

HEADLINES

- Assessment of damages will begin as flood situation improves in Assam.
- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industries, Nirmala Sitharaman says construction work for Asian Trilateral Highway will start soon to catalyze Act East policy.
- Mizoram's opposition Mizo National Front will fight next year's Assembly election alone and rules out pre-poll alliance with other parties.
- Meghalaya government launches "Super-60" programme, an e-coaching for IIT-JEE and NEET aspirants.
- Tripura government signs Memorandum of Collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University, IGNOU, to train 11,884 untrained school teachers of elementary level.
- Mizoram Minister of State for Fisheries, Buddha Dhan Chakma resigns from council of ministers.

NEWS IN ORDER**FLOOD**

As flood situation has improved in Assam, steps are being taken to assess the damages across the state. Talking to AIR, Forest minister Pramila Rani Brahma said that 253 animals including 20 rhinos drowned to death at Kaziranga national park in the current wave of flood. Ms. Brahma said that this was the most devastating flood that hit the park after 1968. The minister said that altogether 358 casualties have been reported this year at Kaziranga due to flood, but no casualty to animal was reported from any other wildlife parks. Ms Brahma said that as per initial assessment, flood water caused damages to roads and anti poaching camps to the tune of 10 crore rupees at Kaziranga. The minister said that her priority would be to repair damaged infrastructure and construct highland areas for wild animals. On the other hand, Water Resource Minister, Keshab Mahanta said that breaches in river embankment have been reported at 26 places in 15 districts. The Minister has written to the Chief Minister seeking a high level enquiry into the breach of Hatimura embankment at Koliabor. 70 persons have died in the current wave of flood in Assam.

TRILATERAL HIGHWAY

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industries, Nirmala Sitharaman yesterday said that construction work for Asian Trilateral Highway will start shortly to catalyze the Act East policy. Speaking at a one-day lecture on New India Manthan-Sankalp Se Siddhi at Imphal, she said, Manipur will be the gateway for the entire South-East Asia and have a lot more to benefit from the country's Act East Policy. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was also present on the occasion.

MNF

In Mizoram, the opposition Mizo National Front yesterday announced that it would fight next year's Assembly election alone and ruled out any pre-poll alliance with other parties. Former chief minister and MNF chief, Zoramthanga, while addressing party workers at the party office in Aizawl, said that some people have been saying that the MNF will forge pre-election alliance with the BJP, which is not true as the party will fight the poll alone. The MNF is a constituent of the North East Democratic Alliance, an alliance of non-Congress parties in the North East. He said that though the MNF is part of NEDA, but there will be no alliance with the BJP in the state.

SUPER-60

The Meghalaya government yesterday launched a programme called “Super-60,” an e-coaching centre for IIT-JEE and NEET aspirants. Organized by the Meghalaya Information Technology Society, the coaching programme was launched by Information Technology and Communication Minister, Ampareen Lyngdoh. The programme aims at providing a digitally enabled personalized learning experience for the selected students. The Government desires to encourage meritorious and needy students not only to excel in their board examinations, but also get admission into top professional colleges in the country by securing high ranks in entrance examinations like Joint Entrance Examination for engineering, and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for medical. The coaching program is meant for 60 meritorious Class XI students including those from BPL families. Thirty students will be undergoing IIT-JEE coaching and 30 for NEET. Speaking on the occasion, Lyngdoh said that it was important for the government to invest for the future, while hoping that the first batch will set a standard for future groups.

TEACHERS

The Tripura government has signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University, IGNOU, last week for imparting training to 11,884 untrained school teachers of elementary level. The training programme by IGNOU is a two-year Diploma in Elementary Education. IGNOU has to conduct training for only those teachers "who possess the qualifications as per NCTE norms and who are working in government or government recognized primary and elementary schools." The training will be conducted in a phased manner. Only one hundred trainees in each Programme Study Centre of IGNOU will be enrolled.

RESIGNATION

Mizoram Minister of State for Fisheries, Buddha Dhan Chakma yesterday submitted his resignation from the council of ministers, but his resignation is yet to be accepted by the Chief Minister, Lal Thanhawla. In his resignation letter, Chakma pointed out that four Chakma students, who qualified for pursuing MBBS course under the state quota, were denied admission in medical colleges in the country, and stated that, remaining in the council of ministers, might create uneasiness.
