

**Bihu is a set of three important Assamese festivals in the Indian state of Assam** – 'Rongali' or 'Bohag Bihu' observed in April, 'Kongali' or 'Kati Bihu' observed in October, and 'Bhogali' or 'Magh Bihu' observed in January. The Rongali Bihu is the most important of the three commemorating the Assamese New Year, celebrating spring festival. While Bhogali Bihu is the one that is all about food, Kongali Bihu is a little dull, thrifty that reflects a season of lesser supplies and is an animistic festival.

Bihu is a harvest festival that is celebrated to mark the shift in the Sun's solstice. The Sun which enters its transitory phase towards North is celebrated with much fervor and enthusiasm across the nation for its significant impact on agriculture and crops.

The Rongali Bihu coincides the Assamese New year and as well as with other regions of Indian subcontinent, East Asia and South-East Asia, which follow the Hindu calendar and Buddhist calendar. The other two Bihu festivals every year are unique to Assamese people. Like some other Indian festivals, Bihu is associated with agriculture, and rice in particular. Bohag Bihu is a sowing festival, Kati Bihu is associated with crop protection and worship of plants and crops and is an animistic form of the festival, while Bhogali Bihu is a harvest festival. Assamese celebrate the Rongali Bihu with feasts, music and dancing. Some hang brass, copper or silver pots on poles in front of their house, while children wear flower garlands then greet the new year as they pass through the rural streets.

The three Bihu are Assamese festivals with reverence for Krishna, cattle (*Goru Bihu*), elders in family, fertility and mother goddess, but the celebrations and rituals reflect influences from Southeast Asia and Sino-Tibetan cultures. In contemporary times, the Bihus are celebrated by all Assamese people irrespective of religion, caste or creed. It is also celebrated overseas by the Assamese diaspora community living worldwide.

The term *Bihu* is also used to simply "Bihu" dance otherwise called Bihu Naas and Bihu folk songs also called Bihu Geet.