

RONGMON'S DIARY

Day 1
Feb 9

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE 33RD NATIONAL GAMES, GUWAHATI, FEB 9-18, 2007

Nation's mega sports show begins

Opening a mix of local culture & glitz

The 33rd edition of the National Games, the country's biggest sports extravaganza, has begun in Guwahati today amid tremendous enthusiasm and fanfare with the Games Torch being lit by one of Assam's sporting icons, Bhogeswar Baruah. Since midday today, all roads in Guwahati, the largest city in the Northeast, led to the Indira Gandhi Athletic Sta-



Children ready to perform at the inaugural show at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Sarusajai.

This will be India's best ever National Games. It's a national festival of sports and people will never forget the Guwahati National Games.



Suresh Kalmadi, President, IOA

dium at Sarusajai - the plush 30,000 capacity venue for the opening ceremony.

The two-and-a-half-hour long inaugural show, a blend of traditional Assamese culture and modern razzmatazz, was set to ignite passions among the nearly 7,000 athletes, vying for a total of 3,043 medals (958 Gold, 958 Silver and 1127 Bronze) in 32 different disciplines. Present at the show will be UPA Chairperson Mrs Sonia Gandhi, invited to inaugurate the mega event. Assam CM and AOA President Mr Tarun Gogoi and IOA President Mr Suresh Kalmadi are among the dig-

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GUWAHATI WELCOMES YOU

Welcome to Assam, the gateway to the Northeast and one of India's most fascinating and scenic nooks. National Games participants are sure to battle it out for laurels in the sporting arena, but at the same time hundreds of players and officials will surely get a feel of this land of the Red River and Blue Hills.

Assam is undoubtedly like a jewel encrusted on

earth - the lyrical green hills, the beautiful plains with the strong aroma of tea bushes, rocky streams, undulating rivers, and some real exotic wildlife. Guwahati, the main city in Assam with an estimated population of two million, could be a traveller's delight. This

QUICK GLANCE

Participants	10,945
Events	32
Medals	3,043

FACT SHEET ON Pg. 4

ancient city, located on the banks of the great Asian river Brahmaputra, has many attractions - the renowned Kamakhya temple perched atop the Nilachal Hills, the Peacock Island, one of the world's smallest human inhabited river islands, besides the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, a sprawling and modern cultural complex that is a

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CM: Games a milestone

Hosting the 33rd National Games in Guwahati is



a milestone for Assam. We are happy that we have one

of the best sports infrastructures. The National Games will boost the image of the state. We hope the players and officials coming from outside the region would go back with fond memories. We hope to win the goodwill of many more people.

Tarun Gogoi, Assam CM & President, AOA

Full interview in tomorrow's issue

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Aquatics**
Dr Zakir Hussain Aquatic Complex
- **Boxing**
Sarusajai Sports Complex
- **Gymnastics**
Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium

Full schedule on Pg 2

Meet Rongmon, our mascot

Rongmon, the mascot of the 33rd National Games, is the endangered one-horned rhinoceros that symbolizes the spirit of strength and dignity, of determination and patience. Some 1,855 of the world's estimated 2,700 such herbivorous beasts (rhinoceros unicornis) lumber around the wilds of Assam's famous Kaziranga National Park.

The Greater Indian rhinoceros is one of the largest rhinoceroses. Unlike the other rhinoceroses, the Indian rhinoceros has

only one horn. The Indian rhinoceros is a forest dweller and an excellent swimmer.

It can also run up to 35 miles per hour for a short time. Rongmon, the rhino, has witnessed all the trials and tribulations of Assam and has today become an inseparable part of the state's rich history and traditions. Like the rhino, the Rangghar, the logo the 33rd

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33rd NATIONAL GAMES 2007, GUWAHATI

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FROM FRONT PAGE

Guwahati...



















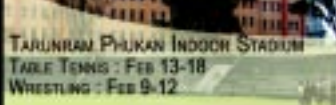
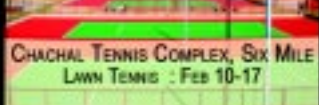
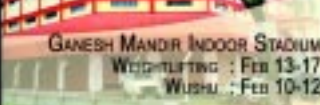
repository of Assamese art and culture. Kamakhya has long been considered as one of the most revered Shakti temples in the country and is also known as the highest seat of Tantricism. Hopping into a motorized country boat one can reach the Peacock Island in about 20 odd minutes. The Peacock Island is believed to be the world's smallest human inhabited river island with just a dozen odd people settled there and given company by a tribe of friendly Golden Langurs and other simian species. The scenic splendours apart, what makes Assam stand out is the warmth and hospitality of its people.

Rongmon...

National Games, is one of Assam's architectural marvels. This royal amphitheatre or the Rangghar was built during the reign of King Pramatta Singha in 1744 from where the Ahom royalty watched elephant fights and other indigenous sporting events. This two-storied oval shaped pavilion of 10 metres high, 11 metres across and 27 metres long consists of a steep flight of stairs that leads to the higher elevations. The base of the monument has a series of arched entrances and atop the roof is a decorative pair of carved stone crocodiles. The interesting aspect is that the artisans used certain specially made fine baked bricks, an exclusive special sticky rice (*Bora Chawal*) grown in Assam, and preferred eggs instead of cement that acted as mortars for the construction of the Rangghar. Indeed a wonderful sight as the Rangghar still stands solidly despite natural calamities even after 400 years.

Nation's mega...

nities to attend the show. "This is definitely a historic occasion," the Chief Minister said. Excited are hundreds of school children, local cultural troupes, and artistes participating at the opening show. "I consider this a major milestone in my life to have been chosen a participant for the inaugural ceremony of the National Games," said Sunmoina Rai, a 9th standard student of the city's Panbazar Girls Higher Secondary School. For the next few days until Feb 18, hundreds of athletes will sweat it out at 24 different venues. The 33rd National Games has already created a history of sorts with four sporting disciplines making its debut here - Lawn Bowls, Wushu, Rugby 7's and Karate Do.

GAMES SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 9-18, 2007		
DR. ZAKIR HUSSAIN AQUATICS COMPLEX SARUSAJAI SWIMMING : FEB 10-16 	CHATRA SINGH TERON ARCHERY RANGE & PAVILION ARCHERY : FEB 11-15 	INDIRA GANDHI ATHLETICS STADIUM SARUSAJAI ATHLETICS : FEB 11-15 BOXING : FEB 10-17 LAWN BOWLS : FEB 14-18 
RAJIV GANDHI INDOOR STADIUM, AMBAGAOH BADMINTON : FEB 14-18 GYMNASTICS : FEB 9-13 	NABIN C. BORDOLOI INDOOR HALL, SARUSAJAI BASKETBALL : FEB 14-18 VOLLEYBALL : FEB 9-13 	RUPNATH BRAHMA VELODROME TEPESEA CYCLING : FEB 10-17 
CHARON BEEL MORIGAOH CANOING & KAYAKING : FEB 10-16 TRIATHLON : FEB 17-18 	VETERINARY GROUND, AAU KHAMAPARA EQUESTRIAN : FEB 10-15 	INDOOR STADIUM SONAPUR SPORTS COMPLEX FENCING : FEB 10-13 HANDBALL : FEB 14-18 
NEHRU STADIUM, ULUBARI FOOTBALL (MEN) : FEB 9-17 	SAI SPORTS COMPLEX FOOTBALL (WOMEN) : FEB 9-17 	MAULANA MD. TAYYEBULLAH HOCKEY STADIUM BHETAPARA HOCKEY : FEB 9-17 
RUDRA SINGH SPORTS COMPLEX, DISPUR JUDO : FEB 14-17 TAERWONDO : FEB 10-13 	JOYBHADRA HAGLER KABADDI & KHO KHO COMPLEX KABADDI : FEB 10-14, KHO KHO : FEB 14-17 	KANAKLATA INDOOR STADIUM KARATE DO : FEB 16-17 
DEEPOH BEEL, JALLUKBARI ROWING : FEB 10-16 	NFRSA GROUND, MALIGAOH RUGBY 7'S : FEB 10-11, NETBALL : FEB 10-13 SERIK TAKRAW : FEB 14-18, FOOTBALL (Males) : FEB 14-17 	4 APBN, KAHILIPARA SHOOTING : FEB 10-16 
TARUNIAM PHUKAN INDOOR STADIUM TABLE TENNIS : FEB 13-18 WRESTLING : FEB 9-12 	CHACHAL TENNIS COMPLEX, SIX MILE LAWN TENNIS : FEB 10-17 	GANESH MANDIR INDOOR STADIUM WEIGHTLIFTING : FEB 13-17 WUSHU : FEB 10-12 

The period of National Games should not be less than 10 days and more than 14 days, including the opening and closing ceremonies.



With biggest squad, Assam brace up to bag medals

Hosts Assam will be the cynosure of all eyes with the 908-strong contingent expected to put up a spirited fight during the 10-day event that got underway today. Assam has fielded the highest number of athletes for the 33rd National Games and is taking part in all the 32 events.

At the 32nd National Games, Assam won 11 medals – one gold, four silvers, and six bronze. Pratibha Kachari was the lone gold medalist for the state in boxing. The other medals were in fencing, sepak takraw, badminton and table tennis.

But this time round, Assam is expected to perform much better in most of the disciplines with quality coaching being provided to the players. The state government had left no stone unturned and had spent a whopping Rs 2.1 crore for coaching.

Paddlers from the state have got a shot in their arms with winning tips being provided by the husband-wife duo of Kamlesh Mehta and Monalisa Barua Mehta, both former national table tennis champions.

In athletics, Jagadish Basak is a name to reckon with. He won a gold in 4X100 mt relay and bronze in 100 mt at the recently-concluded SAF Games in Colombo. Basak will participate in 100 mt, 200 mt and 4X100 mt relay.

Like Basak, Geetanjali Bora (pole vault) and Pranjal Gogoi (5000 mt) are also raring to dominate the track and field events. Geetanjali won the silver medal at the 2nd Open National Championship while Pranjal won the gold in 5000 mt at the last Junior Nationals.



Jagadish Basak

Award-winning pugilists Pranamika Bora, Kalpana Choudhury, Jahnabi Gogoi and Pratibha Kachari are toiling hard in the ring with their eyes focused on winning medals.

Little mermaid Fariha Zaman is one of India's swimming sensations, creating ripples in both national and international pools. At the SAF Games in Colombo, the school girl won four gold medals. Fariha will participate in 50 mt, 100 mt, 200 mt back-stroke, and 4X100 mt relay.

Paban Saikia, Surinder Bhandari, Gyandeep Kalita (Taekwondo), Brojeswari Devi, Joyshree Hazarika (Judo), Ranjit Singh (Fencing), Himajyoti Gogoi, Bina Devi (Cycling), Navanita Sonowal, Ng. A. Toshibala, Alpna Boro (Wushu), Archana Boro (Weightlifting) are other prospective athletes from Assam who are expected to dominate in their respective events. Brojeswari Devi is one time Olympian and currently the fifth ranked player in the world in Judo (52 kg). Likewise Toshibala won the gold at the SAF Games in Colombo, and three gold medals in the last National Championship held in Jaipur. Surinder Bhandari is also a medal winner at the Busan Asian Games. Besides, there are bright chances for team medals in Sepak Takraw and Kho Kho.



Kalpana Choudhury

Asian Gold medalist and Arjuna awardee Bhogeswar Baruah is the Chef De Mission for the power-packed Assam contingent.

Know the game

LAWN BOWLS

Bowls, also known as Lawn Bowls or Lawn Bowling, is a precision sport where the goal is to roll slightly radially asymmetrical balls (called bowls) closer to a smaller white ball (the "jack" or "kitty") than one's opponent is able to do. Bowls is usually played on a large, rectangular, precisely leveled and manicured grass or synthetic surface known as a bowling green which is divided into parallel playing strips called rinks.



An indoor variation on carpet is also played. In the simplest competition, singles, one of the two opponents flips a coin to see who wins the "mat" and begins a segment of the competition (in bowling parlance, an "end"), by placing the mat and rolling the jack to the other end of the green to serve as a target. Scoring systems vary from competition to competition, with some being the first to a specified number of points, say 21, or the highest scorer after say, 21 ends. Some competitions use a "set" scoring system, with the first to seven points awarded a set in a best-of-five set match. As well as singles competition, there can be pairs, triples and four-player teams.

GAMES HISTORY

The National Games were launched in 1940. Before that it was known as the Indian Olympic Games that first began in 1924.

Year	Venue		
1940	Bombay		
1942	Patiala		
1944	Lahore		
1946	Lahore		
1948	Lucknow		
1952	Madras		
1953	Jabalpur		
1954	Delhi		
1956	Patiala		
1958	Cuttack		
1960	Delhi		
1962	Jabalpur		
1964	Calcutta		
1966	Bangalore	1994	Maharashtra
1968	Madras	1997	Karnataka
1970	Cuttack	1999	Manipur
1979	Hyderabad	2001	Punjab
1985	Delhi	2002	Hyderabad
1987	Kerala	2007	Guwahati



Games' lobbying bears fruit for Assam

It was sheer perseverance that made it possible for Guwahati to host the 33rd National Games. For long, Assam was lobbying to host the country's biggest sporting extravaganza and the state tasted success during the 32nd National Games. Under the leadership of the Assam Chief Minister and President of the Assam Olympic Association Mr Tarun Gogoi, a determined effort was made and the State managed to outbid Jharkhand and Goa for allotment of the 33rd National Games to Guwahati.

Punjab and one gold medal in the 32nd National Games. It is hoped the Assam team would perform much better in several disciplines this time round.



The players of the Assam contingent who won various medals in different events in the 32nd National Games were awarded Rs. 50,000, Rs. 30,000, and Rs. 20,000 each for winning Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals respectively by the Assam

Government.

The Assam contingent bagged two gold medals in the 31st National Games held in

The Olympic Day Run was organized in Assam every year beginning 2002.

Games Info
 33rd National Games, Guwahati

- Teams: 33 (29 States, 3 UT & Services Sports Control Board)
- Participants: 10,945 (Players : M- 4163, F- 2836, Team Officials – 1446, Technical Officers – 2500)
- Main Events: 32 (Sporting Disciplines: Male-233, Women-187, Mixed Doubles-3)
- Medals: 3043 (G-958, S-958, B-1127)
- New Disciplines: 4 (Rugby-7s, Lawn Bowls, Wushu, Karate Do)
- Biggest Team: Assam – 908 players
- Smallest Team: Andaman & Nicobar Islands – 15 players
- States taking part in all 32 events – 8 States, including hosts Assam
- Total Venues: 24
- Debut state- Nagaland.

From the Media Committee Chairman's Desk

We are overwhelmed with the participation that has surpassed our estimation. Ten days do not define a



lifetime, but the event would witness not only a distinctiveness that has brought Assam to the centre-stage of our country's destiny, but has led to a determination for higher ideals among us. I'm sure everyone would excel and many would return with the resolve to perform even better.

Pradyut Bordoloi
 Minister, Power & Industries, Assam



(1) Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi leading the State contingent to the Games Village on Feb 7; (2) Action at the Assam vs Maharashtra men's football match on Feb 9; (3) Prominent Assam players with the Chef De Mission Bhogeswar Baruah (extreme right) with the Games Torch on Feb 8; (4) Action at the Assam vs Delhi women's Hockey match at Bhetapara on Feb 9.

Photos : Manas Paran & UB photos.



TODAY'S EVENTS (Till 2 pm)

Men's Football : Assam beat M'rashtira

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Assam vs Maharashtra : 4-0

Scorers: Ajit Singh (7th min)
 Sanjeeba Rongpi (14th min, 85th min)
 Durga Boro (55th min)



Meghalaya vs Punjab (2-1)

M'laya Scorers: G Zoramchhana (45th min, 64th min)
 P'jab scorer : Guriqbal (90th min)

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Manipur vs Tamil Nadu (4-2)

Manipur Scorers: Bem Bem (4th min) Roma (56th min) Moni Tombi (65th, 67th)
 TN scorers : Antony Rosy, S Vashanthi

Orissa vs Assam (2-1)

Orissa Scorers : Sarita Jayanti Behera (27th min), Alochona Senapati (60th min)
 Assam Scorer : Sangita Boro (70th min)

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Haryana vs MP (10-0)

Scorers: Jasjeet (2nd min, 31st min, 42nd min)
 Surinder (15th, 19th, 30th min; hattrick) Rani Devi (37th min, 47th) Rituraj (60th min) Simarjeet (67th min)



Delhi vs Assam (4-0)

Scorers : Prem (11th min, 20th min), Meenu (23rd min, 38th min)