Guwahati airport approved as an export point for agarwood chips and oil – Assam holds 81% of India's agarwood resources

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News

On 30 Oct 2026, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), by Notification No. 46/2026-DGFT, allowed exports of agarwood oil, agarwood chips and allied products through Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati (amending Chapter 12, Schedule 2 of the ITC (HS) Export Policy 2022). Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on 31 Oct that this met Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's request. Assam holds about 81% of India's agarwood resources.

Key facts

Notification	No. 46/2026-DGFT, 30 Oct 2026
New export point	Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati
Already allowed	Mumbai, Nhava Sheva, Kolkata, Cochin, Delhi, Chennai, Tuticorin, Amritsar, Calicut, Thiruvananthapuram, Kandla, Mundra
Condition	CITES export permit required for CITES-listed species
Assam	About 81% of national resource; about 12 crore trees; 50,000+ farmers and workers

Recent exports	May 2026 – first legal chips consignment to Saudi Arabia and UAE; Oct 2026 – 123 kg (Golaghat) to Dubai

Background

- Agarwood (agar / oud): a fragrant wood formed when the heartwood of Aquilaria trees is infected by a fungus (mould) and the tree secretes resin, turning it dark and dense. In natural forests only about 7 in 100 trees form it. Used in incense, perfume (oud oil) and medicine.
- Conservation: the main species, Aquilaria malaccensis (family Thymelaeaceae), is IUCN 'Critically Endangered'; in CITES Appendix II since 1995; all Aquilaria species were added to Appendix II in 2004. CITES is the 1973 Washington convention.
- Assam: ancient Kamarupa is known for 'Sanchipat' manuscripts written on agarwood bark. Golaghat district's agarwood products are under 'One District One Product' (ODOP). Farmers in Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura also benefit.
- Airport name: Gopinath Bordoloi (1890–1950) – Assam's first Chief Minister after Independence (Premier from 1946); helped keep Assam from going to East Pakistan at Partition; Bharat Ratna 1999 (posthumous).

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu are among the 12 points already allowed for agarwood oil and chips exports. In Tamil, agarwood is called 'agil' ('agirpugai' – agarwood smoke).

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