

## **THE ONLINE VISIT FOR MAY 2022 WAS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM.**

### **Awareness Campaign at**

1. **Kolia Bhomora Setu**, concrete road bridge on NH-715 over the Brahmaputra River in Tezpur Assam which connects Tezpur in Sonitpur district on northern bank with Kaliabor in Nagaon District on the south bank
2. **Bordowa satra**, the birthplace of the the great artist, literateur, dramatist and the founder of Vaisnavism in Assam, Srimanta Sankardev

### **This was aimed to enhance**

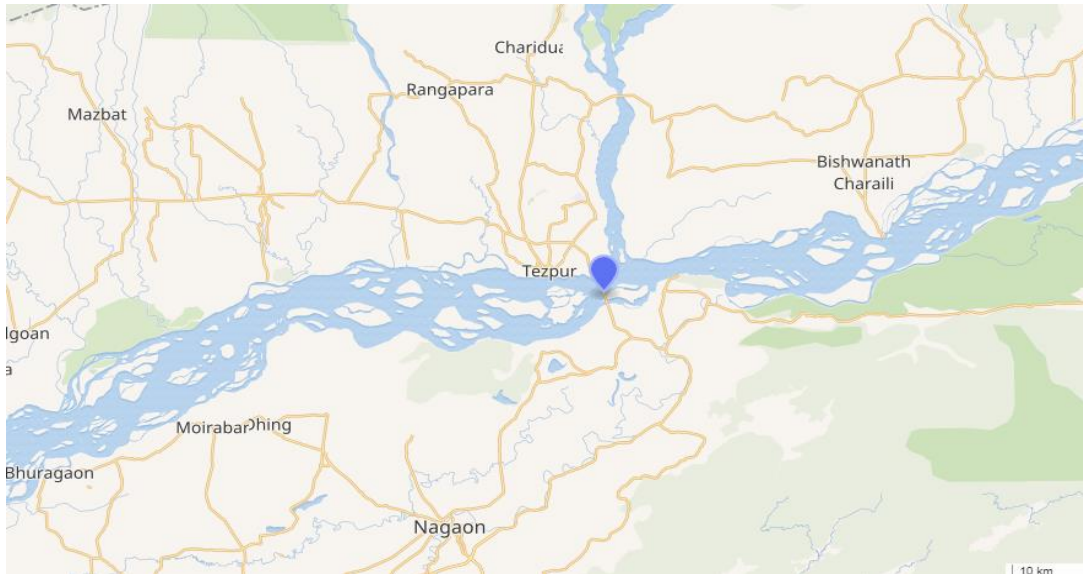
Tourist Awareness campaign, School students awareness campaign, visit (Online /offline)

Tourist Stakeholder Awareness workshop

## **KOLIA BHOMORA BRIDGE**

### **Overview:**

Kolia Bhomora Setu is a concrete pre-stressed concrete bridge in the city of Tezpur in the north eastern state of Assam and is one of the finest examples of engineering marvel in the country. Originally built in 1987 to connect Nagaon and Sonitpur Districts on the North and South Banks, Kolia Bhomora Setu is surrounded by the Brahmaputra on both the sides. The bridge owes its name to General Kolia Bhomora Phukan of the Ahom dynasty which ruled over the region of Assam for 6 centuries. Created over the river Brahmaputra,



the bridge connects the district of Sonitpur to Nagaon. The bridge spans over 3015 meters and took 6 years of construction. The bridge has hugely contributed in the development of India's north east. Brahmaputra River (on which the bridge is made) not only cuts through Assam but also bisects the north eastern states with India's mainland.



## **History:**

The mighty Brahmaputra is a trans-boundary river, which runs from the great Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. In Assam, it becomes as wide as 10 kms. The need of a bridge over the river was felt even during the period of Ahom rule. Ahom General Kolia Bhomora Barphukan prepared an elaborate plan to construct a bridge for the first time in early 16th century.

The Ahom General started with site selection connecting Bhomoraguri hills near Tezpur with Kamakhya hill of Nagoan district. He collected special boulders for his ahead of time plan and started to initiate the project and construction began. Sadly, the General passed away and the project died along with him. The remains of his ambitious project can be seen even today.

## **Geographical Importance:**

If there is one thing that is very impressive in Tezpur, then it is the Kolia Bhomora Setu. Measuring 3.015 km, the bridge is an architectural brilliance too. The construction of this bridge marked the beginning of the development in the northeastern states. Built in six years (from 1981-1987), the bridge was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Before this bridge was constructed, this part of the country was literally cut off from other parts due to the mighty Brahmaputra. Not only has the Kolia Bhomora Setu served as a lifeline to the Sonitpur district, but it is a very beautiful bridge

## **BORDOWA SATRA**



Bordowa or Bordowa Satra is a shrine, a centre of art and culture and is the birthplace of a great litterateur, artist, dramatist and founder of Vaishnav dharma in Assam. It is around 140 km away from the town of Guwahati and is 18 km north-west from Nagaon district of Assam. There are two Sattras: Narowa Sattra and Salaguri Sattra. A mini Museum is located in Narowa Sattra and the birth and death anniversaries of the Vaishnava saints are observed there with great grandeur.

Bordowa satra is one of the best known Sattras founded by great Sankardeva. After returning from his first pilgrimage in about 1494 A.D.

Sankardeva founded the first Namghar or Kirtanghar at Bordowa to practise and preach his newly founded faith in Bhagawata and Puran Sastras. At the time of Sankardeva the word 'Satra' was not used. Sankardeva himself used the the word 'Dham' or 'Thaan'. So Batadraba is the first institution for propagation of EK SARAN NAM DHARMA. Sankardeva also built the 'Monikut' together with Namghar and the 'Cari-Hati' for accommodation of his disciples at the Thaan. Simhasana or Thapana (altar of Cod) was placed in the Monikut with Bhagawata Sastra on it without any idols. Sankardeva used to practice Nam Prasanga regularly in the Kirtanghar along with his followers and Bhaktas. His religion was very simple. There was no useless ritual at his time as has been in many places under the wings of 'Bamacari Budhism', Tantricism etc. Sankardeva advocated “EK DEVA, EK SEBA, EK BINEY NAHI KEWA” that one should worship none but one God, who is Lord Krishna. Most of the priestly. classes in the society were the votaries of Saivism and Saktism and they propounded sacrifice of birds, animals and even man. Sankardeva discarded all forms of violence including sacrificial rituals before the altar of Gods or Goddesses. Batadraba was the centre of his core ethical values and spiritual realization. As such, Batadraba has been regarded as the Dwitiya Vaikuntha (second heaven) and even greater than Dwaraka or Vaikuntha itself.