



**Bhukhan Pathak —  
Connecting Assam with the  
World Through the Life-  
Changing Influence of  
Narratives**

An Open Letter to the  
Prime Minister of  
Bangladesh

18<sup>th</sup> International  
**GUWAHATI FILM FESTIVAL**  
Organised by  
**GAUHATI CINE CLUB**  
In association with  
Federation of Film Societies of India (ER)  
and  
Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam



Kanaklal Baruah Auditorium, Assam State Museum complex, Guwahati-01, 13-17 February, 2026

Assam Before the Ballot:  
Governance, Stability and the  
Test of Leadership



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Assam Before the Ballot:  
Governance, Stability and the Test  
of Leadership

Restoring the Rule of Law Guided  
by Neoliberalism:  
An Open Letter to the Prime  
Minister of Bangladesh



## ***NE India Needs a Coordinated Governance for Economic Growth***

North Eastern states of India are trying their best to govern each state according to their abilities, looking into their diverse challenges and aspirations, mainly dependent on the Central Government's fund outlays. It is equally visible that the Central Government wishes to give due attention to the region in order to bring in peace and usher in the process of integration and development.

Looking into decades of neglect, deep-rooted corruption and insurgency, there is no clear milestone in the economic roadmap besides attention on infrastructure development. The economic activities are limited to consumption rather than production. There is a need for each district of NE India to identify its production capabilities and develop sustainability and self-sufficiency.

If we look into the overall scheme of things there is no commentary available on the role that NE India will play in the dream of Viksit Bharat besides the use of the so-called word as a slogan. It is time the Chief Ministers of the small states of NE India start having long-term plans for their states' economic and industrial growth.

Our North Eastern states should give more emphasis on production and not on consumption. When we observe the lifestyle of the NE populace, questions do arise: where are the economic activities happening that the lifestyle of the region is so high? Definitely, it is a question to introspect.

When we look into the political class of NE India, each one is dependent on what the Centre is going to give, rather than proposing to the Centre what we need.

A good start would be a joint effort by the Eight States to sit on one platform and identify where they can find common 'economic grounds' so that an ecosystem can be built to cater to the economic growth of the region and build an industrial corridor where all eight states are contributing as one region.

Maybe the DoNER Ministry can start a process of dialogue between the adjoining states, where they take into consideration how and what can be done to initiate projects and schemes that would contribute to employment generation, build sustainable business activities benefiting multiple states, as well as the region.

It is now the time to think, act and coordinate with each other as 'One' and shun identity politics for the sake of the next generation...

*Stay Enriched.*

Editor-in-Chief  
**Biswadeep Gupta**



Scan to Connect

# Correspondence



## ***Restoring the Rule of Law Guided by Needonomics: An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh***

***Hon'ble Prime Minister,***

The Needonomics School of Thought (NST), a Kurukshetra-based think tank rooted in the civilizational ethos of balanced development and ethical governance, extends its warm greetings to you on assuming the high office of Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Your maiden televised address to the nation on February 18, 2026, broadcast by Bangladesh Television, has been received with thoughtful attention and appreciation. Your pledge to restore democracy, uphold the rule of law, and ensure equal rights for all citizens—irrespective of political affiliation, religion, or ethnicity—reflects a statesmanlike commitment to constitutional morality.

At a time when many democracies grapple with polarisation and declining institutional trust, your assertion that governance shall be guided not by party influence or coercive force but strictly by law resonates deeply with the foundational principles of Needonomics—economics of needs guided by ethics. The rule of law, when anchored in moral purpose, becomes the cornerstone of national renewal.

### **Rule of Law as Moral Compass**

Your resolve to rebuild a self-reliant, secure, humane, and democratic Bangladesh signals a return to governance guided by justice rather than expediency. Needonomics affirms that power and public policy must serve genuine societal needs, not sectional or partisan interests. Democracy is not merely electoral arithmetic; it is moral arithmetic—where fairness, accountability, and inclusion are non-negotiable.

The emphasis on restoring law and order, curbing corruption, and strengthening weakened institutions is particularly significant given the fragile economic and governance conditions you have inherited. From a Needonomics perspective, corruption is not only a financial irregularity; it is a distortion of priorities—where greed displaces need and privilege undermines justice. Your determination to dismantle gambling, drug, and corruption networks reflects a corrective movement toward ethical statecraft.

### **Leadership by Restraint: Austerity in Public Life**

Your declaration that lawmakers of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party will refrain from importing tax-free vehicles or accepting government plot allocations is a powerful statement of ethical leadership. Austerity at the top is not symbolic minimalism; it is moral leadership in action.

In Needonomics, restraint is strength. When public representatives voluntarily renounce undue privileges, they reaffirm that governance is a sacred responsibility, not a personal entitlement. Such discipline strengthens public trust and restores the credibility of democratic institutions.

# Correspondence



## **Investing in Youth: Converting Population into Potential**

Your vision of transforming Bangladesh's demographic strength into a skilled and productive workforce through investments in youth, technology, and artificial intelligence is forward-looking. Human capital, when nurtured with both competence and character, becomes the most sustainable driver of national prosperity.

Needonomics holds that education must cultivate not only employability but ethical responsibility. Skill development combined with value orientation ensures that economic growth is harmonious rather than disruptive. Your assurances of support for students and employment initiatives align with this balanced approach.

## **Ethical Markets and Economic Responsibility**

Your appeal to business leaders to maintain fair prices during Ramadan and avoid profiteering demonstrates sensitivity to public welfare. Markets flourish when guided by fairness and mutual trust. Protecting both consumers and traders reflects a balanced economic philosophy rooted in justice.

Needonomics cautions that economics divorced from ethics inevitably leads to excess—and excess, in turn, breeds instability. By encouraging responsible commercial conduct, your government affirms that sustainable growth must be people-centric.

### **Infrastructure that Reduces Suffering**

The proposed restructuring of the railway network and improved coordination among transport ministries to ease traffic congestion in Dhaka reflect governance attentive to daily hardships. Infrastructure development must enhance dignity and quality of life, not merely expand physical assets.

Reducing congestion improves productivity, reduces stress, and enhances social harmony. In Needonomics, development is meaningful only when it alleviates avoidable suffering and improves collective well-being.

## **Shared Learning: Microfinance and Regional Wisdom**

NST places on record its deep appreciation for the pioneering microfinance model developed in Bangladesh, particularly through Grameen Bank. This initiative inspired similar movements in India and across the world, proving that small credit combined with trust can empower the most marginalised.

Such cross-border learning exemplifies how neighbouring nations can draw strength from each other's innovations. In the same spirit, the Indian idea of Needonomics—advocating balanced consumption, ethical production, and governance guided by genuine needs—may offer conceptual insights for enriching regional public policy dialogue.

## **Toward a Humane South Asian Partnership**

India and Bangladesh share deep historical, cultural, and civilizational bonds. Our destinies are intertwined geographically and morally. As your government begins its journey following the February 12 national mandate, we hope for strengthened regional cooperation through dialogue, trade, cultural exchange, and shared development models.

A self-reliant Bangladesh and a self-confident India can together contribute to a stable and prosperous South Asia. The restoration of the rule of law—guided by ethical economics and inclusive governance—will be the strongest foundation for such partnership.

# Correspondence



## Concluding Reflections

Hon'ble Prime Minister, your early articulation of governance rooted in legality, equality, austerity, and youth empowerment marks an encouraging beginning. The endurance of democratic reform lies not merely in promises but in consistent, principled action. Yet every enduring transformation begins with moral clarity—and your address signals such intent.

May your leadership restore and strengthen the rule of law in Bangladesh, guided by wisdom, courage, and compassion. The Needonomics School of Thought wishes you success in building a Bangladesh that is self-reliant yet humane, modern yet morally anchored.

With respectful regards,

### Prof. Madan Mohan Goel

Propounder, Needonomics School of Thought, Kurukshetra, India



**Bangladesh Nationalist Party-BNP** ✓  
@bdbnp78



BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman today took oath as the Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

This marks the beginning of a new chapter committed to democracy, justice, and the people's mandate.

[#TariqueRahman](#) [#BNP](#) [#PM](#) [#Bangladesh](#) [#Democracy](#)



5:07 PM · Feb 17, 2026 · 55.7K Views

# Bhukhan Pathak — Connecting Assam with the World Through the Life-Changing Influence of Narratives

Bhukhan Pathak's journey transcends that of a typical digital creator; it is an extraordinary tale of a man who emerged from extreme poverty in Barpeta, Assam, to establish himself as one of the most courageous cultural ambassadors representing the Northeast on the global stage. Since 2016, he has emerged as a leading influencer from Northeast India and a pioneer in the Assamese social media domain, particularly on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. He holds the distinction of being the first Assamese YouTuber to earn the Silver Play Button and is acclaimed for creating top-notch content in the Assamese language, catering to a worldwide audience.



Throughout his journey, he may have lacked privilege, institutional backing, or government support. However, he carried an unwavering resolve, a deep sense of cultural pride, and the courage to bring Assam's story to the global stage, often at significant personal risk.

Bhukhan started his digital journey in 2016, aiming to promote Assamese voices and culture through social media. Over the years, he has built a strong regional digital community in Northeast India with impactful content. His digital journey began with 'Assamese Mixture', a YouTube channel he created to highlight various aspects of Assamese entertainment, culture, cinema, and personalities that are often overlooked by the mainstream media. The channel became a vibrant hub for celebrity interviews, film updates, box office insights, and authentic Assamese cultural stories, appealing to audiences in India and beyond. Currently, its reach highlights its credibility and audience connection: YouTube (Assamese Mixture) with 11.40 lakh subscribers, Facebook with 6 lakh followers, and Instagram with 1.58 lakh followers.

BY PRANTIK DEKA

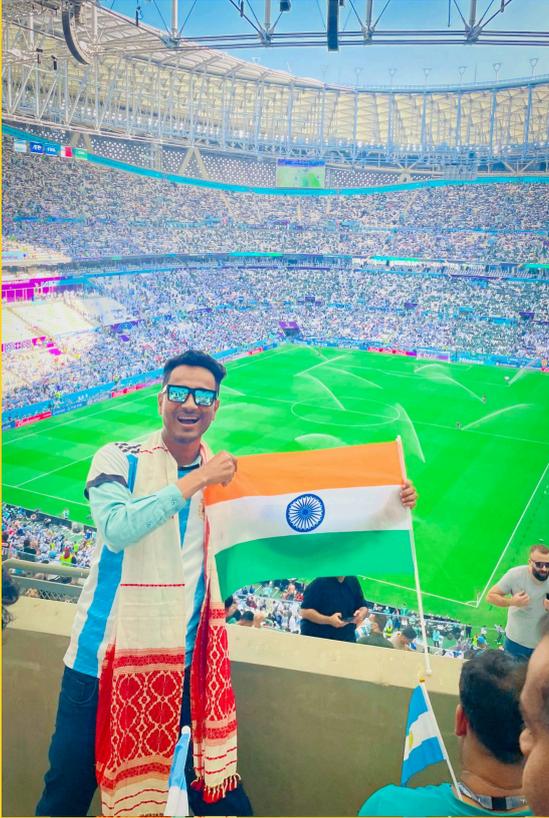
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM  
BHUKHAN PATHAK  
ARCHIVE

What really sets Bhukhan Pathak apart from his peers is his role as a cultural ambassador. Contrary to numerous digital influencers who depend on opulence and fads, Bhukhan Pathak stands out as a cultural advocate who takes financial, physical, and emotional risks to promote Assam's identity in every location he visits. Bhukhan, unlike many creators, ventures out without backing from any governmental or institutional sources. He jeopardizes his health, safety, and livelihood to share unheard stories, placing culture above comfort and impact over glamour. Each international journey serves as a platform for showcasing Assamese identity, with his vlogs serving as missions rather than mere performances.



**Bhukhan embarked on a remarkable journey from Assam to Russia, exploring the vibrant cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg while presenting Assam's Gamosa as an emblem of global culture. His audacious spirit shone brightly during his time in Siberia and Yakutsk, the coldest inhabited city on the planet, where the mercury dipped to a staggering  $-60^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Undeterred by the severe threats to his well-being, he championed Assam's essence in one of the most unforgiving regions on Earth. Accompanied by a Russian friend and dressed in traditional Assamese dhoti and Gamosa, he visited a local school in Yakutia. There, he engaged with students, sharing insights about Assam, its rich tea heritage, the vibrant Bihu festival, and the famous one-horned rhino. The students reacted with a mix of amazement and enthusiasm, as it was their first introduction to Assam and Northeast India, conveyed with genuine pride and authenticity.**





Bhukhan expanded Assam's cultural influence to Singapore and Malaysia, showcasing Assamese traditions in global urban settings. In Sri Lanka, his efforts held historical importance as he promoted Assamese culture in Colombo, Kandy, and Galle. During his visit to the World Heritage site Ashok Vatika, Bhukhan linked Assam's cultural identity with a broader pan-Asian heritage, proudly donning the Gamosa as a symbol of pride.

During the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, Bhukhan took the Indian National Flag and Assam's Gamusa to highlight Assam on a global stage. His engagement with the Assam Society in Qatar created a significant emotional and cultural connection, reconnecting the diaspora with their heritage and presenting Assam to an international audience in a context that extended beyond sports.



Bhukhan's journey to China was driven by a blend of historical curiosity and significant personal risk. He ventured to the birthplace of Ahom king Chaolung Sukapha, uncovering and recording the historical ties that have greatly influenced Assam's identity. Through his vlogs, he highlighted Assam's Ahom legacy, the Great Wall of China, and daily life in China. A particularly notable aspect of his journey was his visit to Wuhan during the COVID-19 outbreak. Despite facing restrictions on movement and pressure to stop filming, he remained focused on presenting an authentic view of the situation. His unwavering dedication to honest storytelling stood out, prioritising truth over convenience.



In 2026, Bhukhan's work entered a new realm during his visit to Africa. Travelling through Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, he engaged deeply with indigenous communities, including the Maasai tribe, the Hadzabe tribe (considered the world's last hunter-gatherer tribe), and the Datoga tribe, among others. Within these culturally vibrant environments, he shared Assam's beloved artist Zubeen Garg with African communities, promoting Assamese songs, music, and the traditions of Bihu. To his surprise, both locals and Kili Paul, the well-known Tanzanian content creator famous for his Bollywood lip-synchs, initiated discussions about Indian politics and acknowledged Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma — reflecting the growing global awareness of Assam. While visiting Bangladesh, Bhukhan observed once more the strong cultural and political connections that Assam maintains, as the local people showed a clear awareness of the state and its leaders. This experience reinforced his conviction that Assam's influence reaches well beyond its geographical limits.

Bhukhan Pathak's work has garnered millions of views, and deep trust from global audiences through authenticity and cultural responsibility. He has received several prestigious honours, including Excellence in Digital Content Creation – Radio Mirchi & Byatikram (2025), Rising Star of Northeast, Best YouTuber of Assam (2022), 8th National Achiever Award, Best YouTube Content Creator of Northeast (2024), and ASIANET Icon Award (2024).

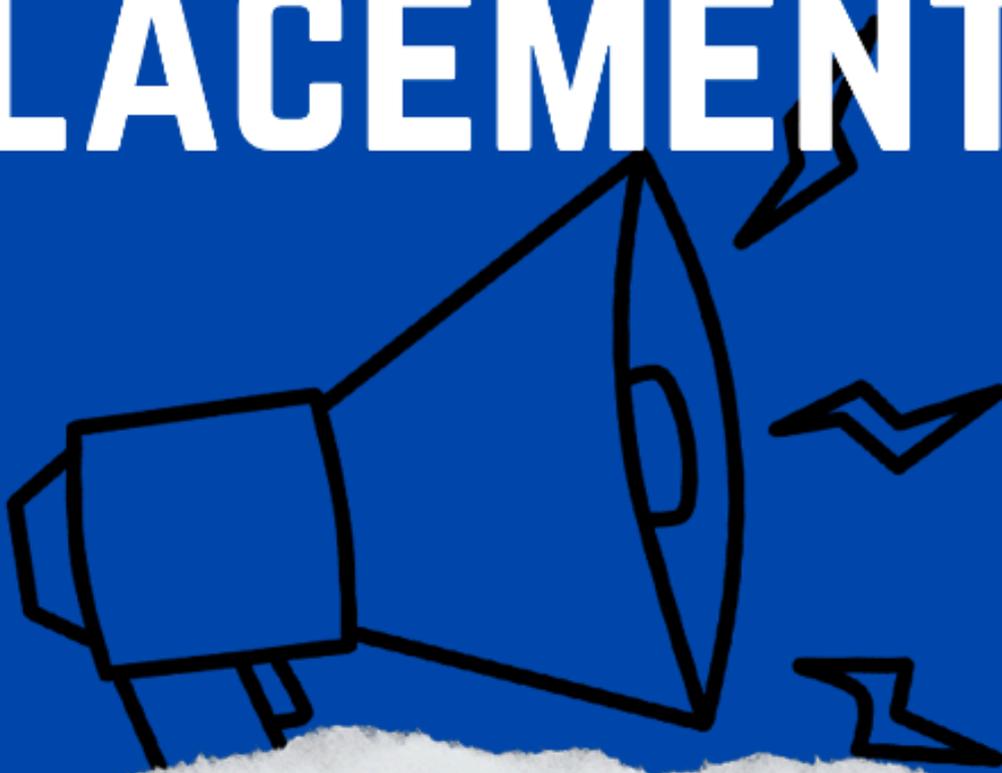
Bhukhan Pathak is not just a content creator; he is also a risk-taker, historian, cultural diplomat, and a relentless advocate for Assam. With each journey, story, and frame, he passionately showcases Assam's pride worldwide. As a committed cultural ambassador, Bhukhan Pathak bridges global audiences with the rich roots, traditions, and pride of Assam.



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# Amit Shah Launches VVP Phase II from Assam's Nathanpur

**Silchar:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the second phase of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) on Friday from Nathanpur in Cachar district of Assam.

Officials said the new phase will cover 1,954 border villages across 15 states and 2 Union Territories.

The centrally funded scheme has an outlay of Rs 6,839 crore and will run till the financial year 2028–29. It aims to bring full development in border areas by improving basic services, building key infrastructure, and creating steady livelihood options. The effort supports the long term national goal of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The first phase of VVP, approved on February 15, 2023, covered 662 villages in 46 blocks across 19 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.

During this phase, the Ministry of Home Affairs approved 2,558 projects worth Rs 3,431 crore. More than 8,500 activities were also carried out. These included awareness drives, health camps, local fairs and tourism promotion.



The second phase was cleared on April 2, 2025.

Officials said the programme will also help residents act as alert “eyes and ears” in border regions. This is expected to improve border security and check cross border crime.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai confirmed the expansion in a reply in the Lok Sabha on February 3.

# NEIR 2026: A Journey That Tried to Stitch a Region Together

## Rajkumar

On January 4, 2026, a quiet but determined journey began across the winding roads of Northeast India. It was not a protest. Not a tourist drive. It was something slower and more patient.

The North East Integration Rally 2026 set out with a simple aim. To travel through the region and speak to people about unity.

Over the next month, the rally moved across all eight states and parts of North Bengal. It finally reached Guwahati on February 4 after weeks on the road. Behind this effort stood Biswadeep Gupta, Managing Trustee and CEO of KRC Foundation, who helped shape the rally into a travelling platform for dialogue.

The Northeast is often seen as one block on the map. But in reality, it is many worlds living side by side. Languages shift from hill to valley. Food changes from district to district. Music and customs vary from tribe to tribe.

NEIR 2026 did not try to flatten these differences. It moved with them.



The convoy passed through Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. It stopped not only in cities but also in smaller towns and remote spaces. The purpose was to bring communities face to face. Youth groups joined. Local organisations stepped in. Cultural exchanges grew in open grounds and public halls.

Integration here did not mean becoming alike. It meant speaking and listening.



As Gupta noted, "This isn't just about driving across states. We want to start a chain reaction—a movement that builds understanding, preparedness, and unity."

[krctimes.com](http://krctimes.com)

**Biswadeep Gupta**

**Founder & CEO  
North East Integration Rally**

[www.northeastintegrationrally.in](http://www.northeastintegrationrally.in)

Post-rally, NEIR leaves a legacy of community whitepapers, photo documentaries, cross-cultural networks, and inspired change agents.

[northeastintegrationrally.in](http://northeastintegrationrally.in)

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# Guwahati–Silchar Express to Halt at Salchapra from Feb 19



## *Our Correspondent*

**Silchar:** In a welcome development for rail passengers, the Guwahati–Silchar Express (15615/15616) will now stop at Salchapra Railway Station, fulfilling a long-pending public demand from the region.

The new stoppage will formally begin on February 19, with a flagging-off ceremony scheduled at Salchapra Railway Station at 7:00 AM. The move is expected to improve rail access for residents of Salchapra, Srikona, and nearby areas.

The introduction of this halt comes after approval from Union Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Local residents and commuters are likely to benefit from easier connectivity, especially those who depend on rail travel for work, education, and medical needs. The stoppage is also expected to support smoother movement across the wider Silchar Lok Sabha constituency.

With this step, daily travel is set to become more convenient for many in the region.

# Himanta Biswa Sarma Blames Congress for Large-Scale Forest Encroachment in Assam



## KRC TIMES News Desk

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday alleged that the previous Indian National Congress government allowed encroachment on nearly 30 lakh bighas of forest land during its time in power.

In his final address to the outgoing Assam Assembly, Sarma said the present Bharatiya Janata Party government has reclaimed around 1.5 lakh bighas through eviction drives.

He said no tribal families lost their homes during the operations. Instead, affected families were given land pattas.

The Chief Minister described the government's actions as an effort to correct past mistakes. He said steps were taken in areas such as madrassa reforms, illegal immigration, child marriage, polygamy, and corruption.

Sarma also claimed that Assam is now emerging as a strong part of the Indian economy.

His remarks come ahead of the upcoming Assam Assembly elections expected in the coming months.

# Priyanka Gandhi Plays Down Bhupen Borah's Exit, Says Political Switches 'Normal' Ahead of Polls



**Guwahati:** Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday downplayed the resignation of former Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Bhupen Borah from the party, saying that such political shifts are “very normal” in Indian politics, especially in the run up to elections.

Speaking during her visit to Guwahati to review preparations for the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, the Congress general secretary maintained that the development would not weaken the party's prospects in the state.

She asserted that the Indian National Congress continues to have strong leadership in Assam and remains united despite recent changes.

“Party leaders and workers will fight together to win the upcoming polls,” she said, expressing confidence in the party's organisational strength.

Her remarks come as the Congress intensifies groundwork for the 2026 Assembly elections in Assam, with senior leaders stepping up outreach and mobilisation efforts across the state.

# CRPF Fully Prepared for Assembly Poll Security Across Five States: DG GP Singh

## KRC TIMES News Desk

**Guwahati:** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has expressed full readiness to ensure a safe and peaceful environment during the upcoming assembly elections in five states, Director General GP Singh said on Thursday.

He stated that the force has already begun extensive coordination with the Election Commission, state governments, and local police units to ensure smooth conduct of the polls.

“We are fully prepared. Several rounds of discussions have been held with the Election Commission as well as with the concerned state administrations and police forces,” Singh said.



Assembly elections are scheduled to take place in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry. As the national nodal agency responsible for the deployment of central paramilitary forces, the CRPF will play a crucial role in maintaining law and order and ensuring that voting takes place without disruption.

Referring to Assam’s polling schedule, Singh noted that some political parties have demanded that elections be conducted in a single phase.

“We are prepared for whichever format the Election Commission decides. Whatever directions are issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, we will implement them accordingly,” he added.

The CRPF is expected to work closely with state police forces on ground deployment, area domination, confidence building measures, and protection of polling stations to ensure free and fair elections across all five states.

# Nagaland CM Inaugurates Women-Centric BPO to Boost Jobs and Skills

KRC TIMES News Desk

**Nagaland:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Wednesday launched the JSW Women-Centric BPO, a new project aimed at creating jobs and skill support for women in the state.



The centre has been set up under JSW Shakti in partnership with the Investments and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN).

Speaking at the event, Rio said the state has been working to support women through business, training, and digital access so they can find stable and respectful work.

He said the new BPO gives young women a modern work space where they can learn, grow, and become financially independent. Rio also thanked Sangita Jindal, Chairperson of the JSW Foundation, for extending the Foundation's social work to Nagaland. He expressed hope that she would visit the state soon.

The project focuses on training and jobs for underprivileged women by combining skills, technology, and employment support.

Rio praised IDAN, led by Abumetha, for pushing investment and innovation in Nagaland and helping build Brand Nagaland through partnerships.

He said the initiative will create jobs and inspire youth to use new opportunities, while assuring full support from the state government.

# *Assam Before the Ballot: Governance, Stability and the Test of Leadership*

As Assam moves toward the next electoral cycle, the political discourse in the state is increasingly being shaped not merely by rhetoric or identity based mobilization but by a broader evaluation of governance, stability, and administrative delivery under the present Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The forthcoming elections will, in many ways, serve as a referendum on whether the emphasis on security, infrastructure, and administrative assertiveness has translated into durable public confidence.



**Col (Dr.) Ashwani Kumar,  
MiD, VSM (Retd)**

Assam's political journey over the past decades has been complex, shaped by insurgency, migration concerns, ethnic sensitivities, and developmental imbalances. Against this backdrop, the current government has sought to position governance and stability at the center of its political narrative. The question before voters now is whether this model has addressed long-standing concerns while preserving social balance.

## **Governance as the Central Theme.**

One of the defining features of the present administration has been its visible and centralized governance style. Decision-making has been swift, and the Chief Minister has maintained a high degree of administrative visibility.

From law and order initiatives to infrastructure expansion, the government has projected a message of control and direction.

Significant emphasis has been placed on road connectivity, urban infrastructure, and public service delivery. Welfare schemes and targeted development initiatives have been used to reinforce state presence at the grassroots level. In electoral terms, governance has been positioned as a key pillar of legitimacy.

However, governance in a diverse state like Assam must constantly balance firmness with inclusivity. Administrative efficiency must be accompanied by sensitivity to regional and ethnic concerns. The durability of the present governance model will depend on how effectively it can maintain that balance.

### ***Security and Stability.***

*A notable aspect of recent years has been the relative consolidation of security. Insurgency-related violence has declined compared to earlier decades, and the state has projected a stronger law-and-order framework. For many citizens, particularly in previously disturbed regions, stability remains a primary expectation. The government's approach has been to link development with security arguing that infrastructure, connectivity, and employment reduce the appeal of unrest. While this strategy has shown results in certain areas, long-term stability requires continuous engagement with communities and sustained political dialogue.*

### ***Development and Economic Expectations.***

*Economic growth and employment generation remain central to the electoral narrative. Assam's strategic location in the Northeast makes it a potential gateway for trade and connectivity. Investment initiatives, industrial proposals, and tourism development have been highlighted as indicators of progress.*

*Yet, challenges remain. Flood management, rural employment, and balanced regional development continue to demand sustained attention.*

Voters will assess not only announcements but outcomes, whether development has reached smaller towns and rural districts and whether youth employment opportunities have expanded.

### ***Political Strategy and Social Balance.***

The current leadership has pursued a politically assertive strategy aimed at consolidating support across key constituencies. At the same time, the state's social composition requires careful handling of identity-related issues. Electoral success in Assam often depends on maintaining equilibrium among diverse communities while projecting administrative strength. The upcoming elections will test whether governance-centric politics can continue to dominate the narrative or whether identity and local grievances will re-emerge as decisive factors.

### ***Need for Unified Command and Civil–Military Coordination.***

In the wider context of India's eastern and Northeastern states, including Assam, there is also a growing case for strengthening state-wise unified command structures and deeper civil - military coordination.

Given the region's history of insurgency, border sensitivities, and complex security environment, governance and security cannot function in isolation. A structured unified command mechanism bringing together state administration, police, central armed forces, and the Army can ensure coordinated responses, better intelligence sharing, and faster decision-making in times of crisis.

Equally important is sustained civil - military interaction at the institutional level. Regular coordination between civil authorities and military formations not only enhances operational efficiency but also builds mutual trust and clarity of roles. In states like Assam, where security stabilization has enabled development, continued synergy between civil administration and security institutions can reinforce both governance and public confidence. Such frameworks, if strengthened, can serve as stabilizing pillars for the entire eastern region.

### **Centre - State Coordination.**

The alignment between the state government and the Union Government has facilitated policy coordination and resource mobilization. Infrastructure funding, connectivity projects, and security cooperation have benefited from this alignment.

Voters may view such coordination as an advantage, provided it translates into tangible improvements in daily life. However, cooperative federalism must also ensure that state-specific concerns are addressed with sensitivity. Local governance and grassroots institutions must remain active partners in development.

### **The Electoral Test Ahead.**

As Assam approaches the ballot, the electorate will weigh continuity against change. Stability, development, and governance delivery will be measured against expectations for inclusivity, employment, and long-term social harmony. Elections in the state are rarely decided by a single issue, they reflect a combination of performance, perception, and political strategy.

For the present leadership, the challenge lies in sustaining administrative momentum while ensuring that governance remains participatory and balanced. For the opposition, the task will be to present an alternative narrative that resonates with voters' aspirations.

### **A Defining Moment.**

Assam today stands in a different position from the turbulence that marked earlier decades.

# Assam's 2026 Election



There is greater administrative stability and a visible push toward development. Yet, the durability of this phase will depend on whether governance continues to deliver across regions and communities.

The forthcoming elections will therefore be more than a routine democratic exercise. They will represent a test of whether stability and governance have become the central determinants of political legitimacy in Assam.

The ballot will ultimately reflect public judgment not only on policies and performance but on the promise of sustained peace, inclusive growth, and accountable leadership.

## **About the Author.**

Col (Dr.) Ashwani Kumar, MiD, VSM (Retd.), is a decorated Indian Army veteran with extensive operational experience in sensitive and border regions. Following his military service, he has been engaged in strategic and political analysis, writing on governance, national security, and democratic processes, particularly in India's Northeastern and border states

# InfoCom

## DIARY



An Initiative of  
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# *India's Political Scenario: Issues that matter*

KRC TIMES National Bureau

**India faces a mix of domestic unrest, economic pressures, political polarisation, and external challenges that are significantly impacting the country. While the economy remains one of the world's fastest-growing (projected at around 6.6–7% for 2026), underlying issues have sparked widespread protests, diplomatic headwinds, and public discontent.**

## **Here are the key issues currently rocking India:**

**Nationwide Protests and Strikes Against Labour Reforms and Trade Policies** — A massive Bharat Bandh (nationwide strike) on February 12, 2026, called by central trade unions (including AITUC) and farmers' groups (like Samyukt Kisan Morcha), disrupted transport, banking, markets, schools, and essential services in many states.



An estimated 30 crore (300 million) workers participated, protesting the four new labour codes (which replaced 29 old laws), seen as diluting worker protections, job security, and making hiring/firing easier. Farmers opposed the recent India–US interim trade deal (announced early February 2026), alleging it compromises agricultural interests without consultation. Protests included burning symbolic copies of the pact, with opposition parties (led by Congress) calling it a "surrender" to US demands.





- **Controversy Over India–US Trade Deal and US Tariff Developments** — The interim trade framework with the US (aimed at easing tensions from Trump's earlier 50% tariffs on Indian goods, partly linked to India's Russian oil purchases) faced backlash. Farmers and unions claimed it harms domestic agriculture and industries.

**A US Supreme Court ruling on February 20, 2026, struck down aspects of Trump's tariff authority under certain laws, prompting opposition demands for renegotiation and accusations of a "compromised" deal (e.g., higher Indian tariffs on some US goods, commitments on data/energy security, and reduced Russian oil imports). The government defends safeguards, but the issue has fueled political attacks and questions about rushed negotiations.**

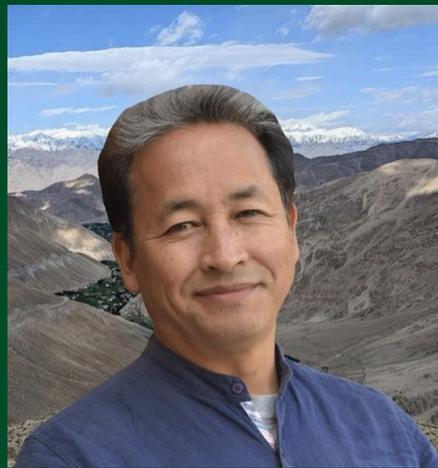


**Prime Minister Narendra Modi described it as historic, human-centric, and a foundational step toward achieving a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047**

BUDGET  
2026-27

- **Economic Challenges Amid Global Uncertainty** — The Union Budget (presented February 1, 2026) emphasised infrastructure, manufacturing push (in sectors like semiconductors, rare earths, data centres), and fiscal discipline to counter global trade wars and US tariffs. However, persistent issues include rupee weakness (all-time lows from foreign equity outflows), declining private investment (flat since ~2012), job creation struggles (manufacturing stuck below 20% of GDP), AI disruptions threatening IT/services exports, inflation risks, and water crises affecting agriculture/industry. Growth is resilient via public spending and consumption, but sentiment remains muted with concerns over Trump-era policies.

- **Declining Government Trust, Regional Polarisation, and Human Rights Concerns** — Public approval for the Modi government has dipped (notably lower than 2025 peaks), with sharp North–South divides and questions over military/diplomatic transparency. Reports highlight authoritarian trends: vilification of minorities/critics, use of laws to target journalists/activists/civil society, FCRA restrictions, and impunity in conflict zones. Incidents include violence in Ladakh over statehood demands and ongoing ethnic clashes.



Supreme Court resumes hearing plea seeking to release Ladakh-based activist Sonam Wangchuk from preventive detention. Wangchuk was detained following protests and violence that broke out in Ladakh over demands of statehood for the Union Territory.



**Ongoing Ethnic Conflict in Manipur** — The nearly three-year crisis persists under the new government (post-President's Rule lift in early February 2026). Recent developments include the death of BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte (injured in 2023 attacks), state mourning, CM outreach to IDPs, relief distribution, and calls for reconciliation. Tensions linger with sporadic incidents, arms recoveries, and fragile peace efforts amid deep mistrust.

 **Narendra Modi** @narendramodi · 21h

Pu Vungzagin Valte will be remembered for his outstanding service to the people of Manipur. He worked diligently towards bringing a positive difference in society. His interventions in the assembly were always insightful. Pained by his passing. Condolences to his family, friends and supporters.

**Foreign Policy and Neighbourhood Headwinds** — India navigates instability in Bangladesh (post-election shifts potentially anti-India), Pakistan ties with the US/China, Nepal unrest, and broader geopolitical risks (China's influence, Russian oil sanctions impacting energy). The "Neighbourhood First" policy faces tests, with concerns over isolation in the east and trade dependencies.

These issues reflect fatigue from prolonged economic adjustments, policy pushback, and unresolved social fractures, despite growth narratives. Protests and debates continue, with opposition (Congress, INDIA bloc) amplifying criticisms, while the government focuses on reforms and stability. The situation remains dynamic, with potential for further flare-ups.



# Household Giving Drives India's Philanthropy, Says New Study

*A new report has found that India's culture of giving begins not in corporate offices but in everyday acts at home. From sharing food with neighbours to small donations at places of worship and volunteering in times of need, these gestures together form a major part of the country's giving economy.*



The study, *How India Gives 2025*, released by the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy at Ashoka University, estimates that household philanthropy in India amounts to nearly Rs 540 billion every year.

Based on interviews with 7,000 people across 20 states in both urban and rural areas, the report reveals that 68 per cent of Indian households contribute in some way. This includes cash donations, in-kind support such as food or clothing, and volunteering time for community causes.

The findings challenge the common belief that organised giving in India is mainly driven by institutions or Corporate Social Responsibility funds. Instead, the report highlights the strong role played by ordinary families in sustaining the country's tradition of charity and social support.

# NABARD projects Credit Potential of Assam at ₹92,207.72 crore for FY 2026-27



The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Assam Regional Office, organized the State Credit Seminar 2026-27 on 21st February 2026 at Hotel Vivanta, Guwahati, under the theme “e-KCC driven Agriculture Credit Growth”, wherein the State Focus Paper (SFP) 2026-27 was launched by Chief Guest Ms. Aruna Rajoria, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture Department & Agriculture Production Commissioner, Govt. of Assam.

The State Focus Paper 2026-27 assesses the Credit Potential of Assam at ₹92,207.72 crore for FY 2026-27 under the Priority Sector, including ₹32,603.91 crore for Agriculture and Allied Activities, ₹52,450.29 crore for MSME Sector, and ₹7,153.51 crore for Other Priority Sectors.

In his welcome address, Loken Das, Chief General Manager, NABARD Assam RO, highlighted NABARD’s developmental initiatives in rural infrastructure building, increasing agricultural productivity, cooperative strengthening, and boosting MSME entrepreneurship. A detailed presentation on SFP 2026-27 was made by Shri Qamar Javed, GM, NABARD, who also touched upon the scope of sectoral credit potential.

In her keynote address, Rajoria lauded NABARD’s pivotal role in the growth of agriculture and rural transformation in Assam, including its continuous support for infrastructure building, farm innovation, financial inclusion, and the new e-KCC initiative to advance digital agricultural credit. She also laid emphasis on the need for addressing information asymmetry on farm sector credit availability and focused lending to encourage commercial agriculture in the State, apart from ensuring proper branding and market linkage support for FPOs. Besides, she also released a brochure on NABARD’s FPO support in Assam and presented the sanction letter to Biozatra Science & Technology Pvt. Ltd. for a Technology driven Fishery development Project sanctioned by NABARD Assam Regional Office.

Senior officials, including Dilip Kumar Bora, IAS, Secretary (Finance, T & D), Govt. of Assam; T P Bhusal, ACS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Assam; Sushmita Phukan, RD, RBI and PVSLN Murthy, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NEDFi, also participated in the event as guests and addressed the participants.

The event witnessed participation of officials from the Government of Assam, RBI, commercial banks, cooperative institutions, development agencies, NGOs, FPOs, SHGs, and other stakeholders.

On the sidelines of the event an array of products was displayed by the tribal beneficiaries of farm sector developmental initiatives of NABARD.



# MIZORAM TO HAND OVER JORDAN DE-ADDICTION CENTRE TO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**KRC TIMES News Desk**

**Mizoram:** A key de-addiction facility in Mizoram is set to come under church management.

Social Welfare Minister Lalrinpuii informed the Assembly on Wednesday that the state government will hand over the Jordan Centre in Kolasib district to the Presbyterian Church..



She said an agreement has already been signed with the Synod, which is the church’s top decision making body

The formal transfer will happen soon.

“The government is fully prepared and now awaits the Synod’s final response. The Synod has already kept Rs 2 crore in its budget for this,” Lalrinpuii told the House while replying to questions from the opposition.

The move is expected to strengthen community-based rehabilitation support in the state.

# PROPOSAL TO CREATE SEPARATE SHILLONG DISTRICT UNDER GOVERNMENT REVIEW

**KRC TIMES News Desk**



**Shillong:** The Meghalaya government is examining a proposal to carve out the Shillong Urban Agglomeration as a separate district from East Khasi Hills.

The matter came up during the 2026 Budget Session of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly. It was raised by 18–West Shillong MLA Bah Paul Lyngdoh.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma responded to the proposal on the floor of the House. He said the idea holds importance as Shillong is growing fast. A new district could help in smoother administration and better public services.

He explained that as per Census 2011, an Urban Agglomeration is a core town with nearby towns and villages that grow together as one urban unit.

Shillong’s Urban Agglomeration includes:  
 Shillong Municipal Board  
 Shillong Cantonment Board  
 10 census towns  
 54 villages spread across East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi

The Chief Minister also spoke about the Shillong Master Plan 2011–2041. He noted that people are slowly moving from the main municipal area to nearby towns and villages. This makes planning harder if areas fall under different systems.

He stressed the need for joint planning between government bodies and traditional institutions.

On forming a new district, he said several points must be studied. These include population, distance from present headquarters, education and health facilities, roads, economy, and funding support.

Any such proposal must go through a committee led by the Chief Secretary. Senior officials from key departments will study it.

The Chief Minister said the government will review the idea carefully before taking any step. He also thanked Bah Paul Lyngdoh for raising the issue and opening a wider discussion on improving governance in the State capital.

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## ***Nagaland CM Inaugurates Women-Centric BPO to Boost Jobs and Skills***

### **KRC TIMES News Desk**

***Nagaland:** Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Wednesday launched the JSW Women-Centric BPO, a new project aimed at creating jobs and skill support for women in the state.*

*The centre has been set up under JSW Shakti in partnership with the Investments and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN).*

*Speaking at the event, Rio said the state has been working to support women through business, training, and digital access so they can find stable and respectful work.*

*He said the new BPO gives young women a modern work space where they can learn, grow, and become financially independent.*

*Rio also thanked Sangita Jindal, Chairperson of the JSW Foundation, for extending the Foundation's social work to Nagaland. He expressed hope that she would visit the state soon.*

*The project focuses on training and jobs for underprivileged women by combining skills, technology, and employment support.*

*Rio praised IDAN, led by Abumetha, for pushing investment and innovation in Nagaland and helping build Brand Nagaland through partnerships.*

*He said the initiative will create jobs and inspire youth to use new opportunities, while assuring full support from the state government.*

# Manipur CM Mourns Former MLA Vungzagin Valte, Meets Family in Gurgaon

**Imphal:** Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh has expressed deep sorrow over the death of former MLA Vungzagin Valte, calling it a great loss for the state.

In his condolence message, the Chief Minister said Valte was a respected leader who served three terms as MLA from Thanlon constituency. He said Valte worked with strong dedication for the welfare of the people and society.



Valte had been under long medical treatment in New Delhi and Churachandpur. As his condition worsened, he was airlifted to Delhi for advanced care with support from the state government. Singh said he personally monitored Valte's health and ensured proper medical arrangements.



On Saturday, the Chief Minister also visited the bereaved family, relatives, and well wishers of the late leader in Gurgaon. During the meeting, he discussed arrangements for the last rites and assured the family that the government stands firmly with them in this difficult time.






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*He said all support will be given to ensure that the final rites are conducted with dignity and honour, while praying for eternal peace of the departed soul.*

  
 18<sup>th</sup> International  
**GUWAHATI FILM FESTIVAL**

  
 Organised by  
**GAUHATI CINE CLUB**

In association with  
 Federation of Film Societies of India (ER)  
 and  
 Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam



Kanaklal Baruah Auditorium, Assam State Museum complex, Guwahati-01, 13-17 February, 2026

*The 18th International Guwahati Film Festival concludes*

**Sanjeev Baishya**

The 18th International Guwahati Film Festival concluded on a memorable and emotionally resonant note, celebrating cinema and paying tribute to one of Assam's most beloved cultural icons, Zubeen Garg.

***On the closing day, the festival honoured Zubeen Garg with a special screening of the film Dinabandhu, directed by Munin Baruah. The film, featuring music composed by Zubeen himself and showcasing his compelling performance alongside the powerful acting of Tapan Das left the audience mesmerized. The screening served a heartfelt tribute to Zubeen Garg's immense contribution to Assamese cinema and music.***





The film was presented by producer Gopal Jalan, who was felicitated by Mrigen Das, Vice President of Gauhati Cine Club, in recognition of his valuable contribution.

This was followed by the screening of Ashen Cloud from Sri Lanka, adding an international flavour to the closing evening.

The closing function was held prior to the final screenings. Team Gauhati Cine Club expressed heartfelt gratitude to all cine lovers, patrons, delegates, and well-wishers whose love and cooperation made the festival a grand success.

The Director of the closing film Gorai Phakhri, Rajni Basumatary, graced the occasion along with her cast and crew. She was felicitated by Dr. Garima Kalita, Executive Member of Gauhati Cine Club, and her cast and crew were honoured by Hiranya Kalita, Jt. Secretary of GCC.

*The 18th International Guwahati Film Festival, organised by Gauhati Cine Club in association with The Federation of Film Societies of India (Eastern Region) and World Film Festival Kolkata, concluded on a positive and hopeful note. The festival reaffirmed that the love for good and meaningful cinema continues to thrive, and that the Cine Society Movement will gain renewed recognition and momentum in the days ahead.*

*Gauhati Cine Club gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors and partners: The Directorate of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Assam, Federation of Film Societies of India (ER), State Bank of India, World Film Festival, Kolkata, Janasangjog, Film Critics Guild, Indian Railways, Fine Line Communication, Indian Oil, ABCI Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., JB's, KRC TIMES and Swajati.*

*Here's to the enduring spirit of cinema and the continued journey of meaningful storytelling!*

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# What Do Bengalis Think About the Assam Assembly Elections?

Pradip Dutta Roy



Regardless of which political party comes to power in Dispur, Bengalis in this state have long been treated as a vote bank. Instead of being given the democratic right to elect representatives from within their own community, they are discouraged through misleading arguments. Although various Bengali social and political organisations attempt to form alliances before elections and speak of resistance, they rarely receive majority support. As a result, such alliances fail and gradually fade away.

Assembly seats in Bengali-dominated areas are reduced. Even elected MLAs are often kept away from ministerial positions. Emotional narratives are created to divide different communities, muddying the waters for political advantage. The ruling party then benefits from this confusion. This pattern persisted during the Congress era and remains in place under the BJP government.

Often, nationalistic sentiment is used to sideline backward communities. Before elections, many people become confused about which direction to take. Those who fail to find clarity ultimately surrender to the prevailing political current and end up helping even candidates they dislike to win. In a democracy, independent politics has limited strength. Even if an independent candidate wins, they often lack sufficient opportunity to serve their voters effectively. Therefore, most people feel compelled to vote for candidates from established political parties. Even when political rights are curtailed, circumstances do not always allow open protest. Those who speak up are silenced in the name of party discipline.

## The Case of Barak Valley

Consider Barak Valley. It previously had 15 Assembly seats. Based on the population proportion, the number should have increased to 18. Instead, through political manoeuvring, the state government reduced it to 13 seats. When protests were raised, the Chief Minister stated that the two seats remain within the state, so there was no reason for outrage. However, the real issue is that in the areas where seats were added, Bengalis would not be able to secure representation. Effectively, this move curtailed Bengali political rights.

In regions where seats were increased, the population proportion is lower compared to the Barak Valley. The intention appears clear. To prevent strong leadership from emerging in Barak, seats were reduced, and candidate selection followed a specific bias. Supporters of the ruling party may understand this but remain silent due to circumstances. Opposition leaders who raised the issue are also not in a strong position. Only individuals outside party structures continue to protest, though the ruling party has ignored them. Blinded by the desire to retain power, they may only realise the consequences when they fear losing it. Despite recognising the injustice done to Barak, people seem helpless and resigned.

## Language Movement and Historical Grievances

The history of discrimination against Barak Valley is long-standing. Repeated attempts were made to impose the Assamese language. In 1961, people of Barak rose in protest against the 1960 language circular. Many sacrificed their lives to protect their linguistic rights. However, the state government has still not officially recognized them as language martyrs.

The Mehrotra Commission, formed to investigate the police firing at Silchar Railway Station in 1961, has never had its report published. Instead, during a legislative session, a state minister stated that official records describe those killed as “miscreants.” This reflects the government’s attitude. Refusing to recognize innocent victims of state violence as martyrs is deeply unfortunate.

Although the report on the Nellie massacre was published in the Assembly, the 1961 commission report remains undisclosed. Offering floral tributes at the Shahid Minar on Language Martyrs’ Day does not constitute true recognition. Renaming Silchar Railway Station in honor of the language martyrs is a demand tied to the emotions of millions—not just Bengalis, but all communities of Barak Valley who participated selflessly in the movement.

# Unemployment in Barak Valley

## Post-Independence Discrimination

Since Independence, discriminatory treatment toward Bengali speakers in Assam has continued in changing forms. Dividing people into “sons of the soil” and “outsiders” remains an active political strategy.

After Partition, Sylhet was pushed into Pakistan through a referendum. Hindu residents migrated to other parts of Assam for safety. Various conspiracies attempted to deny them linguistic and educational rights, though strong resistance prevented success.

Recently, Bengali Muslims have been labelled “Miya” and branded as Bangladeshis. However, documented evidence of large-scale Muslim migration after 1971 is scarce. Many individuals declared foreigners by tribunals have later been recognised as Indian citizens by High Courts or the Supreme Court. Despite this, harassment continues—allegedly to consolidate Hindu votes. Religious division weakens the broader Bengali identity, yet many fail to recognise this.

The youth of Barak Valley are in a state of uncertainty. There are approximately 500,000 registered unemployed individuals in the region. Local candidates often do not receive priority even for third and fourth-grade government jobs, with candidates brought from the Brahmaputra Valley instead.

Although Barak has engineering colleges, a medical college, and a central university, many students prefer to pursue higher education in Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, or Bengaluru. The reason is that employment opportunities are better in those cities. There is no assurance of employment if they remain in Barak. Some campus placements do occur, but mostly outside the state.

In a state of about 25 million people, 4.5 million reside in the Barak Valley. Yet adequate government opportunities are lacking. Even Master’s degree holders apply for low-level positions. Many young people are forced to engage in manual labour, auto-rickshaw driving, or small roadside businesses to support their families.

The AIUDF, led by Badruddin Ajmal, also faces instability. Consolidating minority votes against the ruling party is a challenging task. Bengalis are often divided along religious lines, making electoral outcomes uncertain.

## Political Scenario

The Congress party is attempting to strengthen its organisation across the state to challenge the ruling BJP. However, internal resignations highlight organisational weaknesses.

Although Bengali organisations attempt to pressure political parties to ensure fair representation, it remains doubtful how effective these efforts will be. There is concern that their strong rhetoric may ultimately yield little practical result.

## Over 2.7 Lakh Women and Girls Reported Missing in Madhya Pradesh Since 2020, 68,000 Still Untraced

Bhopal: A total of nearly 2.74 lakh women and girls have been reported missing in Madhya Pradesh between 2020 and January 2026. The figures were shared by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in a written reply in the State Assembly.

As per the data, 2,35,977 individuals have been traced so far. However, 68,334 women and girls are still unaccounted for. The numbers have raised fresh concerns over safety and monitoring systems across the state. On average, about 130 disappearances were reported daily during this period.

### Rising Trend

Annual missing cases crossed 30,000 in 2020 and climbed beyond 40,000 in 2023. Major urban centres such as Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Ujjain recorded the highest numbers. Congress MLA Vikrant Bhuria described the situation as a “structural failure” and called for greater transparency and urgent corrective steps.

### Concerns Over Systemic Gaps

While officials pointed to rescue and recovery drives, critics flagged ongoing gaps in tracking and response systems. These gaps, they said, could expose missing women and girls to risks such as trafficking, exploitation and forced marriages.

The data has sparked debate on the need for stronger coordination between law enforcement, local communities and social agencies to improve prevention, reporting and recovery efforts.

Experts stress that beyond policing, awareness at the community level and faster response mechanisms are key to ensuring safety across the state.

# IIT Guwahati Showcases Method to Detect and Correct Wikipedia Name Errors at India AI Impact Summit 2026

## Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Researchers have developed a multilingual and scalable method to identify and correct Surface Name Errors (SNEs) in Wikipedia, thus helping improve information reliability for both human users and artificial intelligence systems.

Wikipedia is a free, multilingual online encyclopaedia created and maintained by a global community of volunteers through open collaboration. A surface name refers to the text used in Wikipedia articles to mention or link to another entity. A Surface Name Error (SNE) occurs when this text is incorrect. For example, using a misspelled word like “Parise” to link to the page for Paris.

A study conducted by the IIT Guwahati research team found that about 3% to 6% of all entity mentions in Wikipedia contain Surface Name Errors. While these errors may appear minor, they have significant implications.

For human users, an incorrect surface name can reduce the perceived credibility and reliability of the information provided.

Similarly, many machine learning and deep learning models use Wikipedia as a core dataset. Such errors in surface names can negatively impact AI tasks and model performance.



To address this challenge, Prof. Amit Awekar, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, along with his then M. Tech student Anuj Khare (batch of 2022), built a method that uses mathematical frequency patterns, making it adaptable across languages.

The developed method follows a three-step approach to classify SNEs.

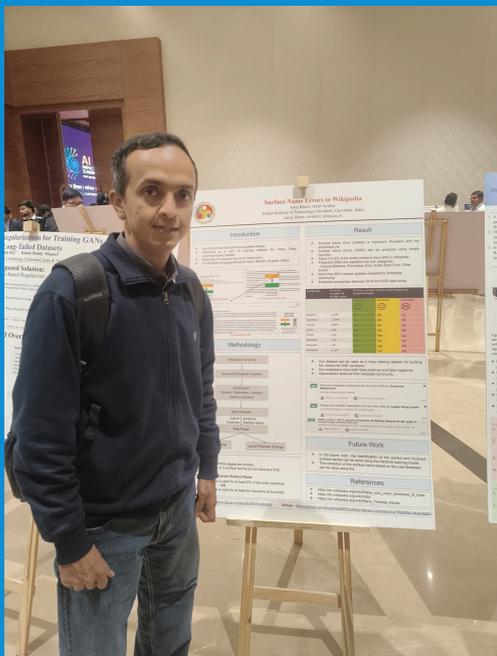
The first step included scanning Wikipedia and converting every link into a quadruplet containing information on:

- the page where the link appears
- The page it points to
- The surface name used in the link
- The surrounding textual context

In the next step, the developed method reviewed the surface name and considered it correct only if:

- It appeared at least 10 times
- It accounted for at least 5% of all links pointing to a specific page

Surface names that did not meet these criteria were flagged as potential errors.



In the final step, it categorised the detected errors into “typing mistakes”, such as “Gawahati” instead of “Guwahati”, or “entity span errors”, where extra or incorrect words are mistakenly included in the link.

The researchers tested the developed method on eight languages, including English, Sanskrit, German, Italian, Urdu, Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati, and found accurate outcomes.

Speaking about the real-world application of the developed method, Prof. Amit Awekar, said, “This work shows us that we should not be trusting the data from the web blindly, both for human use and training AI models. Good data is the beginning of any good AI model and downstream application.” To validate the developed method, the research team compared snapshots of English Wikipedia from 2018 and 2022 and found that about 30% of the errors predicted by the method had been corrected on Wikipedia over four years, confirming its accuracy.

Wikipedia is maintained by volunteers worldwide, and the developed method can help editors identify hidden typos and linking errors that might otherwise remain unnoticed for years.

To further validate the accuracy of this method, it is notable that the Wikipedia community has accepted more than 99% of the manual corrections suggested by the researchers.

By combining scalable data processing with practical validation through the Wikipedia community, the IIT Guwahati team has demonstrated an effective approach to strengthening digital knowledge systems.

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- ▶ Social Media engagement
- ▶ Partnership, Events, Presence (PEP)

**Making Life Simple**



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