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Congress will be wiped out in Telangana, says K.T. Rama Rao of TRS
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Militants behind J&K BNP leader's murder: police

SRINAGAR
 As the J&K police suspected the hand of militants in the killing of State BJP secretary Anil Parihar, 52, and his brother Ajeet, 55, in Kishtwar, top Muslim religious leaders of the region on Friday appealed for communal harmony.

NATION ▶ PAGE 5

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Ground Zero
Sivakasi sees red in Green crackers

India's fireworks manufacturing hub is up in arms against the recent ban on all firecrackers that are not 'green'. While it is imperative to switch to less polluting crackers, how robust was the consultative process and the scientific research that formed the basis of the ban?

OP-ED PAGE

DELHI METRO ▶ 4 PAGES

Iran oil: India to get U.S. sanctions waiver

8 nations can import but at lower levels after November 5

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON

Eight countries will be given exemptions and "weeks longer to wind down" their trade with Iran, once U.S. sanctions against Iran kick in on November 5.

This was clarified by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo on Friday during a conference call with some members of the press.

EU not on list

Mr. Pompeo said the list of eight "jurisdictions" would be released on Monday, two of which have already reached zero levels of Iranian oil imports.

He also clarified that the European Union (EU) — which consists of 28 countries including the U.K. — will not be one of the jurisdictions granted a temporary exemption.

India — for whom Iran is the third largest source of oil after Iraq and Saudi Arabia — is expected to be on the list as *The Hindu* recently reported.

SWIFT services

In terms of entities granted exemptions, there would be no exemption for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), a global financial messaging service, Treasury

Free to trade

India is among eight countries that will receive a waiver from U.S. sanctions on oil trade with Iran



On May 8, President Donald Trump announces that the U.S. is pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal

Sanctions imposed prior to nuclear deal are re-triggered. These target Iran's ability to purchase U.S. dollar notes & trade in metals, besides other currency transactions

From November 4, other sanctions will kick in targeting Iran's oil exports and energy sector

On November 2, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announces that eight countries including India, which is the second largest importer of crude oil from Iran, will receive sanction waivers to keep buying oil

Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who was also on the call, said. SWIFT — which does not hold money itself but transmits information on transactions — has a network that spans 200 countries and some 11,000 financial institutions, as per the data released by the company. If it is sanctioned, that will have a significant impact on organisations that use it. SWIFT has been told it will have to cut off from sanctioned entities as soon as technologically feasible or could face sanctions, Mr. Mnuchin said.

The EU, which remains party to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA or the 'Iran Deal') has been frustrated by the

U.S.'s withdrawal, and has been searching for ways to work around the sanctions, including through the use of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The U.S. plans to bring any SPV within its sanctions net as well. "...If there are transactions that go through there that have the intent of evading our sanctions, we will aggressively pursue our remedies," Mr. Mnuchin said.

700 entities to be hit

Seven hundred entities — individuals and groups as well as companies — will be sanctioned on Monday, Mr. Mnuchin said. Most of them will be formerly sanctioned entities, but some 300 will be new.

Loans for MSMEs in 59 minutes

Prime Minister Modi unveils a slew of measures to stimulate the sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced 12 measures to boost the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, including a portal that would enable the units to get a loan in just 59 minutes and interest subvention of 2%.

"In the time taken for you to reach your office, you can now get a loan," he said. "We had run a pilot and I had set a target of 72,000 MSMEs. As of today, 72,680 have been on-boarded."

The Prime Minister said firms registered on the Goods and Services Tax portal would be able to avail



Boost to trade: PM Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at a press meet in New Delhi on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

themselves of this facility on the portal itself. "When you file GST returns, you will be asked if you want a loan," Mr. Modi said. "GST-registered firms will also get a 2% rebate on interest rates. Being a

part of the GST and being an honest taxpayer will become your strength."

Mr. Modi said public sector companies had now been asked to compulsorily procure 25%, instead of 20%, of

their total purchases from the MSMEs. He said that of the 25% procurement mandated from the MSMEs, 3% must now be reserved for women entrepreneurs.

Interest subvention

Also, Mr. Modi announced a 2% interest subvention on fresh or incremental loans for all GST-registered MSMEs. "These 12 decisions will mark a new chapter for the MSME sector," he said.

The Prime Minister recalled India's strong traditions of small scale industries, including Ludhiana's hosiery and Varanasi's saris.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Dassault paid ₹284 cr. to Anil Ambani: Rahul

Says PM Modi will not survive a probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday made a fresh allegation that Dassault Aviation had paid "kickbacks" to the Anil Ambani group to secure the Rafale deal. He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was spending "sleepless nights" as he would not "survive" if the Rafale deal was probed.

His claims were based on Dassault Aviation's annual report for 2017 and the Anil

Ambani-led Reliance Infrastructure's annual report, where Dassault Aviation is shown to have invested ₹284 crore in Reliance Airport Developers Limited (RADL). Mr. Ambani's company termed the charge "a blatant lie." In a statement, it said: "Dassault's investment in RADL has no link whatsoever with the Rafale contract between the Government of India and France."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Tamil MP defects to Rajapaksa camp

Parliament to meet on November 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO

In a boost for the newly appointed Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, a lawmaker from the main Tamil party defected to his side and was made a Minister on Friday, even as President Maithripala Sirisena agreed to summon Parliament on November 7 for a floor test to end the political turmoil. Mr. Rajapaksa claims that he now has the numbers to prove his major-

ity, and at least five of the ousted Premier Ranil Wickremesinghe's men have defected to his side.

Tamil National Alliance MP S. Vilethiriyar, from the eastern district of Batticaloa, who defected, was made the Deputy Minister of Eastern Development. Mr. Wickremesinghe's United National Party said it had handed over a no-trust motion against Mr. Rajapaksa.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Court order insults Hindus: RSS

Asks SC to reconsider decision to adjourn Ayodhya hearing till January

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

Asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision to adjourn the hearing on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute in Ayodhya till January, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on Friday said Hindus were feeling insulted as the court was not considering it a "priority". The RSS appealed to the court to take note of their sentiments and arrive at a decision soon.

"The Ram temple issue is connected to the emotions of crores of Hindus and the court must resolve it at the earliest. They have been carrying on the agitation for the past 30 years and the wait does not seem to end," RSS general secretary Bhaiyyaji Joshi said at a press conference on the concluding day of the organisation's all-India working committee meeting at Keshav Srushti, near



Appeal to court: RSS general secretary Bhaiyyaji Joshi, centre, at a press conference at Utthan in Maharashtra on Friday. • PTI

Mumbai. The RSS would not hesitate to launch an agitation for the Ram temple, if needed, Mr. Joshi said.

"Since the matter was listed on October 29, we felt Hindus would get good news before Diwali. But the Supreme Court has deferred the hearing," he said.

He said the RSS was not putting pressure on the go-

vernment, but added that those who had demanded the ordinance on this issue had their right to do so. "The government should consider this option if all others run out," Mr. Joshi said. He said that unless the Supreme Court took a decision on the title suit, it was difficult for the government to take any decision.

Mr. Joshi said the Ram temple issue was among the various matters discussed when BJP president Amit Shah met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat earlier in the day.

On October 29, the SC fixed the land dispute case for the first week of January before an appropriate Bench, which will decide the schedule of hearing. A three-judge Bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, said the appropriate Bench would decide the course of hearing in January on the appeals filed against the Allahabad High Court verdict.

On the Sabarimala row, he said the RSS supported the restriction on the entry of women into the temple. "We don't support discrimination against women at Hindu places of worship, but some temples have certain restrictions. One has to consider the rules of the temple as people's faith is supreme."

HC dismisses petition seeking entry of all women to all shrines

Plea lacks territorial jurisdiction, says court

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition seeking entry of women of all ages and religions to temples, mosques and Zoroastrian fire temples.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and V.K. Rao said the petition lacked "territorial jurisdiction".

"Petitioner has not indicated which of the temples mentioned in the petition is under the jurisdiction of this court," the Bench said, adding, "None of the temples indicated here are within the territorial jurisdiction of this court."

The petition filed by advocate Sanjiv Kumar has ta-

ken a cue from the recent judgment of the Supreme Court lifting the ban on women of menstruating age entering the Sabarimala temple. Advocate Kkumar said the judgment has changed the contours of some existing Acts and rules and made them unconstitutional and void.

Plea for men too

His plea sought to ensure that menstruating and non-menstruating women of any religion are allowed to enter and pray at "men-only temples" anywhere in India. Apart from this, he also sought permission for men to pray in temples where certain rituals are "women-

only" such as Attukal temple and Chakkulathukavu temple in Kerala, Lord Brahma temple in Rajasthan, Bhagati Maa temple in T.N., Mata temple in Bihar and Kamakhya temple in Assam.

The petition also asked for women to be ordained as 'pujari', imam or priest of their respective temples, mosques or churches and lead prayers.

Mr. Kkumar said the social exclusion of women of their right to pray and their non-ordination to offices such as priest, bishops, deacon, imams, purohit, pujaris and monks, which men are allowed to hold, violates Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution.

'Godfather of Taliban' stabbed to death in Pak.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Top Pakistani cleric Maulana Samiul Haq, also known as the 'Godfather of Taliban', was stabbed to death at his residence in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on Friday, his family said.

Haq, 82, was the head of the Islamic religious seminary Darul Uloom Haqqania in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Akora Khattak town and also chief of the hardline political party Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Sami. Haq was killed by unidentified attackers while he was resting in his room, his son Maulana Hamidul Haq was quoted as saying by Geo News.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10

Markets turn bullish ahead of Diwali

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The markets seem to have heralded Diwali in advance as the Sensex posted its biggest weekly rise (in percentage terms) in more than two years and the rupee posted its highest gain in a day in

five years against the dollar. Falling global crude oil prices, easing of concerns over the U.S.-China trade war and strong GST collections in October acted as catalysts.

The Sensex closed at 35,011.65, crossing a psychological barrier and gaining

579.68 points or 1.68%. In the past week, the index has gained close to 5%.

Friday's gains were led by auto and financial shares, such as Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, HDFC, Hero Motocorp, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank.

Further, foreign investors have started November on a positive note, buying shares worth ₹540 crore.

The rupee appreciated by 101 paise or 1.4% to end the day at 72.44 a dollar.

MARKETS LIGHT UP ▶ PAGE 11

PETRONET LNG LIMITED

USHERING IN CLEAN ENERGY

Extract of the unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2018 (₹ in Lac)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Half Year ended		Year ended
		30-Sep-18	30-Jun-18	30-Sep-17	30-Sep-18	30-Sep-17	31-Mar-18
1	Total income from operations (net)	10,74,534	9,16,915	7,77,023	19,91,449	14,20,534	30,59,862
2	Net Profit from ordinary activities before tax	86,661	90,118	85,035	1,76,779	1,51,611	3,05,511
3	Net Profit from ordinary activities after tax	56,295	58,697	58,878	1,14,992	1,02,636	2,07,785
4	Total Comprehensive Income	56,295	58,697	58,878	1,14,992	1,02,636	2,07,792
5	Equity share capital	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
6	Other Equity (excluding revaluation reserve)	8,55,664	8,80,743	7,16,891	8,55,664	7,16,891	8,22,047
7	Earnings per share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each)						
	a) Basic (₹)	3.75	3.91	3.93	7.67	6.84	13.85
	b) Diluted (₹)	3.75	3.91	3.93	7.67	6.84	13.85
		(not annualised)					(annualised)
8	Debt Equity Ratio				0.10	0.23	0.15
9	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR)				3.53	3.74	3.71
10	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR)				33.22	17.32	19.74

Notes:

- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 02 November 2018.
- The Board of Directors have declared a special interim dividend of ₹ 5.50 per equity share (Face value ₹ 10/- per equity share) at their meeting held on 02 November 2018. The record date for determining the entitlement for payment of interim dividend is fixed as 17 November 2018.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (listing and other disclosure requirements) Regulations' 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the websites of National Stock Exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange and the website of the company (www.petronetng.com).

By order of the Board
 Sd/-
 V K Mishra
 Director (Finance)
 DIN - 08125144

Place : New Delhi
 Date : 02 November, 2018

Petronet LNG Limited
 1st Floor, World Trade Center, Babar Road, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi-110001
 Corporate Identity Number: L74899DL 1998PLC093073, www.petronetng.com