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THE ASSAM JYOTI

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Government is working to make Assam a competent and self-dependent state: CM

CM addresses graduates on 4th convocation of Cotton University

Dispur : Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma who attended the 4th convocation of Cotton University here today urged upon the graduates to lead Assam's journey towards competence and self-reliance. Addressing the 2804 graduates, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma while conveying his heartfelt congratulations to the students, attributed their academic success to the outcome of their dedication as well as the sacrifices of the teachers and the families of the students. He on the occasion congratulated all the faculty members, as well as parents and family members of the students, who have supported the graduates

in their success. Reminiscing his own days in Cotton College (now Cotton University), Dr. Sarma said that for him personally the day is very special. He said that the education he received in the campus of the erstwhile Cotton College shaped his life and helped him to march ahead. He also said, "As a proud alumnus of Cotton College, now Cotton University, it is a matter of great honour for me to stand before you and address you on this memorable and dignified occasion." The Chief Minister hailing the Cotton University said that the institution carries a very special energy that inspires young minds to dream bigger, work harder, and rise



higher. He said that when Cotton College was upgraded to Cotton University, that same energy found a wider canvas. He said that the students of the university not only honoured their glorious

legacy, but have also embraced the future with courage, confidence, and clarity of purpose. He also said that convocations always open the doors to new ideas. *see page 10*

CM Sarma Inaugurates Swahid Smarak Kshetra Honouring Assam Movement Martyrs



Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly built Swahid Smarak Kshetra at Paschim Boragaon, Guwahati, on Wednesday, which is a memorial dedicated to the martyrs of the historic Assam Movement. The Chief Minister lit the Swahid Pranam Jyoti by offering a solemn tribute

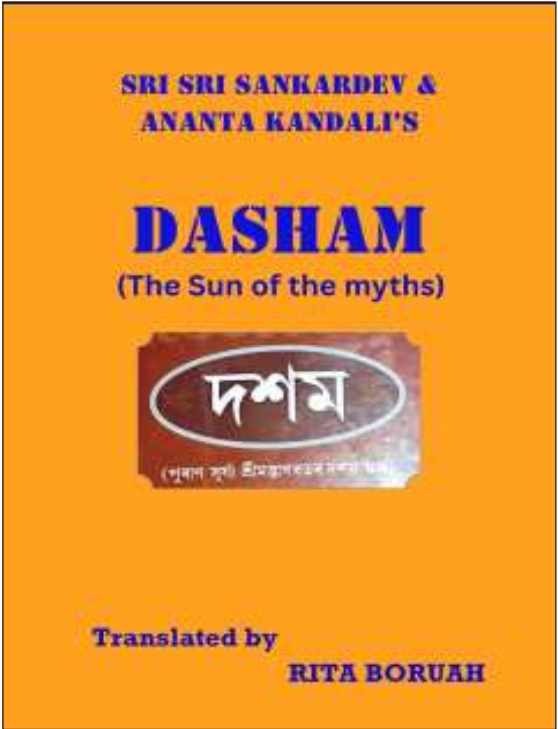
to those who laid down their lives to shape the future of the state. Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister participated in the central Swahid Diwas programme, where Dr Bhupen Hazarika's iconic song "Swahid Pranamo Tumak" was performed by many artists, with deep emotion and collective remembrance. The

event highlighted the sacrifice of the movement's martyrs and reaffirmed the state's commitment to preserving their legacy. The day ended with heartfelt interactions between the Chief Minister and the families of the martyrs, acknowledging their immense contribution and the enduring significance of their loved ones sacrifice. The inauguration of the Swahid Smarak Kshetra stands as a significant step in honouring Assam's history and ensuring that future generations remain connected to the spirit of the Assam Movement.

All Assam Multipurpose Health Workers (Male) Association to Hold Fourth Biennial Session on 13-14 December

Heramba Nath, Guwahati : The fourth biennial session of the All Assam Multipurpose Health Workers (Male) Association will be held on 13 and 14 December at the Dadara Bhriku Kumar Phukan Auditorium. The event is being hosted by the Kamrup District Multipurpose Health Workers (Male) Association, informed Publicity Wing President Prabir Kumar Das and General Secretary Amal Kalita. The two-day session will commence on 13 December at 8 a.m. with the hoisting of the association's flag by President Pankaj Kumar Talukdar. Secretary Arup Hazarika will pay tribute to martyrs, while Reception Committee President Geetumoni Das will lead floral tributes at the memorial dedicated to departed colleagues. Reception Committee Secretaries Nripen Deka and Diganta Kalita will pay respects at the portrait of the late cultural icon Zubeen Garg. At 10:30 a.m., the auditorium's main gate will be inaugurated by BJP State Executive Member Prakash Chandra Das, followed by *see page 10*

Srimadvagawata
Dasham,the tenth canto
Part--20



The killing of Putana:-
With suspicion and the fear of oppression, worshipping God
Quickly Boshudeva departed in his chariot
Now listen to what happens at Gokul
Following the order of Kansha
Putana,the cruel demoness
Roamed about killing children.
The demonesses creates misfortunes,
Where there is no Krishna's hearing and praises.
But as God Himself is in Gokul,
What can do there the nocturnal?
Wandering about the demoness Putana
Reached Gokul in disguise of a fairy,
She wears Jasmines in her knot
That she braided on her head's top.
With her tall breasts,big hips and thin waist
Wandered in Braja wearing a sari of net.
In the brightness of her earrings, her hair acrobates,
That makes her face look like a lotus.
Taking a lotus in her hand, she smiles
As though to meet her husband Lakshmi comes.
With her smile she fascinated the gopees,
No body prevented her but looked stealthily.
Looking children, she wandered every entrance
And entered Nanda's home with enormous care.
She saw the child sleeping in a bed
Beyond any light as if covered with ash.
The Soul of the world knew her
Kept His eyes shut and made no word.
She thought that she had got for whom she asked
And tried her best to impress the child.
Knowing not that Krishna was the child of a gopa
Embracing Him with her both hands took Him in her lap.
As though a fool caught a snake taking for a rope
Nobody perceived the hypocrisy of the demoness.
Having seen the appearance of Putana
Yoshoda and Rohini could not prevent her but dumb-founded.
Trying to kill the baby,the demoness gave him poisonous suck.
Holding tightly her nipple Krishna sucked in anger
With it He also sucked her life
Suffering violently, she shouted for life.

■ **Rita Boruah**
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Youth journalist Chandan Sharma
awarded the first anniversary of
Mahajati Twenty Four Live at Tezpur

Tezpur : Dr. Purnanarayan Singh, the founder of the Mahajati newspaper, published the Mahajati newspaper from Ushanagari Tezpur in 1964. From the current Mahajati newspaper, the youngest son of late Singh Dev Dr. Parashmani Singh has hardly converted Mahajati Twenty Four Live to digital media. On Monday, on the occasion of the first anniversary function at Hotel Vista located at Garowan Pattisthi, Tezpur district, Sonitpur district, special felicitation and prize distribution ceremony to the dignitaries involved in different directions. Mahajati Service Taste chairperson Ranjita Singh Dutt started the main meeting with lighting of the world's humming king and soulful artist Zubeen Garg in the first time of removing the program of Tezpur's special announcement Dhharitri Shravan. Worthy son of Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha and prominent lyricist, composer and social worker Hemraj Rabha participated as the chief guest of the main meeting. Mahajati Twenty Four Live's adviser Bhola Brai decorates the seats of special guest. Mahajati Service Tour's president Ranjita Singh Dutta, chief guest Hemraj Rabha, adviser Bhola Bora, prominent journalist Arup Kalita along with many respected people. Chief editor Manisha Bora Singh recited beautiful poem in the program, young poet Apurva Jonake. After that, along with many prominent people working for the society in differ-



ent directions, Chandan Sharma, a resident of Rangaskuwa area of Sonitpur district, Chandan Sharma was presented with youth journalism on behalf of Mahajati group. Chandan Sharma, who started his journey through photography from the past 2015, walked into the medium of journalism in 2017. Despite a lot of hardship, patience-sacrifice, criticism like journalism, young journalist Chandan Sharma through his hidden talents, relentless efforts in the news media, he is able to create a shake among the public by presenting news in various parts of Sonitpur district. That is why within a very short time, open poet kantha sambad service award in Guwahati, active journalism award in 2022 and 2020 at Guwahati Press Club, and also announced the news guardian award in 2025 in Jorhat on 30 December in historic Sivasagar.

Revenue Circle Emergency Man-
agement Exercise (RC-EMEx 2025)
underway at Kampur College

Nagaon : The Revenue Circle Emergency Management Exercise (RC-EMEx 2025) was inaugurated at Kampur College auditorium, Kampur in Nagaon on Monday. The programme was organized by District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Nagaon, and Kampur Revenue Circle in collaboration with Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) and Disaster Management Cell, Kampur College. The Circle Officer, Kampur Revenue Circle, attended the occasion as chief guest and inaugurated the event in the presence of the Principal of Kampur College, District Project Officer, DDMA, Nagaon, resource persons, field officers from Kampur, Rupahi, Samaguri, and Raha revenue circles, IA, DEOC Nagaon, and over 150 participants from various line departments and community volunteers. In her inaugural address, the Circle Officer emphasized the critical

need for grassroots-level preparedness and seamless coordination among stakeholders to ensure swift and effective response during disasters. She appreciated RC-EMEx 2025 as a vital step towards building a disaster-resilient community. The first day featured four parallel specialized training tracks. All sessions were facilitated by the District Project Officer, DDMA Nagaon, and provided training by experts and other resource persons, who provided practical insights and hands-on training on disaster preparedness, inter-agency coordination, and community-level response protocols. The inaugural day concluded on a positive note with active participation and enthusiasm from all stakeholders, laying a strong foundation for the remaining days of Kampur RC-EMEx 2025 and reinforcing Nagaon district's commitment to becoming a more resilient and disaster-ready administrative unit.

Homen Borgohain: The Polestar in the Intellectual Firmament of Assam

■ **Lalit Nath**
Itakhola, Sonitpur

The renowned litterateur, journalist, short-story writer, novelist, poet, distinguished prose artist and former President of the Asom Sahitya Sabha, Homen Borgohain, occupies an unforgettable place in the thoughtful reading community of Assam. Born on 7 December 1932 in Baligaon, Dhakuakhana, Lakhimpur district, he obtained his Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Cotton College, Guwahati, in 1954. In the early phase of his career, he served as a teacher at Dhakuakhana Higher Secondary School. In 1955, after successfully clearing the Assam Civil Service examination, he worked as Sub-Deputy Collector in various districts of Assam. However, because of his irresistible attraction towards literature and journalism, he resigned from government service and devoted himself fully to literary creation.

Homen Borgohain established himself as a short-story writer during the Ramdhenu era itself. His first book, 'Bivinna Koras' was published in 1957, and in the same year he took over as editor of the weekly 'Nilachal', completely immersing himself in journalism. That marked the beginning of his long, active and highly influential journalistic career. Starting from 'Nilachal', he served as editor of numerous newspapers and magazines such as Lokayata, Nagarik, Ajkal, Samakal, Sutradhar, Asom Bani, Dainik Batari, Amar Asom, Satsori, Niyamiya Barta, GNRC Swasthya, Kishor Alochona and many others, discharging his duties with utmost dedication and shining brightly as a journalist. "His contribution to literature is equally unforgettable. He displayed mastery in almost every genre, short stories, novels, essays, criticism, autobiography, etc. Some of his notable works include 'Bivinna Naraka, Mor Priya Panchta German Galpa, Prem aru Mrityur Karane, Swapna, Smriti aru Bishad, Galpa aru Naksha, Astitwar Jatirmay Chetna, Sampaw, Teertha Phukan and others. His stories are marked by profound psychological analysis, social inequality, the pain, anguish, anger, despair and frustration of the lower strata of urban life, as well as the decaying so-

cial order.

From the 1960s onwards, Borgohain shifted from short stories to novels and within a very short time became even more popular as a novelist. His major novels include Halodhiya Soraye Baodhan Khay, Saudor Puteke Nao Meli Jay, Pitaputra, Atmarag, "Nisangata, Kushilav, Subala, Tantrik, Timir Tirtha, Edinur Diary and Matsyagandha. The central themes of his novels are humanism, respect for human values, deep experience of rural life and the harshness of urban existence, suffering, spiritual realization, profound humanistic vision, the scent of village soil, superstition, urban loneliness and hypocrisy, existential conflicts of human beings, solitude, love, sorrow, fear of death and the reflection of outer and inner life.

One distinctive feature of his novels is the exquisite harmony between emotion and form. Thanks to his mature experience, his novels have become the most truthful and humane documents in Assamese literature.

His only poetry collection, Haimanti, is a profound expression of his philosophy of life. In this book, observation of nature is not merely external, it assumes a self-reflective stance. Especially in the title poem Haimanti, through the barren atmosphere of late autumn, he subtly feels the transience of life. The changing nature of the seasons reflects the impermanence of human life and through this the poet unveils an eternal truth, the beauty of life lies precisely in its fleeting nature. This idea is a unique contribution to Assamese poetry that immerses the reader in deep contemplation.

His autobiographical works such as Atmanusandhan, Dhumuhar Ramdhenu, Mor Hridoy Ekhon Juddhakshetra and numerous essay collections like Uchchakhanksha, Prajnar Sadhana, Amak Kitap Lage, Kitap Parhar Anand, Kam Karar Anand, Jivanar Madhuratam Samay, Sukh-Dukh, Atma Dipo Bhaba, Antahin Prerana, Anand aru Bedanar Sandhanat, Bipadar Bandhu, Jivanar Sadhana, Manuh Huwar Gaurav, Sustha Dehat Sustha Man, Saransha, Moi Jetiya Klanta Haun, Rahasyamoy Bishad aru Yantrana, Adhunik Yugar Janma Kahini, Mor Jivanat Ishwar, Mor Tokabahir Para, Axir Daxakar Dastabej, Bichitra Abhigata aru Anubhuti, Sharir

aru Hridoy, Gadyar Sadhana, Pathakar Tokabahi, Jijnasa, Swarga aru Naraka, Hridayar Manchitra, Saral Jivan Sukhi Jivan and many more have added new dimensions to Assamese literature. These writings infuse fresh life into the reader's mind, as if administering the elixir of immortality.

The poverty, suffering, conflicts, struggles and protests against injustice of rural life, as well as the lamentations of the deprived and the afflicted, always found a place in his writings. Homen Borgohain wrote perceptive essays on numerous Western short stories, novels, poems, and their authors, poets, philosophers and intellectuals. With his powerful and lucid prose, interspersed with relevant quotations from Western writers, he offered readers an astonishing intellectual delight and further established the depth of his reasoning. As the anchor of the discussion programme News Live, he became widely known among the public as a frank and rational personality.

Another unforgettable achievement was his role in inspiring and providing publishing opportunities to talented young writers of the new generation. Many poets, prose writers and thoughtful readers were born at his editorial desk. He greatly expanded the horizon of Assam's intellectual world.

Until the very end of his life, readers eagerly awaited his Sunday column Mor Tokabahir Para. His writings on health practices, the power of prayer and even the small joys of life provided indomitable strength.

One of his statements teaches us self-examination, "We Assamese actually live only half-alive. The other half we remain dead. We have not learned to derive joy from diverse sources such as music, painting, literature, drama, travel and good company. Most middle-class Assamese consider the ultimate success of life to be the ability, even if by shouting and showing off, to build a concrete house, eat chicken legs twice a day or a piece of rou fish and ostentatiously display their wealth at their son's or daughter's wedding in the most shameless and tasteless manner. No higher aim or ideal in life disturbs them even for a moment or awakens any other hunger in their hearts."

Yes, for most of the Assamese



middle class, the definition of happiness seems confined to a concrete house, fish and meat twice a day and pompous weddings. We have no time to think about art, literature, music, travel, or the subtle beauties of life. Therefore, though we appear alive from the outside, inwardly we are half-dead. The words may be bitter, but they are the truth."

In recognition of Homen Borgohain's literary contributions, the Government of Assam honoured him with the Srimanta Sankardeva Award, the Assam Valley Literary Award and numerous other honours. Notably, he received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for his novel 'Pitaputra'.

However, in 2015, as a strong protest against growing intolerance and communalism in Indian society, he returned the Sahitya Akademi Award along with the cash prize – a rare and courageous act that stands as a shining example of his integrity and social consciousness.

He was elected President of the Asom Sahitya Sabha twice, in 2001 and 2002 – one of the greatest honours of his life. All these prove that Homen Borgohain was not only a great writer but also a courageous, honest and responsible citizen.

Though he passed away on 12 May 2021, his thoughts, vision, courage and commitment to truth continue to guide Assamese society even today.

The life and work of Homen Borgohain compel us to remember forever that a true writer never dies. Even though his body has merged with the earth, his words will live on as the heartbeat in every reader's heart.

On this sacred day of his birth anniversary, I offer my deepest homage and tribute to him.

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When the Skies Begin to Forget: The Vanishing Birds of Assam and the Slow Erosion of an Ecological Heritage

■ Heramba Nath

Assam has always been a land where the cycles of nature are intimately entwined with the rhythm of human life, where the earth, the rivers, the forests, and the sky have spoken to its people in ways that were both practical and poetic. Long before modern technology and scientific instruments became the arbiters of knowledge, generations of Assamese peasants, fishermen, boatmen, and forest dwellers learned to read the seasons through observation—through the arrival of the monsoon, the ebb and flow of rivers, the flowering of trees, and most remarkably, through the movements of birds across the landscape. Winter, in particular, was never merely a matter of months on a calendar; it was a festival of life, a transition marked by the arrival of migratory birds from Siberia, Central Asia, Mongolia, and other distant lands. Northern Pintails skimmed across shallow ponds, Ferruginous Ducks rested upon quiet beels, Bar-headed Geese circled overhead in stately formations, and Wigeons and Shovelers alighted upon river margins as if performing an intricate choreography written by time itself. Children waited at village ponds, their eyes trained to distinguish species, their ears tuned to recognise calls that carried ancestral wisdom. Each flock, each wingbeat, each migration was a testament to endurance, to instinct, and to a delicate ecological balance that had taken millennia to establish.

Yet today, this balance is fraying. The skies over Assam are no longer as lively, no longer as insistent with the calls and colours of returning migrants. The wetlands, once generous and protective, have begun to shrink under human pressure and climatic change. Deepor Beel, a Ramsar wetland once alive with thousands of birds each winter, now shows clear signs of stress. Siltation, pollution, plastic waste, and encroachment have reduced its breadth. Water levels fluctuate unpredictably with erratic rainfall patterns, leaving formerly reliable

mudflats and shallow feeding grounds barren. Similarly, Sola Beel, Borsola Beel, Chandubi, and Maguri-Motapung struggle under the dual pressures of unregulated land use and climate variability. These wetlands are not mere pools of water; they are ancient refuges, the veins and arteries through which life flows, supporting fish, molluscs, insects, amphibians, and ultimately the birds themselves. When they falter, the intricate web of life unravels.

Among the resident species of Assam, the Greater Adjutant Stork, locally revered as Hargila, has become a symbol of ecological fragility. Its towering form, once a frequent presence above floodplains and village trees, is now rare, and its survival precarious. Hargilas require mature, tall trees for nesting—Simolu, Siali, Kadam, and Bokul—and wetlands rich in fish and amphibians for feeding. The felling of these trees for timber, agriculture, and urban expansion, coupled with the shrinking of wetlands, has led to sharp population declines. Villages across Kamrup, Morigaon, Nagaon, and Dhemaji that once hosted bustling colonies now report only isolated individuals or small, struggling groups. Each tree that falls carries with it the memory of generations of storks, breaking nesting cycles that have persisted for centuries. The survival of the Greater Adjutant is not only an ecological concern but also a reflection of Assam's capacity to maintain its cultural and environmental heritage. The Black-necked Stork, another large, visually striking wetland-dependent bird, mirrors the challenges faced by Hargilas. Though not as locally iconic, its presence in Assam is critical to the ecological balance of wetlands. Long-legged and powerful, the Black-necked Stork hunts fish, amphibians, and small reptiles in shallow waters. Yet, as wetlands shrink and become polluted, the stork struggles to find sufficient prey. Waterbodies have been converted to deep fish ponds or drained for agriculture, destroying the shallow foraging zones it relies upon. The species has begun to vanish from wetlands where it was once

regularly sighted. These losses carry broader implications for the ecosystems they inhabit, as the absence of top predators like storks can ripple through the food chain, affecting invertebrates, amphibians, and even vegetation patterns along wetland margins. Assam's migratory birds face even harsher realities. Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, Ferruginous Ducks, Shovelers, Wigeons, Eurasian Curlews, Black-tailed Godwits, Whiskered Terns, River Terns, Pallas's Gulls, Marsh Sandpipers, Green Sandpipers, and Garganeys are arriving in fewer numbers each year. Their long journeys, dictated by instinct and guided by environmental cues such as day length, temperature, and water levels, now collide with a landscape altered by climate change and human activity. Droughts leave wetlands dry; floods wash away nests and prey; chemical fertilisers and pesticides contaminate food sources; urban lights and construction disturb migratory pathways. Birds arrive exhausted, finding barren landscapes instead of the rich feeding grounds their ancestors relied upon. Mortality rises, reproduction declines, and entire population cycles are disrupted.

Agriculture, the lifeblood of rural Assam, is entwined with these ecological patterns. Traditional paddy cultivation and fish-friendly irrigation once created landscapes that supported both humans and birds. The seasonal flooding of rivers and beels replenished soil nutrients and created temporary feeding grounds for waders and ducks. Now, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, and soil degradation disrupt these cycles. Crop failure pushes farmers toward chemical inputs and land reclamation, which further degrade wetlands and foraging zones for birds. Tea gardens, globally celebrated yet ecologically sensitive, face heat stress, pest invasions, and water scarcity, altering not just productivity but also the surrounding ecosystems that migratory and resident birds depend on.

Forests and riverine corridors, historically refuges for birds, have been fragmented. Safe nesting

sites, roosting trees, and shaded feeding areas for storks, geese, and ducks have diminished. The Lesser Adjutant Stork, already struggling, now faces the loss of nesting trees along rivers and floodplains. The remaining colonies are isolated, vulnerable to predation, and dependent on human protection in a rapidly changing landscape. Migratory birds that once rested in contiguous riparian forests find themselves exposed to threats, forced into smaller, suboptimal habitats where food, water, and shelter are unreliable.

Climate change intensifies these pressures. Shifting monsoon patterns, prolonged droughts, sudden floods, and unpredictable water cycles alter wetland hydrology. Mudflats that once supported waders vanish under flooding or desiccation. Deep ponds, transformed for commercial purposes, leave birds without foraging options. The timing of migration, once synchronised with seasonal food availability, is increasingly mismatched. Birds may arrive too early, when water is too shallow to support prey, or too late, when wetlands have dried or been harvested. These mismatches reduce reproductive success, weaken fledglings, and drive populations downward.

The human footprint in Assam is omnipresent. Urbanisation, industrial pollution, chemical runoff, mechanised fishing, plastic waste, roads, electricity lines, glass structures, and artificial lights disrupt natural patterns. Each intervention, however minor it seems, compounds the ecological stress. Yet, the potential for restoration exists. Deepor Beel, once under severe threat, demonstrates the resilience of nature when humans intervene responsibly. Community stewardship, regulation of fishing, reduction of chemical runoff, and native vegetation restoration have allowed small flocks of migratory birds to return. Similar efforts in Maguri-Motapung, Sola Beel, and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary show that carefully planned interventions can restore the ecological fabric, reconnect food chains, and offer hope for both resident and migratory species. *see page 6*

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When the Skies Begin to Forget: The Vanishing Birds of Assam ...

Education and awareness are critical. In Jorhat, Sivasagar, Goalpara, and Kamrup, field-based programmes teaching children to identify species, monitor wetlands, and participate in restoration foster emotional connections with nature. Adults, too, benefit from awareness campaigns that reduce poaching, discourage harmful farming practices, and reinforce the understanding that wetlands and forests are lifelines, not commodities. Such programmes have also rekindled cultural memories. Migratory birds like the Bar-headed Goose once guided sowing schedules and inspired songs, stories, and local festivals. Lesser Adjutants and Woolly-necked Storks shaped human imagination through awe and observation. The erosion of habitats is eroding cultural memory as much as ecological memory.

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway positions Assam as a critical hub. Wetlands here connect Siberia, Mongolia, Central Asia, China, Bangladesh, and India. The loss of a single beel, a single nesting tree, or a single riverine patch can disrupt migration for thousands of kilometres. Assam's stewardship is therefore not merely a local responsibility but a global one. Protecting its wetlands and forests safeguards species that travel continents, linking distant nations in a shared ecological destiny.

Climate change in Assam is inseparable from human well-being. Floods, droughts, and unseasonal rainfall displace families, destroy crops, and challenge livelihoods. Tea garden workers, small-scale farmers, and fishing communities face rising uncertainty. Health risks multiply with changing disease patterns, vector-borne illnesses, and water contamination. The erosion of biodiversity undermines food security, ecosystem services, and cultural identity.

Assam's wetlands, forests, and riverine corridors are more than ecological assets; they are living records of a complex co-existence between humans and nature. Deepor Beel, spanning over 4,000 hectares near Guwahati, exemplifies this delicate balance. Once, its shallow margins teemed with aquatic life, supporting not only Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintails, Ferruginous Ducks, and Wigeons, but also larger resident birds such as the Greater Adjutant Stork and Black-necked Stork. The seasonal inundation of floodplains created a natural rhythm: fish thrived in nutrient-rich waters, amphibians bred along

mudflats, and insects multiplied in synchrony with the monsoon. Birds arrived in predictable waves, their migration finely attuned to this ecological calendar. Villagers, aware of this rhythm, timed sowing and harvesting according to the birds' arrivals. Folk songs, lullabies, and oral traditions celebrated these migrations, embedding ecological knowledge into cultural memory.

Over the past decades, however, Deepor Beel has suffered multiple assaults. Urban encroachment for housing and commercial infrastructure reduced the wetland area. Industrial effluents and untreated sewage changed water chemistry, affecting fish populations. Siltation from upstream construction altered depth profiles, eroding the mudflats that waders like Black-tailed Godwits, Eurasian Curlews, and Marsh Sandpipers relied upon. The cumulative impact was profound: the once predictable flocks of migratory birds became sporadic and smaller in size. The Greater Adjutant Stork, which requires both extensive wetlands for feeding and tall trees for nesting, now arrives in fewer numbers. Its breeding success declines as prey becomes scarce, nesting sites are disturbed, and juvenile survival falls. Similarly, the Black-necked Stork, reliant on shallow, undisturbed waters, finds its foraging grounds compromised by deepened fish ponds and chemical contamination.

Sola Beel, another major wetland near Nagaon, faces parallel challenges. Its seasonal flooding, essential for nutrient cycling and bird sustenance, is now irregular. Migratory ducks and geese that once arrived in synchrony with the water levels find themselves confronting either flooded areas too deep to forage or desiccated patches devoid of life. The intricate chain—from aquatic insects to molluscs to fish to birds—is fractured. Lesser Adjutants that once nested along the tall riverine trees of Nagaon and Morigaon have dwindled in numbers. These majestic storks, often standing three to four feet tall, serve as indicators of ecosystem health. Their decline is a visible sign of the invisible degradation occurring across wetlands.

Maguri-Motapung Beel, situated near the periphery of Kaziranga National Park, demonstrates how even protected landscapes are not immune. Climate change has altered rainfall patterns, leading to water fluctuations that affect breeding cycles of both resident and migratory birds. Bar-headed Geese, re-

nowned for their high-altitude migratory endurance across the Himalayas, arrive exhausted. Northern Pintails and Gadwalls arrive with the expectation of abundant shallow waters for foraging but encounter either scarcity or human disturbance. The survival of these species is intimately linked to the timing and quality of wetlands, which climate unpredictability now threatens.

The plight of the Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila) is particularly illustrative of Assam's ecological crisis. Breeding colonies, historically concentrated in villages such as Dadara, Bansbari, and Pacharia, now survive only in fragmented pockets. Conservation efforts, often spearheaded by passionate environmentalists and local communities, have attempted to protect nesting trees and regulate nearby human activity. Yet, challenges remain. Tall Simolu, Siali, Kadam, and Bokul trees, essential for nesting, are felled for timber, urban expansion, or agricultural purposes. The Greater Adjutant's reproductive cycle, which depends on stable colonies with minimal disturbance, is compromised. Nestlings are abandoned, eggs are predated upon, and fledglings struggle to survive in disturbed environments. Without urgent action, the Hargila, emblematic of Assam's wetlands, faces a precarious future.

The Black-necked Stork, though less culturally celebrated, suffers similar pressures. Its reliance on shallow ponds and river margins exposes it to habitat loss caused by agricultural expansion, chemical runoff, and unregulated aquaculture. In many villages of Goalpara, Barpeta, and Dhemaji, the once-familiar sight of these elegant birds stalking for fish has become increasingly rare. Their disappearance foreshadows cascading effects: as top predators in wetland ecosystems, storks control populations of fish, amphibians, and reptiles, maintaining ecological balance. When these birds vanish, prey populations may fluctuate unpredictably, indirectly affecting water quality, vegetation, and the viability of the wetland itself.

Climate change exacerbates these threats in subtle but profound ways. Erratic monsoons, unexpected droughts, and unseasonal floods disrupt the natural cycles that migratory and resident birds rely upon. Mudflats essential for foraging waders disappear under sudden flooding or prolonged dryness. Nesting trees along riverbanks are submerged or stressed by waterlogging. Mi-

gratory species, guided by instinctual cues tied to daylight, temperature, and water availability, often arrive when the landscape no longer meets their needs. This temporal mismatch reduces reproductive success, delays migration, and can even drive local extinctions.

Human-induced pressures compound these climatic challenges. Urbanisation fragments landscapes, reducing available habitat and increasing human-wildlife conflict. Roads, electricity pylons, and glass-fronted buildings present obstacles and hazards to migratory flights. Mechanised fishing disturbs shallow feeding areas. Plastic pollution, once rare, now infiltrates even remote wetlands, ensnaring birds, fish, and invertebrates. Agricultural chemicals accumulate in wetlands, poisoning both prey and predator alike. Each individual threat may seem minor, but cumulatively they weave a web of stress that the ecosystem struggles to bear.

Despite these formidable challenges, Assam provides examples of resilience and hope. Deepor Beel, Maguri-Motapung, and certain protected forest patches demonstrate that nature responds positively when humans intervene responsibly. Restoration of native vegetation, regulation of fishing practices, reduction of chemical runoff, and protection of nesting trees have allowed small flocks of migratory birds to return. Lesser Adjutants, Greater Adjutants, and Black-necked Storks have been observed re-establishing colonies where intervention has been sustained. These examples prove that ecological degradation is not irreversible, provided humans act with foresight and commitment.

Education and community involvement are pivotal in ensuring long-term success. In Sivasagar, Jorhat, and Kamrup, school and college programmes teach children to identify species, monitor wetlands, and participate in restoration activities. Local adults, when sensitised to the cultural and ecological value of wetlands, reduce poaching, limit harmful practices, and actively participate in habitat protection. These efforts simultaneously revive cultural memory, reminding communities of the profound historical relationship between humans and birds. Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintails, and Lesser Adjutants were once woven into local traditions, folk songs, and festivals; reviving their presence reinforces the connection between ecological health and cultural identity.

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When the Skies Begin to Forget : The Vanishing Birds of Assam ...

Assam’s intricate relationship with nature extends beyond wetlands and forests into agricultural landscapes, particularly paddy fields and tea gardens. These cultivated lands, when managed traditionally, served as supplementary habitats for birds. Shallow paddy margins attracted waders like Marsh Sandpipers, Green Sandpipers, and Eurasian Curlews, while mixed cropping created microhabitats for insects, amphibians, and small fish, forming a secondary food source for both resident and migratory birds. Traditional irrigation systems allowed controlled flooding, creating temporary wetlands during the early monsoon, a boon for birds like the Northern Pintail and Gadwall. In tea gardens, open spaces interspersed with undergrowth, streams, and ponds provided roosting areas for Lesser Adjutants and Woolly-necked Storks. However, modern agricultural intensification —chemical fertilisers, pesticides, monocropping and deepening of water channels—has erased many of these ecological benefits. Birds that once depended on this symbiosis now face fragmented habitats and toxic environments.

Floods, a natural part of Assam’s Brahmaputra Valley, present a dual challenge. Seasonal inundation historically replenished wetlands, deposited nutrient-rich silt, and maintained aquatic biodiversity. Birds adapted to this rhythm, nesting along raised embankments or timing migration with predictable water levels. Climate change has disrupted this pattern. Increased rainfall intensity causes flash floods that submerge nests, drown eggs, and displace juvenile birds. Conversely, prolonged dry spells leave wetlands parched, eliminating foraging grounds. For large wetland-dependent species like the Greater Adjutant Stork and Black-necked Stork, these changes can be catastrophic. A single season of extreme flood or drought may decimate an entire breeding cohort, pushing already vulnerable populations closer to extinction. “Human-wildlife conflict is another pressing concern. In rapidly expanding villages and towns, storks nesting on tall trees are sometimes perceived as nuisances due to noise, droppings, or fear of predation on poultry. Villagers, in the absence of awareness or incentives for conservation, may fell trees or disturb nests. Such actions, though locally motivated, have severe ecological consequences.

Greater Adjutants are colonial nesters; disruption of one tree can cascade through an entire colony. Black-necked Storks, solitary but equally dependent on undisturbed feeding grounds, are forced to relocate repeatedly, expending energy that reduces survival and reproductive success.

Protected areas offer partial refuge, yet they are not immune to ecological pressures. Kaziranga National Park, Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary, and Manas Tiger Reserve house extensive wetlands and forest patches supporting both migratory and resident species. However, poaching, encroachment, and invasive species remain threats. Moreover, these reserves cover only a fraction of Assam’s natural habitats; the majority of wetlands and riverine forests fall outside formal protection, making them highly susceptible to unregulated human activity and climate impacts. Greater Adjutants that historically nested on trees in villages adjacent to these sanctuaries now find few safe sites. Similarly, Black-necked Storks must navigate a mosaic of disturbed wetlands to find food, increasing vulnerability to predation and accidents. “Community-driven conservation has shown remarkable results in Assam. Initiatives in Dadara, Pacharia, and Bansbari villages protect Hargila nesting trees through fencing, local monitoring, and education programmes. Success is measurable: fledgling survival rates have improved, and colony sizes have stabilized or even increased. Efforts to restore wetlands, such as planting native vegetation along pond margins and regulating fishing practices, have benefitted both Lesser and Greater Adjutants, as well as Black-necked Storks. These interventions highlight a critical lesson: conservation succeeds not through isolation, but through integration of local knowledge, cultural engagement, and ecological science.

Assam’s migratory networks are particularly sensitive to global climate patterns. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway connects Siberia, Mongolia, China, Bangladesh, and India. Assam lies at a crucial juncture, offering wintering habitats for species undertaking extraordinary long-distance migrations. When wetlands in Assam degrade, birds such as Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintails, and Gadwalls experience cascading stress throughout their migratory routes. Loss of one key wetland can reduce survival rates

thousands of kilometres away, affecting entire populations. Black-necked Storks, though partially resident, also participate in limited seasonal movements. Greater Adjutants, mostly sedentary but sometimes dispersing in search of food, face similar ecological pressures. Protecting Assam’s habitats, therefore, is not merely a regional necessity—it is an international conservation responsibility.

Climate change, intensified by anthropogenic pressures, continues to alter species behaviour. Migration timings shift, nesting cycles are delayed, and prey availability fluctuates unpredictably. These disruptions reduce reproductive success, force energy-intensive movements, and increase mortality. In extreme cases, entire colonies fail to reproduce in a given year. For species already classified as endangered or vulnerable, like the Greater Adjutant and Black-necked Stork, such failures have profound implications. The decline of these iconic birds is both ecological and symbolic, representing the fragility of ecosystems under combined human and climatic stress.

The cultural dimension of Assam’s birds is inseparable from their ecological presence. Bar-headed Geese inspired folk tales of endurance; Northern Pintails and Gadwalls were woven into seasonal rituals; Lesser and Greater Adjutants were revered in local traditions for their majestic presence. As wetlands vanish and forests are felled, these cultural memories fade, severing the connection between humans and the natural world. Reinstating bird populations through conservation efforts simultaneously restores cultural identity, environmental education, and a sense of community stewardship.

Legal protection, while essential, must be paired with active enforcement and community collaboration. The Wildlife Protection Act provides a framework for safeguarding endangered species like the Greater Adjutant, but enforcement gaps, local resistance, and lack of awareness compromise effectiveness. Targeted measures—such as incentivising habitat protection, promoting eco-tourism linked to birdwatching, and compensating communities for conservation efforts—can bridge these gaps. For Black-necked Storks, whose survival depends on small, often privately owned wetlands, collaborative protection schemes with local landowners are crucial. “The story of Assam’s birds is in-

separable from the story of Assam itself. Migratory travelers like Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintails, Gadwalls, and Ferruginous Ducks, alongside resident giants such as the Greater Adjutant and Black-necked Stork, do not exist in isolation—they are woven into the rivers, wetlands, forests, and villages of the region. Their struggles, whether against habitat loss, shifting flood patterns, pollution, or the pressures of climate change, mirror the challenges faced by the land and its people. Every drying wetland, every felled tree, every disrupted nesting site signals a fracture not only in the ecological fabric but in the cultural memory that binds humans to nature. Yet Assam also tells a story of resilience and hope: villages protecting stork colonies, community-driven wetland restoration, increasing awareness of the value of forests and waterbodies, and legal safeguards demonstrate that decline is not inevitable.

The flight of a Bar-headed Goose across a winter sky, the elegant stride of a Black-necked Stork through a shallow wetland, the watchful presence of a Greater Adjutant in a protected colony—these are more than biological events. They are reflections of balance, continuity, and the subtle yet profound connections between humans and the natural world. Assam’s wetlands, rivers, and floodplains will thrive if communities, policymakers, and individuals commit to stewardship with urgency, knowledge, and care. The responsibility lies not just in conserving species, but in preserving the rhythm of life itself: the pulse of rivers, the cycles of monsoon, the symphony of wings across the horizon, and the inheritance of cultural and ecological memory for generations yet to come.

Assam’s skies have the potential to remain alive with the poetry of wings, carrying stories of migration, survival, and resilience. The Greater Adjutant, Lesser Adjutant, Black-necked Stork, Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintails, and countless other species are symbols of a living heritage. Their protection is not a choice—it is an obligation, a measure of our capacity for responsibility, empathy, and foresight. If human action aligns with ecological wisdom, Assam’s landscapes can continue to host these winged narrators, ensuring that the songs of rivers, wetlands, and skies endure, and that the delicate dialogue between people and nature continues, unbroken and eternal.

Bondhu-Chaki Sahitya Award' to eminent poet Dr. Pronoy Phukan



M Hashim Ali, Dibrugarh : As the eighth initiative of "Bondhu-Chaki", the Bondhu-Chaki Sahitya Award for 2026 has been announced. Poet Pronoy Phukan first gained recognition with his debut poetry collection "More Sopoth Telephon Nokoriba" (2004). His other notable poetry collections include

"Subhechhar Dinlipi" (2023), "Noi and "Asomar Pratibadi Kobi-Kontho" (an edited collection of poems). He has also authored the essay collection "Priyo Kobi, Priyo Kobita"; the novel "Abelir Atithi" (2016); and one of his prominent short-story collections "Pubor Khiriki Pashchimor Baranda" (2025). Born in 1962 at Dikhowmukh in Sivasagar, Dr. Pronoy Phukan poet, short-story writer, and novelist is currently a senior physician at Assam Medical College. On 4 January (Sunday), at 11 AM, the Bondhu-Chaki Sahitya Award ceremony will be held at the Bardoloi Bhavan of Duliajan Sahitya Sabha, where distinguished poet and translator Dr. Hiten Sarma will present the award to Dr. Phukan. President Uday Kumar Sarma informed that three selected poets will also be honoured with the 'Bondhu-Chaki Sahitya Award' on this occasion. The organisers have invited all poetry lovers and writers to join the "Kobitar Adda" scheduled for afternoon.

Barpeta Observes "Swahid Pranamu Tumak" with Tribute to Assam Movement Martyrs



Barpeta: A solemn Swahid Pranamu Tumak programme was organised in Barpeta by the Assam Accord Implementation Department with support from the Barpeta District Administration. Nearly 10,000 people joined in performing the timeless and patriotic song "Swahid Pranamu Tumak" by Sudhakantha Dr Bhupen Hazarika. The event at Ram Rai Stadium was held parallel to the state-level Swahid Diwas celebration at the newly built Swahid Smarak Kshetra in West Boragaon, Guwahati. The programme honoured the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs of the historic Assam Movement. Assam Cabinet Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma paid tribute to the martyrs, the families of victims and the Sattradhikars present. He said Swahid Diwas is a day of pride for the people of Assam. Speaking at the event, the Minister described the Assam Accord as a vital document for the future of the state. He noted that while the implementation process had faced phases of stagnation, rapid progress has been made over the past 10 years.

Training programme on coconut farming held



Deepshikha Nath, Chhaygaon : A one-day training and agricultural input distribution programme focusing on the expansion of coconut farming was organised recently along the Assam-Meghalaya border at Gamerimura . The initiative aimed at economically empowering small and marginal farmers through coconut-based livelihood activities. The event was jointly conducted by the All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Plan- tation Crops, Assam Agri-

cultural University (AAU), the Horticulture Research Station (HRS), Kahikuchi, and the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Of- fice, Boko. The programme was held under the SCSP component of the AICRP project and saw the participation of more than 35 progressive farmers, rural youth and farm women from Sched- uled Caste communities across nearby villages. The training focused on raising awareness about the commercial potential of coconut cultivation and educating farmers on sci-

entific production and management practices, particularly coconut-based multi-species cropping systems. Dr. Dhiren Chowdhury and Dr. Anjan Borah from HRS, Kahikuchi served as re- source persons and inter- acted with participants, addressing various issues related to coconut farm- ing. Anupriya Yadav, Ag- riculture Development Of- ficer, Boko, attended the programme as the invited guest. At the conclusion of the event, coconut plant- ing materials along with essential agricultural tools such as sprayers, watering cans and spades were dis- tributed among the farm- ers. Participants expressed satisfaction with the programme and acknowl- edged its importance in enhancing their agricul- tural knowledge and live- lihood prospects.

Field Day Promotes Scientific Integrated Farming Systems in Gogamukh's Lotak Village

Gogamukh: A Field Day cum Training Programme on the pro- motion of Scientific In- tegrated Farming Sys- tems (IFS) was held at Lotak Village in Gogamukh with enthusiastic partici- pation from local farmers and rural youth. The event was organised by the ICAR Agricultural Re- search Institute, Dirpai Chapori, to encourage cli- mate-resilient and sustain- able farming practices. Experts attending the programme explained that while Scientific IFS offers farmers a pathway to higher income, it is also an effective tool to counter the damage caused by unscientific and unsustainable human ac- tivities. They noted that soil erosion, nutrient depletion and deforesta- tion have weakened the natural resource base in the region. During field demonstrations, ICAR sci-



entists showed how inte- grating crops, livestock, organic manure and water conservation methods can help restore ecological balance. They stressed that adopting IFS can reduce dependence on conven- tional farming practices that often contribute to environmental degrada- tion. Researchers also pre- sented technologies suited to local conditions, includ- ing water-harvesting struc- tures, vermicomposting and improved waste recy- cling systems. According to the experts, combining organic schemes with Sci-

entific IFS can create new livelihood opportunities while helping to revive ecosystems affected by human actions. Farmers welcomed the practical nature of the training and acknowledged that sus- tainable farm management is essential for both in- come generation and en- vironmental protection. The institute aims to con- tinue promoting Scientific IFS across Gogamukh and neighbouring areas to ad- dress the negative impacts of human activities and support resilient agricul- tural development.

Delhi Crime Season 3 screening cancelled after tragic Delhi blast and Dharmendra's health



Actor Huma Qureshi took to Instagram to announce the cancellation of the much-anticipated screening for Delhi Crime Season 3, citing two somber reasons: a tragic incident in Delhi and distressing updates about veteran actor Dharmendra's health. In her story, Huma addressed fans and industry peers: "Given the tragic incident in Delhi and the distressing news about Dharmendra ji's health, we have cancelled today's screening for Delhi Crime Season 3." She emphasized the im-

portance of quiet respect during such trying times and acknowledged the collective anticipation for the show's release. "We were looking forward to celebrating together, but such times call for quiet respect," she wrote, adding that while the team was excited for the premiere, it was necessary to pause and reflect in light of current events. The Netflix Original's third season will now officially premiere on November 13. Huma concluded with heartfelt words: "I'm sure you'll all be

watching and sending us love then. Love & Prayers, Huma." Speaking of the Delhi blast, a deadly car explosion occurred near the Red Fort (Lal Qila) on the evening of November 10, 2025. A Hyundai i20 car exploded at a traffic signal near Gate No. 1 of the Red Fort Metro Station around 6:50 pm, resulting in at least 9 deaths and over 20 injuries. The explosion caused several other vehicles to catch fire, and emergency services rushed to the scene to manage the aftermath and treat victims. Meanwhile, Dharmendra is currently admitted to Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital. As of the latest updates from November 11, 2025, his family—including Hema Malini and Esha Deol—has confirmed that he is stable and recovering, and responding to treatment. He has been under observation following complaints of breathlessness and age-related health issues.

Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani's Dadasaheb Phalke Biopic shelved due to script issues

Earlier in the year, Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani announced their reunion for the third time on the yet untitled Dadasaheb Phalke Biopic. The announcement stirred a big conversation, as the giants announced their reunion after cults like 3 Idiots and P.K. But, in a shocking turn of events, Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani have decided to put the Dadasaheb Phalke Biopic on hold. Reliable sources confirmed to Bollywood Hungama, "Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani stand for perfection, and they were not happy with the script of Dadasaheb Phalke Biopic. Aamir felt that the script is too dry for the audience in today's world, and doesn't have the humour that one expects from their collaboration. After repeated sessions of rewrite, the duo have collectively decided to put the project on hold. They believe that a personality as iconic as Dadasaheb Phalke deserves a script that



is both emotionally stirring and universally engaging. Until they arrive at that benchmark, they are in no hurry to rush the film into production." Aamir is meanwhile reading multiple other scripts, trying to lock his next project. "Rajkumar Hirani too has started the process of identifying his next subject, and will get into the process of writing soon. While Phalke is put on hold, Raju Hirani and Aamir Khan will definitely reunite on something else."

Rangeela 4K trailer re-kindles 90s magic ahead of theatrical re-release on November 28



The trailer opens with Urmila Matondkar's fiery dialogue, "Mujhe padh likhkar clerk nahi banna hai, mujhe actress banna hai," capturing the spirit of dreams and ambition. Aamir Khan's Tapani charm lights up the screen with his iconic line, "Kisi seth ki gaadi mein kutta bankar biscuit khane se accha hai, apun sadak par masti karega," while Jackie Shroff's suave film star persona completes the emotional triangle between a dreamer, a street-smart friend, and a romantic hero. The 2-minute 33-second trailer beautifully weaves together the film's most iconic elements — the glitter of the film industry, the energy of Mumbai's streets, and glimpses of the superhit songs 'Yaaro Sun Lo Zara,' 'Tanha Tanha,' and the evergreen 'Rangeela Re.' Interspersed between scenes are the lines "A Journey of Love, Dreams, and Cinema," "Relive A.R. Rahman's Iconic Music," and "The Cult Romance of the 90s is Back," perfectly capturing the film's nostalgic yet timeless appeal. Notably, the new trailer has struck a chord not only with fans of 90s cinema but also with Gen Z viewers, who are discovering the film's vibrant storytelling, fashion, and music as a cultural bridge between eras.

Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra approach Bombay High Court over Rs 60-crores cheating FIR

Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra have approached the Bombay High Court seeking to quash a Rs 60-crores cheating case registered against them by the Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW). The case stems from a complaint filed by Deepak Kothari, director of Lotus Capital Financial Services Ltd, an NBFC, who alleged that between 2015 and 2023, the couple, through an agent named Rajesh Arya, had induced him to invest Rs 60 crores in their now-defunct company Best Deal TV Pvt Ltd. Kothari claimed that instead of using the funds for business purposes, the amount was misappropriated for personal benefits. According to the FIR, a meeting was held in 2015 at a five-star hotel in Juhu where Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra, Arya, and Kothari were present. The couple reportedly represented themselves as directors of Best Deal TV and requested a business loan, assuring Kothari of monthly returns and repayment of the principal amount.

From page 1

Government is working to make Assam

Convocations offer an opportunity to reflect deeply on the future. Addressing the graduates, the Chief Minister said, “You have earned your degrees from Cotton University, an eminent institution of learning and a major centre of knowledge in the North-East. At this moment, you stand on the threshold of a promising future, and a remarkable journey”. Dr. Sarma moreover said, “Our vision is to make Assam a competent and self-dependent state. To achieve this, we must unlock our immense potential and put it to meaningful use. We are moving forward with transformative goals to fuel Assam’s growth and secure a prosperous future for our students. Therefore, the young graduates with their indomitable spirit and positive bent of mind should take the lead in taking Assam forward to its rightful place”. Hailing Cotton University, Dr. Sarma said that the most exciting aspects of Cotton’s journey is its embrace of new sciences and emerging technologies. From AI-driven climate and environmental research to satellite-enabled climate studies, Cotton University is contributing boldly to India’s scientific future. The university’s expanding footprint in new age technological studies shows that Cotton is thinking ahead, and preparing the region for the challenges of tomorrow. Giving a snapshot of the transformative journey in education that Assam is going through at the moment, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that state has now more than 25 medical colleges. 15 colleges are already functional as 10 more are in their different stages of construction. He also said that Assam now has now 25-26 universities that are either already functional or remain under construction. He added that the state now has many engineering colleges including IIT Guwahati and NIT Silchar, which people once could not even imagine. He said that today Assam is a hub of new and emerging opportunities where educated youth can find the avenues to work. With all development initiatives like creating startup ecosystem to industrialization, the state is witnessing a new era of growth and development. From Skill University to Semiconductor industry, Assam is all set to become one of the five most developed states of the country. Giving the instances of positive developments in the state, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma referred to Simu Das, a visually challenged cricketer from Kothiatoli, Assam. She was a part of the Indian blind women’s cricket team that made the nation proud by winning the first-ever Blind Women’s T20 World Cup. Referring to the determination shown by Lovlina Borgohain, Hima Das, Uma Chetry, Simu Das etc, the Chief Minister asked the graduates to imbibe positive attitude in them and embrace the changes for the betterment of the society. Expressing his happiness over the growing number of women students who received convocation degrees, the Chief Minister that the development is a testament to the inclusive development the state is scripting in every sector. He on the occasion also cited the involvement of 800 talented Assamese girls who are now part of Apple’s workforce in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. He termed the development as a powerful reflection of the drive, ambition and new energy of Assam’s youth. It may be noted that the the convocation conferred degrees on 2804 graduates including postgraduates, undergraduates, and diploma holders.

All Assam Multipurpose Health Work

delegate registration. A special felicitation ceremony for retired Multipurpose Health Worker (Male) colleagues is scheduled at 2:30 p.m., followed by the association’s executive meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Evening proceedings will begin at 5 p.m. with ceremonial lamp-lighting by social worker Manik Das. Shri Deba Kumar Mishra, ACS, District Commissioner of Kamrup, will inaugurate the delegate camp. Reception Committee Secretary Nripen Deka will deliver the welcome address, and the delegate session will begin at 5:20 p.m. On 14 December, the day will start with a tree plantation drive at 8 a.m., led by Village Head Chandradhar Das, Engineer Gobinda Das, and Suwalkuchi social worker Sadananda Das. The open session will begin at 11 a.m. under the chairmanship of Association President Pankaj Kumar Talukdar. The ceremonial lamp will be lit by Rajib Das, President of the Suwalkuchi Sarbajanin Raas Mahotsav Celebration Committee. The open session will be inaugurated by Shri Deba Kumar Mishra with a welcome address by Reception Committee President Geetumoni Das.

A special felicitation ceremony will recognise distinguished achievers among the Multipurpose Health Workers (Male), and the souvenir “Sabyasaci” will be released by Hemanta Choudhury, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, will grace the event as Chief Guest. Other distinguished guests include Ashok Singhal, Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Irrigation; Keshab Mahanta, Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management, Information Technology, Science, Technology & Climate Change; Jayanta Malla Baruah, Minister of Public Health Engineering and Department of Housing & Urban Affairs; Dr P. Ashok Babu, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary – Health; and BTC Deputy Chief Executive Member Rihon Daimari. The session will also feature addresses by Dr Umesh Phangcho, Director of Health Services, Assam; Dr Lakshmanan S., IAS, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Assam; Kamrup Joint Director of Health Services Dr Ajit Das; and Dwipen Sarma, President of the Sadou Asam Karmachari Parishad (SAKP). The two-day biennial session is expected to highlight the dedication and achievements of Assam’s Multipurpose Health Workers (Male) while fostering collaboration and dialogue for the advancement of public health services across the state.

‘Sapta Shakti Sangam’ organizes mothers’ convocation at Shishu Vidya Niketan



Dhekiajuli : Shankardev Shishu Vidya Niketan, Dhekiajuli, hosted a mothers’ conference titled ‘Sapta Shakti Sangam,’ celebrating womanhood, motherhood, and social responsibility. The event witnessed the participation of Acharyas, guardians, and more than two hundred mothers. The programme began with the students’ rendition of the inspirational song ‘Nav Yug Ka Nav Vichar Aaya,’ followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp at the portraits of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, Zubeen Garg, and Bharat Mata by Monmoni Sharma, Dr Dalima Kakati, and Snigdha Hazarika respectively. The keynote address on family values and environment was delivered by Monmoni Sharma. The audience was deeply moved by the inspirational dramatic presentation on Kanaklata Barua and Joymoti, performed by the mothers. In a special segment, Anita Thakuria and Marami Ramchiari were honoured as Ideal Mothers, while emotional reflections on motherhood were shared by Anita Thakuria and Arunima Devi. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Snigdha Hazarika and the formal resolution by Nayanmoni Saikia. The conference stood out as a meaningful celebration of the strength, dignity, and social role of women.

Margherita Co-District Road Safety Committee (CDRSC) meeting held

TINSUKIA: At the backdrop of several road accidents, the meeting of the Margherita Co-District Road Safety Committee (CDRSC) was held on Monday under the chairmanship of the Co-District Commissioner, Margherita, Rahul Doley, to review road safety concerns in the co-district. The Digboi-Jagun and Digboi-Lekhapani corridors were identified as major accident-prone stretches. A joint inspection was conducted immediately after the meeting by the NHIDCL, PWD (Roads), Police, Excise, and Transport departments. At Satsang Vihar near the bridge, a crash barrier installation has been proposed and the estimate has already been submitted by PWD (Roads). NHIDCL will install rumble strips and cat’s eyes by December 11 at Margherita AR&T School (near India Club), Namdang tea estate, Margherita Tinali, and Ledo Natun Line, Itakhula. Road markings will also be taken up at all identified locations. Cutting of roadside vegetation by Municipal Boards, PWD (Roads) and NHIDCL was also directed to ensure clear visibility.

Janasanyog RO no 3423/25/12-December-25

Golaghat Observes International Animal Rights Day; Organises Awareness Rally



Golaghat: To mark the International Animal Rights Day, Golaghat led with a strong call for compassion, responsibility, and awareness toward animals. The event, held under the initiative of Prapti Foundation, brought together volunteers, animal lovers, and residents to highlight the growing need for safeguarding animal rights. To spread the message of humane treatment and protec-

tion, a special awareness rally was taken out across Golaghat town. Participants marched with placards and slogans, urging people to show kindness to animals, prevent cruelty, and support welfare initiatives. The rally garnered positive attention from passers-by, reflecting increasing community interest in animal-related issues. Organisers from Prapti Foundation emphasised that animals

deserve proper care and protection. They stressed that awareness among citizens is key to reducing neglect, abuse, and abandonment. The foundation also highlighted its continued efforts in rescuing animals, arranging medical care, and advocating for stronger enforcement of animal protection laws. The observance of International Animal Rights Day in Golaghat served as an important reminder of the shared responsibility humans have toward all living beings. With the growing participation of youth and volunteers, the event aimed to inspire long-term change in public attitudes and promote a compassionate environment for animals in the district.

Armed Forces Flag Day observed with sol- emn tribute in Tezpur

Tezpur: The Armed Forces Flag Day was observed with reverence and dignity at the Circuit House War Memorial, Tezpur, through a solemn wreath-laying ceremony to honour the supreme sacrifice of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in service of the Nation. The event symbolised the collective gratitude of the district towards its valiant heroes and reaffirmed the commitment of citizens to the welfare of ex-servicemen, war widows, and their families. The ceremony was attended by Additional District Commissioner James Aind, ACS; Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Sonitpur, Group Captain DJ Das (Retd); Assistant Commissioner, Sonitpur, Rajen Kumar Acharya, ACS; and Wing Cdr Anirudha Choudhury (Retd).

BA Animal Feed Centre

ইসিআই প্রাইমারি স্ট্রাকচার সফটওয়্যার (সফটওয়্যার) সফটওয়্যার




সফটওয়্যার নম্বর
94350-61306, 86381-38348

মুখ্য কার্যালয়
এম বি রোড
(নবী ও ব্রিটিশ হাসপাতালের সন্নিহিত)

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ইসিআই প্রাইমারি স্ট্রাকচার সফটওয়্যার (সফটওয়্যার) সফটওয়্যার




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Five Poachers Arrested at Bholakhat Beel

Biswanath: A joint team of the Biswanath Ghat Range and the Forest Crime Investigation Range arrested five poachers during a late-night operation at Bholakhat Beel in Assam's Biswanath district. The arrests were made after forest officials received specific information that a group of poachers had laid nets in the beel to capture wild birds. Acting promptly on the tip-off, the forest team conducted a raid at the site and

apprehended the poachers red-handed. During the operation, officials rescued a live Cotton Pygmy Goose, a rare wild bird species. The bird, identified as a migratory species arriving from Afghanistan, falls under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, offering it the highest level of legal protection. The team also seized a fish-killing net, two mobile phones, a torchlight and two white bags from the arrested individuals.

Bolero Plunges into Champawati River, One Dead

Jogighopa: A tragic road accident occurred late at night on December 7 in Jogighopa, Bongaigaon district, where a Bolero vehicle carrying four passengers fell into the Champawati River amid dense fog, resulting in the death of one passenger. The incident took place around midnight near Bowalimari, at the foothills of Bhairab Chura Hill, leaving locals shocked and authorities rushing for rescue operations. The four persons were returning from a fair in Barpeta.

travelling via Kurshakati in Chapar through the Kabaitari–Salbari Gar-Kaptani route. Poor visibility due to thick fog reportedly caused the driver to lose control, and the vehicle veered off the narrow riverside road, falling into the river. Rescue teams from the local administration, police, and volunteers reached the site on time and began to carry out evacuation operations. One passenger, Bakkar Ali of Naldoba from Kurshakati in Dhubri, was found dead.

FINE DINE
Taste of Assam

ভাত

মাছ, মাংস, পৰৱৰ্তী, 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)