

Guwahati's Historic Mahafezkhana Demolished, Sparking Outrage Over Heritage Loss



Comments 0



AT News 30 March 2025 24811 views

The demolition of Mahafezkhana, Assam's oldest surviving concrete structure and a vital piece of Northeast India's architectural heritage, has triggered widespread outrage. Built between 1855 and 1865, the 160-year-old building—once a custodian of crucial land records during British colonial rule—was razed by the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) as part of a park extension and Brahmaputra riverfront beautification project, according to reports published on Sunday.

Senior journalist Mrinal Talukdar expressed his dismay on X, describing the demolition as “not just demolition—this is desecration.” In a series of posts, including one at 2:30 AM IST on March 30 (Post ID: 1906172207753298046), Talukdar highlighted the structure’s historical significance, noting its resilience through the devastating earthquakes of 1897 and 1950. He detailed its unique features, such as a full wraparound verandah, massive sal tree supports over 45 feet tall, and its role as a “living witness to Assam’s architectural legacy.”

The demolition, carried out without public consultation or preservation efforts, has sparked a fierce debate over the balance between development and heritage conservation. Historians and locals argue that Mahafezkhana symbolized the foundation of Assam’s colonial governance system and served as a tangible link to the region’s administrative and archival past. The late historian Dipankar Banerjee had previously noted that the structure, also known as the record room, was a cornerstone of Guwahati’s history.

Critics, including filmmaker Utpal Borpujari, have lamented the loss, pointing out that “what 1857 and 1950 quakes couldn’t achieve...we as a community have no respect for heritage and history.” The GMDA’s actions, part of the broader Master Plan Guwahati 2025 and riverfront development initiatives, have raised questions about the authority’s commitment to preserving the city’s cultural landmarks.

As the rubble of Mahafezkhana now lies scattered, calls for accountability and stronger heritage protection measures are growing, with many urging the Assam government to reconsider its approach to development projects impacting historical sites.

OUTRAGEOUS! [#Mahafezkhana](#) — Assam's oldest surviving concrete structure, perhaps the oldest in all of Northeast India — has been mercilessly destroyed by GMDA in the name of a park extension! This is not just demolition — this is desecration. 1/4 pic.twitter.com/L4t2CQ0VQf

— Mrinal Talukdar (@mrinaltalukdar8) [March 30, 2025](#)

AT News

Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org

BY AT NEWS

Israeli Journalist Gideon Levy Receives 2026 PEC Award

Shyntor Festival to return to Shyntorbulia in December

AUWJ urges Assam to match Bengal journalist welfare measures

Hiren Gohain Slams Akhil Gogoi Over "Self-Serving" Politics Amid Congress-Raijor Dal Rift

UN recognises campaign against child marriage with global day declaration

ON THIS DAY

Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act notified

Sundaram to investigate SP EAC scuffle

Gold Rush for press club screening

Restore Chakma-Hajong rights: Civil body to government

Lafikul family unhappy with CBI for delay in probe

RELATED

ABSU burns copies of 'Hamkoshar Parishista' over Bodo script issue

Tension persists in Bihubar after former paramilitary personnel's killing

A heartfelt tribute to poet Anis Uz Zaman

Tension grips Bihubar after youth social worker's killing

New Delhi BRICS Summit: Hoping for a Permanent Indian Presence in the UNSC
