



GAIL to borrow up to ₹6,000 cr in FY27

India's largest gas distributor GAIL (India) plans to borrow ₹5,000-6,000 crore in fiscal 2027 to fund expansion, and has bought three spot LNG cargoes to offset supply shortages caused by the Iran war, a company executive said on Thursday. The amount it plans to borrow would be the equivalent of \$539 million-\$647 million. Finance director Rakesh Jain, at an industry event, also said GAIL's Dabhol LNG import terminal in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra state, is handling 2.25 million tonnes per year, below its 5 million tpy capacity, due to tighter global supplies. Iran's blocking of the Strait of Hormuz, which handles 20% of global LNG flows, have slashed availability and pushed up spot prices. **PTI**



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REUTERS



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India steps up energy outreach amid truce

Rajeev Jayaswal and Rezaul H Laskar

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NEW DELHI: The two-week ceasefire in West Asia has allowed New Delhi to step up its energy security outreach in the Gulf, with petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri visiting Qatar from Thursday and external affairs minister S Jaishankar heading to the United Arab Emirates on Saturday.

Beyond securing supplies of crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), the high-level engagements with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations assume significance as India and the bloc negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA). Several GCC countries — the UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — have also invested in India's 5.33 million tonne strategic petroleum reserves.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed the visits at a briefing on Thursday. "We are closely following developments in West Asia and continue to engage with countries in the region," he said, adding that Jaishankar will visit the UAE on April 11-12 to review cooperation and deepen the strategic partnership.

Referring to Puri's April 9-10 visit to Qatar, Jaiswal said India is also reaching out to other GCC countries. The petroleum ministry said details of the visit would be shared after his return.

The visits come amid global energy volatility triggered by the Iran conflict since February 28. While India has maintained uninterrupted supplies through diversified sourcing from 41 countries, import costs have surged. Brent crude, at \$72.87 a barrel before the conflict, rose to \$119.5 by March



India-flagged vessel Green Asha arrived at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority in Maharashtra on Thursday, carrying 15,400 tonnes of LPG after crossing the Strait of Hormuz. RAJU SHINDE/HT

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Qatar and the UAE are key energy partners for India, and the visits are expected to help secure supplies and assess the impact of the conflict on energy infrastructure, officials said. India's hydrocarbon imports from the UAE were worth \$24.74 billion in FY25, while Qatar remains the largest supplier of LNG and LPG.

Puri's visit is particularly significant as India imports around 60% of its LPG needs, with about 90% routed through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been affected by the conflict. Iran's strike on Qatar's Ras Laffan gas facilities in mid-March worsened concerns. Officials said New Delhi is working to ensure that any force majeure declarations by suppliers such as QatarEnergy do not disrupt supplies.

Indian firms including Petronet LNG, GAIL and GSPC have long-term gas supply contracts with Qatar, importing substantial volumes annually. The UAE, meanwhile, is India's second-largest gas sup-

plier and a major crude source, and its ADNOC is the first foreign entity to invest in India's strategic reserves.

In January, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and ADNOC Gas signed a 10-year LNG supply deal, while GAIL India and QatarEnergy agreed in December 2024 on LNG cargo supplies over five years.

The visits will also provide an opportunity for India to assess the broader security situation and raise issues related to the Indian diaspora — around four million in the UAE and over 830,000 in Qatar.

The GCC remains central to India's energy and trade matrix, accounting for about 35% of oil imports and 70% of gas imports, and \$178.56 billion in trade in FY25.

Benchmark Brent crude price, that was at \$72.87 a barrel before the war, soared to \$119.5 by March 9, about 64% jump. Thereafter, it hovered between \$100 and \$110 a barrel to close at \$109.27 on Tuesday.

While the news of truce on Wednesday saw the price dipping sharply to \$ 94.75, it bounced back to near \$100 again on Thursday as the fragility of the truce became apparent.



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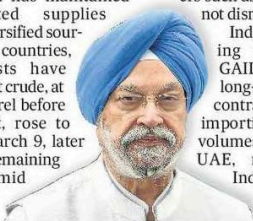
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कई जिलों को पीएनजी से जोड़ा

भारत सरकार के सबसे बड़े उपक्रम, गेल इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा एक अनुमान के तहत देश में 16000 किलोमीटर से अधिक गैस पाइपलाइन नेटवर्क का संचालन किया जा रहा है। इसके अतिरिक्त, गेल द्वारा 2000 किलोमीटर से अधिक एलपीजी गैस पाइपलाइन का भी संचालन किया जाता है। गेल इंडिया लिमिटेड के माध्यम से देश के 22 राज्यों के लगभग 90 से अधिक जिलों में गैस पाइपलाइन बिछाई जा चुकी है, जिसके जरिए सीएनजी, एलपीजी तथा कुछ जिलों में पीएनजी गैस की आपूर्ति भी की जा रही है। यदि भारत सरकार उन राज्यों के जिलों में, जहां से गैस पाइपलाइन गुजरती है, राज्य सरकारों के साथ समन्वय स्थापित कर जिला एवं तहसील मुख्यालयों को पाइपयुक्त प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) से जोड़ने की दिशा में ठोस पहल करे तो आमजन को राहत मिलेगी।-अरविंद रावल, झाबुआ, एमपी