(English & Assamese)

(September 1st to December 31st 2014)

Vol. I

ENVIS Centre-Assam
Assam Science Technology & Environment Council
Bigyan Bhawan, G.S. Road, Guwahati -781005
CONTENTS

PART-I

English Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Environment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health and Occupational Hazards</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Land Agriculture, Grazing Land and Animal Care</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pollution</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Power</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Flood</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART-II

Assamese Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Environment</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Health and Occupational Hazards</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Land Agriculture, Grazing Land and Animal Care</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pollution</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Power</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Flood</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART- I

ENGLISH NEWSPAPER
HC orders government to clear KNP encroachments

BY OUR STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, September 2: State Environment and Forest Minister Rockybahl Hussain on Tuesday informed that there was no encroachment in the notified areas of the Kaziranga National Park, but admitted that the additional areas of the park are witnessing some amount of encroachment.

The additional areas meant for the park are yet to be handed over to the Forest Department by the Revenue Department.

Talking to reporters here, Hussain said, “Some people have patta land in these additional areas which are still under the Revenue Department. We have given a proposal to the Central government for rehabilitation of the owners of patta land in these additional areas and to give them compensation up to Rs 10 lakh,” adding, “Three such additional areas are yet to be handed over to us.”

On land erosion facing by the park, the minister said, “From 1904 to till date, 84 sq km of the park’s land has been eroded and it’s a major challenge for the park authorities as well as the Forest Department.”

Expressing optimism, Hussain said, “Despite land erosion problem, the park’s wildlife population has increased. In case of tiger population density, the park is currently ranked between 1 and 5 globally,” adding, “The park harbours 32–34 tigers per 100 sq km.”

On the rhino poaching issue, the Environment and Forest Minister said, “We are very serious about rhino poaching, and for safety of these animals, electronic surveillance system has been installed in the park,” adding, “About 100 local youth living around the park will be trained for assisting the park’s security officials in curbing poaching and other anti-social activities in and around the park.”

Hussain further informed that Union Environment and Forest Minister Prakash Javadekar would be visiting the Kaziranga National Park for two days from September 4 to review the whole scenario. Meanwhile, the Gauhati High Court today asked Assam government to clear the encroachments in four additions of Kaziranga National Park hand them over to the park authorities. The first and fourth additions have been handed to the park authorities earlier. However, the rest of the four additions still have encroachments.

Hearing a PIL along with writ-petitions relating to poaching, a division bench, comprising Chief Justice (acting) K Sreedhar Rao and Justice AK Goswami, directed the State Government to implement the measures to hand over the land to the KNP authorities.

Lawyer Rita Boro Banu, who represented the petitioner, said Assam government suggested short-term and long term measures. “According to the government, the short-term measures will start immediately and the encroachments will be cleared by March 31, 2015,” she said.

Assam government also proposed a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the people who are living in the additions and suggested that they may be re-located to model villages. The court also suggested setting up of a separate sub-division for expediting the works.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Wednesday, September 03, 2014

Industries near Kaziranga violating norms

Staff Reporter GUWAHATI, Sept 3 – The industrial units located in the eco-sensitive zone of Kaziranga National Park (KNP) have been operating in clear violation of the legal provisions and the government authorities concerned have also failed to take any actions against these units despite there being written complaints, alleged environment and RTI activist Rohit Choudhury who is fighting a legal battle against all the anti-environment-friendly activities in this zone, also alleged that the authorities have allowed these units to violate even the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The authorities, in a bid to cover-up such nefarious activities, have also been trying to evade the queries made by him through RTI applications, alleged Choudhury. While the authorities under both the State and the Central governments attract actions under Section 26 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, the owners of the industrial units (stone crushers, bitumen hot-mix plants, brick kilns, oil mills and others) are operating in clear violation of the NGT orders. Section 26 of the said legislation describes such acts as offences punishable with imprisonment for a period which may be extended up to three years and with fine which may be extended up to Rs 10 crore or with both, said Choudhury.

As per the NGT order dated September 7, 2012, Choudhury had filed an RTI application with the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) requesting for the copy of the Comprehensive Action Plan and Long Term Monitoring Mechanism prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for implementation of the conditions stipulated in the 1996 notification specifying “No Development Zone” and for inspection, verification and monitoring of the prohibitions stated in the notification. And, following no answer from the Ministry, he filed the first appeal on the matter on February 11 this year.

Choudhury filed another RTI application with the Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Assam on February 24, 2014 on the same issue. He filed the First Appeal on the matter on April 9, 2014, but no information has been provided to him as yet. He was informed through a communication on May 22 last that “the required information as sought for on the point No.1 and 2 are under process for which the information could not be provided.”

In the third RTI application filed with the Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA) on February 12, 2014, and the First Appeal filed thereon on March 29 in respect to the KNP Eco-sensitive Zone, 2014, the PCBA informed him on April 10, 2014 – “No step has been taken by the PCB, Assam to install necessary pollution control equipment as the Board office didn’t allow the units to operate” and “As the Board didn’t allow the units to operate, so the inspection matter does not arise.”

Choudhury claims that contrary to the PCBA statement, the units in question are continuing with their industrial activities.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Thursday, September 04, 2014

FOREST

‘Kaziranga’s wildlife population has increased’

HC orders government to clear KNP encroachments
33 animals rescued in Kaziranga
By Our Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 3: Thirty three animals have been rescued from the flooded parts of Kaziranga National Park, of which 26 have been released in the wilds and the remained seven succumbed to their injuries. The animals were rescued by the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) run Mobile Veterinary Service (MVS) units of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in association with Assam Forest Department and local people from August 25 to 30.

The recent flood wave has submerged around 80 per cent of the park area causing a threat to the animal population of the Kaziranga National Park. Elephants, rhinos, tiger and the most affected deer population had suffered a lot. Most of the deers have shifted towards highlands of Karbi Anglong foothills. But the rescues of endangered hog deer from the fringes were the most.

The national highway 37, the lifeline through the Kaziranga landscape is the most vulnerable stretch that has quite a number of animal corridors connected to the park. And the wildlife moves towards the highlands through these animal corridors during flood too. Like every year, the Kaziranga Forest Authority had introduced ‘time card’ system to control the vehicle movement on NH 37. Animals face problem due to vehicle movement which sometimes lead to casualties.

Out of 33 rescued animals, twenty six (26) animals were released by the MVS team after minimum intervention in the safe wilderness of Kaziranga National Park. Six hog deer and one wild boar died.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Thursday, September 04, 2014

Joint survey finds 25 tigers across transboundary landscape

Manas turns into big cat haven

ROOPAK GOSWAMI

Guwahati, Sept. 4: If William Blake had to scout for a muse, he would certainly have eyed the Manas landscape, where the tiger is "burning bright," infusing fresh hopes in wildlife lovers and conservationists alike.

Altogether 25 tigers have been camera-trapped during the second transboundary tiger-monitoring programme conducted across Manas National Park in India and Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan. Of these, two tigers have been found in both parks.

"This is cheerful news and shows that Manas is a good source site for tigers," A.C. Das, field director of Manas National Park, told The Telegraph.

The camera-trapping work was conducted from February to April this year by representatives from Aaranyak, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, forest staff of Royal Manas National Park, Manas National Park and Wildlife Institute of India. Cameras were placed at 153 locations in Manas National Park and at 72 locations at Royal Manas National Park.

Data analysis was conducted here during the two-day meeting of the Transboundary Manas Conservation Area, which concluded today. The meeting was attended by representatives from both sides. The Bhutan side was led by Royal Manas director Tenzan Wangchuk and officials from WWF Bhutan.

"The joint tiger survey has brought added cheer with the first female tiger camera-captured in 2006 at Manas being found with two grown-up cubs. This makes her average survival age at least 12 years," a Manas official said.

"The exercise is a success story where several stakeholders, forest departments, NGOs and grassroots-based community organisations joined hands to protect the Manas landscape," the forest official said.

An area of 866 square km was covered in Royal Manas National Park and 300 square km in Manas National Park during the joint tiger monitoring. Some areas on either side could not be covered owing to logistic issues.

The first transboundary tiger monitoring was done in 2011, which had identified 14 tigers on the landscape.

Firoz Ahmed, a wildlife biologist with Aaranyak, said this is an exemplary transboundary collaboration of government and NGOs to study tigers across international borders. "The Transboundary Manas Conservation Area is one of the largest tiger conservation areas in the region and has a very high potential to increase tiger numbers in the next 10 years provided the protection in Manas can be improved immediately."

"It is good to see that for the second time the joint exercise was done successfully on this transboundary landscape and in terms of numbers, it shows an increase compared to the last exercise. We need to continue the monitoring work periodically," Anupam Sarmah, head, Assam landscapes, WWF India, told this correspondent.

Sources said the survey would gladden the hearts of authorities and others working in Manas who have to work under difficult circumstances.

The Transboundary Manas Conservation Area straddles the Indo-Bhutanese border from the Rupi reserve forest in India in the west to Bhutan’s Khading wildlife sanctuary in the east to Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park in Bhutan to the north.

The Indo-Bhutan Manas conservation landscape is home to some rare, critically endangered and endemic flora and fauna such as pygmy hog, Bengali florican, great one-horned rhino, royal Bengal tigers, elephants, golden langurs and hispid hare. "It would have been much better if there was a memorandum of understanding on wildlife cooperation between the two countries. Though there have been meetings, including one last year, nothing concrete has come out of it," a source said.

The Telegraph 5th September 2014.
Javadekar assures action plan for Kaziranga
BY OUR BUREAU
Guwahati/Jorhat, September 5: Union Minister of State for Forests and Environment Prakash Javadekar today said an action plan would be prepared for Kaziranga within a month in which steps will be included to make the UNESCO World heritage Site free from encroachers.

On a two-day visit to the State, Javadekar said “what is happening in Kaziranga – be it poaching or encroachment – is very bad”.

Harping on technology interventions for protection of the flora and fauna, the Union Minister said unless people partner in the initiatives, the objectives cannot be achieved.

“I must say that when people get involved in a movement to save the wildlife then no force in this world can stop it. The rhino is being killed for the horn which finds way to the International market owing to its high selling value. Our government will soon devise a policy through which we will stop the killing of this majestic animal and smuggling of its horn,” he said, admitting that profit from the horn trading is also finding way to militant organisations. “People must take active participation in the protection of the rhinos without which sometimes the government becomes helpless,” he said. When being told of the problem of illegal settlement, Javadekar said, “The problem of illegal settlement and influx is alarming and that our government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon take rigid steps in this regard. I will speak to the Union Home Ministry on the illegal migration problem and try to address the problem at the earliest.”

The Union Minister also assured to speed up the CBI probe into the poaching of Assam’s one-horned rhinos.

“I am going to find out what is the status of the CBI probe into the (rhino) poaching,” Javadekar, who also holds the information and broadcasting portfolio, said interacting with individuals and organizations in Guwahati.

The minister, who embarked on a two-day visit to the State on Friday, also interacted with nature lovers, civil society groups and wildlife conservation NGOs at Patgaon area in Kamrup.

The minister jotted down suggestions given by organizations like Aaranayak, WWF, WTI, Nature’s Beacon and AASU.

In a representation, Aaranayak asked the minister to pressurize the State government to recruit Ranger Officers and lower level staffs from local people residing near forest areas, a step which will garner support from local people and help better protection. Highlighting some problems faced by the forest staff, Aaranayak underlined the need for a comprehensive morale boosting plan for frontline staff.

WWF’s Dr Anupam Sarma underscored the need for strengthening the relationship with the fringe communities and setting up of special courts to deal with wildlife crime. “We also urged him to deploy unmanned aerial surveillance planes in KNP like it has been done in Panna National Park of Madhya Pradesh,” he said.

WTI’s Dr Parimal Bhattacharjee said all components of biodiversity and traditional institutions should be protected and enhanced.

The AASU demanded setting up a world-class research institution of medicinal herbs in the State.

Wildlife conservation NGO Nature’s Beckon submitted a memorandum to the minister at Patgaon, demanding that the CBI probe should cover all the wildlife crimes in Assam.

After a public hearing here, Javadekar flew to Kaziranga. He met representatives from the community there before visiting the park.

BJP MPs Rajen Gohain, Kamakhya Prashad Tasha, Rameshwar Teli and Ramen Deka accompanied him besides State forest minister Rakibul Hussain.

He will hold a meeting with State forest officials tomorrow before returning to Delhi.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Saturday, September 06, 2014
Rescue operations on at Kaziranga National Park

Rhino trapped in slush

RITUPALLAB SAIKIA

Golaghat, Sept. 6: A full-grown female rhino got stuck in slush at Kaziranga National Park around 7 this morning, falling into a mud patch in Degaoon area that falls under the Kohora range.

As the news of the incident spread, residents of the nearby areas gathered at the spot and tried all possible means to help the animal.

Rathin Burman, in-charge of the Panbari wildlife rescue centre, told The Telegraph that three doctors of the rescue centre are treating the trapped rhino, which is injured as well.

“The rhino is quite old and heavy and it must be suffering from posterior paralysis. A specialised team of doctors is also being called from Guwahati and is on its way. We have given it certain injections and saline to make it feel better,” Burman said.

An attempt to rescue the trapped rhino by using two elephants was made by the forest department but it was not successful, as the elephants were hesitant to go closer to the rhino.

Divisional forest officer (Kaziranga) S.K. Seal Sharma said a team of forest guards is already camping in the area to protect the rhino.

“We are very hopeful that the rhino will be rescued without any harm,” said Sharma.

Kaziranga National Park has been hit by one of the worst floods till date this monsoon. Nearly 80 per cent of the sanctuary is inundated and only the natural and artificial highlands have been spared so far.

During the floods, the animals, particularly one-horned rhinos, tend to come outside the park.

A majority of the animals escaped to the nearby Karbi Anglong hills in search of safe shelter.

In Guwahati, forest minister Rakibul Hussain said efforts were on to rescue the rhino.

This year, 24 rhinos have fallen prey only to poaching at the World Heritage Site.
Rapid survey reveals 41 species and damselflies at Assam tiger reserve

Dragonflies find magic wings at Manas

BOOFAK GOSHAMI

Gauhati, Sept. 16: They are the helicopters of the insect world.

Researchers and officials of Assam have stumbled upon 41 species of dragonflies and damselflies in the first survey of its kind in a protected area in Assam.

With their bulging eyes, long tails, and tapered wings, they look like helicopters. In fact, they maneuver like helicopters, too — they can fly backwards and change direction in just one body length of air space.

Dragonflies and damselflies are commonly known as odonates — a flagship group and an important component of the aquatic ecosystem.

Odonates consist of three groups — Anisoptera (which includes dragonflies), Zygoptera (which includes damselflies), and Anisopterygion — a reflection group represented by only two living species.

The rapid survey was done from August 25 to September 1 by Ganabir Jyoti Kalita of North Osia University, Mamon Gogoi of Assam University, Dr. Bishnu Chandra Sahay of the University of Burdwan and the Manas National Forest Department.

Of the 41 species, 18 were of dragonfly and 23 of damselfly.

The 18 species of dragonfly were found in two families while the 23 species of damselfly belonged to six families. Globally, there are approximately 6,000 species.

"Finding 41 odonates within one forest range in a national park indicate the potential of a habitat to support biodiversity. We will keep updating the survey and there is every possibility of finding more. All this gives us hope that the park has a rich habitat," Sonal Ghosh, the deputy director of Manas tiger reserve, told The Telegraph.

The official said this was the most insect species, the Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) remain poorly studied and therefore come under IUCN’s "least concern and Data Deficient" categories.

Revives also show that although Assam has a variety of habitat — those with grass, ponds, streams, and wetlands, there is very little work done in documenting them.

"With dragonflies and damselflies, the slenderer and smaller body, damselflies have slender and longer-lasting flight. Damselflies are characterised by slow and fluttering flights.

"Odonates occupy almost all kinds of habitats ranging from permanent running water and lakes to small, temporary rainpools. These are the most common insects that fly over forest, meadow, crop fields, stream and rivers and one of the dominant groups of aquatic and terrestrial insects.

"Odonates are important indicators of water quality and pollution levels. They inhabit diversified habitats near water bodies ranging from stagnant pond water to flowing streams.

"Most odonates such as ascomides, macrocords, most ctenopterygids, clorocercids and euphlebiids indicate unpolluted waters and good habitat quality. A little change in ecosystem can lead to disappearance of them," Ganabir Jyoti Kalita said.

The Telegraph 16th September 2014.

ATDC plans five-star facilities with ethnic touch, golf course, rural homestays near Assam’s five national parks

Call to enjoy nature and wildlife in the lap of luxury

PULOCK JETTY

Jorhat, Sept. 16: Five-star facilities in the vicinity of the five national parks in the state, another cruise vessel, a golf course with links and rural homestays are a few projects the Assam Tourism Development Corporation has lined up to have the well-behaved tourists.

ATDC managing director Anurag Singh said, "We are concentrating on high-end tourism. Assam has the potential to be a major tourist destination but we have limited resources to attract the tourist to our forests and wildlife.

"So we are now looking at providing facilities to attract the high-end tourist. We are now looking at providing facilities to attract the high-end tourist," Singh said.

He said even though the state’s five national parks were major tourist destinations, they were unable to attract the high-end luxury because of lack of five-star facilities near these wildlife reserves.

"We have acquired land near Sarmatia and Dibrugarh national parks and the process has been taken to build other three national parks — Kaziranga, Manas and Talatal hills. These projects will come up at the private-public participation model," he said.

Singh said these resorts would not be five-star hotels but the facilities would be five-star with a distinct touch.

However, there are also private hotels and resorts and near Kaziranga National Park that cater to high-end tourists.

Singh said another luxury cruise vessel would be deployed soon on the Brahmaputra river. Singh said, "We have received tremendous response to the cruise vessel Mukhul which was launched a few years back and are now planning to introduce another cruise vessel on the Brahmaputra river.

"We have received the national tourism award for innovation last year. Singh said the cruise vessel project would include offshore development at important points (river bank) like facilities for tourists, local markets and souvenir shops.

"We want to ensure the accessibility for the high-end tourist," he added.

The ATDC has acquired 160 acres of land at Chandubi near Gauhati where an ice cream house would come up with rock facilities.

"The state has been trying to develop golf tourism and we are trying to develop golf facilities near the capital city," Singh said.

The tourism department has also undertaken rural homestay schemes under Assam Vikas Sabha, where village dwellings would be developed near important tourist places.

Chief minister Tarun Gogoi will launch the schemes on September 17. "Homestay schemes will enable tourists to get a feel of rural life and enjoy culture of Assam," Singh said.

The government will give 50 per cent subsidy to villagers under this scheme and the homestay facilities would be4 listed under the tourism department.

"We will also provide training to villagers on proper use of culture and maintenance of hygiene to make tourists feel at home and comfortable," Singh said.

The Telegraph 17th September 2014.
Call to protect migratory birds
Correspondent
Migratory birds in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. HAFLONG, Sept 18 – The Forests Department, NC Hills Autonomous Council, Dima Hasao has appealed to the people of the district in general and the people of Jatinga and Umrangsu in particular to save the migratory birds who visit Jatinga and Umrangsu during the period between September to November every year. The Dima Hasao district is one of the two hill districts of Assam blessed with natural beauty. The flora and fauna, the running rivers and streams, colourful butterflies and insects, fishes, wild flowers and cultural diversity of the people attract people from various parts of the State and the country. One of the important natural phenomena of the area is the annual arrival of various migratory birds during the later part of August to October, particularly in the Jatinga, Doiheng and Umrangso areas.

The Jatinga bird phenomenon is well-known all over the world, and is an attraction of the district. Another important phenomenon is the arrival of thousands of the Amur falcons (Daopna in Dimasa and Kalengmaha in Karbi languages) in Umrangso area during the September-November period every year. Every year, thousands of Amur falcon migrate through the remote North East India from Easter Siberia, and Northern China to Southern Africa. These migratory birds make a stopover in the Umrangso area during the months between September and October.

Bikash Brahma, IFS, Additional PCCF, Dima Hasao told this correspondent, that some people do not hesitate to kill these birds for consumption, besides selling them in the market. This practice has brought shame to the people of the district and these unique birds will disappear if this practice is allowed to be continued. “It is call of the hour to stop such illegal and merciless killings. All section of the society must keep vigil and provide information to the Forest Department and the police authority of such incidents. We appeal everyone to stop these merciless killings,” he said. Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Friday, September 19, 2014

DEER RESCUED
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 19 – A deer was rescued by the villagers of Bhuragaon this morning. According to forest official sources, an adult male deer coming out from Orang National Park was washed away by the floodwater and was rescued by the villagers on the bank of the Brahmaputra. Forest officials later handed over the deer to the State Zoo, Guwahati. Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Critically endangered species of smallest wild pig will be the 133rd species in Guwahati
A house for the elusive pygmy hog at the zoo
BOOPAT GOSWAMI
Guwahati, Sept 19: The elusive pygmy hog (Porcula natalensis), one of the smallest wild pigs in the world, and will now be visible to all.

The species is an important addition to the Assam state zoo as it is critically endangered with a decreasing population. The species is very rare and is not common to be found in its natural habitat. This will be the first species which will be added to the zoo.

“The enclosure is ready and we should be able to open it to the public by next month. As of now, common people cannot see the species. An agreement will be signed between the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) and the Assam state zoo before that,” Divisional forest officer Assam state and Chitwan Bora said in The Telegraph.

Bora will be brought from the breeding centre at Bardia, maintained by the PHCP. It is a broad-based research and conservation programme for the species.

“This will be the only zoo in the world which will have the facility to house the pygmy hog. This is a historic occasion,” Gyanendra Shrestha, director of the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme, said.

The pygmy hog is about 46cm long, with a shoulder height of about 20cm and a body weight of 14kg.

Bora said the enrichment of the 120 square metre enclosure has been done according to the guidelines of the PHCP. “Our staff will be trained in animal husbandry practices at the PHCP for proper care of the species and there will be people from PHCP at least for a month so that they provide proper monitoring,” he said. “All care will be taken for its proper upkeep in the zoo as this is a rare species,” Bora said. Sources said the assurance was also given to establish a display enclosure based on the recommendation of the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme and the latter had agreed to provide two pairs. Sources said initially one pair of pygmy hogs will be given to the state zoo.

The PHCP has two breeding centres, one in Bardia in Nepal and the other near Namche. There are 16 individuals in captivity at Bardia and eight at Namche. In 1996, six (two male, four female) wild hogs were caught from Manas National Park and transferred to a custom built research and breeding centre built at Bardia. The rapidly increasing captive population necessitated transfer of some of these pygmy hogs back to the wild. They were released at two places: Sukla Badi wildlife sanctuary and Chitwan National Park. The population in Bardia is now 50 while Sukla Badi wildlife sanctuary has 35. There were pygmy hogs in the Assam state way back in 1974 and the last one died in 1989. At that time there was no conservation programme and hence more importance is being given now. Common people, too, want to see it up close,” Bora said.

The Telegraph 20th September 2014.
Greater Adjutant Stork population dwindling in city

By Our Staff Reporter

Guwahati, September 28: A census of the Greater Adjutant Stork in the city has revealed a picture that is not so encouraging. A fresh counting on September 28 at selected places in the city that known for roosting of hargillas, as this bulky bird is locally known, has tracked 227 individuals. During the thirteen years of bird census, the highest number was recorded in 2002 with 288 birds and the lowest individuals were found in 2010 which recorded 113 birds. Last year, it recorded a figure of 158 numbers.

The Early Birds, a nature organization, has been conducting census of the bird since 2002 in many areas of the Guwahati city. The organization rued that there has been lack of awareness among the public that has led to the dwindling number of this endangered bird.

It is understood that due to rapid urbanization in the North Guwahati and other parts of the north bank of the river Brahmaputra, all animals and birds are facing a tough time. “With the division of family and consequent fragmentation of land-holdings, majority of rural people are first losing their backyard compound, which in turn is affecting the nesting sites,” Moloy Barua of Early Birds said. The stork and other water birds are also sometimes found dead at the site due to snake bite and other possible reasons.

The proposed Chitgarh tiger reserve would comprise the existing National Parks and nearby the national reserve of the Brahmaputra up to Bogboost bridge, which is at the western end of the Kaziranga tiger reserve. The stork and other birds also face danger from the contractors who are involved in funds for management, which have been involved in the illegal trade of the birds.

The stork and other birds face danger from the contractors who are involved in funds for management, which have been involved in the illegal trade of the birds.

Poacher killed in Kaziranga

Guwahati, October 4: The guards of the Kaziranga National Park shot dead a poacher at Burhapahar range on Saturday. “We were tipped off about a poaching attempt and accordingly alerted the guards patrolling the park,” said an official adding that around 2.30 am the guards sighted the poachers and challenged them. “The poachers opened fire forcing the guards to retaliate. In the ensuing gun battle, one of the poachers was killed while the rest of the group managed to escape,” he said. One .303 rifle and live cartridges were recovered from about the slain poacher who is yet to be identified, officials said.

Twenty-three one-horned rhinos have already been killed by poachers in Assam this year with 22 in Kaziranga alone. The highest number of poaching cases took place in Assam last year, when the poachers had killed 41 rhinos including 27 in Kaziranga, five in Manas national park, three in Orang national park, two in Pobitora wildlife sanctuary and four in other areas. IANS

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Sunday, October 05, 2014.
A herd of wild elephants seen roaming in Boko area of Kamrup district in search of food on Tuesday.

India, Bhutan and Myanmar are home to some 15,000 Asian elephants – almost half of the entire Asian elephant population. Destruction and degradation of habitat, however, is pushing the elephant population to the brink. In an attempt at addressing the conservation concerns, wildlife experts and conservationists will deliberate on how best to secure a safe future for the elephants.

Balipara Foundation, in collaboration with 14 partner organisations, is organising a two-day ‘Conservation Platform’ on November 6 and 7 in the city featuring a host of eminent environmental thinkers and practitioners. The occasion also includes an international conference titled ‘Asian Elephants in the Wild: A Dialogue’ and the second Balipara Foundation Awards-2014.

The event will open to the screening of the Panda Oscar winning documentary The Last Migration directed by Mike Pandey.

The conference will bring together thought leaders, conservationists, environmental activists, green gurus, sociologists, anthropologists and geographers – from both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to deliberate and address issues related to wildlife corridor management, human-elephant conflict mitigation and habitat sustainability mapping. “The objective of the dialogue is to highlight the threats and challenges facing Asian elephant populations in Bhutan, India and Myanmar, and to chart out a roadmap for trans-boundary conservation between the three countries,” Robin Eastment and Sanjid Dutta, operations executive and chief coordinator respectively of Balipara Foundation, said at a press conference today. Prof Raman Sukumar, a leading authority on Asian elephants, will deliver the keynote address. Dasho Palijor J Dorji, special advisor to the National Environment Commission of Bhutan and architect of the widely-acclaimed Gross Happiness Index.
Experts to form jumbo conservation plan

Philosophers, will deliver a special address on behalf of the foundation. Dr Khyne U Mar, popularly known as the Elephant Lady of Myanmar, will present perspectives from Myanmar, while Mr Wangchuk of Bhutan Foundation will offer insights on Asian elephants from Bhutan. Dr Peter Liemgrube of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute will present his ideas on tracking of Asian elephant populations in the Bhutan-India-Myanmar region. WTI and Elephant Family will present case studies of elephant corridor initiatives in Assam and the North-east.

The conference will end with the joint signing of the 'Key Resolutions for the Future' by all participating delegates and the formation of a joint action committee to oversee all future initiatives.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Thursday, October 09, 2014

Snake skins from Dhubri smuggled to Japan

Correspondent

GOLAKGANJ, Oct 9 — Snake skins smuggled out of Assam are finding lucrative international markets especially in Japan where these are used for making bags, footwear, food products and medicines. This fact came to light when Gaipur Forest Beat Office staff under Dhubri division caught several snake charmers near the Modati and Alomganj areas and recovered a large number of cobras and pythons which were later set free in the forests. In Rupshi areas, a dozen pythons were seized by the Dhubri forest staff recently. According to Dhubri forest department sources, about 200-300 snake skins are smuggled out every year from Dhubri and its adjacent areas of Assam to Bangladesh which is later sold in the international market way to Japan.

The areas have become major transit points for smuggling of cobra and python skins. Of the 234 species of snakes found in the country, most of them — except the arid species and sea snakes — are found in Assam and the North-east in general.

Kuldip Das, Director of States, said that most of the snake charmers in the countryside are turning into snake smugglers. “The activity is very lucrative as each snake skin fetches Rs 5,000 on an average in the international market.”

Apart from Assam which is a fertile centre for the snake skin trade, Meghalaya is a big centre for reptile trade and last year 100 snakes were released in the forest of the state. The trade is very lucrative as each snake skin fetches Rs 5,000 on an average in the international market. The trade is being done openly and regularly under the very nose of the authorities to the involvement of many people.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Friday, October 10, 2014

The Telegraph 9th October 2014.
Dolphin project tops online conservation voting
Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Oc 12 - A conservation project for restoration of the important habitats for the Gangetic Dolphin (sihu), mooted by the Aaranyak, has won an international online public voting competition. Aaranyak's Dolphin conservation project secured the first position with 4,736 votes, while UK's Shark conservation project got the second position with 3,947 votes and Peru's Manta Ray project got the third position with 3,681 votes.

In an extensive interaction with farmers, entrepreneurs, students, forest officials and scientists, Bhyun showed how to treat bamboo with a mix of chemicals formulated at the Jorhat Institute to prevent attack by pest and diseases, so the products last longer.

Aaranyak's Dolphin project not only received the highest votes in Nature category, but was also able to secure the highest votes among all the three category projects.

Through this project, Aaranyak plans to do habitat restoration activities in 30 most important dolphin habitats covering a 100-km river stretch of the Brahmaputra in association with local communities.

"These restoration activities include river clean, prevention of domestic garbage dump to the river, prevention of oil and grease dump to the river by the motor boats and ferries, prevention of riparian vegetation destruction and regular cleanliness monitoring by local communities," Dr Abdul Wakid, Head of Aaranyak's Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Initiative, said. All these activities will not only help the about 600 endangered Gangetic dolphins inhabiting the Brahmaputra, but also the other associated aquatic animals living in those river stretches as well as the livelihood of riverside people, which altogether will lead into the Mission Clean Brahmaputra.

Thousands of fans of Aaranyak and Dolphins across the globe voted for this project. More significantly, two famous artistes from Assam, Angarag Mahanta and Joy Barua, appealed to the public to vote for the cause. Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (UK), Awley (France), Ocean Park Conservation Foundation (Hongkong), Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (UK), David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (UK), Wildlife1 (USA), etc., supported the cause. Thousands of people across Assam voted for the project with active association from all the members of Aaranyak. Currently there are around 600 Gangetic dolphins in Brahmaputra river system within Assam. Aaranyak through its Gangetic Dolphin Research and Conservation Initiative has been conducting conservation activities for the last ten years, for which the population of the species has been increasing from initial 250 in 2005 to 635 in 2012. These dolphins have been facing severe threats from poaching, accidental killing and habitat degradation. Although
Although Aaranyak has undertaken activities to reduce and prevent poaching and accidental killing, which reduced dolphin mortalities in Brahmaputra by 70 per cent in the last seven years, this is the first time that effort is going to be made to reduce habitat degradation for the species in Brahmaputra through this project. **Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Monday, October 13, 2014.**

**Encroachment poses threat to Manas National Park**

HARAMOHAN BARMAN

BARPETA. Oct 18 – At a time when the Manas National Park, which is also a Project Tiger area, has been facing serious problems like poaching, smuggling and presence of extremist elements, a new problem has surfaced to threaten the very existence of the park. Encroachment on some vital parts of the park has made the situation so grave that even the World Heritage Committee has noted it with serious concern with a warning to inscribe the park as a World Heritage Site in Danger.

The Bhuyapara Range is the worst affected as about 150 hectares of land are in the grip of encroachers. Most areas at Betbari, Natun Betbari and Agrang beats under the Bhuyapara Range have been occupied by them. The land has been gradually occupied by sections of residents of the fringe villages. Though they have not constructed any permanent structures on the occupied land, they have been cultivating crops after destroying the forest cover. With no obstruction from any quarters, the encroachers are fast approaching the park and more and more areas are being occupied every year.

The situation under the Panbari Range is also not different from that in Bhuyapara. Though the land under encroachment is less than Bhuyapara, some people have already built houses and are refusing to move away.

Neither the park authority nor the Government has undertaken any steps to evict the encroachers and free the land. As a result, the world famous park has lost a vast area and if the current situation prevails for a few more years, both the Bhuyapara and Panbari ranges will cease to exist on the map of the park. The issue of encroachment has been taken very seriously by the World Heritage Committee, which has warned that if the Government fails to check encroachment, it may lead to such a situation that the park may be inscribed as a World Heritage Site in Danger.

The smuggling of timber has also added to the woes of the park. The felling of valuable and old trees is going on unabated in the Betbari, Tangonmara, Koirbari, Agrang Digiri and Panda areas under the Bhuyapara Range. Large areas in the eastern part of the range office have been denuded. There is no forest cover in these areas, compelling the wildlife to shift to other crowded habitats.

It is learnt that the World Heritage Committee has urged the Government to adopt measures to conserve the park and strengthen the security system. It has also instructed the Government to inform the committee about the measures adopted by February, 2015. If the Government fails to comply with this directive, the park may lose the status of a World Heritage Site for the second time after 1992.

The Manas National Park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1995. But due to the devastation during the Bodo agitation in the late 1990s, it lost the status and was enlisted as a World Heritage Site in Danger. Rigorous efforts by the BTAD and the park authority enabled it to retain the honour for the second time after 19 years in 2011.

But the prevailing situation in the park is not at all satisfactory, which has attracted the ire of the World Heritage Committee under the UNESCO. **Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Sunday, October 19, 2014.**

**Karbi Anglong has most hoolock gibbon Staff Reporter**

GUWAHATI, Oct 23 – Karbi Anglong accounts for 65 per cent of the total population of the endangered hoolock gibbon in the State. This gibbon population is distributed in five forest complexes in Karbi Anglong, prioritized for long-term conservation of the only ape found in India. This was revealed in the 'Hoolock Gibbon Population and Habitat Estimation' report prepared by the Primate Research Centre NE India (PRC), Guwahati. The report was formed by the World Heritage Committee, which has warned that if the Government fails to check encroachment, it may lead to such a situation that the park may be inscribed as a World Heritage Site in Danger.

The smuggling of timber has also added to the woes of the park. The felling of valuable and old trees is going on unabated in the Betbari, Tangonmara, Koirbari, Agrang Digiri and Panda areas under the Bhuyapara Range. Large areas in the eastern part of the range office have been denuded. There is no forest cover in these areas, compelling the wildlife to shift to other crowded habitats.

It is learnt that the World Heritage Committee has urged the Government to adopt measures to conserve the park and strengthen the security system. It has also instructed the Government to inform the committee about the measures adopted by February, 2015. If the Government fails to comply with this directive, the park may lose the status of a World Heritage Site for the second time after 1992.

The Manas National Park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1995. But due to the devastation during the Bodo agitation in the late 1990s, it lost the status and was enlisted as a World Heritage Site in Danger. Rigorous efforts by the BTAD and the park authority enabled it to retain the honour for the second time after 19 years in 2011.

But the prevailing situation in the park is not at all satisfactory, which has attracted the ire of the World Heritage Committee under the UNESCO. **Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Sunday, October 19, 2014.**

**Karbi Anglong has most hoolock gibbon Staff Reporter**

GUWAHATI, Oct 23 – Karbi Anglong accounts for 65 per cent of the total population of the endangered hoolock gibbon in the State. This gibbon population is distributed in five forest complexes in Karbi Anglong, prioritized for long-term conservation of the only ape found in India. This was revealed in the 'Hoolock Gibbon Population and Habitat Estimation' report prepared by the Primate Research Centre NE India (PRC), Guwahati. The report was formally laid at a function organized at Diphu by PRC in collaboration with the Forest Department, Karbi Anglong on Wednesday.

A draft 'Conservation Action Plan of Hoolock Gibbon in Karbi Anglong' was released at the function. On the occasion, PRC with support from US Fish and Wildlife Services provided an all-terrain Tata Xenon vehicle to the Forest Department in an attempt to improve the capacity of the North Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary.

The sanctuary – situated just opposite to the world famous Kaziranga National Park – has habitat contiguity with Kaziranga, and is crucial to the wellbeing of Kaziranga’s famed wildlife. Wild animals from the Park including elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, deer, etc., use to take refuge in the highlands of the sanctuary in large numbers during the annual floods.

Dr Jihosuo Biswas, coordinator, Primate Research Centre NE India, gave an account of the conservation scope and challenges with special reference to hoolock gibbon and tiger conservation in Karbi Anglong. He emphasized on the need of establishing a separate wildlife wing of Karbi Anglong Forest Department to look after the management issue of the wildlife. In his speech, Dr Abhijit Rabha, Additional PPCF, Karbi Anglong, thanked the PRC for its effort and said that it would give a boost to the morale of the frontline forest staff. He also lauded the organization and the supporting agency for extending their assistance.

Singnar, Executive Member (EM), Forest, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, stressed the need for concerted efforts from every quarter to protect forest and wildlife in Karbi Anglong, as the Forest Department alone was not in a position to do the job. He emphasized on having a separate wildlife division and manpower for proper management.

The vehicle was provided to the Haldibari Beat which is proposed for the separate wildlife range of North Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary to enhance mobility for protection. The flag-off ceremony for the presentation of the all-terrain vehicle was attended, among others, by senior forest officials of KAAC including Jayising Bey, DFO, East Karbi Anglong.
Poba Reserve Forest under threat

Correspondent

JONAI, Oct 25 – The growing strain on the forest wealth, hunting and constant erosion by rivers have been posing a threat to the Poba Reserve Forest on the outskirts of Jonai town. But the authorities concerned have not taken any steps to save the reserve forest, causing a great deal of resentment among nature lovers here.

The territorial forest in the subdivision has been dealt a severe blow with the growing requirement of timber for construction-related activities, leading to the exploitation of the forest resources on the one hand and the disturbance of the ecological balance on the other.

The Poba Reserve Forest under the Dhemaji Territorial Forest Division is also facing depletion due to the constant erosion caused by the Lali and Sille rivers. Though the reserve forest has come under tremendous pressure, the State's Forest Minister is allegedly indifferent to its protection.

The Poba Reserve Forest is home to different kinds of flora and fauna. The water bodies on the upper reaches of the reserve forest are close to the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh and the Dibru Saikhowa National Park across the mighty Brahmaputra river. Herds of wild elephants have been affected due to the demolition of the dense forest cover, leading to conflicts with human beings. Meanwhile, various local organisations including environment NGOs have demanded the authorities to declare the Poba Reserve Forest as a wildlife sanctuary and take necessary protection measures. But Forest Department officials here are reportedly yet to submit the feasibly report in this regard. These organisations have moved the Dhemaji Deputy Commissioner, Monalisha Goswami, seeking her initiative for the necessary survey and documentation of Poba. A 15-member coordination committee has also been constituted with the DC as the chief patron and the Dhemaji DFO (T) as the chief convener.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Friday, October 24, 2014

Forest Minister talks tough, assures action against poachers, timber smugglers

From our Correspondent

DIGBOI, October 28: State Forest Minister Rakibul Hussain visited the famous Choraipung rain forest under Choraipung Range of Dibgoi division on Tuesday morning with a host of dignitaries including VK Bisnoy, the PCCF, OP Pandey, the ACCF, D Mathur and S Nayak, the CCFs, Utpal Borah the CF and Sirajuddin Ahmed, the DFO of Dibgoi division and others from various locations.

Inaugurating a photo museum at Choraipung, Hussain assured a developmental package for the forest, besides initiating steps so that resourceful exotic locations with rarely found species of birds and animals could be converted into an international tourist hub. Inaugurating the academic-cum-administrative building of the Assam Forest Guards School at Makum in Tinsukia district, Hussain reiterated that the school would provide adequate training and knowledge to the foresters and forest guards for effective functioning in the wake of modern day challenges.

Addressing mediapersons, he urged the media to assist in combating the menace of timber smuggling and other illegal forest activities, assuring security to mediapersons if needed. The Minister said that a special rehabilitation package for Laika in Dibru Saikhowa National Park would be declared soon after the committee concerned submits its reports and genuine requirements. He warned that illegal activities like mining, timber smuggling, excavation and poaching would not be tolerated and the defaulter officials would also be dealt with strongly. "Illegal mills are to be immediately stopped," Hussain said and asked the senior forest officials to take serious steps in this regard. Later in the afternoon, Hussain took part in the Pragatisil Krishak Samanya Mela held at Margherita Town School in Margherita enrouting Dibgoi College on the way. The Minister also address-

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Sunday, October 26, 2014

HC directs scrutiny of Kaziranga encroachers

Court asks government to form a committee which would verify the citizenship credentials of the encroachers in and around the Unesco World Heritage Site

By Our Staff Reporter

Guwahati, November 3: In a landmark judgement, the Gauhati High Court today asked the Central and State governments to verify the citizenship credentials of the encroachers in and around Kaziranga National Park. For this, a bench of the court comprising Chief Justice (acting) K Sreedhar Rao and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan directed formation of a committee which would comprise the DIG (border) and representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, State forest and revenue departments.

“The verification drive should be carried out inside the Kaziranga National Park, in the six additions and along the highways which are known animal corridors,” advocate Rita Boro Bora, who represented petitioner Mrinal Saikia, said.

Though the government, in its affidavit earlier, had said that there were around 10,000 settlers in the additions of the park which are not yet included within the park’s jurisdiction, it had not mentioned anything on the presence of illegal migrants in and around the Unesco World Heritage Site. The government had, however, admitted presence of encroachers. The Gauhati High Court had in September asked Assam government to clear the encroachments in four additions of Kaziranga National Park and to hand them over to the park authorities. The first and fourth additions have been handed to the park authorities earlier. However, the
the rest of the four additions still have encroachments.

In its affidavit, Assam government had suggested short-term and long-term measures for clearing Kaziranga of encroachments. According to the government affidavit, the short-term measures will start immediately and the encroachments will be cleared by March 31, 2015.

Assam government also proposed a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the people who are living in the additions and suggested that they may be re-located to model villages. The court also suggested setting up of a separate sub-division for expediting the rehabilitation works.

However, in today’s judgement, the High Court said the rehabilitation of the encroachers should not be initiated till the citizenship verification exercise - to be carried out as per the Indian Citizenship Act and the Assam Accord - is completed.

The next date of hearing on the case has been fixed for November 27.

“Forest minister Rakibul Hussain has been stating that there are no illegal Bangladeshis in and around the park. Now that court has sought a verification drive, his claims have fallen flat,” petitioner Mrinal Saikia, who alleged rampant encroachment by Bangladeshi nationals in the Sixth Addition of the park, told The Sentinel.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Tuesday, November 04, 2014.

---

Assam Tribune 12th November 2014.

NGO member plans to send twin proposals to govt & UK agency for help

Activist finds bird zone in backyard

SUNITA BHATTACHARYYA

Jorhat, Dec 7: A waterbody dotted with small humps and herds of migratory birds at the Meleng Bali Supori area here has prompted wildlife activist and vet Arindam Pachoni to document the avian species and propose to develop the area into a bird zone.

He is also planning to make a proposal to the BirdLife International, UK. It is a global partnership of conservation organisations that strive to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity.

Pachoni, a member of Arajat, an NGO working for elephants, who also spent six months at Phetchaburi in Thailand working with Wildlife Friends’ Foundation, said he had earlier not noticed the strange land formation in the low-lying waterbodies near his house.

I have traveled to many areas in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur and also to south India but have seen nothing like this. The mounds of earth, a metre or 1.5 metres in diameter, sticking out of the water, virtually lay in my backyard but I never bothered to look at the odd formation. Something similar can be seen in Loktak Lake in Manipur but they are made of tree roots knit together and rising above the water,” he said.

Pachoni has taken it upon himself to document as many birds he could sight and found more than 30 local and migratory species, including the rare pelicans and the glossy ibis.

“This virgin land area is a bird watch-er’s paradise and has immense potential to be developed into a bird zone by the government. For the time being, I have decided to go it alone and conduct awareness drives to stop poaching of these birds. I have been informed that many birds are being killed and eaten,” he said.

Another threat is the large number of fishing nets in the area, which disturb the serenity of their roosting area,” he said.

Pachoni will conduct awareness programmes so that the rich diversity of birds that migrate from distant lands are not killed off or face a threat from fishing nets.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Plan to curb man-leopard conflict

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, Dec 11 – Alarmed by the escalating man-leopard conflict in the city, the Forest Department is planning to put in place an integrated mechanism to ensure quick and effective response.

There will also be a formal census of leopards in and around Guwahati to verify the city’s leopard population. This will be the first headcount of leopards anywhere in Assam.

As part of the conflict mitigation exercise, the Assam State Zoo will be having a control room with a toll-free number for monitoring incidents of leopards straying into human settlements. A Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) will be in-charge of the control room.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) R.P. Agarwalla told The Assam Tribune that lack of a prompt and effective response mechanism was complicating the man-leopard conflict, often resulting in fatalities to the cornered animals in residential areas besides occasional injuries to humans.

“We had a meeting over the worsening phenomenon and came up with a detailed plan to tackle the problem. A DCF will look after the control room which will come up at the State Zoo campus. We are in touch with the BSNL for having a toll-free number through which anyone can inform us about the presence of leopards in the vicinity of human settlements. There will also be trained personnel and vehicles for prompt responsive action once we get the news of a straying leopard,” Agarwalla said.

On the proposed leopard census, Agarwalla said that knowledge on the status of the leopard population would help formulate effective strategies for easing the man-leopard conflict.

“Once we learn the status of the leopard population, we will be able to relate it to their existing habitats in Guwahati and take up appropriate measures. In case, we might have to relocate a few animals living in sparse or very small forests to more suitable habitat,” he added.

The Forest Department will also sensitise the people living in peripheral areas of forests not to get alarmed by leopard presence and instead to alert the forest authorities so that quick response could follow.

For conducting the census, Kamrup district will be divided into three zones under DFO, Guwahati Wildlife Division; DFO, Kamrup East Division; and DFO, Assam State Zoo.
Beleaguered leopards risk total annihilation from city forests

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, Dec 12 - Four leopards have been captured in the city's residential areas in the past fortnight. This high incidence of leopards straying into human habitation is a grim testimony to the rapid loss of forest cover in and around the city.

Driven by space and food constraints, the straying leopards are getting entrapped in a vicious man-leopard conflict, which has worsened in the past few years. While there have been cases of leopards attacking people, it is the poor leopard that has been mostly at the receiving end. A number of leopards have been killed by mobs, some have met with accidental deaths, and many have been captured by the Forest Department.

Of the 22 leopards currently sheltered in the Assam State Zoo, around 20 were captured in the city.

Conservationists and foresters are unanimous on one point - that Guwahati, once a stronghold of the big spotted cat, is no longer a safe zone for the animal and if the disturbing trend is any indication, the leopard risks total annihilation from the city forests.

"The man-leopard conflict has definitely intensified in recent years. Loss of forest cover is increasingly driving out the animals in search of food and space. As immediate measures to ease the conflict, we are facilitating a rapid response mechanism with trained manpower, logistics, and a toll free number," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), NP Agarwala said.

While no official up-to-date data is available, according to an earlier estimation, the total forest cover in the city hills was a meagre 13.60 per cent. Given the unabated encroachment, illegal logging and earth-cutting on the hills, the situation is likely to be worse today. Of the 7,503 hectares of hillland, 2,643 hectares fall under reserve forests but a major part of even the reserve forests lies destroyed and degraded due to encroachment and tree-felling.

On the prospect of evicting encroachers, the forest authorities did not sound upbeat. "Any bid aimed at clearing forestland is invariably met with a hostile response by the illegal settlers. We need much more manpower together with reinforcement from the administration and the Government. Still, we are planning such a drive," a forest official said.

The official's version, however, does not explain why the forest areas cleared of encroachment were again encroached up by people.

Encroachment on the city hills intensified in the past few years with various organisations clamouring for settlement in the forested hills. Conservationists believe that the ongoing movement for granting of land pattas (settlement rights) and the Government’s compliant stand on a beleaguered leopard in Guwahati, as the metropolis was caught in the grip of unplanned expansion that cared little for the sanctity of its sylvan landscape including the reserve forests on the hills.

"The way things are going, the leopard is set for extinction in the city. There has been large-scale destruction of wildlife habitat due to unplanned expansion and widespread encroachment on forestland. The simple fact is that leopards have nowhere to go either for food or space. Unless the remaining forests are strictly preserved, Guwahati will part with all its wildlife, not just leopards," Dr Talukdar said.

According to conservationist Maroju Saran, of Early Birds, according to protection to the forested hills from further destruction and also reclaiming the encroached forests is the only long-term solution to the man-leopard conflict.

"The Forest Department has failed to check the city's green cover loss. It has also failed to put in place a rapid response force to rescue wildlife in distress. All the hills in the city barring one have leopard populations, and it is the responsibility of the department and the administration to prevent human interference in these areas," Saran said.

Large-scale encroachment apart, the city hills have also witnessed widespread illegal logging and earth-cutting despite there being a ban on both. Conservationists believe that at this rate, the hills will soon become bereft of any forest cover worth the name.
## ENVIRONMENT

### Udalguri villages to go green from October

**Correspondent**

UDALGURI, Sept 2 – Bharat Swabhiman, which is a national-level organisation working for the general welfare of the people, along with sister organisations like Hamro Swabhiman and Patanjali Yogapeeth set up by Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna at Haridwar, have resolved to undertake a number of social works so as to yield maximum benefit for the countrymen in terms of environmental protection, check the threat of climate change first in India and then in other parts of the globe.

With this initiative in mind, the Udalguri district committees of Bharat Swabhiman, Hamro Swabhiman and Patanjali Yogapeeth have undertaken some dream projects to make the local villages green. Speaking about the dream projects, R Sapkota, senior journalist of Udalguri and publicity secretary of Udalguri district committee of Hamro Swabhiman said that the three organisations would start plantation of medicinal saplings like neem (margosa) and other trees in all the revenue villages of the district in order to maintain balance of the ecology and keep the environment green in the collective interest of the next generation.

The project will start from October 2 next, commemorating the birth anniversary of Gandhiji with the active cooperation of the Udalguri District Forest Office and district administration as a whole.

Narayan Khatiwara, ‘mandal prabhat’ of the five districts of Udalguri, Sonitpur, Darrang, Dhemaji and Lakhimpur informed that Bharat Swabhiman is presently being encouraged by the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment for its mission green project.

A joint meeting of the three organisations held on August 31 last and chaired by Drona Chetry, president of Bharat Swabhiman Trust and Patanjali Yoga Samiti, Udalguri district, in the presence of State observer Narayan Khatiwara reorganised the two district committees, namely Bharat Swabhiman and Patanjali Yoga Samiti for smooth functioning along with inclusion of more members.

Accordingly, Gunindra Deko of Orang was selected as the general secretary of Udalguri district committee of Bharat Swabhiman and Kulen Borah, a retired teacher of Rowta was selected as president of Patanjali Yoga Samiti for Udalguri district along with Budhiman Gautam as his general secretary, Rishiram Pokhrel of Udalguri as patron and Jogen Daimary of Mazbat as district secretary of Krishak Panchayat of Bharat Swabhiman.

Jonaki Boro, State observer of Mahila Patanjali Yoga Samiti also addressed the joint meeting on the occasion.

**Source:** The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, September 03, 2014.

### Dibrugarh engineer comes up with innovative bamboo boat

**Staff Correspondent**

DIBRUGARH, Sept 11 – Constant research about bamboo has increased its applications and simultaneously given rise to new innovative products. Today, bamboo is fast becoming a catalyst for development and an effective means to enhance the livelihood of rural people. As boats made of wooden planks in the State are dwindling for want of timber, bamboo has been discovered as a viable alternative.

Tilak Chandra Mahanta, an Executive Engineer of the Inland Water Transport, Dibrugarh Division, has established that boats can be made of bamboo stalk pieces too. Mahanta and his innovative team have come up with a unique 3.5-metre boat made of bhulaka bamboo. The width of the boat is one metre. After treating the bamboo stalk pieces in lime water solution for about 15 days, it took hardly five working days to produce the bamboo boat. The boat was created on the banks of the river Brahmaputra at Majianghat. One Suman Rabidas, a traditional boat-maker, did the carpentry work. In order to seal the spaces between the bamboo stalk pieces, a solution of bitumen and dhuna powder was used to repel water. The bamboo boat is similar to any traditional wooden boat. It can carry some eight to ten persons.

While talking to this correspondent, Mahanta said that a motor can also be fitted into the bamboo boat for faster movement. “It is viable and cost-effective. This can easily be built by any bamboo artisan for personal use or commercial purposes like ferrying passengers and carrying goods. Such boats can also be made available in flood-prone areas for relief and rescue operations,” he said. Asked how the idea of creating a boat of bamboo stalk pieces struck his mind, Mahanta said the boat industry was suffering due to lack of timber, especially the azhar and gandasarai species. “Economically backward rural farmers in the riverine areas and fishermen supporting their families cannot afford wooden boats due to the rise in the prices of available timber. These thoughts stimulated me to try bamboo as an alternative to wood and thus, we built and experimented one,” Mahanta said, adding that mature jati bamboo can also be used for making such boats.

**Source:** The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Friday, September 12, 2014.
NRL, Finnish firm to study possibility of extracting fuel from bamboo

By Our Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 11: Numaligarh Refinery Limited today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a Finland based Company M/s Chempolis Oy, for carrying out a feasibility study for production of ethanol from bamboo biomass.

Bamboo is one of the major non-food biomass resources available abundantly in North East India and is amongst the fastest growing plants. Chempolis Oy is a Finland registered company and has developed the patented formicobio™ technology for processing non-food raw materials into cellulosic ethanol, cellulosic sugars, bio-chemicals and bio-coal.

NRL intends to explore the feasibility of setting up a bio-refinery in Assam to produce bio-ethanol using non-food bio-mass resources like Bamboo, etc. Production of fuel grade ethanol will reduce NRL’s requirement of imported MTBE and Py-Gas for MS blending due to higher octane number of ethanol and will result in net savings for NRL. The MoU was signed between Director (Technical) NRL Mr. SR Medhi and President, Asia-Pacific & Americas M/s Chempolis Mr. Pasi Rousu, in the presence of MD NRL Mr. P. Padmanabhan, Director (Finance) NRL Mr. SK Barua, President, Chempolis India Mr. Navin Singhania and senior Officials of NRL at NRL Corporate Office, Guwahati. As per the MoU, NRL and Chempolis will jointly undertake an assessment study for ascertaining the availability of the required feedstock in North Eastern India. Both the companies will also coordinate with various government and private agencies to identify the main feedstock supply areas in North Eastern India and explore tie ups with prospective suppliers for supplying the feedstock for the proposed plant.

Chempolis will also carry out experimental testing of various specimens of bamboo and other potential biomass feedstock materials available in North Eastern India and provide the entire pre project technical consultancy required for completion of the Detailed Feasibility Study for the Project. The National Policy on Bio-fuels announced by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India in 2009 sets an indicative target of 20 per cent blending of bio-fuels, both for bio-diesel in HSD and bio-ethanol in MS, by 2017. The approach of National Policy on Bio-fuels is to promote generation of bio-fuels solely from non-food feed stocks to be raised on degraded or wastelands that are not suited to agriculture, to avoid a possible conflict of fuel versus food security.

Both NRL and Chempolis have agreed to cooperate with each other in carrying out the feasibility study and implement the project, if found feasible and on mutually acceptable terms and conditions through a JV/SPV, subject to Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF), Government of India, other statutory clearances.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Friday, September 12, 2014.

GMC notice to 500 commercial establishments

Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 14 – The Kamrup Metro district administration has issued notices to around 500 commercial establishments in recent days in the GS Road asking them to furnish details regarding own provision for parking for employees, customers and visitors. The establishments have been asked to provide their replies within 30 days, sources said.

The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) had last Tuesday directed all commercial, institutional and government establishments situated along the AT Road, GS Road, MG Road, Md Tayabullah Road and GNB Road to designate and arrange their own parking places within 30 days. The civic body had said that failure to comply with the notice and the parking norms as envisaged under the Building Byelaws will entail action under the provisions of the GMC Act, 1971, and Building Byelaw leading to cancellation of Trade licence and sealing of the premises.

MGVK Bhanu, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, had carried out an inspection of the entire stretch of GS Road last week. Bhanu had directed SP Traffic to ensure that there no parking of private vehicles in the stretch and directed the PWD to make the footpaths free from vendors and also to construct railings along the footpaths.

He had also announced that DC, GMC Commissioner, SSP and SP Traffic will visit various locations across the city every Sunday to review progress of the work. A ‘No Parking’ zone has already been imposed from the Ganeshguri flyover to Last Gate. It is noteworthy that the district administration plans to convert the entire GS Road from Bharalumukh to Khanapara into a ‘No Parking’ zone for private vehicles from mid-October.

Meanwhile, Kamrup Metro Deputy Commissioner Dr M Angamuthu has directed the PWD (Roads) to construct silt traps at Noonmati and asked the GMC clear up the drains in the VIP Road immediately.


‘GMC procedure of granting building permission not transparent’

Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 16 – The procedure of according building permission by the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) is allegedly not transparent. The civic body is allegedly trying to conceal the information on the building permissions it is granting to parties, going against the democratic norms.

It is alleged by several quarters that the civic body is granting building permissions to parties without trying to assess the impacts of such structures in the localities in which they are proposed to be built. There is no attempt at assessing the impacts of such structures on the groundwater table, drains, garbage disposal system, traffic load on the roads, etc, of the localities concerned.

Moreover, the impact of such structures on the old and low-cost structures in their neighbourhood has never been sought to be assessed by the civic body, which is violative of the democratic rights of the dwellers of the old structures, alleged the above quarters.

These factors have assumed significance in view of the large-scale transfer of land in the city localities in favour of a section of moneyed but non-indigenous people. Even structures which should have been treated as heritage structures because of their inalienable connection with the Mahatma and the freedom struggle of the country, have also been demolished by these moneyed people, who have least concern for the State’s heritage, with the civic body turning a blind eye to all such developments, alleged the above quarters. Such developments have been posing serious threats to the residents of several old localities of the city.
city. These residents demand that the civic body and the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), for that matter, should make the permissions open and in the process of granting permission residents of the localities concerned should be involved.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Guwahati to have scientific parking plan by Dec 31: DC
By our Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 16: Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner M Angamuthu is among the recipients of a notice that seeks all establishments situated between Khanapara and Bharalui to inform the administration within a month if they have parking provisions or not. This information, according to the deputy commissioner, will just be the precursor of an on-the-spot verification by the administration so as to ensure a scientific parking plan in this stretch of the road.

Talking to newsmen in the city today, the deputy commissioner said: “It’s doing the rounds that the entire stretch of the road from Khanapara to Bharalui will be a no-parking zone. This isn’t true. What’s in the pipeline is a scientific parking plan that fits Guwahati like a glove. Some by-lanes will be chosen in this stretch of the road so as to find some parking places. This is being done for the benefit of all. What’s being done is very much within the parameters of the existing laws. All stakeholders will be taken into confidence while making this a reality.”

The deputy commissioner said: “This is a fact that some owners of establishments in this stretch of the road park their cars on the road from 10 am to 10 pm. Some have been using the open spaces, which are a must in front of their establishments in accordance with the existing laws, as storerooms. The district administration will keep an eagle eye on such things. Those who have been served the notice have to inform the administration within 30 days so as to let the latter conduct its spot verification. There are also cases that some establishments that have parking provisions are charging fees from their customers or visitors. It’s just not done.” “Those who have no own parking places will have to get them done by a deadline to be stipulated by the administration. If they don’t, action against them may be up to cancellation of their trading licenses, the deputy commissioner said, added that: “The new scientific parking plan will be in place in Guwahati by December 31. Enough time will be given for buildings that are very old.”

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

Local fish production registers increase
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 20 – After years of poor growth, local fish production in Assam has risen during the last few months. Monthly fish production since July, 2010, is about 18-20 million kg, which can meet the local demand, according to well-placed sources in the Fisheries Department.

In view of the importance of the fishery sector in providing nutrition to the people, employment generation and livelihood to the rural sector, and to explore prospects for the sector to grow further, the State Fisheries Department is adding more thrust in recent times.

In 2009, production of local fish was 218 million kg which was 5.82 per cent higher than the previous year. The State has also been able to supply about four million kg of fish to the adjacent States, a fishery official stated.

The quantity of fish brought in from outside the State has been reduced from last three months, an executive from the Paltan Bazar Wholesale Fish Market informed. This could be due to availability of more local fish in markets.

Sources claim that the local fish production is increasing due to stricter implementation of the Fishery Rules. A large number of drag and mosquito net implementation has been seized which was used illegally at proclaimed fisheries, a senior fishery official mentioned.

Motivation of unemployed rural youths in this sector is another cause for the rise in local fish production. Last year a total of 567 ha of low lying area was developed through 495 Self Help Groups and Common Interest Groups. Higher institutional credit through the facilitation of the Department has also emerged as an advantage particularly to economically weak fish farmers.

Prevailing weather conditions has been emerged as an advantage particularly to economi
cally weak fish farmers. Prevailing weather conditions has been cited as another reason for higher yields in most districts of the state. Beel fisheries is an important resource for fish production in the State and the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation’s initiatives include pen and cage culture technology in the periphery of the Beel area for seed as well as fish production. The Department has developed 39 Beel fisheries with a total area about 662 ha for last two years. Women empowerment programme in fish farming mainly for rearing of quality fish seed has resulted in minimising the death of fish seed at proper time. A total of 5,500 women are now engaged in raising quality fish seed in different parts of the state. If favourable conditions persist, the state will meet the economic demand of fish for the state, the source added.

However, the marketing infrastructure of the fish market of the state continues to remain unhygienic. The department is expected to improve the market channel and the marketing infrastructure for the benefit of the farmers, which can minimize the dominance of middlemen.

The Department may also declare a particular fish as State fish as has been done in 17 States in the country. This initiation could increase the population of the fish and thus give additional boost to overall production.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Tuesday, September 21, 2014.

Environment clearance for Dibang project
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 30 – The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects has accorded environment clearance to the 3000-MW Dibang Multipurpose Project in its 77 th meeting recently under alleged pressure from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).

Subsequent to the EAC approval to the project, discussion on the project was initiated also at the meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) held on September 22 and 23, 2014 for the project’s clearance by it.

It has been reported that the Forest Advisory Committee had recommended clearance of the project on September 22.

The minutes of the EAC meeting, now available in public domain, confirm that the EAC has recommended clearance of the Dibang Multipurpose Project without any comprehensive downstream impact assessment and public consultation in Assam. It is feared that the project will have, among others, adverse impacts on the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park of the State. Significantly, the EAC has approved the clearance basing on the results of some questionable computer-modelling done by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), which stated that there would be no adverse impact of the project on Assam.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, October 01, 2014.
In fluoride-affected zone, bottled water business thrives

GUWAHATI, October 11: The concern for public health should be the topmost priority of any government. But the Assam government, it seems, is not taking the issue of public health very seriously, given its inaction against several companies which are manufacturing bottled water (commonly known as mineral water) in a fluoride-affected zone and are suspected to be selling their popular drinking water brands with impurities in content not only in the State, but also in other parts of the northeastern region.

Many of these packaged drinking water manufacturing companies are located in areas stretching from North Guwahati to Chongass, where eight water supply projects of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department were recently closed down by the Department concerned due to high fluoride content found in these areas’ water. Substandard packaged drinking water masquerading as ‘safe’ drinking water brands are being sold in city shops and other parts of the northeast. Such products are posing serious health risks to people.

It may be mentioned that all these eight water supply projects of the PHE downed their shutters last month. More than 20,000 people were dependent on these eight projects for drinking water supply. Now, these people are fulfilling their drinking water need from streams and lakes in the area and nearby areas. There is a possibility that the water of these streams and lakes could also be laced with high fluoride. Unfortunately, the PHE has not done any alternative arrangement to supply pure drinking water to these people after shutting down its water supply projects.
On this issue, a top official of the PHE, Guwahati Division, Chandmari told The Sentinel: “Although the water samples of packaged drinking water brands like Silver Drops, Kingstar and few others marketed by these companies located in the North Guwahati–Changsari belt are yet to be tested, there is a possibility of presence of fluoride content and other impurities in these packaged water brands. We can’t take any steps against these companies until and unless the district administration permits.”

Another source further alleged that Kamrup Deputy Commissioner Dr J Balaji, despite being well aware of the fact, is not taking this issue seriously, for reasons best known to him. It may be mentioned that the Lakhshmi Narayan Food and Beverages Pvt Ltd markets A1 and Kingstar mineral water brands in the State. Interestingly, the name of the manufacturer of Silver Drops brand is not mentioned in the bottles of the brand.

Due to high fluoride content in ground water, many people in some parts of Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts have been suffering from severe anaemia, stiff joints, painful and restricted movement, mottled teeth and kidney failure leading to premature death while many have been crippled for life.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Sunday, October 12, 2014

Silchar, Haflong launch Clean and Green Assam camp Correspondent SILCHAR, Oct 17 – The Clean and Green Assam campaign, launched by Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, got off in Cachar district with officials of the Satindra Mohan Dev Civil Hospital taking part in the drive with great enthusiasm.

The campaign was flagged off here by the Joint Director (in-charge) of Health Services, Dr Sudip Jyoti Das. A seminar on ‘Cleanliness and secure motherhood’ was held alongside the campaign. Laying emphasis on the topic, the speakers highlighted the fact that every year, many newborn babies and pregnant mothers are affected due to unhygienic and filthy surroundings. Dr Sadhan Kumar Roy, child specialist at the SM Dev Civil Hospital, and Dr Ashutosh Barman, gynaecologist at Borkhola Block PHC, were the chief speakers in the seminar. Dr Roy said that children often become ill because they do not wash their hands before taking food. In the day’s meeting, conducted by the NHM district media expert Sumon Choudhury, the speakers focused on adopting measures for maintaining a clean and germ-free hospital campus. Additional Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Susil Chandra Das, Sub-Divisional Medical and Health (Public Health) Officer, Dr Ajit Bhattacharjee, District Community Mobiliser Amit Roy, sectoral medical officers, block programme managers and block community mobilisers took part in the seminar.

In Haflong: The North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council authority urged the employees for keeping their office areas clean by observing a cleanliness drive at the Council campus, our Correspondent adds.

NCHAC principal secretary, HK Bora, deputy secretary H Haolai along with the other officers and staff of the Council cleaned the surroundings as part of the Chief Minister’s ‘Porisikar Aru Seuj Sahara Saptah’, a Clean and Green Assam drive. The objective of the cleanliness drive was to motivate the people of the district towards a clean and green environment.

A daylong seminar was also observed by the District Health Society on hygiene and motherhood on the occasion of Clean and Green Assam Awareness Week held at the office chamber of the Joint Director of Health Services. The meeting was presided over by Dr Dipali Barman, who briefed about the scientific process of cleanliness in hospitals and the sub-centres, particularly in labour rooms to prevent infections. She explained the importance of proper handwashing before consumption of food or medicines.

Dr Barman also emphasised that the medical staff should be careful about their medical kits and that all medical instruments should be soaked in bleaching solutions for at least ten minutes and all cleanliness measures should be followed to prevent infection. Later, the doctors and medical staff cleaned their hospital and office premises and also planted saplings as part of the mission. Other doctors present were Dr Krishna Kemprai, Dr Leena Hakmavoosa, Dr Harpal Singh, Dr Marina Changan, Rukmini Difoesa, District Programme Manager of the NHM, Dima Hasao and other medical officers and staff.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Saturday, October 18, 2014.

100 years on, Barpeta firecrackers still sparkle

NID designs special logo that will help distinguish the Barpeta firecrackers from the hugely popular Sivakasi products in Guwahati. October 22: A village in Barpeta district of Assam has been making firecrackers for over a 100 years and has now got a logo that will help it distinguish from the hugely popular Sivakasi products.

The traditional firecracker makers in Ganak Kuchi village in Assam’s Barpeta district are determined to make their presence felt, at least in the markets of Assam this Diwali. They face tough competition from the firecrackers made in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu.

The Assam village recently got its logo designed by the National Institute of Design (NID). “This logo will give us an identity and help us stand out in the market. There have been fire crackers from Sivakasi which have been flooding the markets in Assam and other states of the country during the Deepawali festival,” said Gopajit Pathak, president of the Barpeta Atasbaji Silpi Samabai Samity, an organisation of the artisans involved in making the firecrackers for generations. “People are not aware which firecrackers are made in Sivakasi and which are made in Barpeta. The logo will help the people identify our fire crackers and they would surely buy those made in Barpeta,” Pathak added. The artisans involved in the Barpeta firecracker units have already prepared 30 to 35 varieties of crackers and sparklers this season and are now expecting to sell firecrackers to the tune of Rs.70 to 80 lakh.

“Although we supply less than 10 percent of fire crackers to the markets in Assam during the festival, the new logo will gradually help us make an identity. If we succeed this time, we would increase the volume from next time onwards,” Pathak said.

The Pathaks have been making firecrackers since 1885. Gopajit’s grandfather, Lakhiram Pathak, was inspired to make firecrackers after going through a Chinese book that was translated into Bengali. The book gave him an idea of cracker-making techniques and he started the first unit in 1885. The firecrackers in Barpeta are made mostly with hands and minimum use of machines. About 2,000 workers are directly or indirectly employed in the firecracker industry at Ganak Kuchi village.

The artisans use earthen pots and more organic materials in the making the crackers and sparklers. Ranjit Das, an artisan involved in making the crackers, said: “Firecrackers from
Sivakasi continue to dominate the markets, (but) people are gradually going for our products due to public awareness about supporting a local industry.”

Pathak added: “The most important difference between our products and those of others is that ours contain fewer pollutants. Guwahati is our main market but we also supply to other northeastern states.”


Part of city hill robbed of its greenery

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Oct 29 – A part of a hill located in a crucial environmental zone of Kharighuli, adjacent to the Lal Singh Academy playground here, has been totally robbed of its greenery by the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) for setting up a water supply scheme funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under a Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM) scheme.

This patch of the hill, with around 29 bighas of land area, was a green patch of earth with some valuable tree species and surrounded virtually on three sides by the Brahmaputra, had significant ecological importance. Originally, this plot of land formed a part of the around 110 bighas of hilly land owned by a famous indigenous business family of the city. Parts of the above hilly plot was acquired by the Government for setting up Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd, around 22 bighas of the plot was acquired for setting up the Raj Bhawan, part of the remaining part of the plot under Dag No 464 was owned by a family. The part of the hill owned by the Inland Water Transport Corporation under some other Dags, was contiguous to this private plot. Both these plots have now been acquired for setting up the water supply scheme. This hilly area has now been subjected to severe denudation, mutilation and other damaging activities. All such activities have reduced this patch of the hill, located right on the bank of the mighty river, into an unsteady heap of red earth and thus destabilizing its soil structure in a shocking manner. It needs mention here that the Master Plan prepared by the GMDA for the city till 2025 has described hills, reserved forests, rivers and beels, among others, as the eco-sensitive or eco-friendly zone areas.


ASTEC grooming poor, bright pupils

PRAINJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, Nov 2 – With a view to support development of efficient learning strategies to strengthen personal motivation, sustain academic excellence and provide a platform for students from remote and far-flung areas of the State to imbibe a scientific spirit, the Science and Technology (S&T) Department has started a unique programme for grooming such children.

An S&T Department official told The Assam Tribune that the Assam Science Technology & Environment Council (ASTEC) has been entrusted to work as the implementing agency for the project for grooming of students and mentoring about 10 students in each block through the Aryabhatta Science Centres (ASC). In the first phase, two blocks – Paschim Koliabor and Pub Nalbari – have been taken up for pilot studies. “The project was taken up at Paschim Koliabor in July-August and in Pub Nalbari we have undertaken two programmes with two more to follow. The response has been encouraging so far and we expect to replicate the model in all the 219 blocks across the State,” a senior official said. Under the project, ten students studying in Class VIII and IX from schools in a block are selected based on their academic performance and aptitude for grooming and mentoring by the block-level ASC.

A team of experts consisting of a psychologist, engineer, doctor, professor, administrator and a scientist groom and monitor the students. The team of experts visit the ASC where the group interacts with the students during day-long programmes. Such interactions are supposed to take place four times a year and evaluation of students is done quarterly.

The local level monitoring and mentoring would be done by ASCs with support of local teachers and experts are to be contacted whenever necessary. Such students would also be taken for exposure tours to engineering colleges, IIT Guwahati, Gauhati University, Regional Science Centre, Guwahati Planetarium and other such institutions once a year. “The ASCs would support the students with necessary study material and also monitor the health as well as nutrient intake of students, besides encouraging them to get involved in games and sports. During the programmes, they engage in science-based activities, inc-
of the WW-II in 1942, the USAF conducted regular missions to Japan-occupied China and Burma from Chabua/Mohanbari, Rowriah (Jorhat) and Leelabari (North Lakhimpur) and many of its aircraft crashed in Assam and other parts of present-day Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Monday, November 03, 2014

Students organise eco-friendly initiative
GUWAHATI, Nov 3 – Students of the Assam Engineering College, in association with Care Assam (an NGO), recently organised a cleanliness drive to sensitise the youth towards responsible disposal of waste, staked a press release.

Sweeping of waste and open dumping or burning are not an eco-friendly option of waste disposal. Correct segregation of waste and putting the recyclable back into the cycle is an essential part of waste management. It is a major challenge in all the major cities in India as also in Guwahati to create new spaces for waste disposal. Awareness regarding segregation and minimising the waste at source could simplify waste disposal greatly and hence an urgent need.

The core objective was to identify self-motivated individuals, who would be imparted further training of the drive in waste management. The event was aimed to create a network of youth as stakeholders to the issue. Importance of forming eco clubs was stressed to enhance environmental values among youth and plantation of saplings were carried out to mark the occasion. A dustbin, designed by Pradip Baishya, president of Care Assam and an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering Department, Assam Engineering College, was also displayed. The dustbin, made with locally available materials at low cost, has been designed to simplify waste segregation at source. An apparatus for composting of food waste, designed by Sumana Das from Care Assam, was also demonstrated. The apparatus is made from terracotta, which could produce good quality manure at home without much effort. Overall, the programme was a successful with a large turnout of students and people from nearby locality. There were over 70 students, faculties and members of Care Assam whose presence was encouraging in support of this burning issue. Several locale-specific issues have also come to light from individual interviews and data collection, which need to be dealt by respective stakeholders in near future to see some positive and visible change in this direction, the release added.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Tuesday, November 04, 2014.

Society formed to encourage urban gardening
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Nov 11 – A team of enthusiasts has formed a society under the name and style of Urban Gardening Society, Assam (UGSA) in a bid to encourage and improve the concept of gardening and to foster green and environment friendly ambience in Guwahati. The objective of the Society is to promote the practice of urban gardening with special emphasis on organic farming, roof-top and balcony gardening, outdoor gardening etc, said a press release here.

Home gardening is a smart investment, compared to both buying produce at the market and growing it traditionally in organic way. Also it saves money on healthy food that is better-tasting and highly nutritious. For many people, a traditional garden may not be an option because lack of land, a lack of time, or difficulty in bending over to weed, they cannot grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables. Urban gardening can cost less than investing in all the tools and products needed to cultivate a traditional garden at home. Besides fresh food, working in the home garden provides benefits such as enjoyment from physical activity, physical work-out that enhances endurance, strength, mobility, flexibility, and mental relaxation.

The UGSA will offer four key services – identifying location-specific needs of gardening at urban areas; providing seeds, plants, bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs; extending expert advice on all aspects of gardening; and garden beautification and aesthetic design through its line-up of 50 trained and professional gardeners (mali) and artists. The association will also extend urban garden service to public and private institutions.

Other future plans of the UGSA include: identification of problems and constraints involved in urban gardening, drawing up plans for an integrated research-extension linkage approach for gardening-based agriculture development, forging systematic linkages between national, State and district level institutions, ensuring capacity building of manpower engaged in urban gardening development, forging linkage between scientists, extension functionaries, technicians and urban residents, etc. UGSA was formed on August 16, 2014 at Surya Auditorium in Guwahati. The Society has collaborated with horticultural and botanical institutions, plant societies and scientists to achieve its objective. It seeks to extend its service to interested public, students and professionals by arranging gardening workshops, field trips, exhibitions, competitions and more. Presently, the office of the UGSA is based in Christianbasti in the city. To avail the gardening services, interested individuals/households and organizations can contact Altaf Mazid, Dr Sarat Saikia, Abhijit Barthakur and Nayan Prasad.

Assam Tribune 12th November 2014.
Pitiable condition of a city area

MAMATA MISHRA

GUWAHATI, Dec 14—Their ancestors traversed thousands of miles on the Brahmaputra and the Padma rivers with the British, measuring the depth of water and clearing the way for the steamers to sail. Dwellers of Arnikath Basti in Umanglai area are still in thousands of petty jobs for easing the lives of Guwahati’s denizens, but reeling under difficult circumstance—reckless of health, hygiene and development.

It is believed that the British brought some locals of Magalsari and other parts of Central India for their expertise in gauging the river depth, and settled them here. Generally, they were joined by the people of other communities, mainly Assamese and Bengali, belonging to the lower income groups.

However, the extremely narrow lanes and congested set-up of Arnikath Basti, abandoned railway line settlement and Namoni Chatraikar are yet to let in the ray of development. The unsanitary condition of this area creates a parallel health concern for other citizens, as this is the place, where a majority of central city’s fish and vegetable vendors, auto-rickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers, charcutier and momo sellers and also the part-time domestic helpers reside.

Amid the mire of numerous three-four feet wide lanes tapering further at places, more than 2,000 houses have been built up. The waterlogged streets and ever-blocked drains are a common sight here. It is harrowing in monsoons, when this entire locality swells into a mud pit,” said Nirupa Baner (Mamoni), a fish seller.

“I remember an epidemic that took place nearly two decades back, when several doctors were called in for treating people,” she added.

The plot of land on which these three colonies are located belongs to several owners including the Gauhati High Court and the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB).

NF Railway, Chatraikar temple, Gauhati High Court and the Dornakala Police Station are near the Basti.

A casual Doley told The Assam Tribune that the precious little that have been done for development in the area were part of election politics. “Every political party knows that they are a decisive factor of the area in elections,” he added.

Locals also told this correspondent that another water supply pipe laying work, started three years back, was left half done, as those at the helm of affairs believed that the people voted for another political party in municipal elections.

According to ex-MLA Ajay Dutta, who is instrumental in carrying out some developmental works in the area, the colonies were in dire need of a proper rehabilitation scheme. “The area, located in the heart of the city, is a glaring example of neglect. Drinking water is the least we can do for improving the situation,” he added.

“There is one water supply tap in the area, functional for two hours in the morning. Rather than being a tool of convenience, it is a source of quarrel among the womenfolk. For other purposes, we depend on the wells and the Brahmaputra,” said 50-year-old Nagita Choudhury.

Unlike other areas of the city, which approach the authorities with memorandums and representations demanding civic amenities, the residents of the three colonies now hardly organize meetings or stage demonstrations for their rights and demands. Under such circumstances, a better living condition only depends on some pro-active measures by the administration.

Assam Tribune 15th December, 2014
**HEALTH**

**English Newspapers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arsenic content in State drinking water high</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ajit Patowary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUWAHATI, Sept 5 – In the backdrop of high rate of prevalence of cancer cases in the State, arsenic contamination of its drinking water is causing a serious concern among the health and drinking water experts here. Arsenic is a dreaded cancer-causing toxic element. It needs mention here that the groundwater in 19 of the 27 districts of the State are found to be contaminated by arsenic. Significantly, samples only of the Government groundwater sources in 76 of the total 219 development blocks of the State have been tested to determine their arsenic contamination. If the private groundwater sources in all the development blocks, along with the Government groundwater sources in the rest of the development blocks, are covered by a screening drive to determine the exact size of arsenic contamination of the State’s groundwater, the picture may become more grim, said noted drinking water expert AB Paul. Paul, a former chief engineer of the State's Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), who first detected fluoride and arsenic contamination of the State’s groundwater, respectively about 15 years and about eleven years back, is working for mitigation of the menace created by both fluoride and arsenic contamination of drinking water. Significantly, Kamrup (Metro) District has recorded the highest number of female hypopharyngeal cancer cases in the world. The district has also recorded the second highest number of cases of male tongue cancer in the country as well as in the world. It has recorded the third highest number of female esophageal cancer cases in the world and fourth highest number of cases of male esophageal cancer cases in the world, said Dr Arundhati Deka, Deputy Director of the State Health Department, quoting a survey report of the B Barooah Cancer Institute, submitted to the Health Department in June this year. Paul said that going by the statistics, the arsenic-related problem in Assam is more serious compared to West Bengal. In West Bengal, out of the 19 districts, 8 (eight) are affected by the problem, while in Assam, 19 of the 27 districts are affected by the problem. In the State, of the total 56, 180 groundwater samples tested in a three-tier system during the past few years, under a joint plan of action by the State PHED, UNICEF and the IIT Guwahati, 7.95 per cent of the samples were found to be containing over 50 parts per billion (ppb) arsenic and 29.75 per cent were found to be containing over 10 ppb arsenic. The 50 ppb is the Government of India norm, while 10 ppb is the World Health Organisation (WHO) norm for determining safe drinking water in the case of arsenic, Paul said. In the State, he said 1970 villages have their groundwater contaminated by the presence of over 50 ppb arsenic. The population at risk is 7, 22, 603. The number of schools in the State with their water sources affected by arsenic contamination is 794. But the matter of concern here is that there is no serious effort at any level whatsoever to undertake serious research works to mitigate this menace in the State, unlike in Bangladesh and West Bengal, Paul said. Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Saturday, September 06, 2014.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sivasagar Hospital’s bio-medical waste posing health hazards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT SIVASAGAR, September 7: Throwing all norms to the winds, the bio-medical waste in the Sivasagar Civil Hospital located at Joysagar is being disposed off in an unhygienic manner just a few metres away from the residential area of Sapun Nagar, posing serious health hazards to the residents. The hospital authorities are throwing used syringes, blood-stained bandage cloth and cotton waste, needles, and used hand gloves in the open area behind the hospital, which can prove to be a potential health hazard. The garbage dump has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies and attracts stray dogs and birds. They transport blood-stained bandages and cotton cloth from the open dump to the road and even to the residential complexes nearby, said the people of Sapun Nagar. “The Sivasagar Civil Hospital authorities continue to throw hazardous bio-medical waste, like used syringes, blood-stained bandages and cloth and plastic in the open space behind the hospital which sometimes even reach our compounds. Several complaints have been made to the hospital authorities to deal with the situation, but no action has been taken till today,” Rajib Borpujari, a resident said. Another resident Prafulla Saikia said, “It is not only the hospital waste but the foul smell emanating from the garbage that gives an unpleasant experience to residents and poses a threat for the outbreak of diseases.” The residents alleged that they had submitted several written complaints to the hospital authorities, but none have yielded any result. Neither the hospital authorities budged, nor were they convinced about the hazard posed by dumping of bio-medical waste in the open. The residents further said that they had recently submitted a complaint to the Sivasagar Deputy Commissioner regarding the matter and expressed hope that the Deputy Commissioner, who initiated the Mission Green Sivasagar Project, would take steps to solve this problem. Source: THE SENTINEL, GUWAHATI, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By our Staff Reporter GUWAHATI, Sept 9: At a special meeting in his official residence last night, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi reviewed the National Rural Drinking Water Scheme (NRDWS) and the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan so as to ensure potable water in every household, school and anganwadi centre in the state. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Subhash Das, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister MGVK Bhanu, Principal Secretary to Finance PK Barthakur, Public Health chief executive engineers Kamal Sut and Dipak Mazumdar. Gogoi told the officials that potable water had to be made available in every household, school and anganwadi centres in the state. “Implementation of schemes meant for drinking water should be implemented 100 per cent. It has to be seen that the pipes and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All is not well with State Health Department

BY OUR STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, September 27: All is not well with the Assam Health Department. Though former minister Himanta Biswa Sarma portrayed a positive picture of the Health Department as well as the State’s healthcare scenario, the ground reality is different. In a review meeting concerning the Department held here, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi found that the number of medical equipment purchased by the Health Department has been lying idle in many government hospitals due to non-availability of technicians who can handle the equipment. Gogoi instructed the officials concerned that there is no need for purchase of more such equipment till technicians capable of handling the same are recruited. Secondly, the Chief Minister found that the equipment which was purchased by the Health Department has been lying idle in many government hospitals due to non-availability of technicians who can handle the equipment. Gogoi instructed the officials concerned that there is no need for purchase of more such equipment till technicians capable of handling the same are recruited.

The rise in IMR reveals the real condition of Assam’s health sector despite claims of progress often made by the State government.


Fluoride contamination threat looms large

Ajit Patowary

GUWAHATI, Nov 5 – The scenario concerning contamination of drinking water in the city is gradually becoming a very grim one. This may be attributed to the failure of the authorities concerned to tap and supply surface water to the residents of the city, and also to the rampant practice of a large section of the Guwahatians to sink deep tube wells even below the bed rocks.

Today, in some city localities, fluoride contamination of the groundwater used for drinking and other domestic purposes, is found to be as high as 9.4 milligram per litre (mg/l), against the safe limit of 1.5 mg/l.

In 2000, high fluoride contamination of the groundwater, at the rate of 8 to 9 mg/l, was found in Bonda, Birkuchi, Matgharia and other areas. Several cases of dental and skeletal Fluorosis were detected in those areas then.

Later, some scientists made an attempt at ascertaining the quality of city groundwater and found excess fluoride contamination of lesser magnitude – that is, within 2 to 4 mg/l – in the groundwater of its other areas.

But recently, with the intervention of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in some pockets to mitigate the water scarcity problem, a grim picture concerning groundwater quality started coming up. The latest reports available with this newspaper reveal that in Hatigaon (Hatigaon Shivam Path) area, fluoride contamination of the groundwater is found to be as high as 9.4 mg/l.

In seven different locations of Hatigaon Masjid locality and Hatigaon, Lakhmeenagar Path, fluoride contamination of groundwater is found to be 5.2, 7.2, 7.92, 7.1, 7.9, 9.2 and 7.3 mg/l etc.

Water Quality experts here believe that with the application of down the hole by compressed air boring technology (DTH) for piercing the bed rock under alluvium layers to exploit rock-fractured-water Guwahatians are in fact

ASTEC-Assam Green File
fact extracting more fluoride. In one case, a well was yielding 1.2 mg/l fluoride in alluvium upper layer (that is, 300 feet), but in that source discharge now got reduced pathetically. When the new well was sunk through DTH method down to 450 feet there, it started yielding fluoride at the rate of 7.2 mg/l.

Since this is a recent phenomenon in these areas, the Fluorosis cases may not have been visible so far. But the fact remains that for the sub-clinical level cases, no study has been made as yet.

Considering the fact that Fluorosis becomes non-curable after attaining certain levels, there is a need to be very cautious in this respect. Delay may cost the society dearly, warned the experts.

Noted public health engineer A B Paul said Guwahati City is located on a valley fill with bedrocks beneath it. The same bedrock under the city is overground in other places like Narangi and the districts of Nagaon and Karbi Anglong, containing high fluoride.

Paul said that there is an urgent need to check the quality of water supplied to the Guwahatians by the tankers from the deep tube wells, and the quality of water extracted by all the DTH-bored deep tube wells in the city. This scrutiny should be continued in future also, he maintained.

LAND, AGRICULTURE, GRAZING LAND AND ANIMAL CARE

English Newspapers

' Declare tea as the national drink'

WHAT ASSAM WANTS
* Urges the Government of India to declare tea as the national drink.
* Shifting of the Tea Board head office to Assam.
* Urges the creation of the post of Director in the Directorate of Small Tea Growers.
* Urges Government of India for a mission mode programme to improve the Human Development indices.
* Demands a special package for the revival of the Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL).
* Taking over of the Tea Research Association at Tocklai, Jorhat.

GUWAHATI, October 13: The Assam government today demanded that the Tea Board head office be shifted from Kolkata to Assam.

Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi made the demand in his address to a stakeholders' meeting here in which Union Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took part.

Gogoi also demanded that tea be accorded the status of the national drink. “Declaring tea as the national drink of our country will in no way affect the growth of other beverages and they will always have their own respective market shares,” argued Gogoi, saying that declaration of mango as the national fruit of India has not restricted the growth of apple or other fruits.

He said, “The State government has already declared tea as the official State drink of Assam and planned to participate in international trade fairs outside the country to promote brand Assam Tea.”

The Chief Minister also asked the Centre for a special package for the revival of the Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL).

On the need for shifting the Tea Board of India’s headquarters to the State, Gogoi said: “One reason is that in sharp contrast to all other commodity boards i.e. coffee, rubber, spices and tobacco whose headquarters are located in the State where the product is mainly grown, Tea Board is the only exception as its headquarters are not located in Assam,” adding, “The Tea Board head office should ideally be situated in Assam which will give an impetus to its activities in the most important tea-growing region.”

The Tea Board functions through its two zonal offices, one of which is located at Jorhat. This zonal office caters to the entire northeastern region.

“It is imperative that it plays a dynamic role in supporting the tea industry and implementing welfare schemes for the tea garden workers along with new initiatives like setting up auction centres at Jorhat and Silchar, which will help the producers sell their produce quickly from the date of manufacture and bring down the cost of selling, thereby attracting more producers to take the auction route,” he said.

“Further, there is an acute dearth of packaging expertise in Assam, which is essential to create demand in the export markets. The Central government may emphasise on these areas as these steps are essential if there is to be an overall increase in exports of tea from India,” said the Chief Minister.

He said, “The post of Director in the Directorate of Small Tea Growers has not even been created till today which has hampered its function of supporting the small tea growers. This post may be created and filled urgently.”

On the contribution of Tea Research Association (TRA) at Tocklai, Jorhat, the Chief Minister said, “The Tea Research Association (TRA), which was formed at Tocklai, Jorhat as a cooperative research body, funded partly by the Government of India and partly by members of TRA, has an important role. As multidisciplinary research activities and technology transfer are critical to the growth of the tea industry, this institution may be taken over directly by the government and upgrade to national level institute.”

As Gogoi was unwell, his prepared address was read out by State Industry and Commerce Minister Pradyut Bordoloi.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

50,000 IAY houses planned in State

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Nov 6 – Fifty thousand new houses would be constructed in Assam during the current financial year, and out of them 5,000 would be constructed in Sivasagar district under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAS).

This was stated by Krishna Kamal Saikia, Assistant Planning Officer of DRDA, Sivasagar, during a recent public information campaign (PIC) being held under the aegis of the Core Committee, PIC, Assam, at Sivasagar, stated an official release.

He said 25 houses have been allotted in each of the 118 gaon panchayats of the district. The houses would be constructed with an amount of Rs 75,000 each and the amount would be released in three instalments, which would be deposited directly in the beneficiary’s bank accounts.

Various cultural programmes were held as a part of the PIC by the Song and Drama Division, Government of India, during the event.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Friday, November 07, 2014.
English Newspapers

How clean is my city?
And the award goes to...
With minimum electricity consumption, eco-friendly idols and clean surroundings, the Hatigarh Zoo Narengi Path Sharbajanin Durga Puja Samity has been adjudged as the most eco-friendly Puja celebration in the city.

By Our Staff Reporter

Guwahati, October 9: Hatigarh Zoo Narengi Path Sharbajanin Durga Puja Samity has been declared the winner of Prakriti Award 2014. With minimum electricity consumption, eco-friendly idols and clean surroundings, the committee has bagged this year’s award for the most eco-friendly celebration.

The award was instituted by Eco Tourism Society of North East in the year 2011. The main objective of instituting the award was to create awareness regarding eco-friendly Durga Puja celebration in Guwahati.

The committee was successful in organizing eco-friendly Durga Puja celebration by utilizing clay, bamboo and thatched roof. The theme of the committee was to portray the village life style of Assam. Day to day activities like fishery culture, weaving of ethnic dresses, traditional method of agriculture and cattle farming were showcased during the four-day Durga Puja celebration. The main concept was to portray the manner in which Durga Puja was celebrated 100 years ago. Hundred years ago there was neither cement nor tin roofs. “So, the Puja committee prepared the entire Puja Pandal with the help of locally available materials like bamboo, thatched roof, ‘kulla’, ‘chalony’ etc. Inside the Pandal premise, nine avatars of Goddess Durga were portrayed reflecting the ‘Power of Woman’. A complete pollution free atmosphere was maintained by the Puja committee with minimum sound pollution. The immersion of the idol was also done in a very eco-friendly way,” a press release from Eco Tourism Society of North East said.

Visitors appreciated the environment and were surprised to see the Puja committee’s effort towards organizing an eco-friendly celebration. With Dr. Bhupen Hazarika’s music in the air, the committee won hearts of the visitors.

Maligaon Kalibari Durgotsav Samity Puja, Bhoothnath Durga Puja Committee, Khalipara Durga Puja Samity and Santipur Suilgate Durga Puja Committee gave tough competition to Hatigarh Zoo Narengi Path Sharbajanin Durga Puja Samity. The number of eco-friendly idols has increased from last year’s 67 to 95 idols this year. “We would like to thank all the Puja Committees of Guwahati for participating in Prakriti Award – the best eco-friendly Durga Puja of Guwahati competition. The winning committee will be felicitated on October 12,” the society said.

Prakriti Award is one of the most successful initiatives of the NGO. The award not only motivates the Puja committees towards a greener celebration but also generates sufficient awareness among the visitors regarding clean and green environment. This year a total number of 79 Puja committees registered for the award, of which 13 Puja committees were nominated for the prestigious award, Gautam Dutta, president of the Eco tourism Society of North East said.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Friday, October 10, 2014.

Air quality, noise level monitoring by PCBA

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Oct 31 – The Pollution Control Board of Assam (PCBA) arranged for monitoring of the air quality and noise level of major townships of the State, i.e., Silchar, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Tezpur, Golaghat, Nagaon and Bongaigaon besides the Metropolitan area of Guwahati city as a regular monitoring exercise being done by the Board since the last eight years.

The air quality and noise level data for different locations identified by the Board before and during Diwali day shows an overall satisfactory trend except for respirable particulate matter (RPM).

Within Guwahati, air quality was monitored at four locations – Santipur, Gopinathnagar, Bamunimaidam and Khanapara on October 15 (before Diwali) and on the Diwali day on October 25, and the three parameters NO2, SO2 and PM10 were measured.

“The average value of SO2 was found to be 6.45 µgm-3 during pre-Diwali day which increased to 12.43 µgm-3 on Diwali day. It was, however, much lower than the prescribed national standard of 80 µgm-3. The corresponding value of SO2 & NO2 for the year 2013 had been 7.52 and 12.40 µgm-3 respectively,” a PCBA official said.

However, the average PM10 value for the Guwahati on Diwali Day was found to be approximately 200 µgm-3, which is double the prescribed national standard.

The noise level was measured at six locations in the city, and the average value of noise level was found out to be 73.4 dB(A) which is lower than 75 dB(A) prescribed for industrial zone but higher than 55 dB(A) prescribed for residential area.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Saturday, November 01, 2014.

RTI activist accuses CPCB of denying info

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Sept 3 – The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA), have allegedly denied information to an RTI activist on the biomedical waste-related matters of Assam and Guwahati city.

RTI activist Rohit Choudhury told this newspaper that he had sought information from the PCBA on the size of biomedical waste generated in the city, on the process adopted for disposing the medical waste being generated by the hospitals related to the state-run medical colleges, private hospitals, small and big hospitals and clinics in Guwahati city. Choudhury also wanted to know as to whether there are such wastes which cannot be destroyed in any way and what was the plan of the government to destroy such wastes and details thereof.

The PCBA supplied him the information through a reply on May 17 last to his queries made on March 28 last. He then asked the PCBA to provide him the certified copies of the application (Form-I) made under the Bio Medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 by the 482 biomedical waste generators of the State with the PCBA for grant of authorisation for the year 2014.

Moreover, since as per Rule 9 of the Bio Medical Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998, the government of every state or Union Territory should constitute an advisory committee, Choudhury had requested for the details of the committee constituted by the PCBA under Rule 9.
Choudhury filed his RTI application and first appeal respectively on May 8 last and July 23 last with the PCBA. The Board is yet to reply to his queries, Choudhury alleged.

On the other hand, the CPCB in reply to his RTI application filed on May 5 last, provided him only half of the information he had sought. Choudhury had moved the CPCB seeking the certified copies of the annual report (Form II) of the last three years, that is, 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, which were submitted by the PCBA under rule 10 of the Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 to the CPCB.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Thursday, September 04, 2014

GMC dump blamed for fish deaths in Deepor Beel
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Oct 30 – Leaching from the Guwahati Municipal Corporation’s (GMC’s) municipal solid waste (MSW) dumping site at West Boragaon has the potential to contaminate Deepor Beel water and thus lead to large-scale death of its fish. Deepor Beel is the lone Ramsar site wetland of the State. The above fact came to light from a communication made by the Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA) on November 6, 2013 to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Guwahati Wildlife Division, who sought the opinion of the Board to prepare its reply to an RTI petition made by Rohit Choudhury, an RTI-cum-environmental activist. The PCBA said in its reply to the DFO – “The contamination of water with poisonous substance after a heavy shower due to the leaching from MSW dumping is most likely cause for fish mortality. Such contamination may be occasional, not regular. The analytical reports of the water quality do not suggest a situation (quality of water) leading to death of fishes. The most obvious reason seems to leaching of some poisonous materials from MSW dump site.”

Choudhury in his petition had sought the copies of the office memorandums, and inter-departmental communications on the issue of pollution of the Deepor Beel and encroachment on it during the past five years. The DFO had also sent an investigation report on the large-scale death of fish in Deepor Beel in the end part of 2013 to the

Test confirms high arsenic
Source: The Telegraph 13th October 2014

Punjabari residents submit water samples for testing on Sunday: Telegraph picture

GMC dump blamed for fish deaths in Deepor Beel
to the PCBA. The investigation was carried out by the Fishery Extension Officer, Rani Development Block of Kamrup district. The Fishery Department inquiry report said – “The Dissolved Oxygen content was found to be critically low. Water was slightly acidic and free carbon-dioxide level was within the tolerance limit. There is evidence of heavy garbage trenching in the beel from outside. The decomposition of garbage reduces oxygen level in winter.”

However, the Fishery Extension Officer suggested more chemical analysis of the water and histo-physiological analysis of the dead viscera etc to ascertain the exact cause and causative agent responsible for the death of fish in the wetland.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Friday, October 31, 2014.

Air quality, noise level monitoring by PCBA

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Oct 31 – The Pollution Control Board, Assam (PCBA) arranged for monitoring of the air quality and noise level of major townships of the State, i.e., Silchar, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Tezpur, Golaghat, Nagaon and Bongaigaon besides the Metropolitan area of Guwahati city as a regular monitoring exercise being done by the Board since the last eight years.

The air quality and noise level data for different locations identified by the Board before and during Diwali day shows an overall satisfactory trend except for respirable particulate matter (RPM).

Within Guwahati, air quality was monitored at four locations – Santipur, Gopinathnagar, Bamunimaidam and Khanapara on October 15 (before Diwali) and on the Diwali day on October 25, and the three parameters NO2, SO2 and PM10 were measured. “The average value of SO2 was found to be 6.45 µgm-3 during pre-Diwali day which increased to 12.43 µgm-3 on Diwali day. It was, however, much lower than the prescribed national standard of 80 µgm-3. The corresponding value of SO2 & NO2 for the year 2013 had been 7.52 and 12.40 µgm-3 respectively,” a PCBA official said. However, the average PM10 value for the Guwahati on Diwali Day was found out to be approximately 200 µgm-3, which is double the prescribed national standard. The noise level was measured at six locations in the city, and the average value of noise level was found out to be 73.4 dB(A) which is lower than 75 dB(A) prescribed for industrial zone but higher than 55 dB(A) prescribed for residential area.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Saturday, November 01, 2014.

Assam Tribune 17th December 2014

Despite promises made during the rainy season, which resulted in severe water-logging problems in Guwahati, the administration is yet to take any steps to clean up the river Bharalu, the main drainage channel of the city.

– Photo: Samarendra Sarma
Assam to set up first power plant with gas ‘waste’
By Our Staff Reporter
Guwahati, September 29: Assam will set up a power plant which for the first time will use ‘waste’ gas as fuel.

The plant, proposed to be set up at Titabor in Jorhat district, will use the associated gas that is produced as a byproduct during production of crude oil.

The associated gas is generally regarded as an undesirable byproduct, which is either re-injected, flared, or vented. In oil fields in Upper Assam, these gases are burnt down at the sites after separation from the crude.

“We have been asking the Centre, ONGC and Oil India to allow us to use these associated gases. The ONGC has finally given the nod. The project will be executed jointly by two Assam government PSUs – Assam Power Generation Company Limited (APGCL) and Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL),” power minister Pradyut Bordoloi said. He said some small pockets of gas reserves have been traced in the Jorhat–Golaghat belt, in areas like Nambor, Kachomari, Urimghat etc.

AGCL will divert these associated gases from the production sites to a central place (Titabor) through pipelines. The power plant will be developed by APGCL.

It is estimated that that daily around 2 lakh standard cubic metre of gas will be available from these reserves for the proposed project.

Though the associated gases are “waste”, the State government will have to buy the gas from ONGC.

“Initially, the generation capacity of the plant will be 50 MW. Later, depending upon the availability of gas, we will increase the capacity,” Bordoloi said. Though the detailed project report (DPR) is yet to be made, it is estimated that the new power plant will be built at an estimated cost of around Rs 300 crore. Assam Power Generation Company Limited managing director Pradyut Bujarbarua said the DPR would be prepared in two months time. Thereafter, the tendering process will start. “The project should be developed in two and half years’ time,” he said. The Proposed plant would require around 70 km of pipeline to divert the associated gases from the reserves to the project site. The power department is also exploring the possibility of setting up a similar plant in Barak Valley to use the associated gas reserves available there. The APGCL is also contemplating on setting up a solar power plant at Amguri.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Tuesday, September 30, 2014.

ASTEC develops mobile science lab for students
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Oct 28 – For the first time in the country, the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) has designed and developed two mobile science laboratories (MSLs) with an eye on providing laboratory facilities to the secondary (class IX to class X) and higher secondary (class XI to XII) school students of the State who do not have laboratory facilities in their own schools.

The MSLs have been designed and developed to serve the students under a pilot project sponsored by the Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and the UNICEF. It is relevant here to mention that a huge number of secondary and higher secondary schools – 2,607 to be precise – do not have adequate technical infrastructure.

To cater to the needs of these schools, the Science and Technology (S&T) Division of the ASTEC designed and developed the MSLs with the provision of laboratory facilities for physics, chemistry and biology. Almost two years’ time was required to develop the MSLs at a cost of around Rs 25 lakh each. While the MSLs will mostly carry the experimental gadgets to the schools, they also have the in-built facilities, limited though, for carrying out experiments inside them. Moreover, they can also be used as class rooms or demonstration halls with each having an intake capacity of 10 to 15 students at a time. They have reading tables, tables to do the experiments on, besides each of them having the capacity to provide night shelter for five persons with the basic facilities like toilets, bathrooms, beds, etc. The MSLs have battery and generator-based round-the-clock power backup systems. Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had formally inaugurated the MSLs on the Independence Day. At the same function, he handed over one of them to the Assam Science Society and the other to the Jorhat Planetarium to help the school students respectively of Kamrup (Metro) and Jorhat districts to carry out their scientific experiments.

To inspire the students, the MSLs have the portraits of three Assamese scientists of international repute – Physical Research Laboratory scientist Prof Jiten Goswani, medical scientist Prof Ramesh Deka and plasma physicist Dr Dhiraj Bora, together with those of Albert Einstein, Darwin, Newton, JC Bose and CV Raman, among others.

Head (in-charge) of the ASTEC S&T Division, Dr Ranjit Kumar Barman told this newspaper that the MSLs were conceived, designed and developed indigenously, keeping in view the syllabus-based needs of schoolchildren. Former ASTEC Director HN Dutta evinced keen interest in the entire project.

The MSLs also have the provision for introduction of new experiments. However, the science facilitators aboard the vehicles should be well trained and well paid to motivate them intensely. The S&T Division of the ASTEC is in a position to help other States to design and develop such projects, said Dr Barman.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, October 29, 2014

31
ASTEC-Assam Green File
Call for solution to city artificial flood
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 3 – Nabin Nagar Welfare Society, the apex body of around 25 welfare/namghar samities today demanded of the government for both short and long-term measures to resolve the perennial problem of artificial flooding in the capital city, particularly in areas like Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Tarun Nagar, Lachit Nagar, Pub Sarania etc.

The Society pointed out that the schemes undertaken to address the issue have not provided respite to the citizens; rather the problem has been compounded of late with even a slight downpour creating untold sufferings for the residents.

“The rainwater discharge and retaining capacity of the river Bharalu should be augmented on a war-footing by deepening and widening wherever possible in its course from the zero point to the sluice gate at Bharalukhukh and beyond till the point meets the Brahmaputra,” suggested the Society, calling for diversion of the Meghalaya water as it creates havoc.

The Society said that the rainwater from Meghalaya and other places flowing through the Bahini river must be diverted to Bondajan via the Silsako Beel and finally to the Brahmaputra. “The Basistha river, having a wide catchment area in Meghalaya moves through the southern side of the city and leads towards the Deepor Beel. The proposed drain along the NH-37 from Koinadhar Hill area should be connected to Basistha near ISBT and then from Pamohi should be connected to Pachadhara Nadi, Umkha Nadi, Kalmoni Nadi and Bathanala and finally to river Kulsi,” recommended the Society.

The Society also suggested diversion of concentrated water from Karnachal Hills, Krishnanagar, Bamanimaidam and Jyotinagar areas to address the waterlogging issue.

On the other hand, the Society also called for proper surveys along all the foothills surrounding Guwahati and putting up of numerous big silt tanks/silt traps in and around the city for effective utilisation of the drainage system.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Thursday, September 04, 2014

Best management practices can tackle flood: CM
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 3 – Best management practices and latest technology have to be adopted to make Guwahati a flood-free city. The Government will provide the necessary funds to make it happen, said Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi at the closing function of the two-day workshop on urban drainage management in Guwahati, at the Assam Administrative Staff College here today.

Gogoi said the flooding in Guwahati has been compounded by encroachment on wetlands and hills and consequent siltation, causing hardship and misery to the people during the rainy season. “The water bodies serve as natural outflow of water from the city. Encroachment on the hills and wetlands aggravated by unplanned construction has impeded the natural flow of water, causing flash flood in the city. People should have been a lake city. But we reversed the whole system. Of late, people have realised the importance of the wetlands and the recent drive by the administration to clear the clogged drains and the water channels had met with little resistance,” he said.

The Chief Minister called for a comprehensive action plan, both short and long-term, to mitigate the problem of flooding in Guwahati. “Precautionary measures have to be done away with. An action plan has to be taken up on a mission mode to make Guwahati a flood-free city. With the expertise drawn in from IIT, Mumbai and IIT, Guwahati, and the commitment of the Government, we can make the city flood-free by next year,” he said.

Gogoi underscored the importance of adopting the best management practices for tackling solid waste. “Piles of solid waste, both biodegradable and non-biodegradable, have to be properly segregated and recycled for further use,” he said.

The Chief Minister also stressed water harvesting that could mitigate the problem of drinking water scarcity and flooding in the city.

Minister for Guwahati Development Department Ajanta Neog, said that a permanent solution to flooding in the city was possible through adoption of the best management practices. “Guwahati has grown by leaps and bounds over the years and the rapid development has also brought in its stride some problems, flooding being one of them. We have to put in place an effective drainage management system to mitigate the flash floods in the city,” she added.

Prof Kapil Gupta from IIT, Mumbai, who was the resource person, made a detailed presentation on the action plan, short, medium and long terms, for mitigating the problem of flooding in Guwahati during monsoons. Gupta called for compilation of rainfall data of the city from the Indian Meteorology Department for the last five years. He advocated the use of state-of-the-art bucket type rain gauges to tackle the problem of flooding in the city. “The bucket type rain gauges have been adopted after the Mumbai deluge in 2005. Guwahati requires at least 50 bucket type rain gauges at a radius of two metres to tackle the problem,” he added.

Gupta called for GIS bound mapping for long-term planning and gauging of the intensity of water flow through the existing drainage system. He emphasised building inlets on roads for connecting them to drainage channels at intervals of 30 metres to make roads flood-free. The IIT expert from Mumbai advocated use of wire meshes and barricades of 6 to 8 feet height along the Bharalu and other water channels to tackle solid waste and sediments. Gupta said with the application of available technology, existing lakes can be used as flood control ponds. He called for measurement of solid waste at key points in the drains to facilitate a planning strategy.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Jitesh Khosla appreciated the efforts of the GMDA to rope in different experts to deal with the problem of flooding in Guwahati. “We have to embark on a pragmatic and realistic approach to deal with emergency situations like flash flood. We need an implementing strategy that yields good results to translate our objective of making Guwahati flood-free by next year,” he said.

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister MGVK Bhanu explained the objective of the workshop.
Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Thursday, September 04, 2014
Double trouble for Majuli

WASIM RAHMAN
Jorhat, Sept 5: An elephant-time problem has emerged out of the latest wave of floods that has hit the river island of Majuli in Assam. For hundreds of flood-hit villagers like Lalit Saikia and Biren Borah of Jugaiong, a small hamlet under Bongaon panchayat located along the Brahmaputra on the eastern tip of Majuli, fighting the annual fury of nature has become a way of life. But for the past week, they have been facing animal fury too.

A herd of elephants, which has been moving on the island for over two months, is now targeting villages for food, as it has not been able to move to sapori (sandbars) because of the large number of elephant calves who find it difficult to swim through the swollen river.

Saikia told this correspondent over phone today that his family and other villagers had to move to a makeshift shelter for six days recently after floods submerged their village. They had not yet come to terms with the havoc the floods had caused by disrupting life and destroying crops, when the jumbo challenge cropped up.

When they returned to their houses last Saturday, they found that a herd of jumbos, which had been moving in the island and adjoining sapori, has started visiting their villages regularly, lured by the banana trees and bamboo shoots that almost every household has on its compound.

“We fear for our lives as the elephants come in large numbers, especially after sunset, and enter the compounds of our homes to feed on banana and bamboo shoots which they love,” Saikia said.

Elizabeth, a resident of adjoining Meragaon village, said the herd, scrounging for food, also destroyed cowsheds and granaries constructed on raised platforms like chong phoras.

Majuli forest beat officer Arul Das said forest personnel were on their toes round the clock to keep the jumbos away from villages located adjacent to the river. He said the forest range office in Jorhat had sent 12 guards and an SUV to assist in the anti-depredation task.

The Majuli beat has eight persons who move on motorcycles and a department-owned boat and at times hire country boats.

Das said with the water level in the Brahmaputra still high, the herd was perhaps not willing to move along the sapori. “We have used crackers and even fired in the air several times in the past few days to chase the herd away from the villages but they keep moving from one village to another,” Das said.

He said generally the forest staff push the herd towards the sapori, which have wild vegetation, to keep them away from human settlements and the ploy mostly works.

Over the past 15 years, the elephant herd has been moving along the Brahmaputra between Kaziranga National Park in the west and the Diharu-Saikhowa National Park to the east.

The herd, whose numbers have gradually increased to about 100, has been responsible for the death of five persons in Majuli in the past four years.

The Telegraph 11th September 2014

ASTEC- Assam Green File
Efforts to tame artificial floods:
Out-and-out artificial

The data obtained though an RTI application by an RTI activist, Dulal Bora, have made some startling revelations that will baffle every right-thinking citizen of the cursed city. In response to the ART application, the GMC has let Bora know that in the fiscal 2010-11 the GMC had received a whopping Rs 15 crore for fencing and beautification of the Bharalu. Of the amount, the civic body could utilize only Rs 16,00,518. The remaining Rs 14,83,19,482 has been lying idle over the years. This report has been given by GMC’s chief accounts & audit officer on August 26 this year. Surprisingly, the amount has not been audited as yet. Some pertinent questions are: why and for whose interests? Who will make such officials accountable when those at the helm of affairs are out to give the pack of officials too much leeway at the cost of civilized living conditions of lakhs of people?

By our Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 13: Artificial floods in Guwahati are out and out artificial – right from all efforts made to tame the Bharalu to beautifying it. A section of top-level officials in the GMC, GMDA and other departments that are related to ensure civic amenities, in one hand, is very good at masking the availability of funds to tame the Bharalu by pretending to have been under cash crunch. The authority at the helm of affairs, on the other, continues to give the same pack of officers the escape route by not auditing the funds spent by the GMC and the GMDA over the years. This is not a mere allegation that lacks any material evidence to corroborate it. This allegation has corroborating evidences that have emanated right from the GMC. It does not slot into place as to why those at the helm of affairs of the city allowed problems like water-logging lingering over the years when the GMC had no dearth of funds. Many would like to say, ‘that’ll be like killing the goose that lays the golden egg’. If the Bharalu is the sorrow of lakhs of Guwahatians, it may also a mint for a section of officials and their bosses, who just get things done by staying behind the screen.

The data obtained though an RTI application by an RTI activist, Dulal Bora, have made some startling revelations that will baffle every right-thinking citizen of the cursed city. In response to the ART application, the GMC has let Bora know that in the fiscal 2010-11 the GMC had received a whopping Rs 15 crore for fencing and beautification of the Bharalu. Of the amount, the civic body could utilize only Rs 16,00,518. The remaining Rs 14,83,19,482 has been lying idle over the years. This report has been given by GMC’s chief accounts & audit officer on August 26 this year.

Surprisingly, the amount has not been audited as yet. Some pertinent questions are: why and for whose interests? Who will make such officials accountable when those at the helm of affairs are out to give the pack of officials too much leeway at the cost of civilized living conditions of lakhs of people? A section may think that the reason behind allowing the whopping Rs 14,83,19,482 lying idle in the GMC coffers is still obscure. The present deputy commissioner of Kamrup (metro), M Angamuthu, seems to have been very keen to improve city life. He is making visits to various city areas himself and asking the departments concerned to do what should have been done much earlier. If he does not plug the escape routes that allow such officials to play ducks and drakes with funds, who will? Will he take trouble to ensure a thorough audit of the funds spent by the GMC?


'Up Brahmaputra dams issue with Xi'
BY OUR STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, September 18: Expressing serious concern over the construction of dams on the Brahmaputra by China, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi on Thursday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take up the issue with the visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping. In a letter to the Prime Minister, Gogoi said that construction of dams by China on the Brahmaputra would likely to adversely affect downstream flows. ‘It would be most appropriate to convey our concerns to the visiting Chinese President,’ said Gogoi, adding that his government had been all along raising the issue at the highest level. The Chief Minister also hoped that the Chinese President’s visit would help deepen trade ties and boost Chinese investment in India, particularly in Assam and other northeastern States.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Friday, September 19, 2014.

Plan to develop riverfront
GUWAHATI, Sept 18: The Kamrup (metro) district administration has begun to clean up the riverfront from Bharalu to Sukreswar Ghat to develop the stretch as an attractive spot for a walk and a panoramic view of the river.

“The is the most beautiful stretch of the city. Unfortunately we have failed to maintain it. Now we are taking steps to clean it up. Cleaning has started in the first phase,” Kamrup (metro) deputy commissioner M. Angamuthu told reporters this afternoon.

Angamuthu visited the riverfront with senior officials of the district and asked them to take necessary steps like bulldozing unauthorised walls and evicting unauthorised settlers.

Agencies like the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority and the inland water transport department have been engaged to complete the project.

“Our aim is to give city residents an uninterrupted and beautiful view of the Brahmaputra, so that one can appreciate this beauty sipping a cup of tea,” said Angamuthu.

“A year ago, GMDA engaged National Institute of Hydrology to study feasibility of various constructions on the bank which is expected to submit its report within a year,” Angamuthu said.

We are cleaning up this stretch with whatever resources we have. I request the public to participate in this. If any organisation or business establishment is willing to maintain or develop the area, it is most welcome,” he added.

The Telegraph 19th September 2014.
**Goalpara, Hatsingimari hit by Garo Hills water**

**Staff Reporter**

Flood affected Mankachar on Monday.

GUWAHATI, Sept 22 – Gushing waters flowing down from the Garo Hills in Meghalaya created havoc in Goalpara district and Hatsingimari subdivision of Dhubri district today, affecting a large number of people. However, the extent of damage is yet to be ascertained.

Official sources told The Assam Tribune that the National Highway 37 was submerged at several places, cutting off Goalpara town from Guwahati. At some places, the water level on the highway was more than three feet high and the damage to the highway would be ascertained only after the water level comes down. Sources said that following heavy rains in Garo Hills, the strong current of water washed away a number of houses, leaving very little time for the people to move to safer places. So far, reports of deaths of two persons in Krishnai area in Goalpara district could be ascertained.

Sources revealed that the current of water was so strong that even the vehicles kept in the compound of the Krishnai Police Station were washed away and several of those, including some seized vehicles, are yet to be located. In fact, several police stations in the district including Krishnai, Duddhnoi, Dhopdphora as well as a number of outposts are totally submerged, making it difficult for the police to gather information about the extent of the damage and losses.

Interestingly, a Central Reserve Police Force company had to be rescued as its headquarter premises were submerged.

The people of the affected areas have taken shelter on the higher portions of the National Highway.

Meanwhile, similar was the situation in Kalapani and Thakurbari areas of Hatsingimari subdivision in Dhubri district as the strong current of water flowing down from the Garo Hills gave very little time to the administration and the people to prepare for the calamity. Personnel of the NDRF, BSF and police have been pressed into service for rescue works. But shortage of boats is turning out to be a major problem. However, on the positive side, the water level is now receding.

---

**Rains leave residents in a flood of woes**

**Staff Reporter**

National Disaster Response Force personnel shifting people of Anil Nagar locality of Guwahati to safer places on Monday. - UB GUWAHATI, Sept 22 – A few days ago, people of Guwahati watched the catastrophe wrought by the unprecedented rainfall in the Kashmir Valley, which turned Srinagar and other urban centres of the State into "ghost towns" and uprooted lakhs from their homes.

Today, residents of the city experienced a situation, which, though comparably not as terrible as the one in Kashmir Valley, led to total disruption of normal life for the 10 lakh-plus citizens of the largest urban centre of the Northeast.

People across the city were heard using harsh words against the Kamrup Metro district authority, Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) and senior civic officials, including the DC Dr M Angamathu and GMC Commissioner S Viswanathan.

Residents complained that the authorities have repeatedly, over the past three months, made tall claims about steps to tackle artificial flooding and eviction drive, while in the ground nothing has changed at all.

“All the so-called action by the high-flying DC and his staff are nothing but drama and intended to befoul the public. We are where we were three months back. Nothing has changed,” said a resident of Nabin Nagar, one of the worst affected localities.

He said that water entered inside houses in his locality since morning and there is no electricity since then.

“Normal life is at standstill. We are somehow managing to shelter on our beds with our family, including kids,” he said.

A resident of Down Town Hospital locality said the kind of waterlogging witnessed today was even greater than what the area had seen during the deluge of June this year. “There was knee-deep water in the Zakir Hussain Path from the Down town bridge to Sarumataria. This had never happened before. The DC and other civic officials should come out of their air-conditioned bungalows and stay with us for a few days in our hovels and then he will know what the difference between real action to prevent flood and mere tomfoolery is,” he said.

Among the worst affected were women, children and the elderly. Schoolchildren especially had a harrowing time.

Similar was the experience of residents at almost all localities, including VIP Road, Panjabari, Six Mile, Dispur, Last Gate, Zoo Road, Nabin Nagar, Tarun Nagar, Anil Nagar, Chandmari, Geetanagar, among others. A huge number of vehicles were left stranded on the roads after water entered their engines.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

---

**Monsoon blues paralyse Guwahati**

**By our Staff Reporter**

GUWAHATI, Sept 22: Since monsoon blues and Guwahati are synonymous, Guwahatians are the ones there out to bear the brunt. Incessant rains that have been lashing the city since Friday last claimed three lives so far. With the weather god seems to be unrelenting, the situation may go for the worse. Guwahatians should better take it as a piece of warning as such a view is being emanated from the Meteorological Department as well as the Kamrup (Metro) district administration.

Heavy rainfall in neighbouring Meghalaya has also sent the warning bell ringing, prompting the Kamrup (Metro) district administration to declare holiday in schools, both private and government ones, on Tuesday. The deputy commissioner has also asked the authority concerned to reschedule the examinations that were supposed to be held on Tuesday.

According to reports from the Meteorological Department, since Friday the city has witnessed 101.7 mm rainfall at Chandmari and 63 mm at Bashistha. A piece of forecast from the Meteorological Department that should be taken as a warning is that the city may witness heavy rainfall in the next two days. In the words of the Meteorological Department, an area of 50 km radium surrounding its observatory at Azara will witness 63
Landslides have been reported at Lechubagan in the Hengrabari area, near the VIP Road, Khargul, Uzan Bazar and Pandu. The landslides at Lechubagan claimed the life of Basanti Bayan (70) when the wall of her house collapsed due to landslide. While one Ashish Bhattacharjee (70) of Lokhra died when he was trying to switch off the inverter when his house was inundated by flood water, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from a drain in the area.

The RG Baruah Road in the city was totally inundated by flood water affecting the plying of city buses. The NH-37 was inundated from Beltola to Lokhra, the road from Six Mile to Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshestra, Chandmari to Narengi, Chandmari to Gauhati Club, Lokhra to Panbazar, Nepali Mandir to Sarabhati, Faisal Ambari etc., have been under water. In order to provide shelter to the affected people, two shelter camps have been set up in the city, one at the Sangamia Dharamshala near Railway Gate No. 3 at Fancy Bazar and the other at Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium at Nehru Stadium. This apart, the district administration has asked people living in landslide-prone areas to move to safer places as heavy downpour is likely in the next two days. DC M Angamuthu himself visited the Anil Nagar area today. All senior officials have been doing rounds in the district asking the residents in landslide-prone areas through loud speakers to move to safer areas. The situation has taken a turn for the worse as Meghalaya witnessed heavy rainfall in the past two days. Water from the neighbouring state has inundated a number of areas in Kamrup. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi instructed the officials to take all measures. His principal secretary MVGK Bhanu visited all affected areas in the city. Control rooms are being set up at the Guwahati Metropolitan District Administration (GMDA), the Chief Minister’s Secretariat and the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) to monitor and coordinate the rescue and relief operation round the clock. Meanwhile, The Sadou Guwahati Hawkers’ Santha has decided not to distribute newspapers on September 23 due to incessant rains and floods in the city. Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Tuesday, September 23rd 2014.

**Flood claims 8 lives in Goalpara**

Houses and trucks submerged under flood-water at Bolbola in Goalpara on Tuesday. - UB Photos GUWAHATI, Sept 23 – The overall flood situation in Goalpara district remains grim and bodies of eight persons, including that of a two-year-old girl, who lost their lives in the devastation, have been recovered so far. Road communication through the National Highway remains snapped as the Highway was overtopped in several places even as a bridge on the Highway was damaged. Official sources told The Assam Tribune that though the water level is receding, the situation remains grim. Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Police and Army have been pressed into service to rescue the marooned people. Sources said that so far bodies of eight persons have been recovered. Seven of them have been identified as two-year-old Aparajita Hajowary, Mawlo Rabha, Shadida Bibi, Manjula Rabha, Momina Beba, Sidhipad Momin and Samar Kalita. One of those killed is yet to be identified. Sources said that about 500 students of Dudhnoi Navodaya Vidyalaya had a narrow escape as they were rescued even as the building was being inundated by flood waters. Though an Indian Air Force helicopter was pressed into service this morning for rescuing marooned people, it was not of much use as there was no place for it to land, while it was not easy for the people to get on tin roof tops to be rescued by the chopper. However, the chopper sorts helped the administration in getting a proper picture of the extent of the damages. It may take some time to restore the road communication as the National Highway 37 was inundated at several places, while thousands of people are taking shelter on the same along with their cattle. Moreover, the approach to a bridge near Krishnai was washed away and it may take some time to repair the bridge. Sources said that the

* The Sadou Guwahati Hawkers’ Santha has decided not to distribute newspapers on September 23 due to incessant rains and floods in the city.

RESPONSES TO RAINGOD

* In order to provide shelter to the affected people, two shelter camps have been set up in the city, one at the Sangamia Dharamshala near Railway Gate No. 3 at Fancy Bazar and the other at Tarun Ram Phukan Indoor Stadium at Nehru Stadium.

* Control rooms are being set up at the Guwahati Metropolitan District Administration (GMDA), the Chief Minister’s Secretariat and the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) to monitor and coordinate the rescue and relief operation round the clock. For assistance pertaining to floods, the affected people may call 0361—2733052; 0361—2237042 and 8811007000.

* The district administration has asked people living in landslide-prone areas to move to safer places as heavy downpour is likely in the next two days.

* The Kamrup (Metro) district administration declared holiday in schools, both private and government ones, on Tuesday. The deputy commissioner has also asked the authority concerned to reschedule the examinations that were supposed to be held on Tuesday.

* Landslides have been reported at Lechubagan in the Hengrabari area, near the VIP Road, Khargul, Uzan Bazar and Pandu. The landslides at Lechubagan claimed the life of Basanti Bayan (70) when the wall of her house collapsed due to landslide. While one Ashish Bhattacharjee (70) of Lokhra died when he was trying to switch off the inverter when his house was inundated by flood water, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from a drain in the area.

* An area of 50 km radium surrounding Meteorological observatory at Azara will witness 63 mm rainfall in the next two days.
entire Highway is now packed with marooned people as well as vehicles coming from Guwahati and from the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. That is why traffic management has become a major problem, sources said. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has directed Agriculture Minister Nilamani Sen Deka to visit Goalpara for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

Our Goalpara Correspondent adds: Death toll from the flash floods in the district has gone up to 8 with 6 more deaths reported today as more than 1.4 lakh people have been affected and left stranded in an unprecedented flash flood caused by heavy rains and from gushing waters from the neighbouring Garo Hills in Meghalaya inundating over 100 villages and damaging standing crops as well, particularly in the stretch between Dudhnoi and Bolbola and also some of the adjoining areas in the district. This Correspondent, who visited the flood-affected areas in Bolbola, saw many houses still submerged under water even though the water level at different places have shown signs of receding and according to witnesses, people are still stranded in some of the badly affected villages, like Charapara, Garomari, Tekelpara, Khasikhagra, Taranti, Kotasi Bari, Geradubi, Kalpani, Bodhapur, Paglijhara, Tiapara, etc., in and around the Bobola area where rescue operations are still going on. Meanwhile, the rescue, relief and rehabilitation on a large scale is continuing for the second day today as most of the affected people have been shifted to the 54 relief camps set up by the district administration and the administration is also reaching out to those who have been stuck in different flood-affected places and providing them with relief materials. Along with essential food items, the PHE have started to provide packet water from mobile treatment plant van, water purifying tablets, and bleaching powders to the affected people. Talking to this Correspondent, Deputy Commissioner Preetom Saikia said that he is coordinating all the rescue-and-relief activities and more than 1,000 stranded people were rescued today by the 2 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) brought from Nalbari and Guwahati and 4 State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) from Goalpara, Nalbari, Dhubri and Barpeta who were already pressed into service earlier. He also said that the situation is under control and likely to improve provided there is no further rainfall.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Water Resources Minister Uma Bharati to visit Assam

From a Correspondent

New Delhi, September 23: Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharati on Tuesday assured a delegation of ministers that she will visit Assam very soon. Sources said Bharati during her trip to the State will also visit the Majuli Island to take of the situation in the wake of severe erosion. Bharati assured the delegation which included Ministers Sarbananda Sonowal, Kiren Rijiju and VK Singh that her ministry will take all appropriate measures to protect the State from the annual flood and erosion menace. During their meeting, Sonowal had apprised Bharati about the devastating flood situation in Assam. He also demanded that for an overall betterment, Brahmaputra Board Act should be restructured. “There should be a committee to look into the restructuring of the Board,” Sonowal said.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Gogoi seeks Rs 1,000 cr for flood-hit State

Blame game over Central flood assistance begins

BY OUR STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, September 25: At a time when Assam is reeling under devastating floods in which at least 37 people lost their lives so far, a blame game between New Delhi and Dispur over the Central financial assistance for rehabilitation of flood victims has started. On the one hand, Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has sought a special package of Rs 1,000 crore from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for rehabilitation of flood victims in the State, citing that the Central government has done discrimination by not providing a financial assistance to Assam to tide over the crisis and on the other hand, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju stated that the Central government has already cont-ributed to the disaster management fund of the Assam government to deal with any such eventuality.

Talking to reporters here today, Gogoi said, “Assam is facing a worst situation. Rescue of marooned people is still on in the interior flood-affected areas. More dead bodies are likely to be recovered as the flood situation continues to be grim in the State,” adding, “It is really unfortunate that the Central government has not taken Assam floods seriously and announced any financial package for the rehabilitation of flood victims, but it provided a financial package to Jammu and Kashmir that has experienced floods recently.”

He further said, “I am not against the financial package given to Jammu and Kashmir by the Central government. I want to say that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed such a natural calamity probably for the first time, but Assam has been facing flood problem for long. The Central government should have played a role in fighting floods in our State.”

Rejecting Tarun Gogoi’s opinion, Kiren Rijiju, while talking to media persons, said, “Jammu and Kashmir has faced a devastating flood for the first time and the State government there totally failed to deal with the crisis. So, the Central government stepped in. In case of Assam floods, the Central government has not done any discrimination against the State.”

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, Friday, September 26, 2014.

‘Centre considering national problem status to Assam floods’

By Our Staff Reporter

Guwahati, September 26: Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said that the Central government was considering the issue of according national problem status to Assam floods. “The Central government is serious about the issue and discussing the possibility of according national problem status,” Sonowal, who visited the flood affected areas of Goalpara today, said. He also dismissed allegations that the Centre was not taking the flood as seriously as it has taken the calamity in Jammu and Kashmir and said, “One should not compare the both. The topography in Kashmir is very different and son one
Floods claim 67 lives in State
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 30 – Assam has suffered huge losses in terms of lives, property, cropped land, dwelling units and infrastructure in three waves of flood this season. The last deluge wreaked havoc in Kamrup and Goalpara claiming several lives and leaving behind a trail of destruction, said an official press release.

Altogether 67 persons lost their lives in this year’s flood, while 42, 03,609 people of 4446 villages were affected by the floodwaters rendering tens of thousands of people homeless, fully damaging 54,088 houses and partially damaging 82,095 houses. In total, 800 relief camps were opened, which housed 7, 57,467 flood affected people.

In all, 884 roads, 86 RCC bridges, 113 semi-permanent timber (SPT) bridges and 125 culverts are damaged. Under the impacts of the floodwaters, a number of breaches have also taken place at different parts of the State.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Wednesday, October 01, 2014.

Rs 2,010 cr needed for flood repair: Gogoi
Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Oct 1 – Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today requested Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to expedite the process of setting up of the Brahmaputra River Valley Authority (BRVA) as a long-term mitigation measure on both the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers basins. He also sought an assistance of Rs 2,010 crore for repairing the damaged infrastructure.

While apprising the Union Home Minister about the damages caused by this year’s flood, particularly the latest deluge in Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro) and Goalpara districts, Gogoi pointed out that erosion posed a greater threat than flood in the State. “Flood causes a temporary setback, but erosion causes permanent damage. So far 4 lakh hectares of land have been gobbled up by the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in the past 50 years, with the rate of erosion being 8,000 hectare per year,” he said, adding that the State Government has given thrust on reclamation of land to minimise the pressure on the existing land in the wake of rising population. In the same breath, Gogoi requested Singh to consider the State Government’s long-standing demand for treating erosion as a natural calamity.

The Chief Minister, while lauding the efforts of SDRF and NDRF in rescuing marooned people in the recent flood, made a plea to the Union Minister for three additional battalions of NDRF for the Northeast, two battalions exclusively for Assam. “There is a need for permanent stationing of NDRF personnel in the flood-prone areas so that they can reach out to the people at the time of exigency,” he said.

Gogoi also made a plea to Singh for a chapter of the National Institute of Disaster Management in the State. “If the setting up of the National Institute of Disaster Management is not possible, then a one-time financial assistance of Rs 50 crore may be given for a State Institute of Disaster Management,” he added.

The State Government in its memorandum sought Rs 2,010 crore for damaged infrastructure which include roads and bridges, dwelling houses, health centres and school buildings; Rs 660 crore for rescue and relief operations and Rs 6,700 crore as special assistance that include Rs 3,500 crore for raising and strengthening of embankments and Rs 1,000 crore for mitigating flood problem in the Guwahati city.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Thursday, October 02, 2014.

State flood crisis remains grim
GUWAHATI, Oct 4 – The situation in flood-hit Assam remains grim with nearly four lakh people still affected even though water levels were receding at most places in the State, reports PTI. According to the daily flood report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 3.74 lakh people across three districts are still grappling with the crisis. ASDMA said that 204
villages in Goalpara, Kamrup Rural and Dhemaji districts were hit by the floods with 3.66 lakh people affected in Goalpara alone.

Authorities are operating 18 relief camps and shelter homes where nearly 6,000 people have taken refuge.

Nearly 50,000 hectares of crop area is still under water in Assam with over 37,000 hectares having been affected in Goalpara, hitting nearly 83,000 farming families.

The Assam floods have claimed 44 lives with 20 of the casualties coming in Goalpara, followed by 16 in Kamrup Rural, six in Kamrup Metro and one each in Morigaon and Dhubri districts.

In Goalpara, 81,582 houses have been either fully or partially damaged in the floods.

ASDMA said there have been reports of severe damage to government infrastructure like schools, health centres and offices in many districts while a large number of roads and bridges, too, have been hit by the floods.

Source: The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Sunday, October 05, 2014.
PART-II

ASSAMESE NEWSPAPER
Amar Asom .3rd September 2014.

Amar Asom 7th September 2014.

40

ASTEC- Assam Green File
Asomiya Pratidin 7th September 2014.

Continue reading on page 8

Asomiya Pratidin 15th September 2014.
Amar Asom 22nd September 2014.
আবিষ্কার হলে এবিধ নতুন চব্বিশ
চাঁদপুরীর গৃহীত নামটা কব্যে হয়েছিল মিসিসুপা দাহাই (Musiccapu Sathihi)। চাঁদপুরীর ইংরেজিতে দাহাই চাঁদলাই অপরের ভাষা নিয়ে ভূমিত মেঘে ছিল। চাঁদলাই অনেক চাঁদলাইর প্রস্তুতি চৌধুরী নেতৃত্বে নেতৃত্ব করেছে। চাঁদলাই ১৯৯৭ চন্দ্র প্রণালী প্রিংটিংশিল্পবাহুর কাছে বোনে দীর্ঘদিন অধিকার করেছিল। অস্থায়ী ভ্রমণ প্রস্তুতির প্রথম চৌধুরী নেতৃত্বের প্রথম চৌধুরী চাঁদলাই ২০১২ চন্দ্র বারু-বুদকুল আঞ্চলিক দোয়েরা নেতৃত্বে চব্বিশ ২০১৪ নভেম্বর ২৬।

Amar Asom 26th November 2014

ধারাপূর্বে বাণ্ড চাপতি
দৈনিক হত্যা পরিভ্রমিক চব্বিশ

প্রতিভা মাহারাণে দেবী, শ্রীমতী, ৫ বিড়ালি। শ্রীমতীর মাহারাণে হত্যা ইত্যাদি নির্দোষ মহাশয় পরিভ্রমিক চব্বিশ জীবন নিয়ে গতানুগত কলকাতার কবির প্রভাত হত্যা। শাহীন, শেখ আহমেদ আবদুল্লাহ আহমেদ কাওরা দৈনিক পরিভ্রমিক চব্বিশের প্রকাশনার কথা লেখছেন। ২০১৪ নভেম্বর ২৬।

Asomiya Pratidin 6th December 2014

Amar Asom 13th November 2014

ASTEC- Assam Green File
Asomiya Pratidin 12th December 2014

45

ASTEC- Assam Green File
শীতব লঙ্গ লঙ্গ অসমব ৩,৫১৩
আদ্রভূমিলে আগমন পবিত্রমী পক্ষীর

নবমাচার শর্মা, ওরাহী ১১ ডিসেম্বর : শীতব আগমন
লঙ্গ লঙ্গ দীর্ঘ বিলকুলে ধরি বায়ুজীবন দিব্য ঘৃতে ধরি
আদ্রভূমিলে আগমন ঘটিলে ধরি নানা বসন্ত পবিত্রমী
পক্ষীর। চাইকেরাকী, দীর্ঘ আমেরিকায় লে পুষ্টিযুক্ত ভিত্তি
প্রাপ্ত পরে প্রতি বছরেই অসমলে আগমন ঘটে নাতি ছোট হলে
বাচির। মূলতঃ উন্নতিতে অকল হেরা পরে শীতবাহিন
বর্ষা লঙ্গ খাদ স্বাপন কোলিমী চলিলে আমার
এই অঙ্গলে দিশে। ইতিমধ্যে দীর্ঘ বিলকুলে ধরি বায়ুজীবন
আছে মূল ৩,৫১৩টি আদ্রভূমি। এই আদ্রভূমির মূল পরিমাণ
১,০১,২৬৩টি হেক্টর। ইতোহাতে ৬০টি পুষ্টীকৃত আক বিল।
হরিকুলীক্ষিত বিষ আছে ৫৬টি। আকার পাতার সংখ্যা
১,১২৫। পাতিনি ৭১২টি, ১০টা জলাধার আক টেক আছে
১১৫টি। এই আদ্রভূমি পাতিনি, হরিকুলী অধমণ্ডলকে
প্রতি বছরেই আছে অন্যান্য পবিত্রমী চাইকের। এই বছর বিল
এটিতে ইকুমে ইকুমে বাচিরকম্র ঘটিলে। বয়েলিকে শীতব
বারে এটিতে পবিত্রমী চাইকের সংখ্যা তুলনামূলকভাবে
কম। দীর্ঘ বিলকুল প্রতি বছরেই অকল পবিত্রমী বাচির আছে।
এই অন্যান্য পবিত্রমী চাইকের দিকে ধরি কোম পরিলক্ষিত হয়।
কিছু ৩৩ দিনালগ্ন পরে দীর্ঘ বিল কোমে ইকুমে আকার প্রতি
করিয়ে আছে এটিতে ইকুমে প্রায় ১০ হেক্টার পাতার অসমলে
ধরি বুঝতে পারি মূল দেহ জাতিহীন পক্ষীর। তুলনামূলকভাবে
প্রকৃতির ইকুমে বিলকুলে বিলকুলে আগমন ঘটি
কেপরিকৃত হলো। তৃতীয় শহর পরিকৃত রূপে বুঝতে পারি পাতার
ধরি হেরাঘাত, গলাও, গোলো, গেটেন্ডেল ছাড়, প্রতিটি
প্রকৃতির ইকুমে বিলকুলে বিলকুলে আগমন ঘটি
কেপরিকৃত হলো। তৃতীয় শহর পরিকৃত রূপে বুঝতে পারি পাতার
ধরি হেরাঘাত, গলাও, গোলো, গেটেন্ডেল ছাড়, প্রতিটি
প্রকৃতির ইকুমে বিলকুলে বিলকুলে আগমন ঘটি
কেপরিকৃত হলো। তৃতীয় শহর পরিকৃত রূপে বুঝতে পারি পাতার
ধরি হেরাঘাত, গলাও, গোলো, গেটেন্ডেল ছাড়, প্রতিটি
প্রকৃতির ইকুমে বিলকুলে বিলকুলে আগমন ঘটি
কেপরিকৃত হলো। তৃতীয় শহর পরিকৃত রূপে বুঝতে পারি পাতার
ধরি হেরাঘাত, গলাও, গোলো, গেটেন্ডেল ছাড়, প্রতিটি
প্রকৃতির ইকুমে বিলকুলে বিলকুলে আগমন ঘটি
কেপরিকৃত হলো।
ঠাড়াল গাঁরব জলাশয়ত লাখ লাখ আলহী চবাই — মুখ্যবিদ চৌধুরী

পক্ষী উদ্যান গড়াব সংকল্প স্থানীয় যুরকব

নিৱাস গৃহস্থ নিৱাস

ঠাড়াল, ১৫ ডিসেম্বর । কাংফুল মুখার্জিতের নিকট আছে লাখ লাখ আলহী চবাই বাস। এর মধ্যে গাঁরব জলাশয় ও ঠাড়াল গাঁরব জলাশয় মূলত বাস। গাঁর বাসের পাশাপাশি ঠাড়াল গাঁরব জলাশয় ও ঠাড়াল গাঁরব জলাশয় বাস। একাধিক পাখি এই জলাশয়ের মধ্যে বাস করে।

পথ পথে এই জলাশয়ের মধ্যে বাস করে একাধিক পাখি। এই পাখিরা এই জলাশয়ের মধ্যে পাল্লা করে। এই পাখিরা এই জলাশয়ের মধ্যে পাল্লা করে।
(np31)

Asomiya Pratidin 26th December 2014

ASTEC- Assam Green File
Amar Asom 30th December 2014

ASTEC- Assam Green File
CHAANDUBI BILAK BAIYETI UTTHIBI PABARTAN PRKOLAP

PARBARTAN BIVAGAR PRADHAN SATCHR, JILILA UPAAYOYUKT CHANDUBI BIL PARIDHARSHAN

MADHABDAY BIVADH PROSTHABDCHON, 9 CHHATHOPAYA 1357 BISUDDHY CHAHAYO, ODISHA MADHABDAY
PARA 56 BIRATMOUTHI NERAGAN DUKULA KAMAPAT

MOURAY SISAMESHY LERNIMUN BIRATMOUTHI KAMAPAT CHANDUBI BILAK BAYETI CHAHAYO MUDHY ACHAYA PRAYAS

ENIVUNA ACHAYA PRAYAS DUKULA KAMAPAT CHANDUBI BILAK BAYETI CHAHAYO

AMAR ASOM 10TH SEPTEMBER 2014.

ASOMIYA PRATIDIN 11TH NOVEMBER 2014

ASTEC - ASSAM GREEN FILE
Asomiya Pratidin 16th November 2014

Amar Asom 29th November 2014

52
ASTEC-Assam Green File
দীপবল বিলব
পাবত ক’ব এই
কঁহরা

ঋকুল দাস

নির্ধারিত মসজিদ সংকটে পাতার গভীরতা। ধর্মীয় সংখ্যা যোগদানে শেখান শিক্ষাবিদ বিভাগের অধ্যাপক।

ওয়ায়েট ক্যাম্পাস সম্পর্কে পাতার গভীরতা। খ্রিস্টান গোষ্ঠীর অধ্যাপকের ক্যাম্পাসে কী বিষয় শেখায়?

ওয়ায়েট ক্যাম্পাস সম্পর্কে পাতার গভীরতা। খ্রিস্টান গোষ্ঠীর অধ্যাপকের ক্যাম্পাসে কী বিষয় শেখায়?

ওয়ায়েট ক্যাম্পাস সম্পর্কে পাতার গভীরতা। খ্রিস্টান গোষ্ঠীর অধ্যাপকের ক্যাম্পাসে কী বিষয় শেখায়?

ওয়ায়েট ক্যাম্পাস সম্পর্কে পাতার গভীরতা। খ্রিস্টান গোষ্ঠীর অধ্যাপকের ক্যাম্পাসে কী বিষয় শেখায়?

ওয়ায়েট ক্যাম্পাস সম্পর্কে পাতার গভীরতা। খ্রিস্টান গোষ্ঠীর অধ্যাপকের ক্যাম্পাসে কী বিষয় শেখায়?

ওয়ায়েট ক্যাম্পাস সম্পর্কে পাতার গভীরতা। খ্রিস্টান গোষ্ঠীর অধ্যাপকের ক্যাম্পাসে কী বিষয় শেখায়?
Asomiya Pratidin 24th December 2014,
HEALTH

Asomiya Pratidin 5th September 2014

ASOMAB BIYORIR AMORON SHAHID BARACON" COMMISSIONER PRESENTATION

Amar Asom 14th September 2014.

56
ASTEC- Assam Green File
লখিমপুরত মহামারী কলোত, ৫ জনব মৃত্যু - ডেব শতাধিক আক্রান্ত

জাহি-কয়লামারী ভয়াবহ ডাগ ধারণ

ঝাঙ্গি মেরা লখিমপুর প্রতিষ্ঠানে সেবা, ১৫ আগস্টের ২ সমাপ্ত ফুলরুম অফিসে আন্দোলনো মেরাতে লখিমঘুর ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী বাঁকা। এটি কলোত হস্তক্ষেপ সম্পর্কে বিবাদ বিবাদ বিবাদ করিয়েছে এক অতিক্রান্ত পরিবেশে। প্রাকৃত কথাবর্তী, বেদী আপাত মেরা পরা অপর বাহিনী বোঝাতে অক-কয়লামারী বেদীর সংখ্যা ঝাঙ্গি ভারতিজাতি ক্রসম মারাত্মক উৎপ্তি নির্ধারিত করে।

প্রথম পর্দার পর্দা

ঝাঙ্গি পর্দা অক-কয়লামারী মেরাতে ভারতীয় ভাষায় ভাষায় ভাষায় ভাষায়। ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী চাঁদ বাঁকা ১৬৫ পদ্ধতি কোন চাঁদ চাঁদ কলোত হস্তক্ষেপ কোন চাঁদ কলোত। ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী অক উত্তর লজিক অভিজাত অভিজাত অভিজাত অভিজাত।

লখিমপুরত মহামারী কলোত, ৫ জনব মৃত্যু - ডেব শতাধিক

ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী কলোত মহামারী কলোত মহামারী কলোত। ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী কলোত মহামারী কলোত। ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী কলোত মহামারী কলোত। ঝাঙ্গি অক-কয়লামারী কলোত মহামারী কলোত।

Asomiya Pratidin 16th September 2014
Amar Asom 12th November 2014.

Amar Asom 27th November 2014
| LAND, AGRICULTURE, GRAZING LAND AND ANIMAL CARE |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asomiya Pratidin 11th November 2014.</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTEC - Assam Green File</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
বেদখলমুক্ত কবাত গুরত্ব নাই চব্যায়ব
অসম কৃষি পাম নিগমব
৩১৪০ বিয়া মাটিত বেদখল

গুরাহাটী : স্টাফ বিগ টাভ, ১৭ ডিসেম্বর : অসম চব্যায়ব অধীনস্থ নিগম-নিকায়সমূহক পুনর্জীবিত কবাত ক্ষেত্র পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ কবাত বার্ষ হোয়া তকৃল গৈঃ-নৈহত্তাধীন কংগ্রেশ চব্যায়বে এতিয়া নিগমব ভূমিই এরিত দিছে বেদখলকারীক। বেদখলকারীয়ে বছর বছর ধরি নিগমব ভূমি অধিগ্রহণ কবি থকায় পাচতে। এই ভূমি পুনর উদ্বাদিব বারে গৈঃ চব্যায়ব তৎকালীনভাবে কোনো পদক্ষেপ নাই। গুরাহাটীক বেদখলমুক্ত কবাত বারে প্রশাসনক বাবরক কবা গৈঃ চব্যায়ব উদ্বাদিব কবি পর নাই কৃষি বিভাগব অধীনস্থ অসম কৃষি পাম নিগমব বরখালীকৃত ভূমি। অসম কৃষি পাম নিগমব অধীনস্থ মুঠ ২৩,৩৪২ বিয়া চব্যায়বী ভূমি আছে যদিও তা প্রায় ৩১৪০ বিয়া ভূমিই বেদখলকারীক কবলত আছে। এই ৩১৪০ বিয়া ভূমিই ভিত্তিত শিরসাগর জিলায় ৫০০ বিয়া, ডিগ্রীয়ডুর ৪০ বিয়া, নাগাত ৬৫০ বিয়া, সাউনিপুত্র ৮০০ বিয়া, লথিমপুত্র ৪২০ বিয়া আক গোলাপনাবত ৭৩০ বিয়া ভূমি বেদখলত আছে। উল্লেখযোগ্য যে এই সমস্ত ভূমি ১৯৭৩ আই ১৯৭৪ চন্তে অসম কৃষি পাম নিগমব নামত পজোকৃত আছিল। কিন্তু কৃষি বিভাগ তথ্য অসম চব্যায়ব দায়িত্বীনভাবে বাবে প্রতিবছর এতিয়া নিগমব ভূমি বেদখলকারীক হাতেলৈ গৈ আছে। ইয়ালে, নিগমটো লাভবনক দিশাত অগ্রসর হোবয় যথেষ্ট সুযোগ থকায় পাচতে। কৃষি বিভাগ কৃষি পাম নিগমব ভূমিই সদ্বাহীন নকবাকে পেলাই ধোয়ার অভিযোগ আছে। বারে বারে নিগমব ভূমি ওপর শেনচকু বৃদ্ধি পাইয়ে বেদখলকারীক। বাজা চব্যায়বকথে গুরত্বীভাব ফলত ক্ষম নিগমটো এলাগী হই পক্ষ এতিয়া নিগমব কর্মচারীক নিয়মীলী কবে দেখায় আদায় দিয়া পাচতে চব্যায়ব নাই। ভূমি পাচতে নিগমব কর্মচারীসকল দেখায় নিয়মীলী কবাত বারে চব্যায়বে সিদ্ধান্ত লয় যদিও কোনো কার্যকরী পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ কবন্ত নাই। বিনিয়োগকারী বিচারক মুখকর্তীয় তদন্ত গঠনের ১৮ বছর বিদেশ অর্থনীতিতে যোবর পাচতে। অসম নিগম-নিকায়সমূহক অর্থনীতিতে অর্থনীতিতে কোনো পলিটিন নাই।

Dainik Jannabhumiki 18th December 2014

ASTEC- Assam Green File
POLLUTION

Amar Asom 11th September 2014

Mowa Bora Lait

Amar Asom 15th November 2014

ASTEC - Assam Green File
Asomiya Pratidin 28th November 2014.

Asamiya Pratidin 29th November 2014.

ASTEC - Assam Green File
Amar Asom 29th November 2014.

Asomiya Pratidin 1st December 2014

ASTEC Assam Green File
जनस्वास्थ्य प्रति भावकिः बिभिन्न बोगत आक्रान्त बाइज

42 क्षण नदीव परिपक्वणत बया है 11,362 कोटि टका

Asomiya Pratidin 1st December 2014

Asomiya Pratidin 9th December 2014

ASTEC - Assam Green File
ভয়ারহভারে কমিচে
চিয়াঙ্গর পানি

জোনাই মি নিজে বাতাবি দিতেনা ১৬ ডিসেম্বরে আসন অর্কালচ সীমাবদ্ধ উত্তর-পূর্ব দিশায় এ জোনাই চাহিদ হতে তৈর ক্ষুদ্রতম আকৃতি ইয়ার সৃষ্টি স্রষ্টা চিয়াঙ্গ (লালী) নদীর মর্যম বহর বর্তমান এই বন ভয়ারহভারে পানি ও পরিমাণ প্রক্রিয়াকরণ পানি ইয়ার পার্শ্ব কাঠিন্য কোটান লোকে। চতুর্থ বহু নদীর অংশ প্রথম চুরুকাটা আকার অপর চলচ্চিত্র মনোজ্ঞ কর্মের পদে কেবল ফন্দ বা সময় বর্তমান ইয়ার জলবিশেষ ব্যাপক প্রক্রিয়া পাওয়া বৃহৎ সাপেক্ষ কমিচে জোনাই আকার অফালের হলো। জোনাই চাহিদ পানি রায় মিলার পূর্ব দিশায় অভিনেতা চিয়াঙ্গ (লালী) নদীর বিপদে পানি হঠান এনেরহ ও কিং পরিমাণ এই বেল যোগাযোগ হে খ্রিস্টীয় সীমাবদ্ধ করা মন্ত্রতালিকা কর্ম দুর্বল আহ-যাহ ব্যাপক সমস্যা সৃষ্টি করিয়েছে। ইউনিয়ন নদীর পানি প্রমাণ ও কালের মূলে লোকন দিয়ে ব্যাপক হাতের কিং পরিমাণ করা অ-কমল নদী জলবিশেষ প্রবল অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে তিউনারসমূহ অন্তর্ভুক্ত পানি প্রকাশে শুরু করে। একাধিক হেল প্রকাশ করা মনোজ্ঞ কর্মকাণ্ড আকার চলচ্চিত্র করা হবে।

জীয়ারভালী নাড়ী পার খাদি ইটা প্রস্তুত
জিলা ছাত্র সহায় অভিযোগ কালীন উপায়কর

উত্তর জামলুবী মি নিজে বাতাবি দিতেনা, ১৬ ডিসেম্বরে শেষ ছাত্র জিলার নেতার কাছে চতুর্থ অভিযোগ টোল ভাটার জীয়ারভালী নদীর কাছে স্থাপন করা ইটাভাটাটের বাইরের ভাতার পিপাস করা আজ্ঞা হেরতে পারে। মাদুরী নিয়ন্ত্রণ নাম্বার কর্ম প্রকাশ আকার ডেফেন্স নাম্বার বাঁধু দুর্দশা মাল্কানাদী ইটাভাটাটের জীয়ারভালী নদীর ২০ ফুট নিম্নলিখিত দূর্বল প্রকাশ পান। ইটা প্রস্তুত কর্মী। যার ফল আধুনিক বাবায়া জীয়ারভালী নদীর সারল হে ইটাভাটাটের নদীর বাইরের খাদি মোখ প্রকাশ প্রস্তুত কর্মী। ইটাভাটাটের নেতার পানি যাচিন কেন্দ্রে নিবেদন করণ স্থপতি প্রবল শিখানী আবাদীতবারে চার কর্ম কার্য ইটা। ২০২০ খ্রিস্টীয় কর্ম করা হবে।

Dainik Janmabhumi 17th December 2014

65
ASTEC- Assam Green File
POWER

তিতাবত স্থাপন হ’ব ৩০০ কোটি টকা ব্যয়সাপেক্ষ

৫০ মেগারাইট শক্তিসম্পন্ন তাপবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্প

সংবাদ মেলত শক্তি, উদ্যোগ আর বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রী প্রদুর্ণ বসদৈলে ৪ আমুরলিবি
গোলামিভিক প্রদুর্ণ বয়ে সংবক্ষিত স্থাপন করা হ’ব সৌভ প্রকল্প

তারফ বিষয়ে, ২৯ জুলাইর ৪ অয় গোলাম প্রকল্প তাপবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্প রাজ্য গোলামটি আর বক্ষ সোম্পানী আর আমুরলিবি উপনগরী কোমপানী সৌভ অণুষ্ঠানরিক নিয়ম জিভির তিতাবত স্থাপন করা হ’ব ৫০ মেগারাইট শক্তিসম্পন্ন

তিতাবত স্থাপন হ’ব ৩০০ কোটি

—ইহি দেখা যায় আর শক্তি, উদ্যোগ আর বাণিজ্যমন্ত্রী প্রদুর্ণ বসদৈলে।
সোম্পানী এলাকাটি এলাকা সংবাদ মেলত ইহি কথা বোঝা করি শক্তি বসদৈলে করা— ৫০ মেগারাইট শক্তি উপনগরি ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন তাপবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্পটি স্থাপন হয় ৩০০ কোটি টকা ব্যয়সাপেক্ষ। বাজ্য চাউকারে
গোলাম আর করালা বলে বাবা বাবা করি নতুন নতুন শক্তি প্রকল্প স্থাপন সিদ্ধান্ত
গেলি হয়ে ২০ বছর পূর্বে আমুরলিবি এটি গোলামিভিক প্রকল্প স্থাপন সিদ্ধান্ত গেলি হীক। কিছু দিন পরিমাণ গেলি অভাব প্রকল্পটি আবার করত প্রকল্প নগ্ন। কথা তেল লগত নই দিয়া
গেলির এর্ক্তিয়া তিতাবত এটি তাপবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্প স্থাপন করা হ’ব। অসম
চাউকার দুটি বাজ্য বঙ্গ উপনগরী বেশ স্থাপন এই তাপবিদ্যুৎ
প্রকল্পটি স্থাপন করা অথবা আসে হ্যাঁ এর জি চিন গেলি দেখা চায়
করো হয়। সক সক গোলাম ভাণ্ডার প্রকল্প পাইসে, গেলি সহচর করি
কোন্নাতে উপাসনা করা হ’ব। প্রকল্পটি চৌকার দিনে ২ লাখ
গোলাম ক্ষমতাবিশিষ্ট গোলাম প্রায়োজন হয়। এই প্রকল্পটি দুই-আিচে
বাবা তিতাবত কারণ হে উচিত। অসম এর প্রকল্প বাবা সংবক্ষিত
ঢিত এর্ক্তিয়া সৌভ প্রকল্প স্থাপন করা হ’ব। এই চৌকার এলাকায়
উপনগরী ক্ষমতাবিশিষ্ট গোলাম প্রায়োজন নিজের দিয়া হ্যাঁ বাবা উপনগরী
আরেক প্রকল্প আর এর কর্ষার। তখন তাপবিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্প দুটি তখন এর জি
চিনে গেলি দেখা ধর্মীয় বিষয়ও গেলি বিষয়ও গেলি বিষয়ও এই প্রকল্প
দুটি ধর্মও প্রকল্প হ’ব। যদি বাবা উপনগরী গোলাম সম্পন্ন প্রকল্প যায়,
তখন গেলি দেখা ঢাইবে তখন পাঁচের নতুন প্রকল্প স্থাপন করা হ’ব।
সংবাদ মেলত অসম গোলাম কোমপানী প্রকল্প সম্পন্ন ভূমি বৃথক্ষত
গোলাম আর এর্ক্তিয়া অসম শক্তি উপনগরী কোমপানী লিমিটেড
পরিচালা সম্পন্ন প্রদুর্ণ বৃত্তবক্ষত উপাসনা করে।
Asomiya Pratidin 8th September 2014.
চীনা সংবাদ প্রতিষ্ঠান জিনহুরাব বাতিত চীনের উজনিব বুকুত চীনে নির্মাণ করিছে ২৩টি বাংলা

চীনা সংবাদ, দটক দিল্লী, ৭ আশ্বেসের ৪ রক্ষাপত্রুক উজনিব অংশে চীন বাংলা নির্মাণ করা বিষয়টিকে লেখৰ থোকা বিতরাব মাজকত দেখেছেন তুরেত ঘালুন নদীব ওপরে অবস্থ করিছে এটা পূর্ণ নদীবাষ্য নির্মাণ করায়। এই বাংলা জবুয়া চীনে দেখৰ বাংলা নির্মাণও জলবিদৃঢ় কেন্দু নির্মাণ লক্ষ্য বাহিয়। চীন চীনীয় সংবাদ প্রতিষ্ঠান জিনহুরাব মূলাচ্ছ ঠাকুর চীনব ঢিন।

৩৩ পৃষ্ঠা

চীনা সংবাদ প্রতিষ্ঠান জিনহুরাব বাতিত চীনের উজনিব বুকুত চীনে নির্মাণ করিছে

শ্রেষ্ঠ পৃষ্ঠা পাথির বাতিত ৩,০০০ মেগাব্যাট বিপুল শিক্ষাত উৎপাদন করা পার
এই বাংলা পানী ধরি বায়ুর পার কমা হচ্ছে ২০,২০০ নির্মাণ কিউবিক মিটার। ইয়ার ব্রহ্মাটো গতে
২০২১ চন্ত আব সমগ্র প্রকাশে ২০২৩ চন্ত সন্ধ্যা করি হোলার ভাষা বাঙ্গালি হচ্ছ। উল্লেখযোগ্য
যে এই নদীবাষ্য চীনে বিভিন্ন প্রকার সমগ্র মুটু ২৩টি বাঙ্গালা নির্মাণ করায়। ইয়ার উপরের
চীনা সংবাদ প্রতিষ্ঠান জিনহুরাব বাতিত চীনে নির্মাণ করিছে নদীবাষ্য পানী প্রথম প্রভাব প্রতিষ্ঠাত হোলার লুধাদে ইয়ার ফলত নদীবাষ্য নামনি
অংশ চীন সমগ্র সুপ্রাতি হোলার অশাক ইতিমধ্যে ভারতে সেই দেশবিহিং স্বতন্ত্র অস্তত
করিছে। ইয়ার মাজকত চীনে তিনবার আবার হচ্ছে ঘালুন নদীব ওপরে এই পূর্ণ নদীবাষ্য নির্মাণ
করায়। অংশ দেখেছে নদীবাষ্য নির্মাণবিধ গোলার বাঙ্গালা সমগ্র ভারতে বাংলাদেশ পরিকল্পনা
মাত্রায় তফসিল পার এই মূল্যন্ত্রকে কোনোখানে প্রতিষ্ঠাত। প্রকাশ করা হোলার নায়। চীন
কন্ত বাংলা প্রতিষ্ঠাত প্রকাশ প্রকাশে দেখেছে উল্লেখ প্রকাশ নিন্দীয় নিন্দী এটি অংশবিহিং গোলার
এই বাঙ্গালা নির্মাণ দার্জিল বাংলার বাঙ্গালার খাদি হচ্ছে বুলি সংবাদ প্রতিষ্ঠানটোর উল্লেখ করিছে।

Asomiya Pratidin 8th October 2014

ASTEC-Assam Green File
18 Pobiyolar Gar-Beeti Jajh Gol' Nibr Barkat

Asomiya Pratidin 9th October 2014

ASTEC-Assam Green File
Dainik Janmabhumi 17th December 2014

ASTEC- Assam Green File