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1. Kokrajhar Gears Up To Host Historic 132nd Durand Cup for the first time

The city of peace, Kokrajhar, is ready to host the 132nd edition of the prestigious Durand Cup, India's oldest football tournament, for the first time at the SAI Stadium.

To witness the best footballing action in the country in their own city, the trophy unveiling ceremony and the trophy tour have created a buzz among the local football lovers.

With the presence of the Minister of Defence, the Chief Minister of Assam and the Chief of Army Staff, the opening ceremony will take place on August month. The spectators and players will be treated to a spectacular show of thrilling displays by the Indian Armed Forces contingents and cultural programs by the local troupe.

The inaugural event will also feature Sukhoi flypast, Para Jumps and Helicopter Fly Pasts. Martial displays and Bhangra along with Bodo cultural dances by the locals will enthuse the crowds at the event.

The opening match will see the debut of the local team, Bodoland FC, against Rajasthan United FC. The city will also host a foreign team from Nepal, the Tribhuvan Army FC.

The Durand Cup will have 24 teams participating, including one team each from Nepal and Bangladesh, who are returning to the tournament after 27 years. The teams include 12 teams from the Indian Super League (ISL), five teams from I-League and Downtown Heroes FC from I-League 2. The three teams of Armed Forces and Bodoland FC are also in the fray.

The tournament will continue till September 3 across Kolkata, Guwahati and Kokrajhar. Kokrajhar will also host a quarter final match on August 24, apart from the league matches between eight teams.



2. Lok Kalyan Divas was celebrated by District Administration, Bongaigaon

Lok Kalyan Divas was celebrated by District Administration, Bongaigaon in the conference hall of Office of the District Commissioner on the occasion of death anniversary of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi. Sri Phani Bhusan Choudhury, MLA, Bongaigaon LAC conferred Lok Sewa Puraskar to Sri Akhan Rabha, an employee of DC Office Bongaigaon in presence of Sri Nabadeep Pathak, District Commissioner and other officers and employees of District Administration.

3. Panel formed for celebration of Dr Birendra Kumar Bhattacharjya's birth centenary

Gyanpeeth Award winner and former president of the Sahitya Akademi and Asom Sahitya Sabha, Dr Birendra kumar Bhattacharjya, was remembered at a well attended public meeting held in the Gargaon college auditorium.

He was the first ever Assamese writer to receive the Jnapith Award, in the year 1979 for his novel Mrityunjay followed by Indira Goswami in 2001.

He was also a recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award in Assamese in 1961 for his Assamese novel Iyaruingham, which is considered a masterpiece of Indian literature.

He was the president of Asam Sahitya Sabha during 1983-1985.

4. Assam supplying fish seeds to Haryana, UP

In a rare milestone in the state's pisciculture sector, a group of fish farmers from Gohpur has begun supplying genetically improved live fish seeds to the fish growers of Haryana, Uttara Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Fish seeds from Assam are being supplied to the neighboring States but such huge supply to mainland Indian states is rare.



The Gohpur Fish Farmer Producer Company Ltd delivered 30,000 genetically improved or high yielding varieties of fish seeds.

5. India embarks on a 57-Kilometre rail project linking Assam's Kokrajhar to Bhutan's Gelephu

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said that the Indian government is in talks with the Bhutanese regime over the rail link between Bhutan and Assam. He added that Bhutan is keen to open up more places for tourists and that the rail link is advantageous for Assam as well.

This is the first-ever railway connection between India and Bhutan and is expected to be completed by 2026. The Indian government will fund the 57-kms railway link. Bhutan's Foreign Minister Dr Tandi Dorji said in April this year that the Bhutan government will first work on this project and then look at connecting other regions like Samtse, Phuentsholing, Nganglam, and Samdrupjongkhar.

6. 32 railway stations set to be revamped under Amrit Bharat Station scheme

As many as 32 railway stations across Assam are set to receive a major facelift under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of Rs 990.2 crore. The revamping of these stations is likely to provide modern state-of-the-art amenities to the railway passengers of Assam.

To further enhance railway facilities in Assam and other Northeastern states, an amount of Rs 10,269 crore has been allocated to the railway budget for 2023-24. This is an increase of 384% compared to the average allotment of Rs 2,122 crore during 2009-14.

These stations will have facilities like terrace plazas, retiring rooms, food court, and waiting rooms for the convenience of passengers travelling by train. Divyang (differently abled) - friendly ramps and other modern amenities like lifts and escalators will also be provided, the NFR statement read.

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Improved parking facilities with segregation of incoming and outgoing vehicles will also be arranged. In view of the environmental scenario of Assam, these railway stations will be



redeveloped as green buildings and arrangements for solar energy and water conservation systems will be installed.

Apart from this, the redeveloped stations will boost connectivity between the major cities of the state. This will play a key role in enhancing economic activities thereby generating employment in the state.

The 32 stations set to get the revamp are Dhubri, Fakiragram Junction, Kokrajhar, Gossaigaon Hat, Gauripur, Lumding Junction, New Haflong, Diphu, Chaparmukh Junction, Jagiroad, Sarupather, Narangi, Hojai, Lanka, New Karimganj Junction, Arunachal, Rangapara North Junction, New Bongaigaon Junction, Rangiya Junction, Mariani, Dibrugarh, Jorhat Town, Makum Junction, Margherita, Amguri, Naharkatiya, Tinsukia, Duliajan, Simaluguri, New Tinsukia, Namrup, and Sivasagar Town.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones for the redevelopment of a total of 508 railway stations across the country. PM Modi said that work for the modernisation of railways stations in the Northeastern states is going on at a rapid pace, with the doubling of railway tracks, gauge conversion, electrification, and new routes.

The Prime Minister said that all state capitals of the Northeast will be connected by railway network and work on commissioning of new lines in the region has increased by three times.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme aims to redevelop a total of 1,309 railway stations nationwide. The scheme was launched in February this year by the Ministry of Railways.

7. 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign to recall forgotten heroes of Northeast India

Tezpur University is all set to observe 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign in line with the spirit of public participation (Janbhagidari) and to honour the brave souls who fought for India's freedom. As part of the campaign, the University has already started a plantation programme in five adopted villages of the University, i.e Napaam, Amolapam, Adabari, Harigaon, and Jhawani in Sonitpur district. The University shall also organize a play to portray the pain and struggle of people of Northeastern region, who had sacrificed their lives in the freedom movement. There shall also be an extempore speech and debate competition on unsung heroes of the north-



eastern region. The purpose of the play is also to recall all those martyrs from the Northeast, who have sacrificed their life but are forgotten today.

8. President Droupadi Murmu expresses willingness to visit Pothorughat

'August Krant Divas', celebrating the completion of 81 years of the Quit India Movement, turned out to be a very special day for the 'unsung heroes' of the historic Peasants' Uprising at Pothorughat on January 28, 1894, as the President of India Droupadi Murmu expressed her willingness to visit the historic Pothorughat during her next tour to Assam. She gave her much desired response while acknowledging an invitation offered by Mangaldai Parliamentarian Dilip Saikia, Sipajhar legislator Dr Paramananda Rajbongshi, senior journalists Bhargab Kumar Das and Mayukh Goswami respectively.

9. Green light for Green Hydrogen

The trial run of hydrogen fuel cell e-buses in Jorhat by Oil India Limited (OIL) marks a significant milestone in India's Green Hydrogen Mission. Affordability and availability will be two key factors impacting demand, which will also determine the pace of implementation of the mission in the country. Production of green hydrogen through electrolysis of water makes it a cleaner fuel than grey hydrogen, which is produced from fossil fuel.

The cost of the electrolyzers and the renewable energy used for electrolysis are the two major components of the cost of green hydrogen production. A reduction in the costs of capital investment, supply and treatment of water, storage, and distribution will reduce the cost of green hydrogen, which the mission needs to ensure. The view of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is that hybrid renewable energy power plants, comprising solar and wind energy combined with energy storage systems, enhance the reliability and availability of renewable electricity supply and are thereby likely to result in higher capacity utilisation of green hydrogen production facilities, lowering the production cost. The Union Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission in January with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crore with the primary objective of making India a global Hub for the production, usage, and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.



Successful completion of the trial of hydrogen fuel cell electric buses is crucial for their commercial launch and generation of domestic demand, and hence the industry will be keenly watching the developments. The Central Government has set the target of producing 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen per annum by 2030, with 70% for export and 30% for domestic consumption. Waiver of inter-state transmission charges for a period of 25 years to the producer of green hydrogen and green ammonia for the projects commissioned before December 31, 2030; notification of the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022, which has specified provisions for facilitating the supply of renewable energy through open access for green Hydrogen production.

Besides drafting various standards related to green hydrogen, those have been forwarded to the agencies concerned for consideration for adoption. These are some of the key steps initiated under the mission. Besides, the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme, which includes incentives for the manufacturing of electrolyzers and the production of green hydrogen, is a key component that needs to be supplemented with an in-depth research and development programme.

The availability of water is critical for the production of green hydrogen, and Assam's abundant water resources can be an important hub for its production. Besides, the push for renewable energy in the northeast region also provides the ecosystem needed to facilitate the production of green hydrogen. The country's first green hydrogen plant, commissioned by OIL in Jorhat, demonstrated the availability of the technical expertise in the region to scale up the mission. The plant produces green hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500 kW solar plant using a 100 kW Electrolyser array, which has found its application in charging the fuel cell of the e-bus on the trial run in the upper Assam town.

A hydrogen fuel cell generates electricity by converting green hydrogen into energy, while in a battery-operated electric vehicle, a battery stores energy that is used when needed. The charging time of a fuel cell electric vehicle takes a few minutes, compared to several hours of charging time for an electric vehicle. Thus, fuel cell EVs can be an option to overcome the challenge of long downtime in battery-operated EVs for recharging the battery at charging stations. If the cost of electrolysis can be reduced and the distribution of liquid green hydrogen is cost-effective, then green hydrogen can be a game changer in decarbonizing the transport sector.



The high cost of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles compared to lithium-ion electric vehicles does not allow the automobile market to go for them. The hard reality is that high upfront costs and range anxieties due to a lack of charging stations for EVs have slowed the pace of adoption of lithium-ion electric vehicles. Unless technological breakthroughs are made to bring down the cost of vehicles running on green fuels or with lithium-ion batteries, as well as the easy availability of green fuels at an affordable cost and affordable charging of batteries, India's phasing out of vehicles running on fossil fuels and replacing them with vehicles running on green fuels or batteries will remain a distant dream even after awareness of the importance of these alternative vehicles is generated to a satisfactory level.

The transport sector accounts for 40% of air pollution in the country, and hence decarbonizing the sector is of paramount importance to achieving the climate goals of reducing emissions. While the country pushes missions to make adoption of green vehicles easy and affordable, strengthening public transport is a viable option to reduce the number of vehicles running on fossil fuels and bring down the air pollution level.

10. BAI inaugurates National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati

In a major boost to the sport in the country, Badminton Association of India inaugurated the National Center of Excellence that will not only hone players' skill but will develop coaches.

While renowned Indonesian coach Mulyo Handoyo will be looking into the development of singles players, former All England champion Russia's Ivan Sozonov and Korea's Park Tae-Sang will be in-charge of the coaching panel.

The duo will train and develop a string of Indian coaches to meet the global standards.

"Skills of the coaches will be taken to next level," BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra said during the launch.

"I will personally oversee the project along with my colleagues in BAI."

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Terming this a great step for Indian badminton, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu said in a video message said: "The sport will benefit a lot from this,"



World no. 2 men's doubles player Chirag Shetty said: "Having a such a center not only exciting but also a game changer for Indian badminton."

The programme was also attended by Assam Chief Minister and BAI President Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, 2004 Athen Olympics champion badminton legend Taufik Hidayat, chief coach of Indian team Pullela Gopichand, members of the historic Thomas Cup-winning team.

"This National Centre of Excellence was a dream. It has been a journey of seven long years and I am delighted that today we not only have the finest excellence centre in India but one of the best in the world too.

"What is even more heartening is that this will be part of Assam's legacy and will revolutionise sports history of the region," BAI President Sarma said.

An MoU was signed between BAI and the Government of Assam during the ceremony.

The NCE boasts of 16 courts designed to meet rigorous training needs of 60 athletes in phase 1.

In addition, the centre features a 4,000 square feet gymnasium with modern fitness equipment, 60-bed hostel for players and a dedicated 2,000sqft physiotherapy center.

"Indian badminton has seen an impressive rise in recent times with its players consistently winning medals at the international circuit," Taufik said.

"This centre comes at the right time as it will take Indian badminton to a new height altogether and undoubtedly produce champions with such world-class infrastructure."

Spread across 40,000 square feet, the jam-packed stadium also witnessed top Indian badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala, Krishna Prasad Garaga and Dhruv Kapila playing an exhibition match.



11. Eminent educationist & social activist Prof Deven Dutta passes away

Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University, Deven Dutta passed away at the age of 81. Born on April 5, 1944 at Nazira in Sivasagar, Deven Dutta was residing in Guwahati's Sundarpur area. He completed his post-graduation in English in the year 1965 and started his career as a professor of English at Cotton College. He was also a renowned litterateur and columnist.

Prof Dutta was a prolific writer and had published several books and articles on a variety of topics, including literature, education, and social issues. He was also a regular columnist in several newspapers and magazines.

In addition to his academic and literary achievements, Prof Dutta was also a social activist. He was involved in several social organizations and campaigns, including the fight for consumer rights and the protection of the environment.

A prolific writer, Dutta's bibliography boasts a myriad of books and articles spanning diverse subjects, ranging from literature and education to pressing social issues. His insightful perspectives found a platform in various newspapers and magazines, where he served as a regular columnist, captivating readers with his thought-provoking insights.

Beyond his academic and literary pursuits, Prof. Dutta held a mantle of social activism, demonstrating a fervent commitment to various social causes. His resolute dedication to consumer rights advocacy and environmental protection earned him widespread respect. He played a pivotal role in multiple social organizations and campaigns, channeling his energy towards creating a more just and sustainable society.

Colleagues, friends, and students remember Prof. Dutta as a source of inspiration, a mentor whose wisdom and compassion left an indelible mark on their lives. His legacy serves as a guiding light for future generations, encouraging them to pursue knowledge, justice, and social change.



12. East and Northeast India recorded second-warmest July in over a century

As July breaches global climate records of thousands of years, records were also broken in East and Northeast India. On the heels of receiving record-low monsoonal rainfall, these regions now recorded their second warmest July in 122 years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The two regions have seen unprecedented mean, minimum and maximum temperatures in July since 1901. The average temperature of 29.38°C remained 1.45°C above normal.



The regions comprising 11 states — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal — clocked the second-highest average maximum temperature, with mercury levels soaring to 33.23 °C — 1.78°C above normal, said the weather agency.

The average minimum temperature of 25.53°C, too, was above normal for July and broke the previous record of 25.31°C recorded in 2022.

Though the regions have crossed records previously in February and June this year, the surge was more prominent in July. The temperature anomaly in the regions — the average mean and the average maximum recorded — was the highest in July 2023. For example, the average



mean temperature in July was 1.45°C above normal, compared to 1.37°C above normal in June, according to the IMD monthly climate reviews.

Month	Average mean temperature	Average maximum temperature	Average minimum temperature
February	3 rd highest	3 rd highest	--
June	3 rd highest	3 rd highest	2 nd highest
July	2 nd highest	2 nd highest	1 st highest

A table showing temperature records in East and Northeast India since 1901.

Overall, India recorded its seventh warmest July in 2023 since 1901, when the average temperature of 28.40 °C remained 0.43 °C above normal (1981-2010 average), said the weather agency.

During the month, the average maximum and minimum temperatures in the country were also above normal by 0.29 °C and 0.57 °C, respectively. The average minimum temperature of 24.9°C in July 2023 was record-breaking and the second-highest since 1901.



July 2023 was the hottest month on record, fuelled by global warming and an El Nino event in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The average rainfall the country received was 13 per cent more than the normal rains of 280.5 mm based on data from 1971-2020. The rainfall in Northwest, Central and the Peninsular India too exceeded the normal by 22 per cent, 25 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively.

This can be attributed to unprecedented and devastating extremely heavy rains, especially during the first half of July.

However, East and Northeast India was an exception among all the IMD regions and remained rain-deficit during the month. The average rainfall of 286.9 mm received by the region was 32 per cent less than the normal rain (424.1 mm)

Month	% departure from long-term average rainfall (1971-2020) in East and Northeast India	Rainfall since 1901
Jan 2023	-89	4 th lowest



Feb 2023	-35	--
March 2023	+12	--
April 2023	-48	5 th lowest
May 2023	-41	3 rd lowest
June 2023	-18	--
July 2023	-32	4 th lowest

Between January-July, 2023, the region received deficit rains during six of the seven months: January, February, April, May, June and July. The region had also received the lowest rainfalls in January, April, May and now in July, which broke records since 1901.

The rainfall over East and Northeast India was the fourth lowest in July 2023 since 1901, stated IMD.

According to experts, climate change is behind the increasing variability and unpredictability of rainfall in the region.

13. 12th death anniversary of journalist Nilim Chowdhury observed

The 12th death anniversary of journalist Nilim Chowdhury was observed in Dibrugarh under the aegis of Dibrugarh Press Club (DPC). The Nilim Chowdhury Memorial Award was conferred to journalist Subhit Kumar Chetri of Moran. Subhit Kumar Chetri was presented a citation and a cheque of Rs 20,000.



The members of DPC and other guests paid rich tribute to Nilim Chowdhury and recalled his contribution in the field of journalism. Nilim Chowdhury, who was in charge of the Dibrugarh University Library, had served as a reporter for various media houses during his life. The Nilim Chowdhury Memorial Award was conferred to journalist Rajendra Nath Handique of Dikom for his contribution in the field of journalism.

Rajendra Nath Handique was presented a citation and a cheque of Rs 20,000. Dibrugarh Press Club president Prabir Chakravorty, DPC secretary Anil Poddar, senior journalist Sarat Chandra Neog, All India Radio programme head Lohit Deka, Dr Subasana Mahanta Chowdhury, wife of Nilim Chowdhury, Amiya Hazarika, president of Milan Jyoti Sangha, Manash Jyoti Dutta among others were present during the award programme.

14. Asomiya Sishu Sahitya Bota-2023 to Dr Swadhinata Mahanta

Asomiya Sishu Sahitya Bota-2022, one of the most notable Childrens' literary award of the state given by Akanir Sishu Sahitya Sabha will be awarded this year to educationist and noted litterateur of the state Dr Swadhinata Mahanta. Dr Mahanta has brought laurels to Tezpur already by achieving several awards including Bina Sarma Memorial Children litterateur award in 2015 conferred by Sadou Asom Lekhika Samaroh Samiti, State literary award given by the government of Assam for the year 2016-17 in the form of one time financial grant, Literary pension offered by the government of Assam in 2016-17, Lakshmi Priya Kakati Children Trust award given by Golaghat branch of Asam Sahitya Sabha in 2018, Joy Dey Devi Award for her mass reading children novel 'Kaziranga' in 1993 and Chief Ministers best literary award in 1964 in her childhood in All Assam Children Literary competition organised by Rongpur Sahitya Sabha, Sivasagar.

Being a popular author in Assamese literary world Dr Mahanta has already made a prominent place amongst the readers with her creations including 'Kaziranga', 'Bol Aguwai Bol', 'Pallabi' (Children Novel), Children poem like 'Rod Jilmil', 'Mou Gun', 'Rong Chilmil', 'Tora Tirbir', 'Jon Jikmik' and 'Selected Children Poem' written in a very particular genre. Her noteworthy biographical works, works on literary history and literary criticism including 'Naamghoshanupam', 'Jonakir Poharot Asomiya Kobita', 'Bharatar Swadhinata Andolonot



Dhekiajulir Mukti Jujaru Phanidhar Das', 'Gahan Chandra Goswami', 'Xoponor Bharat' etc , have already earned great fame in the Assamese literary field. Several edited books, more than two hundred articles published in newspapers, magazines and souvenirs , radio scripts and features etc remain in her credit have already enriched the Assamese literary world.

As a researcher and educationist she contributed several acclaimed research papers in her service period as a faculty of Assamese department in Darrang College .

Besides her teaching career Dr Mahanta has been a sincere organiser and led several literary and socio-cultural organisations for a long since. She led the Sodau Asom Lekhika Samaroh Samiti in 1974-75 as founding joint secretary, as secretary of Sonitpur district committee of Sodau Asom Lekhika Samaroh Samiti, as president of Sonitpur Zila Sahitya Sabha, as state president of Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Samiti and led several numbers of socio-cultural , literary and educational organisations in various capacities .

Announcing the prestigious literary award in Tezpur Akanir Sahitya Sabha president Pankaj Barua and secretary Deepjyoti Bora declared that the award will be conferred on him in a meeting to be held in Tezpur in the days ahead.

15. Assam Cabinet decides to create 81 sub-districts, 4 districts

The State Cabinet led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held its 100th meeting at the State Guest House at Kharghuli and took a slew of crucial administrative decisions, including the creation of 81 sub-districts and the recreation of four districts. The over-five-hour-long marathon Cabinet meeting also took several other crucial decisions, besides the Chief Minister placing the report card of the decisions of the past 99 cabinet meetings and their implementation.

Speaking to the media after the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said, "The State Government abolished four districts of the state on December 31, 2022. I assured the people of those districts that I would recreate the four abolished districts after the delimitation exercise. We decided to create four districts: Hojai, comprising areas of Binnakandi, Lumding, and Hojai LAC; Biswanath, comprising areas of Biswanath, Gohpur, and Behali LAC; Tamulpur, comprising



Tamulpur and Goreswar LAC; and Bajali, comprising Bajali, Bhawanipur-Sorbhog LAC. We have also abolished 24 civil subdivisions of the state and created 81 sub-districts. The subdivisions had SDOs (civil) as heads, but an ADC (Additional District Commissioner) with almost equal power as that of a district commissioner will head each sub-district.

According to the Chief Minister, the 81 sub-districts are: Golokganj, Gauripur, Birsing Jarua, Bilasipara, Jaleswar, Goalpara West, Dudhnoi, Abhayapuri, Srijangram, Bhobanipur-Sorbhog, Mandia, Chenga, Pakabetbari, Bajali, Chamaria, Boko-Chhaygaon, Palasbari, Rangiya, Kamalpur, Dispur, Dimoria, Jalukbari, New Guwahati, Borkhetri, Tihu, Sipajhar, Dolgaon, Jagiroad, Lahorighat, Dhing, Rupahihat, Kaliabor, Samaguri, Barhampur, Raha, Binnakandi, Hojai, Lumding, Dhekiajuli, Borsola, Behali, Rangapara, Naduar, Biswanath, Gohpur, Bihpuria, Naoboicha, Ranganadi, Dhakuakhana, Sissibargaon, Jonai, Sadiya, Doomdooma, Makum, Margherita, Digboi, Chabua-Lahowal, Khuang, Duliajan, Tingkhong, Naharkatia, Mahmora, Demow, Nazira, Teok, Mariani, Titabor, Khumtai, Sarupathar, Dergaon, Bokakhat, Lakhipur, Udarbond, Katigora, Borkhola, Sonai, Dhalai, Algapur-Katlicherra, Ramkrishna Nagar, Karimganj South and Patharkandi. The sub-districts will be effective on January 1, 2024. The Cabinet also gave that status of sadar sub-districts to Dhubri, Goalpara East, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Bajali, Hojai, Hajo-Sualkuchi, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Biswanath, Sonari, Sivasagar, Guahati Central, Nalbari, Mangaldai, Morigaon, Nagaon-Batadrava, Tezpur, Jorhat, Golaghat, Silchar, Hailakandi, and Karimganj North.

16. India's oldest domestic elephant, Bijuli Prasad, dies at 89 in Assam

India's oldest domestic Asiatic elephant died at the age of 89 in Sonitpur district of Assam.

The majestic jumbo, named Bijuli Prasad, breathed his last at the Behali tea estate of The Williamson Magor Group around 3.30 am due to age-related issues.

Many people who have been associated with Bijuli Prasad such as animal lovers, tea garden workers as well as locals gathered to mourn the death of the pachyderm.



"Bijuli Prasad was a symbol of pride for The Williamson Magor Group. It was first brought to the Bargang tea estate as a calf, and later shifted here after the Bargang tea estate was sold off by the company,".

The elephant, whose age is estimated to be 89 years, was leading a royal life in the tea estate post-retirement.

Padma Shri awardee and famous elephant surgeon Dr Kushal Konwar Sarma told PTI, "As far as my knowledge is concerned, Bijuli Prasad was the oldest recorded domestic elephant in India."

Usually, the wild Asiatic elephants live up to 62-65 years, while the domestic ones survive till around 80 years with proper care, he said.

"After all its teeth fell off around 8-10 years ago, Bijuli Prasad could not eat anything and was about to die. Then I went there and treated him. I had changed all his regular food and started mostly boiled food like rice and soybean with high protein value. This increased his longevity," Sarma said.

An official of the Behali tea estate said that the elephant was offered around 25 kg of food every day.