

## International &amp; National News

## PM Modi says fulfilled promise of MSP hike, committed to develop agriculture sector

Agency,  
New Delhi, July 4,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the government has fulfilled its promise of hiking the minimum support price to 1.5 times the production cost of farming produce. He said the government is committed to the development of the agriculture sector. The government on Wednesday hiked the minimum support price for paddy by a steep Rs 200 per

quintal as it looked to fulfill its poll promise to give farmers 50% more rate than their cost of production. The decision, taken by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Modi, comes less than a year before the next general elections. "I am very happy that the promise made by the government to our farmer brothers and sisters of giving minimum support price at 1.5 times the production cost has been fulfilled. There has been a historic increase in the MSP.

Congratulations to all farmers," he tweeted in Hindi. The government is committed to taking all initiatives needed for the development of the agriculture sector and farmers' welfare, he said. "We have been taking steps in this direction and will continue to do so," he said. The hike in minimum support prices helped the stock market post gains after trading in the red earlier the day. The BSE Sensex rose 266.80 points to close at 35,645.40

while the Nifty gained 70 points to settle at 10,769.90. "Guaranteed returns over the cost of production may help boost the consumer demand and benefit automobile companies," Devansh Lakhani, a director at Lakhani Financial Services Ltd, said by phone. Higher guaranteed returns over the cost of production may help boost incomes of farmers, a key voter base for Modi who faces a general election in early 2019. The government has announced several programs to win the sympathy of the farming community, as about 800 million of India's 1.3 billion population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture. Higher support prices will boost production of oilseeds, encourage investments and help reduce India's imports bill, the agriculture ministry said in a statement. India, the world's largest buyer of palm oil, purchases about 70% of its edible oil.

## MPTCC while appreciating eviction demands legal action against authorities which allows them to stay

IT News  
Imphal, July 4,

An eviction of encroachers from the reserve forest areas at Awaching in Imphal East is supported by dak Chithas and patts issued by the authorities which declare the area to be a Revenue Village in a blatant violation of laws for use and occupation of reserve forests determined by the Reserve Forest Act of 1990 and Indian Forest Act, 1875, a statement to the media from the Manipur Pradesh Trinamool Congress Committee (MPTCC) said today. The inhabitants of the village have also relevant Aadhar Cards, Ration Cards, and a school for children has also been established in the forest area, it was stated while

calling for the questioning of the government officials involved in the tampering of lawful details. The relocation of the affected people in the eviction drive by the land authorities should not overlook the immediate needs of the inhabitants and inconveniences caused to them should be compensated by providing adequate relief and rehabilitation, the MPTCC said while demanding a humanitarian approach in implementing the same. The statement also pointed at the irony of selective eviction drives carried out along the banks of important rivers of the state, although the laws governing the river banks clearly state that no

permanent structure can be put-up on the river banks. There are innumerable permanent structures on the river banks and even on the river bed at places like Koirengei, Naoremthong, and Iroishemba that have been put up with approval from powerful people including political leaders, the MPTCC statement added while making a demand for the quick demolition of these structures. Agricultural lands have become a target for commercial, and industrial use and the indiscriminate putting up of unorganized dwelling structures has endangered vast tracts of agricultural land which are actually meant for the survival of the farmers, the MPTCC said.

## Six Indians killed in road accident in Nepal

Agency  
Kathmandu, July 4,

Six Indians, including a seven-year-old boy, were killed and four others injured when their vehicle fell into the swollen Koshi river in Eastern Nepal's Sunsari district late on Monday night, police said on Tuesday. Two of the victims have been identified as Sanjeev Kumar, 40, and Gonu Kumar, 7, both resident of Lakshminiya in Bihar's Supaul district. The names of four others are yet to be ascertained, they said. According to Sunsari district police office, the ill fated India-registered vehicle was returning from Bhedetar hill station in the Dhankuta district when its driver lost

control over it. The vehicle fell into the swollen Koshi river on the East-West Highway in the Koshi Rural Municipality of the district, close to the India-Nepal border. Three passengers died on the spot while three others

succumbed to their injuries during treatment at a hospital in Biratnagar, the police said. Four injured, including the driver, have been admitted to the hospital in Biratnagar. The driver has been taken into custody and a probe is on, police said.

## The women govt employees can take until their children turn 18

Nagpur, July 4, The Maharashtra government has decided to provide a total of 180 days' paid leave to women government employees to look after the children in the course of service. They will be able take this leave until their children turn 18. The same leave can be availed of by a male employee too if his

wife is dead and if he has children who are under 18. The decision was taken during Tuesday's cabinet meeting, said finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar. Among other things, women employees would find this facility helpful when their children are in class 10th or 12th, said an official.

## Clarification regarding assigning 'Monument Mitras' to heritage sites in Delhi

PIB, New Delhi.

Reference to the news carried by some sections of the press on 01<sup>st</sup> and 02<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 with the headline "Red Fort, four other Delhi heritage sites get Monument Mitra". The Ministry of Tourism has clarified that all these articles had certain serious factual discrepancies and the correct position is stated as below: 1. The articles state that Monument Mitras have been appointed for Red Fort and four heritage sites in Delhi. But, it is clarified that Monument Mitra has been assigned to only one site in Delhi.

2. Further, the articles incorrectly stated that Capet Travel Company has been appointed as the Monument Mitra for four heritage sites in Delhi i.e. Azim Khan's tomb, Jamali Kamali mosque & tomb, Rajaon Ki Baoli and Moth Ki Masjid. The Tourism Ministry has clarified that the said company's vision document is presently under evaluation stage and no MoU has been signed with them. It is pertinent to mention that the "Adopt a Heritage - Apni Dharohar Apni Pehchaan" is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and State / UT Governments. It aims to encourage public / private sector companies and corporate citizens / NGOs / individuals to take up the responsibility of making our heritage and tourism more sustainable through development, operation and maintenance of World Class tourist infrastructure and amenities at ASI / State heritage sites and other important tourist sites in India.

## Speaker inaugurates SAIRAM



IT News  
Imphal, July 4,

South Asian Institute of Rural and Agricultural Management (SAIRAM) was inaugurated today by the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly at Langjing Acheuba. MLA Aik Mirabai, Dr. R.K. Nimai Singh (Retd) IAS were also attended in the inaugural function held today

## Assam Rifles inaugurates Water Supply Scheme

IT News  
Imphal, July 4,

Moreh Battalion of 26 Sector under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South), Assam Rifles organized the inauguration ceremony of Water Supply Scheme at B Bongjiang village under Assam Rifles Civic Action Project on 02 July 2018. The villagers had approached Moreh Battalion for

construction of reservoir to address the problem of water scarcity in the village. The team of Moreh Battalion responded to the problem and undertook the water supply scheme under Border Area Development Projects and dedicated the water supply scheme to the village on 02 July 2018. This endeavour of Assam Rifles received a huge appreciation from the Village Chief and the local populace.

## Assam Rifles conducts lecture on drug abuse and illicit trafficking

IT News  
Imphal, July 4,

Phundrei Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised an awareness program at Assam Rifles Middle School, Thoubal for spreading consciousness regarding drug abuse and its

illicit trafficking amongst the students on 03 July 2018. Around 250 students were present during the event which included a lecture and a March Past. The locals expressed their gratitude towards the Assam Rifles for having organised the awareness drive for the betterment of the society.

(Contd. from page 1)

## WhatsApp warned for abuse of their platform

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has taken serious note of these irresponsible messages and their circulation in such platforms. Deep disapproval of such developments has been conveyed to the senior management of the WhatsApp and they have been advised that necessary remedial measures should be taken to prevent proliferation of these fake and at times motivated/sensational messages. The Government has also directed that spread of such messages should be immediately contained through the application of appropriate technology. It has also been pointed out that such platform cannot evade accountability and responsibility specially when good technological inventions are abused by some miscreants who resort to provocative messages which lead to spread of violence. The Government has also conveyed in no uncertain terms that WhatsApp must take immediate action to end this menace and ensure that their platform is not used for such malafide activities.

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