

Umananda. The island is the adobe of Lord Shiva, who lies in the middle of the river Brahmaputra. It is a ten minutes of commute from the city of Guwahati. The ferry fetches people from both sides of the river to this small riverine island. A visit to the temple early in the morning can provide you with solace from the hustle bustle of the city. The joyous ride, over the course of river Brahmaputra is itself soothing.

The river is integral to the lives of the people of Guwahati. My college, the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati boasts its presence right beside the river to the north of the city of Guwahati. Out through the gates of the campus, and you are enchanted by the mighty Brahmaputra. Sitting by the banks of the river, watching the river turn golden, with the sun setting far in the west not only comforts the mind, but also enriches the soul. And if you spot a dolphin jumping through the gushing waters, the thrill is unparalleled.

The river has been witness to countless emotions and myriad stories of the people that it shares the path with. The sorrows of the floods and the hope that it brings, with the water that it carries, from far away mountains, holds within them the tales of lives, that it touches every day. Meandering its way through, the river is the essence of life, in its various distinct forms. Thinking of it, I go back to the evening, I saw her in full delight, the very first time.