

River as a space for women

The Brahmaputra river might reflect a gendered perspective from its very name, ‘Son of Lord Brahma’. The river is being regarded as ‘male’ for the incomparable, mighty-armed Brahmaputra has been rolling on down the ages, bearing witness to the struggles of the riparian communities. However, the infinite horizon of the Brahmaputra has embraced a thousand tales of brave and bold women of the land of Assam. The Brahmaputra resides in every Assamese heart as the Luit (another name of Brahmaputra in Assam). The banks of the Luit still reverberates the voices of revolutionary women like Mula Gabharu, Sati Joymoti, Kanaklata Baruah, Chandraprabha Saikiani, and such other valiant figures who lived, fought, and died for the pride and sovereignty of the Luit. The rustling sound of the Luit waters inspires every woman of the land, far and wide, to dream, be bold, and be empowered to fight life’s odds. The ceaseless flows of the Brahmaputra are a reminder that dreams have no boundaries and this is what is rooted in every woman of today. In short, the Brahmaputra has sustained a land of equality where no gender biases exist, and together, every being strives to build up a new Assam.

Urban Floods

Being an unplanned city with sprawling urbanization, Guwahati, the biggest city on the south banks of the mighty Brahmaputra in Assam encounters a nightmare with a single heavy shower. With the surrounding green hills being deforested and flattened, the urban dwellers residing on the plains often experience havoc from flash floods.

“Oh what has man made of nature!

For today the Luit is furious and growling,

Making inroads into peaceful places of dwellings;

Disturbing the tranquility of innocent hearts

Bestowing fears and tears of sorrow,

Breaking dreams of a blissful tomorrow.”