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1. Durand Cup 2023: Mohun Bagan won the championship, and East Bengal finished second (Sept. 8, 2023)

Mohun Bagan registered a 1-0 win over East Bengal in the Durand Cup 2023 final held at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

An Overview of the News

- The win is a historic moment for Mohun Bagan, as they lifted the Durand Cup trophy for the first time in 23 years, claiming the **132nd edition** of the prestigious tournament.
- **Mohun Bagan SG** achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first team in the history of the Durand Cup to win a total of **17 titles**.
- **East Bengal**, the runners-up in this match, is the second most successful team in the Durand Cup, having won **16 titles** in their rich history.
- While Mohun Bagan had previously reached the Durand Cup final in 2004, 2009 and 2019, this win was particularly special as they had not secured the championship title in previous appearances.

Durand Cup:-

- The Durand Football Tournament, also known as the Durand Cup, is an annual domestic football competition in India.
- It was **first organized in Shimla in 1888** and is currently **sponsored by Indian Oil and Coal India Limited**.
- The tournament is hosted jointly by the **Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS)** and the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**.
- The competition holds the distinction of being the oldest existing club football tournament in Asia.
- It ranks as the **fifth oldest national football competition globally**.

2. 132nd Durand Cup tournament organized in Kolkata (July 3, 2023)

132nd-Durand-Cup-tournamen

The "**Trophy Tour**" of the **132nd edition of Durand Cup**, India's oldest football tournament, was flagged off on 30 June 2023 at a function held at **Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt**.

Important Points:-

- It was flagged off by Chief of Army Staff **General Manoj Pandey**, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal **VR Chaudhary** and President of All India Football Federation (AIFF) **Kalyan Choubey**.

- This tournament will be organized from 03 August to 03 September 2023 in **Kolkata, Guwahati, Kokrajhar and Shillong**. While its final will be held in **Kolkata** on September 3.

Foreign teams in Durand Cup:

- 24 teams including teams from **Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh** will participate in the 132nd edition of the tournament.
- Foreign teams are participating in the tournament after a gap of **27 years**. The tournament is open to all club teams.
- It is organized by the Durand Football Tournament Society (DFTS) under the aegis of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- Basically the tournament has always been a symbol of excellence, sportsmanship and high point of competitiveness in the field of sports.

Durand Cup Tournament:

- The Durand Cup, the world's third oldest and Asia's oldest football tournament, was first held in the year **1888 at Dagshai** (Himachal Pradesh).
- It was named after **Mortimer Durand**, who was then the Foreign Secretary in charge of India.
- The tournament was initially held for British soldiers, but was later opened to civilians.
- **Mohun Bagan and East Bengal** are the most successful teams in the history of the Durand Cup having won it **sixteen times**.

3. Former Indian football captain Babu Mani dies aged 59 (Nov. 22, 2022)

Babu Mani dies aged 59

Former Indian football captain Babu Mani, who was an integral part of the Indian football team in the 1980s, died after a prolonged battle with liver-related issues. He was 59.

Babu Mani made his India debut against Argentina in Kolkata during the 1984 Nehru Cup and went on to play 55 matches for the country. He was also a part of the first Indian squad to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup in 1984 and went on to play in the tournament in Singapore.

Mani was also a member of the Indian team which won gold medals at the 1985 and 1987 editions of the South Asian Games.

Babu Mani, also part of the Bengal Team which won Santosh Trophy in 1986 and 1988.

He also played for and won various domestic football cups like **Federation Cup, IFA shield, Durand Cup, Rovers Cup** trophies for Kolkata's top three clubs, Mohammedan Sporting, Mohan Bagan and East Bengal.

4. Bengaluru FC wins the 131st Durand Cup beating Mumbai City FC (Sept. 18, 2022)

Bengaluru Football Club (FC) won its first Durand cup title by beating Mumbai City FC by 2-1 in the final of the 131st Durand Cup held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (also known as Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata on 18 September 2022.

N. Sivasakthi and Alan Costa scored the goals for Bengaluru while Lalengmawia Ralte scored for the Mumbai City club.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

Three trophy for the winner :

- **The winner of the Durand Cup is given three trophies. They are the Durand Cup** (a rolling trophy and the original prize), the **Shimla Trophy** (also a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904) and the **President's Cup** (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).
- The Bengaluru Football club was presented with all the three trophies for its win.

131st Durand Football tournament :

- It was hosted by three states, Assam, Manipur and West Bengal.
- Assam and Manipur hosted the tournament for the first time.
- This year 20-top teams of the country, including all 11 teams from the Indian Super League (ISL) participated as compared to 16 teams that participated last year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION -

Durand Cup :

- Durand football tournament or Durand cup is the **oldest football club tournament in Asia.**
- It was started in 1888 and the first tournament was held in Shimla.
- Initially it was a football tournament for different regiments of the British army and it was later opened to the civilians.
- The Tournament is organised by the **Indian Army and All India Football Federation.**
- The winner is given three trophies, Durand Cup, Shimla Trophy and the President's cup.
- The Cup is named after the **foreign secretary of British India, Mortimer Durand.**
- **FC Goa was the 130th Durand Cup winner.**

5. Asia's oldest football tournament Durand Cup begins on 16 August (Aug. 16, 2022)

The 131st season of the Durand Cup football tournament will be held in several cities across West Bengal, Assam and Manipur for the first time from August 16, 2022.

Important facts

- This year the tournament has increased from 16 to 20 teams in which apart from 11 ISL clubs, 5 clubs from I-League and 4 teams from Armed Forces will also take part.
- The third oldest football tournament in the world and the oldest in Asia, the Durand Cup was first held in Dagshai (Himachal Pradesh) in the year 1888.
- Mohun Bagan and East Bengal are the most successful teams in the history of Durand Cup having won it sixteen times.
- In the previous edition of the tournament, Goa won their maiden Durand Cup title by defeating Mohammedan Sporting 1-0.

131st Durand Cup

- The tournament will have a total of 47 games, with Guwahati and Imphal hosting 10-10-game matches of both Group C and Group D.
- All the seven knockout games will be held at three venues in West Bengal.
- The inaugural pool matches will begin from 16 August at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) Stadium in Kolkata.
- The matches will be held on August 17 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati and on August 18 at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.
- The tournament will culminate with the Grand Finale to be held at VYBK on 18 September 2022.

Groups of the tournament

- **Group A** - FC Goa, Mohammedan Sporting, Bengaluru FC, Jamshedpur FC, Indian Air Force
- **Group B** - ATK Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Mumbai City FC, Rajasthan United, Indian Navy
- **Group C** - Chennaiyin FC, Hyderabad FC, NEROCA, TRAU, Army Red
- **Group D** - Kerala Blasters, NorthEast United, Odisha FC, Sudeva Delhi FC, Army Green

6. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma unveils 131st Durand Cup trophy (July 22, 2022)

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister, Assam, unveiled the three Durand Cup trophies in a glittering ceremony at Guwahati on 21st July.

Important facts

- Three trophies of the 134-year-old Durand Cup, Asia's oldest football tournament, were unveiled.

- The tournament will be held for the first time in Assam's Guwahati from August 17 to September 4.
- As part of the trophy tour involving five cities, Guwahati, the venue of 10 Group D games, was chosen as the first stop.
- It will see participation of 20 teams from across the country including 11 ISL teams.
- The matches of the tournament will be held at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.
- Apart from Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal and Kishor Bharati Kridangan in Kolkata in West Bengal and Naihati Stadium in North 24-Parganas district will host the matches.
- The three trophies, the Durand Cup (a rolling trophy and the original prize), the Shimla Trophy (a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904) and the President's Cup (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's first President in 1956) are on a five-city tour.
- It was flagged off from Kolkata on July 19, 2022 and will be the first time the host will leave for Imphal in Manipur after being in Guwahati for two days.

131st Durand Cup

- There will be a total of 47 games in this tournament, with both Guwahati and Imphal hosting 10-games of group C and group D each.
- All the seven knockout games will be held at three venues in West Bengal.
- The inaugural pool matches will begin from 16 August at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Kreeerangan (VYBK) Stadium in Kolkata.
- The matches will be held on August 17 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati and on August 18 at the Khuman Lampakh Stadium in Imphal.
- The tournament will culminate with the Grand Finale to be held at VYBK on 18 September 2022.

About Durand Cup

- The tournament was started in 1888 under the leadership of Sir Henry Durand, a renowned Indian civil servant and Foreign Secretary of India.
- It was first held in Shimla.
- The most successful teams are East Bengal and Mohun Bagan with 16 wins each.
- BSF comes in third place with 7 wins.