

**“ BENGALI SPEAKING DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, ASSAM for cultural festival / Work Shop program of Bengali Speaking communities at Lalganesh,Guwahati (M), Silchar and Moran, Dibrugarh of Assam for the year 2019-20.**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Informative Society for Development Initiatives(ISDI), Head office House No.29 P.B Road, Rehabari, Guwahati, Assam has been working among various section of the society since last nine years. During these years ISDI has been proudly undertaken various schemes/projects for the benefit and development of marginalised people of Assam. This includes developmental projects amongst SC/ST and other backward communities, legal aid camps, the enhancement and promotion of various cultural diversity of Assam. Bengali speaking community is being the marginalised section of the society and their contribution in up keeping the cultural diversity of Assam is significant. Taking consideration of this fact ISDI organised Cultural Festival for Bengali speaking community at Lalganesh,Guwahati (M), Silchar and Moran, Dibrugarh of Assam for the year 2019-20 under the guidance of Directorate of Welfare of Plain Tribe and Backward classes (WPT&BC) Assam Ghy-06.

2. The brief summary of the cultural festival / Work Shop program of Bengali Speaking communities were conducted in three phases in three selected districts of Assam as per directions of Directorate of WPT & BC. The programme was under taken with strict and proper adherence of all the Covid-19 prevention measures. Details of the activities conducted during the event phase/ district wise as follows.

3. First phase of “ BENGALI SPEAKING DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, ASSAM for cultural festival / Work Shop” program was carried out at Lalganesh,Guwahati (M) on 24 October to 31 October 2020. The event was inaugurated jointly by Shri.Sukumar Biswas chairman of Bengali Development Council and Shri. Hemen Kalita Offocer Incharge of Directorate of WPT& BC on 24 October 2020. The participation from across Assam and the public support which received during the execution was praiseworthy considering present scenario. The following cultural events were undertaken by various groups belongs to Bengali Speaking Communities as follows.

- (a) Bhiu dance
- (b) Modern Dance
- (c) Karbi dance
- (d) Rabha dance
- (e) Bharatnatyam
- (f) Bengali Traditional Dance
- (g) Art Competition
- (h) Bengali Vocal & Instrumental Music Performance etc.

4. The first phase was concluded after seven days of activities from 24 October to 31 October 2020. During this period renowned Bengali Speaking artists from the region were invited as chief guests and felicitated to express the gratitude towards their achievements and efforts to uplift the Bengali Speaking Communities across Assam.

5. The Second Phase of the program was conducted at Moran (Dist) Dibrugarh of Assam on 04 November to 08 November 2020. The event was inaugurated by Shri. Jogen Mohan Minister States(independent Charge) Revenue & Disaster Management govt of Assam. Shri.Chakrdar Gogoi MLA , Moran Constituency,in the presence of Shri. Sukumar Biswas of Bengali Development Council and Shri. Hemen Kalita Offocer Incharge of Directorate of WPT& BC. Various renowned dignitaries were present on 04 November 2020 at Purnima Hotel Moran (District) Dibrugarh of Assam. Five days of successful event was concluded with mass participation from the Bengali Speaking Communities from the upper Assam region. The following events were conducted on the events are as follows.

- (a) Four days work shop on Bengali Traditional Dance,
- (b) Traditional music Competition on Rabindra Sangeet,
- (c) Traditional music Competition on Jyoti Sangeet,
- (d) Traditional music Competition on Rabha Sangeet
- (e) Traditional music Competition on Bhupendra Sangeet and
- (f) Bengali Traditional Dance Competition was also conducted.

5. The third Phase of the events were conducted from 12 November to 14 November 2020 at Bhanga Bhawan, Silcher ,Assam. The program was inaugurated jointly by Shri. Sukumar Biswas of Bengali Development Council and Shri. Hemen Kalita Offocer Incharge of Directorate of WPT& BC. The three days program was successfully concluded on 14 November 2020 with mass participation of Bengali Speaking Communities in the region. The cultural events include work shop on Bengali Traditional Dance and various thoughts on generating public interest on Bengali Traditional art forms were widely discussed. Maximum numbers of participants from Bengali Speaking communities from the region were participated in the program with full cooperation irrespective of their cast and religion. Who made this occasion a successful and memorable event considering the prevailing situation of covid-19 pandemic.

6. As per the census of 2011 the population percentage of Bengali speaking Communities in Assam is close to 28 percentages. The human development index of Assam as compared to various other states in our country is lagging or far behind this is mainly because of lack of opportunities among the communities to know each other. To improve the HDI diversity among the communities and the cultural jointers need to be understood and appreciated by the common man. It can only possible while carrying out these kinds of cultural events and promotion of cultural activities of diverse communities in a common forum. The importance of promoting cultural diversity is as important that nation building.

The efforts undertaken by Directorate of WPT & BC on these regard is prise worthy and ISDI is committed to put forward all the endeavours to successful culmination of the events as per the directions by WPT& BC. We are looking forward and extend all our support in your future endeavours.

8. Various photographs of the above mentioned programmes are attached below.