

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Daily Current Affairs



LUCENT
IAS Institute of
Advanced Studies



 +91 70990 06849

Pandu Ship Repair Project completion rescheduled to 2025

A CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: The Ministry of Ports Waterways & Shipping has rescheduled the timeline to make operational the Ship Repair Project at Pandu by 2025.

The announcement for the Ship Repair Project at Pandu was made in August, 2021 and the construction was to commence from May, 2022 to be completed by 2024.

“However, due to various reasons, the project is now rescheduled for completion by

2025,” a senior official in the Ministry of Waterways Shipping & Ports told *The Assam Tribune* on Saturday in Delhi.

The official said that the facility is going to be a major contributor to the economic resurgence of the region.

The design and implementation of this project are being done jointly by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Cochin Shipyard Ltd, while technical support is being provided by IIT-Madras. The facility – also referred to as ‘Slipway’ – is to be developed on

3.67 acres of land provided by the State government.

Noting that delay happened due to the Covid pandemic, the ministry has now asked the IWAI to take every measure to ensure that the project is completed as per schedule.

Meanwhile, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has noted that an alternative road to Pandu port was proposed in 2011 at a then estimated cost of Rs 12.32 crore but due to various reasons, could not be constructed. Sig-

nificantly, due to the lack of this alternate road, the available infrastructure at Pandu port was lying largely unutilised.

“The proposal has been deferred for nearly a decade despite CAG observations. The alternate road is now proposed to be built at a cost of Rs 186 crore by 2026. This indicates apathy on the part of the Ministry and IWAI. An important infrastructure project, which could have benefitted the region, should have been constructed without delay,” the committee said.

Category:

➤ GS-3

Pandu Ship Repair Facility:

- This facility is going to be a major contributor to the economic resurgence of the region.
- The design and implementation of this project is being done jointly by IWAI and Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- The technical support is being provided by IIT, Madras.
- The facility - also referred as ‘Slipway’ - is going to be developed on 3.67 acre of land which is provided by Government of Assam.

Ship Repair Project

20 November 2023



Category:

➤ GS-3

BENIFITS:

- Connectivity to the National water ways and seamless transactional movement of cargo and people also
- Bypassing the startegic chicken neck and adjusting to a security route along the Chitagong route to mainland India .
- The economic viability and the commercialisation of the markets of North eastern India is mainstreamed
- Further connectivity to the South East Asian countries and and multimodal connectivity with the Kaladan and IMT trialateral highway .

- Pandu (Guwahati) is the most important location on National Waterways (NW-2) (river Brahmaputra) and accordingly Government established a Multi-Modal river port at Pandu.
- Development of Ship repair facility at Pandu is beneficial since North Eastern Region (NER) does not have any vessel repair facility with dry docking.
- At present, the vessels in the NER are taken to Kolkata through Bangladesh for dry dock repair.

- Pandu (Guwahati) is the most important location on National Waterways (NW-2) (river Brahmaputra) and accordingly Government established a Multi-Modal river port at Pandu.
- Development of Ship repair facility at Pandu is beneficial since North Eastern Region (NER) does not have any vessel repair facility with dry docking.
- At present, the vessels in the NER are taken to Kolkata through Bangladesh for dry dock repair.

Details of Multi-Modal Terminal at Pandu (Guwahati) on NW-2 (river Brahmaputra)

- A broad gauge railway siding connecting Pandu port to Kamakhya railway station (Guwahati) has been constructed through NF Railway at a cost of 16.46 crore and opened for commercial operation by NF Railway in 2013.

Initiatives taken by the Government to encourage entrepreneurs/cargo operators to boost inland navigation in the North East:

- Fairway development works: To improve the connectivity between NW-1 and NW-2/NW-16 via the Indo Bangladesh protocol route
- Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax Service Commenced in National Waterway-2 The Operation of Ro-Ro / Ro-Pax vessels inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minster during February 2021
- Revision of Levy & Collection of Fees: Taking ahead the vision of the Government of India to promote Inland Waterways as a supplementary mode of transport.
- Enhanced regional trade using IWT mode:
 - Addition of new Ports of Call and routes in India and Bangladesh under PIWT&T

Awareness prog on NALSA's child-friendly legal services

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Nov 19: In a concerted effort to empower communities and protect the rights of children, the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), Kamrup (M), in collaboration with Care u 365, organized an awareness programme on the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and its impactful initiative – the Child-Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection Scheme, 2015.

Held at the Bonda School Wapsi Centre today, the event witnessed a distinguished

gathering of individuals committed to advocating for the well-being of children. Dr Rabin Mazumdar, a renowned doctor and social worker, attended the occasion as a guest of honour, underscoring the critical importance of addressing legal issues concerning children with sensitivity and care.

Mazumdar commended the District Legal Service Authority, Kamrup (M), for its exemplary role in the district, acknowledging the tireless efforts in ensuring that legal services are accessible and child-friendly. His insightful remarks shed light on the

significance of nurturing an environment where children's rights are not only recognized but actively protected.

Pradeep Gupta, representing Round Table India, also participated in the programme. As a demonstration of their commitment to the cause, Round Table India distributed school bags among the children of the School Wapsi Centre. This gesture reflects the collective responsibility of organizations and individuals to contribute to the holistic development and well-being of children.

The resource person from

DLSA, Kamrup (M), shared comprehensive insights into the key provisions and objectives of the Child-Friendly Legal Services to Children and their Protection Scheme, 2015. The interactive session aimed at equipping attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary to be advocates for children's rights within their communities.

The event not only disseminated valuable information but also fostered a sense of community engagement and responsibility towards ensuring a safer and more supportive environment for children.

Category:

➤ **GS-2**

NALSA's child-friendly legal services:

- To provide children with meaning full , affordable and age appropriate legal assistance
- To outline the basic rights and benefits that should be afforded to children
- To ensure legal representation to the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law at all levels
- To strengthening Legal Services, Institutional care, counselling and support services at national level , state level ,district and taluq level .
- To develop effective coordination and interface with all government bodies or functionaries ,institutions , authorities and other organizations are entrusted with the responsibilities relating to child rights .

The basis human rights that should be accorded to children are as follows:

- Survival rights -which includes the child's right to life and needs that are most basic to existence ,such a nutrition ,shelter and adequate living standard
- Development rights include the right to education play , leisure , cultural activities ,access to information and freedom of thought, conscience and religion .
- Protection rights that include Protection against all forms of abuse ,neglect and exploitation including special care for refugee children; safeguards for children in the criminal justice system .
- Participation rights encompassing children's freedom to express opinion ,to have a day in matters affecting there own rights,to join associations and to assemble peacefully

Adaptive development

■ Biswajit Daimary, Dr Madhulika Jonathan

In June 2021, when the Assam Police rescued 40 children being trafficked as labour to other states, the story of Adivasi girl Rimpali (name changed) was not about child trafficking alone. It was a wake-up call on the far-reaching impact of climate change too. While many parents were happy to see their children return home, others felt that the children were better off working. Among them were Rimpali's parents from a village along the India-Bhutan border.

Floods and erosion had so impacted on the environs of Rimpali's village that many in the community had to seek shelter in the reserve forest areas. That led to an increase in man-elephant conflict incidents and landlessness. "Every week herds of elephants come down and destroy our paddy and huts. Our children drop out of school because of multiple floods. It is better if Rimpali works, at least she will get to eat and stay alive," said a parent.

As per the 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the Indian Himalayan Region using a Common Framework' (2018-19) prepared by IIT-Mandi, IIT-Guwahati and the Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore, 15 districts in Assam are among the 25 most climate-vulnerable districts in India. It is also public knowledge that nearly 40 per cent of Assam's area is prone to floods due to the extensive river basins – Brahmaputra and Barak. According to Assam's State Action Plan for Climate Change, there is a likelihood of 5 to 38 per cent increase in extreme rainfall events in the State. In 2022 alone, around 8.85 million people were affected by floods and the fiscal burden of damage due to disasters between 2015-22 in Assam amounted to Rs 3,595 crore approximately.

Let us paint a picture here – intensive floods lead to shrinking ag-

ricultural land, and impacting on rural economy. Crop loss due to floods and related events lead to rising inflation, pushing families into poverty. This in turn impacts on children – a section of people that contributes the least to climate change. With Rimpali's example, it may be explained that the interconnectedness of deprivation leads to a loss of childhood that many around the world face today.

Assam, among a few states in India, has directed its efforts towards the formulation of policies that prioritise poverty eradication, enhance risk awareness and foster adaptive capacities – keeping children at the heart. These include the Green Budget, the Assam United Nations Children's Fund, State Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2030, which are aligned with international policy frameworks that encompass climate action, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and child rights such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goal 1.2 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In 2023, Assam became the first state in North East India and the second in the country to introduce a Green Budget that is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals such as Goal 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land). Its primary objective is to steer the economy towards sustainable and comprehensive expansion. It evaluates public expenditures in terms of their contributions to environment-friendly outcomes, thereby promoting financial planning that

prioritises environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation.

The Assam Green Budget encourages sectoral participation, similar to initiatives like the Gender Budget and Child Budget. Fourteen departments have been involved based on their roles in addressing nine vulnerable sectors to climate change, as identified in Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change 2.0 for undertaking the cost for climate adaptation measures. The programmes under the 14 departments are under three domains. The first is Climate Change Mitigation which includes schemes promoting renew-

nificantly impact on vulnerable groups, particularly children and women who are most susceptible to climate change. For instance, rehabilitation of families displaced by floods and erosion not only aids social and child protection, but also contributes to forest regeneration, wildlife habitat improvement and conservation efforts. Moreover, supporting climate adaptation and resilience in essential services, such as water, sanitation, health, nutrition, and education, helps protect the rights of children to health and nutrition.

The Assam Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2030 is another noteworthy initiative of the Government of Assam, which is aligned to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SfDRR) for reduction of losses and impacts. The roadmap advocates policy coherence in disaster risk reduction, aligning with sustainable development, gender equality, poverty reduction and climate change. It sets realistic short, medium and long-term goals with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, people with disabilities and those living below the poverty line.

Earlier this year, the Assam Cabinet approved three per cent of the State's non-salary, non-pension and non-wages budget for implementing the DRR Roadmap 2030 to expand the fiscal space for disaster preparedness and response.

Initiatives like Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2030 and Green Budget underscore a significant shift toward a whole-of-government approach in disaster management. It sets an example for other states on integration of interven-

tions with robust governance and institutional frameworks for resilience at all levels.

However, the formidable challenge remains for the sectors and line departments to understand the cause-and-effect relationship between disasters and development results including the provision of services and systems critical to child well-being and long-term development. This lens to programming and planning will increase the capacity of people (or an individual) to adapt, foresee and withstand climate and disaster risks, thereby reducing the risk of impoverishment following a catastrophe.

In 2015, Assam unveiled its State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC), in harmony with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). A revised SAPCC for the 2021-2030 period has also been developed in alignment with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) objectives, the SDGs and the State's development priorities.

The SAPCC 2.0 emphasises the need to systematically allocate funds for climate adaptation measures and encourages every department to incorporate these requirements into their planning and fiscal instruments. However, this progressive plan of action is not legally binding.

Assam's commitment to incorporating climate-sensitive approaches in fiscal policies and the adoption of green budgeting practices are a model for other regions. The integration of climate goals into financial planning and management can yield substantial benefits, protecting vulnerable populations and paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient future. However, challenges remain, and global collaboration is necessary to address climate change and protect the most vulnerable, particularly children, in the face of environmental challenges.

(Published on the occasion of World Children's Day)

Assam's commitment to incorporating climate-sensitive approaches in fiscal policies and the adoption of green budgeting practices are a model for other regions. The integration of climate goals into financial planning and management can yield substantial benefits, protecting vulnerable populations and paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient future.

able energy, energy conservation, and the adoption of electric vehicles. The second is Climate Change Adaptation that has programmes addressing current or expected climate-related challenges, such as Rain-fed Area Development and MGNREGS. Lastly, there is Environmental Sustainability which encompasses interventions for sustainable resource use, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, and protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The integration of these departments in the Green Budget can sig-

Category:

➤ GS-3

Adaptive development:

- Assam, among a few states in India, has directed its efforts towards the formulation of policies that prioritise poverty eradication, enhance risk awareness and foster adaptive capacities – keeping children at the heart

These include the:

- **Green Budget:** Green budgeting means using the tools of budgetary policy-making to help achieve environmental and climate goals.

Assam United Nations Children's Fund:

- UNICEF's field presence in Assam for the past 15 years has allowed it to occupy a unique and advantageous position in the State.
- As a lead implementing partner in high priority districts identified by the Government of India, UNICEF has established strong partnerships with government and civil society organizations and developed a strong field presence in Assam.

State Action:

- Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap 2030:

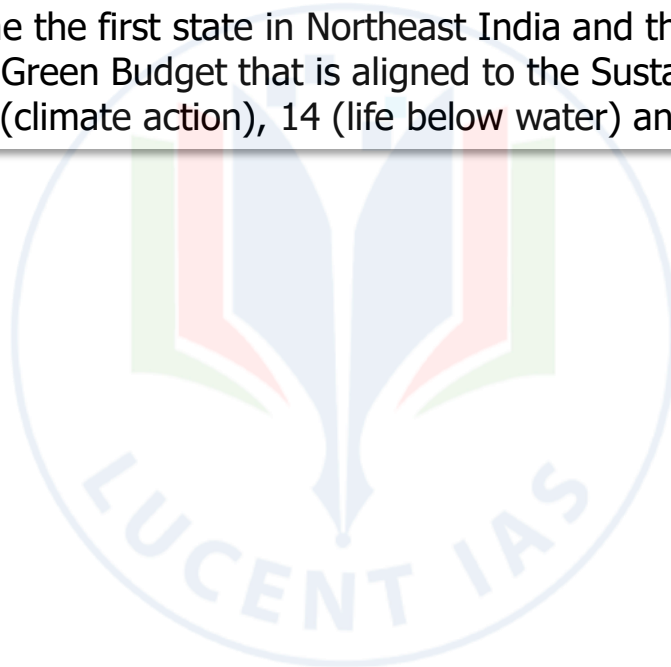
The DRR Roadmap for Assam aims at preventing new risks, reducing existing risks and managing residual risks thereby reducing losses and impacts of disasters in the state of Assam

- Promote policy coherence relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as sustainable development, gender equity, poverty reduction and climate change, particularly with the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement, Prime Minister's Ten Point Agenda for DRR and National Disaster Management Plan of India, 2019.
- To establish realistic targets in alignment with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) for reduction of losses and impacts.
- To set realistic and feasible actions across short, medium, and longer timescales in alignment with the four priority areas of SFDRR for achieving the defined targets with a focus on most vulnerable groups including women, children, differentially able, families living below poverty line.
- Identify strategic opportunities for stakeholders (Government, Civil Society Organizations, Academic Institutions, Private Sector and UN Agencies) to coordinate and collaborate for disaster risk reduction actions.
- To establish a multi-stakeholder mechanism to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress.
- To estimate the average sector-wise losses and impacts due to disasters in the state of Assam from 2011 onwards based on available data.

The guiding principles for the Assam DRR Roadmap are:

- Building on existing governance system
- Integrated all hazard approach
- Multi-stakeholder orientation to DRR outcomes
- Coherence and Convergence
- Do No Harm
- Equity and Inclusion
- Resilient Development

In 2023, Assam became the first state in Northeast India and the second in the country to introduce a Green Budget that is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals such as Goal 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land)



Titabar rice research institute developing high-yield aromatic Joha



January 27 this year, the station was re-designated as the Assam Agricultural University-Assam Rice Research Institute (AAU-ARRI).

AAU-ARRI chief scientist Sanjay Kumar Chetia said that the institute is now focused on need-based agriculture. "That is the reason ARRI now does

market survey, invites stakeholders like farmers, retailers, wholesalers, millers and companies for information on what aspect it should focus its research. For instance, ARRI is now focusing its research on development of climate-smart cultivars such as drought tolerant, biotic and abiotic stress tolerant, anaerobic germination tolerant cultivars for direct-seeded rice," Chetia said.

"The research also focuses on development of biofortified rice varieties rich in zinc and iron content. Research work has also been undertaken to develop high-yielding premium quality aromatic Joha rice and high yielding red rice varieties," he said.

➤ SEE PAGE 7

Category:
➤ **GS-3**

In context

- The APRI began as a rice experiment station in 1923 to cater to the issues faced by farmers from the Brahmaputra valley.
- It comes under the administrative control of Assam Agricultural University (AAU) in 1968 as the Rice Research Station .
- The AAU-Assam Rice Research Institute (AAU-ARRI) has been taking up rice research activities since its inception and played a key role in increasing production and productivity of rice in the state
- In early eighties, emphasis was laid on taking up need-based, location specific research as per the concept of National Agricultural Research Project (NARP).
- Therefore, one research station was established in each of the six agro-climatic zones of Assam.
- Since then Rice Research Station at Titabar became a Zonal Research Station for Upper Brahmaputra Valley Zone and re-designated as Regional Agricultural Research Station.

JOHA RICE:

- Joha (Assamese: is a variety of rice grown in India, notable for its aroma, delicate and excellent taste.
- Assam is the largest cultivator of this rice, it is primarily grown through paddy field farming.
- In Garo Hills it's widely cultivated and it is known as Jaha rice or locally known as *mi Jaha*.

Foundation day of Bodo Sahitya Sabha celebrated

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, Nov 19: Different Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS) units under Tezpur District Bodo Sahitya Sabha celebrated the organisation's 72nd foundation day on Thursday and honoured the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Bodo language, culture, literature and heritage.

It may be mentioned that the BSS was founded on November 16, 1952, under the chairmanship of Joy Bhadra Hagjer at Basugaon in Kokrajhar and it has been promoting Bodo language and literature, culture and heritage since its inception.

Along with other BSS units, the Bahbari unit of the Sabha and Tezpur Bodo Society celebrated the occasion with

pomp and gaiety. Following the unfurling of its flag in the morning, the unit president Basudev Daimary and vice president Dhaniram Daimary paid homage to martyrs. A delegates' session, presided over by Basudev Daimary and conducted by general secretary Sunil Kr Kachari, was attended by a host of Bodo literateurs such as Subheswar Kachari, Jaladhar Brahma, Prasanna Rabha and Sidheswar Rabha. The president and vice president of the West Tezpur unit of ABSU, Manash Pratim Daimary and Anthou Bathau Boro, district representative Rupjyoti Boro and journalist and former ABSU worker Shambhu Boro were also present on the occasion.

Later, a new committee of the Bahbari unit was formed

with Dhaniram Daimary as president and Prafulla Boro as general secretary.

At Jaimati Pathar, the Tezpur Bodo Society started its day-long events with a cleanliness drive at 7 am, which was followed by paying of homage to the martyrs, unfurling of the ceremonial flag, guest felicitation, cultural procession, special talk on Bodo language, prize distribution, symposium on the topic 'Development of Bodo language in the age digitisation', cultural event, etc.

Kokrajhar correspondent adds: The Kokrajhar Primary Bodo Sahitya Sabha also observed the day at Baganshali here on Thursday. The day was also observed by various educational institutions of the district with a variety of programmes.

Category:

➤ **GS-1**

Bodo Sahitya Sabha:

- Was started on 16 November 1952;
- It was founded under the presidency and leadership of Joy Bhadra Hagjer, at Basugaon, in the district of Kokrajhar, Assam on 16 November 1952.
- It consisted of representatives of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Nepal in abroad.
- After prolonged struggle and determination of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha (Bodo Literary Organization), the Bodo language was introduced as a medium of instruction at primary level in 1963 and then at secondary level in 1968.



LUCENT
IAS Institute of
Advanced Studies

Interview Guidance Programme

A Comprehensive
Strategy Course for
APSC CCE 2022

JOIN NOW!

CONTACT US 

+91-6913007777

[Click here to enroll
today](#)