India maps supply chain gaps as war drags on

Priyanka Sharma & Dhirendra Kumar

NEW DELHI

As the war in West Asia disrupts global trade flows, the Indian government has launched a sweeping audit of critical supply chains in pharmaceuticals, medical devices, fertilizers and textiles to map vulnerabilities and reduce import dependence, according to three government officials and documents reviewed by *Mint*.

"The plan is to identify structural vulnerabilities in India's industrial landscape, with a focus on supply chain dependencies and manufacturing capabilities," the first official cited above said on condition of anonymity.

A questionnaire from the commerce ministry's supply chain division—reviewed by *Mint*—to industry asked firms to disclose data on import dependence, covering specific items, source countries, reliance on foreign suppliers, and if key inputs are "irreplaceable or non-substitutable".

The questionnaire seeks metrics such as HSN-coded output, domestic and export

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India maps supply chain gaps amid war

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turnover, and constraints to scale, including technology licensing barriers and infrastructure gaps. The government has set a late-March deadline for responses.

The Centre is also assessing logistics risks—from lead-time increases and port congestion to the share of freight in landed costs—while evaluating industry's technological readiness and reforms needed to boost competitiveness.

Queries emailed to spokespersons of ministries of commerce, petroleum and natural gas, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, Indian Oil Corp., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, and GAIL (India) on Monday were unanswered.

For fertilizers, the assessment covers critical inputs for urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP) and potash, among others. India is the world's largest importer of finished fertilizers such as DAP (60%), and urea and NPK fertilizers (15%).

In pharma, the questionnaire focuses on key starting materials, drug intermediates, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). APIs, bulk drugs and advanced intermediates account for 63% of India's pharma imports.

The Centre is also assessing logistics risks MINT

"These inputs will help in identifying critical supply chain dependencies and policy measures required to strengthen domestic manufacturing in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sector," a second official said.

Industry participants said prices of polypropylene—a petrochemical derivative that is a key input for syringes and IV bags—have surged up to 50% after refinery-grade propylene and benzene were diverted to LPG production. The shift has halted domestic isopropyl alcohol (IPA) output, a critical pharma input, and disrupted paracetamol manufacturing due to shortages and price spikes in PNCB (para nitro chloro benzene) and acetic anhydride.

Jaijit Bhattacharya, president of Centre for Domestic Economy Policy Research, said, "These petrochemicals are critical 'upstream' components for at least 14 therapeutic categories of medicines listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2022...The diversion is disproportionate to the benefits gained for the energy sector."

"Prices have shot up — for some solvents and certain materials, prices have already gone up by 40-50%," said an executive at the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), an organization under the commerce ministry.

"My input cost has gone up and, accordingly, my pricing is also going up...All my suppliers have given me force majeure clauses," said Vijay Mamania, vice-president, marketing of Aarti Industries Ltd, which accounts for 70% of domestic PNCB production.

Viranchi Shah, national spokesperson for Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association, said the association had made a representation to the government to ensure the gas-related supply chain remains intact, and requested for support to the pharma industry.

A spokesperson for state run Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), which has polypropylene manufacturing plans at Kochi and Bina, in an emailed response said, "We remain in active engagement with the Department of Petrochemicals on various industry-related matters, including the aspects of supply chain."

Key inputs for the textiles sector—especially synthetics—are also largely petrochemical-derived. These include terephthalic acid (PTA) and monoethylene glycol (MEG), which are used to produce fibres such as polyester, nylon and acrylic.

"The textiles ministry, in coordination with other line ministries, is working to ensure the steady supply of key inputs such as petrochemical-based raw materials, including PTA, MEG, synthetic fibres and dyes, while also monitoring logistics and freight disruptions," said the third government official.

For an extended version of this story, go to livemint.com.

Pioneer, Delhi, 20/03/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 35.24cm × 25.64cm

Merge state oil firms to absorb price shocks

LPG subsidy may be gradually abolished, and should be provided only on submission of affidavits by family heads about total family income rather than voluntary surrender of LPG subsidy by those having annual family income of ₹10 lakhs. Prices once increased should not be reduced even after reduction in global crude prices

FIRST Column

SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

Rising prices of oil due to the global price rise of crude oil have necessitated the need for some measures so that the burden of the price rise of crude oil may not result in a price rise of oil and gas, that too without affecting the national economy. This can be done by measures taken for a drastic cut in overheads of oil companies in India.

Merger of public-sector oil companies necessary

Presently, there are many public-sector companies in the country engaged in exploration, refining and marketing/distribution of oil and natural gas, namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Oil India Limited (OIL), apart from some other companies like Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Petronet LNG Limited.

It is high time that all these companies may be merged together for a drastic cut in overheads and elimination of unhealthy competition. Merger can be initiated initially on the basis of (a) marketing and distribution (b) exploration and refining.

The policy of pricing petrol, diesel and LPG should be totally overhauled by putting all petroleum products under the GST network to ensure uniform pricing of these in all parts of the country. This should not pose any problem because the GST system has provision for levying cess over the highest GST slab. There may be weekly revision in prices rather than daily, with prices of petrol and diesel rounded to the nearest rupee, and that of LPG cylinders rounded in multiples of rupees 50. In practice, delivery persons never return the balance, which in the suggested manner will become a gain to the exchequer. Oil companies had once decided to replace old iron cylinders with transparent plastic cylinders to check usual incidents of pilferage. But these plastic cylinders are not commonly seen even after so many years of introduction. Iron cylinders should not be manufactured in future. However, new plastic gas cylinders should be in 5, 10 or 20 kg LPG packing, to be in the true spirit of metric packaging and for lasting long.

NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT FURTHER MEGA MERGER OF PUBLIC-SECTOR BANKS IS ON THE CARDS. BUT TILL SUCH A MERGER PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED, BANK CHARGES AND INTEREST RATES (SEPARATELY FOR LOANS AND DEPOSITS) SHOULD BE THE SAME FOR ALL PUBLIC-SECTOR BANKS

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LPG subsidy may be gradually abolished, and should be provided only on submission of affidavits by family heads about total family income rather than voluntary surrender of LPG subsidy by those having annual family income of ₹10 lakhs. Prices once increased should not be reduced even after reduction in global crude prices. Such saving should be kept in reserve to avoid future increase in case of further global price rise of crude. Rise in prices of goods and transportation due to increase in fuel price is never reduced with any fall in fuel price.

Merge four public-sector companies engaged in General Insurance on the lines of LIC of India

Likewise, it is high time that four public-sector insurance companies engaged in general insurance may be merged to reduce overheads and unnecessary competition amongst these public-sector companies. Such a merged single public-sector company engaged in general insurance can then ensure vacation of merged nearby branches of the suggested unified public-sector company. Such a step will be in the larger interest of the general public to save them from malpractices presently prevailing in private-sector insurance companies engaged in general insurance. I recall a case when a private-sector company unethically deducted ten per cent from the settled claim amount towards a fire accident because of late submission of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the bank. Rather, the private-sector company was at gain by utilising the claim amount for its business due to late lodging of the claim papers. Even the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) did not take any step against the company on lodging the complaint against the said private-sector company. Every branch of all public-sector banks must collaborate with any unit/branch of any public-sector company engaged in general insurance for the benefit of their customers.

Public-sector banks should promote LIC of India rather than private insurance companies

Public-sector Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC of India) was constituted on 01.09.1956 by merging 245 private insurance companies and has done fairly well in the last seven decades of its formation. But gradually, life insurance business is being captured by later constituted private insurance companies, many of which are promoted by private banks. These private banks and their promoted insurance companies always work in alliance to promote their insurance business in addition to banking business.

But unfortunately, several public-sector banks have started collaborating with private insurance companies rather than promoting public-sector LIC of India. It is neither in the interest of the public sector nor in the interest of people, where many private insurance companies offer gimmick schemes to befool people through their agents, paid heavy commission for bringing business by hiding facts of apparently good-looking insurance plans. The Banking Department of the Department of Financial Services (Government of India) should direct all public-sector banks to collaborate only with LIC of India for providing bank customers life insurance services through a wide range of LIC policies. Every branch of all public-sector banks should have collaboration with some nearby unit of LIC of India, which can provide incentives to concerned bank branches to motivate bringing more business to LIC of India.

Merge nearby units of LIC of India for drastic cut in unnecessary expenses

It is observed that even after seven decades of merger of 245 private companies engaged in life insurance, nearby units could not be merged together for a drastic cut in overheads of LIC of India. There are many such cases where a single building has more than one unit of LIC of India, like one such in Daryaganj (Delhi), which has two units of LIC of India. There are also more units of LIC of India in Daryaganj apart from the two in a single building. LIC of India should urgently draw a plan whereby nearby units of LIC of India may be merged into a single unit. On the contrary, there are areas like the big commercial hub in the Chandni Chowk area of Old Delhi where the only unit of LIC of India in the SBI Building is now closed.

LIC of India should search for some suitable premises, preferably a government building, like one lying vacant since its completion near Bhai Mati Dass Chowk in Chandni Chowk, constructed during the redevelopment plan of Chandni Chowk. Healthy competition can be developed by giving appreciation points to branch managers bringing more insurance business in the public sector. This will promote the public sector, save people from gimmick and misleading insurance plans of private-sector companies, and provide a single-window facility for all banking and insurance needs. Profits of public-sector insurance companies will increase by saving on commission paid to agents, which can and should be reduced, especially when insurance agents pay back a heavy portion of their commission to their clients. Payback is as high as 2.5 per cent in the single-premium LIC pension plan Jeevan Akshay.

LIC of India should abolish useless formalities

LIC of India requires all annuitants having Jeevan Akshay policy to submit life certificates after getting these attested from a responsible officer, including a bank branch manager, gazetted officer, registered medical practitioner, postmaster, school or college principal, Class 1 officer of governments or their undertakings, LIC officer, LIC development officer, or LIC agent, after the annuitant has signed before the attesting authority. LIC of India should abolish this useless formality of a life certificate. Abolition of this formality will in no way harm LIC of India because Jeevan Akshay is simply a pension plan, and it does not make LIC of India pay for the death of the annuitant except returning the investment money to the nominee in case of death of the policyholder. However, such a life certificate may be required in cases where cheques or online remittances are bounced back.

Public-sector IDBI Bank be named as LIC Bank of India

Public-sector IDBI Bank, where LIC of India has acquired major shareholding, should be renamed LIC Bank of India, with facilities of a single-window system for all banking and insurance needs available at each branch.

Welcome reports about further merger of public-sector banks

News reports indicate that further mega merger of public-sector banks is on the cards. But till such a merger plan is implemented, bank charges and interest rates (separately for loans and deposits) should be the same for all public-sector banks. There should be uniformity in different types of forms, which should be simplified with provision to be filled on computer, like passport forms, with subsequent provision for such computer-filled forms to be emailed to banks to avoid errors and reduce man-hours.

Business Line, Delhi, 20/03/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 31.91cm × 25.51cm

Attack on Qatar's key gas facility to impact India, too

Richa Mishra
Hyderabad

Extensive damage to what is the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub — Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City — means that deliveries to major Indian buyers such as Petronet LNG, GAIL and GSPC will either be severely disrupted or cease entirely.

Qatar is India's single largest supplier, providing nearly 40–50 per cent of its total LNG imports.

The partnership between Petronet LNG and QatarEnergy has been seen as the cornerstone of India's energy security for sometime now.

In February 2024, Petronet renewed its contract with QatarEnergy for another 20 years (2028–2048). The agreement ensures a supply of 7.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG.

The 2024 renewal was signed at significantly lower rates than previous terms, projected to save India approximately $6 billion over the contract period, according to reports.

GAIL (India) Ltd is currently facing a total suspension of its Qatari LNG supply. As the primary off-taker for gas imported via Petronet LNG, GAIL is the main conduit for this disruption into the Indian domestic market. The ongoing conflict is also having an impact on natural gas and LNG prices. To meet the supply gap left by Qatar, India is scouting for cargoes from distant suppliers, which incur additional logistical and premium costs.

KEY SUPPLIER. A file photo of Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City. Qatar is India's single largest supplier, providing nearly 40-50 per cent of its total LNG imports REUTERS

COST PRESSURE

According to analysts, for every $10 increase in LNG prices, India's energy import bill faces significant pressure, contributing to a broader $13-14 billion increase in total energy costs when combined with rising crude prices. The government is facing a massive spike in fertilizer subsidies, as the cost of gas (the primary feedstock for urea) has tripled.

Many price-sensitive industrial consumers in the ceramics and glass sectors are being forced to switch to costly alternatives like LPG or fuel oil as spot LNG becomes unviable.

"Natural gas and LNG prices are headed sharply higher in the short-term, with Asian spot prices already doubling to $24-25 per MMBtu amid the supply shock and forward contracts for 2026 averaging around $13 per MMBtu the highest levels since 2022 as the Qatar outage offsets much of the projected global surplus," Umud Shokri, Energy Strategist and Senior Visiting Fellow at George Mason University, told *businessline*.

However, if the production halt resolves within weeks and new capacities from the US and delayed Qatar expansions come online later in the year or 2027, prices could moderate toward a buyer's market by year-end, though sustained regional tensions may keep volatility elevated through 2026, he said.

According to available information prices for fuel from the US and Norway are currently hovering around $15–18 per MMBtu at the source, but long shipping times (up to two months) and high freight costs make the delivered price much higher. Spot or emergency purchases are as high as $23.08 to $28.28 per MMBtu for immediate March delivery.

While geographically closer than the US, Australian spot volumes are also tracking the surged JKM index ($25/MMBtu).

"The recent attacks on QatarEnergy's LNG facilities in Ras Laffan and Mesaieed have halted production at the world's largest export complex, triggering force majeure declarations and immediate supply disruptions to India, which relies on Qatar for 40-50 per cent of its LNG imports (around 10-11 mtpa out of total annual imports of 25-27 mtpa). This has forced Indian importers such as Petronet LNG to cut deliveries by up to 40 per cent, leading to reduced gas allocations for industries, city gas distribution networks, power generation and fertilizer plants," Shokri said.

"The fallout includes higher operational costs, potential industrial slowdowns, and strain on energy security, as shipments through the Strait of Hormuz are also affected, exacerbating India's dependence on imported gas for over 55 per cent of its needs," he added.

OPTIONS FOR INDIA

While New Delhi has been maintaining that it continues to closely monitor developments in Gulf and West Asia region and also working on various options, it is time to act and not watch, said industry observers.

"The options before India include urgently diversifying LNG sourcing from non-Middle Eastern suppliers such as the US, Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Russia via spot cargoes and new long-term contracts, with two alternative shipments already en route as per government updates," Shokri said.

Whatever efforts are being taken or done by New Delhi the situation will dent the economy.

"Bombings on producing gas fields in the Persian Gulf are a terrible news. It has shaken the oil and gas industry to the core globally," said Narendra Taneja, energy expert.

Financial Express, Delhi, 20/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 22.20cm × 12.73cm

India braces for impact of strikes on energy assets

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, March 19

MISSILE STRIKES ON Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City — the world's largest LNG export hub — have triggered a major supply shock, disrupting nearly 19% of global LNG output and raising immediate concerns for India, one of the largest buyers of Qatari gas.

The March 18 attack hit critical infrastructure including the Pearl GTL facility, with subsequent strikes damaging multiple LNG units and triggering fires, according to Wood Mackenzie. Production has remained halted since March 2, with force majeure declared from March 4, taking around 80 million tonne per annum (MTPA) of LNG out of global supply. The scale of disruption has forced a sharp reassessment of recovery timelines and market outlook.

"Market expectations had been for a short disruption, with a controlled restart restoring supply to pre-conflict levels by mid-2026. That outlook now appears increasingly unlikely," said Kristy Kramer, head of LNG strategy and market development at Wood Mackenzie. "A more prolonged outage would further tighten the global supply and keep prices elevated for longer."

Ras Laffan Industrial City in Qatar has halted production of LNG since March 2 REUTERS/FILE PHOTO

For India, the fallout is direct and significant. Qatar is the country's largest LNG supplier, with long-term contracts covering 7.5 MTPA for Petronet LNG, 1 MTPA for GSPC, and additional volumes for GAIL. It also supplies about 5 million tonne of LPG annually. "If the facility is affected, it will impact us. The solution lies in diversifying our sources," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary, ministry of petroleum and natural gas.

She underscored the broader vulnerability to West Asia disruptions: "Anything which impacts the supplies from West Asia impacts us... We are trying to pick up the cargoes from other sources."

Detailing the diversification strategy, she added: "In crude, we have already diversified. Around 70% of our crude is coming from the area outside the Strait of Hormuz... Some of our LPG is also coming from the US. Qatar is definitely a very big supplier of LNG. But there are other suppliers also, for example, US and Australia."

For India, the immediate challenge will be managing supply gaps and price pressures, while accelerating diversification. The longer-term impact will depend on the extent of damage at Ras Laffan and the time required to restore operations. With Qatar supplying LNG worth \$6.39 billion and LPG worth \$3.21 billion to India in 2024-25, the attacks underline the country's deep exposure to West Asian energy flows — and the urgency of reducing dependence in an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment.

Amar Ujala, Delhi, 20/03/2026

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ऊर्जा से जुड़ीं जानकारियां गोपनीयता के दायरे से बाहर

तेल-गैस कंपनियों को उत्पादन से आयात तक की देनी होगी जानकारी

नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बीच सरकार ने ऊर्जा से जुड़ी जानकारियों को गोपनीयता के दायरे से बाहर कर दिया है। ऊर्जा डाटा को राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के रूप में वर्गीकृत करने से अब तेल एवं गैस क्षेत्र से जुड़ी सभी इकाइयों को उत्पादन से लेकर आयात तक की विस्तृत परिचालन जानकारी देना जरूरी होगा।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम, 1955 के तहत यह आदेश जारी किया है। आदेश सार्वजनिक और निजी दोनों क्षेत्रों की रिफाइनरियों, एलएनजी आयातकों, पाइपलाइन संचालकों, शहरी गैस वितरकों और पेट्रो रसायन कंपनियों पर लागू होगा। सरकार ने यह कदम गैस और एलपीजी आपूर्ति बाधित होने के बाद ऊर्जा सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताएं बढ़ने के बीच उठाया है। आदेश का मकसद आपूर्ति संबंधी बाधाओं पर त्वरित कदम उठाने, बिजली, उर्वरक और घरेलू एलपीजी जैसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता देना है। ब्यूरो

आदेश में यह : पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय की ओर से 18 मार्च को आदेश के अनुसार, सार्वजनिक से लेकर निजी क्षेत्रों की तेल व गैस कंपनियों को उत्पादन, आयात, भंडार स्तर और खपत से संबंधित आंकड़े और जानकारियां देना अनिवार्य होगा। इससे भारत की आपूर्ति शृंखला की निगरानी करने, बचे भंडार का प्रबंधन करने और वैश्विक झटकों का जोखिम को कम करने की क्षमता मजबूत होगी।

Millennium Post, Delhi, 20/03/2026

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FUEL PRICES SURGE; BRENT CRUDE HITS $118, UP OVER 60% SINCE FEBRUARY 28

Iran steps up attacks on oil, gas facilities in Gulf after Israeli strike on key gas field

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI: Iran intensified its attacks on oil and gas facilities around the Gulf on Thursday, dramatically raising the stakes in a war that is sending shock waves through the global economy.

The strikes, in retaliation for an Israeli attack on a key Iranian gas field, sent fuel prices soaring and risked drawing Iran's Arab neighbours directly into the conflict.

Tehran's targeting of energy production further stressed global supply already under pressure because of Iran's stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil is transported.

Tehran warned that it its energy facilities were attacked, "subsequent attacks against your energy infrastructure and that of your allies will not stop until their complete destruction, and our response will be far more severe than" last night's attacks."

A fire and plume of smoke rise after, according to authorities. debris from an intercepted Iranian drone struck an oil facility in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates FILE PHOTO

KEY POINTS

- Iran threatens sustained destruction of energy infrastructure if attacks continue
- Strait of Hormuz disruption fears intensify; handles one-fifth of global oil flows
- Vessel set ablaze off UAE; another ship damaged near Qatar
- Iranian drone hits Saudi Red Sea refinery, disrupting alternative export routes
- Saudi Arabia intercepts six drones; Yanbu refinery damage under assessment
- Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG facility hit; "extensive" damage reported, production halted

KUWAIT REFINERIES MINA AL-AHMADI, MINA ABDULLAH HIT; FIRES REPORTED, NO INJURIES

Underscoring the danger to ships in the region, a vessel was set ablaze off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and another damaged off Qatar. But efforts to bypass the strait were also under pressure: An Iranian drone hit a Saudi refinery on the Red Sea, which the country had been hoping to use as an alternative exit route.

Brent crude oil, the international standard, spiked to as high as USD 118 a barrel, up more than 60 per cent since Israel and the United States started the war February 28 with strikes on Iran.

Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE denounced the Iranian attacks. Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit called them a "dangerous escalation".

But Iran showed no signs of backing down. Saudi Arabia intercepted six drones in Riyadh and its Eastern province before saying that the SAMREF refinery in the Red Sea port city of Yanbu was hit.

Saudi Arabia had begun pumping large volumes of oil west toward the Red Sea to avoid the Strait of Hormuz. The Saudi Defence Ministry and Shell said damage assessment was underway at the facility.

Qatar, a key source of natural gas for world markets, said firefighters put out a blaze at the Ras Laffan LNG facility after it was hit by Iranian missiles. Production had already been halted there after earlier attacks. The state-owned QatarEnergy said the fire had caused "extensive" damage, and energy giant Shell said it was assessing it.

Ras Laffan is the largest liquefied natural gas export facility in the world, according to QatarEnergy. Damage to the facility could delay Qatar's ability to get supplies to the market even after the war ends.

A drone attack on Kuwait's Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery sparked a fire but caused no injuries, the state-run KUNA news agency reported. The refinery is one of the biggest in the Middle East. Shortly after, a drone attack set ablaze the nearby Mina Abdullah refinery, officials said.

Continued on P6

Millennium Post, Delhi, 20/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 10.11cm × 23.68cm

Iran steps up

Authorities in Abu Dhabi said they were forced to shut down operations at its Habshan gas facility and Bab field, calling Iranian overnight attacks on the sites a "dangerous escalation".

In Israel, more than a half-dozen waves of Iranian attacks targeting large parts of the country sent millions of people to shelters. The strikes caused damage to buildings but no significant casualties were reported.

The Iranian attacks came after Israel hit South Pars, the Iranian part of the world's largest gas field located offshore in the Persian Gulf and owned jointly with Qatar.

Iran's attack on Qatar's energy infrastructure in retaliation for an Israeli strike on the Iranian South Pars gas facility is bad news for India, with over 88% import dependence on crude oil and about 50% on gas. The war had already disrupted India's gas imports from its single-biggest supplier, Qatar, which supplied about one-third of its total liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and about half of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports.

Even after the war ends or eases, problems for India will depend on the extent of damage done by the Iranian strike at Ras Laffan because LNG and PNG supplies from there would depend on the time taken to repair its facilities.

Indian firms such as Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL), GAIL India, and GSPC have long-term commercially beneficial gas supply contracts with Qatar.

With some 80 per cent of all power generated in Iran coming from natural gas, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency, the attack directly threatens the country's electricity supplies. Natural gas is also used to supply household heating and cooking across the Islamic Republic.

Iran condemned the strike on South Pars, with President Masoud Pezeshkian warning of "uncontrollable consequences" that "could engulf the entire world".

In Washington, President Donald Trump said that Israel would not attack South Pars again, but warned on social media that if Iran continued striking Qatar's energy infrastructure, the US would retaliate and "massively blow up the entirety" of the field.

"I do not want to authorize this level of violence and destruction because of the long term implications that it will have on the future of Iran," Trump said on social media.

Meanwhile, Iran announced the execution of three men detained in January's nationwide protests, the first such sentences known to have been carried out, the judiciary's Mizan news agency reported.

More than 1,300 people in Iran have been killed during the war. Israeli strikes against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon have displaced more than 1 million people — roughly 20 per cent of the population — according to the Lebanese government, which says more than 900 people have been killed.

In Israel, 15 people have been killed by Iranian missile fire. Four people were also killed in the occupied West Bank overnight by an Iranian missile strike, according to officials. At least 13 US military members have been killed.