

LGBRIMH joins NIMHANS and IIT Kharagpur in launching HEADS, an AI-assisted depression screening project in Indian languages

Wellcome Trust-funded initiative to support earlier identification of depression in Assamese, Hindi and Kannada

Tezpur, 24 September 2026: The Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur, today joined NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur in the formal launch of the Human-in-the-loop Evaluation of Assisted Depression Screening (HEADS) project. The launch took place at 3:00 PM in hybrid mode, with all partner institutions participating.

Funded by the Wellcome Trust, HEADS will develop artificial intelligence-assisted tools to help identify depression early. A key focus is building multilingual AI approaches in Assamese, Hindi and Kannada, as Indian languages remain poorly represented in mental health AI research. The project follows a human-in-the-loop model: the technology supports clinicians in assessment and decision-making, and does not replace them.

India's treatment gap for depression is estimated at around 85%. By enabling screening in a person's own language and helping health professionals recognise depression sooner, HEADS will examine how responsible AI can improve timely access to mental healthcare, including for communities across the North-East served by LGBRIMH.

About the funder: The Wellcome Trust is an independent global charitable foundation based in London, UK. Established in 1936, it funds research to tackle urgent health challenges, with mental health among its core focus areas.

More information: RAIMI – Responsible AI for Mental Health in India, raimilabs.com