### Building trust key to entrepreneurship

**Soutik Biswas**

B hutan and tourism are closely intertwined. To foster a healthy and harmonious tourism industry, a number of measures have been introduced by the government to ensure the safety and security of both tourists and locals. The Bhutan Tourism Council has also launched a campaign to promote responsible tourism, which encourages visitors to respect local culture and environment. In addition, the government has introduced regulations to ensure that tourism businesses adhere to certain standards and practices to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of the industry. The Bhutan Tourism Council also provides training and support for local businesses to help them improve their services and professionalism. Through these measures, Bhutan aims to create a positive and authentic travel experience for its visitors while preserving the country’s unique culture and environment.

### NDAs coal policy faces critical queries

**Sudipto Bhattacharyya, Pradeep Singh, Gaurav Garg**

The NDA’s coal policy faces critical queries as it involves the allocation of coal blocks to private sector companies. The policy has raised concerns about the fairness and transparency of the allocation process. The Indian government has been criticized for giving coal blocks to private companies without proper regulation and oversight. The policy has also been accused of favoring certain companies and neglecting the interests of the public. The government has been urged to ensure that the allocation process is fair and transparent, and that the companies receive adequate compensation for the coal blocks they have been allocated. The government has also been criticized for not considering the environmental impact of the coal policy and for not adequately regulating the coal sector. Despite these concerns, the government continues to allocate coal blocks to private sector companies, and the policy remains under scrutiny.

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The crude oil trap

End of Iran war means a familiar problem for India

The US has not extended the exemption from its sanctions against Iran to some countries, including India, that import crude oil from Iran. India is supposed to make a decision by September 14 on whether to purchase Iranian crude oil. If it continues to import Iranian oil, its refinery capacity would be utilized maximally and its future imports may be curtailed. This is not a new issue. In 1979, when the US extended a similar warning, India was faced with the same problem of running out of oil. Iran's oil exports are not large, so the amount it was importing, such that in January of this year, according to published reports, there had been a 45 per cent decline in crude oil imports from Iran.

Oil ministry officials, as well as oil importing companies, have put up a strong case in favour of oil imports from Iran, citing the need to keep the Indian economy running. However, the law is the law and the government needs to follow it, even if it turns out to be a negative shock. As much as 111 per cent of India’s oil consumption is met by imports. An embargo on Iranian oil would mean a 100 per cent increase in the price of oil, leading to a serious economic slowdown.