

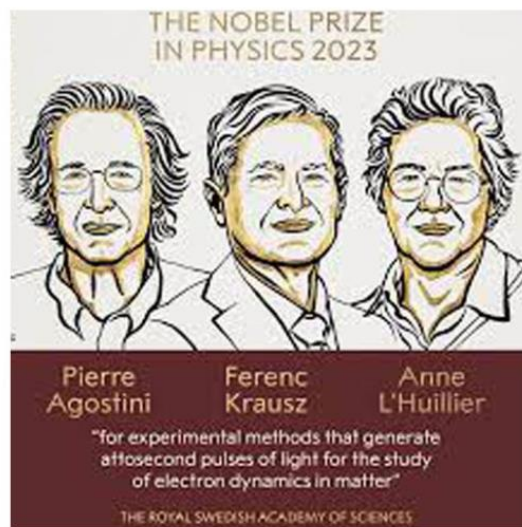
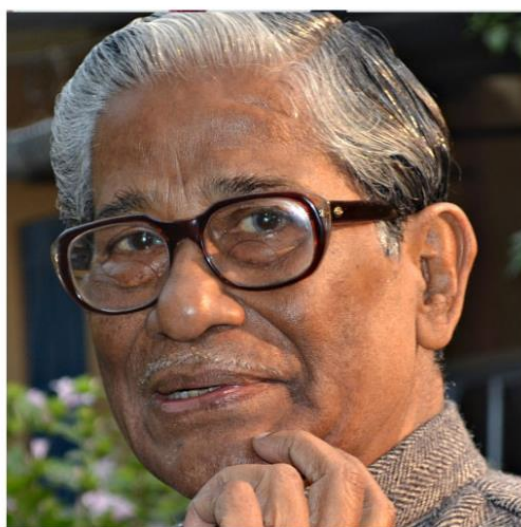
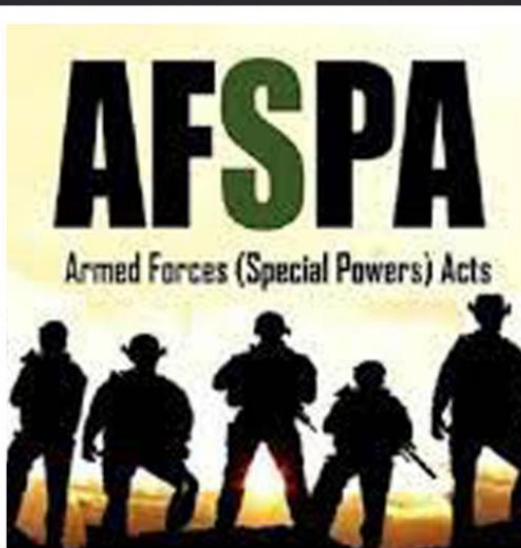


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# Assam

Current Affairs : Oct 2023



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## 1. AFSPA extended in four districts of Assam, withdrawn from four others

The Assam Police said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the State for six more months.

At the Assam Police Day 2023 celebrations in Guwahati, DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the 'disturbed area' tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn from four other districts. Only four districts in Assam will have AFSPA. These are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo," he said.

The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant, besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the forces if they shoot someone dead.

## 2. National Zoological Park begins celebration of 69th Wildlife Week with theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation"

National Zoological Park kick-started the celebration of 69th Wildlife Week with the theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation", honoring the people who are making a difference, on the theme of UN World Wildlife Day 2023 and activities in context to wildlife conservation. Wildlife Week is celebrated every year to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to follow his principles of Ahinsa and Compassion for all living beings.

The activities planned for the week at National Zoological Park aim at using inclusive and collective participation for the conservation cause.

Awareness activities were organized like Nukkad Natak, expert talk on Biodiversity, video on mission LiFE and pledge. Participating students and zoo staff have showed the enthusiasm till the end of programme. The goal of arranging this activity at National Zoological Park was to create awareness about wildlife, biodiversity and also to promote the concept of Lifestyle for



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Environment by staying close to the nature. Souvenir and participation certificates were distributed to all participating students.

### **3. Assam-Meghalaya to Deploy Neutral Forces on Border**

In a major step towards resolving the inter-state border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya, the chief ministers of two neighboring states have agreed to withdraw their state police forces from disputed areas and post the CRPF as neutral force to prevent border clashes.

In yet another decision the two chief ministers also agreed to hand over the probe into the Mukroh violence, in which six people were killed, to the CBI instead of continuing with the ongoing two separate judicial inquiry of respective states.

The decision was taken at a meeting between Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart, Conrad K Sangma, here while taking stock of the situation after the recent clashes and law and order situations in two areas of differences, Psiar and Khanduli and Block I and II.

### **4. Assam CM inaugurates 'Lok Sewa Bhawan' at state secretariat in Dispur**

Assam's Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, unveiled a new addition to the Assam Secretariat in Dispur, Guwahati. This newly inaugurated block, named 'I' block, is dedicated to enhancing public services, providing a new operational base for both the Chief Minister's office and the Chief Secretary's office.

As per CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, the block has been aptly christened 'Lok Sewa Bhawan,' signifying its focus on serving the people's needs. Addressing the media after the inauguration ceremony, CM Sarma highlighted the importance of the newly constructed facility.

A new block named 'I' block was inaugurated at the Assam Secretariat. Construction of another block is already underway and is expected to be completed within the next few months, the CM informed through his social media platforms. The forthcoming building will house the Chief Minister's Office and Chief Secretary's Office.

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Since the Assam Secretariat looks after welfare issues of the people, the building has been named as 'Lok Sewa Bhawan'."CM Sarma emphasized the state's commitment to revamping



the Assam Secretariat in the coming 5-10 years. The Assam Secretariat is at the forefront of addressing the welfare issues of the people, and thus, the newly inaugurated building, 'Lok Sewa Bhawan,' symbolizes the government's dedication to providing enhanced public services and welfare support. The Chief Minister expressed optimism that this new office would not only streamline administrative operations but also foster the smooth flow of official processes.

### 5. Sahityarathi remembered on 159th birth anniversary

The state Department of School Education has issued a directive asking all school students to sing the state anthem during the morning assembly on the occasion of the 159th birthday celebration of Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbarua. The recent order issued by the Department of School Education says that the students of all schools under it should sing the state anthem 'O Mor Aponer Desh' during the morning assembly 'in order to celebrate the 159th birth anniversary of Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbarua.'

The decision for the singing of the state anthem by school students on the occasion was taken during a meeting of the Joint Committee for Celebration of the 159th Birth Anniversary of Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbarua.

Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Borah presided over the meeting held on September 22, 2023. Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbarua was born on October 14, 1864, at Aahatguri in the Morigaon district. He is considered the greatest poet, novelist, and playwright of modern Assamese literature during the age of romanticism. He was one of the literary stalwarts of the Jonaki Era, the age of romanticism in Assamese literature. Through his essays, plays, fiction, poetry, and satires, he gave a new impetus to the then stagnating Assamese literary movement.

### 6. Assam govt launches poverty alleviation scheme Orunodoi 2.0

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the process of distributing Orunodoi Cards to new beneficiaries as he presented cards to some new beneficiaries at a programme held at Kokrajhar. It may be noted that under Orunodoi 2.0, new beneficiaries numbering around 7.30 lakh will be added to the beneficiary list taking the total number of beneficiaries under Orunodoi to 26 lakh. In Kokrajhar District, a total of 21 thousand beneficiaries will be



added to Orunodoi 2.0.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarma said that including weaker sections to the schemes of direct benefit transfer was a priority to the government. After coming to power, his government fulfilled its promise of bringing less privileged women under the ambit of Orunodoi. Accordingly, 26 lakh women will be getting Rs. 1250 per month as the amount will be directly credited to their bank account on 10th every month.

The Chief Minister said that the scheme has been adopted by his government in its bid to assuage the problems of the people emanating from their poverty. He said that his government has increased the amount of Orunodoi to enable the beneficiaries to meet the demands of different necessities.

### **7. Assam: Padma Shri Dr Birendra Nath Dutta Passes Away**

A revered figure in the field of education and folklore, Dr Birendra Nath Dutta breathed his last on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2023 at the age of 90. He succumbed to his ailments at 7 am in Dispur Polyclinic Hospital, where he had been receiving medical care. The news of his passing has cast a somber shadow over the educational and cultural community in Assam.

Dr Birendra Nath Dutta is survived by his son, Dr. Uddalak Dutta, who is an owner of a business firm in Delhi, and two daughters, Dr Sudeshna Choudhury and Dr Upasana Dutta. Born in 1933, Dr. Birendra Nath Dutta received his Ph.D. degree from Gauhati University in 1974. His doctoral thesis, titled 'A Study of the Folk Culture of the Goalpara District of Assam,' showcased his passion and dedication to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Assam.

### **8. Badminton: Bornil Aakash Changmai wins gold at Asia U17, U15 Junior Championships**

Bornil Aakash Changmai extended his remarkable form to win the second-ever gold medal for India in the U15 boys' singles division at the Badminton Asia U17 and U15 Junior Championships in Chengdu, China. Hailing from Assam, the top-ranked under-15 boys' singles shuttler in the Badminton Association of India further solidified his reputation on the Asian stage by defeating Fan Hong Xuan of China.



Meanwhile, Tanvi Sharma went down 17-21, 21-11, 19-21 against Yataweemin Ketklieng of Thailand in the final to settle for a silver medal. Tanvi began the match on a slow note with the scoreboard reading 17-21 in favor of her opponent. She fought hard to stage a comeback by winning her second game by 21-11. Her efforts fell just short as she narrowly lost 19-21 the decider after a tough fightback. She has become the second U17 girls' singles shuttler to secure a silver medal, following in the footsteps of Unnati Hooda, who had previously earned silver in the same category.

Indian badminton has been scaling new heights in recent years marked by a string of remarkable victories in various high-profile competitions. Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy now hold the distinction of being the world's number-one men's doubles pair in the BWF rankings. Their stellar 2023 performance, which included a historic gold medal at the 2022 Asian Games in the individual event and a silver in the team competition, contributed to their top ranking. Prannoy HS has also been a standout, earning bronze medals at both the World Championships and the Asian Games individual event in China.

### **9. Assam CM launches Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana**

Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana is a medical reimbursement scheme of the State Government which aims at providing medical reimbursement to Government employees including Government pensioners and their dependents at CGHS rates.

Under Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana, registration and medical reimbursement of Government employees, their dependents and Government pensioners and their spouses will be done through an online IT portal. This IT portal will be with end to end functioning.

### **10. Asian Games 2023 boxing: Lovlina Borgohain settles for silver medal after losing in final**

India's Lovlina Borgohain won the silver medal in the women's 75kg boxing event at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China.

7 Borgohain, the reigning world champion and Olympic medallist, lost to the local favourite Li Qian by unanimous decision in the final, marking an end to India's Asian Games 2023 boxing campaign.



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This is the first silver medal for an Indian woman at the Asian Games boxing tournament. Mary Kom won the gold medal at Incheon 2014.

Li Qian, who won silver at Incheon 2014, picked up her maiden Asian Games gold medal while Borgohain returned with a silver in her first appearance at the quadrennial continental meet.

Lovlina Borgohain had faced Li Qian earlier this year in the world championships semi-finals where the Indian emerged victorious by a 4:1 split decision.

Lovlina Borgohain, an Olympic medallist and world champion, secured a Paris 2024 Olympic quota by virtue of making it to the final of the women's 75kg category.

Earlier in the day, Parveen Hooda, the other Indian boxer in action, lost the women's 57kg semi-finals 5:0 to Chinese Taipei's Lin Yu Ting. Hooda picked up a bronze medal at the Asian Games 2023 and also secured a Paris 2024 Olympic quota.

### **11. Nobel Prize 2023 in Physics awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, Anne L'Huillier for research on electrons in flashes of light**

The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier "for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electro dynamics in matter".

The three Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023 are being recognized for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules. Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

Their experiments granted the Laureates to observe extremely brief events that transpire in a few tenths of attoseconds—a quintillionth (10<sup>-18</sup>) of a second. An attosecond is so short that there are as many in one second as there have been seconds since the birth of the universe.





These brief pulses of light can be used to provide images of what occurs inside atoms and molecules.

The research conducted by the Laureates over a span of several decades allowed them to investigate processes that were so rapid that they were previously impossible to follow. This new technology is important to understand and control how electrons behave in a material.

Last year, The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger for their work on quantum mechanics. The award was given for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities, and pioneering quantum information science..

The physics prize comes a day after Hungarian-American Katalin Karikó and American Drew Weissman won the Nobel Prize in medicine for discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.

The prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) drawn from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896. The prize money was raised by 1 million kronor this year because of the plunging value of the Swedish currency.

## **12. Assam pioneers in implementing PM SVANidhi scheme, with disbursement rate of 90.84%**

Assam has emerged as the leader in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, with an disbursement percentage of 90.84%.

This scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which aims to provide collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors, hawkers, and small traders adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate their transition from the informal to the formal economy. It not only provides loans in three tranches of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000, and Rs. 50,000 but also digitally onboards vendors to promote digital transactions.



### **13. Films from Assam has selected for Indian panorama Of IFFI 2023**

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has announced the selection of 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films for its main component, Indian Panorama. The shortlisted films will be shown during the 54th IFFI, which will be held in Goa.

The Indian Panorama is chosen by a jury of notable film personalities from across India, with a total of twelve jury members for feature films and six jury members for non-feature films, led by the respective Chairpersons.

Feature Film:-

Mirbeen (Karbi), directed by –Mridul Gupta

Non Feature film:-

Baruar Xongxar ( Assamese), Directed by- Utpal Borpujari

Kathabor( Assamese), Directed by- Keshar Jyoti Das

Lachit(the warrior)(Assamese), Directed by- Parthasarathi Mahanta

### **14. 37th National Games: Assam's Popy Hazarika bags gold in 59 kg weightlifting category**

Indian weightlifter Popy Hazarika bagged gold in the women's 59kg event at the 37th National Games.

Earlier in the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2023, Popy Hazarika won a gold medal in the women's 59kg category.

Earlier this month, Assam took the first gold medal at the 37th National Games as their badminton women's team defeated Maharashtra to clinch the team title.



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Assam women's team consisting of Ashmita Chaliha, Isharani Baruah, Mayuri Barman, Manali Bora, and Maini Boruah remained unbeaten in the group stage.

They beat West Bengal 4-1 and Andhra Pradesh 3-2 to book their spot in the final.

Assam faced a strong team of Maharashtra in the final who also topped their group with two dominating 5-0 wins over Punjab and Goa women's teams.

### **15. Assam women's badminton team pockets first gold medal of 37th National Games.**

The 37th National Games is being organized in Goa. The Assam team won the first gold medal of this game. Assam won this gold medal in women's badminton. Assam women's badminton team won the gold medal by defeating Maharashtra team. This final was played at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium. Assam women's team included Ashmita Chaliha, Ishrani Barua, Mayuri Barman, Manali Bora and Manny Bora.

### **16. 69th National Film Awards: Assam director Monjul Baruah film felicitated for 'Anur' movie**

The National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Assamese is one of the National Film Awards presented annually by the Directorate of Film Festivals, the organization set up by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India. It is one of several awards presented for feature films and awarded with Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus).

The National Film Awards, established in 1954, are the most prominent film awards in India that merit the best of the Indian cinema.

President Droupadi Murmu presents the Best Assamese Film award to Anur: Eyes On The Sunshine directed by Monjul Baruah at the 69th National Film Awards ceremony in New Delhi.