

A Day in the Kalaksetra of Guwahaty, Assam

This is a memoir written by Govinda Raj Bhattarai, a retired professor of TU Nepal. He shares his experience of a visit to Srimanta Shankaradeva Kalaksetra, situated in Panjabari a corner of Guwahaty town. The author spent three hours there. The Kalaksetra attempts to capture and convey the essence of the great seer's spirit. It covers 40 hectares of land, represents culture, indigenous life style and technology and various forms of art like sculpture, painting. There is a well decorated garden. The author observed a replica of Namghar at the entrance, picture of water buffalos fighting and a farmer trying to separate them, great museum (Purbajyoti Sangrahalaya) that represents different nationalities of Assam, dress item, jewelries, tools, animals, plants.

Named after Srimanta Shankaradeva : great unifier of Assam, integrator of Indian society of the 15th century, preached the message of unity in diversity and the universal humanism. He is a well versed person, highly revered (respected), saint, scholar, poet, dramatist and a social reformer. He has great contribution to art, music, dance and literature. He has earned the same status as guru Nanak, Kabir, or Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

They also visited Bhupen Hazarika museum, a great monument of modern architecture. There is a collection of books, CDs manuscripts, photographs, instruments, dress etc.

There is an open air theatre with a capacity of 2000 audience.

Guwahaty university: There is greenery like TU field/land. The purpose of university visit was to attend second death anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. They have chosen a quiet place for building a monument of Hazarika. There were speeches, poem recitations, music performances and other programs. Bhattarai wrote in the condolence book.

They also visited Paltan Bazar, down town of Assam Guwahaty. There was a meeting with Lil Bahadur Chhetri. It was a special get together for exchange of love, affection and respect. Lil Bahadur's dedication to Nepali literature is great. He wrote novel Basain in 2014. It was translated into many languages and made global appearance.

Finally, Bhattarai returned to his hotel and read newspaper articles that covered Bhupen's life and contribution. When he returned to Nepal he could not forget this special event. Many people in Nepal worship Bhupen's voice.