

Assam Forum Conference in London



Comments 0



AT News 13 September 2015 Updated 15 Sept 12280 views

Assam Forum of Great Britain (AFGB) organized its 4th Annual conference at the London School of Economics on September 5, 2015.

MP Sarbananda Sonowal sent a good will message appreciating the efforts of the [Assamese](#) diaspora to contribute towards solving the problems of Assam. Dr. Jitendralal Borkakoti, AFGB Chairman, has stated that the objective of AFGB is “to galvanize [Assamese](#) people both in England and Assam to think and find solutions for the serious problems of Assam”. He also stated that a Memorandum to Prime Minister Modi was accepted by Ajit Doval last January, and it raised eight important problems of Assam.



This year three burning issues of Assam were discussed in the conference. Smitana Saikia in her paper on “Crisis of ethnic identity: who is an [Assamese](#)?” comes to the conclusion that it is impossible to define an [Assamese](#) identity [as](#) the [Assamese](#) society is a composite society; and this has been increasingly realised both in the political and social circles in Assam. In the absence of an inclusive definition of an [Assamese](#) identity, it will not be possible to implement Clause [6](#) of the Assam [Accord](#), [as](#) it is divisive. The emphasis should be on Clause [7](#) so that the people of Assam become united in their struggle to achieve rapid economic development. Dr. Rituparna Sarma and Ms. Rimli [Das](#), in their paper on “Gender Issues in Assam”, reports a worsening situation in Assam with spiralling violence [against](#) women including abduction, molestation, rape, dowry killings, and witch hunting. They have pointed out the disturbing development of [girls](#) and young women being kidnapped or lured by traffickers. Ignorant and economically disadvantaged people in the remote areas of Assam should be made aware by police and relevant NGOs.

There was also a Panel discussion on poor governance in Assam and how corruption has become institutionalised in Assam. The Panel (Dr. Aburba Baruah, Dr. Jitendralal Borkakoti, Zaved Ckoudhury and Dr. Dinesh Kakati) has stated that good governance requires capacity building, accountability and transparency. It has been pointed out how, because of poor governance, (a) allocation under Five [Year](#) Plan remain unutilised (Rs. 13,093 during 2001-02 and 2012-13), (b) how the Water Resources Department failed to use allocated funds (to the tune of 38% to 60% during the period 2002-03 to 2011-12), and (c) how the Government of Assam routinely fail to submit utilisation certificates (20,000 certificates are pending from 58 Departments amounting to Rs.12.000 crore from 2001-02 to 2013-14). Only a movement from civic societies can [lead](#) to an end of blatant corruption.

AT News

Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org

BY AT NEWS

People's consultation on agroecology, climate adaptation concludes in Jorhat

USTM concludes workshop on academic writing and scholarly publishing

'Grit & Glory' released in Guwahati, highlights RSS work in Northeast

Art exhibition raises awareness for vulture conservation in Jorhat

ABSU holds youth motivation programme at Rangia College

ON THIS DAY

CDC of Nazira conducts inspection of Fair Price Shops

Rongmei Community Celebrates 7th Cultural and Freshers' Meet in Guwahati

Congress-AIUDF deal finalized

Manas National Park opens for visitors

Link roads inaugurated in Kapahera

RELATED

Indigenous Peoples' Group Marks Foundation Day in Mariani

People's consultation on agroecology, climate adaptation concludes in Jorhat

USTM concludes workshop on academic writing and scholarly publishing

'Grit & Glory' released in Guwahati, highlights RSS work in Northeast

Young poet Avinash Bastabha's 'The Tale of Termites' unveiled in Jorhat
