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PRONAAM

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Contents

AANA, ASSNA and AFNA Office Bearers

Editorial

President's Messages from AANA, ASSNA and AFNA

Obituary Section

Award & Achievement Section, Literary Section

Regional News and Announcements

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Namaskar Raiz,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer! It is our privilege to bring you this edition of Pronaam, highlighting vibrant Rongali Bihu celebrations rejoiced by Assamese societies across North America. The pages of this edition are filled with beautiful reports and colorful pictures, of people conglomerating in different pockets of the continent to connect with their roots. We also have several other write-ups on regional news, graduations, achievements and summer activities. We are also pleased to publish in this edition of Pronaam the award-winning Essays from Himadri Das Memorial AFNA Essay Competition 2021.

After two consecutive Assam Conventions virtually held and energetically attended by members of our North American Assamese diaspora from the safety of their homes, the community is gearing up for an in-person Assam Convention. We wish the organizing committee and the participants all the best for this exciting adventure.

We hope you enjoy reading these pages. Please send us your feedback.

Best Regards,

Rakhi Baruah Borthakur

Chiranjit Bordoloi





Greeting to the Readers!

As we are moving into the summer, many of you must be planning vacation to relax with your friends and family in Assam or elsewhere. Wherever your destination is: I wish you all a happy & healthy summer.

In May, we lost a benevolent couple from Boston MA, Mr. Prafulla Khaund and his beloved wife Mrs. Nirupama Khaund from our community within 48 hours of each other. They were longtime members of AANA and were regulars in many past Assam Conventions. We convey our deepest condolences to the family at their loss.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to our AANA colleague, Pranami Bhattacharya and her family for the loss of her beloved mother, Late Beni Das from Jorhat.

As for the update from the AANA desk, we had a wonderful story telling session presented by our own young storytellers: Ayush Barman, Aagam Dutta, Anwita Goswami, Uruli Dutta Bordoloi, Aaum Barman, Ananya Barua, Heeya Dutta Barua, Mahiya Kakati and Tara Borooah. They deserve a lot of applause for their smooth execution. We hope to see more young talents coming forward to join our future story telling sessions.

As you all know, the 43rd Assam Convention (in-person) will be in Houston from July 1-3, 2022 after the remotely held conventions of the last two years. Even though it has been quite a challenge to plan and organize the event within the short time frame we had, we are doing our best to make this Convention a memorable one for all. For all of you who have already registered to attend, a hearty thank you on behalf of Assam Convention Host Committee. We, the Assamese Community of Houston, are all eagerly waiting to meet our old friends and make new friends at the convention. Let's celebrate with grand splendor and create memories to cherish.

Once again, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Chiranjit Bordoloi and Rakhi Borthakur for their time and effort to bring "Pronaam" to you.

With warmest regards,

Pallabita Bhuyan

President – Assam Association of North America (AANA)

www.aanahome.org



Nomoskaar Raiz,

First our deepest condolences at the passing of so many important members of this community, as well as family members, in the recent past. We pray for the eternal bliss of the departed souls and for patience, strength and endurance for all the family members and friends left behind here in North America, and around the world. Our prayers for all the innocent victims of gun-violence and hatred in the United States of America. Peace to all. Amen.

As we go through our normal peaceful existence here, millions in the so-called Smart City of Guwahati in Assam, are spending terrible days and nights due to heavy flood. One can't just blame Nature for this, it had always rained in Guwahati throughout the Ages, but floods occur after every shower now, since few decades due to lack of vision and proper planning of the ever-expanding City, on part of the authorities, and total apathy and lack of civic sense of most of the city-dwellers. Hope this time, lessons would be learnt, some permanent solutions would be found, and effective measures would be put in place for the peaceful existence of everyone.

Now, from Assam to the US. We are all eagerly waiting for the 43rd Assam Convention to be held in Houston, Texas, 1-3, July 2022. The first In-Person-Convention since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020. The severity of the sickness may be gone, but still, it is not over yet, so we all would have to exercise caution and act responsibly, while celebrating with gusto our colorful identities, showcasing great unity in diversity.

Asam Sahitya Sabha North America (ASSNA) cordially invites you all to attend the morning Sabha Session, i. e. the General Body Meeting, on 2nd, July. See you all there.

With Warm Summery Greetings,

Syeda Jebeen Sabira Shah

President, Asom Sahitya Sabha North America (ASSNA)

AsomSahityaSabha_NorthAmerica@yahoo.com



Greetings from AFNA!!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. I also hope that although the pandemic is not completely behind us, most of us are getting accustomed to the new “abnormal”. Life and freedom as we knew it, has changed.

It is an exciting team to be a part of AFNA as we celebrate our 40th year of service. AFNA volunteers have been busy this summer as we are working on commencing multiple new projects working with a couple of new partners in Assam. These projects are in the focus areas of employment generation and health care. These are amongst our bolder and bigger projects and signify the continued growth of our organization, thanks to your continued support.

We also have a new Executive Team taking over the leadership reins of AFNA from this June. Strong momentum and organizational structure are in place for the new team to leverage and build on. We wish them well and great success.

This is my last message as the President of AFNA and I have thoroughly enjoyed my stint. I want to acknowledge the wholehearted support that I have received from everyone at Team AFNA, AANA and ASSNA. It’s been a humbling and a rewarding experience. I am forever indebted to those who gave me this opportunity. I will be around as a committed AFNA volunteer and have redoubled my commitment to serve those in need.

To conclude, I, on behalf of the AFNA Board and Executive team once again take the opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to the donors and volunteers for their support. AFNA would be nowhere without you.

With warm regards,

Sarfaraz Taher

President – Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA)

www.assamfoundation.net

Donate at: <http://www.assamfoundation.net/give-back/donate>

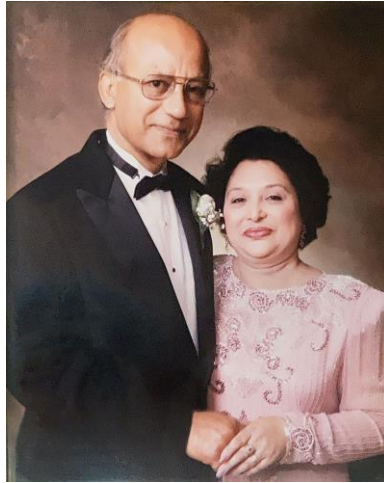


Obituary Section

Prafulla Khaund & Nirupama Khaund

Dulali Borthakur





Prafulla Khaund and Nirupama Khaund

Late Prafulla Khaund, a longtime resident of Boston, MA passed away in the evening of Thursday, May 19, 2022. He had Covid-19 and pneumonia and breathed his last in the hospital.

Originally from Jorhat, Mr. Khaund, an engineer, came to America for higher studies in the 1950s. Shortly after, his fiancé Srimati Nirupama Khaund (née Borthakur) joined him, and they got married in this country. Khaund was a successful engineer, owned his own company and helped many Assamese people giving employment in his company.

Mrs. Nirupama Khaund passed away the day after his death.

Nirupama Khaund was the eldest daughter of late Ratneswar Borthakur and Sura Borthakur of Laban, Shillong. Her younger brother Pradeep of Boston area and younger sister Chandana Barua of Toronto, Canada preceded her. Youngest brother Dilip Borthakur lives in Singapore. Nirupama Khaund was one of the sweetest ladies within Assamese community in USA.

A longtime AANA member, both attended many Assam Conventions in earlier times.

They left behind their two sons and a daughter.

May both husband and wife live happily in Heaven together, forever.

Om Shanti

A Tribute To Dulali Borthakur

Moushumi Rahman, Calgary, Alberta



Dulali Borthakur

A loving mother to my sister and me, a caring wife to my father, a compassionate sister to her siblings, an attentive educator to young minds at her school, a savvy entrepreneur in her society, energetic politician in her constituents, these are only some of the many diverse roles Dulali Borthakur played effortlessly. With her departure from this earth on the 5th of March 2022, she leaves behind her love, warmth, and caring spirit with those she has touched.

Growing up, my sister and I lived in the hostel. When we returned home, we'd see our Ma elated with excitement. This beautiful and warm woman with every crease and fold of her mekhela chadar perfectly placed on her body. She would prepare the best meals and desserts, and I would always be in awe of how she made everything look effortless. As a mother, I understand the amount of work and love that goes into managing a home and am grateful to have had a tremendous role model to aspire towards. I'm so thankful when I hear those that knew Ma mention that I remind them of her. There can't be a higher compliment. Along with managing all the chaos so patiently at home, she believed in volunteering her time for the community. She has always been an empowered lady who believed in empowering the women around her. She dedicated her time to working with women and helping in developing their entrepreneurial skills and independence.

My Mother, Dulali Borthakur was a versatile lady who managed it all. She inspires me and has inspired so many others who have interacted with her. I'm so grateful to call her my mother, a loving mother-in-law to my husband, and an affectionate grandmother to my boys. Her family will never stop reliving their memories with her; we pray that you are happy and content wherever you are.

I love you, Ma; I'll miss you a lot.

Loads of love,

Moushumi (Mamu)



Award & Achievement Section

Himadri Das Memorial AFNA Essay Competition – 2021

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards-2021

TIME's Innovative Teachers of 2022



Himadri Das Memorial AFNA Essay Competition - 2021

AFNA would like to thank all those who participated and also their parents for encouraging their child to take part in last year's annual Essay competition organized by AFNA. Secondly, we want to thank our young judges for volunteering their time to review the essays. They are Nimisha Bora, Iva Rahman and Krishangi Kaushik. This was the 6th year of the Essay Contest.

We would also like to thank the family of Himadri Das – Kyoko, Brian and Leo – for offering the first prize of this competition from the memorial fund of Late Himadri Das, who passed away on May 3rd of 2017, after courageously fighting a neurological condition for a long period. Himadri Das was an active community member and closely involved patron of AFNA, who served as a treasurer of AFNA for two terms in the late 90s. From the 2nd year of this competition (2017) we have dedicated this competition to his memory.

To be in sync with the times, the prompt for last year's competition was: "How is online collaboration bringing our community in North America closer to Assam?"

There were 3 prizes: 1st prize \$250, 2nd prize \$150, 3rd prize of \$100

The winners are:

1st Prize:

Ridhi Bora, daughter of Anjana and Ankur Bora, Irving, TX

2nd Prize:

Ashwin Hazarika, son of Anjana Bordoloi and Krishna Hazarika, Columbia, MD

3rd Prize:

Prithu Neog, son of Nilakshi Phukan and Debananda Neog, Raleigh, NC

Congratulations to all the winners and to all participants. The 3 winning essays are published in this issue of Pronaam. Hope you will enjoy reading the essays. Please encourage high-schoolers in your community to participate in this year's competition. We will be glad to receive your feedback or suggestions at afnaessaycontest@gmail.com.

How is online collaboration bringing our community in North America closer to Assam?

8,307 miles. There are 8,307 miles that separate Dallas, Texas, the city where I live, from the state where my extended family and roots are in, Assam. In any other time period, this distance would be considered an extreme hindrance to immigrants who wish to preserve their culture. However, we live in the 21st century, and though nothing can ever replace the experience of being physically present in a state or country, technology, specifically online collaboration, has acted as a bridge to close the gap that diasporas face when being away from their motherland.

Over the past couple of years, I have found myself struggling to remember simple words in Assamese and speak the language with ease. This is not surprising considering how much time I spend in environments where English is the only language spoken. However, because of online collaboration, I have been able to find ways to refresh my vocabulary. Initially I felt frustrated because it was not as if I could go to my school or city library and find books filled with Assamese vocabulary and phrases. But then, I quickly reminded myself that I have one tool that will give me everything I need regarding learning a language. The internet! With a simple search, I found thousands of Assamese vlogs, interviews, and podcasts that I could use as a tool to strengthen my speaking and listening skills. Within the past year I have used YouTube channels such as Oasis Motion Films, Assamese Mixture, and Assam History to not only enhance my vocabulary, but also learn about Assamese pop culture and history. Without the efforts of those who create this online content, I would have never been able to immerse myself in my culture from the comfort of my own home.

Another example that showed me how online collaboration can act as a great way to bring the North American Assamese community closer to Assam was when my father, Ankur Bora, was able to present a toastmaster's speech about an Assamese man named Govin Bordoloi, to an American audience while also being able to invite Mr. Bordoloi himself to watch the speech. My dad had chosen to make the speech about Govin because he was deeply moved by his story of persistence and justice. Bordoloi had been helping someone high atop a tree when he suddenly slipped, and his body came in contact with a live high voltage electric wire. From there he had to be hospitalized and endured extreme physical pain as well as mental trauma. In addition to this he had to deal with the stress of paying his medical bills without having insurance. However, even after all that misfortune, he did not let his life go to ruin. Through hard work and dedication, and the immense help of his mother, he eventually became a successful entrepreneur and established an organization named "Maa Anusthan", as a dedication to his mom and a way for people to take care of elderly abandoned women. Through Zoom, my dad was able to have Govin be able to listen to the speech and see the reactions of those who were inspired by his story. He was also able to share Govin's story, both through Zoom and his website to an audience from all around the world. While it may seem simple, this action is a great example of how connections between those who are far away from one another can be possible with the help of technology.

Last year I had the amazing opportunity to watch an online music festival where the participants were Assamese and Assamese-American children who showcased their musical talents through a zoom call. As I had only ever known the Assamese community in Dallas and

Austin, TX, I was elated to see Assamese kids and teens from all over the world perform both folk and pop songs. It was especially cool to hear when Assamese-American teens spoke Assamese as it reminded me to not abandon my efforts to continue speaking my mother tongue. This event was put together by Shilpi Sewa, a nonprofit organization that exists to aid Assamese artists, many of which are the sole providers for their families, who have faced financial hardship due to Covid 19. This specific festival resulted in over \$20,000 being raised, which was given to dhul, flute, negera, kohl, and sattriya artists, as well as sculptors, folk dancers, and singers, who had not been able to perform due to the pandemic. Without online collaboration, there would have never been a platform where both children from Assam and Assamese children living in North America could come together and sing songs for each other and an audience all around the world as well as raise money for those in need.

Of course, it would be wrong for me to not include one of the most prominent and active examples of online collaboration that is present today; the Assam Foundation of North America. Founded in 1982, AFNA has spent almost forty years helping Assamese immigrants and Assamese Americans remain in touch with Assam through creating cultural events, volunteering opportunities, and educational programs. They have utilized online platforms such as Facebook to act as a place where members from both the Western and Eastern hemisphere can communicate their ideas and goals for the community. In the past year, AFNA contributed greatly to the Covid relief efforts in Assam. Many Assamese families in North America had felt helpless from hearing of how devastating Covid had been in their home state. However, thanks to AFNA, who organized methods of charity and spread awareness through online networks, they were able to provide 4,702 concentrators, 1000 face shields, 1500 face masks, 1500 PPEs, and 1800 gloves to those in need. In addition, thanks to programs such as Amazon Smile, AFNA has received \$1,265.23 (as of May 2021). These amounts of money that were raised and donated from people all around the world were only possible because of online platforms that allowed anyone, no matter where they live, to participate in aiding the community.

In addition to AFNA, Parijat Academy, a non-profit school that provides free education to impoverished children, has used online collaboration to not only raise awareness and funds for their school, but also bring Assamese-Americans closer to their home state of Assam. The academy has partnered with OmPrakash, which is a “nonprofit global network of social impact, organizations, volunteers, learners, donors, and doers” who have worked “since 2004 to build relationships and raise consciousness.” Through Om Prakash, Parijat Academy has been able to raise \$16,663.90 for their students. Not only this, but online collaboration has made it possible for anyone, not just those in Assam, to sponsor a child and cover for their meals and school tuition.

Having not visited Assam in almost four years, it is easy for me to forget the sights, smells, and sounds of the state. And while living in the United States has many benefits, it has made it difficult for me to balance both parts of my American and Assamese identity. However, through social media and online collaboration, myself and thousands of Assamese families have been able to remain in touch with the beautiful “peerless state” that we all belong to. If it were any other time, even just twenty years earlier, receiving donations from all around the world would

have been unimaginable. However, because of this age of the internet, we have been able to aid those in need, no matter how far they are from us, and also bring communities together.

Because any distance, even 8,307 miles, can be closed with the help of technology and people who partake in using it to connect communities all around the world.

How is online collaboration bringing our community in North America closer to Assam?

In the past one and a half years, it was nearly impossible for me, an Assamese-American middle-class person, to imagine life without the internet. The worldwide web is a sprawling place, tool, asset, but most importantly, a communication tool that 90%* of Americans use nearly every day. Life would be miserable without a way to talk to anyone outside the household including teachers, classmates, friends, and most importantly, Family. As an Assamese-American myself, a majority of my relatives live in Assam. In a pre-pandemic situation, we would call each other on a weekly basis with a phone app called Raza Mobile. It was fun to talk to my cousins, many of whom I hadn't seen in years, and keep in touch with Anai (my mom's mother), Aita and Koka. Simply using a basic function of technology as simple as a voice chat had already brought my family, and my many cousins' family closer to each other. Do conversations and coordinated phone calls count as collaboration on a world-wide scale? To answer thoroughly, it is important to address when the online world became crucial to everybody's lives. March 12th, 2020, where my personal descent into the pandemic began.

Realistically, nobody expected a pandemic barging into everybody's lives like a runaway freight train with five extra engines. I was walking down a school hallway with my friends, preparing to go home, when the intercom buzzed to life, pronouncing in a shrill voice the cancelation of our school, and to an extent, after-school activities due to "rising fears of the coronavirus." We were supposed to have a band concert the day after. I was undoubtedly bummed out, but a little relaxed that school was out for a few days, might as well call it a vacation! Oh, boy was I wrong. What once was over-bloated news hysteria had become an actual issue, something so big it would close schools, businesses, industries, entire cities, countries, and the entire world. A few months had passed, and nearly out of the blue, AANA's Assam convention 2020 was just around the corner. While I was busy with online school, Diligent-minded Assamese-American folk were plotting the demise of sorrow with an Assam convention, but online. Only then it occurred to me I had forgotten about my homeland community for so long, they already organized an entire convention!

As my Deuta would say, "Ba Pre!" Countless Assamese had flocked to Facebook, during a pandemic! Everybody knew everyone somehow and talked to everyone at the same time! Previous reports** had shown that Assam and Northeastern India had been "lagging behind" with "mobile connectivity," only about thirty-five percent of the community having reliable access to the internet, but on a grand scale, there are ten million people in Assam. That amounts to potentially 3.5 million people with Facebook and other social media! and of course, my mom has probably texted them all. Jokes aside, for an underrepresented state in a country that gained independence nearly two hundred years after the "beacon-of-light country" America, that is impressive.

Upon further research, I found Assamese-Americans have committed to help their homeland counterpart, pre-pandemic. As an active and proactive community, associations by the likes of AFNA, and ASNA (a sub-association of the larger, AANA) have been vigorously committed to bringing funds, volunteers, and everything in between for the advancement of the Assamese.

To these associations, the pandemic has only ramped up the goals and expectations of these organizations as they propel forward towards a supported community.

Now we arrive at the topic of media. Undoubtedly, media has been a dominant force in politics, popularity, and everything between since its inception around the late 1920s,*** beginning with the popularity of television and television ads throughout the mid to late 1900s. Such raging force of the internet has been used by everyone with a phone, and definitely used by Assamese people. Technology spreads to each and every corner of the earth, with fifteen Assamese news channels recognized by Wikipedia.****Countless Assamese American interactions occur throughout the news portion of these channels. The major highlights of each and every Assam Convention are broadcasted to several news channels and zoom meetings can be broadcasted to every corner of the world. People use social media to broadcast their thoughts, emotions, and events, while countless others coordinate and participate in said events. There are plentiful chat rooms, social groups, organized events, online donations and more. The exaggerations of an infinity apply to none other than all, including Assam.

Where has the media been used for good you may ask. taking a look at AFNA's website. Nineteen programs dedicated to enriching the community in every way from AKADEMICS, a Kaushik Das Memorial Scholarship to encourage higher education in the Assamese populace, to SENEH, a rehabilitation center for elderly women, additionally providing a dignified life for said women. All with the power of human conversation, video animation internships were fashioned out of thin air. NGOs for the disabled and underprivileged were permanently established and still thrive to this day. It is extremely remarkable how talking about good deeds on the internet leads to worldwide change.

But what does all this mean? Volunteering, donations, and verbal support are great ways to sustain a community from afar. Nearly all organized societies have a vast array of programs, armies of volunteers, and endless problems in dire need of repair. To focus on these negatives, comparing the work of volunteers to the rising pile of work to be done, is incredibly daunting. During 2020, for some people, that pressure might have been suffocating. In moments like these, it is important to look at the core fundamentals within the Assamese community. AANA and AFNA may have motherlandish interests at heart, yet both of these establishment's value and were created with the single purpose of bringing North-American Assamese people together. Every Assam Convention from their beginnings (AANA: 1979) and every single convention to come was born with the intention to celebrate our common ancestry and bring us together, establish a connection, and in other words, relate to our common past within our blood. Perhaps the true connections bringing us closer to Assam are our very kin, spread across this continent.

We rely on individual beacons of hope originating from the pure intentions of our brethren. Unfortunately, 2020 is not a year particularly known for generating hope and joy. Everything has been peer generated from the cumulation of good news and circumstance. The Assamese within and around us is a fuel for survival. This year we had two Assamese Olympic competitors, Hima Das for 100m and Lovlina Borgohain for boxing. Hima Das injured her hamstring and was unable to participate, so the focus was on Lovlina, the entire world's eyes, especially Assam's,

were set upon her. Acquiring bronze was a huge achievement for not only Lovlita, but the entirety of Assam, proving in the middle of a pandemic, Assamese people could come out on top in front of the entire world. Famous astronaut Michael Finke, a juain, brought Assamese culture to space, being the first person to wear a gamusa in space, "Bihu in space" as he quoted during an interview during the 2020 Assam convention. The idea of incredible feats being achieved by people coming from similar and worse backgrounds than mine and sharing blood with me is like looking up a canyon and knowing I can climb it. Hope and inspiration are products of our connections and correlating the amount of hope and inspiration Assamese-American people have managed to maintain goes to show our strong and strengthening connections, using the internet especially, during the pandemic.

Objectively, the world we once occupied before an escalated, unnecessary virus isn't too drastically changed from before. Most of the Assamese-American community remains a tightly-knit group continuing to live as normal, through video cameras and comment sections. What once was wildfire gossip has metamorphosed into raging chat boxes. Office board meetings are on video calls, once an unpopular novelty for long distance communication, and now a necessity for keeping up. The term "living under a rock" can be determined by how much technology your family owns. What has really changed? My dad worked from home pre-pandemic, and he drives right through work as if nothing changed. My mom has taught online lessons at her university before; it wasn't so stressful for my family at all. There are many people who do not possess this relative luxury my family is blessed with. Many of said people live in Assam, perhaps under our very noses. One of the biggest blessings of all is to have a proactive community vigorously committed to helping others and changing the world for good, collaborating online to tackle problems on a massive scale one person would never accomplish alone. Yet Sometimes the simplest collaborations we indulge in are the conversations online, and the promises to continue those conversations for days to come.

How is online collaboration bringing our community in North America closer to Assam?

Social media and various online platforms are key means to retaining connections with people all over the world and for us specifically, to our beloved homeland Assam. Platforms on the internet can be viewed as a danger of identity to some or as a simple tool to post and comment to others. Ultimately, it presents at our fingertips, a means to put our ideas and thoughts out there. The internet is the reason why Assamese people in the USA, have not fully lost their connection to Assam, with the restrictions and closures following the pandemic. Important cultural occasions, talking to friends and relatives, video-calling and keeping up with news, have all been enhanced by this wonderful tool.

Different platforms can be used for diverse work, personal or community events. Sites like Zoom, Skype, Google Meet, etc. are all conferencing platforms. These sites can be used for various cultural events, when we cannot meet in person. They bring a multitude of benefits through establishing the connections. The most iconic example I would say, is the Assam Convention. For multiple years, it has been an annual tradition for people of Assamese descent, across the world, to meet and enjoy some time as a community and rejoice in its culture. However, the difficulty is that with nearly a thousand or more attendees, it wasn't going to work in our current circumstances. These online platforms served as a great aid in enabling us to celebrate the Assam Convention. Even though it did not have the energy and feel of an in-person event, it was a huge accomplishment to still be able to celebrate together. The CONNECTION was kept alive because of the internet.

Another example I can think of is the Shilpi Sewa initiative in 2020. The Shilpi Sewa event was essentially a fundraiser to help folk artists of Assam to get through the pandemic. Renowned Assamese artists performed live on Zoom, and over three hundred people also logged into the session to watch and support the charitable cause. This event would not have been possible without the help of Zoom and these other conferencing sites. It was a great success and helped in raising some much-needed funds, for the beneficiaries of the show.

Apart from such events, even before the pandemic, not everyone was able to travel far because of personal reasons. Conferencing sites help in those situations as well, you can still attend the occasion and be a part of the discussions, even if you can't attend in person. The benefits are amplified in that the connections are made, not only for bigger events but also for something as simple as say, talking to your relatives and seeing their video image. Conversations with relatives is crucial to keep connections in place and be there for one another. Zoom, Skype, etc. are not just used for work or occasions, you can simply talk with people and have fun! Pretty much every day, I talk to my grandparents and relatives in India, whom I cannot meet in person because of the great distance between us. The only real flaw with conference sites is that there are often technical issues, since the technology is still evolving. Otherwise, it is a great tool to relax, talk and connect with people from Assam.

Of course, conference types of sites aren't the ONLY sites on the internet. There are millions and millions of different websites, and each one has their unique touch. Another large factor of the internet is news. News has been around for thousands of years; we just don't think of it like

that. The way news has travelled has changed but the relative idea is the same. Long ago, it used to be messengers or birds delivering news, now it is being broadcasted through big screens on your wall. Either way, news is simply, keeping the public informed. North America to Assam is a long way across the world. So, it is quite difficult to maintain a steady amount of knowledge of what is happening in Assam. We have solved this problem by using news channels. Just like how we watch news channels like BBC, CNN, and Fox News to know about what is happening in the world, we also use Assamese channels, like News Live, Prag News, DY365, etc. to know about what is going on in Assam.

And then there is social media. Social media has quickly risen to being the front runners of the online world. Sites like, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Twitter, have become the most popular sites in the current age, only really rivaled by YouTube and Google. Social media is being used CONSTANTLY in our daily lives, all around us! You just flew on a plane for the first time? Post it! It's your parents' anniversary? Post it! Your dog just ate a whole chocolate cake and almost died?? POST IT!! The impact of social media in this day-to-day lifestyle is so immense, that it is almost unbelievable if you don't put it into perspective. Just like that, our connection to Assam is impacted heavily by social media. Watching Assamese performances, knowing what Assamese movies and shows are releasing soon, keeping up with what's going on in Assam, and being up to date with the culture, can all be done with social media and is already being done. Recently, there was a show about Bishnu Prasad Rabha, on a TV network called NKTV. How do you think my family and I watched it? Through social media! Well Facebook to be precise!

Sometimes I perform in musical shows and other events. I advertise these events through Instagram and Facebook to my prospective audience. Just as most other artists from Assam do. Most people from North America cannot go to Assam, just to watch a show. So, the shows are usually live streamed, and people can watch from whatever social media platform it is streaming. Since social media is such a large chunk of the internet in this day and age, I'd say it has the largest influence on connections from North America to Assam, out of all internet categories. With social media, you can honestly do everything at once, there's no true sole purpose. News, events, talking with relatives, can all be done with social media.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that social media, and other online platforms leveraging the internet, are all crucial to retaining connections with Assam for us Assamese folks, living in North America. Conference sites, as a substitute for events we cannot hold in person, talking with friends and family, or coordinating different occasions are all part and parcel of our life today. News channels for keeping up to date with everything going on in Assam and social media for pretty much all of it in one, are indispensable. The internet is a tremendously powerful tool, which has helped us do so much during this global pandemic, prior to it and will unarguably continue to enhance our networks in the future. It has cemented our connections to Assam and will help us in the continuity of our journey as non-resident Assamese people.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards-2021



The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians. PBSA is conferred by the Hon'ble President of India as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin or an organization/institution established and run by the Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin in recognition of their outstanding achievements both in India and abroad.

The 16th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held virtually on 9th January 2021. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were conferred by the Hon'ble President at the PBD Convention in the valedictory session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations.

Arvind Phukan, PhD, D.I.C., P.E., D.Sc (Honorary), Founder/President; Core Professional Group for the Brahmaputra (CPGB); Retired Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Alaska, Anchorage (USA); Rotary International District Governor and Founder/CEO of Phukan Inc. Consulting firm specializing in Civil, Structural, Geotechnical and Environmental Eng., Anchorage, Alaska (USA), is one of the awardees from USA in the field of Environment Technology.

**Science Teacher Rachna Nath
Helps Students Pitch Their Inventions to Potential Investors**



Original News Article:

[Rachna Nath is one of TIME's Innovative Teachers of 2022](#)



Literary Section

The Phantom of Perfection

A Letter To My Younger Self About Social Media Use



The best writing advice I have ever received is this: *you can't edit a blank page*. No matter how down-right terrible I think my first draft may be, it will always be infinitely better than if I were to have a word-count of zero, because it gives me material to work with. You can reshape and remold a piece of writing; that is the beauty of editing and then editing that and then editing that.

But you can't edit a blank page.

This is the best advice I have ever received, because it applies to so much beyond the scope of drafting stories. It's a philosophy that is readily applicable to many aspects of life. The first step does not need to be perfect. It just needs to be a step.

So often I am paralyzed by the allure of perfection – and whether that's even an attainable concept is something for another day – that I can't move to achieve anything in the fear that it will not be enough. It's a scary thing, messing up, but it is also inevitable and a requisite part of our messy, messy lives. While the fact that I am human is glaringly obvious to me, I struggle to offer myself the courtesy of forgiving what I feel is less than absolutely perfect performance from myself. Anything short of 100% feels like failure.

But then I remember the look of a blank document with a word-count of 0, cursor blinking on the white screen. I would take a jumbled mess of words underlined in red over that, any day of the week. Once you realize that mediocrity is not the end of the world, starting becomes somewhat easier.

You can't put yourself under unnecessary pressure to achieve something highly unlikely. Instead, you have to be gentle and encouraging, remembering that once you start, things will be easier. Not perfect. But easier.

There is time to fret over perfection later. There is time to make a second draft, and then a third, and then a fourth. There is not, however, time to sit around waiting for perfection to come to you. There is no magic that wills your body and spread down to your fingertips, typing words of brilliance onto your blank document on the first try.

You can't edit a blank page. This advice always reminds me, that while I chase the phantom of perfection, always seemingly a bit too far from my fingertips, I can work toward it. It is a search, not a hunt. I strive towards perfection. But I am not the embodiment of it.

Besides, there is some magic that is sometimes unearthed from those messy, mediocre drafts. Something brilliant conjured up by accident, and if you were to get it all right from the start, there's a good chance you would have missed something more worthwhile on the way.

Garggie Talukdar, daughter of Uma and Jib Talukdar, is a first-year university student in UWO, Canada. She loves teaching, dancing, writing music, cooking, spending time with loved ones, or getting lost in daydreams.

A Letter To My Younger Self About Social Media Use

Nimisha Bora, Minnesota

Dear Younger Nimisha,

You're probably confused as to why I'm writing to you. Honestly, I wouldn't be writing this if this wasn't an assignment, mostly because it's hard being such a hypocrite. It's ironic that I'm telling you to stop using social media and limit your screen time or technology use, when I'm the one who uses it the most.

Regardless, I'm here to give you some tips and tricks so you are more aware of reality, and don't end up as far off as me.

Something you should keep in mind is to better your self-control. Both myself and The Social Dilemma can agree to "not keep your phone next to you when you're studying for a test. Turn the notifications off so you cannot get distracted by the constant ringing of text messages. Set goals for yourself and be rewarded accordingly once you complete the goal." It might sound cliché or pointless right now, but trust me, I seriously wish I hadn't taken advantage of my freedom to use my phone and hadn't taken my precious time for granted.

I know how you think; you're me. I know you'll be scrolling through Instagram, staring at all the pretty girls, wishing that you looked the way they looked, have the friends they have, and did the things they did. But you don't. You'll unconsciously compare yourself to others, wishing so badly that you could change yourself to fit the beauty standards of this day and age. But you don't have to. Don't you see? Social media platforms, while they're fun to help you connect with others, are the leading cause of self doubt and insecurities in young teenagers, according to the video, "5 Crazy Ways Social Media is Changing Your Brain Right Now".

When we live in a world where it's customary to have your phone in your face, it feels just wrong to not use it all the time. But believe me when I tell you that we are living in reality less and less each day. While it feels sort of surreal to be living in a world of technology, and a utopia in the future, I feel that we are becoming more robotic and less humane ourselves. Life is about the real-world connections that are made with each other, yet I feel so isolated due to this 3x7 inch rectangle in my hand.

I'm not telling you to ditch the phone, that would be completely unrealistic, trust me, but just ... don't get lost in a dream world. Live in the present. The world is a beautiful place, you just have to look up.

Love,

Nimisha

Nimisha Bora is a rising senior at Eastview High School, Apple Valley, Minnesota. She is the daughter of Geeti Das and Prantor Bora from Apple Valley, Minnesota.



Regional News

Canada East

USA Midwest North

USA Southwest

Canada West

USA Midwest Great Plains

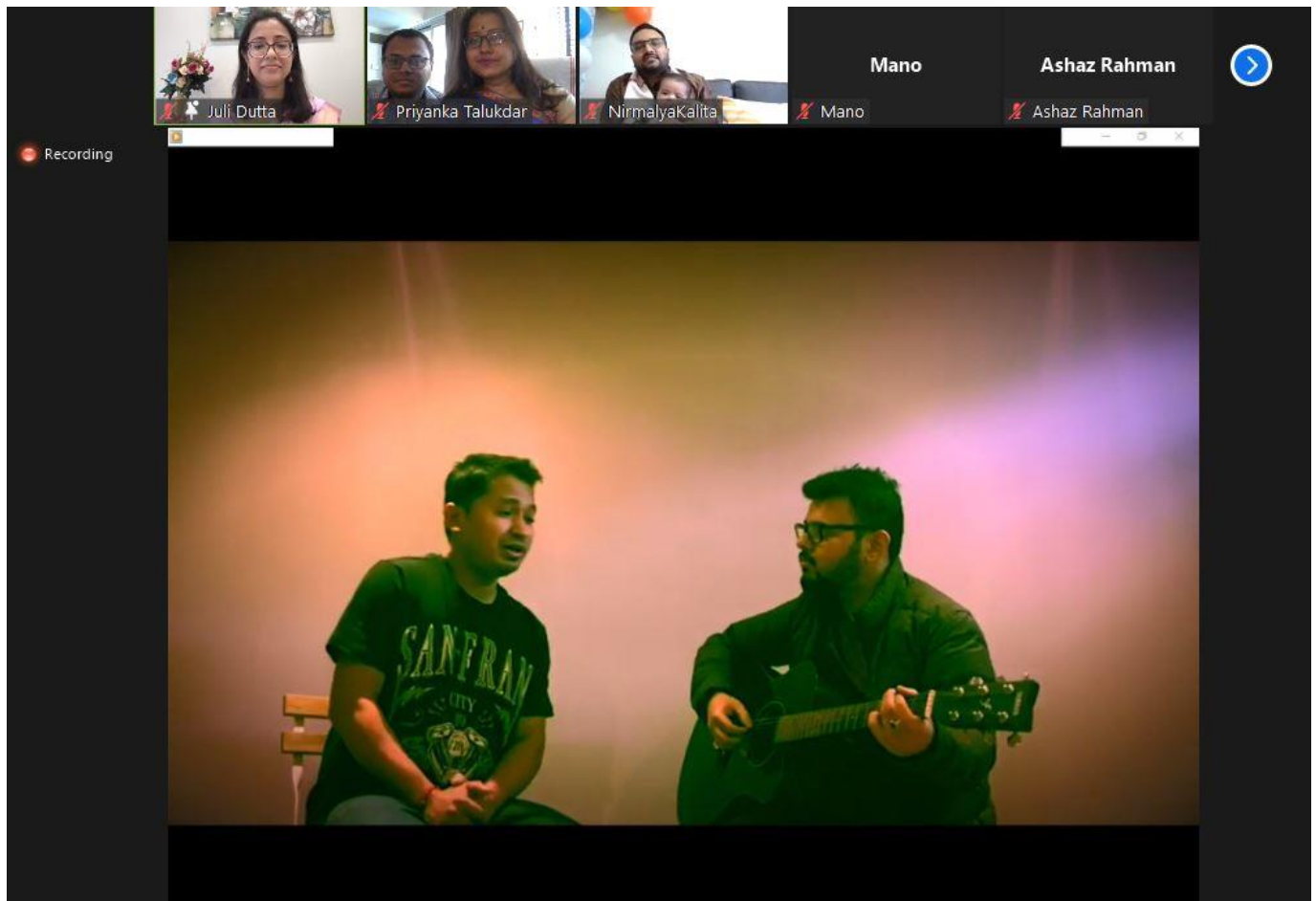


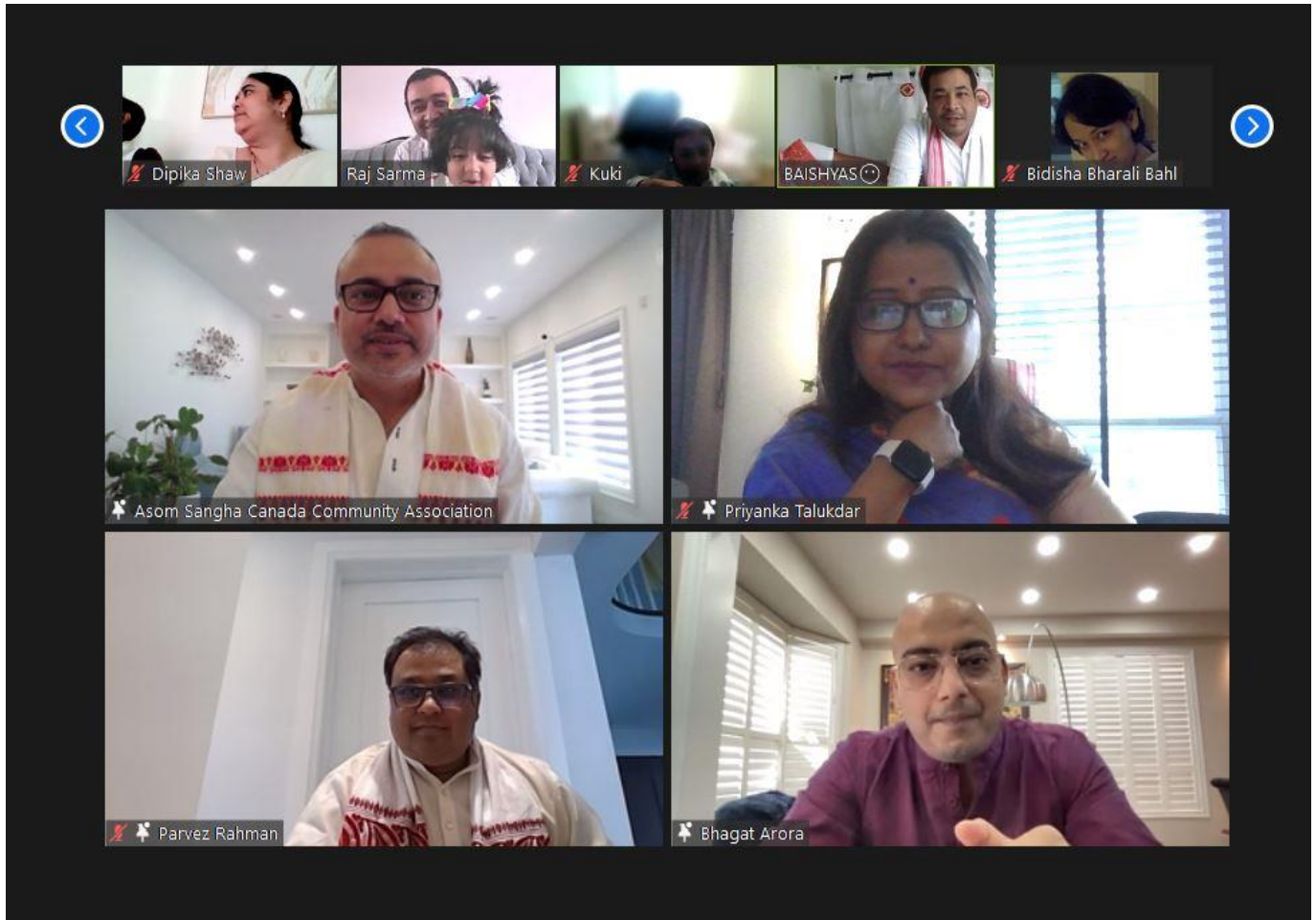
Asom Sangha Canada Rongali Bihu Celebration

By Juli Dutta, Ontario

Asom Sangha Canada has celebrated the most cherished festival of Assam – “Rongali Bihu” on 23rd April 2022 (Saturday). Due to the challenges of pandemic Bihu was celebrated virtually this time. Though it was a virtual event, but it was full of extraordinary performances and participation which exhibits the unbeatable spirit of the Assamese community to this festival.

The event was kicked off with a heart warming Bihu greetings by the host Juli Dutta. Then three of our extremely talented kids Aditya Bhambani, Avyu Bambini and Akshaj Baishya welcomed everyone by a lovely opening message. They also mentioned how they celebrated the Bihu this time and when we celebrate our three Bihus. It was followed by a cultural program by our junior sections where melodious songs were rendered by Anesha (Sonia) Sharma and Aditi Bhuyan. Avighnay Chakravarty (Om) recited a beautiful Assamese poem. Then an attractive Bihu dance was performed by Ishita (Ishi) Hazarika, Akshi (Saaki) Bhambani and Tvisha (Aarhi) Thakur. Following that our Porhaxaali kids presented an interview among themselves about the significance of learning the Assamese language which was praiseworthy.





Next was the program with Bihu greetings and messages sent by our beloved community members to us and it was followed by the introductory sessions of the new community members and quick chit chat among the members.

Then we had another interesting program, cultural programs by our senior section where we enjoyed the mesmerizing performances by Digvijay Shaw, Manoranjan Borgohain, Vishal Sharma and Anushma Sharma. Thereafter the most exciting part of the event was Bingo quiz, conducted by Piyanka Talukdar and Ashaaz Rahman. As the quiz covers the different topics from Assamese tradition to Canada sports, it was really informative and enjoyable. Then our honorable board members Palash Thakur, Bhagat Aurora and Pervez Rahman had delivered the ASCCA update. Where they have mentioned about their planning regarding the pending golden jubilee celebration of ASCCA. The event was ended with our "Jatiya Sangeet" - "o mur apunar desh" by the youngest performer of the event Myrah Bahl along with her brother Aarav Bahl in piano.

Despite being a virtual event, it was very interactive and a successful one. We are thankful that we have such an amazing community who can make a virtual event also a memorable one.

53rd AAMI Rongali Bihu

This year AAMI (Assam association of Michigan) celebrated Rongali Bihu in-person. AAMI gathered again to celebrate friendship, love, and culture. It was a joyous moment for everyone to come under one roof and meet in-person after 2 years of virtual Bihu. The pandemic changed the world, but it did not affect the enthusiasm of our community, people came back with more zeal, and wholeheartedly participated in the 53rd Rongali Bihu celebrations. It was heartwarming to meet people and talk with them over a cup of tea. The sweetness of those chats was enhanced by the Bihu pitha and laru, lovingly prepared by the community members.



The evening started with Bonti Projwolon that marked hope and happiness as we recover from the difficult Covid times. The lead of the organizing committee Nabarun Das addressed the gathering, which was followed by the customary Bihutoli chorus "sremoyee axomi" by our melodious ladies. The Bihu committee took the blessings of the elders and honored them with Gamusas before starting the cultural program.



The program started with an Oddisi, Bharatnatyam fusion dance which filled the environment with energy and anticipation of some excellent items to be showcased. The kids sang and played various instruments, and as they were performing, it made us proud that we have a very talented and culturally conscious future generation. When the kids performed the Bihu dance, the cute nasonis and the adorable dhulias stole the hearts. Kids sang a special chorus specially composed for this occasion by their Chiranjit uncle, which was so appropriate for the current times.



It was delightful to hear our AAMI musicians sing and perform again on stage. Songs from different genres and languages entertained the guests. People couldn't help but dance when our talented singers sang Bihu songs, and popular Axomiya and Bollywood medleys. This year our dancers amazed the audience, whether it was classical dance forms like Oddisi or Xotriya, or modern dances on popular song, everyone was spellbound. As always, the Bihu dance is one of the major attractions of the evening and our Bihu nasonis never fail to make that an outstanding one, a notch higher each year. The comedy skit at the end was so amusing, everyone laughed their hearts out, each performer on stage made sure that the audience leaves home smiling and happy.

Covid taught us many lessons, we took one from those and used technology to bring the loved ones together. The entire event was streamed live in YouTube, so that community members, family, friends who couldn't come in-person due to distance or any other reason, could still be a part of our celebration.

The Bihu committee with Nabarun Das and Priyangshu Kakoty's lead did a commendable job organizing the 53rd Michigan Rongali Bihu and seeing it through success. AAMI made beautiful memories this year in anticipation of meeting everyone again for a grand celebration next year.



P.C.: All the enthusiastic AAMI Photographers

Abhinaya School of Dance Annual Recital

Abhinaya School is run by Dhanya Vani Rao, a loving member of our community. Many kids from her community learn dance from her. On May 15th, few AAMI kids participated in their Bharathanatyam annual recital through their dance school Abhinaya School of Dance. Vani is a student of Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Padmashri Guru Smt. Indira PP Bora of Assam. Vani has been teaching in Michigan for 18 years. Abhinaya School is an accredited center for Bharathanatyam, offering Certificate course, Associate degree and Diploma in Bharathanatyam. AAMI kids and their parents are proud to continue the legacy of Indira aunty in the US! While the children perform Bihu and other folk dances in the community, their training of a classical dance lays a strong foundation in learning the basics of a dance form.



New Additions To The Community



Sampriti Neog

Sampriti Neog is from Guwahati. She grew up in Dhaligaon. She completed her schooling in Delhi Public School, Dhaligaon. She did her undergrad in Assam Engineering College in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. After that she did her masters in M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore in VLSI and Embedded Systems. Then she worked in Robert Bosch in Bangalore for a few years before she decided to pursue her second masters in Robotics and Autonomous Systems in Arizona State University. Presently, she is working at Continental as a Computer Vision engineer. Her main career interests lie in computer vision, autonomous driving and robotics. Apart from that, she loves singing and dancing.



Abhigyaan Goswami

AAMI welcomes Baby Abhigyaan, son of Angshuman Goswami and Rajlaxmi Acharya. Baby Abhigyaan was born on 14th of December 2021 in Nagoya, Japan. He is 6 months now and is ready to travel back to Michigan with his parents to be a part of this loving community.

Awards And Achievements



Iva Rahman - High School Graduation

Hearty congratulations to Iva, daughter of Nazveen and Istakur Rahman who graduated from Northville High School, Summa Cum Laude. Iva is a Presidential Scholar, a National Merit finalist and has also completed the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. She will be attending University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Iva has been learning Kathak and she was also part of her school's choir team. She also sings Hindi songs, sometimes accompanied by her dad. We wish Iva the best as she starts a new chapter.



Vir Gogoi - National Level Medal in Fencing

Vir Gogoi, son of Radhika and Devajit Gogoi, was a part of Silver medal winning team in in the Division 1 men's team foil competition. The Division 1 National Championship held in Charlotte, North Carolina in April. Vir and his team came very close to being the youngest national champions but lost in the final 43 to 45 with 16 seconds left. Of all the categories in US fencing, Division 1 is the highest category, and its competitors include Olympians and NCAA teams. Vir also earned his national cadet ranking in this tournament. Earlier in the year, Vir competed in the Junior Olympics held in Salt Lake City. This coming year will be very critical for being selected as an NCAA fencer in two years and therefore he is going to Italy in August to be trained by an Italian Olympian for two weeks.

Awards And Achievements



Samhita Kaushik - Won in Table Tennis Divisional and Regional

Samhita Kaushik is doing her doctoral studies at Michigan State University. She is a part of the MSU table tennis team. The Michigan State team won third place at the NCTTA (National Collegiate Table Tennis Association) Divisional 2022 and the NCTTA Great Lakes Regional 2022 Teams Event, which preceded the team to the 2022 College Table Tennis National Championships held at Round Rock, Texas. At the nationals, Samhita and her team participated in singles, teams and doubles events. Samhita Kaushik along with her doubles partner Alice Chu were tied for fifth place at Women's Doubles event.



Chandrica Barua - Outstanding Achievements in Creative Writing

Chandrica Barua won the prestigious Hopwood Award. She received the First Prize of \$ 6500 in Hopwood Graduate Non-Fiction awarded by the Hopwood Program, University of Michigan, for her essay titled "silent women at the kitchen table". She also won the John Wagner Prize in writing. The Hopwood Program, yearly awards excellence in writing amongst all students at the University of Michigan.

News From The Southwest

The Southwest Assamese community have many phenomenal cultural experiences to share with you since the last edition of this newsletter.

On April 16th, over one hundred Houston Area Assamese along with friends from areas including Austin, San Antonio, Louisiana, Chicago among other regions thoroughly enjoyed the Bohag Bihu celebrations in Humble, Texas. Three generations of Assamese in America gathered to celebrate the occasion in the beautiful sport complex arranged by Lohit and Manjula Datta-Barua. Excitement filled the pavilion as this was the first large Assamese gathering since the pandemic and people could meet old and new friends. The day started out with the traditional flag hoisting ceremony fulfilled with O' Mour Apoanar Dex followed by delicious authentic Oxomiya snacks including mouthwatering borasaul and cira/doi with garam chai. The joyous sound of playful children made the adults happy as they ran throughout the beautiful park and enjoyed the egg hunt and other games and prizes organized by Astronaut Mike Fincke. Many of the adults secured their places in the khela mela as well! The greater community warmly welcomed introduced new members to the community. And the amazing potluck barbecue luncheon provided by the host families led by Jeena Mahanta was a delectable delight.

Of course, the Houston Bihu celebrations would not be complete without the annual Pitha-Pona contest with the Baby Bezbarua Memorial Running Trophy graciously organized by Ramgopal and Alpana (Mala) Sarangapani in memory of Mala's mother. Gracious Judges of the Pitha-Pona competition were: Lonee (Alpona) Barooah - Houston, Texas. Khira Barua. - Austin, Texas. And Indrani Das Goswami - Lafayette, Louisiana.

Congratulations to all the winners: 1st Prize Winner: Daisy Deka; 1st Runner-up: Monju Saikia; and 2nd Runner-up: Dil Deka.

The highlight event, Mukoli Bihu, rounded out the celebrations. It has been a tough few years for many, but the community stands supportive, and we are looking forward to next year!



Houston-Austin-San Antonio, Texas



Houston Assamese Group (above)

Our Austin Assamese also gathered for Rongali Bihu celebrations this year. The community in the Texas capital city is growing quickly and filled with so many talented Assamese! Gorgeous ladies wearing beautiful mekhela chadars filled the beautifully decorated hall. The music and laughter filled the air!

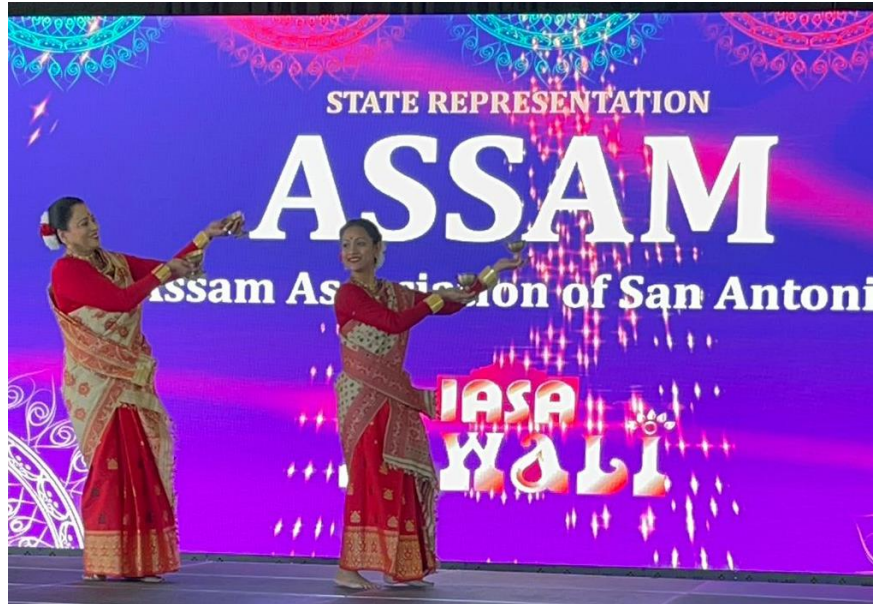


Other Significant Gatherings and Entertaining Local Accomplishments:

As a tribute to mothers for Mother's Day, local mothers were honored!



Also, members of the San Antonio Assamese community, Runumee Barbara Baruah and Dr. Lopinath Nath play an integral part in spreading Assamese culture outside of their community by participating in as many local events as possible. Their enthusiasm in events such as a Rongoli competition and representation of the Bihu dance in other community events ensure Assamese culture awareness and is really an inspiration for all.



Houston-Austin-San Antonio, Texas

In other dance news, Houstonite, Plabita Baruah mesmerized the audience in her role in a colorful Kathak performance. Her grace and beauty are a role model for all dancers.



And Renita Saikia Fincke under the direction of Guru Ekta Popat of Houston completed her foundation exam through the Storytellers School of Dance. Plabita Baruah of Houston and Dr. Deba Sarma, daughter of Houston residents Usha & Hiren Sarma inspired Renita to try Kathak as an adult and it has proved to be an amazing experience.



Houston-Austin-San Antonio, Texas

Special thanks from the Houston Assamese Community to the many contributors of pictures, words, and widespread support!



Back Row: Nupura Sudrik, Poornima Bhat, Shalini Gupta, Renita Saikia Fincke, Sudha Katakati, Ratna Roy
Front Row: Anisha Saini, Yahvi Patel, Minerva Sarasvati Solano Khatri, Raadhya Ahuja, Mansi Sinha

Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas

Dallas/Fort Worth Rongali Bihu Update

The Dallas/Fort Worth Assamese community is growing fast and celebrated Bihu, the traditional Spring festival of Assam, in style! The celebration included various activities such as children and adult cultural programs including children's literary creations and artwork display.



Rongali Bihu celebration this year has been a very exciting and was a great feat for our all-Women Committee members of AVAN.

It was hosted in the Dhaliwal Banquet hall of Surrey.

Rongali Bihu this year was a very well-organized family event lined up with an array of cultural events to create our vibrant Rongali Bihu vibes! There were performances by almost all the enthusiast children and the adult folks presenting beautiful Bihu dances, fusion music ,drama and medley songs and many more . It was a long string of programs which kept the entire crowd engaged and amused. It also gave us opportunity to welcome many new Assamese families who had arrived in Vancouver in the recent times. It was a great ambience with delicious food catered by the banquet hall and also a few Assamese pithas and ladoos alongside prepared by some of the ladies. The evening was full of fun and enjoyment until quite late at night! It was indeed an event everyone was anticipating after the extended Covid restrictions were eased off and people were allowed to gather in public !

Many thanks to our amazing organizing members!



Assam Association of Alberta also celebrated Rongali Bihu on 16th of April 2022 in person after 2 years at the Scandinavian Centre in Calgary, Canada. Day started with stage decoration followed by "Luchi- Bhaji" Lunch in the first half. Main program started with meet and greet at around 5.00 pm with traditional assamese snacks "Narikol'r Laroo", "Pati chepta", "Gheela Pitha", "Payas", etc.

Cultural program started with national anthem of India and Canada followed by Kid's program, welcome speech by President, adult program started with a chorus by members and followed by various dances, songs and instrumental performances. Guest speaker Honorable MLA Devinder Toor, guests from Rotary Club delivered their speech and helped in the prize distribution ceremony. Chinese dance from Zhaoli Dance School, solo Bollywood dance and Assamese, Nepali and Hindi song performance by invited Guest Artist added verity to the program. Delicious dinner with "Manxar Jool" " Machor Tenga" etc. were catered from a local Bengali restaurant. Help from executive committee and all the volunteers made the celebration a very successful one.

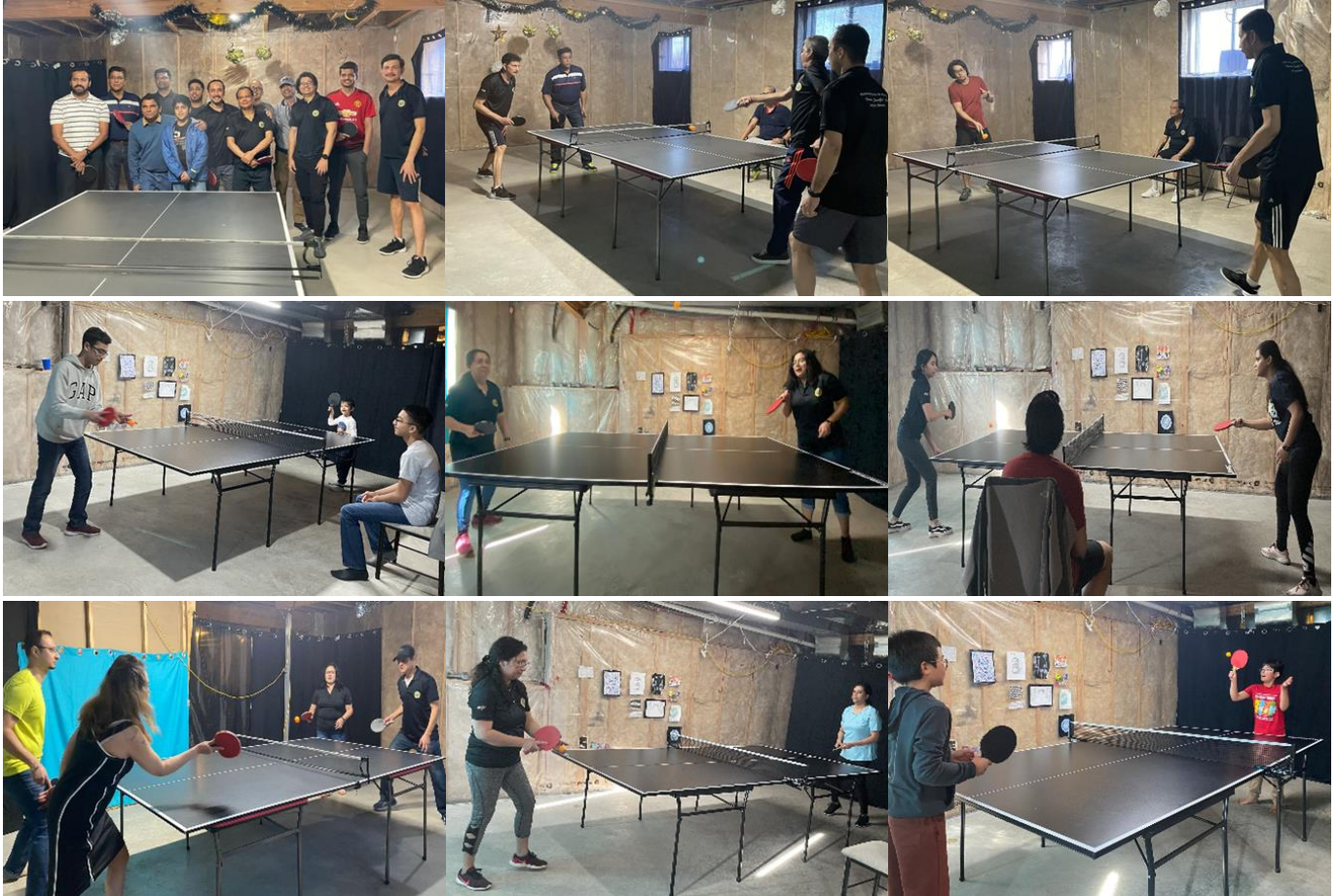


Bihu Celebration :: Canada West

Calgary, Alberta



After a complete lockdown for two years for the Covid-19 pandemic annual Table Tennis competition organized by Assam Association of Alberta was held on March 19th and March 20th, 2022, at Abhishruti & Dr. Partha Boruah's residence. Table Tennis competition gained huge popularity amongst the members in the last few years, especially among young children. Participation of the Marathi TT group for friendly competition added verity to it. Awards were distributed in the Rongali Bihu Celebration on April 16th, 2022.



Newsletter From Edmonton

After removal of restrictions due to covid epidemic, this season Assamese community of Edmonton enjoyed a pretty good time of togetherness in multiple occasions. We celebrated our very own Rongali Bihu along with everyone, in Subrata and Jayshee's residence. The event was enjoyed with our ethnic food like Till pita, Ghila pitha, Tillor laru, Chirra-Doi etc. Everybody wore traditional dress including kids. In the cultural event, the main attractions were Husori performance, Goalporia lokageet by Saumya Baruah, Assam related quiz session by Anurag Kalita and a riddle season by Ricky Raj Medhi. At the end of the evening everyone joined the dance floor with Bihu songs.



Newsletter From Edmonton

We were happy to have another blissful gathering in Willfred Laurie park for welcoming next member of our community with a baby shower for Meghna and Manoj. The beginning of the summer for the year looked quite promising with a gentle weather when the community member enjoyed the food in outdoor setting. The ceremony was accompanied by Assamese traditional "Ponchamrit" ritual along with some prayers and Maah-Praxad.



At the end of the month June, we had another outdoor picnic in William Howralak park. The sunny weekend was enjoyed by playing cricket, badminton, kite etc. Lunch was enjoyed with barbecued meat, hotdogs and tea. It gave us an opportunity to fresh ourselves in lovely Canadian summer with great company.

Newsletter From Edmonton

We had two get together for Ruby and Ninad's birthday celebration in our community.



We are very elated for expanding our community with addition of two new members,



Atanu Dutta Chowdhury



Suvan Dev Choudhury

Atanu has completed his BE & post grad in Management from India and works for Amazon. He feels fortunate to live his dream of traveling as his current role offers him to travel along the lines of the globe. Prior to North America he was in Dubai & Egypt. He is married and waiting for his wife to join him here at Edmonton. In his own words – "I am looking forward meet all of you as now the travel restrictions are almost eased. Happy to be a part of the community." He can be reached at atanu999@gmail.com.

Suvan Dev Choudhury hailing from the beautiful city, Guwahati. He came to Canada in 2019 to pursue his doctorate degree in Material Science Engineering at the University of Alberta. Currently, he is on the last leg of this journey and is hoping to graduate in a year or so. Apart from his studies at the university, He works as an academic tutor helping undergrads with their school curriculum. During his free time, he loves to travel or to go for biking near the river valley road in Edmonton.

Graduation News: Class Of 2022



Samir Sarma, son of Namita and Pankaj Sarma from Eden Prairie, MN, graduated from Eden Prairie High School this year. Samir will join Georgia Tech in Atlanta, GA, to pursue a degree in Materials Science Engineering. Our heartiest congratulations to Samir and best wishes for a wonderful future ahead.



Nibir Sarma, son of Namita and Pankaj Sarma from Eden Prairie, MN, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. Nibir will start his corporate career in a company in Minneapolis and will also pursue his master's degree from Duke University. Our heartiest congratulations to Nibir and best wishes for a successful future ahead.



Sabriyah Taher, daughter of Sabina Zeenat and Sarfaraz Taher from Saint Paul, MN, graduated from Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Sabriyah started working as a Mechanical Design Engineer in a company in a suburb of Boston. Our heartiest congratulations to Sabriyah and best wishes for a successful future ahead.

Text- Book Publication



Dr. Sanjeev Bordoloi, a tenured professor at Opus Business School, University of Saint Thomas, MN, published the new edition of the popular textbook, *Service Management: Operations, Strategy and Information Technology*, with McGraw-Hill in spring, 2022. Dr. Bordoloi is the lead author of this most up-to-date service management textbook adopted by Operations Management and Marketing courses across the world, including India.

