

## NITI Aayog and Oracle sign a Statement of Intent to pilot drug supply-chain using blockchain

In order to fight the growing problem of counterfeit drugs in India, NITI Aayog and Oracle signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to pilot a real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software. Apollo Hospitals and Strides Pharma Sciences will partner in this effort.

The SoI was signed by Adviser NITI Aayog, Ms. Anna Roy and Regional Managing Director of Oracle India, Shailender Kumar, in the presence of CEO of NITI Aayog, Shri. Amitabh Kant; Joint MD Apollo Hospitals Group, Ms. Sangita Reddy along with senior officials of all partnering organizations. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, said "The problem of fake and counterfeit drugs is a major issue, costing the Indian pharma industry billions. At the same time, it's putting patients at higher risk. This agreement with Oracle and our partnership with Apollo Hospitals and Strides Pharma, will help ensure that Indian drug manufacturers and healthcare experts have access to a standards-based, modern technol-

ogy platform - blockchain and IoT, to help eliminate fake drug distribution."

The major advantages of blockchain software will be its ability to allow the sharing of information across the drug supply chain securely with every exchange of information getting recorded, inability to tamper with any record of the drug movement and inability to delete any records so there can be no dispute, if an offender is caught. Blockchain technology helps to permanently register a drug's record in the manufacturer's drug supply chain (serial number, labelling, scanning), leaving no scope for record tampering. At every point of hand change, it records the drug's movement - from manufacturer to logistics, to stockist to hospital, or pharmacy to consumer. In case of a fake drug, the software will detect irregularity. Additionally, critical information such as chemical ingredients of the drug or maintenance of temperature control in case of life saving drugs or vaccines, can also be tracked.

## LF embarks on an exciting sojourn across India

**Mumbai,** Do you remember the aroma coming out of a kitchen, as a child, while your grandmother, mother or maharaj carefully ground their spices that would eventually be part of a sumptuous concoction called the curry? A meal was never truly enjoyed without the whole family sitting at the table or on the floor with vessels that clanked, conversations that never ended and of course the finger-licking grins or curries that set the mood for each meal.

LF, India's most watched travel, food and lifestyle channel has embarked on an exciting adventure to trail the history and evolution of this - India's most loved dish, the curry. Pair it with Indian breads, rice, or a heart-

warming family conversation, the Indian meal is literally incomplete without the curry. With a rich history that dates almost 4000 years back, the curry is significant of the tastes, ingredients, spices and preferences of the people it belongs to. Food-connoisseur, culinary expert and Masterchef Judge and anchor, Kunal Kapur travels the length and breadth of the country, into the private houses of historians, home-chefs, artists, writers and many more to document what makes the Indian curry so special. In doing so, he unravels some lesser known facts, age old trivia, intriguing quests, travel adventures and some beautiful memories all put into one splendid show - The Curries of India. (1-7)

## FC Goa unveil new look for Hero ISL 2018-19 season



FC Goa today launched their official new home kit for the Hero ISL 2018-19 season at an event held at Bambolim Athletic Stadium. This year the Gaurs will don an orange coloured kit having worn blue in the first four editions of the tournament.

The jersey features a contrast of bright orange and white with orange stripes down the middle, and FC Goa's trademark blue sleeve and collar trims. The orange symbolizes the Gaurs' fire and focus to win the ISL trophy. It also symbolizes their indomitable team spirit and an attitude of always rising to the occasion. The jersey pays homage to the Gaurs' annual campaign #NowWeRise.

The jersey launch saw players Mandaar, Coro,

Jahouh and Sana take the stage to unveil the new jersey amongst much cheering from FC Goa's unrivalled fan base. The players spoke about their excitement around the new jersey and how they are looking forward to a fantastic season.

Speaking about the new look said Sana, "The new jersey looks great. It has a powerful and aggressive look to it and I'm looking forward to donning it in the coming season". Mandaar echoed his thoughts, "The jersey looks completely different from the earlier ones. Love the new look".

The jersey reveal was followed by FC Goa's first pre-season friendly against Kolkata Giants Quess East Bengal. (16)

## New Initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu & Kashmir Government has taken a number of decisions pursuant to the review meeting on 4-5 July 2018 during Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh's visit to the state. Most significant of these is the conduct of Local Body Elections that are currently underway. Central Government is providing all possible support to the State Government for smooth conduct of these elections including deployment of Central forces in sufficient numbers.

The local body elections will have a historic significance in many aspects. The local body elections will re-establish the long overdue grassroots level democracy in J&K. The urban local body elections are being held after 2005 and Panchayat elections after 2011. Provision of direct elections for Sarpanches of the Panchayats has also been restored to ensure accountability. These elections will also pave the way for making available nearly Rs. 4,335 Crores of 14th Finance Commission Central grants to the duly constituted local bodies. But for these elections, people of J&K would have been deprived of these funds meant for their welfare. Local bodies are also being vested with significantly en-

hanced devolution of powers in line with best practices in the country. This will enable them to address most of the local issues in their jurisdictions.

The functions and functionalities of all the 29 subjects transferred to Panchayats under the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India will also be transferred to the Panchayats of J&K including institutions like Primary Health Centers, Primary Schools, Aganwadi Centers to name a few. Financial powers of Panchayats are being enhanced 10 times from Rs 10 thousand to Rs 1 lakh for Panchayats. And, from Rs 25 thousand to Rs 2.5 lakhs for Block Councils. Powers for "Own fund generation" are also being given to Panchayats. These will include building permission fee, taxes on entertainment, advertisement, hoardings, various kinds of businesses & profession. Central and State government funds will further supplement "Own funds" of the Panchayats under various schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day meal etc. In addition to

selection of eligible beneficiaries for various schemes, Panchayats will also be involved in the implementations of key national schemes such as National Health Mission, Samagraha Siksha, Mission for development of Horticulture, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). On an average every Panchayat will now get around Rs. 50-80 lakhs per year at its disposal for implementation of such schemes. To further strengthen the Panchayats, additional posts are being sanctioned for Accountant, Data Entry operator, Block Panchayat Inspector etc.

The Leh and Kargil Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC and KAHD) have been strengthened and empowered to become the most autonomous councils in the country to address various issues being faced by people living in the remote areas of Ladakh region. The LAHDC & KAHD have been given more powers to levy and collect local taxes. Control has been given over functioning of various departments as well as the Government employees working for the subjects that are transferred to them.

All such properties like public buildings, public roads constructed by LAHDC & KAHD shall now belong to the council. Funds allocated to these councils from the State Budget can now be carried forward for the next year. The Panchayats in Kargil and Leh will also follow directions of these councils. Chief Executive Councilor will also be the Chairman of all Tourism Development Authorities. These Councils will also have a Deputy Chairman for better functioning.

Considering the crucial role being played by the Special Police Officers in anti-militancy operations, MHA has enhanced their honorarium from existing Rs 6,000 per month to 9,000 on completion of 5 years and Rs 12,000 on completion of 15 years. MHA has approved a scheme of Rs 5.5 Lakh financial assistance to nearly 5,764 West Pakistan Refugees settled in J&K. Amounts due to the eligible beneficiaries will be transferred in their bank accounts. The State Government has designated Divisional Commissioner Jammu as the nodal officer for effective and speedy disbursement of the amount to all eligible beneficiaries.

## Locate Public Toilets on Google Maps MoHUA partners with Google to launch #LooReview Campaign

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM - U), has partnered with Google to launch the Loo Review campaign to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps. This campaign is part of a feature which allows all citizens to locate public toilets in their cities on Google Maps. Search and the Assistant and also provide feedback on the same. 500+ cities in India with more than 30,000 toilets with the name of "SBM Toilet" are currently live on Google Maps.

One of the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM - U) is to provide sanitation coverage through public toilet facilities across cities in India for achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. With around 3400 cities already having achieved ODF status, and other cities gearing up towards the same, there is now a need to ensure that the ODF status is sustained through continuous usage and proper maintenance of public toilets.

The joint campaign to be

run throughout October and November 2018 is an effort to increase the awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India. The campaign will involve and engage Local Guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps, and use the hashtag #LooReview for the chance to be featured on Google Local Guides' social channels. Local Guides are people who share reviews, photos, and knowledge on Google Maps to help people explore the world.

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, said, "The Ministry has identified that there is now a need to move beyond monitoring and measuring outputs and targets for toilet construction to enhance actual usage, functionality and sustainability. The 'Public toilets near me' feature will benefit citizens, particularly women and senior citizens, who often find it difficult to find access to clean toilets in the public space. The feedback provided by local guides through the Loo Review campaign will press upon the Urban Local Bodies to take proactive steps to

improve public toilet facilities across the country."

Chetan Krishnaswamy, Director Public Policy, Google, said "Google is a committed partner in achieving the Government's vision of a Swachh Bharat. 'Public toilets near me' is a feature that is supported across Google Maps, Search and the Assistant. In close partnership with the

MoHUA, we have mapped toilets across 500 cities in India in the last year alone. Through the #LooReview campaign we are engaging our enthusiastic Local Guides community in India to further increase the awareness on public toilets in the country, and help citizens discover clean and well-maintained options in their vicinity."

## Regulations Hampering Growth to Scrapped-Suresh Prabhu

Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Minister, Suresh Prabhu, emphasized the need for scrapping unnecessary and unproductive regulations which are coming in the way of India's capacity to become a ten trillion dollar economy. He was addressing the Annual Session of PHD Chambers in New Delhi today. The Minister said that a standing committee, chaired by the Secretary, DIPP, has been set up to identify regulations that will be scrapped. He also urged the industry chamber to identify such regulations at the earliest.

The Commerce Minister said that although India has made significant progress in ease of doing business but it still has a long way to go.

Suresh Prabhu also spoke about improving ease of doing business at the district level. He informed that 6 districts have been selected in five states of the country as a pilot project in order to implement mechanism on enhancing growth in these districts by 3%. Growth at the district level will lead to increase in the GDP at the national level. The Minister said that this will not only earn more revenue for the Government but will also create more jobs in the districts. Suresh Prabhu however cautioned that environmental protection should never be compromised at any cost. The Minister also gave away PHD annual awards for excellence for the year 2018.

## Universe is governed by the laws of Vedas: Swami Ramdev Ji



'Bharat Atma Ashok Singhal Vedic Puruskar' was conferred on September 25 in New Delhi. Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev was the chief guest of the award ceremony which aims at promoting Vedic education across India and appreciates the efforts of all those working in this direction.

While addressing the ceremony, Swami Ramdev highlighted the importance of the Vedas and said, "The entire universe is governed by the laws of the Vedas. He maintained further that Vedas aren't about the mantras uttered during religious rituals, hence they shouldn't be associated with any specific religion or faith. The Vedas are much older than the religion

itself because the concept of religion in our country came some 3000 years ago but prior to that entire world was governed by laws of Vedas."

Swami Ramdev further stated that Patanjali Yogpeeth is constantly making efforts in the promotion of the Vedas and its teachings. Around 500 students are getting educated in its gurukul. When asked about his struggle against Black Money, he said that the wealth should never be in the hands of evil men. He stressed that the Vedas are the very foundation of our ancient religion and even the opening lines of the Yajurveda claim that a country should not be governed by evil men. (13-9)

## Col Rajyavardhan Rathore Launches All India Radio Streaming Services on Amazon Alexa Smart Speakers

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information & Broadcasting and Sports & Youth Affairs Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd.) launched All India Radio's Streaming Services on Amazon's Alexa Smart Speakers here today. Chairman Prasara Bharati Shri A Surya Prakash, CEO Prasara Bharati Dr Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Shri Rajiv Sawhney, Principal Tech Business Development, Amazon Alexa (Asia) and other senior officials of the Ministry were also present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Rathore said that Services like Amazon Alexa have eased the life of a person. Launching of All India Radio's Streaming Services on Amazon's Alexa platform would be a synergy of Old and Modern forms of Communication. He also said that this initiative will benefit Indian diaspora around the world. Now anyone from any part of the world can listen to the programmes in All India Radio.

Shri Surya Prakash informed that playlist of archival assets of All India Radio will also be made available in Alexa platform in the future. Shri Rajiv Sawhney said that voice is the future of communication with the devices around us. Voice is everywhere and already 390 million people around the world are using voice based communication and this would almost triple to 1.83 billion people in the next 3 years.

Vividh Bharati and 14 other regional language streaming services of All India Radio will be streamed on Amazon Alexa. Archival assets of All India Radio will be made available in Amazon Alexa in near future. All India Radio will get an additional platform for global and domestic audiences and will cover all the shadow areas of the terrestrial broadcasting in the regional, headquarters and metro cities in particular. Alexa would supplement All India Radio's website and App.

## CM honours Dr. Gautambhai Patel, Dr. Manibhai Prajapati with 'Shree Somnath Sanskrit Golden Awards' for their best contributions in protecting, nurturing, breeding Sanskrit language

**Ahmedabad,** Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Vijaybhai Rupani today with a view to expand spheres of Sanskrit language at the global level, expressed determination to develop the Somnath Sanskrit University as the center of best knowledge so that it can attract scholars and exponents of Sanskrit language from world over for searches and researches of it.

In this reference, he said that in today's era where influence of English language and Western Culture is enormous on us, thus, it is a need of hour to protect, nurture and breed Sanskrit language and our culture.

Chief Minister was speaking as the chairman of a function held by Shree Somnath Trust for awarding Shree Somnath Golden Awards in Ahmedabad. He said that the Sanskrit is mother of many languages and it is the fun-

damental base of our culture. The state government would extend all possible helps to the Somnath Sanskrit University for protecting, nurturing and breeding of Sanskrit language.

Mr. Rupani had honoured Dr. Gautambhai Patel and Dr. Manibhai Prajapati with Shree Somnath Sanskrit Golden Awards and cash prizes of Rs. 1-lakh each for year 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Mr. Rupani recalled that Prime Minister Mr. Narendrabhai Modi had played a pivotal role in setting up Somnath Sanskrit University for breeding of the Sanskrit language. And state government is determined to take it to further higher level.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Somnath Trust's Chairman Mr. Keshubhai Patel, its trustee Mr. P. K. Laheri and others.

## High Level Committee Constituted on Corporate Social Responsibility

A High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility - 2018 (HLC-2018) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri. Injeti Srinivas, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to review the existing framework and guide and formulate the roadmap for a coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The Committee is expected to review the existing CSR framework as per Act, Rules and Circulars issued from time to time and recommend guidelines for better enforcement of CSR provisions. It will analyze outcomes of CSR activities/programmes/projects and suggest measures for effective monitoring and evaluation of CSR by companies. Suggestions are also expected on innovative solutions, use of technology, platform to connect stakeholders, and social audit. The provisions of section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 (Act) pertaining to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) came into force on 01.04.2014 with a view to promoting responsible and sustainable business through inclusive growth.

The four years of implementation have enabled compilation of data on the

number of companies complying with CSR provisions, funds allocated and spent across various sectors, geographical spread of CSR spending, etc. Experience has also been gained on the quantum, outreach and impact of CSR (which is estimated to be around Rs. 38,000 crore up to FY 2016-17) and immense feedback has been received on how CSR provisions can be leveraged to have larger and more impactful outcomes.

The existing provisions of in Companies Act, 2013 with respect to CSR fully empower the Board of a Company to decide on their CSR Policy, approve projects and oversee implementation. Many suggestions with respect to CSR such as local preference, earmarking CSR spend for backward areas, contribution to national/state funds, notifying priority areas, monitoring compliance, supplementing / complimenting government programmes, etc. have been received from various stakeholders. The Ministry had earlier set up a High Level Committee on CSR in 2015 which made several recommendations, including review of CSR framework after three years which is almost over.

## Petroleum Minister to launch SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will kick off an innovative initiative in New Delhi on 1st October, 2018, with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) i.e. IOC, BPCL and HPCL involving Expression of Interest (EOI) from potential entrepreneurs to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available CBG in the market for use in automotive fuels.

This significant move has the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers. Titled SATAT, the initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs. To be launched on the penultimate day of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva fortnight, a mass movement to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a Clean India, this initiative holds great promise for efficient

municipal solid waste management and in tackling the problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions. Use of CBG will also help bring down dependency on crude oil imports and in realising the Prime Minister's vision of enhancing farmers' income, rural employment and entrepreneurship.

Bio-gas is produced naturally through a process of anaerobic decomposition from waste / bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%. Compressed Bio-Gas is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential. With calorific value (~52,000 KJ/kg) and other properties similar to CNG, Compressed Bio-Gas can be used as an alternative, renewable automotive fuel. Given the abundance of biomass in the country, Compressed Bio-Gas has the potential to replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial uses in the coming years.