



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (G) DEPARTMENTS
2025-2026**

**FIFTEENTH
ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Report on Demands for the Grant No. 65
For the year 2025-2026**

DEPARTMENT : TOURISM

SECOND REPORT

Presented to the House on 21st March, 2025

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR : GUWAHATI-781006**

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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (G) DEPARTMENTS,
2025-26**

CHAIRMAN:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. | Shri Rupak Sarmah, | MLA |
|----|--------------------|-----|

MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| 2. | Shri Terash Gowalla, | MLA |
| 3. | Shri Phanidhar Talukdar, | MLA |
| 4. | Shri Hemanga Thakuria, | MLA |
| 5. | Smti. Suman Haripriya, | MLA |
| 6. | Shri Dharmeswar Konwar, | MLA |
| 7. | Shri Nihar Ranjan Das, | MLA |
| 8. | Shri Abdus Sobahan Ali Sarkar, | MLA |
| 9. | Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah, | MLA |
| 10. | Shri Khalil Uddin Mazumder, | MLA |
| 11. | Shri Abdul Aziz, | MLA |
| 12. | Shri Zakir Hussain Laskar, | MLA |
| 13. | Shri Akhil Gogoi, | MLA |

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
2. Smti. Bhashwatie Borah Rajguru, Deputy Secretary,
3. Smti. Susmita Das , OSD (Under Secretary),
4. Dr. Kanun Basumatary, Under Secretary,
5. Shri Achyut Sarma, Committee Officer
6. Shri Pankaj Kumar Sarma, OSD to MLA Hostel.

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments having been authorized by the Committee to present the **Second Report** on their behalf on the demands for **Grant no. 65** relating to **Tourism Department** for the financial year 2025-2026.
2. The committee took evidence of the Government representatives on **13th March, 2025**.
3. The Committee wishes to place its thanks to the representatives of concerned Department who appeared before the Committee and placed their considered views and notes. The Committee also like to thanks the Department for furnishing the replies on the points raised by the Committee.
4. The report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **17th March, 2025**.
5. The Committee also expresses its thanks to the officers and staff of the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat, who devoted their time and energy in processing and compilation of the report within a very short span of time for their Secretarial assistance & co-operation.

Dispur :

The 17th March, 2025

RUPAK SARMAH

Chairman,

Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (G) Departments
Assam Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER -1

REPORT

GRANT NO 65 TOURISM

The Grant No.65 relates to Tourism.

The Budget Provision under Grant No. 65 of Tourism Department for the Year 2025-26 is shown under the following table :-

	Revenue	Capital	Total (Rs. In Lakh)
VOTED	7802.20	2307.50	10109.70
Charged	0.00	0.00	0.00

Major Head of Accounts	Head Details	Total (Rs. In Lakh)
3452	Tourism	7802.20
5452	Capital Outlay on Tourism	2307.50
Grand Total		10109.70

BRIEF NOTE IN RESPECT OF GRANT NO. 65:

Grant No. 65 plays a pivotal role in supporting the Tourism Department of Assam, focusing on leveraging the state's abundant tourism potential. Acknowledging the global significance of tourism as a rapidly growing and environmentally friendly industry, the grant aims to contribute significantly to the economic development of the region while addressing unemployment concerns.

Assam, endowed with rich biodiversity, diverse cultures, historical landmarks, and scenic landscapes, stands as a prime destination for tourists. The tourism offerings include wildlife experiences, unique cultural practices, the world's largest river island, Majuli, with its Vaisnavite culture, vast tea gardens, the historical Tai Ahom Royal ruins at Sivasagar, the majestic Brahmaputra River, and the Golden Muga, among other attractions.

Furthermore, the Tourism Department actively engages in the promotion and development of tourism-related infrastructure. This collaborative effort involves partnerships with the private sector and coordination with other relevant departments. The note underscores the importance of sufficient investments and integrated efforts from all stakeholders to fully explore and capitalize on the tourism potential of Assam. The overarching goal is to boost tourism as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and to showcase the distinctive offerings of Assam to visitors.

PRELIMINARY STATUS PAPER RELATING TO GRANT NO. 65:

A preliminary status paper related to Grant No. 65 in the context of the Tourism Department in Assam has been developed. This document provides an overview of the current situation and initiatives associated with the grant. The key points outlined in the preliminary status paper include:

- a. **Grant Overview:** Grant No. 65 is specifically allocated to the Tourism Department in Assam, indicating a targeted focus on leveraging tourism potential for the state's development.
- b. **Global Significance of Tourism:** Recognizing tourism as a rapidly growing industry globally, the paper emphasizes its status as a smokeless industry with the potential to significantly impact economic development and address unemployment issues.
- c. **Tourism Assets in Assam:** Assam is highlighted for its rich biodiversity, cultural diversity, historical sites, and natural beauty. The state's tourism is centered around various attractions such as wildlife, unique cultures, the world's largest river island Majuli with its Vaisnavite culture, tea gardens, historical ruins, the Brahmaputra River, and the Golden Muga.
- d. **Departmental Initiatives:** The Tourism Department is actively engaged in promoting and developing tourism infrastructure. Collaborative efforts with the private sector and other relevant departments are being pursued to maximize the potential of tourism in Assam.
- e. **Investment and Collaboration:** The preliminary status paper underscores the need for adequate investments and integrated efforts from all stakeholders to fully capitalize on the tourism potential. Collaboration with the private sector is particularly emphasized.
- f. **Goals and Objectives:** The overarching goals include boosting tourism as a means of fostering economic growth, generating employment, and showcasing the unique offerings of Assam to visitors.

PERFORMANCE BUDGET / ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT:

BUDGET PROVISION & EXPENDITURE (SOPD & EE) DURING THE LAST NINE YEARS:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of the Department	Financial Year	SOPD Budget Provision	SOPD Expenditure	EE Budget Provision	EE Expenditure
Tourism Department	2015-16	10983.81	124.51768	1381.60	837.65829
	2016-17	3908.23	2169.55257	2509.07	2242.13541
	2017-18	10755.52	6448.89183	1275.56	995.39257
	2018-19	8910.00	7446.32551	1466.07	999.2754
	2019-20	26551.00	9233.31846	1856.47	1149.76042
	2020-21	14365.42	4214.76257	1841.82	1235.458
	2021-22	5706.54	3482.85	2481.37	1144.174
	2022-23	13238.92	7222.71	2482.75	1669.79431
	2023-24	7563.6749	380.80497	2621.91	1330.39517
	2024-25	7535.12	69.30	3051.36	1285.36899

Action taken on observation and recommendation

Sl. No.	Observation and Recommendation	Action Taken
1	Tourism plays an important role in economic development of a specific area and its inhabitants. In view of the above, the committee recommends to build tourist lodges or Guest Houses in every district with full security.	<p>The Tourism department, Govt. of Assam with the objectives of giving a new dimension and thrust to rural home stay facility in the state of Assam and creation of self employment opportunity for educated youth in rural and semi urban areas of tourism potential and importance.</p> <p>Till now 62 nos. of home stay facilities under Aamar Alohi Scheme have set up across Assam and it has become popular amongst tourist (Copy enclosed). Keeping with the growing demand Tourism department proposes to set up more such units of which budget provision has been kept. In the year 2022-23 the scheme is based on community basis i.e. a group of cluster of minimum 10 homestay units formed a community. In this connection, 5 nos. of proposals have been approved under Aamar Alohi Scheme viz. (1) Dima Hasao Association- Dima Hasao, (2) Umwai Valley Green & Clean Protection Committee- Karbi Anglong, (3) Dichang Welfare Foundation/ Siupaatpha Social Welfare- Charaideo, (4) Dihing Patkai SHG- Dibrugarh, (5) Chiram Social Foundation, Deori Community- Majuli.</p> <p>Further, 191 Homestays are also available in major districts of Assam viz. Kamrup(M), Bongaigaon, Majuli, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Kamrup etc. (Copy enclosed). In addition to that, 19 nos. of Homestays are also available under Asomi Rural Homestay Scheme which is also reflected in the Official Website of Assam Tourism for the promotion of the same.</p>
2	The committee observes that there are various tourist potentialities in the state. Beautification helps a tourism entity grow by	Assam Tourism had been doing massive campaigns in India and abroad in the last few years through Television channels and print media besides using promos in cinema halls and playing jingles over FM radio across India.

<p>attracting more visitors/ tourists providing positive word of mouth publicity. Attractions are a core component of tourism. They are often called 'tourist attractions' because they tend to attract tourists. Therefore, the committee recommends to enhance fund position up to 1000 crore for the purpose.</p>	<p>In order to tap the immense tourism potential of the state which will not only create employment opportunities but also contribute to economy of the state, the Tourism department has already taken up the following schemes/activities namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Tourism, Assam has participated in various National Travel & Tourism Fairs, viz India Exhibition at 46th Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting at New Delhi, IITF New Delhi, TTF Ahmedabad, Kolkata etc. and showcased Assam Tourism in the National & International level. Advertisements showcasing various aspects of Assam Tourism were placed as In-flight Branding in major airlines such as Air India, Vistara & Air Asia; additionally in the Railway Sectors for advertisement in the New Delhi Railway Stations & Katra Railway Stations, Hoardings at Goa and also promotional LED screens in inner and outer circles of Connaught Place and tourism promotional videos are also aired Advertisement of Assam Tourism at TV Today Network in the Overseas platform. Advertisement in the Social Media platform are also being made for the promotion of Assam Tourism in the national and international level. <p>International Tourism Mart, 2024:The International Tourism Mart, 2024 was held from 27th to 29th November, 2024 at Kaziranga. This prestigious event brought together travel industry leaders, stake holders and enthusiasts from across the globe to showcase Assam's potential as a world-class tourism destination. During the event, FAM Tour was organized incorporating the following itineraries :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I) Kaziranga- Jorhat- Majuli II) Tezpur, Nameri and Manas National Park III) Umrangso & Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary <p>The Brahmaputra Carnival 2024-25, organized in the Bank of the river Brahmaputra, as an annual event</p>
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orchestrated by Assam Tourism, serves as a platform to spotlight the rich culture, traditions, handicrafts, and gastronomy of Assam and the other northeastern states. This vibrant celebration takes place on the sandbar created by the majestic Brahmaputra River. For the promotion of the said Carnival, advertisements were published/ aired both in print and electronic medias for wide publicity outside the state.

Advantage Assam 2.0: The Government of Assam's initiative hosting "Advantage Assam 2.0 – Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025" on February 25-26, 2025, in Guwahati represents a significant endeavour which showcased the state's potential as a major investment destination.

The Government of Assam, under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, has embarked on an ambitious journey to attract investments and drive industrial development to the state through the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit.

Accordingly, roadshows had been organised in the following countries –

- (1) South Korea, Japan, and Singapore headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma
- (2) Thailand & Malaysia headed by Hon'ble Minister Shri Keshab Mahanta.
- (3) UAE & UK headed by Hon'ble Minister Shri Bimal Bora

In addition to that, during Advantage Assam 2.0, thematic session for tourism was also organised for the promotion of Golf, River Cruise, Tea and Heritage Tourism in presence of National and International Audience.

17 nos. of MoUs had been signed during Advantage Assam 2.0 with a total amount of Rs. 2073.11 Cr. in different segments namely Hotel and Restaurants, Caravans, River Tourism Cruise Vessels, Ropeway Projects, Eco Friendly Cottages, Tourism Spa etc.

		<p>To be more visible in the National and International platform, Tourism industry needs more budget provision for aggressive marketing for the promotion of Tourism Destinations of Assam.</p>
3	<p>Raimona National Park is home to variety of wildlife including tiger, leopard, golden languor etc. It is renowned for golden languor. The committee recommends to build and develop a tourist Guest House with full amenities in Raimona National Park.</p>	<p>The Tourism department, BTC, with the objectives of giving a new dimension and thrust to rural home stay facility in the state of Assam and creation of self employment opportunity for educated youth in rural and semi urban areas of tourism potential and importance. 5 nos. of Homestays at Raimona National Park have been initiated by Community Based Rural Tourism Scheme under Bodoland Homestay Initiative (BHI).</p>
4	<p>The committee recommends to build Tourist Lodge/ IB in Chenga under Barpeta district, Nishangram village, Rangchapara village and Sri Sri Surjya Dewalaya in Mornoi.</p>	<p>Tourism Development Officer, Barpeta Road has visited the Chenga under Barpeta district and submitted a report for the development of the said destination which will be placed before the Higher Authority. Further, the information regarding Nishangram & Rangchapara village has also been incorporated in the Tourism promotional materials as cleanest village for wide publicity and Tourism Stakeholders also included the aforementioned destination in their travel itinerary.</p>
5	<p>The committee recommends to develop Baghbor Hill of Barpeta as a National Tourist Spot because of its serenity and beauty.</p>	<p>Tourism Development Officer, Barpeta Road has visited the Baghbor Hill of Barpeta and submitted a report for the development of the said destination which will be placed before the Higher Authority.</p>
6	<p>The committee recommends to develop the beautification and conservation of Nayachara Beel, Chaprakata, Bongaigaon as tourist spot. A Tourist Lodge of Guest House should be built there.</p>	<p>Tourism Development Officer, Barpeta Road has visited the Nayachara Beel, Chaprakata, Bongaigaon and submitted a report for the development of the said destination which will be placed before the Higher Authority.</p>
7	<p>The committee recommends to develop Nazrang Burai than in Salakati, Kokrajhar as tourist spot.</p>	<p>Tourism Department, Government of Assam has taken projects for the development of Tourism Destinations located at Kokrajhar viz. Diplai Beel and Dhir Beel etc. under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 for an amount of Rs. 24.00 crores.</p>
8	<p>The committee recommends to construct Gate at Nausri Ashram,</p>	<p>Few of the schemes had already been taken under BTC for the beautification and development of the Tourism Destinations namely construction of RCC</p>

	Sujhaijhar, Bijni, Chirang for beautification and tourist attraction.	Guest House at Bhetagaon Buri Thakuria Than, Bijni, Chirang, Beautification and repairing of Puroi Bazar garden park at Fakiragram, Construction of Children Park at Nagrijuli Bornadi Island etc.
9	The committee recommends to develop Panitola at Rongpur as eco-tourism spot in Udharbond.	Tourism Department, Govt. of Assam will co-ordinate with P&RD Department, Govt. of Assam for the same.
10	The committee recommends to develop 8 nos. of Kanidal Amrit Sarovar Project, 10 nos. of Bagheswar Amrit Sarovar Project and 9 nos. of Suktaguri Amrit Sarovar Project out of 80 Amrit Sarovar project as eco-tourism attraction under Sipajhar Constituency.	Tourism Department, Govt. of Assam will co-ordinate with P&RD Department, Govt. of Assam for the same.
11	The committee recommends for infrastructural development of Lakhimpur Pukhuri alongwith Kamakhya Mandir of Darrang district and asked the department to develop that area as tourist attraction.	Tourism Department, Govt. of Assam will co-ordinate with P&RD Department, Govt. of Assam for the same.
12	The committee recommends the incomplete works of tourist Guest House of Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary to be completed as soon as possible.	Completed and operational.

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
NOTIFICATION**

No. LA.DRSC.(G) 1/2025/01

Date Dispur the 1st February, 2025.

In pursuance of the Rule 260-I (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly has been pleased to nominate the following Members to constitute the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments.

1. Shri Rupak Sarmah,	MLA & Chairman
2. Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
3. Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
4. Shri Hemanga Thakuria,	MLA & Member
5. Smt. Suman Haripriya,	MLA & Member
6. Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
7. Shri Nihar Ranjan Das,	MLA & Member
8. Shri Abdus Sabahan Ali Sarkar,	MLA & Member
9. Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah,	MLA & Member
10. Shri Khalil Uddin Mazumder,	MLA & Member
11. Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
12. Shri Zakir Hussain Laskar,	MLA & Member
13. Shri Akhil Gogoi,	MLA & Member

And in pursuance of Sub-Rule (3) of the Rule 260-I(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly has been pleased to appoint Shri Rupak Sarmah, MLA & Member of the Committee as the Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments.

The term of office of the Members of the Committee shall not exceed 1(one) year from the date constitution.

Sd/- D. Pegu
Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly.
Dated Dispur the 1st February, 2025.

Memo No. LA.DRSC. (G).1/2025/ 02-14

Copy forwarded to:-

1. Shri Rupak Sarmah, MLA & Chairman, Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments for favour of his kind information.
2. All Members of Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (G) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly for kind information.
3. The Private Secretary to the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of his kind information.
4. The O.S.D. to Deputy Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for his kind information.
5. The Private Secretary to Leader of the Opposition, Assam Legislative Assembly for placing the same before the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Assam Legislative Assembly for favour of kind information.
6. The Private Secretary to Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly for his kind information.

Contd /-

7. The Director, Assam Govt. Press, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati-21 for favour of publication of the above notification in the next issue of the Assam Gazette in Part-I. Five Spare copies of the same may be pleased supplied to this Secretariat for records.
8. The Principal Accountant General, Assam, Maidamgaon, Beltola, Guwahati-29.
9. The Chief Reporter Cum Editor of Debates & Ex- Officio- Joint Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly for information and necessary action.
10. The OSD (Joint Secretary), In -charge Nazarat Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly for information.
11. The Accounts Branch, Assam Legislative Assembly, Dispur for information.
12. All Officer In-charge of different Legislature Committees, Assam Legislative Assembly for information.
13. The Officer-in Charge Website branch, Assam Legislative Assembly, Dispur for information.



**Deputy Secretary
Assam Legislative Assembly.**

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OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION

TOURISM

Grant No. 65

After presentation of the Budget in the House for the Financial Year 2025-26 and after having a stimulating discussion on Preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report, the Committee made the following observations and Recommendations.

1. The Committee observes that there is lack of tourist lodges and homestays in many tourist hotspots of the state. Therefore, the Committee recommends to increase Budget allocation for "Amar Alohi Scheme" and also to build tourist lodges, guest houses or homestays in the districts which have tourist prospective.

2. The Committee observes that there are much more opportunities to promote our tourist places which are lesser known and have historical importance. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary steps to promote all those places and also to promote hill areas viz Karbi-Anglong and Dima Hasao. Further, as requested by the Hon'ble MLA of Dibrugarh LAC, the Department take necessary steps to promote and develop Soraipung and Sitakund and also to promote Sindura picnic spot of Katigora as requested by the Hon'ble MLA of Katigora LAC.

3. The Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary steps to provide proper training of Tourist guides to the youth which will generate employment and also bring more development in the tourism sector.

4. The Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary steps to promote homestays of the Tourist destinations of the state.

5. The Committee observes the need of an Online Portal. Therefore, the Committee recommends online portal so that the tourist from different places can book or access their lodges and homestays in advance.

6. The Committee observes that the Department is facing shortage of fund allocations for promotion and advertisement of Tourist places. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Budget allocation should be increased in the Department especially for advertisement and overall development of the Department.

7. The Committee recommends spot visit comprehensive tours to have a deeper understanding of the tourism hotspots.

The Committee recommends that the Budget allocation under Grant No. 65 for the Financial Year 2025-26 be for the Tourism Department be approved by the august House.

The Action taken Report on the recommendations may be submitted to the Committee within 90(ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report in the House.
