

Batadrava Than

By IASToppers | 2024-01-25 16:05:00



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Rahul Gandhi's Nyay Yatra was halted for over two hours in Haibargaon, Nagaon, preventing his visit to Batadrava Than.



[ref- nagaon.assam.gov]

About Batadrava Than:

- The **Batadrava Than**, also known as **Bordowa Than**, holds great significance as one of the most sacred sites for Assamese Vaishnavites.
- It is located in the **Nagaon district** and is closely associated with the **birthplace** of the revered **Vaishnavite reformer-saint Srimanta Sankardeva (1449-1568)**.
- Sankardev at the age of 19, **established the Bordowa Than in 1468**, it is also the **first Namghar or Than constructed**.
- The rituals of this Than is conducted according to the norms of **Purush sanghati**.
- One of the annual highlights for devotees in Bordowa is the **grand festival "Doul Mohotsava,"** celebrated during Holi.
- The Batadrava Than remains a symbol of Assamese cultural and religious heritage, preserving the **legacy of Srimanta Sankardeva and his teachings**.

Structures:

- **Kirtan Ghar:** A capacious prayer house **initially built by Sankardev** using temporary materials.
- **Manikut:** Dedicated to housing sacred texts, scriptures, and manuscripts.
- The campus of Bordowa Than includes various structures such as **Natghar** (Drama hall), **Alohighar** (Guest room), **Sabhaghar** (Assembly hall), **Rabhaghar** (Music room), **Hatipukhuri**, **Aakash Ganga**, **Doul Mandir** (festive temple), and others.
- **Mini Museum:** Showcasing historical articles and artifacts.

About Srimanta Sankardeva:

- Srimanta Sankardeva, a key figure in Assamese history, founded the **first-ever Kirtan Ghar** at

Bordowa in 1494 AD.

- The purpose of this establishment was to **practice and preach the neo-Vaishnavite faith** during the fifteenth century in Assam.
- Sankardeva propagated the **Ek Saran Naam Dharma**, and the Batadrava Than became a center for the dissemination of this philosophy.
- The core principles of Sankardeva's dharma included **devotion to god (deva)**, **prayers (naam)**, **devotees (bhakats)**, and **teachers (guru)**.

Srimanta Sankardeva's Philosophy:

- **Ek Saran Naam Dharma:** Focused on worship through bhakti (devotion) to Lord Krishna.
 - This worship involved **singing and congregational listening** to the **name and deeds of Lord Krishna**.
- **Social Equality:** Sankardeva's teachings emphasized the creation of a **society based on equality and fraternity**, free from caste differences and orthodox Brahmanical rituals.
- **Components:** His dharma comprised deva (god), naam (prayers), bhakats (devotees), and guru (teacher).

Neo-Vaishnavite Movement and Thans/Sattras:

- **Reformist Movement:** Sankardeva's movement led to the establishment of monastic institutions called Thans/Sattras in Assam.
 - As **Sankardeva** traveled throughout Assam, spreading his teachings, these Sattras/Thans became centers for religious, social, and cultural reforms in the 16th century.
- **Teachings:** Thans/Sattras propagate Sankardeva's worship through art approach, incorporating music (borgeet), dance (xattriya), and theatre (bhauna).
- **Naamghar:** Each Sattras has a naamghar (worship hall) at its core, headed by an influential Sattradhikar.