

Athkhelia Namghar getting ready for the Bhada month



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Ritupallab Saikia 29 July 2008 84685 views

Athkhelia Namghar has always occupied a very important place in the hearts of Assamese religious people. Athkhelia Namghar is situated at a distance of about 20 kms from Golaghat town.

According to the legends the history of Athkhelia Namghar dates back to the period of 1670 to 1681 which was a crucial time for Ahom kingdom. At that time Ahom kingdom was ruled by Lora Roja. He in order to secure his position as a king of Ahom kingdom ordered to maim all Ahom prince of that time by making them physically disabled so that they cannot ascend the throne. Gadapani one of the Ahom prince of that

time in order to save himself from the clutch of Lora Roja, took shelter in Nagapahar. At that time he came across the ashram of a saint which was situated at the place where Athkhelia Namghar stands today. He took shelter at that place. In 1681 when he becomes the King of Ahom kingdom he entrusted the task of maintaining and preserving this sacred place to eight selected Khels of that area.

As all types of religious activities were undertaken under the supervision of these eight khels this place was formerly known as Athkuria which is later on became famous as Athkhelia. These eight khels consist of Bachakuri, Boiragikuri, Brahmanakuri, Nangalkuri, Salalkuri, Kacharikuri, Borahikuri and Kakotikuri. Athkhelia Namghar is a very important pilgrimage centre for Assamese people. Devotees from all corners of Assam and India visit Athkhelia Namghar during the holy month of Bhada.

As told by the Secretary of Athkhelia Namghar Managing Committee, Sri Chandra Pathak, during the holy month of Bhada, Athkhelia Namghra witnesses a crowd of around 20 to 25 lakhs of devotees every year. He told that suitable arrangements are undertaken to accommodate such a large number of devotees. A guest house was constructed in the premise of Athkhelia Namghar in order to provide accommodation to devotees visiting Athlhelia Namghar from far flung areas. Efforts are also taken to build a cultural museum. Keeping in view of the large number pilgrims expected to visit Athkhelia Namghar during the holy month of Bhada, construction of a bus stand is also going on full swing. Sincere efforts should be made by ATDC to convert the place as an ideal pilgrimage destination thereby adding to the rich cultural heritage of the state

On 23rd July, the Social Welfare, Education (Secondary) and Jail minister of Assam Smti Ajanta Neog inaugurated a gateway to Athkhelia

Namghar. Smti Ajanta Neog also undertook various development activities under Athkhelia Namghar Public Development Project. Of which providing safe drinking water, upgradation of road connectivity to Athkhelia Namghar, construction of market place, construction of a guest house etc were worth mentioning.

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BY RITUPALLAB SAIKIA

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