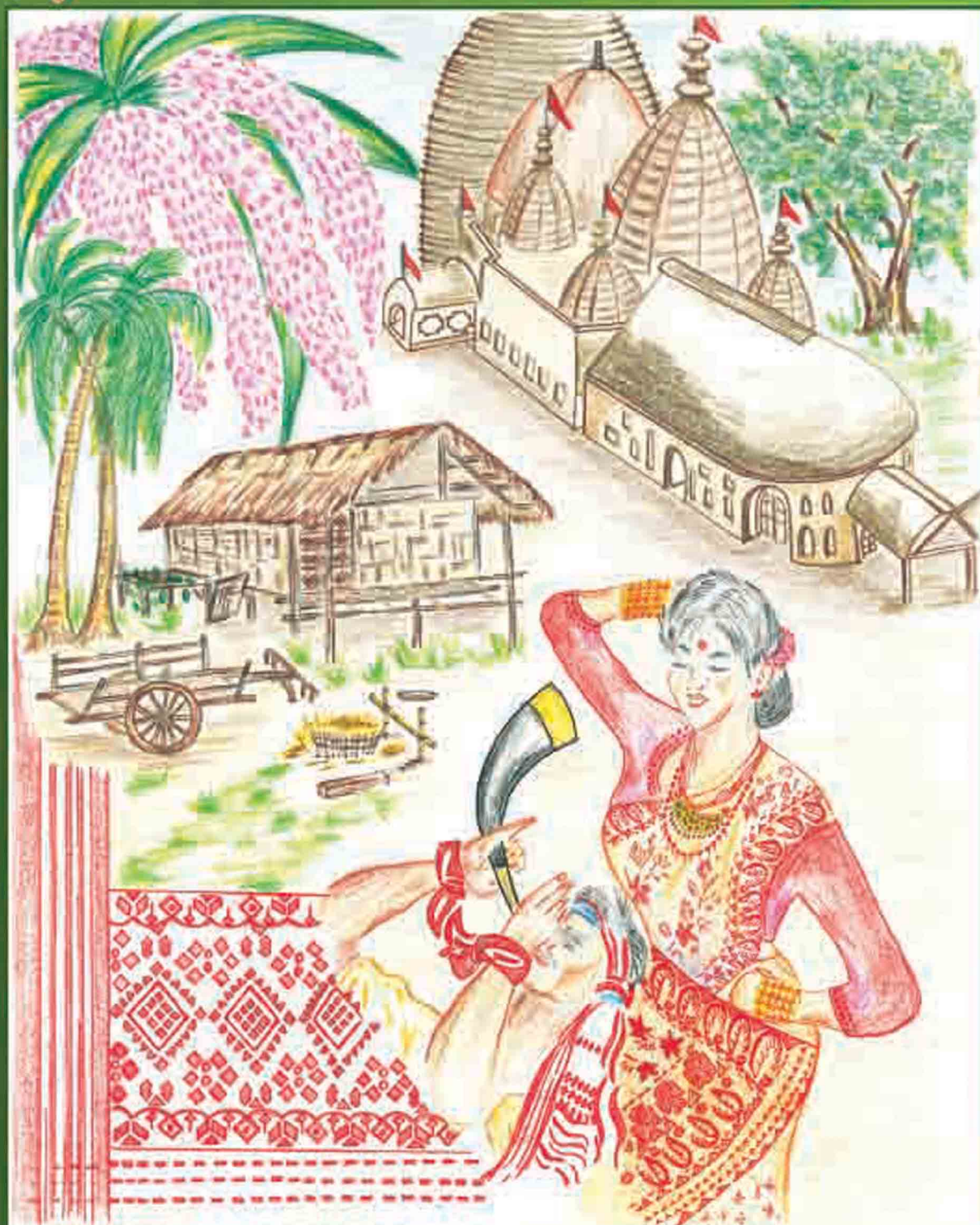


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Annual Souvenir, Volume 6-2013  
Asom Association - Kuwait

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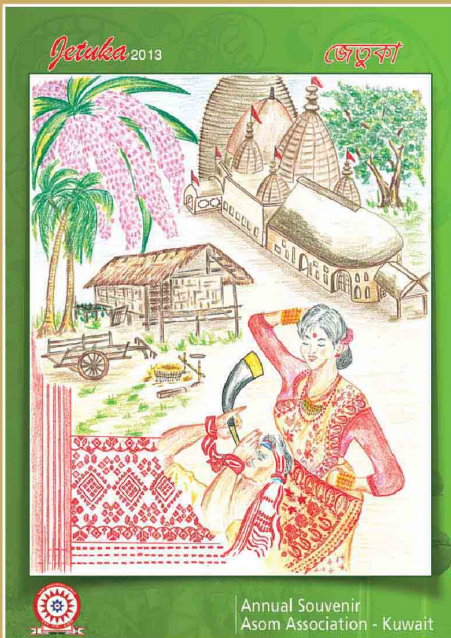
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**H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**  
The Amir of the State of Kuwait



**H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah**  
The Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait



**H.H. Sheikh Nawad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**  
The Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait

## Members of Executive Committee, Asom Association, Kuwait 2012-13



From Left to Right: Ramen Deka, Jayanta Madhab Saikia (President), Mouchumi Sharma, Aruna Dutta, Gholam Rabbani, Atul Shah,

Left to Right: Amitabh Talukdar (Gen. Secretary), Bhaskar Hazarika, Hirendranath Rajkhowa (Vice-President), Alok Das

## Members of Bihu Committee, 2013



From Left to Right (Front Row) : Anup Bora, Nilakshi Bora, Mamoni Gogoi, Atrayee Barua, Anjana Deka, Debahuti Das, Mousumi Talukdar, Masum Rajkhowa, Mitali Goswami, Aruna Dutta, Bikash Jyoti Gogoi, Mouchumi Sharma.

Left to Right (Back Row) : Atul Shah, Alok Das, Bhaskar Hazarika, Chiranjit Barua, Ramen Deka, Iqbal Hussain, Rajib Rajkhowa, Bijan Goswami, Preyankar Kaushik, Mriganga Das, Abhijit Sharma



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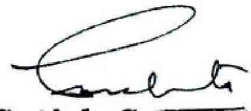
March 5, 2013

### **MESSAGE**

I am pleased to know that Asom Association, Kuwait is celebrating a 'Rongali Bihu' on April 5, 2013 during which a souvenir would also be released.

I would like to commend Asom Association, Kuwait for its efforts in showcasing the talents of the members of the Assamese community in Kuwait, which would also promote Assam's rich cultural heritage.

On this occasion, I convey my warm greetings and best wishes for an enjoyable event to all members of Asom Association and their families as well as to all participants in the event.

  
(Satish C. Mehta)

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**Tarun Gogoi**



**Chief Minister, Assam  
Guwahati**

Dispur  
18/02/2013

**MESSAGE**

I am happy to know that Asom Association, Kuwait is celebrating Rongali Bihu on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 in Kuwait with cultural programmes and a souvenir is being published to mark the occasion.

I hope the celebrations will herald peace, progress and prosperity and it will help to further strengthen the bond of unity and amity between the people of our State residing there and the people of Kuwait.

I wish grand success of the celebrations.

  
(TARUN GOGOI)



## From the President's Desk



**Asom Association, Kuwait**

**অসম সংঘ, কুৱেইট**

[www.kuwaitotasom.com](http://www.kuwaitotasom.com)



Asom Association, Kuwait or more aptly অসম সংঘ, কুৱেইট, is a forum of the people of North East India who have come far away from their homeland to make a living in an alien environment. Thus অসম সংঘ, কুৱেইট is the place where the people of similar roots get together to nurture their cultures and to keep the stream of their culture continuing among the younger generations. We as the seniors of the society, it is always our honest endeavor, to inculcate the beliefs of our homeland into the minds of the future.

Another significant step that the Association has started this year is the formation of a subcommittee for charitable initiatives, AASHA (Asom Association (Kuwait) Salve for Humanitarian Aid). Already a couple of steps have been initiated for benefit of the needy in our homeland. Wholehearted support from our members is requested to carry such noble ventures forward.

Like previous years, this year also we are going to celebrate Rongali Bihu the most colourful celebration of the Assamese community with the same pomp and vigour. As always we will also try to showcase some of the traditional traits of our society through our inhouse efforts. On this occasion we have also invited a popular artist from Assam Ms Zubleee. It is again our endeavor to bring budding and talented artists from Assam to give them a platform to show their talents to the expatriate community.

We in the Association try to provide a platform for the people of the community to exhibit their cultural and literary flair. We also try to strengthen the bond of camaraderie among the members though frequent get togethers. We are a young organization and with our limited resources try our best cater to the needs of the people of various age levels of the community. We will continue to work together and I know that with your supports and initiatives we can make অসম সংঘ, কুৱেইট a vibrant organization in the years to come.

জয় আই অসম

(JAYANTA MADHAB SAIKIA)

President

Asom Association, Kuwait



## General Secretary's Report

I wish all the members of Asom Association, Kuwait a very happy and prosperous Rongali Bihu.

It was indeed a great privilege for me to have been given the opportunity to serve you as General Secretary of AAK. During early part of this year our most enthusiastic General Secretary Mr. Debasish Kakoty decided to leave Kuwait for his better future endeavor and I had to take the rein of AAK as new General Secretary.

During the year 2012 -2013, the Asom Association carried out a number of activities. All of them were tremendously successful with the active support and participation from most of the members. A brief summary of the activities are listed below:

**Sarodiya Utsav 2012:** Saluting the onslaught of Autumn in a very apt way, AAK organized "The Sarodiya Utsav" on 2nd November, 2012 (Friday) at the Banquet Hall of "Mughal Mahal" Restaurant, Fahaheel. The program consisted of various cultural shows hosted & presented by our own talented members & children which included Songs, Dance, and Recitation etc. This year we tried to encourage the blooming talents of our little ones by staging their performances and we got overwhelming response. Altogether about 20 programs were staged by our children which was really entertaining. The highlight of the evening was a comedy Skit by our ladies which made everyone laugh a lot. Adding spice to the variety was **Quiz** and **Extempore Speech** rounds. Additional attraction was the exciting rounds of Raffles conducted throughout the evening. The extravaganza culminated with a mouth-watering dinner with carefully chosen menu to satisfy our ever-demanding test buds.

**Charitable Initiative (AASHA):** As part of our commitment to the society, AAK has started a charitable initiative called "AASHA" (Asom Association Salve for Humanitarian Aid) to help needy people of our homeland. Launching the venture, AAK has collected and sent more than 600 Kg of Fit-For-Purpose used items like Clothes, Shoes etc. to the flood affected people of Majuli in Assam through an NGO named Abakash Majuli in the month of December'12. Items were distributed among needy people of Majuli on 12th February, 2013. All leading newspaper of Assam covered the relief activity and The Telegraph made a headline as "NRI aid from Kuwait for Majuli's flood-hit".

**Photography Workshop:** AAK organized a workshop on Photography by our in-house talent Mr. Abhijit Sharma on evening of December 13th 2012 (Thursday) and it was an eye-opener for many of us. It also broadened the scope of the lens that we normally hold in our hands. The workshop focused on the nuances of finer aspects of photography like F-Stops, Depth of Field, ISO, white balance, focal length, exposure, aperture & broken. It has opened up new vistas for all of us who are new to this interesting field of photography - called creative photography. Workshop was followed by light dinner.

**Magh Bihu 2013:** Magh Bihu the harvesting festival was celebrated on January 10th & 11th, 2013 (Thursday & Friday) in a Farm House in Wafra. This time it was celebrated in a more traditional way with Meji and night stay to depict the picture of Assamese traditional "Bhelaghar" and "Meji". Night stay was full of fun with bon fire, barbeque and light dinner prepared in the farm house. Traditional 'Jalpaan' & a mouthwatering 'Bhoj-Bhaat' was arranged by members of AAK. The day-long activity was enjoyed by each & every, especially the children & ladies for whom some exciting Fun-n-Games were organized. Gifts & prizes were distributed among the children & ladies.

**On-the-spot Art Competition 2013:** As part of mega celebration of Rongali Bihu, an Art competition was organized for the children of AAK on 22nd of February 2013 (Friday) at Fintas Park, Mahboula. The event was attended by majority of the children and they display their talents which came alive in the form of paintings. This was also a pleasant get-together for the parents in the serene atmosphere of nature.

I thank all of you for having extended fullest cooperation, aid as well as advice for the successful accomplishment of all the events. As Rongali Bihu is nearing, I would like to request all the members to come forward and make this mega event more colorful and memorable.

সমূহ অসমীয়া ৰাইজলৈ ৰঙালী বিহু আৰু অসমীয়া নৱবৰ্ষৰ আন্তৰিক শুভেচ্ছা জনালো

জই আই অসম

Amitabh Talukdar  
General Secretary  
Asom Association, Kuwait.



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## From the Editorial Board

Life gives us a lot of opportunities to build wonderful memories which can be reminisced for a lifetime. People travel, meet new people, and get to see different cultures and traditions which have an impact on their lives. Myriad of creative thoughts, nostalgic memories and varied experiences from the past, dreams for the future of an individual are unique. Voracious readers become creative writers only when they get the opportunity to create and write to enhance their literary skills. The aim of Jetuka, the Annual Magazine of Asom Association Kuwait, is to give all of us a unique opportunity to share our feelings, thoughts, and experiences in the form of written communication.

With the advancement of Technology, the world has witnessed a sea-change. This has brought in a revolution by the introduction of different gadgets and by the evolution of the social media. Technology can be a boon or bane. It is the judicious use of gadgets and the social media which can make it a boon.

The data and information from the internet, books, and media has opened up new horizons for us to explore, learn and develop an understanding of history, art, culture and traditions of our homeland as well as the world. Books and knowledge stored in them are the yardsticks of civilization. We can gain knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors through the books only. Scripts played a vital role in preserving our ancestors' wisdom in the form of books. Our civilization saw the present twenty first century by continuous improvement through various scriptures and its practice. Every nation's history and identity are stored in these scripts and scriptures.

The technological race has still not replaced the inherent desire of the human mind to appreciate the wonderful things offered by nature. When we are close to nature, we reduce our stress levels and as such the wear and tear we suffer in this fast modern world. We human beings still enjoy the Cool misty mornings, the beautiful warm rays of sunlight in the afternoons and the warmth of fire in chilling desert nights. We still find joy moving along with the "Ship of the desert" in the long journey across the mighty desert till we find an oasis to rest and replenish ourselves with food and water. We still love to witness and feel the snow falling on us. We still love to view the greenery, the beautiful mountains and the magnificent sea. The message is to embrace technology without forgetting the beauty of nature.

As aptly reflected in our cover Asom offers a rich culture and heritage. Asom is a land with lots of greenery, with beautiful mountains and magnificent rivers. When the festival of Bihu arrives, the fun, frolic and the general festive occasion takes us back to our roots.

It was a picture perfect setting for the Art competition organized by AAK. The serene greenery, the warm rays of sunlight and a cool zephyr soothing all of us from time to time gave the right setting for the occasion. The children taking part in the Asom Association Kuwait Art competition with full concentration for 2 long hours created beautiful art pieces. The competition encouraged the children in taking another step to reach the pinnacle of success in comprehending and creating art.

We strongly believe that in-house literary publication like our own "Jetuka" is a vital face of a community, where our values & honor are reflected in the articles and artworks published therein. In keeping with true spirit of our Association, the magazine showcases the wealth of talent we have locally. Throughout the years, Jetuka has maintained its standards of publishing quality writing from our community members as well as guest columns. Continuing the tradition, this year's magazine is a result of contributions made by this community – children and adults alike – and we would like to thank each and everyone for taking the time to show your support for the magazine and making this edition possible. We all love to read a good Jetuka and show it proudly as a representation of our literary rich community. We hope you enjoy reading this year's Jetuka and look forward to your increased support and enthusiasm for our upcoming issues. We have tried to the best of our ability to showcase and present our multidimensional culture through our mouthpiece "Jetuka". We have worked under tight deadline and also there were space limitations. We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent errors which may have cropped up despite our best efforts.

We would like to wish all the members and their families a Happy Rongali Bihu.

*The Editorial Board, Jetuka, Rongali Bihu Celebration Committee, 2013.*



# Asom Association, Kuwait: The Beginning

Jayanta Bardalaye

It's the first few days of March, 2009. Abhijit Sharma and Mouchumi along with Bharati Aunty, Nupur and Runjun came over to our flat in Al-Baraka. During the course of our chit-chat Abhijit mentioned "My brother-in-law, Gautam met Zubeen and he said that he wants to visit Kuwait in the first half of April before Bihu". "That's great!" I said. "But there's a small hitch" continued Abhijit, "I have talked to a number of hotels and all of them require a letter from an Association registered with the Indian Embassy, Kuwait to process the visa". "Let's form an Association then!" I replied enthusiastically.

I arrived in Kuwait in end 2007. In most of the get-togethers, a discussion on forming an Association for the Assamese community living in Kuwait invariably crops up. As per the old timers, they too were thinking on those lines for a long time. The first requirement was of course a constitution to lay down the necessary guidelines about how the Association should function. Now how to get hold of a copy of a constitution of a registered Association in Kuwait so that we can draft ours taking it as a guideline? Secondly, the Embassy requires a minimum of 100 adult members to give registration. Do we have the numbers? Let's give it a try and see what happens.

Sometime in 2008, in one of the get togethers held at his residence, Rajib da (Rajib Rajkhowa) handed me a copy of the constitution of the Bengali Cultural Society (BCS),

one of the oldest Societies in Kuwait. I started typing it from time to time but never finished it. Now when it's a question of bringing Zubeen to Kuwait, we have to find a way out quickly. Abhijit told me that there is a scanner that can convert a scanned document into a word file. I handed over the hard copy to him, he converted it into a word file using the scanner and handed over the soft copy to me. After that it was necessary to adapt it to our requirements. I am thankful to my father, Sri Lakshmidhar Bardalaye who was with us in Kuwait at that time, for all the inputs that he provided in framing a robust constitution (based on his long legal experience and also his 10 years' experience as President of Kohima Sahitya Sabha. It was founded by Padmanath Gohain Baruah (the first President of Axom Xahitya Xabha) in 1894.

Once the draft was ready, it was necessary to hold an Annual General Body Meeting to adopt the Constitution and elect office bearers to run the Association. Debasish Kakoty volunteered to hold the meeting at his residence. An e-mail was then sent out to all the members requesting them to assemble at Debasish's residence on 12th March, 2009. Due to lack of space, only the male members were requested to attend. The house decided on the name as "Asom Association, Kuwait". Then each and every clause of the Constitution was read out and after incorporating some changes suggested by the members (mostly relating



to the criteria for membership to make it broad-based), it was adopted. An Executive Committee was elected with Bikash Jyoti Gogoi as the President. The house agreed to register the Association with the Indian Embassy, Kuwait and to invite Zubeen Garg as the Guest Artist for our inaugural Rongali Bihu function. A yahoo group moderated by Dr. Debasish Sarma for the Assamese people living in Kuwait was also agreed to be used as a formal mode of communication between the members.

The request for registration has to be submitted to the Embassy in a format prescribed by it. To collect the necessary members' details and signatures, area co-ordinators were appointed to speed up the process: Bikash Gogoi for Salmiya & City area, M. N. Debchoudhury for Abu Halifa, Abhijit Sharma for Mahboula, Debasish Kakoty for Mangaf and myself for Ahmadi. We were able to collect 96 signatures.

Gogoi da and I then went to the Embassy to submit the request for registration with all the relevant documents. The concerned official told us "You have compiled a list of 96 members. With the membership criteria you have set, I am sure that you can get 4 more and make it 100. If your total members were only 50 or 60 we can understand. But now try to make it 100". What to do now? With great efforts we could come up to 96 members. Where do we get 4 more? We knew there were some people who came from Duliajan in the nineties and working in Kuwait. We requested some of our senior members to contact them to help us out. Unfortunately they declined as they were already members of their respective community associations. I then contacted some of my former colleagues in ONGC who worked in Asom to chip in. We are grateful to Chinmaya & Madhushree Pattnaik and Paban Chakraborty for their

help in making up the numbers. Also Tanuj Phukan arrived in Kuwait during that time. So with the list of 100 members we submitted the request once again on 24th March and on 29th March 2009, the Embassy gave registration to Asom Association, Kuwait.

In the meantime preparations were in full swing to celebrate Rongali Bihu. Visa for Zubeen and Garima was arranged with the joint efforts of Gogoi da and Shyamal Barooah. Abhijit Sharma was assigned the task of designing a logo and banner; a letter-head was prepared with inputs from Gogoi da, Abhijit & Jayanta Saikia. Debasish Kakoty and Abhijit were assigned to bring out our souvenir "Jetuka". Anupam Rajkhowa, Hirendranath Rajkhowa, Iqbal Hussain, Rajib Rajkhowa, Dr. Debasish Sharma and Probeen Bora did the needful to confirm members' participation and also to collect the contribution. An attempt was made to attract sponsors for the event with Rajib Rajkhowa as the co-ordinator. 3 sponsors came forward due to the efforts of Rajib da and Gogoi da (the efforts of Arabinda Dutta in collecting the amount due from the primary sponsor could never be forgotten).

Finally, on 10th April, 2009 we celebrated our inaugural Rongali Bihu as "Zubeen Nite" with Zubeen Garg as the star performer and His Excellency, Ajai Malhotra, Ambassador of India as the Chief Guest. A cultural programme for the event was put together in very short time by Shyamal Barooah (he used to be the heart and soul of every cultural programme before he left Kuwait) with the cross-section of the Assamese community in Kuwait.

Since then, the Association has grown by leaps and bounds. And as we enter the 5th year, we can proudly quote Zubeen and sing "Phul phulise boxontor...."





# RACING CAMELS

Parimita Barooah Bora

Camel racing is a favored sport in the Persian Gulf nations, and it is no different in Kuwait. It is a tradition that is firmly rooted in the culture of these desert nations, where the camel in times past was esteemed as a valuable animal, providing transport, meat and milk. Today amongst the material wealth of these nations, the camel is less important for these purposes, but camel racing is conducted in the present day with undiminished fervor.

Camel racing is in many ways somewhat different from horse racing, which is practiced throughout the world. Interestingly, racing camels are usually females as the males are considered to be ill-natured and difficult to handle. However, the magic of science has reached the world of camel racing and now the finest female camels are induced to produce multiple egg cells, are artificially inseminated, and the fertilized embryos are implanted in ordinary female camels, which will give birth to the champion calves.

Thoroughbred Racing Camels are first put through their paces when they are about two years old. Initially the animals are trained to obey basic commands issued by the jockey. Then, a crucial two-kilometer gallop decides which have the ability for racing. To help build their stamina, the camels are made to run certain distances every day, which varies in proportion to their age. There are two main breeds being raced, the Omani and Sudania which differ in color - the Omani being very light and the Sudania more of a tan color. Traditionally, a racing camel is fed on dates, honey, alfalfa, milk and seeds. They are never allowed to drink the day before a race and were prevented from feeding for the 12 hour prior to a race. With this type of saddle the jockey sits behind the camel's hump.

Camels are often controlled by child jockeys, but allegations of human rights violations have led to nationwide bans on underage labor in the UAE and Qatar. Children are often favored as jockeys because of their light weight. It has

been reported that thousands of children (some reported as young as 2 years old) are trafficked from countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Sudan for use as jockeys in the Persian Gulf States' camel racing industry. Many child camel jockeys are seriously injured by falling off the camels. The child jockeys live in camps (called "ousbah") near the racetracks. Hundreds of children have been rescued from camel farms in Oman, Qatar, and UAE and taken back to their original homes or kept in shelter homes. Many however, are unable to identify their parents or home communities in South Asia or Sudan. Some countries have issued penalties for those who bring child camel jockeys from other countries and ordered it as the owner's responsibility to return the children back to their home countries. However, they report that in many instances the children rescued were those who had been sold away by their own parents in exchange for money or a job abroad. If they were returned, the children would again be sold for the same purposes. Other children did not speak their native languages, or did not know how to live outside the camel farms.

The United Arab Emirates was the first to ban the use of children under 15 as jockeys in camel racing when Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced the ban on July 29, 2002. In 2009 the UAE paid compensation to 879 former jockeys. The UAE now issues penalties such as jail and banning for those found using children as jockeys. However, international observers have reported violations of this ban. In Qatar, the Emir of Qatar, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, banned child jockeys in 2005 and directed that by 2007, all camel races would be directed by robotic jockeys. In Kuwait, it was banned in 2005. Organizers switched to mechanical robots, fearing allegations with human trafficking: camel owners were accused of buying light weight and smaller frame jockeys from Pakistan and India.



It is a sport that the people of Middle East can certainly be very proud of. If you were ever thinking about going somewhere in Middle East for vacation, you could always go over there and catch a race. It would be very interesting to see how the camels get through the races. So if you are ever looking to do something really exciting and fun, sit down and watch a camel race, you will never forget the experience.

Our trip to Kuwait Camel Racing Club was a delightful and refreshing experience.

Kuwait has a rich history of camel racing. People from all genres of Kuwaiti society participate in the camel racing events. Although the camel racing has been marred in the past with 'child jockeys issue', this system has been abolished and now they use robotic jockeys during the event. We read that now-a-days, robots are used instead of child jockeys in camel races, and to experience such a race

is once-in-a-life time experience.

We were lucky (thanks to my hubby Jeet who always takes the initiative) to be part of the huge crowd who were there as spectators at the 12th Annual International Camel Race which was held in Kabd, Kuwait (12 Feb-16Feb'2012). It had around 500 participants where robots were the jockeys. The tiny "riders" powered by remote control as the camel owners' race alongside in their jeeps or SUV's. The robot jockeys are complete with little jockey outfits and hats, and their remote controlled whips slap away at the camels as the owners pursued one of 65 Toyota Land Cruiser prizes. The 6km race was part of a five-day tournament that had around 500 participants this year.

It was quite an experience to enjoy such a competition.

So, what are your thoughts about these robotic-jockeys and their steeds?

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healing

Science of wound healing

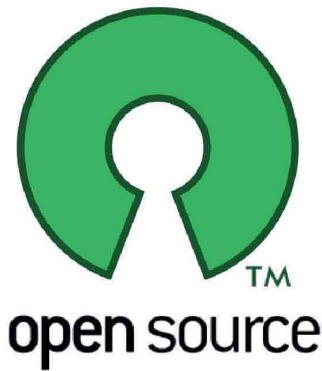
**MEBO** Ointment acts at the three phases of wound healing and at the level of growth factors ( bFGF, TGF-B1,NGF ) to provide...

- The best quality of healing (minimal or no scarring)
- The best rate of healing.
- The best safety profile.

**MEBO** Herbal and Natural Ointment 0.25% VWF & alloloyl

Reference: Jurjus A, Atiyeh BS, Abdulah IM, et al, Pharmacological modulation of wound healing in experimental burns, Burns,2007,33:692.

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# Open Source Software

Amitabh Talukdar

Open Source Software: Where Everything Comes Free  
The changing business models and balance of commercial power

Most of us cannot fully utilize our high end laptops or desktops just because either we do not want to spend our monthly savings \$\$ in buying softwares or we use pirated software which has many limitations & bugs. To overcome all the limitations, there is another world which not only provides what we want but also provides what we cannot even comprehend.

Welcome to the world of Open Source!

## What is Open Source?

The Open Source Initiative (OSI) is a non-profit corporation with global scope formed to educate about, and advocate, for the benefits of open source, and to build bridges among different constituencies in the open source community. "Open Source" is not only free, but it also provides us with the source code to modify and customize according to our own requirements. Some see the "Open Source" movement as a crusade against global dominant software suppliers. Open Source softwares do not have any limitations whereas shareware & freeware applications have limitations.

## Open Source Licensing:

The GNU General Public License (GPL) is the most widely used software license, which guarantees end users (individuals, organizations, companies) the freedom to use, study, share (copy), and modify the software. Source Forge <http://sourceforge.net/> is dedicated to making open source projects successful. It is a central repository for most of the open source softwares. It serves more than 46 million consumers with these open source projects and provides more than 4,000,000 download a day.

## Uses:

All Open Source software can be used for even commercial purpose; the Open Source Definition guarantees this. For example Linux is most commonly used open source operating system, however industrial players like RedHat, IBM, HP, Oracle, Novel makes huge revenue providing technical support to their own flavor of Linux.

## Advantage:

**Free:** It's free for personal/commercial use, re-distribution & sale.

**Customizability:** Source code can be modified by anyone to fit into their own requirement.

**Security:** It's much more secured, because many developers can see the source code to fix the hole.

**Interoperability:** Can be used in any platform, since it's made with open standard.

**Support:** Whole world of support forum is with you to support.

## Disadvantage:

Not very user friendly and initially difficult to use.

## Most commonly used Open Source Software:



### Linux

Linux is most popular open source Operating System that has been ever made. Linus Torvalds developed the kernel and made it

open source so that the whole world can be benefited from this extremely secured and robust Operating System. There are many flavor of Linux which are freely downloadable like RedHat Linux, SUSE Linux, Ubuntu Linux, Oracle Linux etc. <http://www.linux.org/>



Android is nowadays most commonly used Linux based open-source operating system for mobile devices, led by Google & presently having 72% worldwide market share in smart phones. This was developed so that no industry player can restrict or control the innovations of any other and made its source code open. Android can be installed in a Virtual machine inside your Windows desktop to develop & test all Android based mobile apps (<http://www.vmlite.com/>). Android has been installed on various other devices like laptop, tablet, Camera (Nikon CoolPix), wrist watches, DVD player, Smart TV etc.

Android has become the world's most widely used smartphone platform. According to October 2012 report, there are about 700,000 apps developed for android with downloads of 25 billion from Google Play. Apps are mostly developed using open source software called "Java" & Android software Development Kit.

Apps development in Android platform has become very easy nowadays, one needs to download Android Software Development Kit (<http://developer.android.com/sdk/index.html>) to develop and test necessary apps in a normal Windows laptop and make it available to Android phones by uploading into Google Play.

Latest Android OS 4.2 version can be downloaded from: <http://www.android.com/>

### 3. GIMP:



GIMP is a freely distributed program for photo retouching, image composition and image authoring. It can be used as a simple paint program, an expert quality photo retouching program, an online batch processing system, a mass production image renderer, an image format converter with various camera RAW support like NIKON, CANON, SONY, SAMSUNG etc. The people who do not want to spend \$600 for Photoshop, here is the best solution "GIMP". GIMP works on Windows, Linux and Mac platform. <http://www.gimp.org/>

### 4. TrueCrypt:



TrueCrypt is most popular open source software for establishing and maintaining an on-the-fly-encrypted volume (data storage device) or encrypted folder anywhere inside your computer. It's a 256 bit cryptographic encryption mechanism which makes completely impossible to decrypt a file/folder/drive without the correct password. Even FBI could not decrypt TrueCrypt system even after trying for many years. This tool is a must for your Windows laptop/desktop to store confidential data like bank account details, financial reports etc. and to secure them from hackers, intruders or any other unauthorized access. True Crypt can be downloaded from: <http://www.truecrypt.org/>

### 5. Audacity

Audacity® is free, open source, cross-platform software for recording, editing, enhancing and converting sounds in various formats. Audacity is available for Windows, Mac®, Linux® and other operating systems.

Can be downloaded from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

### 6. Open Office

Apache OpenOffice is the free open-source productivity suite that rivals Microsoft's Office suite, the business world's standard. OpenOffice is compatible with Microsoft Office 2010 documents like .docx, .xlsx, .pptx etc. It has six different modules. They are Text document, Spreadsheet, Presentation, Drawing, Database and Formula.

If you don't want to spend \$200 on Microsoft Office, than this is the best option. You can open, edit and save Microsoft Office 2010 documents using Open Office. The latest version of OpenOffice can be downloaded from <http://www.openoffice.org/>

#### Open Source Software for Industrial use:

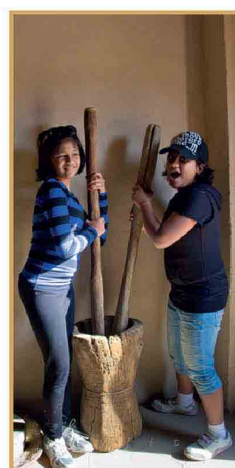
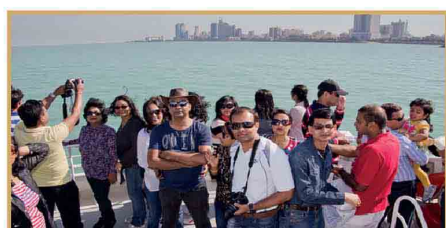
It is worth mentioning that in present times due to financial or various other reasons, many global players are promoting open source applications both inside and outside of their organization.

Some example of various open source software used by major Oil & Gas firms:

- OpenFOAM ([www.openfoam.com](http://www.openfoam.com)) for Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulation work.
- MMT (Molecular Modeling Toolkit <http://dirac.cnrs-orleans.fr/MMTK/>) used to simulate catalyst behavior while extracting oil from Canadian oil sands.
- Sun Grid engine (SGE <http://gridscheduler.sourceforge.net/>) to manage & schedule various mathematical simulation jobs in a large cluster based computing environment.

#### And much more:

There is no end to it; you can browse through thousands of open source software in SourceForge database: <http://sourceforge.net/> and install in your personal computer.



## Visit to Failaka Islands



# Help is on the way

Atul Shah

Some moments in life are unforgettable for the sheer coldness with which they play their pranks. The phone had rung when I was just about to get into a crowded lift. The call was from India. People in the lift were digging me with their stares while I fumbled with the phone and dithered in front of them. The lift eventually lost its patience and left me with my call.

"Hello...Who?... Yeah Suman, tell me..."

When I kept the phone back to the pocket, I wished I could advise him not to call me during morning office hours. Especially when there was an important presentation lined up for me.

But how could he have guessed that from a remote village across the globe. He was just a simple peasant dedicated to this village for all his life. It had taken him almost two days just to decide whether or not to call me. He had had to walk almost a kilometre in the June torrential rain to the kirana shop at the edge of the village which offered internet calls. The shopkeeper was almost going to put the last rusted locks to his shop when Suman appeared. "Jitu da, wait. Don't close. I need to make an important call."

"What's the matter?" Jitu da shouted over the clangs of the rain drops on the metal roof.

"It's the mathauri. Where is your other phone? I know you don't carry it home, that's why I came running before you closed."

"Hello... Amar da, this is Suman calling from Madhavpur" he shouted on the phone. "Have you been able to send the money yet? ... Ok dada...ok...dada, please try to send it as soon as possible...No, actually this year the rains are pretty heavy and the mathauri has again started leaking... ok dada... Oh, I am sorry dada... No, no please go ahead... Your office is important...Sorry dada...Thank you dada... Bye."

"How bad is the leak?" Jitu da asked as he took the phone from Suman.

"Profuse" Suman said fishing out some wet notes from his pocket. "Two years back you remember we had welded the sluice gates, but it seems they are not holding. And if the rain continues like this the pressure on the gates will increase."

"Yeah, the river on the other side has suddenly swollen." Jitu da said.

"If we can mend those gates in time, there should be no reason to panic. The contractor is asking for six lakh rupees for this simple job."

"Yeah, that's because he has to rent a big welding machine and get steel plates from the town" Jitu da said relocking the wooden doors. "Luckily our village has people in America who can support us in these dire circumstances."

"Yeah, we just need to hold on till the money arrives" Suman said with firmness. "I am going to the mathauri now to monitor the leak."



Jitu da hesitated before responding. "Let me come with you. We may have to gather some men to guard it over the night."

Suman nodded and shook his blinking Eveready torch to squeeze out some light out of it. They would need it on the dark treacherous path to the mathauri.

"So when is Amar sending the money?" Jitu da asked as they walked together under their black umbrellas. "It was supposed to arrive last month, wasn't it?"

"He ... He said it is taking some time to collect the sum. He is a very busy person, you know. In America the money may be good but the jobs are tough."

The walk from Jitu da's house to the railway bridge was hardly a comfortable walk, especially in a dark pouring night. The bridge cum barrage had been constructed by the Railways some sixty years ago on a railway track. The elevated track cut three villages from a volatile river up north. It was locally referred to as a mathauri that saved these villages and their crop during monsoon floods.

I know this because I was born and raised in Madhavpur. Suman and I went to the same village school, and then finished high school in the town. Best of friends, we would often come to the rail bridge and witness the sluice gates giving in to age and rust. The Railways maintained the bridge but had abandoned the barrage underneath to its fate. At some point in our youth and idealism we promised ourselves we would later do something about it.

After graduation we were both offered jobs in the same company in the city and we together prepared happily for the opportunity. But two days before departure Suman had to change his decision.

Every villager remembered that fateful day like a horror movie watched multiple times. Once again the mathauri was in dire need of funds. Suman's father told him in the morning that he was going with a couple of village seniors to meet the authorities in the town. He left home early morning and returned home late evening in sixteen pieces. That afternoon when a trembling Suman was collecting the body parts from the railway tracks one of the legs was still missing.

Suman did not come with me. He had to complete his father's legacy and his last wishes. The government funds for the mathauri never arrived. Every year during the rains Suman would take it upon himself to monitor the rise of water levels. Last winter when I visited home after a ten year spell he asked me if I could raise some funds for the mathauri, to which I enthusiastically responded.

For him I was a big man. Anybody for that matter who came out of the village and made it to America was a big man.

"Jitu da, over here!" Suman shouted. "I wasn't wrong about the leak."

Jitu da ran up to the point on the rail bridge where Suman was standing. From the top they both stared at the leak down the metal contraption with disbelief. Submerged in a column of water the inner sluice gates were barely visible. One of them was not in its proper place.

"Look at its top side" Jitu da hollered over the noise. "It looks like one of its left hinges is missing."

For minutes they intently studied the misbehaving gate. The heavy steel sluice gates were located at the bottom of the flooding compartment. It was fifteen feet deep, dark and intimidating.

"I think I will go down the water and fix the gate with a bamboo pole" Suman's face did not betray any emotion when he said this. This was why Jitu da was surprised at

this proposition.

"Are you mad? This could be dangerous!"

Suman did not even wait. "Let me get a bamboo pole. If we don't do it now, by morning the villages will be totally drowned. Don't worry, I will be fine."

Jitu da could not say anything. Suman was right and wrong at the same time.

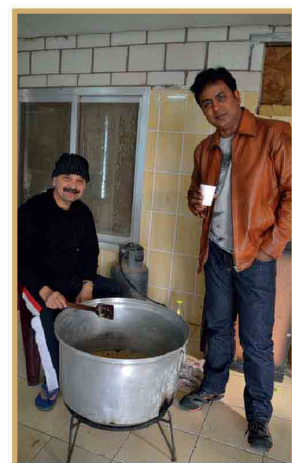
"Please run back to the village" Suman shouted, "and get some men. And yes, also try to bring a couple of steel poles."

It was as if fate was bent on playing a cruel joke that night. The night witnessed the last of the torrential rains of the season, I was later told. Next morning the water on the river side receded dramatically and the pressure on the gates was reduced. But like a band of frustrated robbers who leave damages behind after an unsuccessful bid, the night's rain had taken its toll.

Two hours later when Jitu da arrived with reinforcements of all kinds, they found that the leak was gone. Inside the flooding pit Suman was found holding the bamboo pole in place. Sometime in those two hours he had chosen to give up on breathing than to give up on stopping the leak. Even his lifeless body continued to foil rain's robbery attempt.

A week later I got a phone call from Jitu da for thanking me for the money sent. Ironically, he pointed out, the village had lost its best swimmer to drowning. But it was the other phone call that keeps haunting me to this day.

"Hello...Who?... Yeah Suman, tell me... What? ... no, not yet... I will be sending it by this Friday... Yeah, yeah...I understand but you must know that it takes time and effort to convince people and collect the funds, and with this job I can hardly move out a lot... Well, you have to somehow contain the leak for a week or so...Now I am getting late for my office ... I need to keep the phone... Ok... Bye."



Magh Bihu 2013, at Wafra



# AASHA - a new dimension

Rubi Dutta Bordoloi



the island and members of the NGO distributing the materials on 12th February, 2013 in several areas on the eastern side of Majuli, which were among the worst affected areas by the floods. The Xatradhikar of Dakhinpat Ashrami Xatra, Janardhan Devagoswami, inaugurated the camp organised for the distribution of materials at Afalamukh, Meragarh, Kalanibari and Hensua.

The flood affected people of Majuli are very much thankful and conveyed their deep appreciation with their blessings to the Assamese community of Kuwait. All leading news paper of Assam covered the distribution activity with "The Telegraph" carrying a

news head line "NRI aid from Kuwait for Majuli flood-hit" Thank you all for getting connected directly or indirectly and making our first endeavor a success. AASHA team played an important role in collecting items from different homes and making them ready for packing which was a highly commendable task. Sincere thanks to "Abakash Majuli", Lota Hazarika and all my elders & friends for their support to AASHA.

AASHA is a continuous effort, so let us join hands more firmly for future projects. Few members started donating to AASHA on happy occasions like Birthdays, which is really a good start. AASHA needs different mechanisms to collect funds for future projects and your suggestions are welcome. On behalf of AASHA team, it is a humble appeal to all of you to support AASHA. Please feel the joy of giving and sharing and donate generously to AASHA. Let's have the WILL to do more projects for AASHA.

If there is a will there is a way. One fine morning sitting alone I felt a little restless. I had a strong desire to do something meaningful for our dear homeland. I expressed my feelings and got very encouraging response from my friends and elders, this boosted my confidence. After couple of months the matter was brought to light and discussed in the AGM of Asom Association of Kuwait (AAK). AAK decided to have a charitable wing to support our homeland.

The next step was obviously what to do? How to do? We had several discussions/meetings and AASHA (Asom Association Salve for Humanitarian Aid) was born as an integral part of AAK. Aim and objectives of AASHA were conveyed to the members through a brief presentation and many members offered their valuable suggestions and contributions to start the noble endeavor. The first project that AASHA was the project FIT-4-PURPOSE, collecting used items and to send to the flood affected people of Assam. The President of "Abakash Majuli" Mr. Amlandeep Borah was contacted through Face book and we selected "Abakash Majuli" for our project. "Abakash Majuli" is a socio-cultural NGO involved in providing aid for the flood-hit people in the Brahmaputra river island Majuli. AASHA dispatched nearly 600 kg of materials including clothing for men, women and children, shoes & sandals of different sizes and toys for children, to the flood hit areas of Majuli. The aid was sent through sea cargo vessel & it took almost two months to reach to Bani Mandir Jorhat. Ms. Lota Hazarika, sister of Mr. Debasish Kakoty & daughter in Law of Bani Mandir took the responsibility to send the materials to Majuli.

Amlandeep reported to us about the consignment reaching



# Mysterious Journey

Rajab Ali Ahmed

Those who travel many places  
Reach the goal with great knowledge.  
Books give the virtual perception  
Traveling magnify its real appreciation.  
Written direction finds the location  
Journey covers the full destination

May one get the sensation of tasks  
Like, tracking upon the cold ice  
Or camel-ride in hot desert  
Or, sailing in turbulent ocean  
But, exploring the universe  
Make the aggressive and wild wonder.

When one arrives to the pole ahead  
Feel its tarnish darken by cloud  
The faint vaguest none halt, moving ahead  
Soaking the spirit with rejuvenating colors

The mystery lies behind the universe  
Stimulates for the starving desire  
Human debility waits ne'er  
Attain the sunlight by maneuver

Despite the enigma of  
The Galaxy, the Milky Way,  
Cosmos, the universe;  
The difficult unknown paths

All the exploration of the wonder,  
The mystery of soul to heaven;  
Cease to believe the eternity  
The visible horizon still far ahead in the journey.



# ARE YOU HAPPY IN YOUR WORK?

Nagen Dutta

They say, "A fat pay-packet commensurating with the coveted position in the corporate hierarchy and perks as expected make one happy in work", right? Yet happiness is not that mundane nor so cheap. There was a time when it was believed, people worked solely to feed and clothe themselves and their dependents. Employers scarcely had any concern for social necessities that serve as a base for employees' welfare. There were days when the jacket of employees' happiness from material gains was torn to shreds by the sharp tongue-lashing of the squeezing bosses.

With the improvement of management techniques, the practice of riding roughshod over the employees to extract more work was considered ill-advised by the management and despised by self-respecting employees. Behavioural scientists are of opinion that there are better ways to make people better and happier employees. They believe more money and more fringe benefits do not automatically lead to higher productivity. In the case of money as an incentive, the theorists find no fault with the assumption that people work for money up to a certain point – to match their personal conception of good life with their earnings. However there is considerable evidence that people simply do not view money in the same way as the companies do. "More money in routine amounts is largely taken for granted, anticipated before it arrives, and viewed as a deserved reward for past services, not a stimulus to new effort", writes management consultant Saul Gellerman.

Apart from monetary incentives, present day management focus their attention on personal needs of the employees. Amongst the many schemes that companies have introduced for their employees, special schemes for their female work force and most notably working mothers is one of the topmost priorities for the corporate world today. They generously provide for day - care - centres, telecommuting and work – from – home facilities. Female employees are even allowed in many companies to structure their work in a flexible manner. Work – from – home arrangements have no impact on pay and other benefits.

Despite all these benefits/facilities the companies may have to go a long way to achieve higher productivity coupled with enhanced enthusiasm of employees. Unless the employees are motivated to give their best, no effort of management to achieve these two objectives will be fruitful. Many industrial houses still adhere to the old tradition of mollycoddling; but to modern management gurus it is nothing but sowing seeds on a slice of a barren desert.



The motivational gospel is spreading throughout the length and breadth of the industrial world. Properly motivated persons are mesmerized by their work place and work.

Motivational devices are aimed at enhancing psychological satisfaction of the employee and at spurring a sense of belonging. Responsibility and acknowledgement are two sides of the coin that is stashed away in their hands - a nice way to enkindle happiness in the minds of conscientious workers.

Many technocrats even bureaucrats hop from job to job when they find themselves only mere cogs in the huge machine. To exploit the potential of an employee to the fullest extent, it is essential that an

employee will not be tied to a rigid framework but will be given the required liberty to discharge his responsibilities followed by accolades on his accomplishment.

Without a right frame of mind, better known as a 'positive approach' an employee may often be in a despondent mood despite all the good things that have been described above. It is against that backdrop that 'Emotional Quotient' is considered essential for handling workplace relationship and situations. Even failures must not make a dent in the level of enthusiasm of an enterprising worker.

The corporate life is affected by joys and sorrows of success or failure of the project. Failures sometimes denude the workers of resilience that may ultimately prove disastrous. However DRDL-RCI that was entrusted with the task of launching Agni-1 Ballistic Missile is a happy exception. Agni 1, the Medium Range Ballistic Missile having a range of 700 to 1250 km, was successfully fired on May 3, 1989. This was a milestone in development of India's fire power. India has since produced a number of Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles, the latest being Agni V having a range of 5000 kms. A team of five hundred scientists headed by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam did the pioneering work of making the indigenously devised ballistic missile, Agni 1. Twice the programme of firing Agni 1 had to be cancelled due to some snags detected only minutes before the scheduled hour. This being a matter of national prestige, Dr. Kalam and his team had to suffer bitter ignominy of failure. But they did not lose courage nor did they react to mockery to which they were subjected. Days later, the mighty feat of successful firing of Agni 1 warmed the cockles of our hearts. The nation greeted Dr. Kalam with warmth and gratitude. The 'Wings of Fire' a memorable work of Dr. Kalam gives details of this epoch-making event and gives a fair idea of his happiness. It was the positive frame of mind that helped Dr. Kalam and his team to reach the goal and to ignore the



adverse criticisms.

Whenever I think of real happiness from work, certain pictures etched in my mind touch the right chord in me. Soon after successful launching of a spacecraft at NASSA or Sriharikota the scientists, engineers and technocrats are pictured as bundles of happiness, radiating the glow of their collective success. The world at large and the nation in particular rejoice at their achievement. Same is the case with our respected teachers. With elated smiles in their faces, the whole lot of teachers of an educational institution, particularly of relatively backward location, expresses their unbridled joy whenever some of their students appearing in the final exam are declared toppers. And what about doctors? Gleeful faces of a team of surgeons completing successfully a complicated surgery, give a testimony of unalloyed happiness. Monetary benefits have little relevance on these occasions.

One of the success stories of India is Delhi Metro that holds an enviable record of efficiency and public utility. Dr. E. Sreedharan was the Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation from 1995 to the end of 2011. This was the period when this Metro Rail was constructed and became operational. The 124 km project was completed well ahead of schedule and within the sanctioned cost. This is in itself a marvelous feat under the prevailing situation in the country. Today, Delhi Metro carries 22 lakh passengers a day. Trains run as per schedule with 99.75% punctuality. Dr. Sreedharan the Managing Director of Delhi Metro

who has been honoured with the prestigious Padma Vibhushan award, the second highest civilian award in the country, catalogues four cardinal pillars of the work culture and organizational values instilled and nurtured in each workman. These are – (1) punctuality, (2) integrity, (3) professional competence and (4) sense of social accountability. Each of these attributes has some spiritual dimensions, observes Dr. Sreedharan. Thus punctuality means respect for others' time. Integrity implies inculcating in employees a respect for the good moral values. Social accountability warrants awareness about others' needs, expectations and happiness. It is with a sense of pride that Dr. Sreedharan notes that there has not been a single allegation of corruption and malpractice, no agitation for higher financial benefits. No malicious propaganda against the management is known to have vitiated the Delhi Metro. Apparently, workers are happy; so is the management. We all seek happiness that is a unique phenomenon. It springs from the fountain of others' happiness. A self-centered soul treads a lonely path.

*(The writer is a retired I A S officer who held many responsible positions under the Govt. of Assam. He has joined the Theosophical Society and has been elected Vice President of the Assam Theosophical Federation.)*

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