Lightning calls

Dharmendra Pradhan became the country’s youngest communications minister in prime minister Narendra Modi’s new cabinet on Saturday. It is not just in front of the camera that he has his own style, but also in front of the public. Since 2013, when he was appointed the higher education minister, he has been known for his quick-wittedness and his ability to connect with the masses. His style, however, is not just limited to the public. It was during the debate on the recent budget that he made a joke about the Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, saying that he had not read a few great works of Indian literature. This was a reference to the fact that the Finance Minister was not a great reader of Indian literature. The comment was met with laughter and applause from the audience.

Interim solution

The conditional vacation by the Supreme Court on May 5, 2019, to the Indian government, allowing it time to formalise the installation of national numbering plan (NWP) and other regulatory aspects of the telecom sector, is a welcome decision. It is a recognition of the importance of the sector, which employs around 25 lakh people and contributes over 9 per cent to the GDP. However, it is not a solution to the problems faced by the sector. The government needs to work on a comprehensive reform package that includes reducing the spectrum bands, streamlining the regulatory process, and introducing competition in the market.

Lessons from the rupee’s rise

The Indian rupee has appreciated against the dollar in recent months, leading to concerns about the stability of the currency. However, the rupee’s appreciation is not necessarily a bad thing for the economy. It can help reduce the costs of imports, boost exports, and make Indian goods more competitive in international markets. However, it is important to remember that the rupee’s appreciation is also affected by the global economy. If the world economy slows down, the demand for the rupee will decrease, and it will depreciate again. Therefore, it is important for the government to take measures to ensure that the economy is not too dependent on the rupee’s appreciation.