

# PRONAAM

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM AANA | ASSNA | AFNA



# PRONAAM

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The Lonely Swan – Michigan, USA

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Arup Goswami

Bibhash Barua

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# ASSAM ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (AANA)

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# ASOM SAHITYA SABHA NORTH AMERICA (ASSNA)



## EXECUTIVES

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Vice President	Rakhi Baruah Borthakur

# ASSAM FOUNDATION OF NORTH AMERICA (AFNA)



## EXECUTIVES

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Pradip Das	Late Debabarata Sarma
Enakshi Baruah	

Namaskar Raiz,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer!

It is our privilege to bring you this edition of Pronaam. Tucked in these pages are glimpses of Rongali Bihu celebrated 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, of graduations, achievements, new arrivals and farewell. In the Literary section we bring you travelogues and amazing articles by our young talent.

We wish the convention host committee and all the attendees the very best for the 44th Assam Convention in Philadelphia (30th June - 2nd July).

We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Pronaam. Wishing you a healthy and vibrant summer!

Thanks and Warm Regards,

Rakhi Baruah Borthakur

Chiranjit Bordoloi





Summer greetings to all,

School is out, sun is up, and summer break has officially begun everywhere. Congratulations to all the new school and college graduates of 2023. For those who are travelling during the summer, I wish them all safe travel. Hope this summer brings everyone full of happy memories to carry on for the rest of the year.

The Countdown has begun for the 44th Assam Convention in Pennsylvania (June 30th till 2nd July). The Convention committee is working hard to bring to everyone one of the best conventions ever. We look forward to celebrating with all and on behalf of AANA, I would like to wish the Host Committee all the best for a successful Convention.

On May 28, AANA conducted a "Sattriya Dance" workshop under our cultural workshop series initiative, where Ms. Priyadarshi Inman presented the history of the Sattriya dance introduced by the great saint, Sri Srimanta Sankardev in the fifteenth century A.D. It was very well received by the enthusiastic participants in learning the history behind our 600 years old dance and tradition. AANA executive board would like to thank Ms. Inman for the time and effort spent for the presentation.

AANA Executive team is planning to launch "Setu", a new avenue for the students from Assam who plan to come to the USA and Canada for further studies, to reach out to the Host families in different locations. It will be a web link where they can get access to the host families and get information about their selected school and location.

It was a great privilege and honor for me to serve as President of AANA for the last two years. As I bid farewell to all from the desk of AANA after the 44th Assam Convention, I would like to welcome our new Executive board to carry the torch in spreading our rich culture and heritage leaving a legacy to the future generation.

As we celebrate our four decades old Assam Convention with the support of our sister organizations, AFNA and ASSNA, let us also reflect on how far we have come as one community and let us look forward to the future, always remembering how much more we can do together than on our own.

Lastly, I like to express my deepest appreciation to Chiranjit Bordoloi and Rakhi Borthakur for their continuous effort to bring "Pronaam" to you.

With warmest regards,

Pallabita Bhuyan, President – Assam Association of North America (AANA)

[www.aanahome.org](http://www.aanahome.org)

# Message From President

*Assam Foundation of North America*



Nomoskar Raiz,

We hope everyone had a great spring season & looking ahead to their summer planning. This is the first summer after the official end of COVID public health emergency and I want to wish everyone a happy & healthy season!

As for the update from the AFNA desk, we wrapped up another successful “7 Days of Giving” fundraiser during the Rongali Bihu & looking ahead to our next fundraiser during our General Body Meeting (GBM) & AFNA run. We are making good progress in the projects with our new partners in Assam in the focus areas of Healthcare & Employment Generation. There have been few challenges supporting some of our long-term partners because of their existing FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) status, but we are in the process of finding a more sustainable model to help. To hear more about these & other updates from 2022-23, please join our next virtual GBM to be held on Saturday 24th June (link below) and continue to bless & support AFNA.

We will also have an AFNA desk at the 44th Assam Convention to be held in Philadelphia 30th June to 2nd July, and I look forward to meeting our old friends and making new ones at the convention.

On behalf of everyone at AFNA, I once again extend our sincere thanks to the donors and volunteers. We always welcome new ideas and new members, please join & continue to help us serve! We would love to hear feedback from our donors, volunteers & well-wishers as we strive to serve the community in a more efficient & effective way. Please click the link below or scan the QR code to send us your thoughts & comments.

With warm regards,

Chandan Mozumder, President – Assam Foundation of North America (AFNA)

[www.assamfoundation.net](http://www.assamfoundation.net)

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

Feedback to AFNA: <https://forms.gle/fSMMJnDto8UnPqiV7>

# Message From President

*Asom Sahitya Sabha North America*



Nomoskaar Raiz:

Hope everyone is enjoying the Summer of 2023. Our Assam Convention is just a few days away. Hope to meet old friends and meet new ones at King of Prussia, Philadelphia. Since last year, the Host Committee has been working very hard to make it an enjoyable and memorable event for everyone. Thanks to each one of them in advance. If you are going to be there, please do come to the Asom Sahitya Sabha Meeting on 1st July, Saturday, from 8:15am to 10:15am. The President of Asom Sahitya Sabha, Padmashri Dr. Surjyakanta Hazarika is going to be there. If anyone would like to become a life member of the main organization, may do so. Dr. Hazarika will bring forms. We look forward to launch the 2023 *Luitor Pora Mississippi* magazine. We will also, announce the names of the winners of the recent Young Poet's Award Competition.

As this is going to be my last Message to Pronaam as the President of ASSNA, I take this opportunity to thank each one of you on behalf of Rakhi Borthakur (VP), and myself for giving us the opportunity for two years to serve you and to work with you. It has been an honor and a great privilege. I got to attend many global online meetings, the last one being on the 24th of June, the first ever Assamese Wikipedia workshop organized by the Information Technology Subcommittee of Asom Sahitya Sabha and the Oxomiya Wikipedia Xomaj on adding Assamese Articles and to expand. I was asked to open the event, as Dr. Surjyakanta Hazarika could not be there. Dr. Jonali Barua Panging, Dr. Gitartha Bordoloi, Dr. Jolly Rumi Bora and Chandan Chiring Phukan had conducted the workshop and enlightened everyone. There are only about 6,800 Assamese articles so far. And 107 pictures, that's sad. It is very easy to open an account and to contribute to Assamese Wikipedia. Please do it for Assam and Assamese.

I take this opportunity to request all AANA, AFNA and ASSNA members to continue to send their writings for future *Luitor Pora Mississippi*.

Wishing everyone everywhere a colorful, happy and productive Summer, 2023, and beyond.

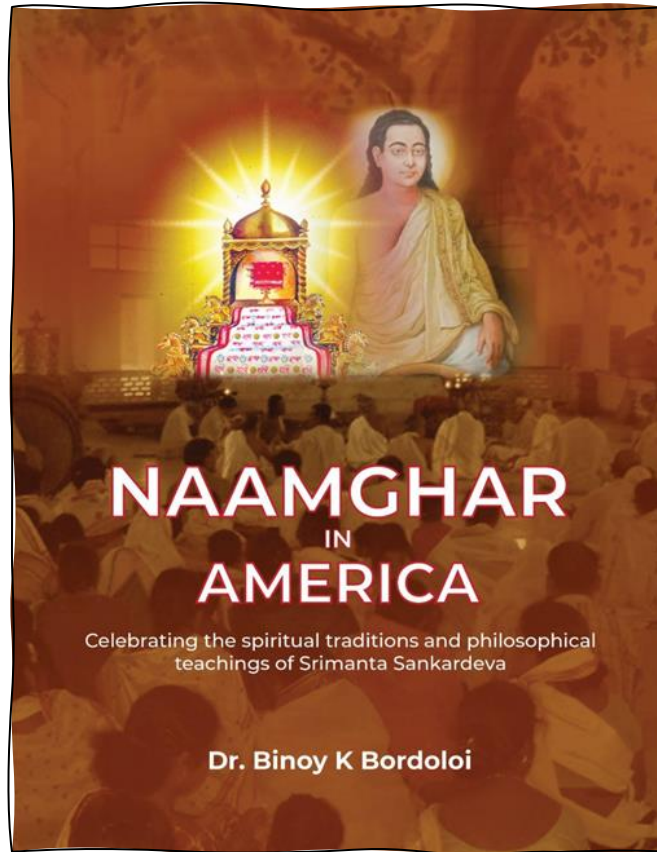
চিৰ চেনেহী মোৰ ভাষা জননী

Thank you.

Syeda Jebeen Sabira Shah

President, Asom Sahitya Sabha North America (ASSNA)

[AsomSahityaSabha\\_NorthAmerica@yahoo.com](mailto:AsomSahityaSabha_NorthAmerica@yahoo.com)



***Naamghar in America*** book project is a compilation of my newsletter articles and the research I accumulated over the years around Srimanta Sankardeva, Eka Sarana Nama Dharma, and Naamghar. It consists of 18 chapters and takes you on a journey of different aspects of Srimanta Sankardeva's life, the origin of Eka Sarana Nama Dharma, and its comparison with four major religions of the world.

It has been a meditative exercise for me and I really look forward to sharing it with you all. Our goal is to build a Naamghar in North America that is not just physical in nature but is in sync with a virtuous mental state and elevates every person to be more spiritual and a better human being.

We want to build a Naamghar that celebrates the spiritual traditions and philosophical teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva

- Dr. Binoy K Bordoloi

[NAAM](#), Naamghar Association of America, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)3, spiritual and cultural organization formed to construct and manage a Naamghar for the Assamese diaspora to celebrate and perform the spiritual traditions and philosophical teachings of Srimanta Sankardeva.

## What We Offer

We offer you a place, a forum to express and experience spiritual awakening following the traditions propagated by Srimanta Sankardeva, including but not limited to regular performance of Naam-Praxanga and ultimately to build a Naamghar in North America.

## How to Get Involved?

We need your help in achieving the dream of building a Naamghar in the United States. NAAM is open to everyone who is interested in building the Naamghar. There are several ways you may get involved:

- Subscribe to the NAAM quarterly newsletter by sending an email to: [info@naamghar.org](mailto:info@naamghar.org). Join the NAAM Working Group.
- If you are interested in getting involved actively in NAAM's mission, please join the NAAM by sending an email to: [info@naamghar.org](mailto:info@naamghar.org)
- The Working Group meets regularly on the first Sunday of the month at 9 pm EST via teleconference/video conference to discuss various issues that are related to NAAM and its mission and goals.
- Contribute your inputs, time and financial resources to NAAM.

## Contact Us:

Naamghar Association of America Inc. (NAAM);

Email: [info@naamghar.org](mailto:info@naamghar.org)

Website: [www.naamghar.org](http://www.naamghar.org)



## ***Literary Section***

*মোৰ কানাডা ভ্ৰমণৰ অভিজ্ঞতা*

*An Analysis Of The Poem "Pluto Shits On The Universe"*

*Trip To Nashville, Tennessee*



মীনা কলিতা, মানিক নগৰ, গুৱাহাটী, অসম

নজনাক জনাৰ, নেদেখাক দেখাৰ, নোপোৱাক পোৱাৰ হাবিয়াস মানুহৰ মনত সদায় অন্তৰ্নিহিত হৈ থাকে, এই হাবিয়াস (কানাডা ভ্ৰমণৰ) মোৰো মনত সদায় আছিল। মোৰ এই নেদেখাক দেখাৰ সপোন ফলিয়ালে যোৱা ২০২২ চনৰ জুলাই মাহত। আমাৰ সৰু ল'ৰা-বোৱাৰী কোভিড-১৯ মহামাৰীৰ বাবে প্ৰায় তিনি বছৰৰ মুৰত অসমলৈ যাওঁতে আমাৰ দুয়োজনৰ কানাডালৈ (এডমন্টন) অহা টিকট কৰি গৈছিল। আমি তেওলোকৰ লগতে দিল্লীৰ ইন্দিৰা গান্ধী ইন্টাৰনেশনেল বিমান কোঠাৰ পৰা কানাডালৈ বুলি উৰা মাৰিলো। আমি কানাডাৰ এডমন্টন চহৰৰ বিমানকোঠত অৱতৰণ কৰো ২৬ জুলাই বিয়লি ৫:৩০ত।

এডমন্টন চহৰখনে প্ৰথম দৃষ্টিত মোক আকৰ্ষণ কৰে ৰাস্তা পদূলি আৰু ৰাস্তাৰ দুয়ো পাৰৰ বিস্তীৰ্ণ পথাৰসমূহ তথা চাৰিওফালে পৰিষ্কাৰ পৰিচ্ছন্ন পৰিবেশে। আমি আহি ল'ৰা-বোৱাৰী থকা চাউথ এড্ মন্টন : ১৪২ ৰয়েল ৰ'ডৰ ঘৰ পাই তিনি দিনমান খুউব শুলো (jet lag) দিন ৰাতিৰ পাৰ্থক্যৰ বাবে। আমাৰ সৰু ল'ৰা, বোৱাৰী আৰু নাতিল'ৰাৰ সৈতে এডমন্টনত ২০১৮ চনৰ পৰা বসবাস কৰি আছে। বোৱাৰীয়ে University of Alberta ত PhD কৰি আছে, নাতি ল'ৰাই ক্লাছ IV (চতুৰ্থ শ্ৰেণীত) পঢ়ে।



মই কানাডালৈ আহি এটা কথা মন কৰিলো যে গাড়ী চলাওতে কোনো চালকে কোনো হৰ্ন নবজায়, নিজৰ নিজৰ লেনত শৃঙ্খলাবদ্ধভাৱে চলায়, বেলেগ বেলেগ পথত গাড়ী চলোৱা গতিবেগ (speed limit) বেলেগ বেলেগ। যানবাহনৰ গতিবেগ পথসমূহত সকলো জনসাধাৰণ আৰু চালকে দেখাকৈ আৰি থোৱা হয়, পথচাৰীয়ে পথ পাৰ হ'বৰ হ'লে চালকে গাড়ী ৰখাই দিয়ে। চাইকেল চলাবলৈ নিৰ্দিষ্ট track বনোৱা আছে, সকলোৱে আইন কানুন মানি চলা বাবে দুৰ্ঘটনাৰ সংখ্যা খুউব সীমিত। সাধাৰণতে no parking zone ত গাড়ী parking নকৰে, গতিবেগ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আৰু পথৰ দিক্ দৰ্শনৰ বাবে পুলিচৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে লাইটেই (সেউজীয়া, ৰঙা) কৰ্তব্য সম্পাদন কৰে। ইয়াত মানুহে পোহনীয়া জন্তু কুকুৰ মেকুৰীক বৰ প্ৰাধান্য দিয়ে, বিশেষকৈ কুকুৰ, প্ৰায় ঘৰৰ গৃহস্থই পোহা দেখা যায়। পথত আমাৰ দেশৰ দৰে বাটৰুৱা কুকুৰ অনাই বনাই ঘূৰি ফুৰা দেখা নাই। পোহনীয়া কুকুৰৰ নাম আকৌ registration number থাকে, এই নম্বৰ নথকাতো আইনমতে দণ্ডনীয়, প্ৰত্যেক কুকুৰৰ বাবে বছৰি registration fee ভৰিব লাগে। পুৱা গধূলি কুকুৰ ফুৰাওতে বাটত প্ৰসাব-পাইখানা কৰিলে চাফা কৰি (ইয়াৰ বাবে কিছুমান মোনা থাকে) কুকুৰৰ মল মুত্ৰ পেলোৱা ড্ৰামত পথৰ (দাঁতিত থকা) পেলাব পৰা ব্যৱস্থা আছে। কুকুৰৰ মলমুত্ৰ চাফা নকৰাতোও দোষনীয়। গৃহস্থই নিজৰ পোহনীয়া কুকুৰৰ নাম আৰু registration no লেখি ডিঙিত পেটিৰে বান্ধি আৰি থব লাগে। মানুহৰ আইন কানুনৰ প্ৰতি আস্থা দেখি অভিজ্ঞ হ'লো।

কানাডাত সামাজিক জীৱন বেছ নিৰাপদ যেন বোধ হয়। মানুহৰ (নাগৰিকৰ) ঘৰৰ আগফালে আমাৰ দৰে গেট আৰু ৱাল নেথাকে, সুন্দৰকৈ কাটি থোৱা ঘাঁহ, ফুলনি, গছ-গছনিৰে ঘৰৰ চাৰিও ফালে শুৱনি কৰি ৰাখে, প্ৰত্যেক ঘৰ মানুহৰে সন্মুখৰ পথৰ দাঁতিত জাবৰজোথৰ পেলাবলৈ দুটা নীলা আৰু সেউজীয়া ড্ৰাম থাকে। সকলো ঘৰুৱা কাম কাজ নিজহাতে কৰিব লগীয়া হোৱা বাবে মানুহবোৰ বেছ কৰ্মী আৰু পৰিষ্কাৰ পৰিচ্ছন্নতাৰ প্ৰতি সত্ৰিয়।

Residential area ত ঘৰবোৰ সমান ওখকৈ আৰু পথৰ পৰা সমান দূৰত্বত, একে আৰ্হিৰে (প্ৰায়) বন্ধাৰ নিয়মৰ বাবে বৰ শৃঙ্খলিত আৰু পৰিপাটী দেখিলো আৰু মোহিত হ'লো। কানাডাৰ সামাজিক জীৱনত এটি বিশেষত্ব হ'ল মানুহে ওচৰ চুবুৰিয়াক আমাৰ দৰে বেছি মাতবোল কৰি নাথাকে। সকলোৱে নিজৰ কাম আৰু জীৱন শৈলীলৈ ব্যস্ত থাকে। আনৰ ব্যক্তিগত জীৱন আৰু কথাত মূৰ নঘমায় আৰু আনেও তেনে কৰাটো নিবিচাৰে। এইক্ষেত্ৰত আমি অসমীয়া মানুহ বেচি মৰমিয়াল যেন লাগে। শেষত এটা আদৰ্শনীয় কথা, কানাডাৰ শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ বিষয়ে কবই লাগিব যে ইয়াত আমাৰ ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ দৰে সৰু সৰু ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰে মেটমৰা কিতাপ বহীৰে একোটা বেগ কান্ধত কঢ়িয়াই লৈ স্কুললৈ অহা যোৱা কৰিব নালাগে। স্কুলৰ ডেস্কতে বহী ৰাৱাৰ পেঞ্চিল সকলো যাৱতীয় বস্তু সমূহ থোৱা হয়। দৰকাৰ হোৱা বহী কিতাপ স্কুলতে শিক্ষয়ত্ৰী-শিক্ষকে পঢ়ায়। ল'ৰাছোৱালী (শিক্ষার্থী) বোৰে বেগত টিফিন বক্স আৰু পানী বটল কঢ়িয়াই নিব লাগে।

কানাডা দেশখনৰ এডমণ্টন চহৰৰ যিখিনি ঠাই দেখিছো, ফুৰিছো তাতোকৈ বহুত বেছি জানিব লগীয়া আৰু চাবলগীয়া আছে। ভবিষ্যতে সুবিধা পালে লেখাৰ আশা ৰাখিলো। শেষত 'প্ৰনাম'লৈ প্ৰনাম জনাইছো। 'প্ৰনাম'ৰ উত্তৰোত্তৰ উন্নতি কামনাৰে।

# An Analysis Of The Poem "Pluto Shits On The Universe"

*Prithu Neog, North Carolina*

## **Fatimah Asghar's Indirect Expression of Oppression-Caused Trauma**

By Prithu Neog, Rising Junior at Enloe GT/IB Magnet High School, Raleigh, North Carolina

Tucked into the corners of the world are divine splashes of creativity and linguistic expertise in the form of unrecognized minority poets: small artists with various backgrounds who bring vital alternative perspectives to the world of sophisticated literature. Fatimah Asghar is a Muslim, LGBT, diasporic, orphaned, unrecognized minority poet who writes about her identity (or lack thereof) and how it affects her life experience. Occasionally, Asghar writes poems that seem unrelated to her core identity of being a minority. At first glance, the poem "Pluto Shits on the Universe" seems to be the latter. All of Asghar's poems are centered around chaos and its effects on people. In "Pluto Shits on the Universe," chaos comes in the form of the personification of Pluto whose personality is derived from a response to traumatic events that Fatimah Asghar had to go through, such as being orphaned and growing up as part of a diaspora; therefore, "Pluto Shits on the Universe" is an indirect reflection of Fatimah Asghar's experience as a Muslim, LGBT, diasporic, orphaned, unrecognized minority poet.

In the interviews and public statements Fatimah Asghar has given, her life appears to have centered around trauma that was caused by the British Partition of India, and the death of her parents at a young age; consequently, Asghar's writing is an expression of that trauma and how she responds to it. Like most unrecognized poets, the exact details of Asghar's upbringing are unknown, but Asghar has made several public statements about two major sources of trauma in her upbringing in Cambridge, Massachusetts (McKenna). The first is the British Partition of India, an act of historical violence that led her parents to move to the US, putting themselves as well as Fatimah in the Indian Diaspora. (MIGRATIONSPIPELINE). The second theme is her orphanage in early childhood. She writes about it in her poem "Super Orphan," and she explained it to the PBS Newshour: "Being a part of any kind of diaspora is such a beautifully haunting and strange experience, to kind of constantly be working back toward a place where your family has left, or were exiled from, or can't go back to," she said. "That's a kind of orphaning in its own self" (Segal). "These dual identities — of being Pakistani living in the diaspora, and of being an orphan — have influenced each other and her work throughout her life" "A spoken word is a tool with which she can address these two experiences, she said"(Segal). In most of her interviews, Asghar emphasizes that her unique perspective of being a diasporic orphan is what she focuses on in her writing because she perceives her perspective as an important thing to provide to the world.

Asghar's identity is a key factor in her poetry that defines her prose and the unique articulation of her unique perspective; therefore, her status as a diasporic orphan has a large influence on arguably every poem she writes. "Asghar has lived a life defined by history and culture, both of which are evident in her poetry. Through her writing, Asghar considers issues relating to the Partition of India — the forced division of British India into India and Pakistan in 1947 — as well as personal, cultural, and sexual themes at the intersection of religion and politics" (Adhami, Nile). Fatimah naturally writes about the trauma and stress from her family's background and relation to the British partition of India as she states in an interview with HelloGiggles: "What is

# An Analysis Of The Poem "Pluto Shits On The Universe"

intersectional identity? Fatimah Asghar (FA): Those topics come up whenever I write or whenever I create art, and poetry, because of its fragmentation, felt natural to me."(MIGRATIONSPIPELINE) "A crucial and characteristic aspect of Asghar's poetry is her innovative writing style. Much of her poetry involves unusual media and visual displays, as well as a kind of spatial experimentation. For example, one of her poems, titled "Script for Child Services: A Floor Plan," displays a floor plan of an orphanage house. This part may be drawing on Asghar's own life since she grew up as an orphan after her parents, who had previously fled Partition, died when she was five" (Adhami, Nile). In response to her unique background, Asghar incorporates different writing styles and writes about atypical topics in her poetry, as Corrine Segal describes it. "Asghar commonly creates poetry about her reaction to these world events from the perspective of being affected by them." Orphaning, family, Partition, shifting identity, and violence are the key factors that constitute Asghar's milieu. These factors go on to define her poetry and identity as a person which makes her voice unique from the others. Asghar's work embodies the work of a person whose existence lies outside of the jurisdictions drawn by imperialism-fueled race identities.



**Fatimah Asghar**

Asghar's poem "Pluto Shits on the Universe," is a carefully articulated metaphor for chaotic energy in her life, disguised as a personification of Pluto to provide entertainment and self-reflection; likewise, to how all her other poetry is allusive to stress and trauma in Asghar's life. "There is an energy that lives in the diminutive speck, an element of irk buried in the seed; scribbled code. An itch with many names. Call it the gadfly, or chaos, or the anarchistic fire. The speck that lives on the border is always watching, waiting patiently for the moment to catapult out of syllabus. Unpredictability is its skein. In a world turned inside out, with every movement graphed, the lick of chaos is catastrophic. Fatimah Asghar's playful dramatic monologue riffs into an irreverent guffaw in this vein, channeling the planet Pluto, in a mock-badass middle finger to the nous of our familiar universe." (Bey) On the contrary, "Pluto Shits on the Universe" is an escapist activity that seems astray from the milieu that dominates most of her poetry. It makes sense when interpreted by Bey as a parallel to the craziness and unpredictability of certain aspects of life. Pluto is an elaborate metaphor for the chaotic energy that has always

# An Analysis Of The Poem "Pluto Shits On The Universe"

lined Asghar's life. Instead of fearing the energy, Asghar embraces it and personifies it to take control of the anarchy that can stem from something as irrelevant as Pluto's temporary inclusion as a planet in the solar system.

Poetry helps express the human emotion of not knowing one's identity; Likewise, the personification of the planet Pluto in "Pluto Shits on the Universe" can be interpreted as a personification/reaction to the chaos that predominates Asghar's upbringing as an oppressed minority. Fatimah Asghar is an expert in poetic chaos. Her poetry is defined and understood through the lens of chaotic world events and their effects on her life. When applying the lens to "Pluto Shits on the Universe," it is spotlighted how significant, traumatic, life events affect everything about a person's identity. Asghar has consistently been affected by her upbringing

In the end, "Pluto Shits on the Universe" by Fatimah Asghar is an intricate tangent poem that reveals the endless universe of internal "shit" that is yet to be sorted.

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# Trip To Nashville, Tennessee

*Eshan Neog, North Carolina*

In the winter of 2022, my family and I decided to go to Nashville during the winter break. We planned on leaving on Thursday, Dec 21 at 8 in the morning, and leaving Nashville on Sunday, Dec 24, at 7 in the morning. But our plans had turned around quickly. Once we woke up, we all went to have breakfast, except my dad. To my surprise, he was already working at 7 in the morning. So, my mother, brother, and I sat to eat. My mom had made us some bread, and eggs to eat so we had all eaten that. My dad only had a break once it was around 9 am so we decided to leave then. We left the house at 9:30 and started our journey. My mom was driving, and, on the way, my dad had many calls and meetings in which sometimes we would even have to find a place to stop in the middle of the road so my dad could take some calls. At one of the stops, we went to a nasty restaurant called *American Pride*. They served nasty food. Although it was connected to a gas station, I wasn't expecting the food to be that horrendous. I ordered a steak, with mashed potatoes and a salad. My brother had ordered a fried steak with mac and cheese and soup. His steak was alright, he let me have a little piece and it was good, but it was so chewy at least it wasn't raw. But unlucky I got a raw steak. I had asked for the medium rear, but the steak was still mooing. I was infuriated but not to cause a scene I told my mom, "It's fine" I didn't eat it. After we ate, we started to drive again and didn't stop till we hit Nashville.



It was around 7 or 8 at the time and we were hungry, I was not satisfied with the steak we all searched for a restaurant to eat at. My dad had found one called Taj Indian Restaurant. Once we reached the complex it had just started to snow. We didn't know how much it would snow and because in North Carolina there isn't that much snow we didn't think the driving conditions would be so hazardous, but those problems were kept for later. We went to Taj, but it was very empty, so we went to the restaurant sitting next to it, Juicy Seafood Nolensville Pike. The food was amazing, we all ordered different types of seafood boil. I got the snow crabs and the green muscles. While eating I was super confused about how to eat the snow crab, so I asked the hosts. She had told me the trick to eating it was to open the top. "Open the top" Then I said, "Now what do I do?" she replied, "Nothing, there's nothing inside of it." I was so confused hoping it was a joke. But it wasn't and the only reason they sold the snow crabs was for business. I was disappointed but it didn't stop me from having fun. There were so many other

to try and it didn't matter if one thing was bad or not.

After the meal was over my brother and I went to write our names on the wall of the restaurant. Then we started going to the car. To our surprise, the snow was horrible, as if it was a blizzard, it had dropped around 10 degrees in the hour we were in the restaurant. While we were cold, we went to the car, and we started our ride to the hotel. It was around 12 minutes away so we thought it would be an easy ride. Due to the snow, the breaks weren't functioning properly, and my dad was very nervous because he was driving us. The ride started well going at a maximum speed of 30 mph, but soon that came to an end. The road right before our hotel was uphill and we had to stop at a red light. Once we stopped, we couldn't start again, and our car couldn't move forward. Out of nowhere, our car started to slowly drift back. My dad had started hitting the horn so that everyone behind us would back up and our car wouldn't hit. Thankfully, they understood and moved out of the way. Once we were at the bottom of the hill, we had to take a cramped road that wasn't as uphill but still uphill since no cars went there my dad had to make the car go fast and we hoped that we wouldn't crash. After we overcame that hill, we checked into our hotel and that was it for the day.

The next day Dec 22 was much better, we woke up at 8 and went down to have breakfast, after breakfast we had decided what to do for the day. Our original plan was to go to Vanderbilt University and check out the campus. But due to the snow, we couldn't go. We ended up going to the Opry Mall, where we had lunch and watched a movie. We watched Avatar the Way of Water, in 4d. It was super cool, and the fight scenes were really fun because the chairs would shake us vigorously. My mom hated the chairs moving though, she said they didn't let her watch the movie in peace, she also said she paid so much money for a broken chair. That was very funny. After that, we noticed many people lined up in front of the Grand Ole Opry. So, we decided to check out what that was online. It was a show where some of the most talented musicians in the United States would come and perform once a week. We had bought the last good tickets; they were only 11 rows away from the stage and that was cool. We got to see many bands and singers perform and they were all super good.

On December 23, we decided to go to Vanderbilt University. My dad's work was only in the morning, so we left the hotel once his work was done. We first went to check the medical college area of the university. It was really cool; all the buildings were tall and renovated. We saw many hospitals and nursing areas, and while we were there, and we saw the law college building. The law building was very underwhelming, and it didn't look too new. It was a small building that didn't seem that many people went there, but of course, people did. Once we finished touring that area we went to the sports side of Vanderbilt. We checked out the baseball field and got a few glimpses inside the football field. Although the baseball field was locked, we were still able to see many cool things like their NCAA trophy along with the pictures of their current best baseball players. After that, we decided to check out the Vanderbilt Center for Languages area, which was comprised of different buildings that taught things from different languages and cultures around the world. In the Vanderbilt complex, we were able to take many cherishable pictures and we all enjoyed it.

After that, we went to their gift shop. In the gift shop, my parents let my brother and I choose 1

item each. My brother chose this medical watch that doctors wore while performing surgery, and I chose a Vanderbilt hoody. After the gift shop, we went to a few bars to check out the songs they were playing. We decided to have dinner at one of the bars, and then we left to go to a popular bar called Laylas Honkey Tonk, but since it had reached 9 pm by that time my brother and I weren't allowed to enter any bars, because 9 they stopped letting all minors in. So, as we waited for my dad to pick us up, we went to this store where we bought more Nashville merchandise. After that, my brother and I were dropped off at the hotel and my parents went to check out the bars for themselves. The next day December 24, we left the hotel at around 10 am and we went out looking for a place where my brother could potentially sing on a stage. We found this small joint called the Tin Roof, but since there weren't many people, we decided to leave and go to the Honky Tonk Central, we stayed there for about 4 or 5 hours, and since we were from the same area as one of the band members playing there was, they gave my brother a chance to sing. Since it was almost time for Christmas my brother sang Feliz Navidad, the crowd loved him, and he loved the crowd. After his performance, we had dinner there and I went to sleep until we left. After that, we went to the hotel.

In the hotel, we decided to pack up because we were going to leave the following day, but that did not go to plan. Dec 25, it was Christmas, and we were finally about to leave. We went to eat breakfast, then took our bags to the car, and to our surprise the tire was flat. My dad tried to pump it up with air, but it wasn't filling up fast enough. Thankfully, there was this nice family that decided to help my dad and replace the tire for a donut fast.

Once it became nighttime, we decided to try the Nashville hot chicken, so we found a bar that sold it, and we decided to get it along with some other things to eat. It was so spicy I couldn't even have a single bite, so I stayed away from it, but my brother was enjoying it. He liked it so much that he ate the whole thing. After that, we went back to the hotel and went to sleep. On Dec 26, my dad left the hotel early morning around 6 to get the tire fixed so we could ride, back home. After he got it fixed, we left around 11 am. From there it was smooth sailing. Once we arrived home, the realization that this was a once-in-a-lifetime trip sunk in. And it was a moment that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

*Eshan Neog is an 8th Grader at Carnage GT/AIG Magnet Middle School, Raleigh, North Carolina.*



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Jishnu Pathak Talukdar completed his Bachelor's of Medical Sciences degree from the University of Western Ontario, graduating with an Honors Specialization in Microbiology and Immunology with distinction. He is now pursuing an Accelerated Masters of Science in Microbiology and Immunology. Wishing Jishnu the best on his new journey.



Cherry (Priya Bordoloi) graduated from Maple High School, Vaughan, Ontario, in June 2023. Cherry has decided to join MacMaster University's Health Science undergraduate program in September 2023. Her interest in the study of health, wellness and illness is what attracted her to this program. Wishing Cherry the best as she embarks on this new journey!



Sneha Boro will be graduating from Turner Fenton Secondary School. She will be attending the University of Toronto this fall.



Dhruv Hazarika is graduating this year from College Heights Public School. He will be pursuing Computer Science Programming at Conestoga College this Fall. We wish him all the best for his future endeavors.



Inika Khaund-Hazarika is going to graduate from Victoria Park Collegiate Institute. She's going to the University of Toronto to study biochemistry and economics. She plays rugby, dances Bharatanatyam, is a lifeguard and a foodie. Since we live in Canada, she's also an avid skier and loves to hike. She'll miss high school life but is looking forward to university with excitement.



Ayan Hazarika is graduating high school from GCVI, Guelph. He will be pursuing a undergraduate degree in Computer Engineering at University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada from Sep 2023. Aside from academics, he is a passionate musician and singer, and also loves playing soccer, frisbee and badminton.



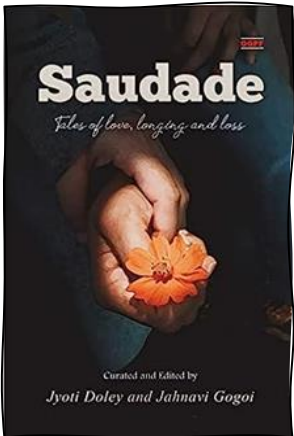
### New Arrival

We are excited to share with you the news of the arrival of our precious little bundle of joy, our daughter, Amyra (Aarna) Sarma. Born on 5th May 2023 at London, ON.

Elated Parents: Sanyukta and Dipankar

Mama Mami: Abhilash and Kironmoni

With blessing from grandparents: the late Mr. KK Sarma, late Mrs. Nilima Devi, Mrs. Jolly Hazarika, and late Mr. PJ Hazarika.



### Saudade: An Anthology Of Beautiful Stories About Love

An anthology of short stories centered around the theme of 'Saudade', a Portuguese word for deep nostalgia and longing for a thing that will never return, was recently released on Amazon.in. The stories have been compiled and curated by Dr. Jyoti Doley and Jahnvi Gogoi and is published by GGPF, Gauhati. The contributing authors include Aakriti Sethi, Bhaswati Parasar, Jahnvi Gogoi, Leena Hazarika, Neeta Lagachu Taye, Pallavi Gogoi, Rituparna Das, Siddhartha Baruah, Partha Prawal Goswami, and Suman Sarma. The book which has already created quite a buzz for its refreshing take on love, will be having a launch in Toronto soon.



### Mitali Baruah Sarma's Twist On An Old Classic

Mitali Baruah Sarma presents a cover of the classic Mayamoy in tribute of the legendary Jayanta Hazarika, lyricists and poet Nirmal Prabha Bordoloi, and composer Johny Joseph. The music was arranged by Jayanta Pathak from Atlanta, Georgia, who arranged the music.

Jayanta Hazarika loved to play many instruments and use different elements of music in his songs. Mitali holds his work in great reverence, which gave her the courage to experiment and present this song in a different, big band style, reminiscent of Broadway presentations of that time!

Mitali Baruah Sarma's rendition of Jayanta Hazarika's Mayamoy can be found now on YouTube:

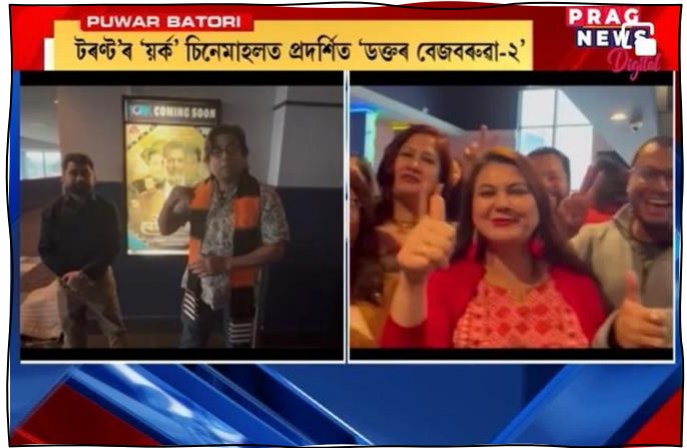
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5u8K2hvYHw>

## Wedding



On June 4th, a beautiful summer day in Whitby, Ontario, Peenaz Hussain and Prayash Kalita got married. The happy couple celebrated this day with friends and family, celebrating a traditional Assamese wedding with a Canadian twist, starting the morning with a Juroon, followed by Paani Tuluwa and Haldi ceremony. The joyous day ended with a lovely marriage ceremony. We wish them all the happiness in their journey together in matrimony. Congratulations Peenaz and Prayash!

## Dr. Bezbaruah 2 in Toronto



In a significant milestone for Assamese Cinema along with great enthusiasm from our very own Axomiya people in Toronto, the highly anticipated film "Dr. Bezbaruah 2" has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first Assamese movie to be screened outside India in a commercial theatre. This groundbreaking achievement not only highlights the rich cinematic talent of Assam but also opens the door for wider global recognition and distribution.

The screening of "Dr. Bezbaruah 2" in Toronto was not only a triumph but a celebration of Assamese Cinema. From breathtaking cinematography to soul-stirring performances, the film left a lasting impression on all the Assamese audience here in Toronto taking back to their homeland. Many came to watch the movie for a second time, some little ones were in a movie theatre for the first time ever and some even came in wheelchair.

The Historic Moment took place at York Cinemas, Richmond Hill, Toronto. The success of this momentous event would not have been possible without the tireless efforts and dedication of Sreenivas Phukan and Bishov Lal Pathak, who deserve our heartfelt appreciation. Their meticulous planning, coordination and commitment in bringing the movie to a commercial theatre in Toronto and creating history is commendable and we are ever grateful to them as well as AM Television for giving us this opportunity to be a part of this milestone.

With such achievements, Assamese Cinema continues to shine and captivate audiences worldwide, promising a bright future for the industry and its artists.

- Shatabdi S Rajguru

## Rongali Bihu 2023, Eastern Canada Chapter

For the first time ever, a record breaking number over four hundred people gathered this year to celebrate our Rongali Bihu organized by Asom Sangha Canada Community Association (ASCCA) on 15th April, 2023 at the Anapolis Halls of Mississauga, within the Greater Toronto Area of Canada. After whole three years of hibernation due to Covid, the Assamese community just came out—young, old and new timers, new babies, parent or other visitors—they were out to participate, socialize, be an audience and enjoy. Community excitement was heightened by the presence and use of TV and social media this year, was an added contributor for the great success of the celebrations.



This is Deepali Sarma, briefing about Rongali Bihu this year for you, I will try to scribe the performed items in general without mentioning the names as they are too many for a limited space and to be fair. Since Asom Sangha's inception in 1971-- the community has been slowly growing but last few years it is beginning to grow profoundly not only in numbers and but also with exceptional pool of culturally of talented individuals. We really got to witness this time how people are so enthusiastic to show and share their talents and they are so committed to be meticulously professional. The organization has seen highest number of performers in for both young and adult groups too. Organization of community event require dedications from everyone-- from people bearing responsibilities, sincere volunteers and people behind the scenes and in front. Food is a big part in our Bihu celebration, and it was in abundance this time again, both home-made and very good catered. Everyone worked together with all their all sincerity for the success of our celebration day.

Cultural program started with a welcoming speech to the community by a senior; Board of directors on the stage officially welcomed the new President, General Secretary, Treasurer, and Cultural Secretary; and one minute silence was observed as condolence offering respect to deceased family member of several community members. Assamese and Canadian national anthems, choruses were sung by a stage-full wonderful of children, and there was a melodious chorus by the adults. A newly formed Axomiya Cricket league player team called 'the GTA Rhinos' was announced by the team lead on stage, was a great news to enthusiast newer audience. For the first time, Peel region Police Officers were invited to the organization, four

officers were greeted with gamusas on the stage, they spoke about their community involvement and later casually interacted with the children, was an added excitement.

Children performances were all at their best and stole everyone's hearts!! Whole section of the program was even exceeded by high school children trying to verse in Assamese too, it was wonderful! One of the attractions was an Assamese young kids' drama named "Notun Chanda Bisari", directed by one of our local talents, the theme of the drama was about keeping cultures alive away from their roots in Assam—kids spoke and tried their best to say all their lines in Assamese, acted their parts with extreme eloquence we must agree. "Axomiya Xaaj Paar" was the most adorable fashion show we have ever seen, participants started even from few month babies. Bravo to the organizers who tried hard to keep kids together and explain origins of the costume! There was no shortage of young and adult talents for sure this year and they were all so well practiced for the performance and to name a few: a beautiful children Nepali Bihu group dance, a wonderful Bharatnryta presentation, little kids' group or solo dance, modern Assamese kids dance, boys' group and individual dances and, boys and girls singing solos.

Quality of the adult performances were exceptional--, this section was exceeded by two community ladies who did an excellent job. Since it is the Rongali Bihu, Husori indeed was one of the main attractions for many of us including myself. With dhul, taal, nasoni and live bihu naam...our men and women on the stage showcased their talents in such an exciting way that even many of the audience could not resist but came out to join on the floor! "Axomor Tholua Xaaj Paar", the fashion show with numerous participants showcasing varied gorgeous outfits from regions of Assam was truly fascinating. For the first time there was an adult drama at Sangha's celebration...called "Bokultolor Bihu". This beautiful drama was written and directed by one of our new Assamese lady from London Ontario; which depicted a scenario of village Rongali bihu time, seniors worrying about the changes that took place over time and their concern continuity in understanding the true meaning of Rongali Bihu by the youngster of the future generations. Other highlights of the evening were a Fusion dance by dancing Divas and the Satria Fusions, both were outstanding performances and spectacular to watch. The ladies group Bihu dance was extremely professional and entertaining. Lastly, audience enjoyed several marvellous solos sung by young adults, ladies and men; and we got to hear some drums and string band music too toward late into the night.

Weather could not have been any better for a spring day in Toronto. With couple of enthusiastic volunteer photographers and TV media presence on the site, it indeed was a fun filled day. The new executives of Asom Sangha Community Association, President - Jibeswar Talukdar, Secretary- Kuntal Borthakur and Cultural Secretary- Priyanka Talukdar of Asom Sangha Canada Community Association thanked the audience, all the participants, supporters and the sponsors. The evening finally came to a closure with our national anthem. A splendid job done... although a delightful long waited Rongali Bihu celebration day came to an end, happy memories will remain to many for a real good long time!

- Deepali Sarma







## Farewell Maa!

Our mother Mrs. Anita Sharma Thakur passed away on 6th of May at the age of 74. She was a trailblazer, a trendsetter, and a dynamic individual full of kindness and love. Losing a parent is always tough and especially so if they are far away from you – something that most first-generation immigrant would relate to.

It took a while deciding what and how to write an obituary for Maa – 40 odd years of memories to choose from and still at a loss for words. Although we knew Maa's health was failing and she was slipping away from us, her passing away has left the family and well-wishers in shock. We still had hope that she would pull through one more time just as she had done in the past. We were both lucky to spend quite some time with her over the past year - reliving some of the memories, taking care of her, playing board games (checkers & Scrabble were her favorite and none of us could beat her!), and tasting some of her amazing dishes.

The story began in 1969, a demure young lady set foot in Assam for the first time, hardly knowing that this will become her home forever. She didn't know the language or the culture or anyone apart from her accompanying parents. Being an Army kid, she was used to of starting afresh every couple of years but this time it was different. This was the land she was going to fall in love with.

Years later, we found out from her journal how nervous she was to go into the world outside of the army cantonment, but a sense of adventure trumped all other emotions. Her pleasant personality and endearing nature earned her many friends in Cotton College and Gauhati University, several of whom she shared a special bond with till date.

Maa always had a strong urge to give back to the society. She chose teaching as a medium to do so - she joined Handique Girls' College as a lecturer and later taught at Dergaon Higher Secondary School. From her younger days in Meerut to schooling in Secunderabad to graduate studies in Guwahati, she grew up in multiple cities across India before getting married and settling down in Dergaon. For a non-native to pick up a new language, embracing a new culture, settling down and raising a family in a small town like Dergaon – her life has been a story of resilience, determination, love, and commitment.

The ease with which Maa adopted the Axomiya culture & customs and not only picked up the language but taught in an Assamese medium school was exemplary and speak volumes of her adaptability. Growing up, we saw Maa as a confident extroverted woman who despite living in a

small town was very much in tune with the latest happenings, trends & style. Whether it was participating in Scouts and Guides camps, subscribing to fashion magazines, reading novels, experimenting with new dishes and cuisines, following cricket - she would do it all. Maa braved her arthritic condition for many years, determined to enjoy life as much as she could and providing primary care to our Nani despite her own limited mobility and ill-health.

The way Maa and Papa took care of Nani over the years is a lesson to all on utmost selflessness, caring and devotion. Wish that so much of her life had not been lost to her illness, that things could have been different for her, and for all of us. While she is at peace and her struggles have ended, there is pain and sadness for the family. Maa was an embodiment of humility, patience, adaptability, and had an uncanny ability to work through ambiguity.

She was relentless in ensuring her students and children got the very best of education and values in life – strict yet loving, Maa was not only an amazing teacher but also a mentor to many. To her grandparents Aarhi, Aarna & Kairav - Aaita was loving, caring and full of life lessons.

She was looking forward to meeting her extended family in Delhi & UP (one final time, as she would say) and visiting the UK over the coming summer but it was not meant to be. We still remember the excitement Maa had visiting us in Toronto few years back – didn't like the cold weather but enjoyed the sight of snowfall, was so grateful visiting both a temple & a church after many years, loved the sight of majestic Niagara Falls, and enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas & Magh Bihu with us.

We can't believe we are writing about her in past tense - never thought we would, at least not so soon. Maa may not have had awards and laurels but for us she was a Superwoman and a Hero who was multi-talented, humble, and someone who led a very principled life. The outpour of love and affection we have seen over the past few weeks and the stories we have heard from people is a testament to the impact she had on many lives. Even though Maa is no longer here with us, we can still feel her love guiding us along the way. A friend recently said that loss of a parent is a life event we all have to go through. We have our own way to bear this pain and find peace and ours is to keep her memory alive and treasure every moment in this beautiful life.

We love you and miss you dearly, Maa! So long ...

- Antareepa Thakur (London) & Palash Thakur (Toronto)

*Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

## Rongali Bihu Celebration

“Bihuboliya” Edmontonians celebrated Rongali bihu with great joy and fanfare on April 15th 2023 at Devon Lions Campground. The spring air in the prairies is a beautiful reminder of how spring puts a spring in our steps and a Bihu tune on our lips. Reverberating music and dances brightened the beautiful spring day, and the aroma of delicious laru-pitha and various other delicacies added the cherry on the icing.

Edmonton Axomiyas, although a relatively smaller group, have been celebrating Bihu for many years in Alberta’s capital city. This year, the celebrations were special because they assumed a larger scale and a more “public” flair. The occasion was graced by Mrs Shruti Patel, one of the senior most members, endearingly known in the community as Rubi baideo.



One of the primary attractions was a heartwarming and truly adorable dance performance on Neel Akashi’s “senimai” bihu song by 7 young children: Maya, Ninad, Ruby, Riaan, William, Niyor, and Rumon. This dance was choreographed by Meghna Das. Among other attractions were a brilliant husori performance, choreographed and led by Manoj Gogoi. Another graceful dance to the tunes of a popular song by Zubeen Garg, choreographed by Ellora Choudhary, dearly known as Aunty Ellora in the community, also was one of the highlights.

Additionally, two chorus songs, and wonderful solo performances by Ricky, talented little Riaan, Sumita (Sumy baideo), Lakhimi, Amar, Avanti, Deepak were thoroughly enjoyed. The joy and excitement was palpable. Towards the end of the cultural show, every member present was invited to walk down the ramp in traditional finery in a truly resplendent display of our wonderful Assamese trousseau.

Overall, these celebrations left the Bihuboliya Raiz of Edmonton thoroughly happy in their hearts, proud of their fabulous heritage, and eagerly looking forward to the next Bihu celebrations!



## New Member Introduction

Tulika Singh, from Duliajan, Assam. Daughter of Mr. Gouri Sankar Roy and Anita Roy. Married to Chef Rocky Singh. Hotelier by profession. Worked with Le Royal Meridian, ITC Maratha Mumbai and St. Regis Beijing. Moved to Edmonton in the year 2011. Business owner (restaurant) in Edmonton since 2016. Likes to paint and cook in her free time.



Joli Rumi is originally from North Lakhimpur, Assam. She is currently working as a Senior Wildlife Biologist at the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta, Canada. She did her Masters in Wildlife Sciences from Dehradun, India and PhD in Conservation Biology from University of Sheffield, England. She also worked in Northern Ireland as a Conservation Officer with the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB). She moved to Canada in 2019 and worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the University of British Columbia and the University of Guelph in Canada before joining the Government of Alberta. She enjoys creative writing, bird watching and running. She has also been an active Assamese Wikimedian for the last ten years.



Darshana Boruah is originally from Golaghat, Assam. She moved to Delhi, India in 2010 for her higher studies and completed her Masters from Delhi University. She has been working in Delhi since 2016 and moved to Edmonton, Canada in March 2023. She has recently joined here in the position of Administrative & Marketing Manager.



Mery Das, Hailing from Guwahati moved to Edmonton 7 months back to accompany her husband Atanu Dutta Choudhury. She did her Master' in Mass Communication and journalism with PR specialization. She also has 8 yrs of experience in various educational institutions in India and PR intern experience in North-East Frontier Railway, Guwahati, Assam. Along with strong communication skills both written and verbal, she has passion for music and formal training in dancing. She is thrilled by experiencing a myriad of nature in Canada and has visited Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver and Edmonton.



## Rongali Bihu Celebration

Assam Association of Alberta celebrated Rongali Bihu on Saturday 15th of April 2023 at the Scandinavian Centre in Calgary, Canada. The day started with stage and the hall decoration with traditional Gamusa, Xorai and Jaapi. Main program started with meet and greet at 4.00 pm with tea, snacks along with some traditional Assamese snacks.

Cultural program started with Rongali Bihu Message from MCs followed by Children's program, National anthem of India and Canada, welcome speech was delivered by the association President. Honorable Minister of Municipal affairs Ms Rebecca Schulz and Liaison officer of Calgary Police, Amie Furneux were the Guest speakers and helped in the prize distribution ceremony. Artists and performers from different communities like Chinese, Philippines and Ethiopian participated to showcase their culture. There were many local and guest artists who performed various folk dances, folk songs in Hindi, English and Assamese besides the instrumental by community members and children. The highlight of the event was a Bihu and a modern Assamese dance performed by 2nd generation Assamese, born and raised in Canada. This successful Rongali Bihu celebration was attended by more than 130 people and the day concluded with Mukoli Bihu and Assamese anthem *O Mur Apunar Dex*.



১২ অসমীয়া খবৰ RNI Regn. No- ASSASS/2001/05511 Website:- www. assai



## বিহু নৃত্য-গীতৰ মূৰ্ছনাৰে মুখৰিত কানাডাৰ বিহুমঞ্চ

ষ্টাফ বিপ'ৰ্টাৰ, ১৭ এপ্রিল : কানাডাৰ কেলগেবী চহৰৰ স্কন্যাণ্ডিনেভিয়ান চেণ্টাৰত যোৱা ১৫ এপ্রিলত 'অসম এছ'চিয়েচন অব আলবাৰ্টা'ৰ উদ্যোগত সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানেৰে অতি ধুমধামেৰে বছৰেকীয়া বঙালী বিহু পৰম্পৰাগত ভাৱে উদযাপন কৰা হয়। সন্ধিয়া ৪ বজাৰ পৰা অসমৰ থলুৱা বিভিন্ন ধৰণৰ পিঠা-পনা আৰু জলপানেৰে অতিথিসকলক আদৰণী জনোৱা হয়। দুগৰাকী এম চিয়ে সকলোকে সম্ভাষণ জনাই বঙালী বিহুৰ সাংস্কৃতিক কাৰ্যসূচীৰ আঁত ধৰে। ভাৰতৰ আৰু কানাডাৰ জাতীয় সংগীতেৰে শিশু অনুষ্ঠানটি আৰম্ভ কৰি সংগঠনৰ অধ্যক্ষয়ে আদৰণী ভাষণ দিয়ে। প্রধান অনুষ্ঠানটি বিহু নৃত্যৰে আৰম্ভ হয় আৰু তাৰ পাছতে চীনা নৃত্য, ফিলিপিন নৃত্য, ইথিঅ'পিয়ান নৃত্য, ইংৰাজী, হিন্দী, অসমীয়া গীত আৰু বাদ্যযন্ত্ৰৰ পৰিবেশন হয়। কেলগেবী পৌৰসভাৰ সন্মানীয় মন্ত্ৰী ৰেবেকা শুলজ আৰু কেলগেবী আৰক্ষীৰ লায়চন বিষয়া, এমি ফুৰ্নেল্ল অতিথি বক্তা হিচাপে উপস্থিত থাকি পুৰস্কাৰ বিতৰণত সহায় কৰে। আমন্ত্ৰিত

অতিথি শিল্পীৰ দ্বাৰা পৰিবেশিত চীনা নৃত্য, ফিলিপিনো নৃত্য, ইথিঅ'পিয়ান নৃত্য অতি মনোমোহা আছিল। আমন্ত্ৰিত অতিথি শিল্পী মেবী গ্ৰেচ, বেৰ্লিজয়ে ইংৰাজী আৰু ৰাছিৰ চোমানীয়ে তেওঁৰ হিন্দী গীতেৰে দৰ্শকক বিমুগ্ধ কৰি ৰাখিছিল। ইয়াৰ মাজতে 'অসম এছ'চিয়েচন অব আলবাৰ্টা'ৰ পৰা অনুষ্ঠিত শিশু আৰু প্ৰাপ্তবয়স্কৰ বাৰ্ষিক টেবুল টেনিছ প্ৰতিযোগিতাৰ বাঁটা বিতৰণ কৰা হয়। ৰেবেকা শুলজ আৰু এমি ফুৰ্নেল্ল দুয়োজনে বাঁটসমূহ বিতৰণ কৰে। যুৱক-যুৱতীসকলে বিহু নৃত্য, আধুনিক অসমীয়া নৃত্য আৰু লোকনৃত্য প্ৰদৰ্শন কৰে। কেলগেবীৰ স্থানীয় অসমীয়া শিল্পীসকলে, হিন্দী, ইংৰাজী অসমীয়া গীত আৰু বাদ্যযন্ত্ৰ পৰিবেশন কৰি সকলোকে নিশালৈকে মোহিত কৰি ৰাখিলে। নিশাৰ আহাৰত থলুৱা সুস্বাদু অসমীয়া খাদ্য পৰিবেশন কৰা হৈছিল। মুকলি বিহু আৰু অসমীয়া জাতীয় সংগীত 'অ মোৰ আপোনাৰ দেশ'ৰ দ্বাৰা অনুষ্ঠানৰ সামৰণি পেলোৱা হয়। কেলগেবীত অনুষ্ঠিত বঙালী বিহু অনুষ্ঠানত প্ৰায় ১৩০ জন লোকে অংশগ্ৰহণ কৰে।

## 54th AAMI Rongali Bihu



AAMI (Assam association of Michigan) celebrated Rongali Bihu on 29th of April 2023. After a long and cold Michigan winter, this is the time when we meet as a community and celebrate our Bihu together. It was a joyous moment for everyone to come under one roof and enjoy a meal together with lots of fun and activities. The evening started with Bonti Projwolon by Mrs Ambuja Jois (Vani's Mom) and Mrs. Sharma (Binita's Mom) followed by the customary bihutoli chorus "sremoyee axomi". The program started with a Shiv tandav dance by Kimaya Gupta. Then our excellent classical dancers Birina and Ananya performed Xotriya and Oddisi dances respectively. Our kids showcased their talent with various song, dance and instrumental performances. The kid's chorus song was composed by their Chiranjit uncle, and our kids did complete justice to the melodious composition. When the kids performed the Bihu dance, the cute nasonis and the adorable dhulias stole the hearts. The kids Bihu Dance was choreographed by their favorite Vani Aunty. The program was emceed by Pallav and Anaya. Debojit Barua paid tribute to Prasanna Dutta whom we lost few months ago. AAMI musicians kept everyone entertained. Whether it was our veterans Biplab da and Kajori Ba or newcomers Sampriti and Hrishikesh, it was delightful to hear all our singers. The Bollywood and Bihu medleys were the special attractions for the evening. The Bihu dance is what people wait for each year and our nasonis never fail to amaze us. This was extra special as they performed a special Bihu naam by Bornali Kalita, choreographed by Birina Phukan. Bornali Kalita sent a special message to our Nasonis and audience, which was broadcasted during the event. 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 food was very tasty and to end the meal with a paan was a pleasant addition this year.

The Bihu committee lead Sudipta Mukherjee along with Angshuman Goswami did a commendable job organizing the 2023 Michigan Rongali Bihu. We made beautiful memories during Bihu, hoping to meet everyone again for our annual Picnic.





**Awards & Achievements**

***Ashvi Sharma - Odyssey of the Mind World Finals***

Ashvi Sharma and her team of 3rd Graders competed at the World Finals of Odyssey of the Mind, after winning gold at the regional and Silver at the State Finals. Odyssey of the Mind is an international competition on creative problem-solving program. The team members present their solution to a predefined long-term problem that takes many months to complete and involves writing, design, construction, and theatrical performance. The World Finals was held in Michigan State University, where teams from over 25 countries participated. Ashvi is the daughter of Ashapura and Vishal Sharma.



***Shivika Aarini Rao - High School Graduation***

Hearty congratulations to Shivika, daughter of Vani and Sheetal Rao who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Athens High School. Along with being in National Honor Society, she was also recognized as a Scholar Athlete and was awarded the AP Capstone Diploma. Shivika will start her undergraduate program at Michigan State University in the fall of 2023, in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and Meta Analysis.



***Meghna Dutta - Thomas C Rumble Research Award***

Meghna Dutta is a 2nd year PhD student in the department of Sociology in Wayne State University; Detroit received the prestigious Thomas C Rumble award for the year 2023-24. This award is given by the Graduate School to optimize student’s performance at each stage of the training process. It’s a fellowship for a year granted to a student for a service free academic year so that the student can focus solely on research and fieldwork. Meghan's research focus aligns towards intersectionality of gender and violence, specifically looking at the phenomenon of Witch Hunting in Assam from a feminist and gendered lens.



***Kyoko Fujii Das - Recognition for Japanese Calligraphy***

Ms. Kyoko Fujii has been creating “Shodo,” or Japanese Calligraphy, for decades. Since moving to Michigan from Hiroshima, Japan in 2009, she’s been guest teaching the craft at several universities throughout Metro Detroit. Recently, Ms. Fujii was one of the featured artists in the Southfield Public Arts Commission’s special exhibit: “Perspectives” a new art exhibition featuring works of art by Asian Americans being held at the Southfield City Hall main lobby, for which she got recognized by the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. She is wife of late Himadri Das.



গাত লৈ ফুৰালে বতাহে ফালিব।  
মুঠিত লৈ ফুৰাহে ভাল।  
এ আগে বাচিলোঁ সেউতী মানতী  
এ আগে বাচিলোঁ ফুল।  
এ আগে বাচিলোঁ বাঘে ভালোকে।  
বাটে মানুহ ধৰি খাই।  
এ আগে বাচিলোঁ চৰাই হালধীয়া  
উৰি শদিয়ালৈ যায়।

