

Prime Minister to brainstorm oil scenario with global CEOs

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Monday brainstorm with chief executives of top global and Indian oil and gas companies on emerging energy scenario, with ripples from US sanctions on Iran and volatile oil prices threatening growth. The third annual meeting would also deliberate on ways to revive investment in oil and gas exploration and production, official sources said.

Modi's first meeting was on January 5, 2016 where suggestions for reforming natural gas prices were

made. More than a year later, the government allowed higher natural gas price for yet-to-be-produced fields in difficult areas like deep sea. In the last edition in October 2017, suggestions were made for giving out equity to foreign and private companies in producing oil and gas fields of state-owned ONGC and OIL. But the plan could not go through in view of strong opposition from Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC). Sources said Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al Falih, BP CEO Bob Dudley, Total head Patrick Fouyane, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Vedanta chief Anil

Agarwal are expected to attend the meeting Monday. The meeting, coordinated by the NITI Aayog, is likely to focus on challenges posed by volatile oil prices and the US sanctions on Iran.

The meeting would look at measures to attract investments and steps for making it easier to do business in India. Sources said reforms initiated in the last four years in the oil and gas sector, including open acreage policy, pricing reforms and liberalised licensing policy, will be showcased and suggestions would be sought on what more can be done to hasten growth.

The government is looking at private investment to raise domestic oil and gas production, which has stagnated for the last few years while fuel demand has been rising by 5-6 per cent annually. India is dependent on imports to meet 83 per cent of its demand and more than half

of its natural gas requirements.

The Prime Minister in 2015 had set a target of reducing India's oil dependence by 10 per cent to 67 per cent (based on import dependence of 77 per cent in 2014-15) by 2022. Import dependence has only increased since then and the government is now looking for ways to raise domestic output.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo and India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan would also attend the meeting, they said.

Also likely to attend the meeting are ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Shashi Shanker, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Chairman Sanjiv Singh, GAIL India head B C Tripathi, Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) Chairman Mukesh Kumar Suran, Oil India Chairman Utpal Bora and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) Chairman D Rajkumar.

Nepal: Rescue operation to retrieve bodies of eight climbers from base camp of Mount Gurja likely to resume today

Nepal, Oct. 14

In Nepal, rescue operation to retrieve the bodies of eight climbers from base camp of Mount Gurja is likely to resume today. The rescue helicopter could not land yesterday due to inclement weather and icy wind conditions. Our correspondent reports five Korean and three Nepali climbers were killed after their camp was devastated by a

violent snowstorm on Friday. Bodies of eight climbers have been spotted in the wreckage of tents while one Nepali Guide is still missing. A five-member South Korean expedition team and four Nepali guides had been camping at the foot of 7,193 meter Mount Gurja for last few days. They were waiting for a window of good weather to attempt the summit. The base camp is situated at 3,500m and

it take at least one day trek from the nearest village to reach there. Gurja is the rarely climbed mountain in Nepal's Annapurna region. It lies next to avalanche prone Dhaulagiri, the world's seventh highest peak. The storm is the deadliest in Nepal since 18 people killed at the Mount Everest base camp in 2015 in an avalanche triggered by a powerful earthquake

Manohar Parrikar Discharged from AIIMS, Likely to Return to Goa

ITNews
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Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has been Sunday discharged from the AIIMS, where he has been undergoing treatment for pancreatic ailment, and is likely to return to his home state, sources said.

According to sources in the AIIMS, he was Sunday morning shifted to ICU for a while after his condition deteriorated. But sometime back, the administration decided to discharge him, the sources said.

Parrikar (62) was admitted to Delhi's premier All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on September 15. "The chief minister is likely to be brought to Goa in a special flight on Sunday from Delhi. The doctors who are treating

him at the hospital would certify on Sunday morning whether he is fit to travel back home," the official of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) had said Saturday.

If he returns to Goa, Parrikar will stay at his private residence in Panaji, he added. On Friday, Parrikar met Goa BJP's core committee members and ministers from coalition partners at AIIMS to discuss ways to ensure his government functions normally during his absence from office due to ill health. However, leaders of the ruling BJP and its allies, who met Parrikar separately, had ruled out any change in leadership in the coastal state. Parrikar has been ailing since mid-February and has been treated at different hospitals including those in Goa, Mumbai and the US

HM Rajnath Singh to celebrate Dussehra with BSF personnel guarding Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan

Agency
Rajasthan, Oct. 14

Home Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Bikaner in Rajasthan on Thursday to be with the Border Security Force personnel guarding the Indo-Pakistan border. He will celebrate Dussehra with them by performing Shastra puja or weapons worship.

A Home Ministry official said this will be first time when a senior Central Minister will be joining the force in the festivities in the sensitive border with Pakistan. Mr Singh will assess the progress in infrastructure development. Last year, he had attended Dussehra celebrations at Joshimath in Uttarakhand along the Sino-Indian border.

An open letter by two social activists regarding ST demand to The United Naga Council, The Zomi Council and The Hmar Inpui

Dear Friends,

With reference to your representation to Shri Jaswanthsinh Bhabor, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Government of India, regarding inclusion of the Meetei in the list of scheduled Tribe, we, on behalf of Pan Meetei Convention would like to say the following—

We may begin, by stating in a nutshell that the Meetei are a people made of seven clans or SALAI TARET—Khumam, Luwang, Mangang, Angom, Moirang, Kha-nganba and Salang-Leishangthem. According to Meetei mythology the seven SALAI are the seven sons of Pakhangba, the son of God, ATIYA MARU SIDABA. Accordingly the seven sons became the progenitors of the seven clans or the Salai Taret, who formed the Meetei some thousands of years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

After the independence, when a list of different tribal groups, who happened to be indigenous people, was prepared by the concerned authority of the Indian government to enlist them in the scheduled tribe list of the Indian Constitution, all the indigenous groups of the Northeast were included except maybe the indigenous Meetei people. The reason was, the Meetei were Hindu converts and the then Meitei leaders claimed that the Meetei were the descendants of Brabubahon son of Arjuna of the Pandava of the Hindu epic the Mahabharatta. That was a travesty of the fact of Meetei being Hindu converts.

Since 2012, STD CM (Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee Manipur), on behalf of the Meitei people has asked the Government of India to rectify the wrong that it had committed against the Meetei people by leaving them out of the ST list six decades ago. Now the STD CM demands to put the indigenous Meitei people in its rightful place in the list of scheduled tribe of the Constitution, without further delay. The demand is genuine by all measures.

Now, coming to your apprehension that is clearly reflected in your representation to the Union Minister, quote, "until and unless proper Constitutional protection with special

administrative provisions specifically and exclusively for the currently recognized 34 hill tribes of Manipur are put in place and their implementation without any outside interference a mandatory requirement, the Meitei ST demand should not be further entertained so as to avoid a disoriented, highly volatile and destructive state of relationship and existence between the hill tribes and the Meitei/Meetei".

In this connection, we would like to say that we genuinely appreciate your concern and apprehensions. And we can assure you of our full cooperation with you to fight to protect your interests in matters of your fair share in the state government job, education and land, because we do not mean any ill will against any of our neighbors.

We believe that the state can also make relevant laws in matters of job and education by the state assembly as it is done in the neighbouring state of Nagaland. Perhaps, together we may ask the state to make specific land laws to protect both the hill and the valley people.

The truth is Meetei people need to have a level playing field in the national level. And we want to protect the little area of the valley of 700 square miles which is the only natural habitat of the Meitei people on this planet.

For ages we have been living together. We had our good times and bad times as well that we had experienced together. The past is our shared history. We truly believe we can always find a way out that will take care of your apprehensions. We hope, we can sit together and sort out the differences as good neighbours.

We expect a positive response from your end.

Thanking you

Yours most sincerely
Heigrujam Nabashyam
President

Hijam Rajen
General Secretary

More Poem

No baab tree

By- Dr Nunglekpm Prem Devi
Independent Scholar



Still I remember, straight and branchy tall tree;
To those far off corner, corner of those courtyard square;
Slander as it stands, its bark so ugly and crunchy;
A homeland to chameleon variety; up and down
No naked eyes watch upon them: so quickly moved
A sucking field to bugs and moths and leaf miners;
No naked eye catches them so easily, too silently:
Green Leafy as she grows swings as she moves around;
With rhythmic gestures welcoming spring pat-pat-patter;
Oh! Its time spring her; let her wear 'phanek', let her bloom flowers
Let her bear 'fruits'; she adores a piece "a piece of cloth"
She's painted and she's cherished, with all her full bloom.

Flowers and her petals scattered, as I swipe
Alluring and attracting and sizing their duties;
Buzzing and buzzing and never forgets Bee and bees;
Clustering and gathering; talking and helping;
Her scents sweeter as she grows decaying scattering;
Fallen echoing the breeze, one and ten and hundred;
She branched too strong, her leaves too green tight;
She's born with bulging eyes; round and swelling and spongy;
Amongst and between the twigs interlocking, brotherly and sisterly;
Week after week, it holds hugging tight her 'mother';
Week after week and after month; she falls that easily,
Happy I jumped; Alas! It's too scary; it's bitten and sucked out;
Never the bold ripe fruit; as it falls off
Never better the juicy one; as I open it out.

As she drops one and two *no-baabs*, I enjoy picking up;
Carving through hunger; cutting it pieces by pieces;
And smashing and smearing; salt and sugar and chillies;
And bowl and plates; I taste better as I prepared;
Ah! Its sour, it's deeply sour and bitter and acidic;
My tongue's so disrespectful; bitter, moody and grumpy;
Thickening and touchy and scratchy and uneasy;
'She bears no man's fruit' exclaimed my father
She's been cut down; her arms too short
Still she stands straight single, tall and weary;
Weird as she's been marked; her *no-baabs* thrown away;
Decaying and Rotten; a hand reaches it selected and chosen;
Her '*no-baabs*' not lesser than ground ball;
A great battle to watch upon played.