

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 06-10-2019



### **Dharmendra Pradhan on three-day visit to Mongolia from today**

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan will pay a three-day visit to Mongolia beginning today. The Minister will participate in the opening ceremony of infrastructure that Mongolia has already constructed for the Indian funded, Mongol Refinery project. The Mongol Refinery project is being developed under a line of credit of 1.236 billion US dollars extended by India during the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mongolia in 2015 and subsequently enhanced during the State visit of the President of Mongolia to India last month.

During the visit, Mr Pradhan will have meetings with the Mongolian Minister for Mining and Heavy Industry to develop a roadmap for commencing the construction of the Refinery

### **Name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna added to National War Memorial**

The name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, who was killed by JKLF terrorists in 1990, has been added to the National War Memorial after it was approved by the Indian Air Force. Squadron Leader Khanna and three other IAF personnel were killed in January 1990 in Kashmir allegedly by JKLF founder Yasin Malik. Twenty-seven bullets were pumped into Khanna's body. The trial against Malik had resumed last month in Jammu.

An Air Force official said Khanna's name was missed out in the National War Memorial and the mistake has now been rectified.

The National War Memorial at the India Gate is dedicated to the defence personnel who laid down their lives for the country. The three armed services approve the names of the soldiers after which they are included in the National War Memorial.

### **India's development partnership programme ITEC completes 55 years**

Development Partnership Administration Division of the External Affairs Ministry is organizing a conference in New Delhi today to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of India's flagship capacity building programme - Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation. An official release said, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will preside over the event and Minister of State for **Defence and Minister of State for External Affairs will be Guests of Honour.**

ITEC Programme was launched on 15 September 1964 by the Ministry. Over the last 55 years, ITEC has been a vehicle to share India's vast and unique experience of growth and development

through capacity building and training of more than 2 lakh government officials and professionals from 160 partner countries of the Global South in premier institutes of our country.



### **Rajnath Singh leaves for France to participate in Rafale fighter aircraft handing over ceremony**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will leave on a two-day visit to France today. An official release said, Mr Singh will meet French President Emmanuel Macron tomorrow. Later, the Minister will participate in the Rafale fighter aircraft handing over ceremony at Merignac along with French Minister of Armed Forces, Florence Parly. He will also perform the Shastra Puja on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami and fly a sortie in the Rafale fighter aircraft.

The Minister is also scheduled to hold the Annual Defence dialogue with the French Minister of Armed Forces. He will address the CEOs of the French Defence industry during which he is likely to urge them to participate in “Make in India” and the DefExpo to be held in Lucknow in February next year.

### **Talks between US and Taliban are not peace negotiations: Afghan NSA**

Afghan National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib has said that the talks between the US and the Taliban are not peace negotiations.

Speaking at a panel discussion in the US Council on Foreign Relations, he said the reason Afghan government is willing to accommodate the Taliban into governance is because Kabul wants them to end the violence against the people. Mr Mohib said that any peace talks in Afghanistan must be represented by their elected leaders.

Meanwhile, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad is holding talks with Pakistani officials in Islamabad.