



Heritage Explorer

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VOL. X, NO. 9 & 10, Sept. & Oct. 2011

Monthly News Bulletin



*Subham Karoti Kalyanam
Arogyam Sukha Sampadam*



The Deori Janajati

The Deori is a small Janajati community of North East India who found to be scattered primarily in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Deoris believe in the supreme God, known as "KUNDIMAMA". 'Kundi' means Parama Purush (supreme consciousness) and 'Mama' means Parama Prakriti (cosmic operative principle). Hence, 'Kundimama' means Parama Brahma (Supreme entity compris-



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Subscription may be sent by M.O. to :
Circulation Manager

Heritage Explorer

Near Barowari Mandir
H.No.30, F.C.Road
Uzan Bazar, Guwahati-781001

(Mention Pin Code No. along with full postal address)

**Bank A/c : Heritage Foundation,
No. 3213 0001 0009 3631 at PNB, Guwahati**

₹ 60/- For 1 Year
₹ 120/- For 2 Year
₹ 300/- For 5 Year

Edited by : Amarendra Brahma, C/o. Heritage Foundation, K.B.Road, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati-781008, Published & Printed by : Narayan Dev Sarma on behalf of Heritage Foundation, K.B.Road, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati-781008, Published at: Heritage Foundation, K.B. Road, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati - 781008 (Assam). e-mail: ourheritage123@yahoo.com, Printed at: Arindam Offset & Imaging Systems, Rajgarh, Guwahati- 781 003 (Assam)

Articles on Eternal Faith and Culture and different Socio-Cultural movements in Northeast are invited for publication.

Sanskrit Bharati Demands Sanskrit as a Compulsory Subject

SILCHAR, Aug 10: Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages and the embodiment of Indian culture and civilization. It is more than a classical language in the country as it is the greatest feeder language for modern Indian languages. The Constitution of India has laid down that the "Rashtra Bhasa should derive primarily from Sanskrit". Considering the significance of the language and its importance in the Indian context as a whole, Sanskrit Bharati, Cachar, has in a memorandum addressed to the Education Minister of Assam and submitted through the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar today demanded inclusion of teaching and learning compulsory in school education system.

Bidhan Chandra Bhattacharjee, Principal, Sanskrit Bharati, said "the NCERT has declared Sanskrit as a compulsory subject in its school syllabus and its teaching from class VI level which is a well considered decision." He added to say that the scope of learning Sanskrit in the schools of Assam is limited to class IX and X only which cannot serve the purpose of making the language popular and a part of usage. A student cannot be expected to learn a language in two years. He needs at least five year course to have grasp over the subject. Sanskrit Bharati therefore pleads with the State Government to give serious thought to it for inclusion of the classical language from class I.

Sanskrit Bharati at the same time has urged upon the Education Minister to fill up a number of posts of teachers of Sanskrit lying vacant in government and provincialized schools, doing a great injustice to the teaching of Sanskrit. Some posts, it regrets, have been converted to general category which has a negative impact on the propagation of the language. The Assam Government should take steps to fill up the vacant posts and revert Sanskrit teachers' posts which were earlier converted into other category. Teaching of Sanskrit, it further emphasizes, will not only add to the maintenance of academic environs but also cultivate among the children from the initial stage the sense of values and virtues, so essential for discipline. (The Sentinel - 11-8-2011)

Kamakhya Temple's Existence Under Threat

GUWAHATI, Aug 5 Nestled amongst the picturesque Nilachal hill atop Guwahati city, the world famous Kamakhya temple, the centre of Shakti cult, is in danger due to illegal encroachments and indiscriminate settlements of land, reports PTI.

"It goes without saying that being the foremost amongst the 51 Shaktipeethas, the deity of Kamakhya is one of the most venerated Goddess not only in the country but throughout the world, but today the Nilachal hills and the Durgasarobar areas wherein the very history of the entire region took shape is beleaguered," says Naba Kanta Sarma, secretary, Kamakhya Debutter board.

"The temple is beleaguered by a host of very serious problems, the main being illegal encroachments and indiscriminate settlement of land within these areas which is threatening the very existence of the shrine," Sarma said during an interview to PTI at the temple premises.

Unless and until the people rise up unitedly to save this heritage site, it may be too late and will become a part of history, he says.

The situation has become all the more complicated with the presence of innumerable temples scattered all over the Nilachal hills and according to an estimate by the Archaeological Survey of India, there probably existed more than a hundred some time in the past, he said.

Since Goddess Kamakhya is one of the most venerated in the area, vast tracts of land were settled in Her favour throughout the ages by various rulers for maintenance of the shrine.

The quantum of such lands is about 45,000 bighas, out of which an approximate area of 35,000 bighas were agricultural lands including fisheries and rest comprised the Nilachal hills comprising the three hills of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

The management of the temple used to operate on the income derived from these land till the first Assam Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious and Charitable institutions came into

force in which the lands of the temple were to be acquired by the deputy commissioner of the district collector.

As against this acquisition, the government is required to pay compensation, but a period of 35 years have elapsed since the lands were acquired and for reasons best known to the State, neither retainable area has been demarcated nor has the compensation been determined, says Sarma.

"Without demarcating the lands, which were lawfully to be retained by the Debutter, the revenue officials undertook the preparation of demarcation in a fraudulent way," he says.

The Kamakhya management has challenged the "highly arbitrary" manner of demarcation and approached the Gauhati High court which has passed an order staying settlement operations, he says.

"Being unable to wriggle out of its predicament, the district administration is taking recourse to dubious means for keeping its misdeeds under wraps by forcible attempting to even take over the management of the Debutter," Sarma said.

"Once the management goes into the hands of the district administration, the difficult questions raised by the Debutter board would never have to be answered as the questioning body itself would be dead and buried," he feared.

"Be that as it may, the management has undertaken several positive steps to set right the wrongs and accordingly a master plan for comprehensive development of the entire endowment has been formulated," he said.

Instantly, core areas have been identified and works relating to renovation, cleanliness, roads, water supply, drainage, electrification, preservation of antiquities, public grounds and conservation of biodiversity have been started, says Sarma.

Among the achievement of the board is installation of air conditioning system inside the temple but the system had to be upgraded and the authorities are planning to involve corporate houses. (The Assam Tribune - 6-8-2011)