

“River as a source of livelihood”

The Brahmaputra river has always provided resources and livelihoods to the people living on the banks of the river. In an Agri-centric state like Assam, agriculture and fishing are two of the main livelihoods for many people, especially in the villages and also an opportunity for entrepreneurship. Fish is a staple dietary element of the people in this region. For people who rely on fishing for their livelihood, Brahmaputra and its tributaries are the primary natural sources for fishing due to the abundance of aquatic animals in these water bodies. For some fishermen, the day starts at the dawn and sometimes even before the sunrise. They sail on the river on their boats, along with their fishing instruments, to certain pre-identified locations where the chances of catching fish are high. After the early morning fishing, they direct themselves to the markets to sell the fresh fish and generate the day's income. Some may also choose to go door-to-door on their bicycle and asking with their unique tone to buy some fish. Others will fish during day time till afternoon, and then head to the nearest urban market in the evening. To another section of people, fishing can also be a daily secondary activity to generate some extra income. Fishing is a direct economic contribution of the river to people's lives, both as a source of income and as a food.

“River Infrastructure”

The Brahmaputra is the widest river in India as well in the Asian sub-continent and bridges are one of the most challenging and important infrastructures associated with this mighty river with major social and economic impact. The Saraighat bridge (old), Inaugurated in the year of 1962, is the first major rail-cum-road bridge over the river. This well-designed mega structure has faced the test of time and still stands strong as the prime symbol of achievement of infrastructural development on Brahmaputra. The bridge carries a significant economic importance as it connects the north bank of the river to the Guwahati city, which is also the economic gateway to the North-East India. An exotic view of the grandiosity of the river flowing downstream and the scenic beauty of the river will be absorbed by anyone's eyes who crosses over the bridge. Sunset is one of the most beautiful experiences when, as if, the mighty river's water meets the vastness of the sky at the horizon and the whole scene is painted with the flaming colors of the setting sun. This picture brings the beautiful Saraighat bridge also under the colors as a way to bring all the elements of nature and man-made miracles together. The Saraighat bridge brings an both emotion of appreciation and excellence to anyone who belongs to this land and has experienced the river. It was an attempt to fulfill a fascination to look at the bridge and the whole unique, beautiful scene from middle of the river, closer to the river waters.