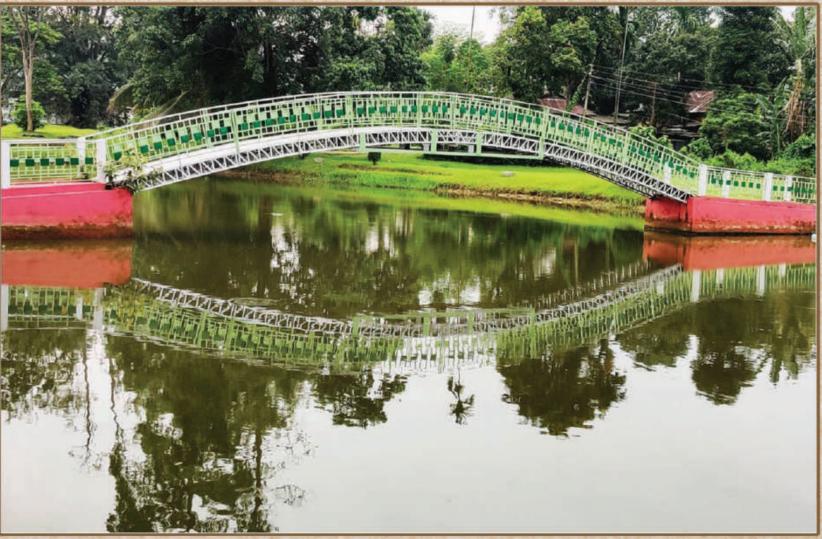


# Rambling in and around AAU, Jorhat







# Rambling in and around AAU, Jorhat



Professor Bidyut K Sarmah Dr. Mukund V Deshpande

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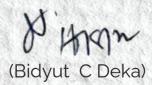




It gives me an immense pleasure to learn that a coffee table book is all set to be published by the DBT-North East Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology (NECAB) of our university to showcase the enriched flora and fauna of AAU.

I understand that Professor Bidyut Sarmah, Centre Director of DBT-NECAB during his regular strolling and our esteem visitor Dr. M.V. Deshpande during his ramblings on the campus have captured the rich biodiversity and the beauty of natural environment of the campus with their camera lenses. This book is a collection of few rare photographs captured by Dr. Sarmah and Dr. Deshpande.

I congratulate both Professor Sarmah and Dr. Deshpande for their efforts to make this excellent coffee table book about campus for nature lovers. I am sure our esteem visitors would be happy to have the copy of this book too.



November 2022

### From the Editors' Desk

The early morning rambling in and around AAU campus gives us an opportunity to admire the environs of the campus and the wealth of flora that we live amongst. There are some spots on the campus which still are untouched. While there are some spots which are developed for conservation of biodiversity. The sighting of resident birds as well as occasional local migrants, butterflies and animals is an eye-pleasing experience. This is a great opportunity for nature lovers like us to catch the moments with a camera lens, especially for rare sightings. On one side, most of the deforestation is happening for urbanization while on the other side the flora and fauna in and around AAU creates pleasant environment for residents as well as to the visitors.

Interestingly recent pandemic has given most of us an opportunity to revisit our nature-ramblings, in form of photos, and share everyday on what's app. Both of us decided to compile of our selected photos of the Flora and Fauna, landscapes in and around AAU. The ramblers and visitors of our campus can enjoy nature in the form of a coffee table book. Both of us take this opportunity to thank Hon. Vice Chancellor for allowing us to make this rambling around the campus. We appreciate efforts of various departments in not only beautification of the campus but also for developing different gardens around.

Bidyut K Sarmah November 2022 Mukund V Deshpande





Assam Agriculture University (AAU) is the first institute established for agriculture in North-Eastern region of India. It was founded on April 1, 1969 under The Assam Agricultural University Act, 1968 for knowledge-based farm education, and research in agriculture to develop technologies for the mankind.

Government of India has taken one more step for the prosperity of North-Eastern region. In February 2011, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi made a centre in AAU for Agriculture Biotechnology and AAU has moved one step ahead as a leader in the N-E region. Relaxing in the lap of Nature, I asked her-Hey! What is the secret of your beauty! She smiled and whispered-"It's simple,

I am Natural, Harmonious and Generous too".

With loving touch of sun rays, flowers smile, breeze blows and birds sing, With shower over the forested hill, joy rolls down the jumping spring.

Spreading hope in the green crop field, river flows to the ocean, Droplets fly through sky to meet the cloud only to comeback again.

Nature whispered-

"You too have your own beauty- I am incomplete without you, Just be Natural, Harmonious and Generous too". প্ৰকৃতিৰ কোলাত জিৰাই প্ৰকৃতিকেই শুধিলো -কবানে বাৰু তোমাৰ শোভাৰ গোপন কথাবোৰ! তাই হাঁহি মাৰি লাহেকৈ ক'লে -''বিশেষ একো নাই-মোৰ বুকুত নিৰলে বাজে সবাকে মিলোৱাৰ আৰু নিজকে বিলোৱাৰ সুৰ।।

কোমল ৰদালিৰ পৰশ লাগি ফুলে হাঁহে, মলয়া বলে, পখীয়ে গীত গাই, পাহাৰৰ বনণিত বৰ্ষা দেখি জুৰিটিয়ে আপোন মনে শিলে শিলে জপিয়াই।

সেউজ পথাৰত সপোন সিচি নৈ খনি বৈ যায় দূৰ দূৰণিৰ নীলা সাগৰ ধিয়াই, ধৰা বুকুলৈ পুনৰ আহিবলৈ পানী কনা বোৰো মেঘৰ দেশলৈ উৰা মাৰি যায়।

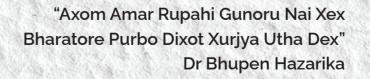
প্ৰকৃতিয়ে কানে কানে কলে ''বন্ধু, তোমাৰ শোভাও অপাৰ, যুগ যুগৰ চিনাকি তোমাৰ আৰু মোৰ, এবাৰ মাথো প্ৰাণত বজোৱা সবাকে মিলোৱাৰ আৰু নিজকে বিলোৱাৰ সুৰ"।।

Professor Arup Kumar Sarma Department of Civil Engineering IIT, Guwahati



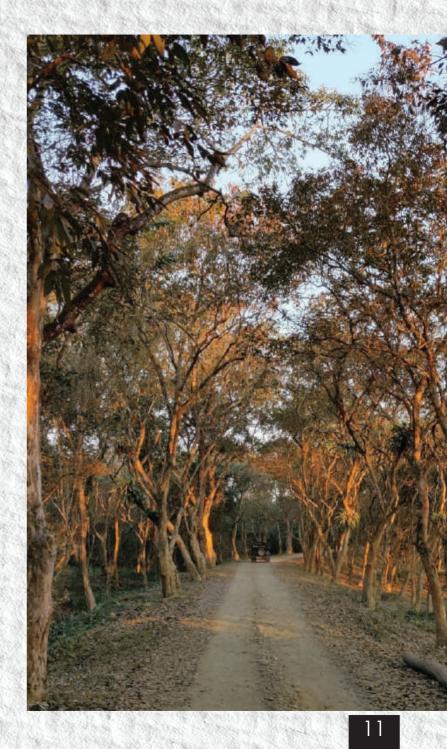


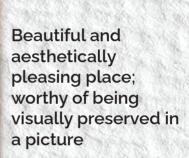




Nature walk in and around AAU "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks"

> -John Muir (1838-1914) Scottish-American naturalist







In Greek mythology, Narcissus fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water

4.59

#### **Illusion** An instance of a misinterpreted perception



14







An orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance

An orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance even if no one is around to appreciate it

Rhyncostylis retusa, the state flower of Assam, and is an integral part of a Bihu dancer's attire. The plant is considered to be a symbol of love, and fertility





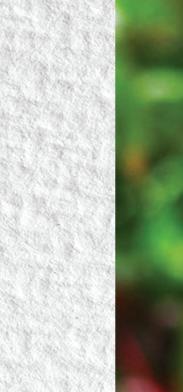
Bihu is not just a dance form but also an important depiction and representation of the diverse culture of the Assamese people. The quick steps and rapid movements of hands, swinging bodies with grace balancing maintaining the rhythm of the music. The colourful costumes and bright smiles make it a more extraordinary dance form.







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#### Red crucifix orchid Epidendrum radicans



18

#### Golden arch dendrobium Dendrobium chrysotoxum





Primrose dendrobium Dendrobium polyanthum



19

### Cattleya species







20

#### Vanda species Pink and Blue







Spicer's Slipper orchid Paphiopedilum spicerianum



Lady's Slipper orchid Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum









Moth orchid Phalaenopsis species





Rhynchostylis species





Oncidium species

Zygopetalum species



Dendrobium species



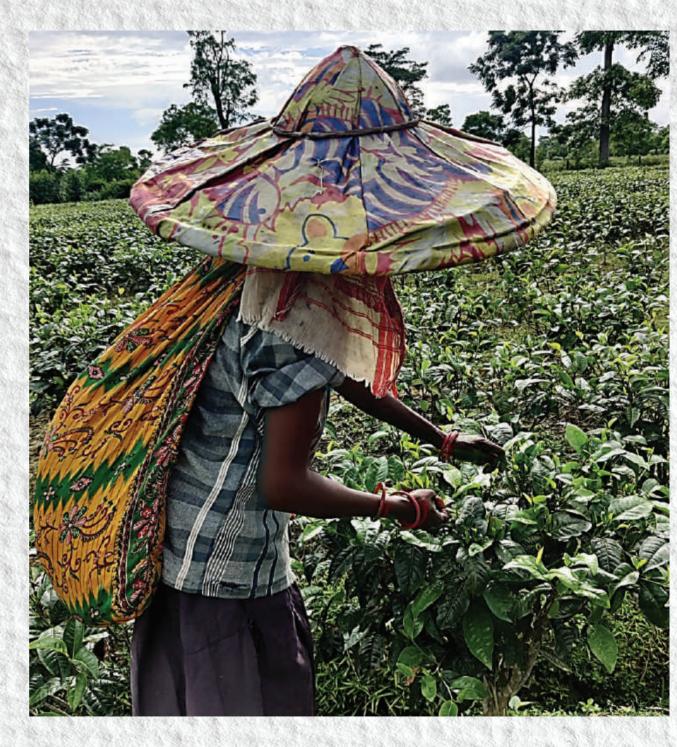
Aerides species

In Assam as many as 293 species of orchids are seen. Most of them are epiphytes. Goodyera procera and Spiranthis sinesis are adapted to aquatic environment. While Vanilla pilifera and Galeola altissima are climbers. Commonly found orchid genera in Assam are: Acanthephippium, Anoectochilus, Apostasia, Agrostophyllum, Bulbophyllum, Camarotis Calanthe, Coelogyne, Cymbidium, Dendrobium, Didymoplexis, Eria, Eulophia, Geodorum, Galeola, Habenaria, Malaxis, Nephelaphyllum, Oberonia,, Vanilla, and Zeuxine. Paphiopedilum is endangered under IUCN category.



#### **Flora** Natural and in man-made gardens

AAU has its own tea garden





*Bauhinia acuminata* Dwarf white orchid tree



Bottle brush Callistemon nanciolatus

#### One with needlelike leaves and brush flowers







*Mimosa pudica* Wound healing property, anti-diabetic and anti-inflammatory

*Melastoma affine* Usually planted for its aesthetic value



Parijat/Sewali Nyctanthes arbor-tristis

The flowers are used to cure a large number of diseases, such as the prevalent fever, sciatica and arthritis.



Under the dark green shades, the Parijatak sparkles Like the flickering of lamps on a Deepavali night, As if the message of the stars dotting the sky Is rewritten with letters of silver on a lush green foliage The white flowers are strewn on the grass like an 'anchal' Its fragrance wafting in the listless wind of the garden-path Lingering like a strain of melancholy at the end of a busy day

- Rabindranath Tagore











Gulmohar, Poinciana regia



Christmas tree, *Araucaria cookii* Captain Cook's pine





#### **Rain tree**

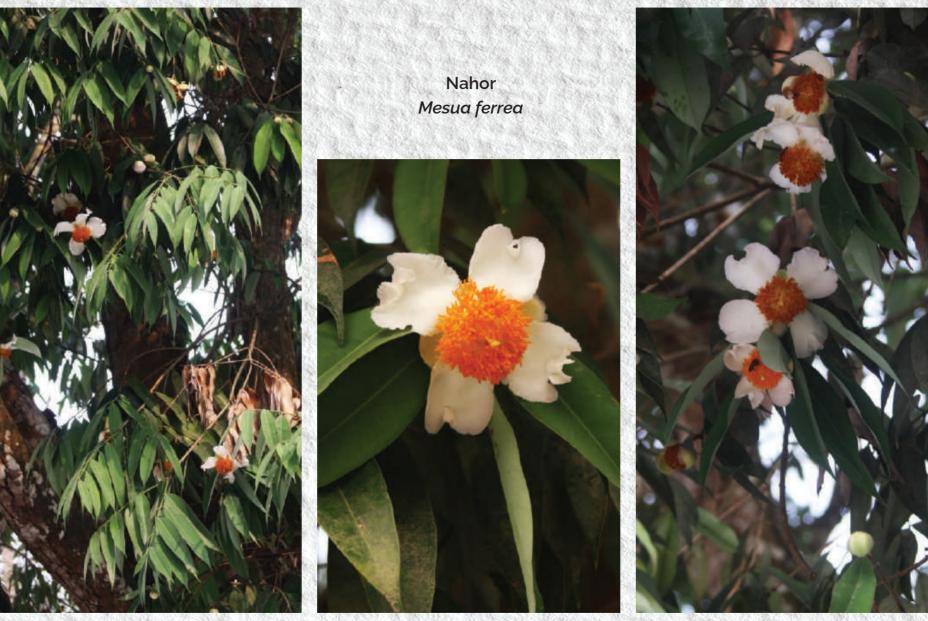
Only for delight without reason rush forward in a violent flow Like a flash of light reflected in the river water Lead a glittering life with loose ties on the earth Just as the dew just touches and oscillates on the locks of the shireesh flowers

- Rabindranath Tagore

### Bokul

#### Mimusops elengi

The flowers are used to extract a volatile oil Fruits and seeds for the compounds such as quercitrol, ursolic acid, triterpene alcohol, and di-hydroquercetin



Nagkesar

The dried flowers are used in case of bleeding piles, dysentery with mucus, irritability of the stomach, excessive perspiration, skin infections, cough and indigestion.



### Mango Mangifera indica





Many like the "Parijaat" have fragrant blossoms, but the "Rasal" the mango, alone is the koel's blossom

- Subhashitratnabhandagaram



Guava Psidium guajava

Jackfruit Artocarpus heterophyllus





Jamun, *Szygium cumini* Fruit is beneficial for digestion, anticancer properties, seed has antidiabetic, astringent properties

Banana *Musa* species Fruit is rich source of Vit B6, magnesium and potassium





All I need are sunsets and palm trees -Allison Green



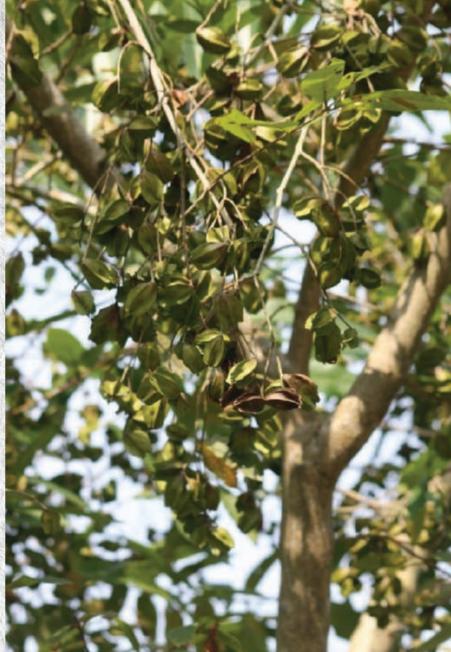
*Millettia* species are investigated for the use as biofuel

Arjun tree Terminalia arjuna





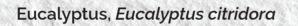
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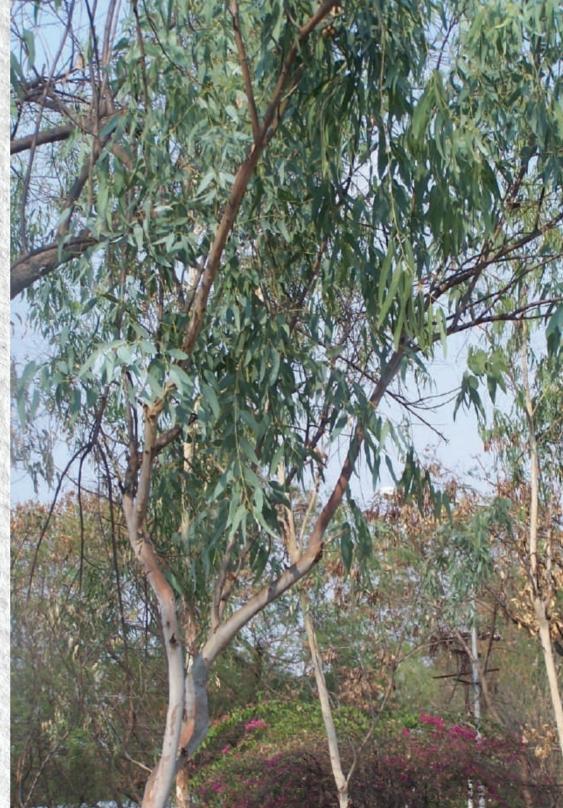




Neem tree, Azadirachta indica



The "Neelniryas" tree, its green leaves full of fragrant oil -Indian Medicinal Plants

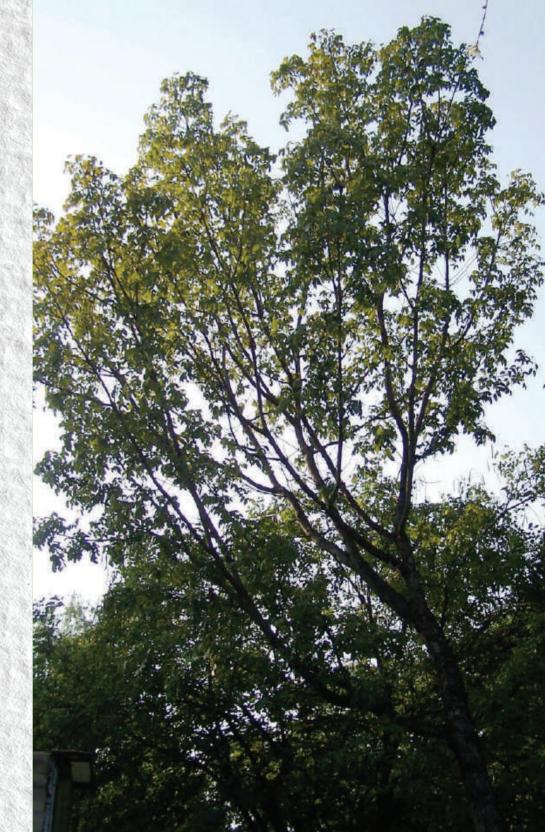


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"When the mind is silent like a lake the lotus blossoms." - Amit Ray



## The green leaved rare and endangered tree



Banyan Ficus benghalensis

How noble is the life of those, whose roots are embedded in the "Mahi", the earth. For they sustain all life. For they deny no one, who beg of them - Subhashitratnabhadagaram

#### Khota Ashoka *Saraka indica* The one who is hot, bitter and dry -Dravyagunvigyan

Sita's Ashoka Saraca asoca An evergreen tree that prevents grief



List of tree species on AAU Campus	
Acacia, <i>Acacia sp.</i>	Koronj, <i>Pongamia pinnata</i>
Amlakhi, Phylenthus embilica	Litchi, <i>Litchi sinensis</i>
Arjun tree, Terminalia arjuna	Mahagoni, Scoitenia mahagoni
Ashok tree, Saraka indica	Mango, Mangifera indica
Bottle brush, Callistemon nanciolatus	Mangosteen, Garcinia mangostana
Christmas tree, Araucaria cookii	May flower, Lagerstroemia indica
Debdaru, Polyalthia longifolia	Mussaenda, Mussaenda phillippica
Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus citridora	Nahor, Mesua ferrea
Ficus, Ficus benghalensis, Ficus retusa	Neem tree, Azadirachta indica
Guava, <i>Psidium guavjava</i>	Rain tree, <i>Samanea saman</i>
Gold mohar, <i>Delomix regia</i>	Royal palm, Oreodexa regia
Indian agar wood Aquilaria sinensis	Segun, Tectona grandis
Jackfruit, Artocarpus heterophyllus	Sewali, Nyctanthes arbortristis
Jamun tree, <i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Shilikha, Terminalia chebula
Kanchan, <i>Bauhinia alba</i>	





Silver oak, <i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Teteti, Tamarindus indica	
Simalu tree, <i>Simarouba glauca</i>	Thuja, <i>Thuja orientalis</i>	
Simolu tree, Bombax malabaricum	Togar, <i>Gardenia florida</i>	
Siris tree, Albizia lebbek	Traveller's tree, Ravenala madagascariensis	
Sotiana, Alstronias cholaris	Yellow flame tree, Peltophorum pterocarpum	

Dr. Kalyan Pathak Professor and Head Department of Agronomy Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat-785013



Glazing beauty, *Bougainvillea* species Anti-inflammatory, anti-pathogens, anti-tumor and anti-fertility properties

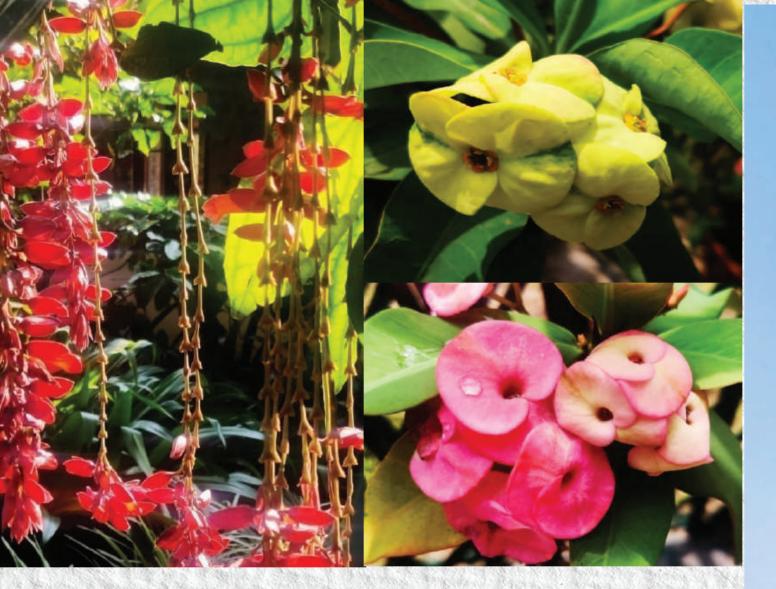


56









60

### **Avian diversity**

The landscape of Assam is unique to explore avian diversity.

Last couple of years 418 species of birds were recorded including 81 long distance migrants

The White-winged Duck (Deoha Asarcornis scutulata) is the State Bird of Assam. It is locally known as deohaanh. Accord-

ing to the IUCN Red List, the White-winged Duck is an endangered species, due to rapid decline of and disturbance to

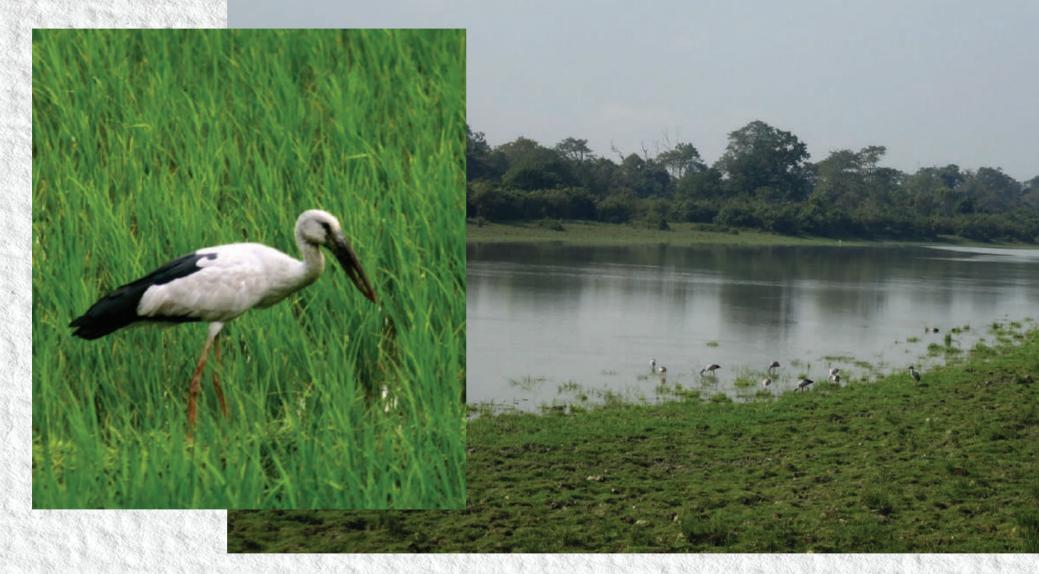
riverine habitats. Indian Postage Stamp (1985)





Sketch by : Dr. Vandana Ghormade Senior Scientist Agharkar Research Institute, Pune





Oriental stork Ciconia boyciana

### Indian spot-billed duck Anas poecilorhyncha





Anser cygnoides domesticus

Indian spot-billed duck Anas poecilorhyncha



Egret intermediate Ardea intermedia

Cattle egret Bubulcus ibis



Cormorant, Phalacrocorax niger

Painted stork Mycteria leucocephala





Bar-headed goose Anser indicus

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos



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### Indian pond heron Ardeola grayii

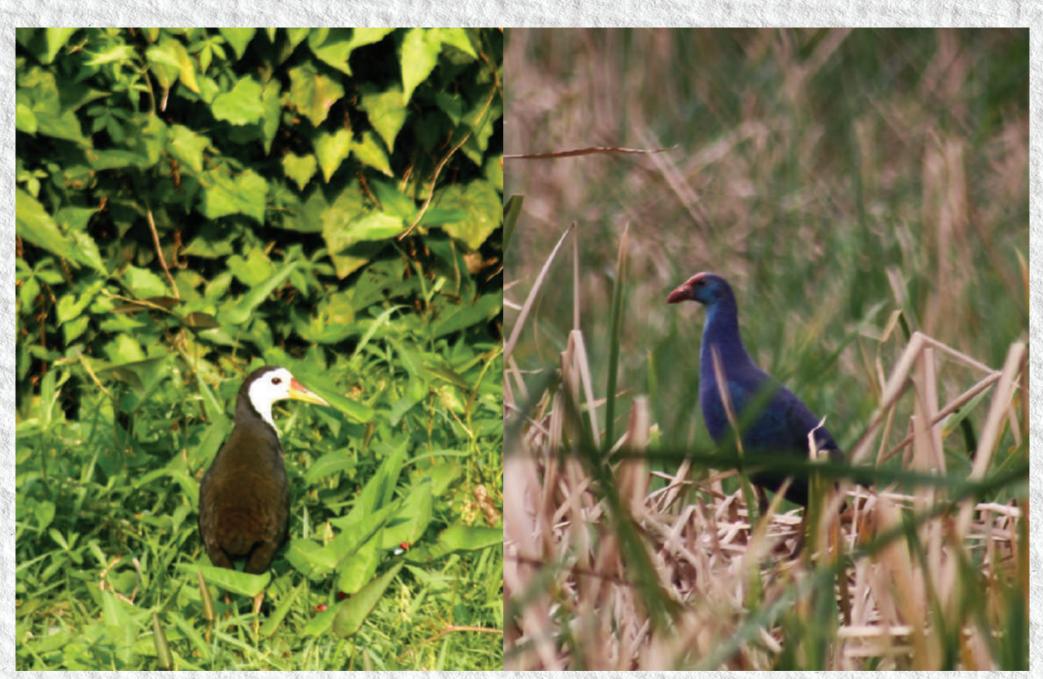
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## "Guests" at AAU guest house



Section 2

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White-breasted waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus

Purple swamphen Porphyrio porphyrio

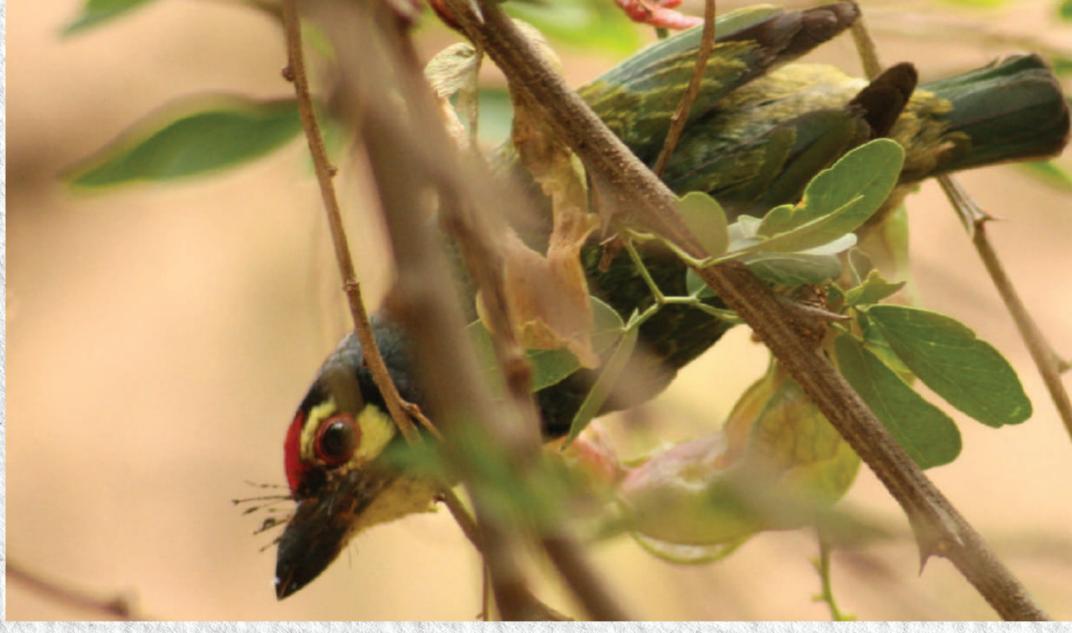
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Indian roller Coracias benghalensis



Barbet blue-throated Megalaima asiatica



Barbet coppersmith *Psilopogon haemacephalus* 





Shivadol, Sivasagar built by Bar Raja Ambika, queen of Ahom King Swargadeo Siba Singha in 1734

White pigeon Columba species

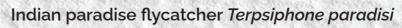
Spotted dove Spilopelia chinensis

# Laughing dove





## Black Drongo Dicrus macrocerus





Male

Female





Sunbird crimson red Aethopyga siparaja



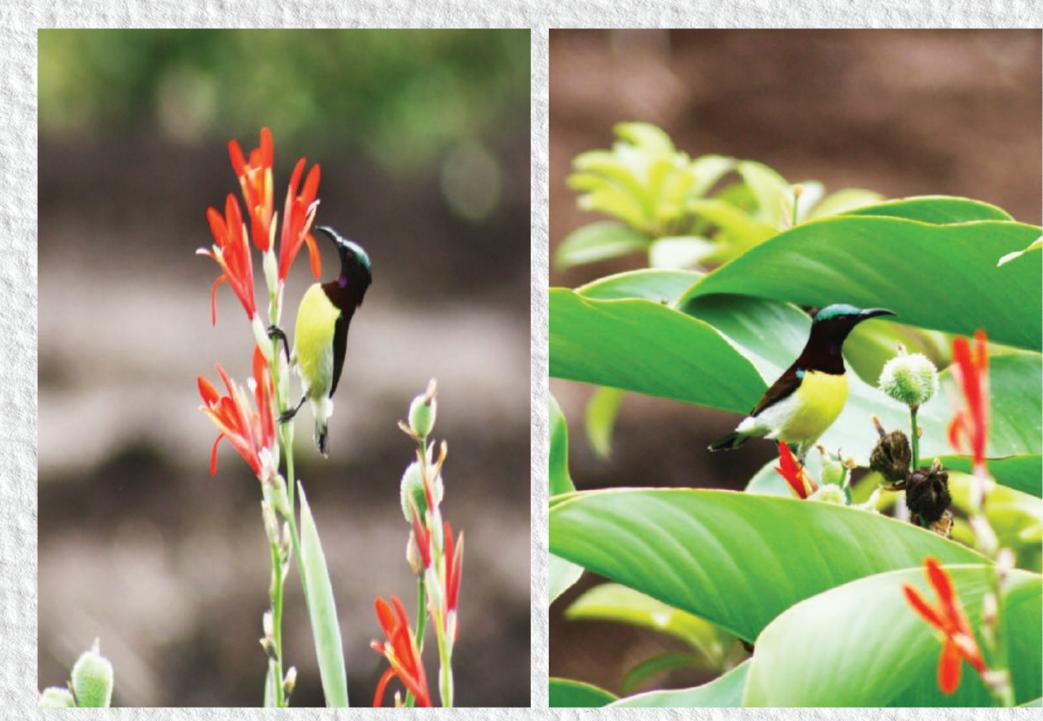


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## Sunbird purple Nectarinia asiatica

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Sunbird purple-rumped, Leptocoma zeylonica



White-eye indian Zosterops palpebrosus palpebrosus

83



Tickell's blue flycatcher Cyornis tickelliae tickelliae

Oriental magpie-robin Copsychus saularis

Bulbul red vented Pycnonotus cafer



Munia spotted Lonchura punctulata



Yellow-crowned woodpecker Leiopicus mahrattensis mahrattensis

ŝ



Lapwing yellow-wattled Vanellus malabaricus Lapwing red-wattled Vanellus indicus



Shrike grey-backed Lanius tephronotus

89







Shrike brown Lanius cristatus

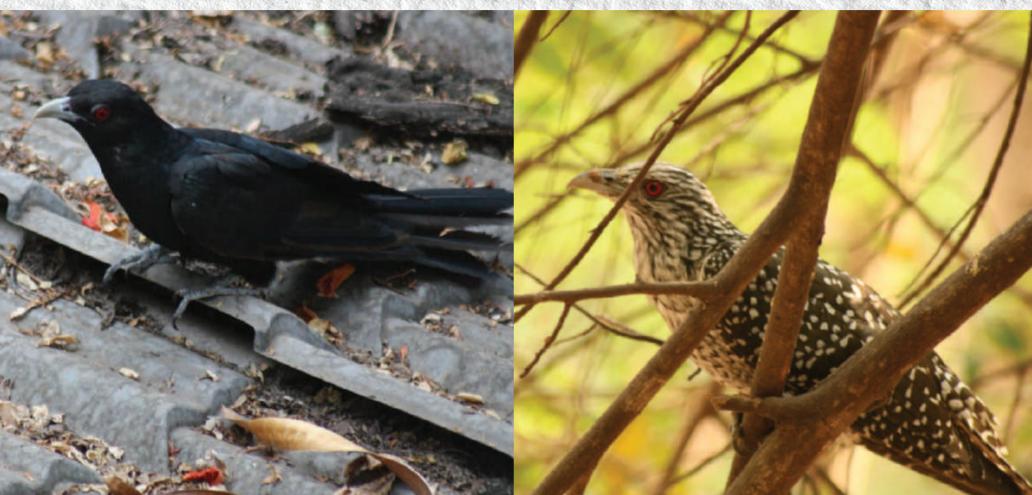


Green bee-eater Merops orientalis



Weaver bird Ploceus philippinus

#### Koel Asian, *Eudynamys scolopaceus*



Male

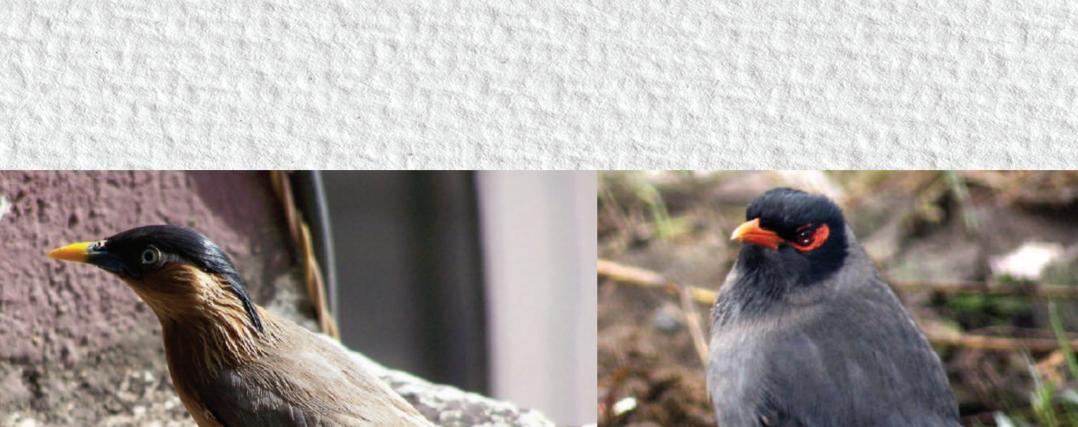
Female

House crow Corvus splendens



#### Most intelligent bird

The total number of neurons in crows are about 1.5 billion. The overall intelligence of crows may be closer to that of Great Apes such as the gorilla- Dirk Schulze Makuch, Smihsonian Magazine February 2021



Myna brahminy Sternia pagodarum

Myna bank Acridotheres ginginianus

Myna jungle Acridotheres fuscus

> Myna common Acridotheres tistis

Myna pied Sturnus contra



Spotted owlet Athena brama



Brown boobook Ninox scutulata

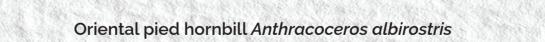
Great tit, Parus major

White –throated kingfisher Halcyon smyrnensis smyrnensis



Treepie Dendrocitta species









Yellow-tailed oriole Icterus mesomelas





Assam Bangiya Saraswat Math

#### Indian nightjar Caprimulgus asiaticus



Camouflage/ cryptic coloration, a defense mechanism; organisms blend in with their surroundings to mask their location, identity, and movement.



Alexandrine parakeet Psittacula eupatria



Rose-ringed parakeet Psittacula krameri



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This gorgeous and majestic bird Peacock is the national bird of India. It is a symbol of beauty, joy, grace and love

The list of birds commonly spotted in Assam Number of species spotted in Assam: 949; Number of globally threatened species: 59	
Asian openbill stork Anastomus oscitans	
Black drongo Dicrus macrocerus	
Babbler striated Turdoides earlei	Cormorant, Phalacrocorax niger
Barbet blue-throated Megalaima asiatica	Crow house, Corvus splendens
Barbet coppersmith, <i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	Crow jungle Corvus macrorhynchos
Barbet lineated Megalaima lineate	Egret intermediate Ardea intermedia
Bar- headed goose Anser indicus	Egret little Egretta garzetta
Barn swallow Hirundo rustica	Eurasian tree sparrow, Passer montanus
Black hooded oriole Oriolus xanthornus	Great tit, Parus major
Blue rock pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	Green bee-eater Merops orientalis
Bulbul red vented Pycnonotus cafer	Indian nightjar Caprimulgus asiaticus
Cattle egret, <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Indian peafowl Pavo cristatus
Chestnut – tailed starling <i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	Indian pond heron, Ardeola grayii
Collared scops owl Otus bakkamoena	Indian roller Coracias benghalensis
Common Barn Owl <i>Tyota alba</i>	Jacana bronze-winged Metopidius indicus
Common coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	Koel asian, Eudynamys scolopaceus
Common kestrel Falco tinnunculus	Kingfisher pied Ceryle rudis
Common stone chat Saxicola torquatus	Kingfisher white throated Halcyon Smyrnensis
Common swift <i>Apus apus</i>	Parakeet rose-ringed Psitacula krameria
Common woodshrike, Tephrodornis pondicerianus	Plaintive cuckoo Cacomantis merulinus
Lapwing red-wattled Vanellus indicus	Ruddy shelduck, Brahminy duck Tadorna ferruginea

Lesser whistling duck Dendrocygna javanica	Shikra Accipiter badius
Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Shrike brown Lanius cristatus
Munia white- rumped Lonchura straita	Shrike grey-backed Lanius tephronotus
Munia spotted, Lonchura punctulate	Shrike long-tailed, Lanius schach
Myna bank Acridotheres ginginianus	Spotted dove, Spilopelia chinensis
Myna brahminy Sternia pagodarum	Spotted owlet Athena brama
Myna common Acridotheres tistis	Sunbird crimson red Aethopyga siparaja
Myna jungle Acridotheres fuscus	Sunbird purple Nectarinia asiatica
Myna pied Sturnus contra	Sunbird purple-rumped, Leptocoma zeylonica
Myna grey headed Sturnia malabarica	Tailor bird, Orthotomus sutorius
Night heron Nycticorax nycticorax	Treepie rufous Dendrocitta vagabunda
Oriental magpai robin Copsychus saularis	Water cock Gallicrex cinerea
Oriental white eye Zosterops palpebrosus	Weaver bird Ploceus philippinus
Paddy field pipit Anthus rufulus	White- breasted water hen Amauronis phoenicurus
Painted stork Mycteria leucocephala	White eye indian Zosterops palpebrosus palpebrosus
Parakeet Alaxandrine Psitacula euptria	White wagtail, Motacilla alba
Parakeet red-breasted Psitacula alexandri	Yellow footed green pigeon Treron phoenicopterus

Survey of AAU, Jorhat campus and compilation: Dr, Prabal Saikia, Chief Scientist, RARS, North Lakhimpur





**Eco-friendly environment** 

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Painted Jezebel Delias hyperete



Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.

-Nathaniel Hawthorne



Scarlet Mormon Papilio rumanzovia Common Mormon Papilio polytes stichius

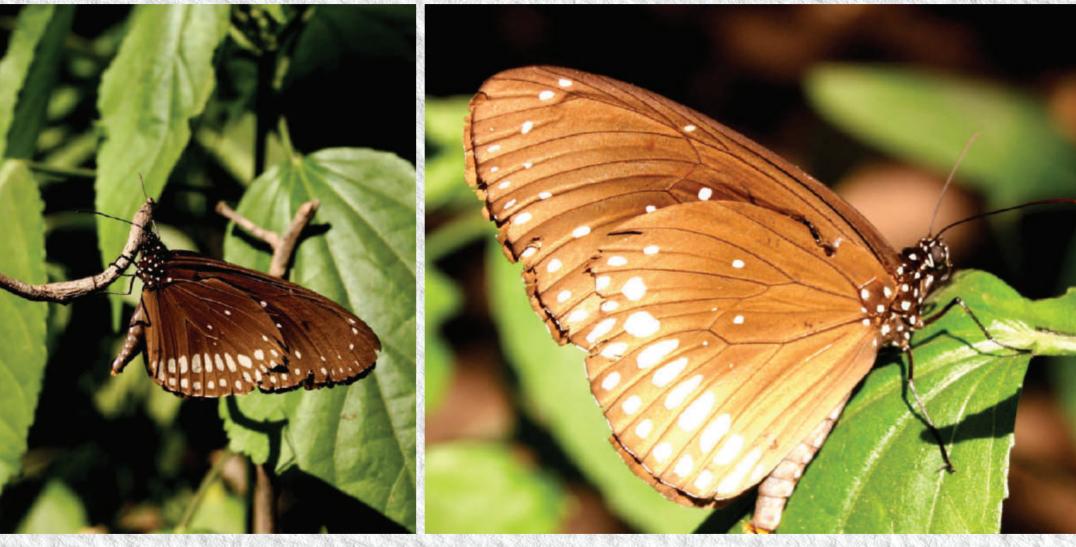
Blue Mormon Papilio polymnestor



# Common Mormon Papilio polytes romulus



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Common crow Euploea core



Grey pansy Junonia atlites

1

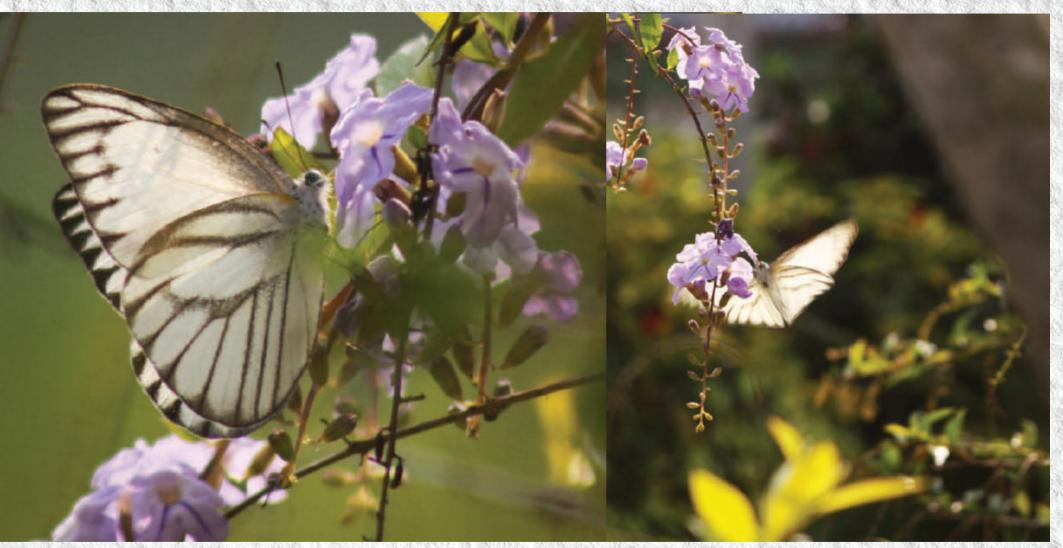


## Ramble near AAU guest house



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Grey pansy Junonia atlites



Striped Albatross Appias libythea





Lime Butterfly Papilio demoleus demoleus



White orange tip Ixias marianne

Blue oak leaf Kallima inachus inachus



Yellow-tailed oriole Icterus mesomelas



White orange tip Ixias marianne

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## Wild is beautiful

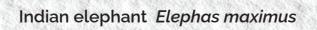


### Greater one- horned rhinoceros

Rhinos play a critical role in maintaining the health of habitats. Grassland habitat with water bodies in which they wallow, make the conditions suitable for small herbivores. Rhinos also disperse the seeds of plants and fruit they've eaten through their dung.

Indian rhinoceros was the first rhino to be seen in Europe, a single individual shipped to Lisbon in 1515, immortalized in a woodcut by Albrecht Durer.

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Line .





Every elephant is distinct. Their facial features, personality, ability to reproduce, tendency to disperse, propensity to raid crops, are different.

An Assam Forest Department – WCS India initiative 'Know Your Elephants' seeks to create a photographic database of individual elephants in Kaziranga National Park (2018)



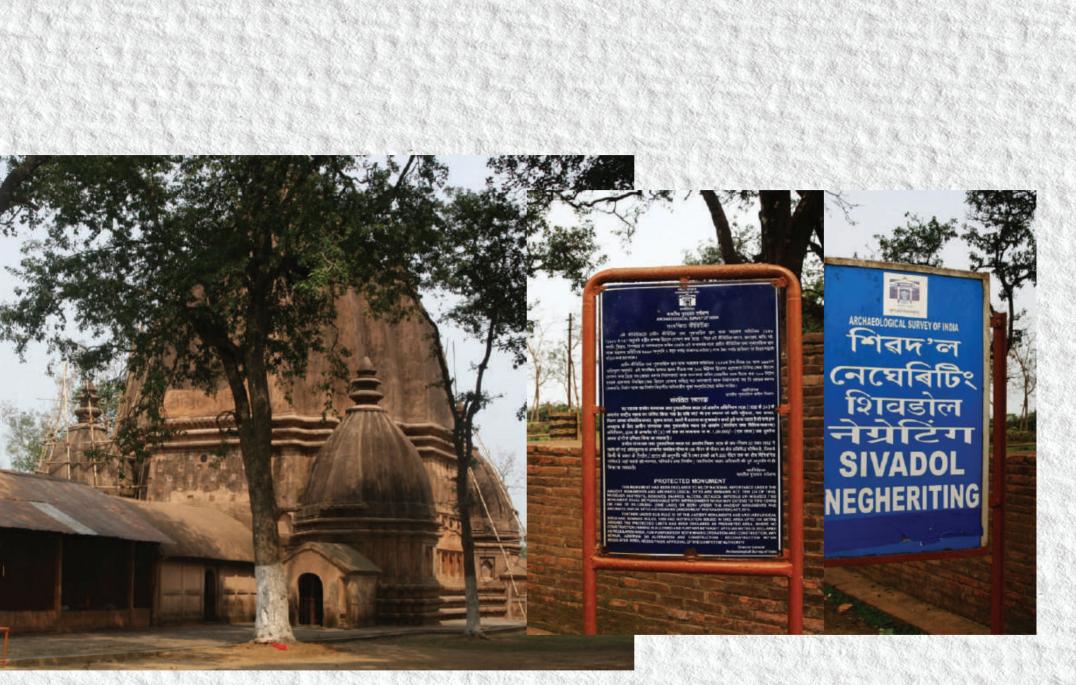


Indian hog deer Axis porcinus



The range of beautiful gentle deer species thrill nature lovers, poets, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts too



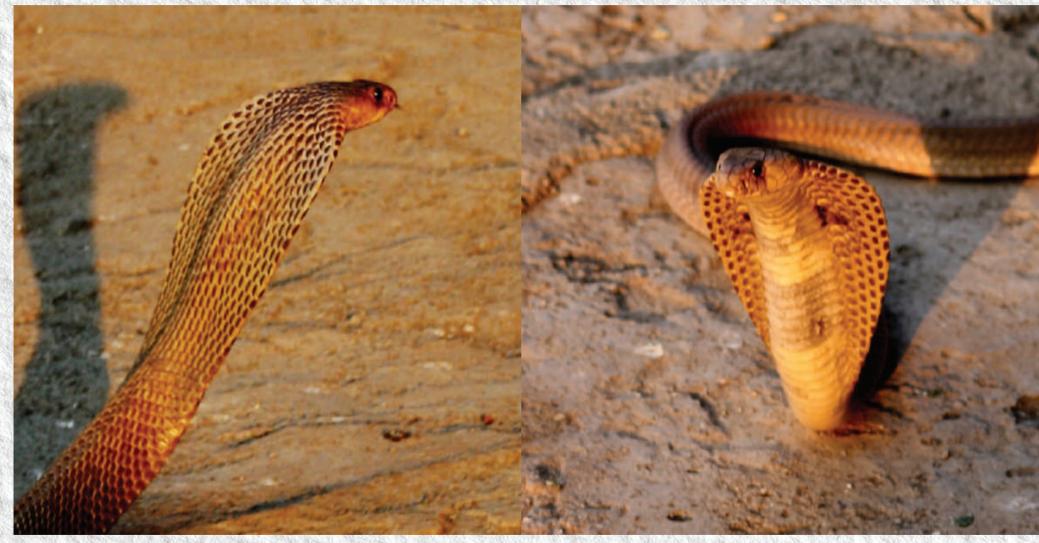


The place where the temple is located was once the habitat of a peculiar bird locally known as *Negheri*. From this name the place has come to be known as Negheriting. The temple is the house of the rhesus monkeys.

Rhesus macaque Macaca mullatta



Indian mongoose Urva edwardsii

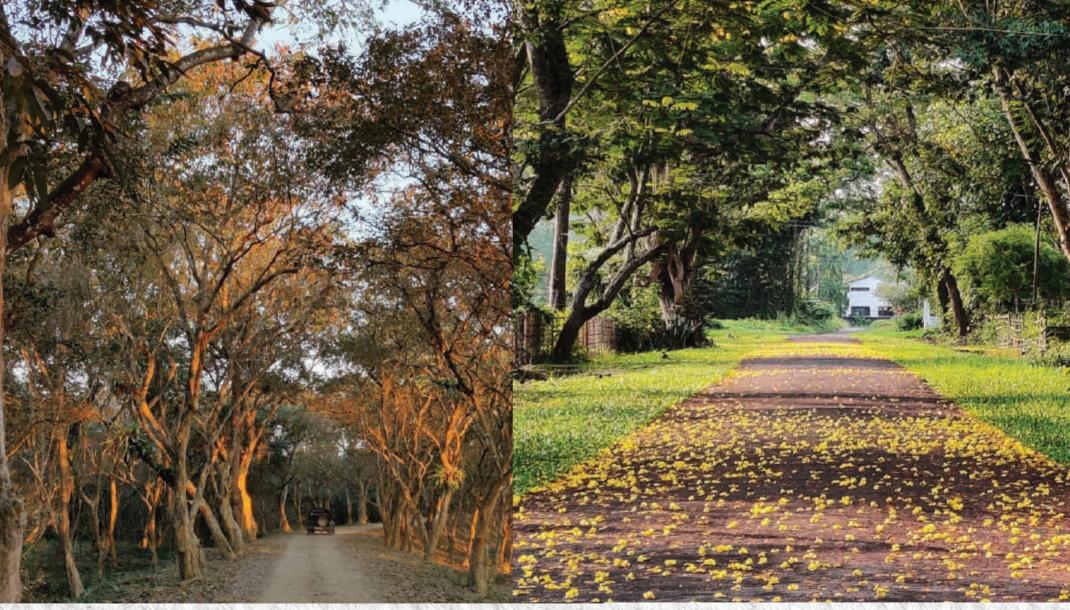


About 42 species of reptiles have been reported from the Kaziranga National Park. The King cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* is one of them





Rivers never go reverse. So try to live like a river. Forget your past and focus on your future-Anonymous



It's a new dawn It's a new day It's a new life For us



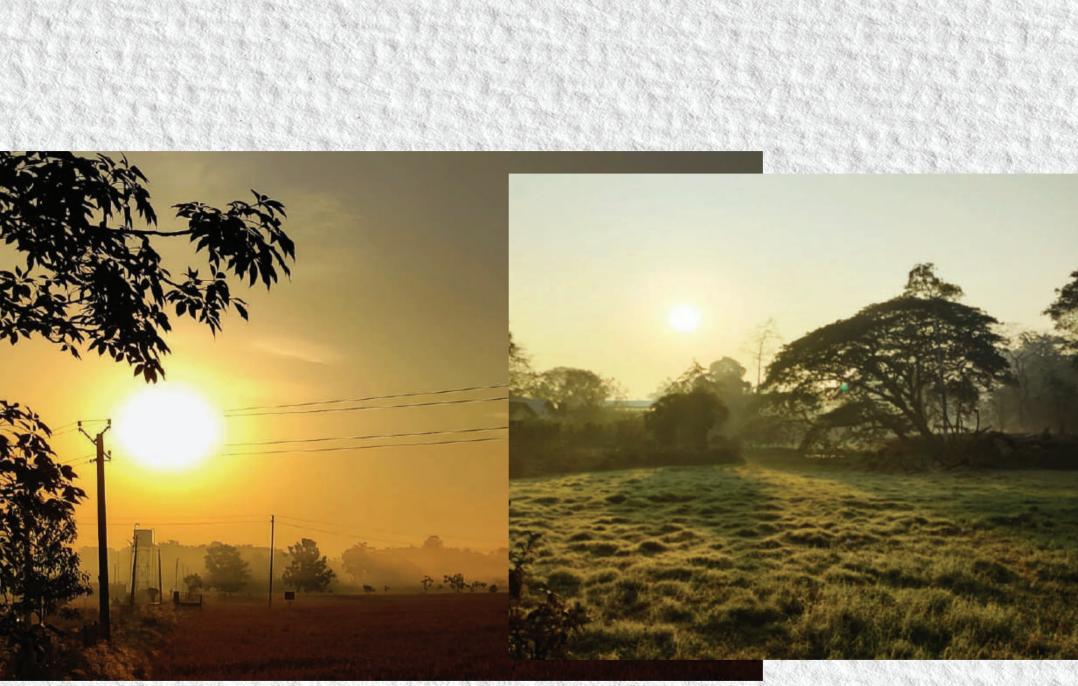
We are always looking to the future; the present does not satisfy us-Our ideal, whatever it may be, lies further on

The future depends on what we do in the present

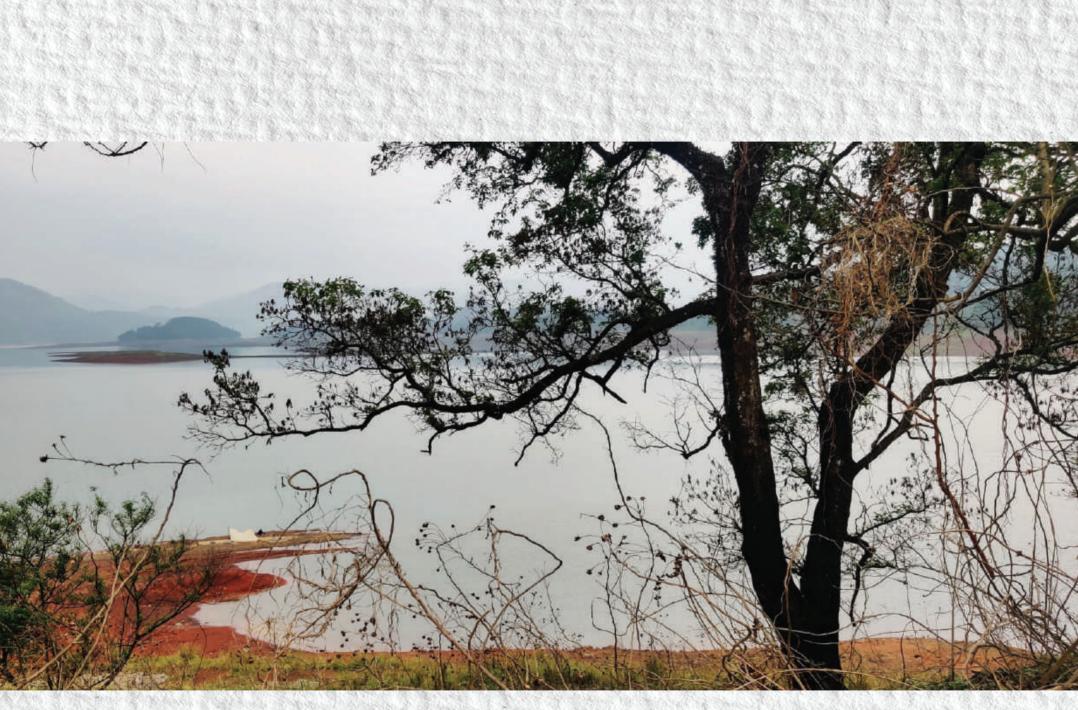
Mahatma Gandhi



Pollution-free environment indicators



If you are in a beautiful place where you can enjoy the sunrise and sunset, then you are living like a lord - Nathan Phillips



"So lovely is the loneliness of untouched water bodies"



"Nature is a gift for the soul. Time in nature soothes my soul's lovely wild." -Angie Weiland-Crosby



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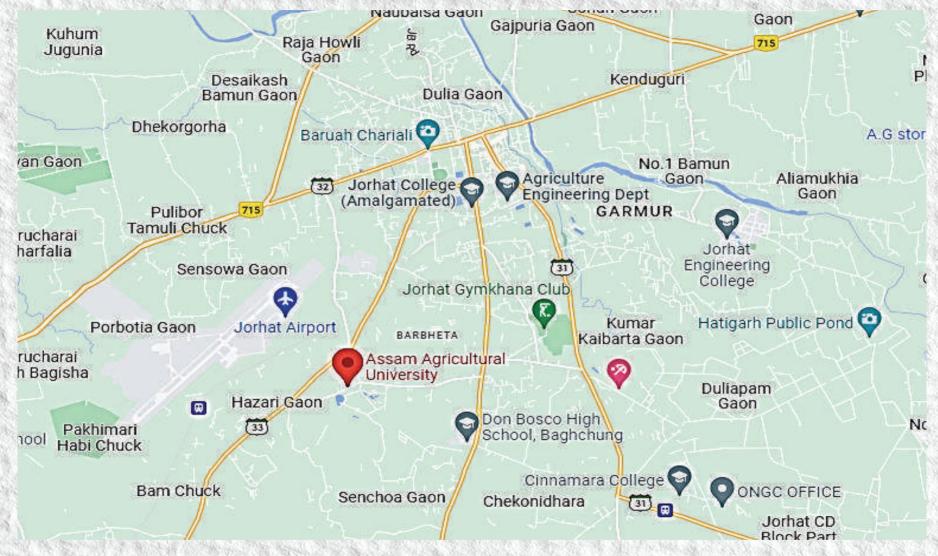
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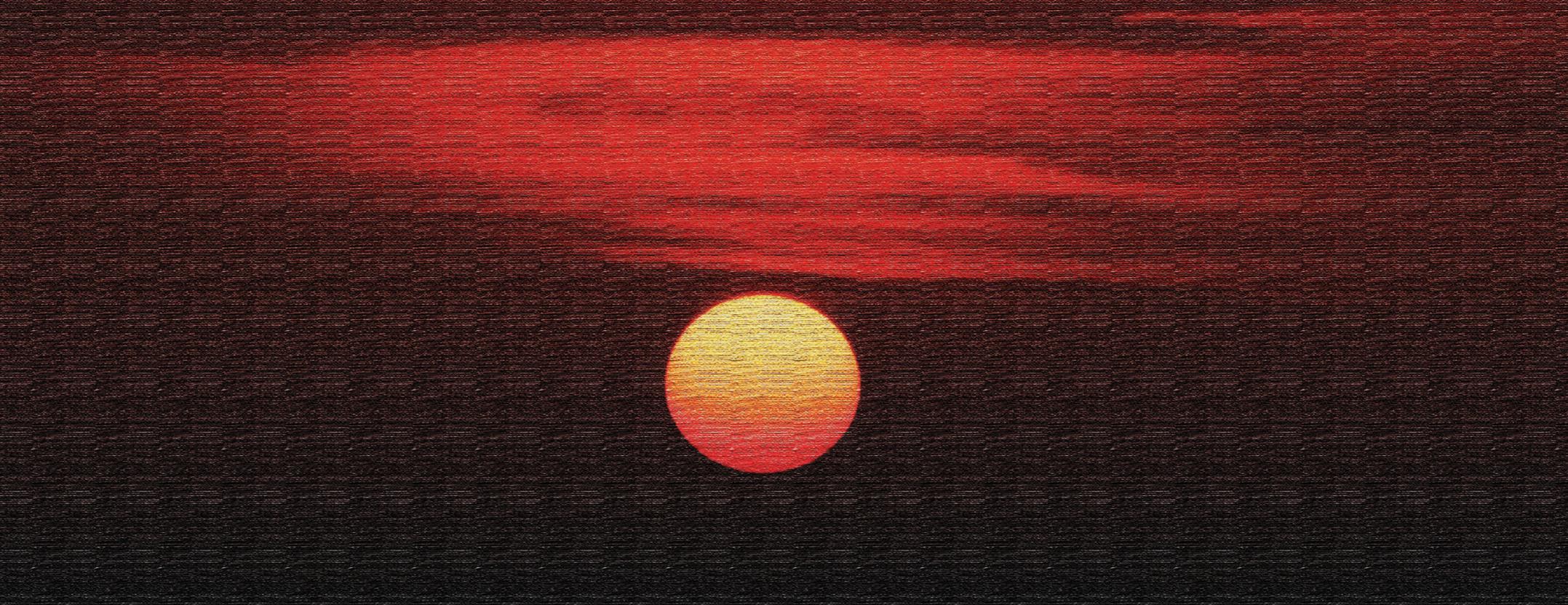
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The latitude and longitude of AAU, Jorhat are 26°44 N, 94°lo E





"Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky." - Rabindranath Tagore