

PM Modi takes stock of global energy scenario with oil company chiefs amid rising fuel prices

Agency
New Delhi, Oct 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met oil company chiefs in New Delhi today to take stock of the global energy scenario even as fuel prices continued to rise across the four major metros. The increase in transport

fuel prices comes amid a continuous surge in global crude oil prices. Earlier this month, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a cut in excise duty by one rupee fifty paise a litre. Additionally, the state-owned oil marketing

companies have been mandated to reduce prices of petrol and diesel by one rupee a litre each. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, NITI Aayog vice-chairman Dr Rajeev Kumar and NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant attended the meeting.

Trump wants people to come to US on basis of merit

Agency
Washington, Oct 14

President Donald Trump has said that he wants people with merit to enter the United States, a move that can help technology professionals from countries such as India.

"I'm very tough at the borders. We've been very tough at the borders. People have to come into our country legally, not illegally. Legally. And I want them to come in on merit," Trump told reporters at the White House on Saturday.

Responding to a series of question on illegal immigration, the president reiterated that he wants people based on merit, a move that can help technology

professionals from countries such as India.

"What I want is merit. I want a lot of people to come in. We have great car companies entering our country again. This hasn't happened for 35 years. We have companies like Foxconn going to Wisconsin with a massive, massive plant," he said.

"We need people coming in, but we want them to come in on merit. We want people that are going to help us. It's very important," Trump said.

Observing that immigration is not tricky to him, he insisted that the administration and the Congress have to do the right thing whether there's an election or not.

He opposed the chain migration policy and said, "If that's a bad policy, then guess what, a lot of bad things are going to happen. But a lot of people agree with me. I would say a vast majority of our country agrees. They don't want criminals coming into our country. They don't want people that they don't want in the country that aren't going to help us as a country. They don't want these people coming in. So we have a very strong policy."

"The one thing that really has changed over the last couple of years since I've been President — our country is doing so well, even with real interest — not with false interest rates. Zero interest.

Sensex slips 71 points on negative economic data, weak rupee

Mumbai, Oct 15

The BSE benchmark Sensex after reclaiming the 35,000-mark fell 71 points to quote at 34,662.73 Monday, as the IIP slipped to a three-month low in August and retail inflation rose marginally in September. Besides, weak Asian cues on worries over China-US trade dispute influenced sentiment. The 30-share barometer pushed lower by 70.85 points, or 0.20 per cent, to 34,662.73. It opened higher and touched a high of 35,008.65. The gauge had climbed 732.43 points in the previous session on Friday.

Sectoral indices were negative across the board, with oil & gas, auto, consumer durables, PSU, bank, capital goods, metal, infrastructure and realty falling by up to 1.25 per cent.

The NSE index Nifty was trading lower by 21.85 points, or 0.21 per cent, at 10,450.65 after shuttling between 10,524.60 and 10,432.

Selling activity emerged after data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Friday showed that industrial production slipped to a three-month low of 4.3 per cent in August, while retail inflation up marginally to 3.77 per cent

in September. Meanwhile, the rupee depreciated by 36 paise to 73.93 against the dollar in early trade after Brent crude again went past the USD 81 a barrel, which also dampened sentiments.

Hindustan Unilever, emerged top loser in the Sensex pack, falling 3.28 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank at 2.46 per cent. Other big losers that dragged both the key indices were Maruti Suzuki, Axis Bank, L&T, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Auto,

PowerGrid, Kotak Bank, Coal India, Adani Ports, Asian Paint, HDFC Ltd, SBI, Vedanta Ltd and Tata Steel.

However, stocks of TCS, Humber, ITC L&G, Sun, Infosys, RIL and Wipro were trading higher.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) gave up shares worth a net of Rs 1,322 crore, while Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) remained net buyers, picking up shares worth a net of Rs 1,287 crore on Friday, provisional data

showed. Most other Asian markets too were down on trade war worries and surging crude prices following rising diplomatic tensions between Riyadh and the West.

Japan's Nikkei fell 1.39 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.30 per cent, Taiwan was down 1.10 per cent in their early deals. Shanghai Composite Index, however, was flat.

The US Dow Jones Industrial Average had closed 1.15 per cent higher on Friday.

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Gaudiya Vaishnavism : An

Therefore, during the reign of King Pamheiba @ Garibaniwaz (1709-1748), there came a real time for the Meitei nation to have one common religion to shape one complete entity for the amalgamated Meitei power and its nation. So the king had to choose one from the three emerging religion of the world: - 1. Buddhism, a flourish religion of the south-east Asia including neighboring Burma, the then greatest enemy of the Meitei; 2. Islam, an alien but world-wide religion but then emerging forcefully in the eastern part of India; 3. Vaishnava Hinduism of India, the religion of the then friendly neighbouring kingdom of Ahom and Cachar. The king rightly decided for Vaishnava Hinduism the religion, his father Meidingu Charairongba (1697-1709 A.D.) fondly embraced and patronised. But, adoption of Vaishnava Hinduism by Meidingu Garibaniwaz for his amalgamated Meitei power brought more chaotic alterations than to bring common bonding among his amalgamated subjects as Hinduism in the valley of Manipur started reaching in varied forms with different colour and outlooks. -6-3. HINDUISM IN MANIPUR: Regardless of the following facts:

(a). There flourished a Hindu kingdom of Tagaung in Upper Burma which was founded by King Abhiraja of the Sakya Clan from Kapilavastu in 800 B.C. and remained till the Chinese Buddhist devastated in 600 B.C.

(b). The Ahom kingdom established in Upper Assam by Sukampha, a Shan prince in 1228 A.D. flourished in whole of the Brahmapura valley as a Hindu kingdom till 1826 A.D. was a friendly kingdom of Meitei Leipaak with matrimonial alliances.

(c). Takhel (Tripura), the kingdom where locally produced Ramayana was translated in Sanskrit during the reign of Maharaja Dharma Manikya (1431-1462 A.D.) also had established both martial and matrimonial relationship with the Meitei kingdom since the time of Meidingu Kabomba (1524-1542 A.D.).

(d). Just across the bordering hills of Manipur in the north-west of Imphal at present day Dimapur, the Hindu kingdom of Dimasa (later Cachari) flourished till the Ahoms devastated in 1536 A.D. This kingdom of the Dimasas had also both martial conflicts and matrimonial alliances

with the Meitei since the time of Meidingu Kongyamba (1324-1335 A.D.). The presence of the Brahmans from the mainland India in the valley of Manipur is recorded since the time of Meidingu Kiyamba (1437-1508 A.D.). The king with the help from a Brahmin who was found settled in a village nearby the Kangla in the north east (present Lairikyengbam Leikai), initiated worshipping of Lord Vishnu by establishing a sanctum at the present day Bishnupur. After that, there are records of Brahmans arriving in Manipur from different parts of India. Out of those records, the followings may be taken into account as to conceive a roundabout of the chaotic scenarios by the Hinduism and its culture in Manipur during those days: -1. During the time of Meidingu Charairongba (1697-1709 A.D.), in 1703, a Brahmin, Rai Vanamali from Puri, Orissa, arrived in Manipur with his wife. The king was impressed by the talk of the Brahmin on Radha-Krishna cult. In the following year (1704) King Charairongba embraced Nimandi Vaishnava of Hinduism happily along with many of his subjects from the Brahmin Rai Vanamali as their Diksha Guru. After that the king built many temples of Radha-Krishna. Before the arrival of the Brahmin Rai Vanamali, another Brahmin, Purushottam with wife Lakshmiyari also from Puri arrived with the idols of Balarama-Krishna and Subhadra in the royal court of king Charairongba. Since then, with the royal patronage, the Brahmans in Manipur started celebrating Ratha Yatra annually. On the other hand, Meitei King Charairongba also built temples of Kalika (Durga) which shows the presence of Shaktia cult of Hinduism in Manipur since his time.

II. During the reign of Meidingu Garibaniwaz (1709-1748 A.D.), in 1715, a group of 39 Brahmans led by one Guru Gopal Das from the royal court of Ahom arrived in the royal court of Manipur. In 1717 the Meitei king (Garibaniwaz) along with many of his subjects were initiated into Vaishnavism (of Sankardeva school of thought) of Hindu. But soon after Guru Gopal Das left Manipur and arrival of the Goshai : Shantidas from Srihatta (Silhet) in 1719, the king shifted his allegiance from the Vaishnavism of Sankardeva school to the Ramandi Vaishnavism. On the other side, Smrata, another

sect of Hindu Vaishnavism also sprang up in the valley of Manipur. Under the above chaotic scenarios of different Hindu cultures, the king himself must have faced much troubles in controlling the situation. Records of punishing and fining of non Ramandi Vaishnavas are found during the time of Meidingu Garibaniwaz. However, amidst those chaotic cultural transition periods of the amalgamated Meitei Power and Nation, M e i d i n g u Chingthangkhoomba @ Bhagyachandra (1763-1798 A.D.) emerged and stood firmly equipped

with Gaudiya Vaishnavism, a Vaishnav cult based on love and devotion with equality for all without any distinction of caste and creed and also with open venues for embracing everything of humanity. In no time, the amalgamated groups of the Meitei Power and Nation accepted the new Vaishnavism as of their own. The Gaudiya Vaishnavism introduced by the King Bhagyachandra started a new evolution of culture common for all the amalgamated groups of the Meitei Power and Nation in an unique form as an integrating force. In that course of new cultural evolution, all differences amongst the amalgamated groups waned and brought a complete shape of oneness with a nomenclature: Meitei and Meitei Culture. The Gaudiya Vaishnavism introduced by the Meidingu Bhagyachandra has so uniquely shaped the culture and traditions of the amalgamated Meitei with total exclusiveness that, the Gaudiya Vaishnavism of the Meitei has become rightly to be known as the Meitei (Manipur) Gaudiya Vaishnavism with its unique form.

CONCLUSION: We have histories of uniting people for a nation and for an exclusively common cultural traditions. We know groups of people trying hard for integration through common cultural tradition to gain an unified identity with glory. Whereas, the Meiteis are integrated with a hard earned long history. Why Meiteis should not stand united to safeguard its integrated identity with glory? -7-PS: The English in the above article is subject to correction and improvement as the writer is not habitual of writing in English. - The writer.

Diesel price hiked again; wipes out Rs 2.5/ltr cut

New Delhi, Oct 15

Diesel price rose for the 10th consecutive day Monday to wipe out all of the Rs 2.50 per litre cut in rates announced earlier this month through excise duty cut and oil company subsidy.

The government had, with effect from October 5, cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 1.50 per litre and asked state-owned oil firms to subsidise the fuel by another Re 1 a litre.

However, the retail selling price continued to rise on subsequent days. While petrol price remained static Monday, diesel rates were hiked by 8 paise per litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

With this, diesel prices have in the last 10 days been hiked by Rs 2.51 per litre. This is the

fastest increase in rates since oil firms implemented daily price revision in mid-June last year.

It now costs Rs 75.46 per litre in Delhi, a shade higher than Rs 75.45 a litre price when the government on October 4 announced the excise duty cut in 12 months.

Petrol costs Rs 82.72 per litre and has witnessed an increase of Rs 1.22 per litre since the October 4 decision.

Petrol on October 4 was priced at Rs 84 per litre. While in Delhi diesel rates are at their highest ever, in most of the other states it is lower than the peak as some state governments had matched the Centre's move to cut excise duty and oil company subsidy by a similar cut in local sales tax or VAT.

Diesel in Mumbai costs Rs 79.11 per litre, down from Rs 80.10 on October 4. Petrol too

in Mumbai is down from the peak of Rs 91.34 per litre on October 4 to Rs 88.18 on Monday.

After the Centre cut excise duty by Rs 1.50 per litre and asked PSU oil firms to subsidise fuel by Re 1, Maharashtra and Gujarat governments were among the first to announce a matching Rs 2.50 cut.

They were later joined by Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana Assam, Uttarakhnad, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar with similar moves. Jammu and Kashmir, which is under governor's rule, too reduced tax on the fuel.

Maharashtra, however, reduced VAT only on petrol and not on diesel. Even before the excise duty cut, Rajasthan, West Bengal,

Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh had last month reduced VAT to cushion consumers for a spate of price increases.

The reduction in excise duty, only the second in four years of BJP-led NDA rule, will dent Central government revenues by Rs 10,500 crore and was aimed at cooling retail prices that had shot up to an all-time high.

The BJP-government at the centre had raised excise duty on petrol by Rs 11.77 a litre and that on diesel by Rs 13.47 a litre in nine instalments between November 2014 and January 2016 to shore up finances as global oil prices fell, but then cut the tax just once in October last year by Rs 2 a litre.

Prior to October 4 cut, petrol price had risen by Rs 6.86 a litre and diesel by Rs 6.73 since mid-August.

Graded Response Action Plan comes into force in Delhi from today to combat air pollution

New Delhi, Oct. 15

An emergency action plan will be implemented in the national capital from today to combat air pollution that has begun to show a trend towards poor category. Central Pollution Control Board has predicted further fall in the air quality index in the coming days. Under the emergency plan called Graded Response Action Plan, stringent actions will be implemented based on the air quality of the city.

The authority said, if the air quality lies between moderate to poor category-measures like, banning garbage burning and enforcing all pollution control regulations in brick making factories and industries would be implemented. Meanwhile, if the air quality deteriorates and falls in the

very poor category, additional measures including banning the use of diesel generator sets and enhancing parking fees would be implemented.

Burning of paddy straw every year during October and November and wheat straw during April in Punjab and Haryana are the major contributors of air pollution

in Delhi-NCR, as the smoke travels towards the national capital.

In Delhi, it mixes with fog and creates a toxic smoggy winter every year.

Mumbai: Air India cabin crew member falls off aircraft, critical

Mumbai, Oct. 15

An Air India cabin crew member was injured after she fell from a Boeing 777 aircraft while opening its door on Monday morning. The aircraft was parked in the apron area of the Mumbai airport.

The flight attendant, Harsha Lobo, is conscious but has sustained severe injuries, said a source. The B777 aircraft door is about 30 feet above ground.

Air India flight AI864 was scheduled to depart for Delhi at 7 am. "During pre-boarding, she went to open the L5 door of the Boeing 777 to allow the step ladder to align with the door. There was a gap and in the process of opening the door, she slipped and fell onto the tarmac," said a source. Her right leg appears to have borne the brunt of the fall. "She was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance," the source added.

An Air India spokesperson confirmed the incident. "The cabin crew is conscious. She fell while closing the door of B777 ER at 6.10 am. She has been admitted to the Nanavati hospital. The matter is under investigation," the spokesperson said.

According to sources, she underwent a CT scan at the hospital. "Her right leg has a fracture," the source added. The flight took off at 8.30 am and landed at 10.09 am.