

HINDUSTAN TIMES, Delhi, 9.3.2024

Page No. 16, Size:(16.27)cms X (11.68)cms.



In a step towards building a Natural Gas-based economy as envisioned by the PM, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri dedicated to the Nation 201 CNG stations across 17 states and India's first small-scale LNG unit at Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh.



Petroleum Minister anticipates three-fold increase in Natural Gas consumption

In a significant stride towards achieving 100 per cent coverage of country's area for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) hosted a Concluding Ceremony for the 12th CGD Bidding Round. The event was inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, in the presence of Tarun Kapoor, Adviser to Prime Minister, Dr Anil Kumar Jain, Chairperson, PNGRB,



Board Members and Secretary of PNGRB. There was a large presence of key stakeholders from the

oil and gas sector of the country and the successful bidders of 12th CGD Bidding Round.



BUSINESS STANDARD, Delhi, 9.3.2024

Page No. 1, Size:(52.00)cms X (18.52)cms.

End of the road for FAME-II drives up e2W, e3W demand

SHINE JACOB & SOHINI DAS Chennai/Mumbai, 8 March

There has been a significant increase in queries, bookings, and sales of electric vehicles in the country, particularly in the two- and three-wheeler segments, even as EV manufacturers are in a bind over the likely end to subsidies under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) scheme after March 31.

The central government provides incentives for the sale of electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers under the FAME-II scheme, which is due to end in March. Subsidies under the scheme would be available for electric vehicles sold until March 31, 2024, or until funds are exhausted, according to officials from the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The government has been reducing subsidies under the scheme; last June, the subsidy amount was reduced to ₹10,000 per kWh from ₹15,000 per kWh. The maximum subsidy cap of 40 per cent of the ex-factory price was also reduced to 15 per cent.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers

Associations (Fada) is anticipating that the penetration of electric three-wheelers will cross the 60 per cent mark in March, from around 53.3 per cent in February. Similarly, the penetration of electric two-wheelers may increase from 5.7 per cent in February to 7 per cent in March, primarily due to the phasing out of the FAME-II scheme and subsequent price reductions by companies to clear inventory. The current penetration of electric commercial vehicles is around 1 per cent, and that of electric passenger cars is around 2.2 per cent.

"We are seeing an uptick in sales, as original equipment manufacturers and dealers are successful in highlighting that this is the last month of subsidy. The major impact will be on electric three-wheelers, as their penetration will go up to 60 per cent, and electric two-wheelers, penetration of which will go up to 7 per cent," said Manish Raj Singhania, president of Fada. He further said that if there is an immediate price rise after March, the industry may see some setbacks.

Sohinder Gill, CEO of Hero Electric, said: "It seems like the impending withdrawal of subsidies is causing manufacturers to rush and

UNDER SUBSIDY WITHDRAWAL CLOUD

- FAME-II scheme for electric vehicles to end on March 31
- Heavy industries ministry indicates that scheme will end by then or till the time funds are available
- Govt has been reducing

level of electric two-wheelers."

clear their inventories before the deadline. This

subsidies are gone, revealing the true adoption

sharp spike," said Anirudh Ravi Narayanan,

could lead to a sudden increase in prices once the

"There is an increase in sales, but it is not a

the subsidy in phases already

- Dealers see a surge in bookings, queries and sales in March before the scheme ends
- Fada expects penetration of electric two-wheelers to rise to 7% in March-end, from 5.7% in February
- Electric three–wheelers' penetration expected to touch 60% by March–end

CEO of BNC Motors, a Coimbatore-based EV company. "A major catalyst for this is the huge discounts lined up by companies and their push to clear inventory. The current lot of vehicles, if not sold (by March end), will not get the (FAME) subsidy."

IPO-bound Ola Electric, Ather Energy, Okaya EV, and Bajaj Auto have already reduced the prices of their electric two-wheelers.

Based on industry estimates, 82,237 electric two-wheelers were sold in February and the sales figure for the current month (until March 4) was around 4,500 units, indicating that the majority of demand is still at the query stage.

"This urgency reflects the industry's adaptation to the imminent subsidy withdrawal, highlighting a critical transition period for the EV market. Looking ahead into 2024-2025, the reduction in government subsidy allocation suggests a challenging landscape for EV adoption. However, this could also spur innovation and competitive pricing strategies among manufacturers, potentially maintaining the momentum in EV sales despite the subsidy cutback," said Sushant Kumar, director of AMO Mobility.

"Even at Sokudo Electric, we have observed a freshjump in queries from several cities, especially those in UP, Bihar, and Gujarat," said Prashant Vashishtha, chairman and managing director, Sokudo Electric India, an electric two-wheeler company.

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Ahead of polls, LPG price cut by ₹100

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ New Delhi, March 8

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Friday announced a cut of ₹100 in the prices of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. The price cut will be applicable from Friday.

The decision would benefit nearly 320 million households that use LPG as cooking fuel. For the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), the price cut would be in addition to the ₹300 subsidy per cylinder given by the government.

"Today, on Women's Day, our government has decided to reduce LPG cylinderprices by ₹100. This will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting our Nari Shakti," Modi said ina poston X.

With this, a standard 14.2 kg

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON MILLIONS OF HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY BENEFITING OUR NARI SHAKTI

domestic LPG cylinder will now cost ₹803 in Delhi, ₹802.50 in Mumbai, ₹829 in Kolkata, and ₹818.50 in Chennai. The Ujjwala beneficiaries will now be able to get LPG cylinders at ₹503.

The announcement of the price reduction comes a day after the Union Cabinetapproved the continuationofthe₹300subsidytoUjjwala

beneficiaries, which was supposed to end in March, by another year at an estimated cost of ₹12,000 crore.

By making cooking gas more affordable, we also aim to support the well-being of families and ensure a healthier environment. This is in line with our commitment to empowering women and ensuring 'Ease of Living' for them," the

Prime Minister said.

Last year in August, ahead of the Assembly elections in five states, the government had announced a price cut of ₹200 per cylinder while expanding the PMUY scheme to additional 7.5 million beneficiaries. In October, the government then hiked the subsidy given under the scheme by 50% to ₹300 percylinder.

The average LPG consumption of PMUY consumers has increased by 29% from 3.01 refills in 2019-20 to 3.87 refills (till January 2024) in 2023-24, according to the government's latest data.

As on March 1, there are more than 102.7 million PMUY beneficiaries. The government expects to extend the benefit to 103.5 million households under the scheme by 2025-26. During April to January of FY24, the country's consumption of LPG stood at 26.6 million tonne, as per latest data from PPAC.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Sat, 09 March 2024 https://epaper.financialexpress.com/c/74704763





TORRENT GAS CUTS CNG PRICES BY ₹2.50 PER KG

AFTER CITY GAS retailers in Mumbai and Delhi reduced CNG prices, Torrent Gas on

Saturday announced a ₹2.50 per kg cut in CNG prices across all its locations. "This makes CNG cheaper by up to 45% vis a vis petrol and up to 37% vis a vis diesel," the company said.





OIL STEADIES AS INVESTORS WEIGH US JOB DATA



OIL PRICES STEADIED on Friday as investors digested fresh US employment data, in

the quest for clues as to whether interest rate cuts may occur in the US and Europe in the first half of this year. Brent crude futures were down a marginal 0.13% at \$82.85 a barrel.





City Gas Cos Cut CNG Prices

Sanjeev.Choudhary@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Compressed natural gas (CNG) prices have fallen in several parts of the country ahead of the general election after petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Puri said earlier this week that the full benefit of the government's measures in the gas sector hasn't reached the end customer.

Several city gas distributors, including Mahanagar Gas (MGL), Indraprastha Gas (IGL) and Adani Gas, have reduced CNG prices by ₹2.5 per kg. A sharp decline in international gas prices in the past few months also helped companies quickly respond to the comments by the minister, who said the government's objective was to bring "gas to the consumer at the most affordable rates". Puri also pointed towards the strong profits of city gas distributors.

City gas companies get cheaper domestic gas and a softer tax treatment from the government, and at the same time use their monopo-



Sharp decline in international gas prices in past few months also helps cos bring down rates by ₹2.5/kg

ly in their respective licensed areas to sell CNG at a price that ensures strong profit margins. Many of them have enjoyed extended monopolies, with regulatory attempts to end monopolies ending up in courts.

A senior city gas executive, who didn't want to be identified, said some companies extract much more from CNG consumers than others and need to be restrained but not all. He pointed to Uttar Pra-

desh, where CNG prices vary by ₹10-15 from one district to another, even as taxes are the same across the state.

Regulated domestic gas, currently priced at \$6.5 per mmbtu, meets about 75% of the CNG sales. City gas companies source gas at market rates from the domestic or the international market to meet the balance of CNG sales requirements. The average spot LNG prices in the Asian market have dropped to \$8.8 per mmbtu in the January-March period from \$15.1 in October-December 2023. This decline has given city gas companies room to cut CNG prices, an industry executive said.

Puri's stress on increased compliance by city gas distributors and the regulator's announcement this week that MGL has lost its monopoly over Mumbai shook many investors' faith in companies' ability to offer strong returns in the future, leading to a sharp drop in their share prices.

Traditionally, city gas companies have made higher profits in the CNG business than by supplying to households.



PMarrives in Assamon 2-day visit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI, 8 MARCH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reached Tezpur airport in Assam and was greeted by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Mr Sarma expressed excitement on Twitter, welcoming PM Modi to Assam, invoking the spirit of the region's cultural icons.

During his stay, PM Modi is scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for various developmental projects worth Rs 18,000 crore.

Notable among these projects is the Rs 3,992 crore Barauni-Guwahati Pipeline, a significant step in bolstering India's energy security by integrating the Northeast into the National Gas Grid.

Additionally, PM Modi will unveil several petroleum projects, including those aimed at augmenting domestic oil refining capacity. Rail connectivity will receive a substantial boost with the dedication of two railway line doubling projects. PM Modi's itinerary includes a roadshow in Golaghat, culminating in a stay at the Assam Police guest house within the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. The following day, he



PM Narendra Modi being welcomed by people as he holds a roadshow in Kaziranga during his two-day visit to Assam. "ANII

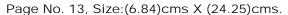
will visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kaziranga, home to endangered onehorned rhinos, before heading to Arunachal Pradesh.

In Arunachal, the prime minister will inaugurate the Sela tunnel, constructed by the Border Roads Organisation, at an altitude of over 13,000 feet.

He will then return to Assam to inaugurate the 'Statue of Valour' in Jorhat and address a public rally, where numerous government projects will be inaugurated and beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana will receive their new homes.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the Tinsukia Medical College and Hospital, lay the foundation stone for the Sivasagar Medical College and Hospital, and virtually inaugurate a cancer care unit for children. His visit underscores the government's commitment to development in Assam, with a special emphasis on housing, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Modi to hold roadshow in Varanasi on Saturday: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit his parliamentary constituency on Saturday and participate in a road show after becoming the candidate from Varanasi for the third consecutive time.







Narendra Modi

PM ANNOUNCES LPG PRICE CUT BY ₹100 AS PART OF WOMEN OUTREACH

Rajeev Jayaswal

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a cut in cooking gas prices for all customers by ₹100 per 14.2kg cylinder as a gift to 320 million households on International Women's Day, ahead of the announcement for the dates of the 2024 general elections.

"Today, on Women's Day, our government has decided to reduce LPG cylinder prices by ₹100. This will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting our Nari Shakti," the PM said on X.

State-run oil companies – Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd – will factor in the price cut from Friday midnight, companies' executives said. →PB

Modi announces ₹100 cut in prices of LPG cylinders

Rajeev Javaswal

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a cut in cooking gas prices for all customers by ₹100 per 14.2kg cylinder as a gift to 320 million households on International Women's Day, days before the Election Commission's announcement of the 2024 general elections.

"Today, on Women's Day, our government has decided to reduce LPG cylinder prices by ₹100. This will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting our Nari Shakti," the PM said in a tweet on Friday morning.

State-run oil companies – Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd – will factor in the price cut from Friday midnight, companies' executives said requesting anonymity. "Fuel price changes are made from midnight to avoid confusion over rates of inventories already out for distribution," one of them said.

A 14.2kg cooking gas cylinder sold to general consumers in Delhi will cost₹803 from Friday midnight while it will cost₹503 for 102.7 million poor households under the Pradhan Mantri By making cooking gas more affordable, we aim to support the well-being of families and ensure a healthier environment.

Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Prices of cooking gas (liquefied petroleum gas or LPG) vary from state to state depending on differences in local levies.

The decision came a day after the Union cabinet gave a ₹12,000 crore bonanza to PMUY beneficiaries by extending a ₹300 subsidy on every cooking gas refill for one more year, up to March 31, 2025. Unless given an extension, the subsidy scheme for poor households would have lapsed this month on March 31.

The PM said the decision to slash LPG prices is in line with the government's "ease of living" policy.

"By making cooking gas more affordable, we also aim to support the well-being of families and ensure a healthier environment. This is in line with our commitment to empowering women and ensuring 'Ease of Living' for them," he said in a post on X, previously known as

This is the second rate reduction since August 29 when the government decided to slash cooking gas prices by ₹200 per 14.2kg cylinder for all customers. The move had twin objectives: easing the strain on household finances hit by soaring retail inflation that came in at a 15-month high of 7.44% in July, and gaining political goodwill ahead of elections in five states, including Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The move

cooled prices of the fuel from a nine-year high of ₹1,103 per 14.2kg cylinder to ₹903 from August 30 onwards.

The Opposition called Friday's cut a move for political gain.

"Already prices were so high. It had gone up from ₹400 during Congress rule to ₹1,000 and above now. Increase and then reduce is an election gimmick," Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan told news agency PTI.

"Ujjwala beneficiaries will now get LPG cylinders for only ₹503," petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said in a post on X. To shield PMUY beneficiaries from the impact of sharp fluctuations in international prices of LPG and to make cooking gas more affordable for them, the government started a targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per annum in May 2022. Later, on October 5, 2023, the subsidy amount was raised to₹300.

Besides subsidised cylinders, PMUY beneficiaries also get free gas connections. The scheme was launched by the Modi government in May 2016 to make LPG, a clean cooking fuel, available to rural and poor households. It provides deposit-free cooking gas connections to adult women of poor households.



After MGL and IGL, Torrent Gas cuts CNG prices by ₹2.50 per kg

PTI / New Delhi

After city gas retailers in Mumbai and Delhi reduced CNG prices, Torrent Gas on Saturday announced a Rs 2.50 per kg reduction in compressed natural gas (CNG) prices across all its locations.

"This makes CNG cheaper by up to 45 per cent vis a vis petrol and up to 37 per cent vis a vis diesel," the company, which has a city gas license to sell CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households in 34 districts, said in a statement. "This reduction in prices of CNG has been done with an objective of promoting the usage of clean fuel and enhancing the ecosystem of natural gas." Mahanagar Gas Ltd, the city gas operator in Mumbai and its



This makes CNG cheaper by up to 45% vis a vis petrol and up to 37% vis a vis diesel

adjoining areas, on March 6, announced a Rs 2.5 per kg reduction in CNG price. Accordingly, the revised CNG price will be Rs 73.50 per kg.

"MGL's CNG price now offers attractive savings of 53 per cent compared to petrol and 22 per cent compared to diesel at current price levels in Mumbai while delivering unmatched convenience, safety, reliability and environmental friendliness to consumers," the firm had said in a statement on March 5.

A day later, Indraprastha Gas Ltd announced a similar price reduction in Delhi and the adjoining cities. "The retail consumer price of CNG is being reduced by Rs 2.50 per kg across all geographical areas of IGL from 6 am on Thursday, 7th March 2024. The revised selling price of CNG in Delhi shall be Rs 74.09 per kg, while it shall be Rs 78.70 per kg in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad." The reductions follow a softening in input gas prices. Torrent Gas said it has 428 CNG stations and more than 1 lakh piped cooking gas customers.



CPSE dividends surpass RE, may touch ₹65Kcr

Receipts at ₹61,981 cr already, versus revised estimate of ₹50,000 cr

PRASANTA SAHU New Delhi, March 8

THE CENTRE'S DIVIDEND receipts from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) climbed to a record high of ₹61,981 crore as of March 8, and may inch closer to ₹65,000 crore by the end of the year, an official source said.

These dividends, which don't include payments from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and state-run financial institutions, have been driven by robust performance of companies in a wide spectrum of sectors including petroleum, energy, mining and commodities.

The dividend receipts at ₹61,981 crore so far in FY24 were 24% higher than the revised estimate of ₹50,000 crore and 44% higher than the Budget estimate of ₹43,000 crore. Such dividend receipts were ₹58,988 crore in the whole of FY23 and ₹59,294 crore in FY22.

Given that the oil marketing companies'(OMCs) profitability has improved substantially due to softening of global crude prices compared to last year, the CPSE dividend receipts will likely be in the region of ₹65,000 crore in FY24. Additional tranches of dividends are expected from Power Finance Corporation, Oil India, Bharat ON A HIGH

Centre's CPSE dividend receipts in FY24

(₹ crore) 61,981 50,000 43,000 Actual Budget Revised estimate so far estimate



Electronics and Mishra Dhatu, later in March.

Among others, the government received a tranche of ₹2,043 crore from Coal India on Friday and ₹2,149 crore from Power Grid Corporation of India on Thursday.

The robust dividend by CPSEs has benefited both the government and minority shareholders equally. Despite the government reducing its stake in several of these companies, the department of investment and public asset management's capital management policy of nudging CPSEs to increase efficiency, expand capacity and give higher dividends to keep investors' interest in their stocks has aided the dividend payouts.

As a result, the market capitalisation of listed CPSEs and government banks/financial institutions increased fourfold from ₹9.5 trillion in January 2021 to ₹38 trillion as of early February.

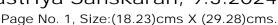
CPSE dividend receipts are an

important component of the government's non-tax receipts. Along with dividends from the RBI, banks and financial institutions, the Centre's total dividend receipts from all undertakings are expected to exceed the revised estimate of ₹1.54 trillion for FY24 (BE was ₹0.91 trillion) by a decent margin.

RBI's surplus transfer to the Centre rose 188% on year to ₹87,416crore in FY24 (for accounting year FY23). Banks and financial institutions have also performed well in FY24, boosting overall dividend receipts to the government.

It is to be noted that the Centre's net tax revenues are also estimated to exceed the revised budget target in the current financial year, putting the Centre's finances in a comfortable position to meet the fiscal deficit target of 5.8% of GDP even though the nominal GDP size is expected to be a little lower than anticipated during the budget making.







रसोई गैस सिलेंडर के दाम में 100 रुपये की कटौती

अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने की घोषणा

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने महिला दिवस (आठ मार्च) पर देश के करोड़ों परिवारों को लाभान्वित करने के उद्देश्य से घरेल रसोई गैस सिलेंडर की कीमत में सौ रुपये कटौती करने का फैसला किया है। केंद्र सरकार ने एक दिन पहले ही पीएम उज्ज्वला योजना (रसोई गैस कनेक्शन देने की वर्ष 2016 में शुरू की गई योजना) के तहत वर्ष में 12 सिलेंडर सब्सिडी पर देने की अवधि मार्च, 2025 तक बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है। सौ रुपये कटौती के बाद देश में बिना सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत अब 803 रुपये होगी। पीएम उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत 300 रुपये की सब्सिडी दी जाती है, इस तरह सब्सिडी वाले सिलेंडर की कीमत 503 रुपये होगी। देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में स्थानीय टैक्स की वजह से एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमत में थोड़ा बहत अंतर हो सकता है।

देश में कुल घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन की संख्या करीब 33 करोड़ हैं यानी इन सभी परिवारों को सो रुपये प्रति सिलंडर की बचत होगी। पीएम उज्ज्वला योजा के तहत 10.23 करोड़ कनेक्शन दिए गए हैं। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने इंटरनेट मीडिया प्लेटफार्म 'एक्स' पर उक्त फैसले की घोषणा करते हुए कहा, 'आज, महिला दिवस के दिन हमारी सरकार ने एलपीजी की कीमत 100 रुपये घटाने का फैसला किया है। यह देशभर के करोड़ों परिवारों पर नितीय बोझ कम करेगा, खास तौर पर नारी शक्तित लाभान्वित होगी। गैस को और ज्यादा किफायती बनाकर हम घरेलू एलपीजी इस्तेमाल करने वाले 33 करोड़ परिवारों को होगा फायदा

एक दिन पहले ही उज्ज्वला योजना को एक साल वढ़ाने का हुआ था फैसला

अव पेट्रोल–डीजल की कीमतों पर नजर, 23 महीनों से नहीं हुआ परिवर्तन



20 हजार करोड़ रुपये पड़ेगा सरकार पर भार

देश में औसतन एक परिवार वर्ष भर में 6.4 सिलंडर इस्तेमाल करता है। इस लिहाज से सभी 33 करोड़ लाभार्थी परिवारों के इस्तेमाल किए जाने वाले सिलंडरों पर 100 रुपये की कटौती सरकार पर 20 हजार करोड़ रुपये का भार डालेगी। इससे पहले गुरुवार को पीएम उज्जवता योजना के तहत 10.23 करोड़ परिवारों को दी जाने वाली 300 रुपये की सिस्सी को अगले वित्त वर्ष तक जारी रखने के फैसले से सरकार पर लगभग 12 हजार करोड़ का भार पड़ेगा।

परिवारों की भलाई के साथ ही पर्यावरण को भी सुरक्षित रखना चाहते हैं। यह कदम महिलाओं को ज्यादा सशक्त बनाने और जीवन-यापन को ज्यादा आसान बनाने को लेकर हमारी प्रतिबद्धता के तहत भी उठाया गया है।'

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अभित शाह ने एक्स पर पोस्ट में कहा, 'महिला दिवस के अवसर पर प्रभानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने महिला शक्ति को एक और उपहार दिया है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की कीमतों में 100 रुपये कटौती की घोषणा की हैं। मैं प्रधानमंत्री के इस उल्लेखनीय निर्णय के लिए बधाई देता हूं जो महिलाओं के जीवन को सरल बनाने के लिए वहाई हैं।'

वहीं, पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी ने कहा, 'प्रधानमंत्री मोदी को पत्थर पर लकीर खींचने और उन विषयों को छूने के लिए जाना जाता है जो किसी अन्य प्रधानमंत्री ने नहीं उठाए हैं। पीएम उज्ज्वला के माध्यम से मुफ्त सिलेंडर देकर मोदी जी ने 10 करोड़ से अधिक गरीब महिलाओं के जीवन में नया उजाला किया है। इसी कड़ी में पिछले 24 घंटे में महिलाओं को दोहरा तोहफा देते हुए उन्होंने न केवल उज्ज्वला लाभार्थियों को मिल रही 300 रुपये की सब्सिडी को एक वर्ष के लिए बढ़ाया है, बल्कि सभी एलपीजी सिलेंडरों पर 100 रुपये की छट दी है। अब उज्ज्वला लाभार्थियों को तो महज 503 रुपये में गैस सिलेंडर प्राप्त होगा।' भारत अपनी जरूरत की 60 प्रतिशत एलपीजी बाहर से आयात करता है। ऐसे में जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चा तेल सस्ता होता है तो इसका असर घरेल स्तर पर भी होता है।

नवंबर, 2023 के बाद कच्चे तेल की खरीद दर में लगातार इजाफा हो रहा पेज>>10

नवंवर, 2023 के वाद कच्चे तेल की खरीद दर में लगातार इजाफा हो रहा

प्रथम पृष्ट से आगे

सरकार की तरफ से प्रकाशित आंकडों को ही देखें तो नवंबर, 2023 के बाद से भारत ने जिस दर पर कच्चे तेल की खरीद की है उसमें लगातार इजाफा हो रहा है। एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, रूसी तेल के लिए छट कम होने के बाद रिफाइनर्स ने सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात से अधिक कच्चा तेल खरीदा है। अक्टूबर में भारतीय बाजार में रूस की हिस्सेदारी नौ महीने में सबसे कम हो गई। नवंबर, 2023 में भारत का औसत क्रय मुल्य (कच्चे तेल का) 83.46 डालर प्रति बैरल था, इसके बाद दिसंबर, 2023 में 77.42 डालर; जनवरी, 2024 में 79.22 डालर; फरवरी में 81.62 डालर और आठ मार्च, 2023 तक 83.14 डालर प्रति बैरल रहा है। भारत में अप्रैल, 2022 के बाद से घरेलु बाजार में पेट्रोल व डीजल की खुदरा कीमतों में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। इस दौरान कई बार कच्चे तेल की कीमतें 72 डालर प्रति बैरल से लेकर 110 डालर प्रति बैरल के बीच रहीं, लेकिन भारत में खुदरा कीमतों को 23 महीनों से स्थिर रखा गया है।

24 घंटे के भीतर सरकार की तरफ से रसोई गैस को लेकर किए गए दो फैसलों को आगामी आम चुनाव से भी जोड़कर देखा जा रहा है। चुनाव की घोषणा अगले हफ्ते होने की संभावना है। वर्ष 2016 में उज्ज्वला योजना लांच करने के बाद से ही सरकार इसका इस्तेमाल वोट आकर्षित करने में करती रही है। भाजपा के अलावा दुसरी पार्टियां भी रसोई गैस सिलेंडर पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा सब्सिडी देकर वोट की राजनीति करती रही हैं। पूर्व में रसोई गैस सिलेंडर पर सब्सिडी को पुरी तरह से समाप्त कर दिया गया था। एक समय 14.2 किलोग्राम के सिलेंडर की कीमत 1,300 रुपये तक पहुंच गई थी। इसके बाद मई, 2022 में उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत सिलेंडर पर 200 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर सब्सिडी की घोषणा की गई। पिछले वर्ष कर्नाटक चुनाव से पहले इसे बढ़ाकर 300 रुपये कर दिया गया था।



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दो दिवसीय असम दौरे पर पहुंचे पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी

17,606 करोड़ की विकास परियोजनाओं की देंगे सौगात, 825 करोड़ की सेला सुरंग का करेंगे उद्घाटन

एजेंसी ≫। नर्ड दिल्ली

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शुक्रवार शाम को असम की राजधानी तेजपुर पहुंचे। असम के सीएम हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने एयरपोर्ट पर उनका स्वागत किया। पीएम शनिवार को काजीरंगा उद्यान का दौरा करेंगे और अरुणाचल प्रदेश के जोरहाट करोड रुपए की लागत जिले के टियक में लाचित बरफकन की वाले ५.५ लाख घरों प्रतिमा का अनावरण करेंगे। पीएम 1957 के बाद विश्व धरोहर स्थल काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान का दौरा करने और इसकी सुंदरता का पता लगाने वाले पहले पीएम भी होंगे।

असम में पीएम करीब 18 हजार करोड़ रुपए की विकास परियोजनाओं का उदघाटन करेंगे। यहां वे एक जनसभा को भी संबोधित करेंगे। इसके अलावा पीएम मोदी भारत में अब तक के सबसे बड़े गृह प्रवेश समारोह में शामिल होंगे और करीब 8478 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से निर्मित 5.5 लाख पीएमएवाई-जी घरों का गृह प्रवेश कराएंगे। इसके साथ ही रेल, सड़क, गैस पाइप लाइन से जुड़ी कई परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास करेंगे।

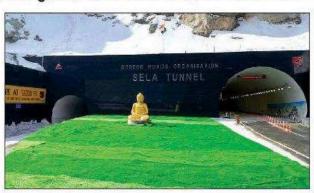
रेल, सड़क, गैस पाइप लाइन से जुड़ी कई परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास

'स्टैच्यू ऑफ वेलोर' विकस्ति असम के लिए पीएम

8478

का लोकार्पण

मोद्धी 17.606 करोड़ की विकास परियोजनाओं की सौगात ढेंगे। आक्रमणकारियों के खिलाफ लडने वाले जोरहाट के होलोंगा पाथर में अहोम योद्धा ब्स्पुक्रकन की 125 फीट **ऊंची कां**स्य प्रतिमा 'स्टैच्य



बरौनी से गुवाहाटी तक पाइपलाइन

ऑफ वेलोर' समर्पित करेंगे।

बरौनी से गुवाहाटी तक 3,992 करोड़ की पाइपलाइन परियोजना तैयार होगी। 768 करोड रुपए की लागत से डिगबोई रिफाइनरी के 0.65 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन से 1 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन की आधारशिला रखेंगे। 510 करोड़ से गुवाहाटी रिफाइनरी के 1 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन से 1.2 मिलियन मीटिक टन की आधारशिला भी रखेंगे।

रणनीतिक महत्व रखती है सेला सुरंग

पीएम दोपहर में पश्चिम कामेंग जिले के बैसाखी में पीएम मोदी रणनीतिक महत्व वाली 825 करोड़ में बनी सेला सुरंग राष्ट्र को समर्पित करेंगे। यह सुरंग चीन की सीमा से लंगे तवांग को हर मौसम में कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करेगी। साथ ही चीन-भारत सीमा के साथ आगे के क्षेत्रों में सैनिकों, हथियारों और मशीनरी की तेजी से तैनाती करके एलएसी पर भारतीय सेना की क्षमताओं को बढाएगी।

सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से बेहद खास सेला टनल प्रोजेक्ट

- सेला टनल के निर्माण की घोषणा केंद्र सरकार ने 2018 में की थी।
- यह बालीपारा-चारदुआर-तवांग सडक का एक हिस्सा है, जो चीनी सीमा के पास प्रमुख परियोजनाओं में से एक है।
- सेला टनल अरुणाचल प्रदेश के पश्चिम कामेंग जिले में स्थित है।
- सेला टनल परियोजना सीमा सडक संगठन द्वारा बनाया गया है।
- सेला टनल दुनिया की 13.000 फीट से ऊंची सबसे लंबी दिवन-लेन सरंग होगी।
- सेला टनल परियोजना में दो सुरंगें और एक

- लिंक रोड शामिल है। सुरंग 1980 मीटर
- सुरंग २, 1555 मीटर लंबी है।

लंबी है

- सुरंग-2 में ट्रैफिक के लिए एक बाइ-लेन ट्यूब और आपात रिथति के लिए एक एरकेप ट्यूब है।
- दोनों सरंगों के बीच लिंक रोंड 1,200 मीटर होगी।
- टनल. एप्रोच रोड और लिंक रोड सहित परियोजना की कुल लंबाई लगभग 12 किमी होगी।
- **ब** ढोनों टनल सेला के पश्चिम में ढो चोटियों से होकर आ रही हैं।



घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर ₹ 100 सस्ता

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का महिला दिवस पर नारी शक्ति को उपहार

पंजाब केसरी/नई दिल्ली

आम चुनाव से कुछ हफ्ते पहले प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने परिवारों पर वित्तीय बोझ कम करने के लिए शक्रवार को रसोई गैस एलपीजी की

कीमत 100 रुपये प्रति सिलेंडर घटाने की घोषणा की।आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा कि श्क्रवार/ शनिवार की आधी रात से राष्ट्रीय राजधानी



अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर नारी कदम पर्यावरण संरक्षण में भी



पर एलपीजी गैस सिलेंडर की कीमतों में 100 रुपये की छट की घोषणा की।मोदी ने 'एक्स' पर एक पोस्ट में कहा, "महिला दिवस के अवसर पर आज हमने एलपीजी सिलेंडर की कीमतों में 100 रुपये की छटका बड़ा फैसला किया है।" उन्होंने कहा कि इससे नारी शक्ति का जीवन आसान होने के साथ ही करोड़ों परिवारों का आर्थिक बोझ प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने भी कम होगा। उन्होंने कहा, "यह शक्ति को बधाई दी और इस अवसर मददगार बनेगा, जिससे पूरे परिवार

का स्वास्थ्य भी बेहतर रहेगा।" मोदी ने कहा कि रसोई गैस को और अधिक किफायती बनाकर सरकार का लक्ष्य परिवारों की भलाई और एक स्वस्थ वातावरण सुनिश्चित करना भी है। उन्होंने कहा, ''यह महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाने और उनके लिए 'इज ऑफ लिविंग' सनिश्चित करने की हमारी प्रतिबद्धता के अनुरूप है।'' इससे पहले, मोदी ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर महिलाओं को बधाई दी। (पृष्ठ-3 भी देखें)

सुधा मूर्ति राज्यसभा के लिए मनोनीत

पंजाब केसरी/नई दिल्ली

मशहूर बिजनेसमैन और इंफोसिस के को-फाउंडर नारायण मुर्ति की पत्नी और मशहर लेखिका संधा मुर्ति को राज्यसभा के लिए नॉमिनेट किया गया है। पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने शुक्रवार को सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म X पर इसकी जानकारी दी। पीएम ने अपने पोस्ट में लिखा- भारत की राष्ट्रपति ने सुधा मूर्ति को राज्यसभा के लिए मनोनित किया है। केन्द्रीय मंत्री अनुराग ठाकुर ने कहा कि सुधा मृतिं की उपलब्धियों पर मोदी सरकार को गर्व है। राज्यसभा में उनकी मौजुदगी नारी शक्ति का शक्तिशाली प्रमाण है। सामाजिक कार्य, परोपकार और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उनका योगदान प्रेरणादायक रहा है। सुधा मुर्ति को कन्नड और अंग्रेजी साहित्य में उनके योगदान के लिए जाना जाता है। वे लेखिका के अलावा एक टीचर और समाज सेविका हैं। सुधा मुर्ति इंफोसिस फाउंडेशन की पूर्व अध्यक्ष



मनोनयन अचंभित करने वाला

समाज सेविका और लेखिका सुधा मृतिं ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि उन्हें राज्यसभा के लिए मनोनीत करने का फैसला दोगुना अचंभित करने वाला है, क्योंकि यह घोषणा अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के दिन की गई है। सधा मृर्ति ने कहा, मैं प्रधानमंत्री की आधार व्यक्त करती हूं।

भी रह चुकी हैं। सुधा मूर्ति को सामाजिक कार्यों के लिए 2006 में भारत के चौथे सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कार पदम श्री से सम्मानित किया