F. GLOSSARY:

Abor, Aka: Hill tribes of Arunachal Pradesh
ada: Ginger
Adivasi: Original inhabitant
Agni devata: God of fire
Agrahana, Sravana, Bhadra: Assamese months.
ahu: Paddy cultivated by sowing seeds in dry land.
Ai-ni-toms: Romantic folk-songs of the Mising
akash banti: Sky lamp
akhai: Parched paddy
Aparajita: The Chitoria
Asoka: Saraca indica
Asvin Samkranti: Last day of the Assamese month ‘Asvin’; i.e. Kati bihu
bagurumba: A folk dance of the Boro maidens.
bahi: Kept over night
Baisagu: Bohag Bihu of the Boros.
banh puja: Bamboo worship
Banhi: Flute made of bamboo
barhamthuri: A kind of herb used by women to colour teeth and lips.
Bari-basti: Homestead and fruit garden.
bar-kapoor: A coarse cotton cloth folded twice and used as a wrapper.
Basanta: Spring
bas-puja: Bamboo worship
Bathou: Father God of the Boros
**Been:** A kind of lute

**bhaluka banh:** A kind of bamboo

**bhaona:** A dramatic performance

**Bhata:** A traditional event.

**Bhatheli:** A kind of bamboo worship.

**Bhelaghar:** A makeshift of bamboo, banana leaves and stubbles

**bhelanok:** Meji or bhelaghar of the Rabhas

**bhela-puji:** A kind of meji constructed in the context of Magh bihu

**Bhogali bihu:** Post harvesting bihu; i.e. Magh bihu

**bhortal-nritya:** A male dance form performed by playing on cymbals

**bi-hau:** A Boro term which means to beg and to give

**Bihu nams:** Bihu songs.

**Bihu suria git:** Modern Assamese song sung in the style of Bihu song

**Bihu thowa:** To put away Bihu

**Bihuwan:** A kind of Assamese towel

**Bisu songs:** Bihu songs of the Deori tribe of Assam.

**biya-nam:** Marriage song

**Bohag:** First month of Assamese year

**Bohagi Sanmilan:** A festival now introduced in some places as a variation of Bohag bihu

**Bohagi utsav:** A festival now observed in a few places as a variation of Bohag bihu

**boka-nas:** A folk dance of the Tiwas

**Bols:** Colour

**Banaghosa:** A kind of erotic songs sung by the cowherds

**bor:** Fig tree

**bora caul:** Sticky rice
borgits: Devotional songs composed by Sankaradeva and Madhavadeva

Brai Sibrai: Lord Siva worshipped by the Dimasa Kacharis

bulbuli: Indian nightingale

Cadara: Body wrapper used as female garment

Caraghar: An outer house for sitting and receiving visitors.

Celeng: Light wrapper used as upper garment

Chadar: Sheet of cotton or muga silk.

Chakeroi: A folk-dance of the Karbis.

Chali-nritya: A peacock- like dance associated with the sattras of Assam

Cham: Astrocarpur chaptasha

Chathar: Song and dance associated with Baikhu festival of the Rabhas

Chedi Melo: Regarded as founder father by the Misings.

Chensu: Sharp string of bamboo.

Cheo: Piece of dhol beats associated with Huchari carol singing

Chera Bihu: Last day of seven day long Bohag bihu

Choit Samkranti: Last day of the Assamese month ‘Choit’; i.e. Bohag bihu

Choitar bihu: The springtime merriments of Bohag or Rongali bihu had begun in the past with the advent of the preceding month of Bohag i.e., Choit. So, Bohag bihu or Rongali bihu was also known as Choitar bihu i.e., the bihu of Choit.

Chola: A cloak

Chumcheng: A deity of the Tai-Shans.

Churia: Long and broad waist cloth

Cifung: Long flute of the Boro tribe.

Cira: Flattened rice

Cotal: Household yard.
Cowrie khel: Game played with shells.

Dahi: Curd

dasavatara-nritya: A traditional dance associated with the incarnations of Vishnu

deka bora: Official to attend the youths of Rati bihu.

Dekachang: Male dormitory.

Deodhani: A dance form associated with the worship of Manasa, the snake goddess.

Deori: A tribe of Assam belonging to the Tibeto-Burman speaking Mongoloid stock of people.

Deosal: Abode of evil spirit.

Deul: Vishnu worship with homa-rites. Or, hillock of earth
dharma sastras: Treatise on religion.

Dhekisal: A shed where a pedal for cleaning and pounding rice is set.

Dhol: Drum
dholar capar: Drum beats
dholar mari: Small bamboo stick used for beating dhol.
dhol-biri: Drum shaped ornament attached with moni.
dhop khel: A traditional outdoor event.
dhuliya hat: Particular beats of dhol arranged specially.
dhuliya ojha: Drummer who commands proficiency in the art of dhol play.

Dhuliya: Drummer

Dhuti: Traditional lower garment for the manfolk

Dimasa Kacharis: A tribe of Mongoloid origin widely distributed in N.C. Hills district of Assam.

dol bhat: Community feast.
**dola**: Sedan

**domahi**: Juncture of two months.

**Donyi Polo**: Believed by the Misings as creator.

**dulari chanda**: A poetical measure of Assamese literature.

**enga sola** and **kuruta**: Body wrappers.

**eriya kapor**: Cloth made of coarse yarn spun from the *muga* cocoon.

**etha doi**: Sticky curd prepared from thick buffalo milk.

**gabharu bihu**: Bihu song and dance instituted by marriageable girls.

**gabharu bora**: Official to attend the girls of *gabharu bihu*.

**gabharu mon**: Intention of grown up girls.

**Gabharuchang**: Female dormitory

**gagana**: Jews harp

**Gamkharu**: Bracelet

**Gamocha**: Cotton towel

**Gan**: Theatre

**Garu-bihu**: Cow bihu

**ghana badya**: Thick instrument.

**Ghar bihu**: Bihu song and dance performed by womenfolk inside the household campus in the absence of the male members.

**ghila khel**: A traditional Assamese game.

**Goalpariya-Lokagit**: Folk-song peculiar to Goalpara district.

**gohali**: Cowshed

**Go-Laksmi**: Cow regarded 'Laksmi'.

**gomsengar sola**: A coat of Chinese silk.

**Gosain-bihu**: Third day of the Bohag bihu dedicated for religious functions.

**gua-pan**: Areca-nut and betelvines.
**Gumrag:** A dance form of the Misings.

**Gur:** Molasses

**Guru Asana:** Symbolic seat of the spiritual guide.

**Ha-chari:** Huchari institution of the Dimasa Kacharis.

**haidang-husari:** A Huchari dance of the Sonowal Kacharis.

**Haphal:** A traditional outdoor event.

**Hari-ucchari:** Uttering the name of Hari or Krishna.

**Hasati:** Handkerchief of red cloth.

**Haugudu:** A traditional outdoor event.

**Hemanta:** One of the six seasons in a year.

**Hill Miri:** A hill tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Homa:** An oblation.

**Huchari nam:** Huchari song.

**huchari:** Carol singing of Bohag bihu.

**Japa:** A box made of canewood.

**Jatnams:** Choral Bihu songs.

**Jayanti:** A kind of medicinal plant.

**Jeth:** The second month of Assamese year and the following month of Bohag.

**jetuka mehendi:** Indian henna.

**Jhum:** Cultivation in hilly land.

**jiwajantur bihu:** Bihu for domestic animals.

**jon biri:** Half moon-shaped ornament attached with *moni*.

**Joranams:** Antiphonal Bihu songs.

**Jum bihu:** Bihu instituted by many groups at the same place and at the same time.

**Kahi:** Rice-dish made of bel-metal.
Kairataja Dharma: Religion of the aborigines of Assam.

Kali: A fife,

Kali-chandi: A dance form prevalent in undivided Goalpara district.

Kamakhya: Shrine of the goddess Kamakhya in Kamrup.

Kamrupi Lokagit: Folk-song peculiar to Kamrup district.

Kangali bihu: A destitute bihu and the other name of Kati bihu.

kapou phul: Orchid

Kati bihu: Rituals observed on the Asvin Samkranti day.

keru or thuria: Ear ornament.

Keturi: Carcuma rubescens

khamucia gur: Coagulated liquid molasses.

Khanjari: Small tambourine.

khel: A guild.

kheti: Agriculture

khiricha: Milk condensed by applying heat.

Kirata: A race of people belonging to the Mongoloid stock.

Kirtan-ghar: prayer hall

komal caul: Soften rice.

koni juj: Egg breaking contest

kshetra-bandhan: Binding of paddy field by spell.

Kshira: Cream

kukura juj: Fight of peacocks

Kunwari: Princess

lahori khel: The sport of wave exhibited in Huchari dance.

Lai-Haraoba: A festival of Manipur associated with folk-dance. Lai-Haraoba means merriments of the gods and is dedicated to the forest deities.
laru: Ball made of rice powder, roasted coconut, sesame etc.

log bhat: Community feast.

Lokhi bati: Lighting of earthen lamp meant for Laksmi.

magan git: Begging song.

Magh bihu: Bihu observed on the day of Winter Solstice.

Maghi snan: Holy morning bath performed on the day of Magh bihu

Maghi-pointa: Pointa-bhat prepared from the left over rice of the night of Magh bihu day and eaten on the first day of the month of Magh.

mahar singar pepa: Flute made of buffalo horn.

Mahavisvan: Spring Vernal Equinox.

Mahavrata: A Vedic ritual performed for controlling the movement of the Sun to secure reproduction of seeds.

mahoho: A dance form of Kamrup district performed by young boys to drive away mosquitoes.

mahut-git: Elephant keepers’ song,

Maiki bihu: Bihu song and dance performed by womenfolk.

Makara samkranti: The day on which the Sun crosses the Tropic of Capricorn.

Malita: Ballads

manasa puja: Worship of snake goddess.

moni: Necklace of coral.

mantras: Incantations.

Manuh-bihu: Bihu for man.

marana: Thrashing of grain by cattle.

Marongghar: Dormitories

mati-kalai: Black gram.

Meji: A structure of bamboo, stubbles, dry leaves of banana, logs of wood etc.
Mekhela: Girdle used as lower garment by women.

mela: Fairs

Mishimi: A hill tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

Misings: A tribe of Assam belonging to the Tibeto-Burman branch of Mongoloid stock

Moran: A plains tribe of Assam.

Moth: Pagoda

Mukali bihu: A modern form of Rati bihu of Medieval Assam.

Muruli: Flute.

muthi kharu: Bracelet

nacani-cheo: The cheos of dhol and pepa adaptable to female dancing.

nagara: Kettle drum.

nahar: Iron wood.

naibeda: Offering consists of raw pulses, fruits, ginger, unboiled rice etc.

nam: Hymn

namaprasanga: Singing of hymn.

namati: One who sings hymns.

Nangalar bihu: Bihu for plough.

Namghars: Prayer halls of the Vaishnavites

nangeli-git: A folk-song associated with agricultural fertility and peculiar to Darrang district.

nara-jangfai: Amber

nati: A dancing woman.

neem: Margosa

Nokte: A hill tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

ojapali: A semi-dramatic performing art of classical form.

paduli: Gateway.
*paguri*: A head dress.

*Paiks*: Tenants in the days of the Ahom kings whose duty was to render services to the king and the state.

*Pain-hu*: A Tai-shan term which signifies cow-worship.

*Panchapallava*: Leaves of five kinds of sacred trees.

*pani-hiloi*: Water crackers

*paramanna*: Rice boiled with milk and sugar.

*pat*: Assam silk.

*pathar*: Agricultural field.

*Pathsala*: School for beginners.

*pat-pitha*: Cake made by wrapping rice powder with banana leaf.

*pawra*: Pigeon in the form of a bamboo tree.

*pendal*: A temporary shed.

*Pepa*: horn pipe

*Phaguna*: Eleventh month of an Assamese year.

*Phat bihu*: A varied form of ancient *Rati bihu* and is instituted on the bank of Carikoriya river in Mahghuli near Dhakuakhana. *Phat* refers to a place where people from the neighbouring states assemble for trade and commerce. The springtime song and dance of medieval Assam instituted by the people of diverse races in the *Phat* of Carikoriya river have come down to the present as *phat-bihu*.

*pheni-pitha*: A cake prepared by dissolving rice powder in water and sugar.

*Pitha*: Cake

*pitha-parvan*: Cake festival.

*pointa bhat*: Left over rice soaked in water.
Pous: Assamese month which approximately covers the period from 15th December to 14th January.

Pragjyotisha: Ancient name of Assam.

Prithivi: The Earth.

Puja: Worship.

Puranas: Hindu mythological works.

Purnaghata: Earthen pot.

Purnima: Full moon

Purohit: Priest

Raij: Community

Rajagharia-nritya: A dance associated with the Vaishnavite Sattras.

Ranachandi: A dance form of the Boros

Randhanisal: Kitchen.

Rasa-nritya: A dance form associated with the Vaishnavite Sattras.

Rati bihu: Springtime Bihu songs and dances performed by marriageable boys and girls during night hours.

Riha: Breast cloth.

Rongali bihu: Cheering Bihu; i.e. Bohag bihu

Rowa-khowa mantras: Incantations cast for protecting maturing paddy plants.

Ruchengri: A dance of the Tai-shans.

Ryots: Tenants

Sali: Paddy cultivated by transplanting seedlings into puddle land.

Salika jot: A traditional event.

Samkranti: Juncture of two months.

Samraggi: Empress.

Sarai: A tray mounted on a leg and made of bel-metal.

Sarata: One of the six seasons in a year.
sarbatobhadramandala: A zone drawn by coloured powder in the worship of Durgâ.
sari prasanga: The four sacred namaprasangas.
sarudoiya japi: Wicker hat used by Assamese women as a veil.
satora: Swimming
satra: A Vaishnavite monastery.
satriya: Belonging to the Vaishnavite monastery.
sat-sak-tola: To pick seven kinds of herb.
Shrestha Bihuwa: Best male Bihu dancer.
Shrestha Bihuwaiti: Best female Bihu dancer.
siju: Cactus
siyal kheda: Driving away of jackals.
Sori: Ritual activities connected with Bânh puja.
sunga pitha or sunga cauli: A kind of Assamese cake baked in tender bamboo tube.
sushira badya: Wind instrument.
sutal puri: The nether region.
sutuli: A musical instrument of whistling sound made of clay.
Tai-shan: A branch of the Mongoloid stock of people.
tal: Cymbal
tangali: Waist cloth for male.
Tangsa: A hill tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
Tatar bihu: Bihu for loom.
tatasal: A shed where a handloom is set.
thagi chor kara domahi: Bihu for stealing naibedya.

thiya-nam: A ‘group hymn-singing’ performed with standing postures and gestures.
**Tibeto-Burman**: The Tibeto-Burman speaking branch of the Mongoloid stock of people.

**Tiwas**: A tribe belonging to the Mongoloid stock of people.

**Toka bihu**: Bihu song and dance of women performed by beating split bamboo clappers.

**toka**: Split bamboo clapper.

**Tokari**: A stringed instrument like guitar.

**Tolas**: Sanskrit school

**tripadi chanda**: A poetical measure of Assamese literature.

**tulasi vandana**: Prayer in praise of mother *tulasi* personified as Laksmi.

**tulasi**: Basil plant.

**unaddha badya**: percussion musical instrument.

**uruka**: The Bihu eve.

**Visu**: A term derived from Visuvan.

**Visuvan Samkranti**: Vernal Equinox.

**Vyahar-ojapali**: Ojapali associated with the performance of Vyaha-samgitas.

**Vyaha-samgitas**: Songs associated with Mahabharata and Puranas.

**Wancho**: A hill tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

**yagna**: An offering to god made by pouring clarified butter in fire.

**yatra dals**: Theatre group.

**yojana**: A rhythm of Bihu song sung in a singular voice.

**zari**: Muslim folk-song associated with the tragic stories of Hasan and Hussain.

**zeng bihu**: A modern name of the Gabharu bihu of medieval Assam.

**zikir**: Muslim devotional song.
Map showing celebration of festivals