

GLOSSARY

Numerous vernacular terms related to the Bihu festival are used throughout the present work and are given italicized form with diacritical marks as and when necessary. A list of such terms with possible English meanings is given below:

Vernacular Term	English Meaning
<i>Akashbanti</i>	It is a special lamp lighted in the paddy fields during <i>Kati Bihu</i> . It is an elevated lamp stand made of bamboo. Earthen lamps are placed at the top of the lamp stand. It is believed that <i>akashbanti</i> helps in destroying and killing all kinds of pests and insects from the paddy field.
<i>Ali Aye Ligang</i>	<i>Ali Aye Ligang</i> is the spring time festival of the Mising community of Assam.
<i>Apong</i>	Rice beer of the Mising community
<i>Aronai</i>	Traditional dupatta of the Bodo community
<i>Asom Gana Parishad</i>	A political party of Assam
<i>Bagurumba</i>	It is the traditional dance form performed as a part of the spring festival among the Bodos.
<i>Bahi</i>	Flute
<i>Baisak Bisu</i>	The Tiwas call the spring time Bohag Bihu as <i>Baisak Bihu</i> .
<i>Baittha namghar</i>	Community prayer hall of the Sonowal Kacharis.
<i>Ba Sunga</i>	Bamboo pipe used in traditional looms with multiple usage.
<i>Barbarua</i>	One of the ministers in the Ahom kingdom.

<i>Barhamthuri</i>	Bark of Magnolia Hodgsonii tree found in forests of Assam, earlier used as lip colour by female Bihu dancers.
<i>Barghar</i>	The main house of a family or clan.
<i>Basagi Sanjhora</i>	<i>Bohag</i> Bihu of the Dimasas.
<i>Bhelaghar</i>	It is a temporary make shift hut made of with dry banana leaves or thatched straws and bamboo near the <i>meji</i> at the time of Bhogali Bihu. This is primarily used for spending the <i>uruka</i> night in the field where the community feasting is organized.
<i>Bhelagur</i>	Makeshift hut made of hay and chaff at the field during <i>Magou Domasi</i> by the Bodo community.
<i>Bhogali</i>	<i>Bhogali</i> is abundance of traditional food materials.
<i>Bihuwa</i>	A male Bihu dancer
<i>Bihuwaan</i>	A traditional Assamese towel offered as a Bihu gift and worn by male Bihu dancers.
<i>Bihuwati</i>	A female Bihu dancer
<i>Bihu Kuwari</i>	A prized title conferred on female dancers in Bihu dance competitions.
<i>Bihu Nomowa</i>	Welcoming the Bihu festival
<i>Bihu Rani</i>	A prized title conferred on a female dancer (solo) in Bihu dance competition.
<i>Bihu Samraggi</i>	A prized title conferred on a female dancer (solo) in Bihu dance competition. It is considered to be the highest title among all.
<i>Bihu Sanmilani's</i>	Bihu functions organized by Bihu committees in rural and urban areas of Assam.

<i>Bihu Uruwa</i>	Bidding farewell to Bihu festival for a particular year.
<i>Bina</i>	A traditional <i>veena</i> kind of string instrument used in Bihu performance at earlier times.
<i>Bohag</i>	Name of Assamese month for the period of mid-April to Mid-May.
<i>Bojua futa</i>	The hole of the wind instrument <i>sutuli</i> by which it is played.
<i>Bisu</i>	The Tiwas and the Deoris call the Bihu as <i>Bisu</i> .
<i>Buloni futa</i>	These are the two holes through which the sound of <i>Sutuli</i> instrument is produced.
<i>Burha Ramsa</i>	Traditional deity of the Tiwas
<i>Busu</i>	Bihu festival of the Dimasa Community
<i>Brai-Sibrai</i>	Corn God of the Dimasas
<i>Bwisagu</i>	Spring time Bihu of the Bodos
<i>Cheng</i>	Traditional name of the Karbi <i>dhol</i>
<i>Chira</i>	Flattened dry flakes of rice. During Bihu <i>chira</i> is consumed with milk or curd adding jaggery to it.
<i>Chungapitha</i>	A traditional sticky rice inserted in a bamboo pipe and heated from outside to boil the rice inside.
<i>Deka</i>	Male youth
<i>Deka Bora</i>	Earlier an elderly man is to govern the youths during Bihu celebration.
<i>Deodhani dance</i>	It is a folk dance of Assam prevalent mostly in the Darrang district. It is associated with the worship of snake goddess <i>Manasha</i> during which worshipping girls in a state of trance dance before the deity.

<i>Dharma Husori</i>	A ritualized <i>husori</i> performed by the male dancers of the Moran community.
<i>Dheki</i>	<i>Dheki</i> is an instrument used for pounding of rice to separate the rice from its husk. It is equally used for making of rice powder out of rice and <i>dheki</i> is still prevalent in village areas.
<i>Dhepadhol</i>	A traditional <i>dhol</i> used in Darrang district of Assam.
<i>Dhol</i>	Traditional percussion musical instrument of all communities with different structure and names.
<i>Dhol madali</i>	A traditional <i>dhol</i> shaped jewellery worn by both male and female Bihu dancers.
<i>Dhulia</i>	Male Bihu <i>dhol</i> players
<i>Dhurotong</i>	A traditional percussion instrument used in Bihu performance at earlier times.
<i>Dighlati and Makhiati</i>	<i>Dighlati</i> and <i>Makhiati</i> are plants. These plants are used to beat the cattles so that they all bugs, insects goes away from their bodies.
<i>Dokhna</i>	Traditional garment of the female Bodos
<i>Doom Doom</i>	Traditional <i>dhol</i> of the Mising community
<i>Do:nyi-Po:lo</i>	Traditional deities of Misings. Mother Sun and Father Moon.
<i>Dubori</i>	It is a grass, often used for rituals.
<i>Dugdugi</i>	A traditional jewellery worn by females
<i>Duitiya pepa</i>	Hornpipe made with double horns
<i>Etiya pepa</i>	Hornpipe made with a single horn
<i>Gabharu</i>	Female youths

<i>Gabharu Bora</i>	Earlier an elderly woman is to govern the female dancers during <i>jeng bihu</i> or <i>toka bihu</i> performance.
<i>Gaddi Sanjhora</i>	<i>Kati Bihu</i> of the Dimasas
<i>Gagana</i>	A traditional instrument made of bamboo played by twanging of the tongue placing it in between the lips. It is like a harp.
<i>Gamkharu</i>	A traditional thick and big bangle made of silver or gold worn by males in earlier time. However, now it is more prevalent among females.
<i>Gamochoa</i>	A traditional piece of cloth hand weaved by weavers of Assam. It is used by male dancers in Bihu dance and often exchanged as a token of respect by the people of Assam.
<i>Gastolor Bihu</i>	Bihu dance being performed under the tree long ago.
<i>Ghila khupa</i>	A kind of bun of hair tied by female dancers during bihu dance.
<i>Golpota</i>	A traditional neck piece worn by females
<i>Goru Bihu</i>	The first day of a weeklong celebration of <i>Bohag Bihu</i> dedicated for cattle care.
<i>Gosain Bihu</i>	The day during Bihu celebrating the deities.
<i>Gumín Soyin</i>	Traditional deity of Misings. Guardian spirit of the households.
<i>Gum:rāg So:mān</i>	Traditional group dance of the Misings
<i>Haat</i>	Beatings produced on a <i>Oja dhol</i> .
<i>Habigeet</i>	Bihu songs sung in sequestered places like jungle in earlier times.

<i>Harni Gabra</i>	One of the annual festivals of the Dimasa community observed before starting new cultivation.
<i>Haidang husori</i>	Traditional way of <i>husori</i> singing by Sonowal Kachari community.
<i>Husori</i>	A form of Bihu dance performed mainly by male performers.
<i>Jamgkong</i>	Tradition deity of the Tiwas
<i>Japi</i>	A round shaped object used by farmers while farming in the field in lieu of an umbrella. It is made of cane leaves and bamboo.
<i>Japifuli</i>	A <i>japi</i> shaped traditional earring worn by females
<i>Jati baah</i>	A variety of bamboo plant
<i>Jeng Bihu</i>	A form of Bihu dance performed only by female dancers away from the public view.
<i>Jetuka</i>	Mehendi applied on the palm of hands by Bihu dancers.
<i>Jigabphunji</i>	A structure made of hay and chaffs.
<i>Joidhol</i>	A drum with a larger shape used in <i>Deodhani</i> dance
<i>Jora</i>	A packet of rice
<i>Joratola</i>	Distinctive spring time ceremony of the Tiwas
<i>Junbiri</i>	A traditional moon shaped jewellery, made of raw gold, worn by female performers of Bihu dance and also worn during marriage and social gatherings.
<i>Kābān Kāpnām</i>	Tragic songs of the Misings
<i>Kabeng</i>	Public meeting of the Misings

<i>Kaldilia khupa</i>	A kind of bun of hair tied by female dancers during Bihu dance.
<i>Kau</i>	It is a kind of leaf.
<i>Kesaikhaiti</i>	Goddess Durga for the Deuri/Tiwa Community
<i>Kham</i>	An elongated drum made of wood and goat skin used by the Bodo community.
<i>Khatri Gasa</i>	<i>Kati</i> Bihu of the Bodos
<i>Kongali</i>	Dearth of materials and hence a drought like situation and period.
<i>Kopou phool</i>	It is an orchid that blooms during spring.
<i>Kuboni</i>	Right side of a <i>Bihu dhol</i> played with stick.
<i>Lahori Gagana</i>	<i>Gagana</i> played by females in Bihu performance.
<i>Lailong</i>	Big cymbals used in Mising Bihu
<i>Lalungs</i>	Another name of the Tiwa community often called by others.
<i>Latasil Bihu Tali/Mancha</i>	Latasil is a place in Guwahati where it is considered that the first ever Bihu on stage started.
<i>Laru</i>	<i>Laru</i> is a round shaped sweet made with grated coconut or sesame seed mixed with sugar or jaggery.
<i>Lasya</i>	Soft and supple. It is imperative to the female Bihu dancers.
<i>Leseri Bihu</i>	A traditional Bihu of the Sonowal Kachari community.
<i>Li:gāng So:mān</i>	Playful dance of the Mising community
<i>Liggod</i>	First sowing of seed at the time of <i>Ali Aye Ligang</i>
<i>Lupi</i>	Cymbals in Mising Bihu

<i>Magh Sanjhora</i>	<i>Magh</i> Bihu of the Dimasas
<i>Magou Domasi</i>	<i>Magh</i> Bihu of the Bodos
<i>Mahadeo</i>	Lord Shiva for the Tiwa Community
<i>Mahamai</i>	Goddess Parvati for the Tiwa Community
<i>Mahar singar</i>	Buffalo horn
<i>Maisisa</i>	Goddess Lakshmi for the Tiwa Community.
<i>Malita</i>	Ballads sung by <i>Bihu Oja's</i> during their performance
<i>Manikonwar geets</i>	Melodic compositions in remembrance of a mythical prince Manikonwar.
<i>Manuh Bihu</i>	The second day of the <i>Bohag</i> Bihu. On this day people celebrate among themselves by exchanging gifts and offering treats.
<i>Meji</i>	A long perpendicular structure made of thatched straw and bamboo during the <i>Magh</i> Bihu celebration.
<i>Mekhala</i>	A garment worn by women in the lower part of the body in Assam.
<i>Mela</i>	Community gathering with markets and shops.
<i>Mendala Paat</i>	A kind of leaf used by the Mising community to cover the boundary of an altar along with <i>siupak</i> (cotton).
<i>Meram</i>	Square shaped fire place in the Mising kitchens.
<i>Mirong Ukum</i>	Public or community hall for celebrations
<i>Mohkheda geet</i>	Folk song sung to flush out the mosquitoes prevalent mostly in lower Assam.
<i>Mridang</i>	A traditional percussion instrument used in Vaishnavite Music.

<i>Mukoli Bihu</i>	Bihu performed in an open space surrounded by audience at a considerable distance. It is performed by both male and female Bihu dancers.
<i>Nahar</i>	A dome like tree known for its hard timber and fragrant flowers.
<i>Namghar</i>	Community prayer hall
<i>Nasani</i>	Female dancers
<i>Negheri khopa</i>	A kind of bun of hair tied by female dancers during Bihu dance.
<i>Oja</i>	Expert <i>dhol</i> players. They play <i>dhols</i> mostly in marriages for entertainment.
<i>Oja Dhol</i>	<i>Dhol</i> played by <i>Bihu Oja</i> 's.
<i>Paush</i>	Assamese month for mid-December and mid-January.
<i>Pati Dhol</i>	Traditional name of the <i>dhol</i> among the Tiwas.
<i>Pepa</i>	Traditional hornpipe made of horns of buffalo producing sounds.
<i>Pepuwoi</i>	One who plays the instrument <i>pepa</i>
<i>Phagun</i>	Assamese month for the period of mid-February to mid-March.
<i>Phoolkonwar geets</i>	Melodic compositions in remembrance of a mythical prince Phoolkonwar.
<i>Pitha</i>	Traditional sweet cakes made of rice powder with sesame or grated coconut mixed with jaggery inside it.
<i>Puwalmoni</i>	A traditional red coloured jewellery worn by females.

<i>Rajani Gabra</i>	One of the annual festivals of the Dimasa community observed before starting new cultivation.
<i>Ramdhan gagana</i>	A kind of <i>gagana</i> played by male Bihu performers.
<i>Ratibihu</i>	Bihu performed by female dancers after it becomes dark so that there are no onlookers.
<i>Reeha</i>	A traditional long upper garment for females.
<i>Rongali</i>	<i>Rongali</i> is celebration and merry making and enjoying with full vigour and enthusiasm.
<i>Sang Ghar</i>	Traditional housing pattern with raised platform prevalent among the Mising and Deuri communities. It is made up of bamboo or woods and is elevated from the ground.
<i>Sankranti</i>	Sankranti marks the end of one month and the day following as the beginning of a new month.
<i>Saliki thutiya gagana</i>	A variety of <i>gagana</i> with the shape of the beak of a bird.
<i>Sedi-Melo</i>	Creator of the Universe
<i>Serja</i>	A traditional string instrument of the Bodos.
<i>Seu</i>	Beatings produced in <i>Bihu Dhol</i>
<i>Sewari</i>	Stand lamp lighted at the paddy field by the bodos.
<i>Sifung</i>	Traditional flute of the Bodos
<i>Sogra Mishawa</i>	Spring time festival of the Tiwas

<i>Srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra</i>	A socio- cultural institution situated at Guwahati, Assam with expositions of all aspects of Assamese life and culture. It has been named after the great saint poet and playwright Sankaradeva.
<i>Sutuli</i>	A traditional instrument made of clay or bamboo used in Bihu dance and music. It is like a clay pipe.
<i>Taal</i>	Traditional cymbals
<i>Takuri</i>	To swirl around
<i>Tali</i>	Left side of a <i>Bihu dhol</i> played with left hand
<i>Tara pagha</i>	A rope made of <i>tara</i> plant used in cow sheds
<i>Than</i>	Religious institution
<i>Thuria or keru</i>	A tradition Assamese earring worn by females.
<i>Toka</i>	It is a traditional instrument made of bamboo used in Bihu performance.
<i>Tokamari</i>	A traditional musical instrument of the Sonowal Kachari community.
<i>Tongali</i>	A long piece of cloth wrapped around the waist by the male dancers in Bihu Dance.
<i>Tulasi</i>	<i>Tulasi</i> is the basil plant. It is considered holy and worshipped during the <i>Kati Bihu</i> .
<i>Udhonia khopa</i>	A kind of bun of hair tied by female dancers during Bihu dance.
<i>Uruka</i>	<i>Uruka</i> is day before <i>Magh Bihu</i> and <i>Bohag Bihu</i> , when people gather and celebrate with community feasting at night at a common place in the village or locality.