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HEADLINES:-

- 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that the Government is moving ahead with the twin target of achieving the growth of the agriculture sector and rural prosperity.
- 2. Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviews the security situation in Manipur to ensure free movement of people from the 8th of March.
- **3.** Centre urges the states and Union Territories for maximum procurement of wheat and paddy during the ensuing marketing season.
- 4. The 38th Convocation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University will be held in on March 5.
- 5. The fasting month of Ramazan begins across the country from today.

PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Government is moving ahead with the twin target of achieving the growth of the agriculture sector and rural prosperity. Addressing a Post-Budget Webinar on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity virtually yesterday, Mr Modi said that India's resolve to move towards the goal of a developed India is very clear. He said the Government is working together towards building India where farmers become prosperous and empowered. Mr Modi said that the Government's effort is to ensure no farmer is left behind and to advance every farmer. He said, that considering agriculture as the first engine of development, the government has accorded farmers a place of pride. Mr Modi highlighted that under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, nearly 3.75 lakh crore rupees have been provided to to farmers so far.

MOVEMENT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation in Manipur and directed to ensure free movement of people on all routes in the state from the 8th of March. Chairing the high-level meeting on the security situation in the presence of Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in New Delhi, Mr Shah directed to take strict action against those creating obstructions on the roads. Mr Shah directed that the fencing work on both sides of the designated entry points along Manipur's international border should be completed at the earliest. He said, that to make Manipur drug-free, the entire network involved in the drug trade should be dismantled. During the meeting, Mr Shah said that the Narendra Modi government remains fully committed to restoring lasting peace in Manipur and is providing all necessary assistance in this regard. This is the first such meeting after the imposition of the President's rule in the state last month.

PROCUREMENT

The Centre has urged the states and Union Territories to adopt a proactive approach to maximise the procurement of wheat and paddy during the ensuing marketing season. This was discussed during a meeting chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution with the Food Secretaries of several states and union territories. Various factors impacting procurement, such as weather forecasts, production estimates, and the readiness of states for procurement operations, were reviewed during the meeting. After deliberations, the estimates for wheat procurement during the ensuing Rabi Marketing Season 2025-26 have been fixed at 310 lakh metric tonnes. Similarly, the estimates for paddy procurement during the Kharif Marketing Season 2024-25 have been fixed at 70 lakh metric tonnes.

CONVOCATION

The 38th Convocation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University will be held in the university headquarters, at the Conventional Centre, IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi on March 5 where Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan will be the chief guest. The convocation will simultaneously be held in 39 IGNOU Regional Centres across the country including Agartala, Aizawl, Gangtok, Guwahati, Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima and Shillong. In Shillong, the programme will be held in the Conference Hall of IGNOU Regional Centre, NEHU Campus, Mawlai where Vice Chancellor, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya, Prof. Gauri Dutt Sharma will be the guest of honour. During the convocation, the university will award a Degree and Diploma Certificate to 3,13,770 successful learners, out of which 1093 students are from IGNOU Regional Centre Shillong.