



MSMSV QUIZZING SOCIETY

ASSAM FACTSHEET

Seal -



Government	
• Governor	Jagdish Mukhi
• Chief Minister	Sarbananda Sonowal (BJP)
• Legislature	126 seats
• Federal representation	Rajya Sabha 7 Lok Sabha 14
• High Court	Gauhati High Court



Sarbanand
Sonowal - **CM**
BJP



Governor -
Jagdish Mukhi



Himanta Biswa
Sarma - **Assam**
finance minister



Former Chief
Minister - Tarun
Gogoi (**INC**)

Language	অসমীয়া Assamese
Dance	 Bihu dance
Bird	 White-winged wood duck
Flower	 Rhynchosstylis retusa
Tree	 Dipterocarpus macrocarpus
River	 Brahmaputra

HISTORY

COLONIAL

Assam was made a part of the Bengal Presidency, then in 1906 it was made a part of Eastern Bengal and Assam province, and in 1912 it was reconstituted into a chief commissioners' province. In 1913, a legislative council and, in 1937, the Assam Legislative Assembly, were formed in Shillong, the erstwhile capital of the region.

Pragjyotishpura , now deemed to be a region within modern Guwahati, was an ancient city and capital of the medieval Kamarupa Kingdom under Varman dynasty (350 - 650 A.D). The earliest mention from local sources come from the 7th century.

The Assam state emporium is hence called **Pragyajotika**

(find out about the names of other state emporiums. Eg: Kairali of Kerela, Biswa Bangla of West Bengal)



Ruins of Pragyajyotishpura

MODERN HISTORY

1) Since the restructuring of Assam after independence, communal tensions and violence remain. Separatist groups began forming along ethnic lines, and demands for autonomy and sovereignty grew, resulting in the fragmentation of Assam. In 1961, the government of Assam passed legislation making use of the Assamese language compulsory. It was withdrawn later under pressure from Bengali speaking people in Cachar.

2) In the 1980s the Brahmaputra valley saw a six-year Assam Agitation triggered by the discovery of a sudden rise in registered voters on electoral rolls. It tried to force the government to identify and deport foreigners illegally migrating from neighbouring Bangladesh and to provide constitutional, legislative, administrative and cultural safeguards for the indigenous Assamese majority, which they felt was under threat due to the increase of migration from Bangladesh. The agitation ended after an accord (Assam

Accord 1985)(find out what is Assam Accord and what is linked to it in today's India or All India Agitations in December 2019 - February 2020) between its leaders and the Union Government, which remained unimplemented, causing simmering discontent.

GEOGRAPHY

Assam has wildlife sanctuaries, the most prominent of which are two UNESCO World Heritage sites-the **Kaziranga National Park**, on the bank of the Brahmaputra River, and the **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary**, near the border with Bhutan. The Kaziranga is a refuge for the fast-disappearing **Indian one-horned rhinoceros**. The state is the last refuge for numerous other endangered and threatened species including the white-winged wood duck or *deohanh*, Bengal florican, black-breasted parrotbill, red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture, greater adjutant, Jerdon's babbler, rufous-necked hornbill, Bengal tiger.

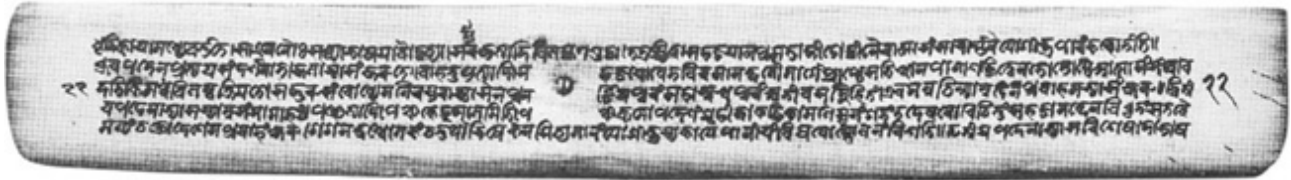
Lord Curzon's wife Baroness Curzon, Mary Victoria Leither Curzon established the Kaziranaga National park in 1908.



Lord Curzon's wife Baroness Curzon, Mary Victoria Leither Curzon



Assamese is the official language of the state. Additional official languages include Bengali and Bodo languages. Bodo in Bodoland Territorial Council and Bengali in the three districts of Barak Valley where Sylheti is most commonly spoken.



Kamrupi Literature

Traditionally, Assamese was the language of the common folk in the ancient Kamarupa kingdom and in the medieval kingdoms of Dimasa Kachari, Chutiya Kachari, Borahi Kachari, Ahom and Koch Kachari Kingdom of Kamatapur.

PLACES OF IMPORTANCE



Kamakhya temple in Guwahati is one of the most important Hindu Temple in Assam. It is one of the oldest *Shakti peeth*. Built by Mlechchha dynasty. Rebuilt by Koch King Nara Narayan and Ahom kings.



Often referred to as the 'Colosseum of the East', **Rang Ghar** is one of the oldest surviving amphitheatres of Asia. It is located near Rangpur Palace at a distance of 3 km from Sibsagar town. The name translates to 'House of Entertainment' and dates back to 1746 A.D. when the Ahoms used to rule present-day Assam. This monument is an important historical place in Assam reflecting the architectural precision and grandeur of that time.

KHASPUR, SILCHAR



It is located 20 km from Silchar. Here you can find the ruins of a great Dimasahi kingdom. The main attractions are the Lion Gate, the Sun Gate and aged old kings temple. The original palace is in a state of non-existence, but its subsidiaries, the main entrance gate, the `Suryadwar`, `Debalaya` are still there intact. The entrances are of intricate elephant-patterns.

FESTIVALS - BIHU

Assam is a State of many fairs and festivals. But Bihu is by far the most important among them all. It is celebrated thrice in a year to mark the three important stages of agricultural operation in the State and is thus known by three different names to suit the respective occasions. Bohag Bihu marks the beginning of sowing by the farmers while Kati Bihu is observed to pray for the standing crops. Similarly, Magh Bihu marks the season of harvesting.

Bohag Bihu is also known as Rangali Bihu as it begins on the last day of the month of Chaitra (April) coinciding with the colourful spring season.



Rangali Bihu Celebrations



Kati Bihu Celebrations



Bhogali Bihu Celebrations

FOOD

The **Bhut jolokia**, also known as **ghost pepper**, **ghost chili pepper**, **ghost chili** and **ghost jolokia**, is an interspecific hybrid chili pepper cultivated in the Northeast Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam.

In 2007, *Guinness World Records* certified that the ghost pepper was the world's hottest chili pepper, 400 times hotter than Tabasco sauce.



The Assamese pitha thali.

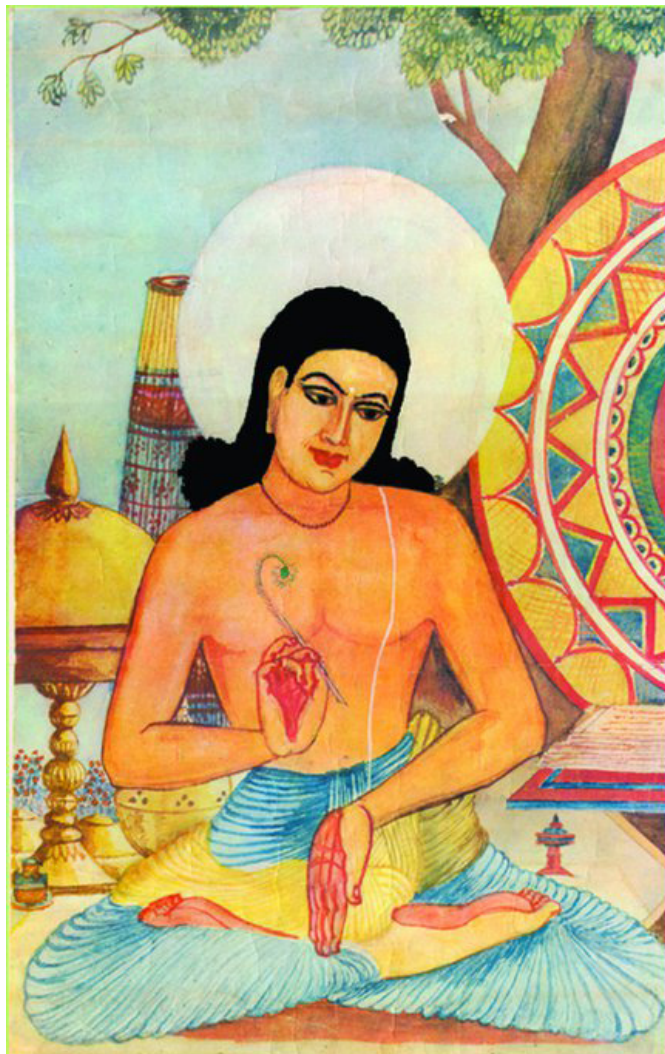
The Assamese people also prepare a variety of cakes and sweet items. The most notable among those are: *xutuli pitha* (fried dumplings stuffed with sesame seeds and jaggery), *narikol pitha* (fried dumplings stuffed with grated coconut and jaggery), *tekeli pitha* (steamed rice-flour cake made using an earthen pot), *sunga pitha* (rice cake baked in bamboo cans), *kol pitha* (banana pancakes), *gooror payash* (rice- jaggery pudding) and *narikelor laddoo* (sweetmeats made from scrapped coconut and sugar).

CULTURE

Vaishnava Movement led by Srimanta Shankardeva and its contribution led to cultural changes.

The Vaishanava Movement, the 15th century religio-cultural movement under the leadership of Srimanta Sankardeva and his disciples have provided another dimension to Assamese culture.

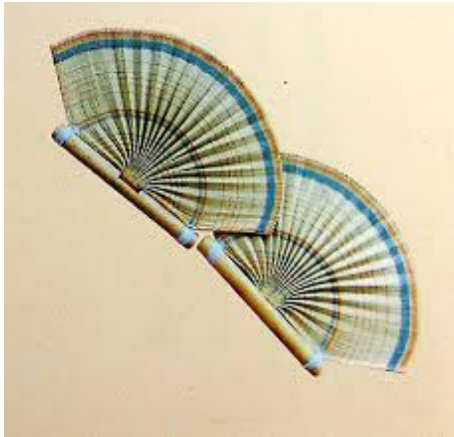
A renewed Hinduisation in local forms took place, which was initially greatly supported by the Koch and later by the Ahom Kingdoms. The resultant social institutions such as *namghar* and *sattr*a (the Vaishnav Monasteries) have become part of the Assamese way of life. The movement contributed greatly towards language, literature, and performing and fine arts.



Shankara Deva

Traditional crafts

Assam has a rich tradition of crafts, Cane and bamboo craft, bell metal and brass craft, silk and cotton weaving, toy and mask making, pottery and terracotta work, wood craft, jewellery making, and musical instruments making have remained as major traditions.



Assam is the home of several types of silks, the most prestigious are: Muga – the natural golden silk, Pat – a creamy-bright-silver coloured silk and Eri – a variety used for manufacturing warm clothes for winter. Apart from Sualkuchi (*Xualkuchi*), the centre for the traditional silk industry, in almost every parts of the Brahmaputra Valley, rural households produce silk and silk garments with excellent embroidery design



Muga Silk



Another important type of saree which is worn by Assamese women are Mekhla Chador apart from that The men are seen wearing a scarf around the neck called Gamcha.



Gamcha



Mekhla Chador

The ***Xorai or Sorai***, a manufactured bell metal product is one of the traditional symbols of Assam, which is considered as an article of great respect by the people of Assam. In simplistic terms it is an offering tray with a stand at the bottom which is used in felicitations also.



PERSONALITIES



**FAKRUDDIN ALI AHMED - 5TH
PRESIDENT OF INDIA.**
Emergency of 1975 was officially
declared by him, that is he was the
president of India during National
Emergency



**WORLD RENOWNED SINGER -
BHUPEN HAZARIKA, BHARAT RATNA
AWARDEE 2019**
Famous song - *Ganga tum beheti ho
kyun ?*



***CM Gopinath Bordoloi,
First chief minister of
Assam, Guwahati airport
named after him. Bharat
Ratna Awardee.***



***Justice Ranjan Gogoi,
46th Chief Justice of India.
Presently member of Rajya Sabha***



***Hima Das, Indian Athlete
Gold medalist in Asian games, Jakarta
and Gold Medalist in World U20
championship.***

ASSAM TOURISM



This is the logo for Assam Tourism, The two blue lines of the logo symbolises the Brahmaputra river, the one horn rhino is also present and the tea leaves show the importance of tea cultivation in Assam.

ASSAM TEA

The state of Assam is the world's largest tea-growing region by production, lying on either side of the Brahmaputra River, and bordering Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and very close to China. Unlike Darjeeling and Nilgiris the tea in Assam is grown in **Lowlands, i.e on the either side of Bhramaputra.**



VERY INTERESTING FACT :

Separate time zone

Tea gardens in Assam do not follow the Indian Standard Time (IST), which is the time observed throughout India. The local time in Assam's tea gardens, known as "Tea Garden Time" or *Bagan time* (also used by Myanmar as MMT), **is an hour ahead of the IST.** The system was introduced during British days keeping in mind the early sunrise in this part of the country.

By and large, the system has subsequently been successful in increasing the productivity of tea garden workers as they save on daylight by finishing the work during daytime, and vice versa. Working time for tea laborers in the

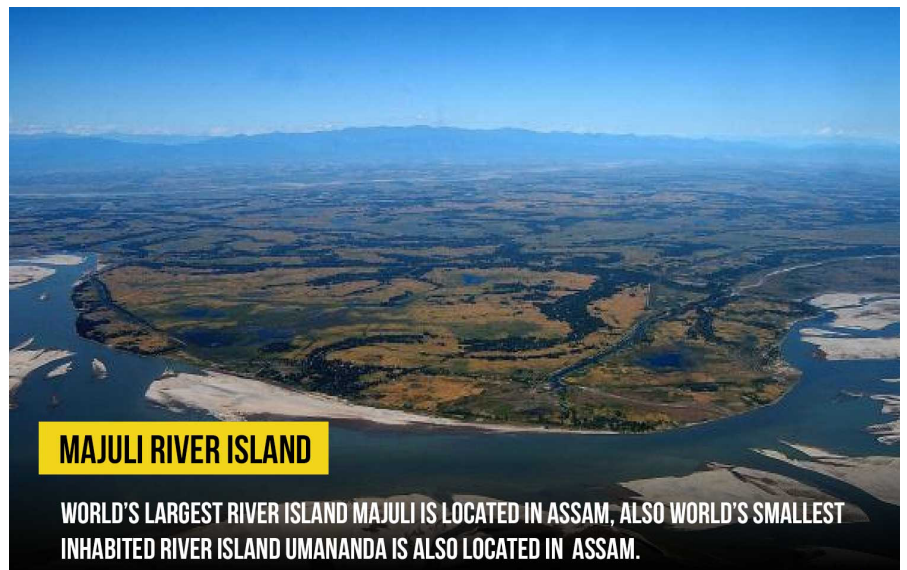
gardens is generally between 9 a.m. (IST 8 a.m.) to 5 p.m. (IST 4 p.m.) It may vary slightly from garden to garden.

Interesting facts about Assam



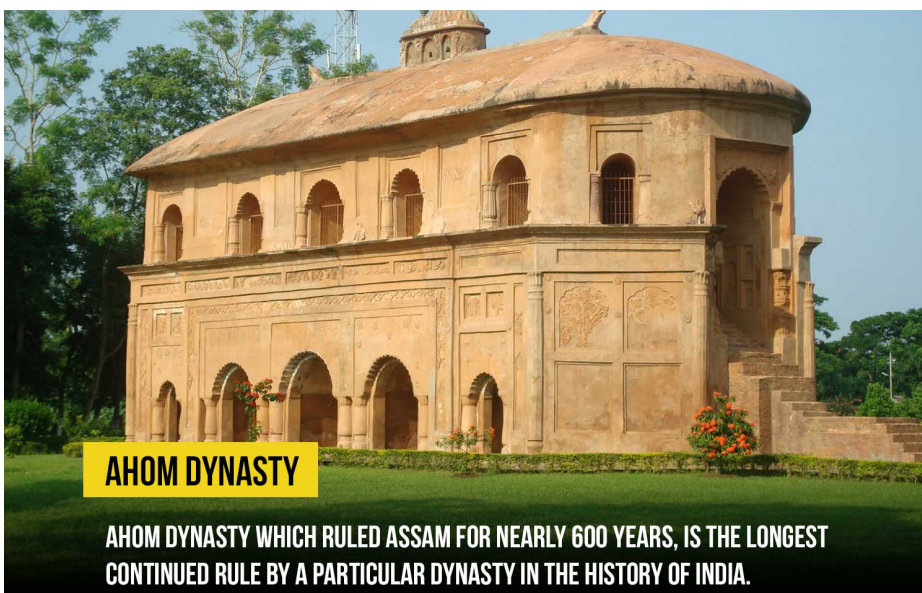
JONBEEL MELA

IT IS AN ANNUAL FAIR IN THE STATE WHERE CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS HAVE BEEN IN TREND FOR MORE THAN 500 YEARS. TRIBES FROM THE HILLS EXCHANGE ITEMS WITH THE ONES IN THE PLAINS.



MAJULI RIVER ISLAND

WORLD'S LARGEST RIVER ISLAND MAJULI IS LOCATED IN ASSAM, ALSO WORLD'S SMALLEST INHABITED RIVER ISLAND UMANANDA IS ALSO LOCATED IN ASSAM.



AHOM DYNASTY

AHOM DYNASTY WHICH RULED ASSAM FOR NEARLY 600 YEARS, IS THE LONGEST CONTINUED RULE BY A PARTICULAR DYNASTY IN THE HISTORY OF INDIA.

