

Land route between India and Myanmar open officially



IT News
Moreh, Aug 8,

Perhaps for the first time in the history of India and Myanmar Indian tourist visa or Myanmar tourist with the same can now visit both the country on land route. To facilitate the conveniences an official function held today inaugurated the first Manipur-Myanmar Border road at Moreh.

The inaugural function was held at Friendship Bridge at Moreh that connects India with Myanmar, both the representatives exchanged warm welcome on both the

side. From Indian side, the contingent was led by RK Shivachandra, Convenor of the Act East Policy Committee, Manipur whereas Myanmar's Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin and Nandan Singh Bhairosa, Consul General of India. After the gap of 20 years, the first land route between India and Myanmar has come to reality and will enhance the relationship and also the bilateral relationship on Indo-Myanmar relations. Notably, the Government of

India has already announced Moreh as an Immigration Check Post of India. On the other side of the border, the Myanmar Immigration Check Post is going to be converted into an international check post and Indians travelling to Myanmar would not be required to obtain passes from Myanmar Land Customs. As of now, citizens from both the countries are allowed free movement upto 16 kilometres of each others' territory. Indians who intended to travel beyond the 16 kms had to take special permits from the Myanmar Authority.

PM reviews performance of key infrastructure sectors of Energy and Mining

PIB
Imphal, Aug 8,

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on Tuesday reviewed progress of key infrastructure sectors of power, renewable energy, petroleum and natural gas, coal, and mining. The review meeting, which lasted for over two hours, was attended by top officials from infrastructure-related Ministries, NITI Aayog, and PMO.

In course of the presentation made by CEO NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant, it was noted that the installed power generation capacity in India has risen to 344 GigaWatts. India's energy deficit, which stood at over 4 per cent in 2014, has shrunk to less than 1 per cent in 2018. Significant capacity additions have been made in transmission lines, transformer capacity, and inter-regional transmission. India now ranks 26th in the World Bank's "Ease of Getting Electricity" Index, up from 99th in 2014. Progress in household electrification under the SAUBHAGYA initiative, was reviewed. Discussions also focused on

last mile connectivity and distribution, in both urban and rural areas. In the new and renewable energy sector, cumulative installed capacity has nearly doubled, from 35.5 GigaWatts in 2013-14, to about 70 GigaWatts in 2017-18. In solar energy, installed capacity has increased from 2.6 GigaWatts to 22 GigaWatts in the same period. Officials expressed confidence that India is on track to comfortably achieve the Prime Minister's target of 175 GigaWatts renewable energy capacity by 2022.

The Prime Minister urged the officials to work towards ensuring that the benefits from increase in solar energy capacity, reach the farmers, through appropriate interventions such as solar pumps, and user-friendly solar cooking solutions. In the petroleum and natural gas sector, it was noted that targets set under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will be comfortably achieved in the current financial year. In the coal sector, discussions focused on further augmentation of production capacity.

Assam Rifles Repairs Football Ground at Behiang Village



IT News
Imphal, Aug 8,

To promote unity, harmony and build friendly relations with the locals, Thinghat Battalion Assam Rifles, under the aegis of Churachandpur Sector Assam Rifles organised a community service drive in Behiang village in which locals of Behiang and neighbouring villages also participated. The aim of organising this event was to renovate the football ground of the village which was lying in a state of disuse and to make it usable again for the benefit of the locals and

the youth of the area. The work is expected to be completed by 12 Aug 2018 and is being done as a prelude to the football tournament that is planned to be organised at Behiang village in the third week of August. This tournament will be instrumental in attracting the youth towards sports and motivating them to take up sports as a career option. The wholehearted participation of the villagers signifies the willingness of the villagers to work together towards achieving betterment of the community.

Scene during 24 hours Total Shut down in Kuki dominated area (Photo by Lucky)



When the Government of India and the Government of the republic of Myanmar is busy inaugurating the Land rout at Border gate large number of Kuki people came to the street and enforce the total shut down called by the Kuki Inpi Manipur. The bandh is called against the India government failure to deliver justice to the over 900 Kuki bretherns including women and children who were slaughter by the cadres of the NSCN -IM during early 90s.

International & National News

SC seeks J-K govt's reply on plea alleging custodial torture of Kathua case witness

Agency
New Delhi, Aug 8

The Supreme Court today sought response from the Jammu and Kashmir government on a plea by Talib Hussain, a key witness in the sensational Kathua gang rape-and-murder case, alleging custodial torture by the state police in an alleged fake rape case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra considered the submission of senior advocate Indira Jaising that Hussain had been brutally tortured in police

custody and judicial intervention was needed.

The bench also comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud asked the senior lawyer to explain as to how a writ of habeas corpus (produce the body) can be filed in the present case as the accused, Hussain, is in lawful custody of the police.

Jaising referred to a Supreme Court judgement and said that such a petition can be filed even in case of custodial torture.

The bench asked the state government to file the response in a week and asked

the lawyers to serve a copy of the petition on the advocate general of the state.

It also permitted the woman, who had lodged an FIR against Hussain alleging rape, to file an application seeking to intervene in the matter. The bench posted the matter for further hearing on August 21.

The court was hearing the submission of a close relative of Hussain, seeking urgent hearing on the plea.

The relative of Hussain sought his protection in police custody and alleged that he had been brutally beaten up

in the alleged fake rape case.

The habeas corpus writ petition, filed by a cousin of the witness, alleged that Hussain had been kept in illegal detention and was being subjected to custodial torture. Hussain is a key witness in the Kathua case, in which an eight-year-old girl from a minority nomadic community was abducted and gang-raped in January.

The state police's crime branch, which probed the case, filed the main charge sheet against seven people and a separate charge sheet against a juvenile.

IMF asks India to consider simpler GST rate structure

Agency
Washington, Aug 8

The IMF today described the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a "milestone reform" in India's tax policy, but pushed for a simplified structure, saying the multiple rate structure and other features could give rise to high compliance and administrative costs.

In its annual country report, the International Monetary Fund also said that a dual rate structure with a low standard rate and an additional higher rate on select items can be progressive and preserve revenue neutrality.

The GST is an indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services in India. It came into effect on July 1, 2017. The IMF said that GST is a milestone reform in India's tax policy, taking the important

step of unifying and harmonising numerous indirect taxes across all states of the federation and the central government.

"Yet, the GST has a complex structure with a relatively high number of rates (and exemptions), which could be simplified without sacrificing progressivity of the current GST and with potentially significant gains from lower compliance and administrative costs," it said.

A dual rate structure with a low standard rate and an additional higher rate on select items can be progressive and preserve revenue neutrality, while streamlining exemptions would further contribute to progressivity and reduce compliance and administrative costs, the IMF recommended. The IMF said that with the

consumption basket of the rich taxed at higher rates than that of the poor, the GST as presently designed has an effective tax rate rising with household consumption. A revenue-neutral reduction in the number of rates would raise the effective rates for poorer households while reducing those for richer households. This is the key cost of moving to a simpler system, it argued.

In its report the IMF said the implementation of the GST led to the key step of harmonising indirect tax rates on goods and services that previously differed across different states and the centre, and brought services into the state tax net. However, India belongs in a small group of five countries having four or more GST rates: four non zero rates of five per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent, and 28 per cent; special low

rates of three per cent on gems and jewelry and 0.25 per cent on rough diamonds; and a GST "cess" levied on demerit goods. In comparison, among 115 countries with VATs, 49 have a single rate, and 28 have two rates, it noted.

"The multiple rate structure and other features of India's GST environment could give rise to high compliance and administrative costs, it said.

The goods and services tax created a unified national market for the first time by lowering internal barriers to trade - effectively establishing a free trade agreement for a market of over 1.3 billion people, said Ranil Salgado, IMF mission chief for India.

The tax is also expected to increase the amount of economic activity taking place in the formal sector of the economy - leading to better quality and more reliable jobs, he added.