The 78th All India Invitation Independence Day Cup Football Tournament 2026 began on 21st November at Nurul Amin Stadium, Nagaon, Assam

The 78th All India Invitation Independence Day Cup Prize Money Football Tournament 2026 commenced in grand style on 21st November 2026 at Nurul Amin Stadium, Nagaon, under the initiative of the Nowgong Sports Association. The tournament is scheduled to conclude on 7th December 2026. In the inaugural match, Jorhat Town Club registered a convincing 4–0 victory over Sonapur Sports Club, Nalbari, to secure their place in the quarter-finals.

Jorhat Town Club dominated proceedings from the opening whistle and took a 2–0 lead in the first half. Mayukh Gogoi opened the scoring in the 23rd minute, while Bibhan Laskar doubled the advantage in the 36th minute. Despite making determined efforts to find the net after the interval, Sonapur Sports Club failed to break through Jorhat's solid defensive line. Jorhat Town Club continued their attacking display, with Bibhan Laskar and Mayukh Gogoi scoring their respective second goals in the 70th and 74th minutes to complete a comprehensive 4–0 victory.

The match was officiated by referee Dulal Ahmed, assisted by Pabitra Bora and Apurba Bora as assistant referees, while Ritomoni Ahmed served as the fourth official.

Prior to the commencement of the tournament, Association General Secretary Tapan Kumar Das delivered the welcome address. Chief Guest and Hon'ble MLA Rupak Sarma highlighted the rich history and legacy of the Independence Day Cup Football Tournament in his address. Subsequently, 19 veteran sportspersons aged above 60 years were felicitated by the association in recognition of their contributions to sports. The tournament was formally inaugurated by former national footballer Prahlad Khakhlari.