



# Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika : Introduction and History

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## Abstract

There are many different types of magazines published in the Assamese language many times. The magazines have contributed significantly to the development of the Assamese language and literature. There are many magazines such as *Arunodoi*, *Jonaki*, *Usha* that have contributed to various aspects of Assamese language and literature. These include the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*.

Assam Sahitya Sabha is the largest non- political and national organisation in Assam and the North- East. It was formed for all kinds of development in Assamese literature, language and culture. It is also doing much for the development of the tribals of Assam. Assam Sahitya Sabha published a magazine called '*Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika*' in 1926 as the mouthpiece of Assam Sahitya Sabha. The magazine is playing an important role in the promotion of Assamese language literature and culture. This paper introduces the *Assam Sahitya Sabha Magazine* and presents its glorious history. There is also a discussion of the contribution of the Assamese language and literature.

Key words : Assam Sahitya Sabha , *Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika* , Introduction to the magazine, History of the magazine

### 0.1 Introduction

The Assam Sahitya Sabha is an organization of Assam and the North- East formed for the comprehensive development of the Assamese language, literature and culture as part of the Assamese Nation. Not only is the language, literature and culture limited to the development, but the Assam Sahitya Sabha has been playing an important role in building the Assamese national life. The event is closely linked to the development of the Assamese nation and nationalism. This meeting has reshaped the nationalist thought and ideals of Assam. The Assam Sahitya Sabha has made a significant contribution to strengthening good will, harmony and unity among the various ethnic groups of the entire North East and Assam. The Assam Sahitya Sabha has been able to establish the Assamese nation in the world arena through the development of language literature and culture irrespective of caste, race, religion and community. The ideals, structure, work and position of the Assam Sahitya Sabha have given momentum, strength and identity to Assamese nationalism and nation building. The Assam Sahitya Sabha was officially born in 1917 and is known as the first, foremost and pioneering literary organization of the present Assamese language and literature.

The Assam Sahitya Sabha published a magazine called '*Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika*' in 1926 for the promotion of Assamese language literature and culture. This article introduces the magazine published by the Sahitya Sabha and studies the history of the magazine. A list of the editors of the magazine has also been prepared.

## 0.2 Aims and Objectives

- This paper presents an introduction to the Assam Sahitya Sabha and the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*
- Discuss the glorious history of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*.
- Prepare a list of editors of *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazines*.

## 0.3 Scopes

This paper is based on the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* obtained from the Sharat Chandra Goswami Library, Chandrakant Handique Bhawan, Central Office (Assam Sahitya Sabha), Jorhat district. The scope of the study covers the journals of the Assam Sahitya Sabha from 1926 to 2023 available in the Sarat Chandra Goswami Library. The introduction and history of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* is studied and a list of the editors of the magazines from 1926 to 2021 is prepared.

## 0.4 Methodology

The paper was prepared by collecting data from the Sharat Chandra Goswami Library in Jorhat through field studies. Two methods have been used in preparing the paper. They are the descriptive method and the survey method. The introduction and history of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* is discussed in a descriptive method. The list of editors of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* has been prepared using the survey method.

### 1.1 Introduction to the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*

One of the various action plans undertaken by the Assam Sahitya Sabha is the publication of a magazine called '*Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika*' in 1926 as the mouthpiece of the Sabha (organization). Assam Sahitya Sabha provided for the publication of a magazine as the mouthpiece of the Sabha in their first rules, but it was published only nine years after the formation of the Sabha.

The magazine '*Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika*' is the backbone of the Assam Sahitya Sabha. Mainly it is a quarterly magazine. The magazine was published with literary service as its main objective. It is the oldest educational and research journal in the Assamese language. The *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* has played an important role in the educational and intellectual world of Assam. The magazine is an unconventional magazine that has gained special acclaim among the readers. The articles published in the magazine by qualified and experienced authors are very useful to the readers. The magazine is suitable for people of all ages, including students, teachers, the elderly etc. It has fuelled the emergence of nationalism, education and knowledge.

From the beginning, *Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika* has been undertaking various action plans in the promotion of Assamese language, literature and culture. The magazine covers various branches of literature such as fiction and poetry. The magazine also publishes articles and discussions on various subjects such as arts, science, education, philosophy, history, economics, politics, music, dance, painting, folk literature, folk culture and literary criticism etc. The magazine has made a significant contribution to the language, literature, society and culture of Assamese and various ethnic groups of Assam. The magazine has become more interesting as various issues of the magazine are published as 'special issue' with different perspectives. Several issues of the magazine have been published as tribute special issues commemorative and memorial issues of various distinguished personalities. They are –

#### Memorial Issues:

- Ratnakanta Barkakoty memorial issue – 1884 shaka
- Dimbeswar Neog memorial issue -1966
- Padmadhar Chaliha memorial issue -1893 shaka/1971
- baikunthanath Chakraborty memorial issue -1898 shaka/1976
- Hem Boruah memorial issue -1977
- Nilomoni Phukan ,Naliniwala Devi, Giridhar Sharma memorial issue -1978
- Upendrachandra Lekharu memorial issue -1979
- Historian Benudhar Sharma memorial issue -1980-1981
- krisna kanta Handique memorial issue -1982
- Hitanath Brahmachowdhury and Ananda Chandra Boruah memorial issue -1983
- Mitradev mahanta memorial issue -1983
- Dr. Miles Bronson memorial issue -1984
- Ambikagiri memorial issue -1985

- Dr. Nathan Brown and Hemchandra Boruah memorial issue -1986
- Atulchandra Hazarika memorial issue -1987
- Tirthanath Sharma memorial issue -1987
- Harinarayan Duttaboruah memorial issue -1993
- Banikanta Kakoty memorial issue -1993
- Dr. Lila Gogoi memorial issue -1995
- Dr. Maheswar Neog memorial issue -1997
- Dr. Mahendra Borah memorial issue -1997
- Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya memorial issue – 1997

#### Tribute Issues:

- Sankardev tribute issue - 1998
- Jagyeswar Sharma tribute issue , Phoni Talukdar tribute issue, Rajen Rabha tribute issue-1999
- Jugesh Das tribute issue Satyendranath Sharma tribute issue - 2000
- Binanda Chandra Baruah tribute issue - 2001
- Jyotiprasad Agarwala tribute issue – 2001- 2002
- Bhupen Hazarika tribute issue – 2011 – 2012
- Ramesh pathak tribute issue – 2020

#### Birth Centenary Issues:

- Mofizuddin Ahmed Hazarika birth centenary issue -1892 shaka / 1970
- Padmanath Goganiboruah and Hemchandra Goswami birth centenary issue -1893 shaka / 1971
- Sharat Chandra Goswami birth centenary issue -1987
- Ratnakanta Barkakoty and Krisnakanta Handique birth centenary issue -1997
- Prasannalal Chowdhuri birth centenary issue -1998

#### Other special issues published in the magazine are:

- Lakshminath Bezboruah issue -1890 shaka/ 1968
- Special Tribal issue – 1982 (march)
- Special Tribal issue – 1985 (September)
- Theatrical thought special issue -1990 (September)
- Prose style special issue – 1990 (December)
- Historical thought special issue – 1991 (march)
- Language special issue – 1992 (June)
- Folk culture special issue – 1992 (December)
- Jyotiprasad Agarwala special issue – 1993 (march)
- Fiction special issue – 1993 ( September )
- Translation literature special issue – 1998 ( July )
- Novel special issue – 1999 ( January )
- Folk Drama special issue – 1999 ( June )
- Assamese short stories special issue – 1999 (September)
- Lakshydhhar Chowdhury memorial sand bank special issue – 2001 (February )
- Encyclopedia special issue – 2002-03
- Parboti Prashad Boruah special issue – 2004 ( January )
- Research paper special issue – 2004 ( February )
- Old Assamese Literature special issue -2005 ( August )
- Assamese literature ( post Sankara period ) special issue -2005 ( December )
- Women special issue – 2009 (June )
- Coordination special issue – 2010 (March )
- Assamese language, literature and culture studies special issue – 2011 ( March )
- The movement and nature of Assamese literature special issue (1981-2010)– 2011(August)
- Assamese spelling special issue – 2011 ( November )

- Tribal special issue – 2012 (May )
- Tribal culture and solidarity special issue – 2012-2013 (February )
- Sonowal Kachari language , literature and culture special issue – 2013 (December )
- Corona epidemic special issue - 2020 ( June )
- Language and dialects special issue – 2020 (September )

It was seen that the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* has published special issues on different topics at different times. Its scope is not limited to language, literature and culture. The journal covers discussions of various aspects of various topics. The magazine is packed with systematic and informative materials on various topics. The magazine has also published its Silver Jubilee, Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee special issues.

The *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* is basically a research journal. This journal witnessed the rise and fall of the Assamese literature for several decades and is rich in important articles on various aspects of language, literature, society, culture, arts, science, politics, economy, philosophy, and history. The magazine contributes to the physical, mental and spiritual development of the Assamese people through the development of knowledge and education.

### 1.2 History of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*

There is a proud history of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*. The Assam Sahitya Sabha was established in 1917 and it was envisaged from the first year to publish a magazine as its mouthpiece. However, a decision was taken at the conference held in Nagaon in December. At that conference, the executive committee was given the responsibility of publishing a quarterly magazine as the mouthpiece of the assembly. According to the decision, in 1926 (1848- 1849 shaka) the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* was published. Before the magazine was published, public opinion was sought through newspapers on what to name it. There are many names sent by the public to the executive members of the Sahitya Sabha, but after considering all the proposals they decided to give the name '*Assam Sahitya Sabha Patrika*'. These are the things that the editor Chandradhar Boruah wrote in the first issue of the first year in the 'Editor's note'. It will always strive to discuss all branches of literature including philosophy, history, economics, politics, music, science etc. quietly. In addition, the editor wrote that the journal will usually have 56 pages and also wrote that the coverage would be expanded if the financial situations improved. Initially, only one issue was to be published every three months and the price was fixed at Rs 4. The editor requested every customer, member of the organization and reader to contribute Rs. 4 each for the publication of the magazine. In the first year the first issue was given free to those who contributed annually rupees 4 and upwards to the organization. The magazine was also sent to all members of the organization. At that time, the magazines were not released for sale in the market.

The first issue of the first year of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* was published by Tuniram Sharma Boruah under the editorship of Chandradhar Boruah at Darpan press. The magazine is mainly a quarterly magazine but in some years it publishes two, three, four, six and a maximum of nine issues. The magazine published three issues each year from the first, eighth, ninth and tenth years to the thirteenth to thirteenth-ninth years. Four issues were published in the second, sixth and seventh years and six bimonthly in the third, fourth and fifth years. In the fifth year, the first and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth issues were published together. The second and third issues were published simultaneously in the fourteenth years and also in the twenty-fourth year. In the thirties, it was decided that the magazine would become a monthly and a total of nine issues were published in that year under the editorship of Hemanta Kumar Sharma. In addition, only one issue of the magazine was published in the 43<sup>rd</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> years.

After the first five consecutive years of publication, the magazine was closed for four years from 1852-53 shaka due to financial difficulties. The magazine was published regularly from 1857-58 shaka under the editorship of Chandradhar Boruah from the sixth to the tenth year, but from the eleventh and twelfth years the magazine was not published for nine years due to internal confusion in the assembly. The magazine was published in two volumes in 1874-1875 shaka under the title '*natur prakash*' (new publication) under the editorship of Keshav Narayan Dutta. After this new publication, *the Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* has been published continuously since the thirteenth year.

### 1.3 List of the editors of the magazine from 1926 to 2021

Serial No.	Name of the editors	Year
1	Chandradhar Boruah	1848-1851 Shaka (1926-1929)
2	Devananda Bharali	1851-1852 Shaka (1929-1930)
3	Purnananda Sharma Pathak	1852-1853 shaka (1930-1931)

4	Dimbeswar Neog	1853 shaka (1931)
5	Chandradhar Boruah	1857-1858 shaka (1935-1936)
6	Dimbeswar Neog	1858-1861 shaka (1936-1939)
7	Rameswar Boruah	1862 shaka (1940)
8	Dimbeswar Neog	1864 shaka (1942))
9	Keshab Narayan Dutta	1874-1875 shaka (1952-1953)
10	Rajanikanta Devsharma	1876 shaka (1954)
11	Premadhar Rajkhowa	1877 shaka (1955)
12	Rajanikanta Devsharma	1878 shaka (1956)
13	Satyendranath Sharma	1879-1881 shaka (1957-1959)
14	Rajanikanta Devsharma	1881 shaka (1959)
15	Satyendranath Sharma	1882 shaka (1960)
16	Jatindranath Goswami	1883-84 shaka (1961-62)
17	Vishvanarayana Shastry	1884-85 shaka (1962-63)
18	Jogesh Das	1888 shaka (1966)
19	Satyendranath Goswami	1889 shaka (1967)
20	Durgeswar Sharma	1890 shaka (1968)
21	Harichandra Bhattacharya	1891 shaka (1969)
22	Jatin Goswami	1892-93 shaka (1970-71)
23	Abdus Chattar	1893 shaka (1971)
24	Pareshmalla Boruah	1893-94 shaka (1971-72)
25	Hemanta Kumar Sharma	1895 shaka (1973)
26	Mahendra Borah	1896-97 shaka (1974-75)
27	Jatin Gowami	1897-99 shaka (1975-77)
28	Jogendra Narayan Bhuyan	1977-79
29	Porikshit Hazarika	1979-81
30	Nahendra Padun	1981-84
31	Chamching Hanche	1985-86
32	Prahlad Kumar Boruah	1986-87
33	Bhagagiri Raichoudhury	1987
34	Naren Kalita	1988-89
35	Nahendra Padun	1989-90
36	Ramcharan Thakuriya	1990-91
37	Upendra Borkotoky	1991
38	Dayananda Pathak	1992-93

39	Khagendra Talukdar	1994-95
40	Prakash Goswami	1997
41	Basanta Kumar Goswami	1997-99
42	Paramananda Rajbongshi	1999-2001
43	Prahlad Kumar Boruah	2001-02
44	Surjyakanta Hazarika	2002-03
45	Madan Sharma	2003-05
46	Dipti Phukon Patgiri	2005-06
47	Ramchandra Deka	2007-08
48	Upen Rabha Hakasam	2009-2011
49	Jyotirekha Hazarika	2011-12
50	Dr. Sobi Gogoi	2012-13
51	Dr. Anil Saikia	2013-14
52	Dr. Umesh Deka	2015-17
53	Dr. Jayashree Goswami	2018-2019
54	Dr. Upendrajeet sharma	2019-21
55	Debaraj Mili	2021

The present editor of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* is Raghunath Kargyung. *The Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* has contributed to the development of the Assamese language and literature. The magazine emphasizes on establishing the Assamese language in its correct form. Also the magazine has played an important role in establishing uniformity in Assamese spelling.

#### 1.4 Conclusion

The above discussions gives us an introduction to the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* and its 75- year old glorious history. The following **findings** can be reached through this study-

- The *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* is a high quality magazine. It is the mouthpiece of Assam Sahitya Sabha, the literary organization of Assam.
- The Assam Sahitya Sabha has a long and proud history of 75 years.
- There are many articles on various aspects of both Assamese and tribal languages, literature and culture published in *the Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine*
- The *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* is basically a research journal. Each of its articles is rich in researched knowledge.
- The contribution of the *Assam Sahitya Sabha magazine* to the Assamese language and literature is very important.
- The magazine Plays an important role in the establishment of Assamese language in its correct forms

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