

Assam gets \$60 million loan to reduce floods

Agency
Guwahati, Dec 14,

India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday signed a \$60 million loan agreement to reduce floods and the riverbank erosion in Assam, the Finance Ministry said.

"The Tranche 2 loan is part of the \$120 million multi-tranche financing facility for the Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program approved by the ADB Board in October 2010," a Finance Ministry statement said.

The loan aims to continue financing riverbank protection works, renovation of flood embankments and community-based flood risk management activities in critically flood-prone areas along the Brahmaputra river in Assam.

While Finance Ministry Additional Secretary Sameer Kumar Khare signed the deal on behalf of the Central government, ADB's India Resident Mission Country Director Kenichi Yokoyama signed it on behalf of the multilateral lending agency.

"The programme is aimed at increasing the reliability and effectiveness of flood and riverbank erosion risk management systems in flood-prone areas of Assam, strengthening the disaster preparedness of the communities and developing institutional capacity and knowledge base for flood forecasting," Khare said.

"The Project 2 under the programme will fund a combination of structural and non-structural measures in the three subproject areas of Palasbari-Gumi, Kaziranga and Dibrugarh along the Brahmaputra river which include 20 km of riverbank protection works and upgrading of 13 km of flood embankments," Yokoyama said.

The loan will have a 20-year term, including a grace period of five years, an annual interest rate determined in accordance with ADB's lending facility based on the London Interbank Offered Rate, and a commitment charge of 0.15 per cent per year.

The ministry informed the Lok Sabha that it has also issued directions to the states and the Union Territories to ensure there are no bogus beneficiaries.

No fake anganwadi centres operational in country: WCD

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 14,

There are no fake anganwadi centres operational in the country, the Women and Child Development Ministry told Parliament Friday.

The ministry informed the Lok Sabha that it has also issued directions to the states and the Union Territories to ensure there are no bogus beneficiaries.

"There are no fake anganwadi centres in the country. The ministry has issued directions to all the states and Union Territories to conduct physical verification exercise to identify genuine beneficiaries and weed out duplicate as well as

bogus ones, if any," Minister of State for WCD Virendra Kumar said in response to a written question in the Lok Sabha.

Under the anganwadi services of Umbrella Integrated Child Development Service scheme, a total number of 14 lakh AWCs have been sanctioned to all the states and the Union Territories out of which 13.63 lakh AWCs are functioning across the country in which 8.85 crore beneficiaries are availing benefits, Kumar added.

The states have also been directed to take corrective measures if any lapses are found in proper functioning of food distribution system.

Mizoram Half of the newly-elected MLAs are first time legislators

Agency
Aizawl, Dec 14,

Half of the newly elected legislators in the Mizoram Assembly are first time MLAs, a PTI report stated.

The Mizo National Front (MNF) which bagged 26 seats in the Assembly election has 14 first time MLAs.

Five out of the eight Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) legislators are also first time MLAs.

Of the five Congress MLAs, one will be a new entrant to the 40-member House.

Among the 20 first-time legislators is T J Lalnunluanga of the MNF who defeated outgoing Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla from

Champhai South seat. Ramthanmawia and Dr Z R Thiamsanga, both from the MNF, won from East Tuipui and Champhai North seats respectively in Champhai district. They are the senior-most first time MLAs aged 61 years and 60 years respectively.

Robert Romawia Royte of the MNF, who defeated Finance Minister Lalsawta is a prominent first time winner. He is the president of the Aizawl Football Club (AFC) which bagged the I-League in 2016. The other important first timers included C Lalunuanpuia of MNF (Aizawl North-III), who defeated Lal Thanhawla's younger brother and PWD Minister Lal

Thanzara and V.L. Zaitanzama of the ZPM who trounced the MNF leader and opposition group leader Vanlalzawma in Aizawl West - III seat.

Another giant killer was Prof Lalnunmawia of the MNF, a college teacher by profession, who defeated

Agriculture Minister K. S. Thanga in his home turf - Aizawl South - III. Dr Vanlalantpuia of the MNF, also a college teacher defeated Horticulture Minister P.C. Lalthanlian, a close confidant of Lal Thanhawla in the minister's home turf Lunglei North seat.

50 pugilists called in for Elite Men Boxing camp Arjuna Awardee C.A. Kuttappa is new Head Coach for the Elite Boxers

IT News
New Delhi, Dec 14,

Amit Panghal, the Asian Games gold medal winner, CWG gold winner Gaurav Solanki, 2010 CWG medalist Mandeep Jangra, and Sachin Siwach, former youth world champion and World Championship medalists, Shiva Thapa and Gaurav Bidhuri are among the 50-odd boxers selected for the Elite Men Boxing camp, which has started from December 10, 2018, to be held at NIS, Patiala. The camp, which continues until January 15, 2019, will be supervised by 14 coaches,

headed by performance director Santiago Nieva. National Champion Deepak (42Kg) and PL Prasad (52Kg) will also be part of this camp. 2018 Gold Coast Bronze Medal winner, Manoj Kumar, who is currently undergoing a rehabilitation programme at Patiala, will join the campers in three-week time.

As per the standard guide line, the list will be pruned to 46 players and 12 coaches at the end of a trial conducted along with the performances reviewed of the selected 50 players at the camp. The selected boxers then will be part of a camp starting from

January 16, as the Players will be trained for the upcoming Asian Championship in April and World Championship in September, which also happens to be an Olympic Qualifier.

It is mandatory for all pugilists to attend the national camp as based on the performances of the individual in different categories before the final list of players will be shortlisted for the major tournaments for next year.

The camp will also be important for all these elite boxers as the final cut for next Olympics to be held in Tokyo in 2020 will also be done from

these probable.

Kuttappa is head coach Meanwhile, C.A. Kuttappa, the Dronacharya Awardee, has been named as the national head coach who will lead a battery of Indian coaches. The young coach, with his Army background, has an eye for talent hunting and is credited with the grooming of Vijender Singh and Suranjay Singh, the CWG and Asian Games medal winners.

The affable 40-year-old from Mysuru is a revered coach as he is known to read the mind of every boxer and prepare according to individual's ability.

Senior KRA leader shot dead by miscreants

Agency
Imphal, Dec 14,

A senior leader of the militant outfit Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) was shot dead by unidentified persons in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, the police said Friday.

Hemkhotang Mishao (48) the chief finance secretary of KRA was shot dead on Thursday evening by some unidentified armed persons near a hotel at Saikul Bazaar in Kangpokpi district, they said.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the killing of the KRA leader, the police said.

No arrests have been made in connection with the incident, the police said, adding that a case has been registered at Saikul police station.

Man arrested for killing seven-month pregnant wife in Meghalaya

Courtesy TNT
Shillong, Dec 14,

A man has been arrested for allegedly murdering his seven-month pregnant wife in Ri Bhoi district.

The arrested has been identified as Pynshai Nongrang of Umlangkrew village under Umsolhat Police Station in the district.

The victim was murdered on the night of December 10. Police investigation is still underway.

CorCom condoles and pay revolutionary salute to NSCN-IM Vice Chairman Khole Konyak

IT News
Imphal, Dec 14,

Conglomerate of rebel group operating in the region CorCom today condole and pay revolutionary salute to the demise of Former Vice Chairman of NSCN-IM, Retd. General Khole Konyak on December 12.

In a statement issued by Leibakgapak Luwang, Media Co-ordinator of CorCom, Publicity Committee of CorCom said that Late Retd. General Khole Konyak

work as a National Worker in Naga since 1956 to free the WESEA Region from the clutch of the colonial regime. It stated that the late leader had work to unite the various rebel groups operating in the region. His sacrifice for the national cause has been an inspiration to the revolutionary workers of the region. The leader's motto is to follow never for high post. His demise will left a vacuum to the revolutionary struggle of the WESEA region, the CorCom statement said.

KSO Moreh refutes claim made by Ima Kondong Lairembi Committee

IT News
Tengnoupal, Dec 14,

The Kuki Students' Organization (KSO), Moreh Block has refuted the claim made by Ima Kondong Lairembi Committee that the land for Ima Kondong Lairembi was acquired before World War II, said a statement released by KSO.

In the statement, KSO said that the piece of land was gifted for religious purpose and construction of residential and religious buildings at the site on such false claim will cause misunderstanding between the communities.

KSO, Moreh Block further maintained that the piece of land was donated for religious

purpose on February 25, 1997 which is also supported by the Hill Tribal Council in its statement made on October 26, 2018, mentioned the statement and alleged that the Lairembi Committee and some vested individuals planned to construct residential buildings which is in contrast to the donation agreement.

In the statement, the KSO Moreh Block appealed the Lairembi Committee to stop making false and concocted claim while cautioning that the students' organization will fight tooth and nail against construction of residential buildings by other communities other than the tribal community.

IT News
Imphal, Dec 14,

The 23rd International Film festival organised by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy concluded yesterday at Nishagandhi Auditorium of Thiruvananthapuram.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Minister for Law, Culture and Parliamentary Affairs A.K. Balan, Minister for Agriculture V.S. Sunil Kumar, MLA V.S. Sivakumar, the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy Chairman Kamal, Academy Vice-Chairperson Beena Paul, Aca-demy secretary Mahesh Panju attended the closing ceremony and distributed media awards. Following the ceremony, the winner of the award for the best film in International Competition **The Dark Room (Otagh-e-Tarik)** by Rouhollah Hejazi was screened at Nisa-gandhi. Meghachandra Kongbam, a



founding member of Manipur Film Journalists and Critics Association and a government employee for 37 years, was the chairman of the FIPRESCI Jury. Majid Majidi, renowned Tamil film director, writer and producer, Vetrimaaran, Adolfo Alix jr. a Filipino Screenwriter and film director, Umesh Vinayak

Kulkarni, renowned Marathi film director, Sivamohan Sumathy, an award winning filmmaker, performer, were the jury members.

The K.R. Mohan Endowment for the Best Debut Director from India, instituted by Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI), has been incepted this year.

Fourteen films from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, are in the International Competition of the fete. Of the four Indian films in the competition for the Golden Crow Pheasant, the Malayalam films are Lijo Jose Pellissery's 'Ee.Ma.Yau', and Zakariya's 'Sudani from Nigeria'.