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## Questions cloud Petronet-Tellurian deal

Coal dependence, and the lack of regasification plants and pipeline infrastructure in India are other issues of concern with the deal.

"The timing of the deal will be crucial, when the supply of gas will start for India," National Head of Energy and Natural Resources at KPMG India Anish De said.

"In the next two to three years, the Indian market will be over-supplied, and the current spot prices are such that getting into any long term deals will not be easy."

In 2011, another PSU, GAIL had entered into 20-year contracts with American companies Cheniere Energy and Dominion Energy to buy 5.8 million tonnes of LNG a year with fixed annual fees. It has since been reselling much of it to other markets due to lack of demand.

### Same protagonists

Disquiet has also been growing over an ongoing lawsuit between Cheniere and its former CEO and Chairman Cherif Souki, who founded Tellurian Inc. after he was dismissed by the Cheniere board in 2015.

At the time, the board had questioned his plans to build the same Driftwood LNG project, which includes a liquefaction plant and 96 km pipeline, terming them "too ambitious".

For the current project, Tellurian is looking at a number of investors including Petronet India to help finance construction for Driftwood, offering 1 million tonnes per year of offtake for every \$500 mn of investment.



Tellurian is looking at different investors for the project. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Significantly, both Mr. Souki in his previous capacity at Cheniere Energy, and Petronet LNG India CMD Prabhakar Singh, as Director, Marketing for GAIL had helped negotiate the former U.S. deal in 2011 as well.

### Prestige project

Both U.S. and Indian officials say the Petronet-Tellurian deal is now a prestige project for India-U.S. relations that are otherwise facing headwinds over trade issues, and both Prime Minister Modi and President Donald Trump have hailed the deal publicly.

On Friday, State department Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Alice Wells said the deal was "so important" to the relationship because it showed that investment was a two-way street where "India is investing and creating jobs in America" with the Petronet investment resulting in an estimated 50,000 jobs and \$60 billion in exports.

Much will depend on how quickly the two sides can negotiate the agreement, and at what cost to Petronet.

## EC cuts short Sikkim CM's disqualification term

The case pertained to his tenure as Animal Husbandry Minister. Mr. Tamang was convicted for misappropriating funds in the procurement of cows.

"...Commission needs to tread its path carefully so that a person attracting minimum punishment under a particular Act should not face the same disqualification as is applied to those who are convicted for longer or maximum period under the statute," the ECI order said.

The ECI also said it needed to exercise the power "taking all material facts and circumstances into consideration".

Citing "legislative intent" of Section 11 of the RP Act, the ECI said: "The legislature has, in its wisdom, deemed it necessary to vest this Commission with this power with the understanding that socio-economic-political factors may, in certain peculiar circumstances, warrant that the general disqualification prescribed by statutory rule should be removed/reduced by exercising this extraordinary power."

The order went on to say that Mr. Tamang had not contested the elections or moved the ECI.

Responding to the ECI order, Jagdeep S. Chhokar, of the Association for Democratic Reforms, said the order was "not conducive to reducing criminalisation of politics". He added that the issue of Mr. Tamang not contesting elections and the ECI citing socio-economic-political factors were "not germane to the issue".



Prem Singh Tamang

ing this extraordinary power."

## As prices soar, Centre bans onion exports

The buffer stocks are maintained through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

Supplies to Delhi, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh are

being sent at regulated rates using these stocks.

Other States have also been asked to use this buffer and indicate their demand to the Department of Consumer Affairs or NAFED.

## 6 civilians injured as Pak. violates ceasefire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAMMU

Six persons, including a 12-year-old boy, were injured as Pakistan violated the ceasefire for the second consecutive day by targeting forward posts and villages with mortar shelling and small-arms firing in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Sun-

day, an official said.

While four of the injured — three women and the boy — were rushed to a hospital, efforts were on to shift the other two, District Development Commissioner of Poonch Rahul Yadav said.

A Defence spokesperson said the firing and shelling from across the border in the

## E-cigarettes a new menace: PM

Modi explains reason for ban, talks about 'Fit India Plogging Run' on October 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

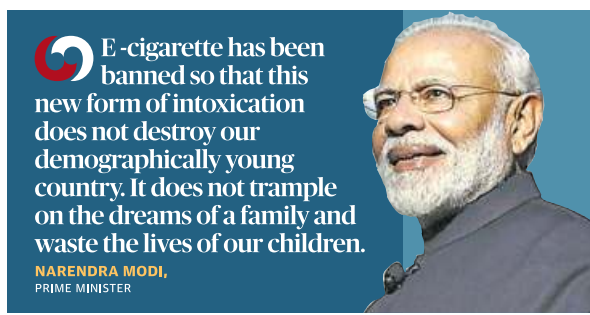
Explaining the reason for the Union Cabinet's decision to ban e-cigarettes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government wanted to prevent "a new form of intoxication destroying a demographically young country".

He was delivering his monthly radio speech, *Mann Ki Baat*. Delving into the health hazards of e-cigarettes after the Cabinet banned its commercial production and import on September 18, Mr. Modi said a "myth" had been created that these were less harmful than ordinary cigarettes.

### 'Health hazard'

He said that like conventional cigarettes, it did not spread an odour as fragrant chemicals are added to it but they were harmful and posed a health hazard.

"...E-cigarette has been banned so that this new form of intoxication does not destroy our demographically young country. It does not



trample on the dreams of a family and waste the lives of our children. This scourge and this obnoxious habit should not become rooted in our society," he said.

Unlike a regular cigarette, an e-cigarette is an electronic device where the heating of nicotine-containing fluids creates a type of chemical smoke and this is the pathway through which nicotine is consumed, the Prime Minister said.

"There is little awareness of e-cigarettes among people. They are also completely unaware of its danger and for this reason, sometimes e-cigarettes sneak into the house out of sheer curiosity."

Talking about his government's effort to curb single-use plastic, he said, "130 crore Indians have pledged to fight the menace of plastic."

### 'Plogging'

The Prime Minister highlighted the efforts of Ripudaman Belvi who has started the movement of plogging, a combination of jogging and picking up litter.

"In view of the kind of lead that India has taken towards environmental protection, today the countries of the entire world are looking towards India as a model," Mr. Modi said.

While speaking to Mr. Belvi, the Prime Minister in-

formed him that the Sports Ministry had organised the "Fit India Plogging Run" on October 2 in which participants from across India would jog for 2 km.

Talking about sportsmanship, the Prime Minister praised 23-year-old Daniil Medvedev, who lost the U.S. Open Tennis championship finals to 19-time grand slam winner Rafael Nadal, for his "simplicity and maturity" in handling the situation.

### Birthday greetings

Mr. Modi said he had extended birthday greetings to Lata Mangeshkar before embarking on his week-long visit to the U.S. as he made his telephonic conversation with the legendary singer public on his radio address.

Ms. Mangeshkar turned 90 on September 28.

During the conversation, Mr. Modi described Ms. Mangeshkar as an elder sister while the singer heaped praise on him, saying the picture of India has started changing ever since he became Prime Minister.

## PM to take aerial route to IIT-M

Heavy security posted around campus, but traffic will be hassle-free, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Like the last time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has opted to fly in and out of the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) on Monday.

The Prime Minister is expected to arrive at the city airport at 9.10 a.m. From the airport, he will take a helicopter to the IIT-M campus. At 9.45 am, he will address the Singapore India Hackathon 2019 at the IIT-M Research Park. He will deliver the 56th Convocation address at the institutes' Students Activity Centre at 11 a.m.

Since he will be arriving and leaving the campus by a helicopter, there will be no traffic snarls on roads, say police. He is expected to leave the city by 1.15 p.m.

"We can assure that there will be no traffic congestion around IIT-Madras or on GST Road as he is travelling by a chopper. Besides, all the VIPs have been asked to arrive by 8 a.m. and entry will be restricted after 8.30 a.m. So before the peak



Police personnel at IIT-M ahead of Prime Minister's visit. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

hour, all the VIPs will be inside the campus," said a senior police officer.

Traffic police will also be deployed inside the IIT-M campus. "The helipad will be in the cricket ground and he has to travel 3 km by road inside the campus to reach the first venue. From there, another 1.3 km to the second venue. So we have our men managing traffic inside," said another officer.

### CCTV cameras

More than 1,000 policemen have been deployed inside and outside the campus in connection with Mr Modi's visit. "Our men are patrolling the campus and the com-

mandos are combing the forest area. We have installed over 50 CCTV cameras apart from the existing ones in the premises," said a senior police officer.

As a precaution, the police have also deployed over 600 traffic police personnel from the airport to IIT-Madras to manage the situation in case the PM's convoy has to take the road for some reason. "This is highly unlikely," added the officer.

This is the second time the Prime Minister has chosen to use helicopter, and not take the road, to reach the IIT-M. In April 2018, he opted for the aerial route as a few opposition parties and Tamil outfits planned to show black flags to protest against the Centre for not constituting the Cauvery Management Board despite the Supreme Court order. Some protesters even released black balloons when he arrived.

Though there has been no announcement of any kind of protests this time, the Prime Minister has chosen to use the chopper.

## In tweet, Modi asks ideas for speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Ahead of his visit to IIT-M, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted on Sunday seeking ideas for his speech.

"Tomorrow I will be in Chennai for the convocation ceremony of @iitmadrass. I look forward to being with some of India's brightest minds. I also call upon all of you, especially IITians and IIT alumni, to share their ideas for my speech. Do so on the 'Open Forum' on the NaMo App."

In another tweet, he said he will take part in the prize distribution ceremony of the Singapore India Hackathon in the city tomorrow, "which brings together the finest minds finding long lasting solutions to the problems we face."

## Aaditya Thackeray to contest polls

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray will be the first member of the Thackeray family to enter the electoral fray.

Sources in the party told *The Hindu* that he had been given an AB form and he would contest from the Worli Assembly seat in South Mumbai. Mr. Aaditya is the president of the Yuva Sena and son of party chief Uddhav Thackeray.

Last week, Mr. Thackeray had slammed the Opposition for promoting nepotism in politics.

Since the time of Sena founder late Bal Thackeray, none of the members of the family had contested elections but chose to control the government from outside, giving rise to the term "remote control".

## BJP names 32 candidates for bypolls

Constituencies spread over various States such as Assam, Bihar, M.P. and U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With byelections to several Assembly seats scheduled for October 21, the BJP on Sunday named its candidates for 32 constituencies spread over Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

For Assam, the BJP named Bijay Malakar as its candidate for the Ratabari seat, Towfiqur Rahman for Jania, Rajen Borthakur for Rangapara and Nabanita Handique for Sonari.

The party named Switi Singh as its candidate for Kishanganj in Bihar and Lachuram Kashyap for Chitrakot in Chhattisgarh.

For Dharamshala and Pachhad in Himachal Pra-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi flanked by Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP working president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi. ■ PTI

desh, the names of Vishal Nehriya and Reena Kashyap were announced.

### Kerala candidates

In Kerala, the party named Raveesh Thantri Kumar for Manjeshwar, C.G. Rajagopal for Ernakulam, K.P. Prakash Babu for Aroor, K. Surendran for Konni and S. Suresh

for Vattiyoorakavu. Bhanu Bhuriya was named the candidate for Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh and Joshua Wajri for Shella in Meghalaya. Sanat Gadia was named for the Bijepur seat in Odisha.

The party announced the names of Rajesh Bagga for Phagwara and Jangi Lal Ma-

## This Puja, PM, Sonia seek celebration of women

Political rivals adopt a similar theme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Wishing citizens on the occasion of Navratri, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked people to launch a campaign to celebrate the achievements of their daughters.

During his *Mann Ki Baat* broadcast, Mr. Modi said that on Deepavali, just as Goddess Lakshmi is welcomed to every home to bring in prosperity and happiness, every daughter should be considered an embodiment of the goddess.

The Prime Minister asked people to start a social media campaign with the hashtag "Bharat Ki Lakshmi".

"There are several daughters and daughters-in-law who are doing exceptional work. Society should identify such daughters and honour them across India," the Prime Minister said.

Greeting citizens on the occasion of Shardiya Navratras and Durga Puja, Congress president Sonia Gand-



Sonia Gandhi

hi said that more effort was required to protect and ensure the rights of women.

"In the coming days, nine forms of the goddess are worshipped. This worship of strength shows the important place of women in society. In the present circumstances, we need to make more efforts to protect the honour and rights of women," the Congress president said in a statement.

"I hope that worshippers, by fasting and worshipping, strengthen their will and defeat negative forces," she said.

## Kashmir curbs only in 'certain minds': Shah

He says situation will be normal soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that Kashmir would be normal soon. He said there was no blockade in Jammu and Kashmir and restrictions existed only in "certain minds".

"There is no curfew anywhere in 196 police stations in J&K. Restrictions under Section 144 Cr.PC, that prohibits assembly of more than four people and political processions, are imposed in eight police stations. Landlines are functional, in fact after August 5, as many as 6,200 new PCOs were opened," Mr. Shah said. He said J&K would be the most developed State in the next 10 years.

He was addressing a function organised by the Samkalp Former Civil Servants Forum at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) here.

### 'Himalayan blunder'

Accusing former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of

mishandling the Kashmir issue, Mr. Shah said that he had committed a "Himalayan blunder" by approaching the United Nations on the subject.

"No telephone is not violation of human rights, the death of more than 41,000 people in J&K due to Article 370 is. Why can't the champions of human rights see the pain of the widows of security forces who were killed in J&K all these years," Mr. Shah said.

Severe restrictions, including a communication blockade, continue in Kashmir Valley since August 5 when Mr. Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to revoke the special status of J&K under Article 370 and bifurcate the State into Union Territories.

He said "8-10-year-old girls" were married off in Kashmir as the Child Marriage Act which prohibits marriage for girls before 18 was not applicable in J&K due to Article 370. "As many as 106 Central laws were not applicable in J&K," he said.

## BSP releases first list for Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Sunday released its first list of 41 candidates for the Haryana Assembly election scheduled for October 21.

The party had said it would contest alone in all 90 seats, having called off its alliance with Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party after disagreement over seat-sharing.

The list was released by party State president Prakash Bharti.

Only two of the candidates are women: Shakuntala Bhatti nominated for Shahbad (reserved) and Sunita Dhull for Pundri. Raj Kumar Saini, former BJP MP from Kurukshetra, who floated the Loktantra Suraksha Party, announced 16 candidates.

## Case against IT major for rule violation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Labour Commissioner's office in Assam has filed a case against information technology major Wipro for executing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise without obtaining a contract labour licence.

Wipro allegedly violated the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act of 1970 while handling the digital part of the project through a Guwahati-based firm.

The case was filed at the court of the chief judicial magistrate.

**APPEAL**

Name of Patient: **Pari Rathore, 3 years.** Hospital Name: **Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre.** Diagnosis: **Thalassemia Major & is currently under treatment at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center vide Cr. No. 230713. He Requires Allogenic Stem Cell Transplant.** The approximate cost of treatment will be **Rs. 15,00,000/-**. We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Cheque/DD/M/O favouring **Save Poor Lives A/c Pari Rathore S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalapuram Branch, IFSC CODE: SBIN0019855, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act.**

Contact: **SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A4, Ceebros Garden, Ground floor, Old No.76 Kamrajai Salai, Raja Annamalapuram, Chennai - 600 028. Ph: 044-22044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com, Our website: www.savepoorlives.com**

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