

Patriotic forum bats for work permits to foreign settlers



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Understanding the gravity of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Assam, a northeast [India](#) based patriotic people's forum urges the Union government in [New Delhi](#) to think about offering work permits (without voting [rights](#)) to some of them in case their deportation becomes impossible because of serious humanitarian & international [crisis](#).

Reiterating its old stand for 1951 [as](#) the cut-off year to detect all immigrants from the then East Pakistan and later [Bangladesh](#) to the State, the Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA) also appealed to Sarbananda Sonowal led government at Dispur to support the 1951 [as](#) base year in the Supreme Court of [India](#), [as](#) the case is presently in the apex court's jurisdiction.

"Considering the spirit of Assam Movement (1979 to 1985) to deport all foreigners with 1951 base year, for which [over](#) 850 martyrs-Khargeswar Talukder being the first, sacrificed their lives, the PPFA [found](#) reasons to support the same," said a statement issued to the media outlets.

The forum pointed out that the immigrants who entered [India](#) after 1951 till 16 December 1971 should be treated [as](#) East Pakistani nationals, [as](#) [Bangladesh](#) emerged [as](#) a sovereign nation only after 16 December (not 25 March 1971 [as](#) often reported in Indian media outlets) following the surrender of Pakistani forces under the leadership of AAK Niazi to the Muktiyoddhas (forces of [Bangladesh](#) freedom struggle). Arguing strongly to deport the immigrants from [Bangladesh](#), who came after 16 December 1971, the forum urged the Union government to [start](#) diplomatic exercises with the [Bangladesh](#) government in Dhaka. It also expressed hope that a friendly regime in Dhaka would respond to [New Delhi](#)'s worries positively and timely.

In another aspect, the forum commented that once the [citizenship](#) amendment bills are duly passed in the [Parliament](#), all the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian [refugees](#) should be rehabilitated with equal distribution across the country. Among them, those who prefer to stay legally in Assam should adopt [Assamese](#) language [as](#) their medium of instructions, asserted the statement.

“Adopting [Assamese](#) language [as](#) the medium of instruction by those settlers would help in promoting the [Assamese](#) culture and thus contributing for a stronger and safer [India](#). It will also help removing the linguistic threat perception to the [indigenous](#) populace of the [State](#),” opined the statement endorsed by Rupam Barua, Pramod Kalita, Jagadindra Raichoudhury, Ujjal Saikia, Bidhayak [Das](#), Kishour Giri, Dhiraj Goswami, Mridul Chakrabarty etc.

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