

## Brahmaputra as a source of livelihood

Brahmaputra doesn't just flow as a river in Assam. It flows through the myriad histories, cultures, and folklores of the people in the land. It is also a source of livelihood for many. People have always depended on the river to provide and support them for a living from time immemorial.

Brahmaputra's thriving social and economic exchanges have made the river a living lifeline in the State. The exchanges come in various activities- trade, transportation, farming, irrigation, fishery, etc. to name just a few. Brahmaputra has also played an important role in creating a bustling fish trade in Guwahati. One such example can be seen in Guwahati's *Maas Ghat* (Fish Port) situated on the river bank in an old locality of Uzan Bazaar. This market comes to life in the wee hours of the day. The activities start with fisherman providing their fresh catch to the traders (whole sellers) who bid the fishes. A flock of individual buyers also crowd the place as the people of Assam are avid fish lovers. Then there are small sellers who buy fish at whole sale rate from Maas Ghat and goes on to different localities in Guwahati to sell their day's stock of fish. They often can be seen carrying an aluminium drum tied into their bicycles selling fishes crying out loud *Maas Lage* (want fish) in the residential areas of Guwahati. The livelihoods of many are dependent on this river. From catching fish in Brahmaputra to making them reach into the Assamese kitchen there is an extensive network at play. The river has helped shaped not only the economic life of many in the land but also sustained cultures and livelihoods in ways that connect people in intricate ways.