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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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What answer to our woes?



**ALLOW US TO LIVE:** Family members, including children, of Punjab farmers who committed suicide, protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday against the "anti-farmer" policies of the Central and Punjab governments. The farmers ended their lives owing to mounting debts and harassment from moneylenders. — PHOTO: V. SUDERSHAN

## Rs.10,000-cr. package for Arunachal

Sushanta Talukdar

**ITANAGAR:** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday announced development projects worth about Rs.10,000-crore for Arunachal Pradesh. He also laid the foundation for six of them during his maiden visit to the northeastern State.

The package includes a Rs. 5,500-crore 1,840-km trans-Arunachal Pradesh highway that will stretch from Tawang to Mahadevpur. In three or four years, Itanagar would be connected with a four-lane highway, Dr. Singh said.

He laid the foundation for the 3,000-MW Dibang power project, the country's biggest hydel project, and the 110-MW Pare power project. He said the Dibang project alone would generate over Rs. 300-crore revenue for the State.

Dr. Singh also laid the foundation for a new Secretariat building in Itanagar, a rail link between Itanagar and Harmuti, and water supply projects for Itanagar and Na-

• 1,840-km highway from Tawang to Mahadevpur planned

• Manmohan lays foundation for Dibang power project

land of the rising sun," he said in his half-hour speech before a capacity crowd at the Indira Gandhi Park here.

Dr. Singh said there were four major areas in which the government needed to work to ensure rapid development: connectivity, infrastructure, educational and healthcare facilities, and economic development.

Dr. Singh, who also unveiled a bust of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, said: "Arunachal Pradesh was a favourite of two of our beloved leaders, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. If Indiraji created Arunachal Pradesh, Rajivji granted Statehood to it."

Chief Minister Dorjee

### BRIEFLY

#### MiG 27 crashes, pilot safe

**KOLKATA:** An Indian Air Force MiG 27 fighter jet crashed on Thursday due to a technical malfunction. The accident took place about 10 km away from the Hashimara airbase. The pilot ejected to safety. The aircraft was flying a routine sortie when it crashed.

#### CBI quizzes Suresh Nanda

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Thursday questioned arms dealer Suresh Nanda, son of the former Naval Chief, Admiral S.M. Nanda, in connection with the alleged kickbacks received in the Barak missile deal. Page 13

#### Teacher punishes herself

**IDUKKI:** Taking an unusual step, a school principal here caned herself before students to make them come clean on who stole money kept for winners in a sports meet. — PTI Page 15

#### A closer look at Mercury

**WASHINGTON:** The first pictures from the unseen side of Mercury reveal the wrinkles of a shrinking, ageing planet with scars

### Chidambaram exudes optimism on growth

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Enthused by the revision of the gross domestic product (GDP) growth figure from 9.4 to 9.6 per cent in 2007, the Union Finance Minister

## Undersea cable breakdown hits Internet-based services

Sandeep Joshi

**NEW DELHI:** The booming Indian information technology sector, mainly business process outsourcing (BPO) firms,

affected — the Tata-owned VSNL, Reliance and Bharti Airtel Ltd — to take stock of the situation. Reportedly, more than 50 per cent ILD and Internet capacity re-

restored by the ILD operators within 10 days by expediting the repair," it added.

The cable snag occurred near Alexandria, off the coast of Egypt, on Wednesday, af-

stored and efforts are being made on a war footing for providing an alternative path to remaining links," the Ministry said. According to the Internet Service Providers