



**COVER STORY**

**Price of inaction**

ABIR PHUKAN

**Governments at the Centre and in the State need to stop playing politics and face the ground realities in the region.**

RITU RAJ KONWAR



**Border Security Force personnel keep vigil at the Masalabari outpost along the India-Bangladesh border in Assam's Dhubri district. A file photograph.**

AS "peace and harmony" is sought to be "restored" and "rehabilitation" of the "displaced" is given priority in Kokrajhar and its neighbouring areas in the Bodoland Territorial Areas District, we realise that time has again chosen an ugly way to remind us about the disastrous cascading effects of a few short-sighted and politically motivated acts and omissions.

**A Brief Background**

An amendment to the Constitution, by way of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2003, gave Bodoland Territorial Areas District the status of an autonomous district as a Sixth Schedule area under the Constitution. Thereafter, in accordance with Article 244(2), Bodoland came to be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule.

The amendment contemplated the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), comprising elected and nominated members and equipped with the tasks of administration of the district. Before the amendment, the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) had established a

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<http://www.frontline.in/static/html/fl2916/stories/20120824291601700.htm>