

Govt caps domestic ATF price hike at 25%

NEW DELHI, Apr 30 (ANI)

INDIA'S domestic airlines are bracing for today ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel) price announcement as they continue to navigate volatility in global energy markets.

The Government had earlier stepped in to shield the domestic aviation sector from a potential price explosion, but industry players remain anxious about next the revision. According to industry sources, international benchmarks had pointed to a surge in jet fuel prices this month. However, on April 1, the Government, in consultation with the Ministry of



Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, directed Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Oil Marketing Companies to limit the increase for domestic airlines to just 25 per cent, equivalent to a modest Rs 15 per litre hike. This partial and staggered adjustment was designed to protect domestic air travel costs from the full brunt of international price shocks.

The decision came against the backdrop of extraordinary global developments, including the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which triggered expectations of more than a 100 per cent spike in ATF prices for domestic market on April 1.

India needs 12 pc growth to hit \$30 tn mark by 2047: CEA

CHENNAI, Apr 3 (PTI)

CHIEF Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday said India can achieve a 30 trillion dollar economy by the centenary year of its Independence, provided the country masters the challenge of technological prowess and frontier research.

“To hit the USD 30 trillion mark by 2047, the country would require about 12 per cent growth

(year-on-year) in dollar terms,” Nageswaran highlighted that such a goal is doable but requires

He noted that the current GDP stands at approximately USD 3.91 trillion and is expected to reach USD 7.8 trillion within the next six years.

Speaking as the chief guest at the 67th Institute Day celebrations of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras,



a deep understanding of the challenges present in a fraught geopolitical environment.

Frugal innovation, he pointed out, is India's strength. “But the important point is we have to remember that we have to keep at

it for the next generation,” he added.

“We have to generate frontier research in science and engineering. India's universities and labs must be at the cutting-edge of the global knowledge ecosystem. We have to develop the capacity to acquire external technology and adapt it to Indian conditions, scale and cost constraints,” Nageswaran said.

He called for Indian universities and laboratories to remain at the cutting edge of the global knowledge ecosystem.

Iran will protect its missiles, nuclear capabilities as national asset: Mojtaba

DUBAI, Apr 30 (AP)

IRAN'S supreme leader said on Thursday that the Islamic Republic will protect its "nuclear and missile capabilities" as a national asset, likely seeking to draw a hard line as US President Donald Trump seeks a wider deal to cement the shaky ceasefire now holding in the war.

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, speaking in a written statement read by a state television anchor as he has since taking over as Iran's supreme leader, struck a defiant tone, insisting the only place Americans belonged in the Persian Gulf is "at the bottom of its waters" and that a "new chapter" was being written in the region's history.

"By God's help and power, the bright future of the Persian Gulf region will be a future without America, one serving the progress, comfort and prosperity of its people," Khamenei said in the statement, read like all others since he reportedly was wounded in the February 28 attack that killed his father, the 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"We and our neighbours across the waters of the Persian Gulf and the (Gulf) of Oman share a common destiny. Foreigners who come from thousands of kilometres away to act with greed and malice there have no place in it - except at the bottom of its waters."

Speaking to mark Persian Gulf Day

in Iran, Khamenei's remarks signalled that nuclear issues and Iran's ballistic missile programme wouldn't be traded away.

"Ninety million proud and honourable Iranians inside and outside the country regard all of Iran's identity-based, spiritual, human, scientific, industrial and technological capacities - from nanotechnology and biotechnology to nuclear and missile capabilities - as national assets, and will protect them just as they protect the country's waters, land and airspace," Khamenei said.

He referred to America as the "Great Satan", a long hurled insult by Iranian leaders toward the US since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Pakistan Navy commissions its 1st Hangor-class sub in China

ISLAMABAD, Apr 30 (PTI)

THE Pakistan Navy on Thursday commissioned its first Hangor-class submarine, armed with state-of-the-art weapons and advanced sensors, at a ceremony held in Sanya, China.

“The commissioning of the first Hangor-class submarine marks another chapter in the time-tested and enriching friendship between Pakistan and China,” army said in a statement.

President Asif Ali Zardari, who is on a

visit to China, attended the event as the chief guest. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf and senior officials from the Pakistan Navy and People’s Liberation Army (Navy) were also present on the occasion.

President Zardari termed the commissioning a “historic milestone” in Pakistan Navy’s modernisation, reaffirming his country’s resolve to maintain a robust, balanced and credible defence posture. He said that Pakistan is fully capable of defending its sovereignty.

'Putin offered to handle Iran's enriched uranium'

■ Told Putin to rather end war with Ukraine. To me, that would be more important, says Trump

WASHINGTON, Apr 30 (AP)



PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a phone call Wednesday, renewed his offer for Russia to serve as a third country that could deal with Iran's 970 pounds of enriched uranium that the US leader is demanding Tehran must surrender.

"He told me he'd like to be involved with the enrichment - if he can help us get it," Trump said Putin told him.

"I said, 'I'd much rather have you be involved with ending the war with Ukraine.' To me, that would be more important."

Meanwhile, the Kremlin warned of dire consequences' if hostilities against Iran resume.

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the Iran war in a phone call with Trump on Wednesday, with the Kremlin stressing the "dire conse-

quences" if hostilities resumed.

Speaking to journalists, presidential adviser Yuri Ushakov said that Putin had told the US President that a ground operation on Iranian territory would be completely "unacceptable and dangerous."

TRUMP FLOATS NEW PLAN TO REOPEN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ: Trump floated a new plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a senior official said.

Under the plan, the United States would continue its blockade on Iranian ports, while coordinating with allies to impose higher costs on Iran's attempts to subvert the free flow of energy, according to a senior administration official.

Trump is weighing multiple diplomatic and policy options to push Iran to end its chokehold on the waterway.