

# UNESCO in Controversy Over India's Ahom Moidams Heritage Site Nomination Amid Cultural Erasure Claims

*Critics argue India's nomination of Ahom Moidams for UNESCO World Heritage status distracts from ongoing cultural oppression and neglect in Northeast India.*

ASSAM, INDIA, July 16, 2024

[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- A significant controversy has erupted in Assam, India, following the government's decision to nominate the Ahom Moidams as the country's sole candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status. This move has been met with

widespread concern, with many viewing it as an attempt to mask India's systematic cultural erasure and oppression of ethnic minorities in the Northeast region, an area that witnessed severe racial riots and violent crackdowns last year.



The burial mounds of the Ahom kings, The Ahom Moidams, India

The Ahom Moidams, which are burial mounds of the Ahom kings, hold immense historical and cultural significance for the Assamese people. However, the site's current condition starkly contrasts with the honor of a World Heritage nomination. Reports indicate severe neglect and mismanagement by the Indian government, raising serious questions about its commitment to preserving this important cultural heritage.

Sanitation and waste management at the Moidams are virtually nonexistent, leaving visitors and scholars to navigate through litter and unsanitary facilities. The surrounding infrastructure is in a deplorable state, with pathways, informational signage, and maintenance services either poorly managed or entirely absent. The structural elements crucial to the site's preservation are deteriorating, highlighting a troubling lack of governmental care and investment.

This neglect is particularly alarming given the broader context of India's authoritarian governance in the Northeast, where minority groups feel increasingly marginalized. These communities fear that the nomination of the Ahom Moidams is a facade to distract from the

ongoing cultural erasure and oppression they face. The dissatisfaction among the minority community has provoked broader public outrage, with calls for accountability and justice growing louder.

International organizations and NGOs, including UNESCO, are urged to address these serious concerns. Critics argue that UNESCO should condemn the Indian government's neglect of minority culture rather than reward it with a prestigious World Heritage nomination. They call for UNESCO to intervene and deny the nomination to pressure India into fulfilling its duty to protect and preserve its minority cultural heritage genuinely.

The situation demands immediate attention and action to ensure that cultural heritage sites like the Ahom Moidams are not only preserved but also respected and protected as symbols of the diverse cultural tapestry they represent. The international community's response to this issue will be closely watched, as it reflects the broader commitment to cultural preservation and human rights.

#### About UNESCO

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is a specialized agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture.

#### About Ahom Moidams

The Ahom Moidams are burial mounds of the Ahom kings, located in Assam, India. They are considered significant cultural heritage sites reflecting the history and legacy of the Ahom dynasty.

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