihata Chariali Police Station. The area falls under Kamalpur Legislative Assembly Constituency and was formerly associated with the Jalukbari constituency.

Satya Ram Rajbongshi's professional conduct highlights the importance of dedication, patience, humility and good public relations



in public service. His amiable personality, clear communication and willingness to help demonstrate how integrity and kindness can make a meaningful difference in the everyday lives of people who depend on postal services.

May Satya Ram Rajbongshi always enjoy good health, happiness and peace in life. May he continue to serve people with the same humility, kindness and dedication, and may his future be filled with success, prosperity and countless blessings.

# Demand for Wider OPD Coverage Under MMLSAY for Assam Govt. Employees

**Staff Reporter, Guwahati :** The Assam Government should consider extending the benefits of the Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana (MMLSAY) to cover routine outpatient department (OPD) treatment for eligible state government employees, pensioners and their eligible dependants. MMLSAY provides medical reimbursement to eligible beneficiaries in accordance with the applicable guidelines and Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates. However, many beneficiaries require regular OPD consultations, diagnostic investigations and prescribed medicines without being admitted to hospital. The expenses associated with these services can place an additional financial burden on employees, pensioners and their families. Under the existing guidelines, certain pre-hospitalisation procedures directly related to hospital treatment and other OPD procedures leading to hospitalisation are covered. However, wider coverage for routine OPD consultations, prescribed medicines and necessary diagnostic tests could provide additional financial relief to beneficiaries. The state government may consider introducing suitable provisions for such coverage, subject to eligibility criteria, prescribed limits and appropriate financial safeguards. Wider OPD coverage under MMLSAY could help beneficiaries access timely medical care and reduce their out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure.

## Assam Postal Fraud Multi-Crore Scam Unearthed in Dibrugarh as Family of Agents Flee

**Dibrugarh:** A massive financial fraud totaling an estimated ₹3 crores has come to light in Assam's Dibrugarh district. A single family operating as Post Office, bank, and LIC agents allegedly defrauded hundreds of local depositors. The accused, identified as Ratan Pal, his wife Pallavi Dutta Pal, and his brother Rajiv Pal, allegedly collected fixed deposits and monthly recurring scheme instalments from clients for several years but failed to credit them into official accounts. The multi-crore misappropriation was discovered after the trio abruptly turned off their phones and absconded with their families during the Durga Puja festival. Dozens of panicked victims have since swarmed the Dibrugarh Sadar Police Station to lodge formal complaints. "They took my lifelong savings, promising secure government returns, but left us completely ruined," an anonymous, distressed elderly victim stated outside the station. The local police have registered an official FIR and launched a coordinated manhunt to track down the fleeing family members. A senior police official supervising the probe confirmed, "We have initiated a thorough investigation into their bank footprints and are actively raiding suspected hideouts to ensure the victims' hard-earned money is recovered."

# Biswajit Daimary Distributes Certificates to students and Marks Beginning of 11-Month Industry Training in Kolkata

**Guwahati :** Minister for Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship, Shri Biswajit Daimary, today visited the training centre of SIBIN Learning Cart Private Limited (SLCPL), located at Beltola Tinali, Guwahati, today, coinciding with the successful completion of one month of institutional training by the first batch of students under the GHH programme of SLCPL. During the visit, the Minister distributed certificates to 37 students from Tamulpur constituency who have successfully completed the one-month institutional training and are now set to proceed to Kolkata for the next phase of their training. The students will undergo 11 months of On-the-Job Training (OJT) at Barbeque Nation, along with a stipend, gaining practical experience in the hospitality industry. Upon successful completion of the OJT period, the students will be awarded a Diploma in Guest Service Management, equipping them with industry-relevant skills and improving their prospects for career opportunities in the hospitality sector. The programme inte-

grates diploma education with practical industry exposure, enabling students to gain hands-on experience in a professional work environment. It aims to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry requirements while enhancing the employability of young people through structured training and workplace experience. The Minister interacted with the students and encouraged them to make the most of this opportunity to gain practical industry experience. He emphasised the importance of discipline, dedication and continuous learning in building successful careers, urging the students to acquire the necessary skills and professional values to enhance their employability. Speaking to the media, Shri Daimary highlighted the importance of bridging the gap between formal education and industry requirements. He stated that initiatives combining institutional training with On-the-Job Training and internship opportunities could play a significant role in equipping young people with practical skills and preparing them for the job market.

# Pure Drinking Water vs Alarming Arsenic

■ **Rupak G. Duarah**  
Rajahnagar

Pure drinking water is absolutely essential for good health since water makes up about 50-65% of human body weight and every major system relies on it to function properly. Drinking sufficient pure water contributes to better physical performance and energy levels, improve brain function, mood and concentration, reduce risk of headaches or migraines, support for weight management, lower risk of constipation and digestive problems, prevention of urinary tract infections and kidney stones and overall better hygiene and reduced infection risk. Reliable sources like World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and scientific reviews emphasize that safe water is foundational for preventing both immediate and long-term health issues.

In Assam, accessing pure drinking water remains a mixed picture, with significant improvements in recent years but ongoing challenges related to natural contamination in groundwater. It is the primary source for many households, especially in rural areas.

Groundwater in Assam often contains elevated levels of certain contaminants due to geological factors (e.g., the Brahmaputra floodplain and alluvial soils). The most common issues include arsenic, iron and fluoride. Moreover, Brahmaputra river water (used in urban areas like Guwahati) shows high turbidity and pathogens during monsoon, though treatment plants improve it to fair or good levels in many cases. Overall, physical parameters are generally safe, but chemical safety varies. These issues are geogenic (natural) rather than purely industrial or pollution-driven, though flooding and over-extraction worsen them. Rural areas historically relied on tube wells or hand pumps, which can tap contaminated aquifers.

Arsenic, which is a major threat for the ground water in Assam, is a naturally occurring metalloid element (it has properties of both metals and non-metals). It is the 20<sup>th</sup> most abundant element in the Earth’s crust and is widely distributed in

rocks, soil, water, air and even some foods. It has no taste or smell in most of its compounds, making it particularly dangerous. There are two forms of arsenic – inorganic and organic. The inorganic arsenic is found in groundwater, soil and some industrial sources. This form is highly toxic and the main cause of health problems in humans. The organic arsenic is found in seafood (like fish and shellfish). This form is much less toxic and generally not harmful at typical exposure levels.

The biggest source of harmful exposure worldwide is drinking contaminated groundwater, especially from tube-wells in regions with naturally high arsenic in aquifers. This is a massive issue in parts of India (including Assam, West Bengal, Bihar etc.) and Bangladesh, where tens of millions of people have been affected - often called one of the largest mass poisonings in history. Other sources include certain foods grown with contaminated water, industrial processes, smoking tobacco, and (rarely) deliberate poisoning.

Inorganic arsenic is a confirmed human carcinogen (cancer-causing agent) according to WHO and other major health organizations. It interferes with cellular energy production, damages DNA, causes oxidative stress and disrupts many enzyme systems. The issue of arsenic contamination in groundwater represents one of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges in Assam, reliant on groundwater for drinking and domestic use. Arsenic, a naturally occurring semi-metallic element, leaches into aquifers under specific geochemical conditions, particularly in the vast alluvial plains of the Brahmaputra River basin. In Assam, arsenic levels in groundwater frequently exceed prescribed safe limits, posing severe risks to millions of residents.

The World Health Organization (WHO) sets the guideline value for arsenic in drinking water at 0.01 mg/L, a threshold adopted by India’s Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the desirable limit (with a permissible limit of 0.05 mg/L in the absence of alternatives).

Recent reports and media

coverage highlight ongoing concerns about arsenic contamination in groundwater in Assam, primarily geogenic (naturally occurring) and concentrated in isolated pockets rather than statewide. A key recent development is from February 2025–2026, when the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, responded in the Lok Sabha to questions about arsenic levels. According to the latest Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) data (pre-monsoon 2024 and Annual Ground Water Quality Report 2025), arsenic exceeding the permissible limit (0.01 mg/L or 10 ppb) was reported in isolated pockets of Assam. As per pre-monsoon 2024 monitoring, arsenic above permissible limits occurs in isolated pockets of districts such as Barpeta, Goalpara, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Sivasagar, Nalbari and Karimganj. Other reports and studies cite higher numbers, with arsenic detected in up to 19 districts including Jorhat, Sonitpur, Dhemaji, Hailakandi, Cachar, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Nagaon, Morigaon, Kamrup, Darrang and Baksa. In some areas, concentrations reach significantly higher levels, sometimes more than the WHO limit in localized hotspots. Assam ranks among the most affected states in India, alongside West Bengal and Bihar, due to its position in the Ganga-Brahmaputra floodplains where Himalayan sediments release arsenic through reductive dissolution in waterlogged, organic-rich environments.

The contamination stems primarily from geogenic sources rather than industrial pollution. Arsenic mobilizes in reducing aquifers typical of Assam’s young alluvial deposits, where iron oxides release bound arsenic under low-oxygen conditions influenced by microbial activity and organic matter from flooding. Over-extraction of groundwater for irrigation and domestic use may accelerate mobilization, though the primary driver remains natural hydrogeochemistry in the Brahmaputra valley.

Mitigation efforts have gained momentum through government initiatives. The Jal Jeevan



Mission (JJM), aiming for ‘HarGharJal’ (piped water to every household), has significantly reduced arsenic-affected habitations nationwide - from 14,020 in 2019 to just 314 by early 2025 - with substantial progress in Assam, where a major portion of rural households reportedly gained coverage. States install community arsenic removal plants, promote deep tube wells (sometimes deeper aquifers show elevated levels too) and encourage surface water sources or rainwater harvesting. Central agencies like CGWB share data via bulletins and alerts, while awareness campaigns educate communities on risks and safe practices. Health assessments monitor symptoms, though comprehensive epidemiological studies remain limited.

Despite advances, challenges persist. Pockets of contamination endure due to uneven implementation, reliance on shallow hand pumps in remote areas and climate factors like flooding that influence aquifer recharge. Long-term strategies must prioritize sustainable aquifer management, regular monitoring, alternative safe sources and integrated watershed approaches to prevent future escalation.

As such, we may say that arsenic beyond prescribed limits in Assam’s groundwater is a silent crisis rooted in geology but amplified by socio-economic factors. While initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission offer hope, sustained vigilance, community participation and research-driven interventions are essential to safeguard public health and ensure access to safe water in this vulnerable region. Addressing this demands coordinated action to turn contaminated aquifers into a managed resource rather than a hidden threat.

**Mobile : 60264-73734**

# Worship of Goddess Lakshmi and the Philosophy of Life

■ **Lalit Nath**

Itakhola, Sonitpur

The worship of Goddess Lakshmi holds a unique and profound position in Indian religious and cultural traditions. Traditionally, She is venerated as the presiding deity of wealth, fortune, prosperity and abundance. However, from the perspective of Indian philosophy, the fundamental significance of Lakshmi worship is not merely restricted to the desire for acquiring material wealth. Beneath this tradition lies a deeply rooted philosophy embracing holistic prosperity, ethics, dedication to duty, and spiritual values. A vivid description of Goddess Lakshmi's opulent form is found in the Sri Suktam, a significant hymn from ancient Vedic literature. The opening verse declares:

*"Hiranyavarnam harinim  
suvarnarajatastrajam |  
Chandram hiranmayim  
lakshmi jatavedo maavaha ||"*

Addressing the Agni, this invocation calls upon Goddess Lakshmi—golden-complexioned, adorned with garlands of gold and silver, radiant like the moon and embodied in golden splendour. Beyond reflecting humanity's natural aspiration for well-being, beauty and prosperity, the symbolic essence of this verse reveals that Her nature extends far beyond external riches, encompassing purity, joy and universal welfare.

Indian philosophy outlines four primary pursuits of human life Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. Here, Artha signifies the resources essential for sustaining life and fulfilling social duties; however, acquiring wealth must strictly align with Dharma. Wealth obtained through unfair means, deception, or exploitation may bring external affluence, but it fails to ensure genuine peace of mind or societal well-being. Only wealth earned through honest endeavors and utilized for the good of others enriches life in its true sense.

In this light, worshipping Lakshmi is not a mere prayer for financial gain; it challenges us to reflect on integrity in

generating wealth and ethics in spending it. True prosperity lies not in the sheer abundance of resources, but in their righteous utilization, inner tranquility and a sense of social responsibility. Wealth acquired ethically and directed toward the greater good leads both the individual and society toward meaningful fulfillment.

In Chapter 2, Verse 47 of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna explains the true essence of action:

*"Karmanye vadhikaraste ma  
phaleshu kadachana | Ma  
karmaphalaheturbhur ma te  
sangostvakarmani ||"*

This timeless philosophy teaches that individuals must perform their duties with dedication without becoming overly attached to the fruits of their actions. It does not advocate abandoning aspirations for growth; rather, it emphasizes performing work with honesty, devotion and a sense of duty.

The spirit of Lakshmi worship shares a deep connection with this Gita philosophy. True devotion transcends routine rituals and light candles; it demands hard work, skill and noble actions. Moreover, Lakshmi worship imparts the crucial virtues of content-

ment and self-restraint. Balancing desires, utilizing resources wisely and abstaining from boundless greed are essential qualities for a meaningful life. A person who remains humble, fulfills duties toward others and guards against arrogance truly understands the core meaning of abundance.

In Assamese culture, Lakshmi worship is intimately linked to agriculture, harvested crops, domestic life and folk traditions. In an agrarian society, the abundance of grains is not merely an economic gain—it symbolizes human livelihood, nature's grace and collective prosperity. Since agricultural success relies on environmental harmony, this tradition uniquely expresses gratitude toward nature and recognizes humanity's mutual dependence on the natural environment.

Evaluating its relevance today, a society cannot be considered genuinely prosperous solely by its material riches. True prosperity exists where education and healthcare are accessible, honest labour is respected, women enjoy dignity and equal rights and compassion for the underprivileged is nurtured. Therefore, the vision



of Lakshmi worship should expand from personal fortune to the collective welfare of society.

Ultimately, the worship of Goddess Lakshmi is a deep philosophy guiding human life toward spiritual and moral enlightenment. In today's era of globalization and fierce competition, where individuals often lose mental peace while chasing material comfort, this philosophy offers a balanced path forward. The true presence of Goddess Lakshmi and genuine prosperity in every home reside in collective harmony, ethical living and societal well-being.

**Mobile : 99541-39493**

## ED Uncovers 'Drugs-for-Goods' Barter Network Supplying Myanmar Cartels via Northeast

**Guwahati:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has dismantled a massive transnational "narco-hawala" syndicate, exposing a sophisticated "drugs-for-goods" barter system used to channel illicit drug money from metropolitan Indian cities back to cartels in Myanmar. Following coordinated raids across Mizoram and Manipur, authorities froze 1,424 bank accounts and attached assets worth Rs. 26.01 crore. Six key operatives, including Kashyap G. Thakkar and Zennghaihiang, have been arrested. Investigation reveals that cash generated from heroin and methamphetamine sales in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata was funneled into mule accounts in Northeast India. Instead of relying solely on currency exchangers, the syndicate evolved to bypass traditional financial networks entirely. "The drug money was converted into ordinary, commercially marketable goods—petrol, diesel, wheat flour, and medicines—and then diverted across the border to settle pay-



ments with Myanmar suppliers," a senior ED officer stated. The agency uncovered extreme discrepancies, such as a local homemaker's account receiving Rs. 15.48 crore despite a recorded family income of just Rs. 27,000. A single mini-ATM counter in Churachandpur reportedly processed 2,947 illicit transactions totaling Rs. 175.03 crore. Authorities continue to map out downstream operators as the anti-narcotics crackdown intensifies.

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## Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Birth Anniversary Celebrations Conclude in Bokakhat

five regional branches of the district participated in the conference.“According to the programme scheduled for the first day, the event began with the morning prayer, environmental cleanliness activities, inauguration of the ceremonial gateway and plantation of saplings. Soneswar Ahom, President of the Bokakhat District Branch, hoisted the religious flag. A colourful Bhagavata procession was also taken out.“Following the Naam-Prasanga at 10 a.m., a religious discussion meeting was held at noon under the chairmanship of Soneswar Ahom. The meeting was conducted by Pradip Hazarika, Secretary of the District Branch, and Dibyajyoti Hazarika, Office Secretary. It was inaugurated by Chandrakanta Bhuyan, Secretary of the Education Branch Committee of the Sangha.“Dr. Manas Pratim Bora, Secretary of the Literary Research Council of the Sangha, attended the meeting as the designated speaker. He delivered an insightful address on various aspects of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva's literature, culture and religious philosophy.“The meeting became a major attraction for domestic and international tourists visiting Kaziranga. Dr. Bora explained the literary, cultural and religious-philosophical contributions of Srimanta Sankardeva, as well as the significance of the Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha and its Children, Youth, Aai and Matri Conference, in fluent English, drawing the attention of the tourists present.“Chandra Hazarika, Vice-President of the Sangha, attended the programme as the chief guest and delivered an address.“Among those present were Dharmeswar Hazarika, President of the Central Library Sub-Committee; Shobhan Chandra Saikia, Secretary of the Naam-Dharma Department; Jogesh Loying, Acting President of the Publicity Branch; and Chandan Bora, Secretary of the Central Seva Bahini, along with district-level office-bearers and volunteers of the Seva Bahini.“The first day's programme concluded at night with a discourse on the Bhagavata delivered by Chandra Hazarika, Vice-President of the Sangha.“The second day began with the morning prayer. Following the Naam-Prasanga and registration of participants from 9 a.m., Jayanta Kamal Barua, an expert in Gayan-Bayan from the Golaghat District Branch, inaugurated the literary and cultural competitions.“Participants competed in various categories, including poetry, essay writing, elocution, Dihanam, Biyanam, Borgeet, flute playing and Sattriya dance.“Competition Results“In the Aai-Matri Dihanam competition, Simpi Dutta's team secured first place, followed by Lakshmi Deka's team in second place and Rupa Bora's team in third place.“In the Biyanam competition, Moromi Saikia's team won first place, Pompei Bora's team secured second place, and Mrinali Hazarika's team finished third.“In the children's Borgeet competition, Kristina Hazarika secured first place, while Kirtishikha Hazarika won second place.“In the flute competition, Eurichpol Kakati secured a position. In the children's Dihanam competition, Hridi Shikha Hazarika won first place, followed by Prachurjya Hazarika in second place.“In the youth Dihanam competition, Hima Loying's team secured a position.“In the children's quiz competition, the team comprising Arhipriya Bora and Angel Tamuli secured first place. The team of Pritiya Saikia and Labhita Dutta won second place. Two teams jointly secured third place: Hridi Shikha Hazarika and Rituja Bora, and Adhistha Shruti Saikia and Ayushman Baishnab.“In the Aai-Matri quiz competition, Supriya Baruah and Malavika Baruah Saikia secured a position.“In the children's elocution competition, Adhistha Shruti Saikia won first place, Elina Rabidas secured second place, and Sneha Pathari won third place.“In the youth elocution competition, Mon Mayuri Hazarika secured a position. In the Aai-Matri elocution competition, Supriya Baruah won first place, Minakshi Tamuli secured second place, and Pompei Kalita finished third.“The two-day celebration highlighted the enduring relevance of Srimanta Sankardeva's teachings and provided a platform for children, youths and women to showcase their literary, cultural and artistic talents. The participation of domestic and international tourists also added to the significance of the event, reflecting the wider appeal of Assam's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

## Railways Deploy Over 7,000 Special Trains to Ease Diwali and Chhath

deployed 418 special trips departing from Mumbai. Notably, a premium Delhi–Patna Vande Bharat special train has been introduced to ensure swift regional transit. In the northeast, the Northeast Frontier Railway is operating 52 dedicated special trains to manage the seasonal passenger surge effectively. Railway officials emphasized their readiness to ensure smooth transit. "The safety and convenience of passengers remain our topmost priority during this high-demand festive period," stated a senior Ministry of Railways official. "We have deployed extra field staff and dynamic crowd-control measures at all major terminal stations to safely manage the increased footfall." Travelers are urged to use the official IRCTC portal and NTES app to track live seat availability and real-time train status.

## Farmer leader Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya

Krishi Group-A started the preliminary work of Rabi crop cultivation. Not just being present, like a true friend of farmers, the farmer leader himself sat at the steering of a tractor and participated in ploughing the land.Even amidst the dust and soil, there was an innocent joy on his face and deep respect for farmers. Driving the tractor, he gave new enthusiasm and new inspiration to the farmers.On this occasion, Shri Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya said, "The hard work, dedication and perseverance of farmers is the main driving force of our agricultural economy. The true prosperity of Assam's rural economy lies hidden in the smiles of farmers. This cultivation of Rabi crops will not only make our farmers self-reliant but will also play an important role in the direction of food security of the state."The farmers of Athiaboi have wholeheartedly welcomed his enterprising step. The picture of Ranjit Bhattacharya coming down to the field not as a leader but as a fellow fighter has truly given a new dimension to the farmers' movement.

## Flood of Joy on Birthday

proved the deep affection and trust people have for Hemanta Choudhury.On the other hand, today with day-long programmes, a huge Vishnu Yagya has been organized at Sualkuchi Hospital Chowk of Hajo-Sualkuchi constituency in Kamrup district.With the aim of celebrating this sacred moment of his birthday with spirituality, 1,000 Purnahutis will be offered in this Yagya. Prayers will be offered to Lord Vishnu for the welfare, peace and prosperity of the state.After the Yagya, arrangement has been made for distribution of Mahabhog for the devotees in the afternoon.Hemanta Choudhury himself will be present at this sacred ceremony and receive the blessings of the devotees.

## Meeting of Moran-Motok Community Organizations with Chief Minister

application process for land easier, discussion was also held on providing necessary training to the youth of the two communities. The aim is to reduce the difficulties faced in filing online applications.In addition, the Chief Minister also mentioned the step of extending the deadline for depositing premium to solve the problems created due to inability to deposit premium within the stipulated time.It is hoped that these steps will play an important role in resolving the land rights issues of the Moran and Motok communities and making the land settlement process under Mission Basundhara-4.0 easier.

## Sivasagar committee seeks permanent solution to floods

**Nazira :** The Upper Assam Flood Problem Permanent Solution Demand Committee, Sivasagar, on Tuesday submitted an 11-point memorandum to the Chief Minister of Assam through the Deputy Commissioner, Sivasagar, demanding a permanent solution to the recurring flood crisis and adequate compensation for the victims. The delegation included committee advisory members Jog Gogoi, Dilip Phukan, Bhaskar Borgohain, and convenors Hemanta Pegu, Pankaj Bora, and Bimal Pande. In the memorandum, the committee stated that the devastating flood that occurred on July 19 in Sivasagar, Jorhat, and Charaideo districts completely paralysed normal life, which is not unknown to the government.

## Assam's boxer Lovlina Borgohain accorded grand reception at Nazira



**Nazira :** Assam's celebrated boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who won the gold medal in the middleweight boxing category at the 2026 Asian Games held in Japan, was accorded a grand felicitation in Nazira on Sunday. The accomplished pugilist, who has brought laurels to the country and Assam through her achievements on the international sporting stage, received a warm welcome from a large gathering of admirers eager to catch a glimpse of the champion and convey their best wishes. Lovlina was felicitated with traditional Assamese gamosas, bouquets, and various gifts by members of the public and representatives of numerous organisations. Deeply touched by the

affection and warmth extended to her, the boxer graciously accepted the greetings and blessings of the people.

The felicitation programme was organised under the supervision of Nazira MLA Mayur Borgohain, in collaboration with the Nazira and Simaluguri municipalities. More than a hundred organisations and institutions participated in the programme to honour Lovlina for her remarkable sporting achievement and her contribution to bringing recognition to Assam. Speaking on the occasion, Lovlina said that the strong emotional bond she shared with the people of Assam had always been a source of courage and inspiration for her. She added that the love, encouragement, and blessings of the people motivated her to work harder and give her best in the sporting arena in the days ahead. Following her success at the Asian Games, Lovlina has now set her sights on winning an Olympic gold medal. Following the felicitation ceremony, Lovlina visited the site earmarked for the proposed Upper Nazira Sports Complex, which is planned as a key component of a larger sports development project spread across approximately 150 bighas of land in Nazira.

## Nalbari farmer concerned over elephant crop damage

**Nalbari :** Farmer Arvind Deka has raised concerns over the repeated damage to crops caused by wild elephants, alleging that the problem has continued for several years. Despite suffering recurring losses, he has continued farming because of his deep attachment to the land and his commitment to agriculture. According to Deka, the most painful aspect of the situation is that months of hard work and investment can go to waste just when farmers are looking forward to harvesting their crops. For those dependent on agriculture, such losses affect not only their income but also their ability to maintain their

families and plan for the future. Expressing concern over the plight of farmers, Deka has made an earnest appeal to the Assam Government, particularly the Agriculture Minister, to take the issue seriously. He has urged the minister and concerned departmental officials to visit the affected agricultural areas, interact

directly with farmers, and assess the ground realities instead of relying solely on official reports. Assam tourism guides He has also called for effective measures to reduce human-elephant conflict, protect agricultural fields, and ensure appropriate compensation for farmers whose crops are damaged.



## 4 drug peddlers arrested in Nagaon

**Nagaon :** Nagaon police arrested four alleged drug peddlers and seized a substantial quantity of heroin along with 12 bottles of banned cough syrup during a raid at the fish market in Borbazar, Nagaon town, on Sunday night. Acting on allegations that an illegal drug trade had been flourishing in the market, a police team led by Biman Gogoi, Officer-in-Charge of Nagaon Town police station, conducted the operation. The arrested individuals have been identified as Subir Saha (27 years) of Panigaon, Zehirul Haque (30 years) of Chinapatty, Jamir Hussain (22 years) of Kadamtal, and Muksidul Haque (24 years) of Mahkhuli. All four belong to areas under Nagaon Sadar police station.

| BA Animal Feed Centre                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p>ইয়াত ব্ৰহ্মাৰ সকলো সামগ্ৰী পোৱা যায়।</p> <p>যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ<br/>94350-61306, 86381-38348</p> <p>মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয়<br/>এম বি ৰোড<br/>(নগাঁও চিভিল হাস্পাতালৰ পিছফালে)</p> | <p>ইয়াত গৰু, ছাগলী, হাঁহ, কুকুৰাৰ দানাৰ লগতে ব্ৰহ্মাৰ, হাঁহ, সোণালী, লোকেল পোৱালিৰ অৰ্ডাৰ লোৱা হয়।</p> <p>যোগাযোগ নম্বৰ<br/>94350-61306, 86381-38348</p> <p>মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয়<br/>এম বি ৰোড<br/>(নগাঁও চিভিল হাস্পাতালৰ পিছফালে)</p> |

# 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)