

**Speech of the Hon'ble Governor for 473rd Birth
Anniversary of Shree Shree Badla Padma Aata on 13th
June, 2019**

Revered Sattradhikar Prabhus, noted scholars, Acharyas, Members of the Organising Committee and devoted followers who have come here from all across the state for the 473rd Birth Anniversary of the most revered Shri Shri Badla Aata.

India has always been a land of seekers, seeking to discover truth deep beneath the obvious. The mind which is the nucleus always seeks to unravel the truth beyond mere mortal existence. It is this pursuit of mind which has given rise to the questions like what is the purpose of living, the existence of a Param Brahma as the Creator, Preserver and Destroyer, the origin of life, life after death, code of conduct in daily living, endless possibilities of making life blissful, free from fear of death etc. The Indian mind has always had a philosophical bent, forever trying to find ways of being a Satchidanandan. The ways have been different. Everyone in this land has always sought moksha after his basic needs are met, to seek union with the Supreme Power, the source of creation and the end of creation.

Human beings consist of a small segment of the world. Earth is a micro portion of the solar system; the solar system is a small part of the galaxy and so on. Creation and destruction is going on

simultaneously in this universe, where permanence is only a relative measure of space and time. But surrendering to the Supreme Power is the only unavoidable purpose of life.

Assam too has been a land of the seekers. The early tribal societies had sought refuge to God to protect themselves from the evil elements. Shiva in some form or the other has been revered as the Adi Yogi in the tribal societies. Seeking refuge in him was the way to a peaceful life. However the most lasting impact in the religious lives of the people of Assam has been the neo Vaishnavite movement of the 15th-16th Century, ushered in this remote corner of the country by the saint-scholar, poet, playwright, social-religious reformer in the cultural and religious history of Assam, India- Jagatguru Sreemanta Sankardeva.

Assam during 15th to 16th century was in complete turmoil. Political rivalry between the Ahoms in the east and the Koch kingdom in the west had led to a disturbed social life. Religious practices were oriented towards seeking divine intervention for increasing physical power but not seeking moksha. Human sacrifices by the rulers, animal sacrifices by the common people in seeking remedies for all ills, were common occurrence. Spiritual practices were lost to occultism. Reason had lost to blind faith. At such a time an avatar made his appearance in the form of Sreemanta Sankardeva to save the people of the land from all evils. He embraced the role of rescuer to raise people from the muddy pools of blood and ignorance. He taught the people to believe in reason. With royal patronage of the

Koch Kings, Sreemanta Sankardeva spread his message of love and *eksaran* dharma among the people of Assam.

He left his unfinished work to his principal follower Shri Shri Madhavdeva, who continued his good work in Assam. The Krishna Bhakti Movement found ever increasing followers in Assam and it moved from west to the east. To consolidate the religious practices of the Eksaran Naam Dharma in Upper Assam and east, Shri Shri Madhabdev entrusted his work to his favourite disciple Shri Padma Ata. Shri Padma Ata obeying the instructions of his Guru Madhavdeva proceeded to Upper Assam and dropped anchor at Majuli. He set up the Sattrra there and began preaching his sermons. It is heartening to know that Padma Ata won over the hearts and minds of the people including those who were deeply against the Jagatguru Sreemanta Sankardeva.

The spread of the religion brought about peace in the state and restored Dharma in the entire Brahmaputra Valley from Sadiya in the East to Rongpur in the west. This message of love and surrender to the Lord through Eksaran naam-dharma had brought about peace and tranquility in the state and has lasted firmly for the last 600 years. In fact the Satriya culture has become all pervasive in Assam and has become the identity of the state in Dance, music, painting, drama, fine arts and literature through-out the world.

I hail the role of the organizer to hold the birthday celebrations of Padma Ata to renew our pledge to peace, brotherhood and spirituality. However, still today we are not free from the influence of

material quest. Today on the occasion of 473rd Birth Anniversary of Badla Padma Ata we need to take a pledge of making a nation of Sri Sri Sankardeva, Madhavdeva, Padma Ata's dream. Today is an occasion to renew our links with our culture and know ourselves.

I congratulate the organizer for this wonderful effort to let our youth know our culture, it's leaders and also our responsibility of leading the state forward in both spiritual and intellectual path.
Thank you and

JAI HIND