

US preparing for Manmohan Singh's Nov 24 visit

New York, Sep 26: The United States is hard at work preparing for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's state visit on Nov 24 as it views India as one of its most important partners in the 21st century. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton conveyed this to External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna as they met here Friday to discuss the shape of their emerging strategic partnership. Manmohan Singh's visit will be the first state visit of the Obama administration, and "still a lot of work is to be done there," said Robert Blake, Assistant Secretary of State briefing reporters on the Clinton-Krishna meeting. Clinton told Krishna that the US hoped to move forward on civil nuclear cooperation with India. There are still some steps that have to be taken there, particularly with respect to signing liability legislation, getting the Indian parliament to approve liability legislation for US companies, but also to announce formally the two reactor parks that will be set aside for US companies, Blake said. The UN Security Council resolution urging all states to join the NPT did not come up at the Clinton-Krishna meeting. But "we've said before that the resolution does not have any bearing on our bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, and that really shouldn't have any effect whatsoever." "So we've provided reassurances to that effect to our friends in the Indian government," Blake said. Recalling her very positive visit to India in July and the launch of the US-India Strategic Dialogue, Clinton touched on some of the things that are already underway. Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram during a visit to Washington earlier this month had a wide range of appointments to discuss how they can further enhance the already strong counter-terrorism cooperation between the US and India, she noted. Touching on India-Pakistan relations, Clinton hoped that the two sides can agree on the steps that they believe are necessary to get their relations back on a more positive footing. On India-Pakistan, Blake said "our position has always been that this is something that needs to be worked out between our two friends, India and Pakistan." Clinton also briefed Krishna on President Barack Obama's announcement with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown about US concerns regarding the new Iranian nuclear facility. On Iran, Blake said Clinton made no requests. But he recalled that "Mammohan Singh has repeatedly made clear that they don't believe it is in India's interest to have another nuclear weapons state in the region." Clinton also reaffirmed the importance of the US and India working together to achieve a successful outcome at Copenhagen on climate change, Blake said.

CM Rosaiah concerned over rising fatal accidents on roads



Hyderabad, Sept. 25: The state government has taken a decision to reactivate the Road Safety Authority with powers and manpower to review, monitor and strictly enforce road safety rules. The Chief Minister, Mr K Rosaiah, held a detailed review meeting on Road Safety with the ministers and officials of various departments at the Secretariat on Thursday. Mr Rosaiah recalled that the late chief minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy had conducted regular meetings on the road safety and was very much concerned about the road accidents and wanted rules to be strictly enforced. The Chief Minister expressed concern over the spurt in road accidents in

the State. He said, "the number of road accidents in the state are going up, number of persons killed and injured are also on the increase. We have to take urgent measures to control the accidents. We have to find out how to reduce them. Every department concerned will have to work with constant vigil and enforce rules to reduce the accidents." He said there was no use of discussions and debates on the issue. He said the vulnerable roads and spots have to be identified and regulation of vehicular traffic, driving and enforcements have to be intensified. He said that there should be effected enforcements by the police, transport, Excise, R&B and other departments. It was stated that a study has revealed that accidents were occurring almost at the same spots and mainly on the National and State highways. The Chief Minister wanted demo corridor to be immediately started, particularly in the National Highways Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 18 and also on the state highways. He said that Mr A K Mohanty will coordinate with all departments to strictly enforce rules and regulations and constantly monitor it to prevent accidents. The Transport Minister, Mr S Vijayarama Raju, the Chief Secretary, Mr P Ramakantha Reddy, the Director General of Police, Mr S S P Yadav, the Principal Secretary, Transport, Ms Ratna Prabha, the Principal Secretary, R&B, Mr T Chatterjee, the Principal Secretary, Home, Mr Ajay Mishra, the Commissioner, Transport, Mr Raymond Peter, the Additional DGP, Law and Order, Mr A K Khan, the Commissioners of City and Cyberabad Police, Mr B Prasada Rao and Mr Prabhakar Reddy and other officials were present.

Chaos at DS Teleconference; Veerappa Moily angry

Hyderabad, Sept. 25: Chaos prevailed at the teleconference held by the PCC Chief, Mr D Srinivas, to review the membership enrolment drive, as most of the district units refused to go ahead with the enrolment until a decision on the late chief minister, Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy's son, Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy, was taken by the Congress leadership. In East Godavari district, angry Congress leaders locked the party office in Kakinada. In Khammam, the Congress workers raised slogans demanding the resignation of ministers, MLAs and MLCs, if they could not succeed in making YSR's son as the chief minister. The district leaders of Warangal and Nellore told the PCC chief that they could not go to the people if Mr Jagan was not made Chief Minister. PCC chief and asked him to give him the names of those who were obstructing party activities.

Global swine flu toll rises to over 3,900: WHO

Geneva, Sep 26: A total of 3,917 people have died of swine flu worldwide since the outbreak of the viral disease in April, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a latest update Friday. Of all the deaths, 2,948 occurred in the Americas, followed by the West Pacific region, with 362 deaths. The other four WHO regional offices, South-East Asia, Europe, East Mediterranean and Africa reported 340, 154, 72 and 41 deaths respectively. The WHO, which declared a swine flu pandemic in June, said the total number of laboratory confirmed cases worldwide is now over 318,925, but this estimate is significantly lower than the actual number of cases that have occurred, as many countries have stopped testing and reporting individual cases, particularly the milder ones. In the northern hemisphere, where winter is approaching, influenza cases continue to increase in many areas. But in the southern hemisphere, influenza transmission has largely returned to baseline or is continuing to decline, the global health agency said.

CM offers land, sops to Pharm units to market cheaper drugs

Hyderabad, Sept. 25 : - The Chief Minister, Mr K Rosaiah, on Friday declared that his government would extend land to pharmaceutical companies which came forward to market medicines at affordable prices. Inaugurating "Indo-Africa Pharma Business Meet" organized by the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council here, Mr Rosaiah said that the world has witnessed rapid changes in the pharmacy sector. He pointed out that the pharmaceutical companies were focusing on "Research and Development" operations resulting in 'effective medicines' to cure diseases. The pharmaceutical industry in the country has come a long way in its pursuit of excellence, growth and contribution to the economy. The industry was not only concentrating on Generics, but also developing new drugs. Indian Pharma Industry accounted for around 18 per cent of anti-HIV, around 15 per cent of anti-microbial and 11 per cent of anti-diabetics in the US government approvals, he added. The Chief Minister pointed out that there were 139 pharmaceutical companies in the state that exported over Rs 7,400 crores worth of pharmaceutical products in 2007-08 and Rs 9,000 crores in 2008-09. He maintained that the state was undoubtedly bulk drugs capital of the country and arguably leading exporter of pharmaceutical products in the country. **Need to develop vaccine for H1N1**

Mr Rosaiah urged the pharmaceutical companies to conduct research to develop vaccines for deadly diseases like H1N1 (Swine Flu). "I am very proud to say that Hetero and Natco companies in the state are global suppliers of drugs for pandemic "Swine Flu". He pointed out that the state had a strong academic base with 266 pharmaceutical degree colleges turning out some 20,000 candidates annually.

The Chief Minister also invited the Regulatory Authorities from various countries to visit the laboratories and factories in the state and check the quality of the manufacturing facilities and medicines being produced therein in the state. He exuded confidence that the state-based pharmaceutical companies were reliable source for supply of quality generic drugs at affordable prices. Mr Rosaiah assured that his government would extend all possible assistance to the pharmaceutical companies to set up units in the state. The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mr Anand Sharma, said that the global economic recession which emanated from the capitalist world has demonstrated to use the vulnerability of the developed economies .