

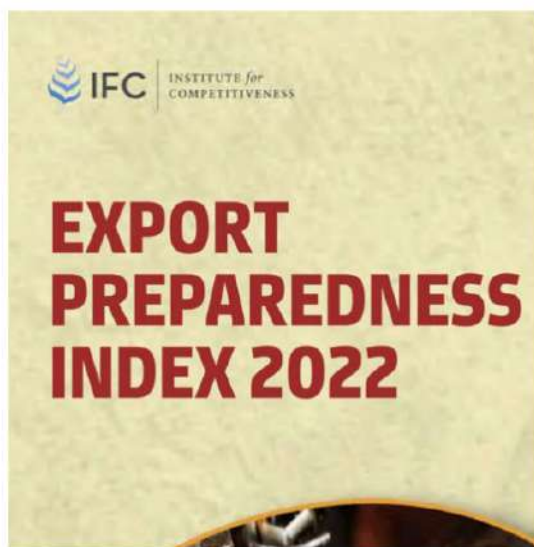


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1. Sarbananda Sonowal lays foundation stone of IWT terminal in Dibrugarh

The foundation stone of an Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal was laid by Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh.

The tourist-cum-cargo IWT terminal will be developed at a cost of Rs 46.60 crore.

Speaking at the programme, Sonowal said, “Once developed, this terminal is likely to play a pivotal role in rejuvenating inland waterways transportation in the region for both cargo and passenger movement, paving the way for the growth of trade and commerce.”

The development of the terminal will play a crucial role in the development of upper Assam and nearby states in terms of cargo as well as passenger transportation, Sonowal said.

Considering the growing popularity of inland waterways as an economical and efficient mode of transportation, other new industries like food processing, pharmaceuticals, cement, and others may come up in the region while boosting the economies of scale for existing major trade like tea, polymer, coal, and fertilizers, the Union minister said.

The modern terminal is also likely to play a crucial role as a harbinger of growth for the tourism sector with major destinations like Sibsagar, Majuli, Itanagar, Ziro Valley, Pasighat, Roing, and Tawang Valley.

The IWT terminal, under the aegis of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the nodal agency for inland waterways of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, will have features such as cargo and passenger berths, approach and other internal roads, transit shed, open storage area, truck parking area, and passenger waiting area.



2. Governor Gulab Chand Kataria opens Panchayat Conference 2023 phase-II

Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria inaugurated the Panchayat Conference 2023 Phase II organized by the Assam Legislative Assembly at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said, “Panchayati Raj institutions, as the pillars of India’s grassroots administrative system, hold immense significance in our democratic contour. I am hopeful that this conference presents a platform to the elected representatives of six districts, namely Kamrup (Metro), Kamrup (Rural), Nagaon, Morigaon, Darrang, and Nalbari, to raise their issues and discuss them to find agreeable solutions.

Kataria also said, “India is a country of villages, and more than half of the country’s population lives in rural areas. Therefore, it is important for our villages to go forward and become catalysts for national development”. The Governor also advocated for creating a robust ecosystem where the resources of rural areas can be utilized to their optimal level for the development of human resources belonging to villages. He also reiterated the need to create vocations in the villages so that nobody remains unemployed. He also stressed setting goals for rural development, and keeping these goals in mind, the gramme sabhas should be organised for the expeditious development of the villages.

Underscoring the importance of women’s empowerment, the Governor said that women’s participation in the decision-making process under the Panchayati Raj system is important. He said that apart from motivating them, it is necessary to make use of the unbridled energy of the womenfolk for development. Information technology should also be used in the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions to lend transparency. The Governor expressed confidence that the conference would inspire, empower, and give new impetus to the people’s representatives for the uplift of the people and strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions at the grassroots level.



3. Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria chairs meeting on implementation of NEP 2020

With a view to giving the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 new momentum, Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria met with the directors and heads of the institutions of higher education to assess their preparedness for the implementation of NEP 2020 in Raj Bhavan. Addressing the meeting, the Governor said that the need of the hour is to effectively implement NEP 2020 in letter and spirit. He, therefore, advocated for meticulous planning and synergy among all the stakeholders to effectively roll out the policy.

Presentations were made by Director IIT-G Prof. Parameshwar K.Iyer, Director IIIT-G Gautam Baruah, VC National Law University and Judicial Academy Prof. V.K. Ahuja, Principal Director and Head CIPET Guwahati S.Y.Shirali, Director NIPER, Dr. U.S.N. Murty, Director (i/c) Central Institute of Technology, Kokrajhar Dr. Hemanta Kumar Kalita, Executive Director of National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, Guwahati Dr. Y. Jayanta Singh, VC Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Borah, and VC Assam Skill University, Mangaladai Shubhash Chandra Das, presented their respective action plans for the implementation of NEP 2020.

4. Nowgong College celebrates 99th birth anniversary of Assamese writer Mohim Bora

The Sankardev Sahitya Sora of the historic Nowgong College (autonomous) celebrated the 99th birth anniversary of the renowned Assamese short story teller and poet, Late Mohim Bora at Nowgong College (autonomous) in Nagaon. The commemoration program was initiated by Dr Sarat Borkatoki, the principal of the college, who chaired the event and lit the ceremonial lamp.

Thagit Mahanta, the president of Nagaon Zila Sahitya Sabha, attended the program as the chief guest, while Padum Rajkhuwa, the principal of Kolongpar Vidyapith Senior Secondary School and former secretary general of Asom Sahitya Sabha, was present as the special invitee. Dipak Kumar Bora, an associate professor in the department of Assamese at Nowgong College, presented a sketch on 'Images of Mohim Bora's Poems', and Dr Rupanjali Devi, an associate professor in the department of Assamese, anchored the entire program.



Addressing the audience, Thagit Mahanta highlighted Mohim Bora's significant contributions to Assamese literature and described him as an evergreen figure known for his beautiful poems and short stories. Dr Sarat Borkatoki, the principal of the college, expressed the college's commitment to celebrating the birth centenary of Mohim Bora next year.

On occasion of the 99th birth anniversary of the noted Assamese litterateur, poet and academician - Sahityacharya Mohim Bora - Nowgong College (autonomous) inaugurated a mobile library in his name in the college premises.

5. Sahitya Academy award winning Assamese poet Hiren Bhattacharya remembered

Doomdooma Sakha Xahitya Xabha (DSXX) organized a commemorative meeting on the occasion of death anniversary of Sahitya Academy award winning leading Assamese poet Hiren Bhattacharya who is popularly known as 'Sugandhi Pokhila Poet' at Doomdooma Sakha Xahitya Xabha Bhaban. President Bimala Baruah who presided over the meeting lit the ceremonial lamp in front of the portrait of the poet in the beginning.

The chief speaker of the meeting was Axam Xahitya Xabha's Basanti Devi Bordoloi, award winning poet Dr Aruna Gogoi Baruah. She extensively illustrated some of the poet Bhattacharya's poems and songs to prove his genius as a poet and lyricist. The other speakers were Dwipen Bora, Vice-President, Tinsukia Zila Xahitya Xabha (TZXX), former teacher social activist Mrigen Saikia, Journalist Dhiren Deka. The meeting was anchored by the secretary Deben Deka and was attended by Poet Golok Deka, former President, TZXX, Journalist Arjun Baruah and Chaban Dhekial Phukan, President, Barhapjan Zila Xahitya Xabha.

On this occasion DSXX for the first time felicitated the students securing 80 percent or more marks in Assamese subject in the recently concluded HSLC and HSSLC examinations.

Another significant aspect was special felicitation offered to a girl, Priyanka James, of Rupai Tea Estate for earning the distinction of becoming the first girl from tea-tribes community to secure first class in B. Sc (Major) in Zoology from Manohari Devi Kanoi (MDK) Girls' College, Dibrugarh under Dibrugarh University (DU).



6. Revamp of Bordoloi Trophy on the cards

The Bordoloi Trophy, one of India's oldest and historically prestigious football tournaments, may soon experience a revival. In recent years, the tournament had lost its lustre due to various reasons. However, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) is now planning to revamp the 71-year-old competition.

The Guwahati Sports Association (GSA), the tournament's organizer, received a mail from AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey expressing the federation's interest in transforming the Bordoloi Trophy into a qualifying event for the Santosh Trophy in the Northeast states.

The AIFF is currently in the process of revitalizing several football tournaments with a rich legacy.

"Recognizing the Bordoloi Trophy's similar legacy, the AIFF inquired if the GSA would be willing to make it a qualifying tournament for all the Northeast states for the Santosh Trophy," newly elected general secretary of GSA Devajit Saikia said.

Following discussions in a general body meeting, the GSA received approval to proceed with the plan, taking into account their interests. They have also consulted with the Assam chief minister and once they receive final approval, the GSA will present the proposal to the AIFF for further discussion.

As part of their roadmap, the GSA held an extraordinary general meeting at the Gauhati Town Club Auditorium, where they adopted a new constitution aimed at bringing about significant changes.

Currently, the GSA oversees eight disciplines, including football, cricket, basketball, volleyball, athletics, table tennis, hockey, and badminton. However, under the new constitution, they are considering the inclusion of additional Olympic disciplines. The GSA intends to introduce tennis, boxing, swimming, and other sports, as there is a lack of representation for Guwahati players in district-level tournaments such as swimming, boxing, or chess. The aim is to broaden the scope of the GSA and provide opportunities for athletes in various sports.



7. TU alumnus to lead launch control of Chandrayaan-3

In a significant moment for the nation and the scientific community of the state, Chayan Dutta, an accomplished Assamese scientist, will oversee the launch control operations of the highly anticipated Chandrayaan-3 mission. An alumnus of the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering of Tezpur University (TU), Dutta, who is working as a Scientist/Engineer-G at UR Rao Satellite Centre, Department of Space, is heading the 'On Board Command Telemetry, Data Handling & Storage System, Lander, Chandrayan-3' as Deputy Project Director.

Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on board the Launch Vehicle Mark-III from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

8. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan takes oath as Supreme Court judge

Two justices of the Supreme Court—Ujjal Bhuyan and Venkatnarayana Bhatti—were sworn in by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Chandrachud.

In view of the June retirements of justices KM Joseph, Ajay Rastogi, and Ramasubramanian from the Supreme Court, the collegium has recommended their names for a position as Supreme Court judge.

Bhatti was the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, whereas Bhuyan presided over the Telangana High Court. Bhuyan was chosen to serve as a judge on the Gauhati High Court in 2011. Bhuyan served as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court and a judge in the Gauhati High Court, according to the collegiums.

During his long tenure as a judge of the High Court, Mr Justice Bhuyan has acquired significant experience in diverse fields of law. He has acquired specialization and domain knowledge in the law of taxation. He has also served as a judge of the Bombay High Court dealing with a wide spectrum of cases including taxation.”

With these appointments, the Supreme Court will have 32 justices on board instead of the sanctioned 34 judges. 11 justices have been named to the Supreme Court so far in 2023, all on the recommendation of the collegium chaired by CJI Chandrachud.



9. Bhoomi Pujan ceremony for installation of Xahityarathi's statue held in Odisha

The Bhoomi Pujan ceremony for the installation of a 12-foot life-size bronze statue of Xahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaruah in his residence at Sambalpur in Odisha was held in the presence of Assam's Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Borah.

10. Statue of Hemchandra Baruah unveiled at Dergaon

A statue of 'Bhashar Ojha' Hemchandra Baruah was unveiled at the Dergaon Sahitya Sabha (DSS) Bhavan premises. The statue, made of bronze was ceremonially unveiled by Jayanta Baruah, the grandson of Hemchandra Baruah at the open function.

Hemchandra Baruah was the compiler of the first exhaustive Assamese dictionary *Hemkosh*, where spellings based on Sanskrit were first introduced. It was the second dictionary of the Assamese language. It was published in 1900 after his death under the supervision of Capt. P. R. Gordon, ISC and Hemchandra Goswami.

11. Swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika creates history, becomes first Assamese to cross English Channel two ways

Elvis Ali Hazarika, renowned swimmer from Assam, has etched his name in history by becoming the first Assamese from the North East to accomplish the remarkable feat of crossing the English Channel two ways.

Covering a staggering distance of 78 kilometres, Hazarika achieved this extraordinary milestone by swimming in a relay from England's Samphire to France's Calais and back, clocking an impressive time of 31 hours.

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Hazarika's journey to this momentous achievement was marked by unwavering determination and relentless effort, pushing himself to work harder every day.



After hours of preparation and relentless practice, he overcame numerous challenges that came his way during the arduous swim.

The daring swim presented a series of daunting challenges, including encounters with Jellyfish, Dolphins, Seals, and the relentless assault of Saltwater.

Hazarika and his team also faced heavy currents and choppy weather throughout their gruelling journey.

However, he finally completed the swim and became the first Assamese to achieve the goal of crossing the English Channel.

It is not just the English Channel, Hazarika has completed several other channels including the North Channel.

12. IITM, Pune signs MoU with Tezpur University to assess net ecosystem exchange of carbon dioxide in Kaziranga

Tezpur University and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to assess the net ecosystem exchange of carbon dioxide in Kaziranga National Park. The MoU was signed in the virtual presence of Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju and the department secretary Dr M Ravichandran.

The institutes will broadly collaborate in research areas such as biosphere-atmosphere exchange of green-house gases and energy, observation of meteorological and bio-meteorological parameters such as rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, radiation, soil temperature, soil heat flux, using Eddy Covariance and other systems.



13. European Parliament adopts resolution on human rights in India

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in India, with particular reference to the recent clashes in Manipur.

The Parliament in Strasbourg, France, called on Indian authorities to put in place measures to halt the ethnic and religious violence and to "protect all religious minorities".

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said EU parliamentarians concerned are being reached out and it has been made clear to them that it is a matter "absolutely" internal to India.

Manipur has been witnessing violent clashes, especially between Kuki and Meitei communities for close to two months.

"This is a matter totally internal to India," Kwatra said, replying to a question on the matter at a press conference in New Delhi. "We made a reach-out to the concerned EU parliamentarians. But we made it very clear that this is a matter absolutely internal to India.

The MEPs called on the Indian authorities to allow "independent investigations" to look into the violence and urged all conflicting sides to cease making "inflammatory statements, re-establish trust and play an impartial role to mediate the tensions.

14. Assam Bags 21st Position in NITI Aayog's 'Export Preparedness Index' Report 2022

NITI Aayog released the third edition of the report titled 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for States/UTs of India where Tamil Nadu under costal category scores 80.89 securing the first position among 36 states and union territories.

The report was released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Suman Bery.

Among the eight north eastern states of India, the PIB in a press communique informed that Assam bagged the 21st position with a score of 43.19 under landlocked category states. Manipur grabbed the 23rd position with a score of 40.77 under Himalayan category states.



Tripura, Sikkim and Nagaland secured the 26th, 27th and 28th position respectively scoring 38.30, 36.86 and 34.63, respectively under Himalayan category states. Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram scored 24.24, 19.92 and 16.96 bagging 32nd, 33rd and 35th position under Himalayan category of states.

The report presents a comprehensive analysis of India's export performance in FY22, along with its sector-specific and district-level merchandise export trends. The EPI 2022 Report evaluates the performance of the states across four pillars – Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, and Export Performance. The index uses 56 indicators which holistically capture the export preparedness of States and UTs in terms of exports at the state and district-level, the statement reads.

These pillars are further based on ten sub-pillars – Export Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment; Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.

The report encourages state governments to create solutions to their context-specific challenges to exports. The states can also exploit their innate diversity by promoting products unique to them and helping them reach the global market. Consistent investment in research and development can foster innovation, which in turn can facilitate higher efficiency in exports, and diversification of India's export basket. Further efforts in identification of new markets and exporting diversified products according to state's competitive advantage can help India in improving its global footprint.

15. BVFCL will not be closed in Assam, says Fertiliser minister Mansukh mandaviya

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertiliser Mansukh Mandaviya said that the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited will not be closed in Assam after Union Minister of State for chemicals and fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba said that a committee of a group of officers (CGO) recommended closure of the fertiliser plant. Mandaviya said he held a meeting with former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and current CM Himanta Biswa Sarma over the issue and assured that the plant would not be closed.



16. Assam observes Desh Bhakti Divas to commemorate Tarun Ram Phukan's death anniversary

Along with the rest of the state, Desh Bhakti Divas was observed at Raj Bhavan to commemorate the 84th death anniversary of Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan. The First Lady of Assam, Anita Kataria, along with the commissioner and secretary to the Governor, S.S. Meenakshi Sundaram, and officers and staff of Raj Bhavan paid their

heartfelt floral tributes to the portrait of Tarun Ram Phukan.

During the tribute ceremony, the commissioner spoke eloquently about the remarkable contributions of Desh Bhakta Tarun Ram Phukan to the freedom struggle. He emphasised the importance of learning more about the great patriot and encouraged everyone to imbibe his inspiring qualities.

In Cachar, 'Desh Bhakti Divas, 2023' was solemnly observed to mark the 84th death anniversary of Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan. The Regional Office of Information & Public Relations, Barak Valley Zone, Assam, in collaboration with the district administration Cachar, organised the commemorative function at the office of the Regional Office of Information & Public Relations in Silchar on Friday.

The event was graced by the presence of additional deputy commissioner Van Lal Limpuia Nampui as the chief guest, along with principal of Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan HS School, Silchar, Suparna Sinha, secretary of the Press Club of Silchar, Shankar Dey, joint secretary of Silchar Press Club, Goutam Talukdar, and deputy director of Information & Public Relations, Barak Valley Zone, Deva Prasad Deori.



17. Assam aims to reach 50% conviction rate in criminal cases by 2026

The Assam chief minister reiterated his government's stand in the crackdown against child marriage in the state and said that the police will resume its drive in September this year, and mass arrests will be done.

The conviction rate in criminal cases in Assam has increased to 14% from 5.6% in the last two years.

He said the state's conviction rate would reach 20% by the end of 2023 and up to 50% by 2026. "We are improving all the relevant activities and by 2026, the conviction rate against criminal activities will reach up to 50%, which will be closer to the national ratio.

The Assam chief minister made the remarks during a press conference in Guwahati and said that Assam police was at the bottom in terms of many important aspects but has improved in the last two years.

Sarma said that the state police department is lacking scientific infrastructure like DNA testing, fingerprint examination etc. "We need research on those fields to become efficient like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. By 2026, Assam police will be amongst the top 10 police departments in the country," Sarma said.