



**MINUTES**  
*OF*  
**24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**PLANNING BOARD**

HELD ON  
16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 11.30 AM  
IN THE PREMENDRA MOHAN GOSWAMI  
SHABHA KAKSHA OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
BUILDING

**ASSAM UNIVERSITY**  
(A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED BY AN  
ACT OF PARLIAMENT)  
**SILCHAR**



## ASSAM UNIVERSITY: SILCHAR

### MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 11.30 A.M. IN THE PREMENDRA MOHAN GOSWAMI SHABHA KAKSHA IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OF ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR.

The following members were present :

1. Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant, **Vice-Chancellor** : Chairman
2. Prof. Khumukcham Tomba Singh, **Visitor's Nominee** : Member  
Registrar, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Imphal
3. Prof. Prasanta Kumar Acharya, **Visitor's Nominee** : Member  
Head, Dept. of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar
4. Prof. Debaraj Panigrahi, **Visitor's Nominee** : Member  
Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, Tripura University, Agartala
5. Prof. Ayon Bhattacharjee, **Visitor's Nominee** : Member  
Dept. of Physics, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Shillong
6. Prof. Ajit Kr Das, Dean, School of Environmental Science : Member
7. Prof. P. B. Mazumder, Dean, School of Life Sciences : Member
8. Prof. H. Ramananda Singh, Dean, School of Management Studies : Member
9. Prof. Anindya Syam Choudhury, Dean of English & Foreign Lang. Studies : Member
10. Prof. M. A. Ansari, Dean, School of Economics & Commerce : Member
11. Prof. Sanjib Das, Dean, School of Medical & Paramedical Sciences : Member
12. Prof. Madhumita Dhar Sarkar, Dean, School of Legal Studies : Member
13. Prof. Manoj Kr. Sinha, Dean, School of Library Sciences : Member
14. Prof. Karabi Dutta Choudhury, Dean of Physical Sciences : Member
15. Dr. Subhadeep Dhar, Finance Officer i/c : Permanent Invitee
16. Prof. Piyush Pandey, Director, IQAC & Dean (Research) : Special Invitee
17. Prof. C. R. Bhattacharjee, Dean (Academic) : Special Invitee
18. Dr. Pradosh Kiran Nath, **Registrar** : Ex-officio Secretary

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At the outset the Vice-Chancellor and the Chairman of the Planning Board welcomed all the members present in the meeting. The Chairman also welcomed the members who have attended the meeting for the first time as Visitor's Nominees & as Deans of Schools.

Thereafter following agenda items were taken up for discussion and resolutions were adopted accordingly.

**Item No. 1 : Confirmation of Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Planning Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 :**

**PB:24:01-26:1 :** Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Planning Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 along with action taken report of the meeting was placed in the meeting for perusal by the members. The minutes as placed may be considered for confirmation.

**Resolution :** The members of the Board perused the resolutions taken in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Planning Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and on consideration the minutes of the Board was confirmed.

**Item No. 2 : Lecture Theatres in academic departments of the University :**

**PB:24:01-26:2 :** To strengthen teaching-learning infrastructure and address the growing enrolment in undergraduate and postgraduate programs, it is proposed that each academic department be equipped with a dedicated Lecture Theatre of minimum 100+ seating capacity. The proposed lecture theatre shall be designed with tiered seating, optimal acoustics, appropriate lighting, and ergonomic seating arrangements to facilitate effective one-to-many instruction. The facility will support core UG/PG lectures, interdisciplinary courses, invited talks, departmental seminars, workshops, and academic outreach activities. Provision for ICT-enabled teaching tools, including projection systems, audio-visual aids, and internet connectivity, shall be incorporated / upgraded to ensure compatibility with blended and hybrid learning models in line with NEP 2020. Establishing departmental lecture theatres will reduce dependency on centralized halls, improve scheduling efficiency, and enhance academic engagement while creating future-ready learning spaces capable of being upgraded into smart lecture theatres.

The proposal was placed before the Board for perusal and consideration.

**Resolution :** On being heard the Director, IQAC the proposal was appreciated by the members and it was resolved that a Detail Project Report (DPR) needs to be prepared and for the purpose the Engineering Cell of the University shall prepare the said DPR in consultation with the Director, IQAC and to be placed to the Vice Chancellor for further course of action to be taken.

**Item No. 3 : New academic and research centers:**

**PB:24:01-26:3 :**

- a) **Centre for Defense Studies:** It is proposed to establish a Centre for Defence Studies as an interdisciplinary academic and research hub to promote teaching, research, and policy engagement in the areas of national security, defence strategy, border

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management, internal security, geopolitics, cyber and space security, disaster response, and civil-military relations, with special reference to the North-East region of India. The Centre will offer certificate, diploma, and postgraduate programs, support policy-oriented research, strategic studies, and area studies, and serve as a platform for interaction with armed forces, paramilitary organizations, disaster management authorities, and strategic think tanks. The Centre will also facilitate capacity building, leadership training, simulations, and strategic dialogues, and contribute evidence-based inputs for national and regional security planning. Establishment of the Centre aligns with NEP 2020 and national priorities on strategic autonomy and internal security, while strengthening the University's role in policy research, youth engagement, and nation-building.

- b) **Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioeconomy:** It is proposed to establish a Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioeconomy as a multidisciplinary platform to advance climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable intensification, agri-biotechnology, soil and water conservation, biofertilizers and biopesticides, circular bioeconomy, agri-waste valorization, and nature-based solutions. The Centre will integrate expertise from agricultural sciences, life sciences including microbiology and biotechnology, environmental sciences, economics, and rural development to support research, innovation, capacity building, and technology translation tailored to regional and national priorities, with special emphasis on the North-East Indian agro-ecological context. It will promote farmer-centric innovations, start-ups, and industry linkages, facilitate pilot-scale demonstrations and field validation, and contribute to policy support for sustainable food systems. The Centre aligns with NEP 2020, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, and India's bioeconomy roadmap, strengthening the University's role in agricultural sustainability, livelihood enhancement, and green economic growth.

The proposals as above were placed before the Board for perusal and consideration.

**Resolution :** The members perused both the matter and after detail discussion the Board resolved that the Chairman may be authorized to constitute a Committee headed by Dean (Academic) for preparation of a DPR for establishment of the above Centers. The Committee to be constituted shall submit its report at the earliest.

#### **Item No. 4 : New Academic Departments in the University :**

##### **PB:24:01-26:4 :**

- a) **Department of Energy:** It is proposed to establish a Department of Energy to address the growing national and regional demand for expertise in renewable and sustainable energy systems, with a focus on solar, bioenergy, biomass and biofuels, energy storage, hydrogen energy, waste-to-energy, smart grids, and energy efficiency. The Department will offer undergraduate (B. Tech), postgraduate (M. Tech), and doctoral programmes, and undertake

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interdisciplinary research integrating engineering, environmental sciences, materials science, and policy studies. Special emphasis will be placed on decentralized energy solutions, rural electrification, and energy access relevant to the North-East Indian context. The Department will promote industry collaboration, technology development, skill training, and entrepreneurship, and contribute to national initiatives such as National Solar Mission, National Green Hydrogen Mission, and India's net-zero commitments, in alignment with NEP 2020 and sustainable development goals.

- b) **Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence:** It is proposed to establish a Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to develop skilled human resources and advance research in data analytics, machine learning, deep learning, artificial intelligence, big data systems, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), natural language processing, computer vision, and AI ethics and governance. The Department will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes, and support interdisciplinary applications across life sciences, agriculture, healthcare, environment, energy, social sciences, and governance. Emphasis will be placed on industry-relevant curriculum, hands-on training, computational laboratories, high-performance computing, and start-up incubation. The Department will also contribute to data-driven policy research, digital innovation, and skill development in line with national initiatives such as Digital India, National AI Mission, and India's data economy roadmap, thereby enhancing the University's academic relevance and employability outcomes.
- c) **Department of Civil Engineering:** It is proposed to establish a Department of Civil Engineering to address emerging challenges in sustainable infrastructure development, climate-resilient construction, water resources management, geotechnical engineering, transportation systems, environmental engineering, and disaster-resilient design, with special relevance to the North-East Indian region. The Department will offer undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs, and promote interdisciplinary teaching and research integrating sustainability, digital technologies, and smart infrastructure. Emphasis will be placed on green construction materials, structural health monitoring, BIM and digital twins, flood and landslide mitigation, urban and rural infrastructure planning, and sustainable water and sanitation systems.

The proposals as above were placed before the Board for perusal and consideration.

**Resolution :** The members perused the above matter and after detail discussion the Board resolved that the Chairman may be authorized to constitute a Committee headed by Dean (Academic) to prepare a DPR for establishment of the above three Departments. The Committee to be constituted shall submit its report at the earliest.



### Item No. 5 : Net Zero Carbon Campus Initiative:

**PB:24:01-26:5** : Building upon the initiatives already undertaken by the University, including the adoption of solar energy systems and campus-wide LED lighting, it is proposed to develop a comprehensive Net Zero Carbon Campus roadmap to systematically reduce and neutralize the institution's carbon footprint. The proposal envisages scaling up renewable energy generation, improving energy efficiency through smart monitoring and green building practices, promoting sustainable mobility, and implementing circular resource management for waste and water. Nature-based solutions such as afforestation, biodiversity enhancement, and soil carbon sequestration will be integrated to create on-campus carbon sinks, while residual emissions will be addressed through verified carbon offset mechanisms. The initiative will be supported by robust carbon accounting, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement, transforming the campus into a living laboratory for climate action. A committee may be constituted to prepare and submit phase wise plan.

The proposal was placed before the Board for perusal and consideration.

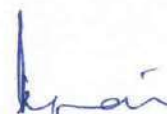
**Resolution** : The Board discussed the matter and decided to constitute a Committee to prepare a detail proposal. The Board authorized the Chairman to constitute the Committee.

### Item No. 6 : Establishment of the University Press:

**PB:24:01-26:6** : It is proposed to revive and re-establish the University Press as a strategic academic and knowledge-dissemination unit to support high-quality scholarly publishing, including textbooks, reference works, monographs, edited volumes, journals, policy briefs, and regional studies. The revived Press will promote peer-reviewed, ethically governed, and open-access publishing models, with particular emphasis on research emerging from the University, the North-East region, and interdisciplinary areas of national relevance. Leveraging digital publishing platforms, print-on-demand technology, and multilingual outputs, the University Press will enhance academic visibility, preserve regional knowledge, support NEP-2020-aligned curriculum development, and strengthen outreach to students, researchers, policymakers, and society at large. The initiative will also encourage student and faculty engagement in academic writing and publishing, contributing to the University's intellectual leadership and global presence.

The proposal was placed before the Board for perusal and consideration.

**Resolution** : The proposal for establishment of the University Press was discussed in detail and the members were of the opinion that the University should have its own Press as early as possible. The necessity of University Press was elaborated by many members and the Board resolved that a Committee shall be constituted by the Competent Authority for submission of detail on the same.



**Item No. 7 : Item from the Chair :**

**PB:24:01-26:7 :** No item was placed from the Chair.

**Item No. 8 : Any other item with permission from the Chair :**

**PB:24:01-26:8 :** No item was placed from the member.

There being no other item to discuss, the meeting ended with thanks from & to the Chair.



(Dr. Pradosh Kiron Nath)  
Ex-officio-Secretary  
Planning Board  
Assam University, Silchar



(Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant)  
Vice Chancellor & Chairman  
Planning Board  
Assam University, Silchar