



DID YOU KNOW?

WHY PAHELA FALGUN IS CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 14 INSTEAD OF 13

The Bangla Calendar or Bangabda, in its current form, was adopted by the Mughal emperor Akbar, and later reformed by subsequent rulers. The ancient Sanskrit treatise on astronomy called "Surya Siddhanta" is considered the basis of this current calendar. However, the Bangla year originally was 365 days long, and it didn't include a mechanism to account for the fact that the Earth's orbit around the sun is 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 47 seconds.

In the 1960s, revered polyglot Dr Muhammad Shahidullah was given the responsibility to upgrade the Bangla calendar. He suggested to make the first five months 31 days long, the last seven months 30 days, and to simply add a day at the end of Falgun on leap years, making it 31 days long.

Since 2019, the first six months (not five) of the year have had 31 days. The rest of the six months of the year now had 30 days, other than Falgun, which had 29 days. On years divisible by four and not by 100, however, Falgun would have 30 days, taking into account the leap year.

This also meant that Pahela Falgun was once more shifted to February 14.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

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THE INTERNET'S FAVOURITE CELEBRITY ANIMALS



PHOTO: AFP

ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM

From grumpy cats to skateboarding dogs, celebrity animals have always ruled the internet like furry royalty. For these animals, it usually doesn't take much to reach stardom. One short viral video, a few hilarious memes, and boom – these animals end up with more genuine fans and followers than most human celebrities. It's the perfect mix of cuteness, personality, and often just the right amount of chaos.

People love a good laugh, a daily dose of adorableness, or even a dramatic pet with attitude. Whether it's a cat that is always looking grumpy or a dog that has become the face of internet memes, these animals bring joy and laughter to millions.

Last year, many such celebrity animals came under the spotlight as the internet couldn't get enough of them. Here's our pick of the modern-day internet's favorite celebrity animals.

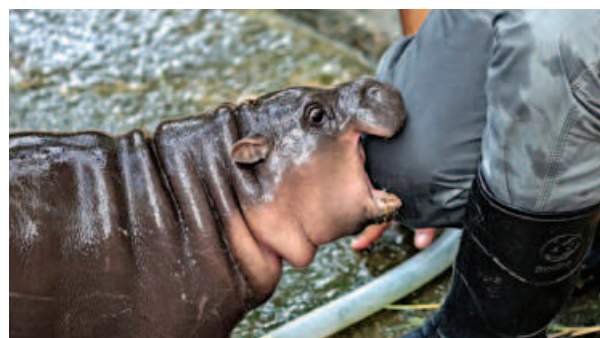


PHOTO: REUTERS

Moo Deng

The moody and ungovernable pygmy hippo

A pygmy hippopotamus at the Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Thailand, Moo Deng – meaning bouncy pork – took the internet by storm in 2024 with her temper tantrums and adorable personality. Biting the zookeepers with her toothless mouth whenever angered, running around joyfully and falling countless times on her own slippery feet, and sleeping peacefully in her bed of grass without a care in the world, Moo Deng is perhaps the little diva that we all aspire to be.

Pesto

The fluffy king penguin

Equipped with fuzzy brown feathers and a build so large he towers over every other penguin in his vicinity, this king penguin has carved a space for himself in the hearts of millions around the world. This resident of the Sea Life



Melbourne Aquarium in Australia has been dubbed as "chonky" for his fluffy build. Once he has finished molting, he will shrink considerably in size. But, for now, Pesto has claimed an unusually large spot in our lives with his cuteness.

Hua Hua

The onigiri-shaped giant panda

With their calm personalities, fluffy appearance, and nonchalant bamboo chewing, giant pandas have always been popular on the internet. Hua Hua, a member of the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, however, rose amongst the ranks of celebrity animals due to her uncanny resemblance to a Japanese *onigiri* or rice ball. That, coupled with her leisurely gait and gentle, submissive demeanour, often relinquishing her treats to her other panda companions with no resistance, has managed to garner sympathy and love from countless global fans.