Millennium Post, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 27.46cm × 11.38cm

LPG supply for migrant workers doubled: Minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has doubled the LPG supply for migrant workers, with 1,368 cylinders of 5 kg each now available daily, Food and Supplies Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Tuesday.

The quota for commercial LPG for migrant workers has been increased from 180 to 360 cylinders per day, with priority being given to the needy, the minister said. The move comes under a revised total daily cap of 6,480 cylinders (19-kg equivalent), under which essential services are being prioritised. Any surplus cylinders from one

category will be transferred to other categories after meeting primary demand, Sirsa said. The government has directed oil marketing companies, or OMCs, to strictly adhere to the daily limit of 6,480 cylinders and inform the department about any inter-category transfers.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, our focus is to ensure there is no shortage anywhere. Keeping in mind the needs of migrant workers, the supply has been doubled," Sirsa said.

The Food and Supplies Department has also issued operational clarifications to improve LPG distribution. OMCs have been allowed flexibility in allocation across categories without fixed percentage caps, but only after meeting valid demand in all segments, the minister said. According to the statement, to ensure transparency, 5-kg free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders for migrant workers are being distributed through authorised agencies, with Aadhaar verification made mandatory. "A centralised beneficiary database is being maintained by OMCs to prevent duplication and misuse, and a minimum gap of seven days has been fixed before the same individual can receive another cylinder," an official statement read.

The priority sectors include education and health institutions (225 cylinders), government institutions/PSUs/subsidised community kitchens/industrial canteens (225 cylinders), hotels, restaurants, dhabas and food processing units (3,375 cylinders), caterers/banquets (225 cylinders), labour-intensive industries such as automobile, textile, dye, chemical, plastic, glass, power and pharma (1,800 cylinders), and sports facilities/stadiums (270 cylinders).

"We are fully committed to fair distribution. There is no place for rumours. Intensive inspections are underway across Delhi, and strict action will be taken immediately against those involved in hoarding or black marketing," the minister said.

Sirsa termed reports of gas shortage "completely baseless" and advised people to book cylinders through authorised OMCs and consider PNG connections as a long-term solution.

Mint, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 10.53cm × 5.64cm

Gas trading volume drops 8% on IGX in Mar amid supply crunch

New Delhi: Trading volume on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) fell 8% year-on-year in March to 4.8 metric million British thermal units (mmBtu) because of a decline in supplies amid the ongoing war in West Asia. Trading volume was down 11% month-on-month. GIXI, the benchmark price index of IGX, was ₹998 per mmBtu for March, up 18% year-on-year, IGX said in a statement. **RITURAJ BARUAH**

Hindu, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 25.43cm × 17.75cm

Govt. doubles 5 kg LPG allocation for migrant workers, students under revised daily quota

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Tuesday doubled the allocation of LPG for students and migrant workers, with 1,368 cylinders of 5 kg now available each day, according to an official statement.

The move is part of an attempt to stabilise fuel supplies disrupted by the ongoing conflict in West Asia. "The Delhi government has enhanced commercial LPG availability, doubling allocation for migrant labourers and students from 180 to 360 cylinders daily (19 kg equivalent). This follows the revised order allocating a total of 6,480 cylinders (19 kg equivalent) across sectors, under which essential services are prioritised on a first-come-first-served basis," read the statement.

As many as 1,368 cylinders of 5 kg will be made available every day. FILE PHOTO

The government has directed oil marketing companies (OMCs) to strictly adhere to the daily limit of 6,480 cylinders and inform the Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs about any inter-category transfers.

'No shortage of gas'

"We are committed to fair distribution and leave no room for rumours. Inspections are ongoing statewide. Anyone involved in hoarding or black marketing faces immediate criminal action," said Food and Supplies Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa.

He termed reports of gas shortage "completely baseless" and advised people to book cylinders through authorised OMCs and consider PNG connections as a long-term solution.

OMCs have been allowed flexibility in allocation across categories without fixed percentage caps, but only after meeting valid demand in all segments, the Minister said.

"Keeping in mind the needs of migrant workers, the supply has been doubled," Mr. Sirsa said.

The 5-kg free trade LPG cylinders will be distributed at authorised agencies after mandatory Aadhaar verification.

OMCs will maintain a centralised beneficiary database to prevent duplication, along with a minimum seven-day interval between successive issuances to the same individual, the government said.

Mint, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 37.52cm × 58.98cm

Why a crude oil crisis could play out differently this time around

India's economy, like the world's, is structurally less vulnerable than in the 70s but policymakers must still pay close attention

NIRANJAN RAJADHYAKSHA
is executive director at Artha India Research Advisors.

BLOOMBERG

The ongoing war in West Asia has cast a pall of uncertainty over the global economy. The disruptions in energy supplies have begun to ripple through supply chains across the world. In its latest monthly review of the Indian economy, the finance ministry has noted: "Recent shocks are being transmitted through higher input costs, supply constraints and pressures across sectors, with early indications of some moderation in economic activity."

For economic policymakers, managing a disruption in supply is far more complicated than responding to a sudden shift in demand. The reason is simple. In the case of a demand shock, both output and prices move in the same direction. For example, a sudden drop in demand in an economy will lead to slower growth as well as lower inflation. The textbook solution of stimulating the economy through lower interest rates as well as higher government spending usually works well.

Supply shocks are very different. Output and prices move in different directions. For example, a shortage of supplies means that economic activity slows down while inflation moves up. The textbook solutions lose their bite in these extraordinary situations, creating tricky choices between either supporting growth or taming price increases.

A lot will depend on how long the war will last. The best strategy right now would be for the government to absorb some of the initial price increases through either tax cuts or higher subsidies, while the Reserve Bank of India waits along the sidelines. It will be less neat in case the supply shock lasts through the year.

Policymakers, companies, investors and economists will obviously be keeping a close eye on how economic growth and inflation behave in the months ahead. The general expectation is that economic activity will lose some momentum while price pressures will increase. The final effect on both fronts will be tough to assess since war disruptions are still playing out and the impact could be non-linear in case there are physical shortages of key inputs, both for industry as well as agriculture.

Does economic history offer any clues? The first major oil shock that hit the global economy was in October 1973. Oil prices quadrupled in a short span of time after West Asian petroleum exporters imposed a severe embargo on shipments after the Yom Kippur war of some Arab states with Israel.

The Indian economy went through a harrowing time. Consumer price inflation averaged 23% a year over the next two years. Economic growth was a modest 4.6% in 1973-74. It then went into negative territory the next year. Growth in nominal gross domestic product (GDP) was 22.6% that year and 17.7% in 1974-75. What this means is that the sharp rise in nominal GDP was because of higher prices rather than an increase in output. Stagflation, in other words.

The next oil shock came in 1979 after the Islamic revolution in Iran and start of the Iran-Iraq war. Nominal GDP expanded by a modest 9.1% in 1979-80 and then a sharp 19.5% the next year. India had double-digit inflation in both these years. The economy contracted by 5.2% in real terms in 1979-80. It bounced back the following year, with a real growth rate of 7.2%.

However, harsh lessons from those two oil shocks have to be tempered with one other fact. India was unlucky to face energy shortages even as droughts hit agricultural production in these two periods. So high inflation as well as muted economic growth was the result of a twin battering that the governments of the day had no direct control over. Agriculture is now a much smaller part of the Indian economy compared to 1973 and 1979, and food stocks are far more comfortable. This is important given early warnings of an El Niño year, which signals dry conditions. However, on the other side, India uses far more fossil fuel energy than it did back then.

The other lesson comes a year closer to our times. Soaring international crude oil prices were one reason why India's nominal growth was 18.7% in 2010-11. Consumer price inflation averaged 12.2% that year. Unlike 1973 or 1979, global oil prices were pushed up by red-hot economic growth in countries such as China and India as well speculative buying fuelled by a wave of cheap money unleashed by central banks in the aftermath of the North Atlantic Financial Crisis in 2008. The main lesson here is that inflation was not the result of restrictions on energy supplies but also of loose macroeconomic policies.

A look at the data since 1970 shows that there is a negligible relationship between global oil prices on one hand and nominal economic growth on the other. Data points scatter, with no clear pattern. The line of best fit has a slope so gentle that it is barely meaningful. India has grown rapidly with oil at $15 a barrel and equally rapidly with oil at $110.

However, this overall benign story hides what happened during severe energy shocks—in 1973-74, 1980-81, 1990-91 and 2021-22. A lot will depend on the details. Is the world facing a supply shock or a demand shock? Are there any other exogenous blows, such as a hit to food production? How dependent are economies on oil? And how will economic policy respond to these dislocations?

Business Standard, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 33.42cm × 53.02cm

Govt issues norms for coal gasification mining plans

SUDHEER PAL SINGH
New Delhi, 7 April

The coal ministry on Tuesday issued guidelines for preparation of mining plan for underground coal gasification projects. The idea is to optimise coal and lignite extraction by converting them into syngas using gasification technology with minimal surface impact and ensuring regulatory compliance.

Coal gasification is a technology that uses existing coal resources to produce synthetic gas, which has industrial applications. It is being viewed as a key hedge for India against fossil fuel supply shocks, like those currently witnessed due to the West Asia crisis. The guidelines stated that project proponents must submit the proposed mining plan to the ministry, prepared on the basis of the Geological Report, Hydrogeological Study Report and Pilot Study for that block.

"For preparation of geological report, the coal or lignite block shall be explored as per the extant norms, if detailed exploration has not been carried out earlier. The project proponent may also carry out a geophysical survey and correlate the data obtained through drilled boreholes," the ministry said in a notification.

If any mineral other than coal or lignite with commercial value is found in the leased area during exploration or mining, it will be reported to the state government concerned and the ministry. The company will also get a comprehensive Impact Assessment Report prepared by a consultant with a specific and detailed chapter on hydrogeology.

The norms also stated that a pilot study should be conducted by a reputed scientific or research institutions with proven expertise in coal or lignite gasification and the study will evaluate the technical feasibility, environmental impact, safety considerations, and necessary mitigation measures.

Mines ministry amends mineral auction rules

The Ministry of Mines on Tuesday announced the Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2026, for faster operationalisation of mines, as part of a series of steps to enhance efficiency, transparency, and ease of doing business in the sector.

The rules were last amended in 2025 to introduce intermediary timelines for activities to be completed after LoI issuance until execution of the mining lease.

The latest amendment allows exclusion of portions of mineral blocks where mining is not feasible and where such areas contain less than 25 per cent of the estimated quantity of resources in the block. SUDHEER PAL SINGH

Business Standard, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 39.05cm × 67.92cm

Indian refiners turn to Venezuela and Russia for oil supply

Purchases from alternative sources also ramped up

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 7 April

Indian refiners are increasingly turning to Russia and Venezuela for supplies of crude oil in April amid persistent tension in West Asia, which has limited flows from traditional suppliers such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The country has purchased maximum quantities of crude oil from Russia and Venezuela in the first six days of April at 659,000 barrels per day (bpd) and 612,000 bpd, respectively, according to data from ship tracking firm Kpler. Crude oil loadings, or purchases, reflect volumes which are headed to India from the country of origin, but the same might change in the coming days as voyage becomes clearer.

Both Russia and Venezuela are secure supply options for India, as shipments from these countries do not rely on the Strait of Hormuz, a key chokepoint through which 20 per cent of global crude oil transits.

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

Since the beginning of the conflict in West Asia, Indian refiners have increased Russian oil purchases after the US issued a 30-day waiver, which expires of April 11, allowing countries to buy crude oil and petroleum products from Moscow. These purchases are currently stranded at sea.

Meanwhile, India is also boosting oil purchases from Venezuela, after last receiving a crude oil cargo from the latter in May 2025, said Kpler. Before the US had imposed sanctions on Caracas in 2019, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Russia-backed Nayara Energy were the top Indian buyers of Venezuelan crude oil.

Higher purchases from Russia and Venezuela have come at the expense of supplies from West Asia, which have been disrupted by tensions in the region. India sources around 40 per cent of its crude oil imports through Strait of Hormuz, which is now under siege.

In April so far, India has bought 407,000 bpd of crude oil from the UAE and 314,000 bpd from Oman, while oil purchases have also been ramped up from alternative sources such as Nigeria and Angola at 343,000 bpd and 182,000 bpd, respectively. Meanwhile, no crude cargoes from India's key traditional suppliers Saudi Arabia and Iraq are currently headed for the country.

To sustain petroleum product exports, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have increased shipments via routes that bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

Elevated prices

Brent crude spot ($/bbl)

Note: Price as at 8.50 pm IST Source: Bloomberg

War drives Russian crude to 13-yr high

Russian crude prices rose to the highest in over 13 years as Moscow benefited from the Iran-linked global oil rally.

The country's flagship Urals crude reached $116.05 a barrel on April 2 in Russia's port of Primorsk, the biggest oil-export facility on the nation's Baltic coast, according to data from Argus Media.

The price, which doesn't include shipping costs, is almost twice as high as the average $59 a barrel assumed in Russia's budget for this year. Windfall oil revenues are easing pressure on the Kremlin's finances as it continues its war in Ukraine.

By the time Urals reaches India, it trades at a premium to Brent, which widened to $6.1 a barrel against $3.9 two weeks ago, the data shows. BLOOMBERG

Business Line, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 12.46cm × 21.27cm

Current gas crisis worse than 1973, 1979, 2002 together, says IEA chief

Reuters
Paris

The current oil and gas crisis triggered by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is "more serious than the ones in 1973, 1979 and 2002 together", Fatih Birol, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), told *Le Figaro* newspaper.

"The world has never experienced a disruption to energy supply of such magnitude," he said in an interview with the French newspaper released in its Tuesday edition.

CATALYSED INFLATION

He said the European countries, as well Japan, Australia and others will suffer, but the countries most at risk were developing nations, which will suffer from higher oil and gas prices, higher food prices and a general acceleration of inflation.

Fatih Birol, head of the International Energy Agency

The IEA member countries agreed last month to release part of their strategic reserves. Some of this had already been released and the process continues, said Birol.

In reaction to the strikes by Israel and the US, Iran has almost entirely blocked traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20 per cent of world oil and gas regularly flows, creating a surge in energy prices.

Business Standard, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 65.41cm × 52.49cm

Rewiring power for a new era

The latest crisis in West Asia has once again reminded the world that energy security remains hostage to geography. Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has been severely disrupted amid the United States-Israel-Iran war, with major powers openly acknowledging the risk to global energy flows. Roughly one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) moves through this narrow passage, and the repercussions of its closure are already reverberating across the world.

India imports more than 90 per cent of its oil needs and roughly half its gas requirements. Moreover, around 60 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption is met through imports, and about 90 per cent of those imports come through the Strait of Hormuz. On crude oil, India has diversified meaningfully, but West Asia's share in its import basket still climbed to 59 per cent in February 2026. Even before this war began, India's oil and gas import bill hovered around $180 billion over a year.

AMITABH KANT

This dependence on fossil fuels is a systemic security problem for India. Imported hydrocarbons bind the economy to regions over which it exercises limited control. The longer this war lasts, the higher India's import bill will be, and the pressures on industry, agriculture, transport and households will continue to rise.

Non-fossil fuel energy, however, alters that equation in a way fossil imports cannot. Solar PV systems now commonly operate for 25 to 35 years, while wind turbines typically have a lifespan of 20 to 25 years. That does not eliminate all risk — there are still grid, storage and manufacturing dependencies to manage. But it does mean that non-fossil capacity, once installed, goes on producing through wars, shipping disruptions and maritime standoffs that would otherwise send imported fuel prices soaring.

India has come a long way in its energy transition and has over 275 Gw of non-fossil fuel capacity. Yet as the crisis suggests, the current pace, while significant, is still too cautious relative to the scale of India's exposure. Building on this progress, it is time for India to reset the terms of its energy transition.

The first step is to expand the renewable energy target from 500 Gw to 1,500 Gw by 2030. This would be ambitious, but not unachievable. A 1,500 Gw goal would send a powerful signal to markets, manufacturers, states and investors that India intends to compress the next decade of energy transformation into the next five years.

Second, India cannot seriously aim for a 1,500 Gw target while leaving transmission and balancing infrastructure to catch up later. The renewable-rich corridors of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu need accelerated grid strengthening to reduce congestion and speed up evacuation. The 11 Renewable Energy Management Centres set up to integrate variable renewables were a forward-looking move, but India now needs more of them, with much greater capacity.

Third, every renewable tender should include battery storage, doing away with solar- or wind-only tenders. Pumped hydro storage should also be pushed in mission mode. Storage is what turns renewable capacity from a daytime supplement into round-the-clock strategic infrastructure. India is already projected to ramp up both battery and pumped hydro storage sharply over the coming decade. The goods and services tax for storage assets should be reduced to 5 per cent as it is for most renewable energy devices and parts.

Fourth, LPG in India is central to household energy consumption and import dependence remains substantial. Much like the Ujjwala scheme drove down LED bulb prices through bulk procurement, a demand aggregation programme for induction cookers could sharply reduce upfront costs. By leveraging the Ujjwala beneficiary database, this can be scaled quickly, positioning clean cooking as part of a wider shift from imported fuels to domestically produced electricity.

India will also need to go all out on electric mobility and charging infrastructure. That means announcing a clear transport electrification road map: Full electrification of new bus procurement, full electrification of two- and three-wheelers by 2030, and of cars and trucks by 2035. It also means fixing the production-linked incentive scheme for advanced chemistry cell battery storage, which has badly underperformed. Every successful electric vehicle and every domestically produced battery pack will take a small bite out of future oil dependence.

Finally, a system dominated by renewables will still need firming capacity beyond storage alone. That is where nuclear energy, including small modular reactors, comes in. India's target of achieving 100 Gw of nuclear capacity by 2047 is both strategically important and increasingly indispensable. With the policy framework already in place, the focus now should shift to execution, beginning with early project tenders and a clear, sustained pipeline.

Still, India must not look towards escaping from one dependency only to walk into another. The clean energy transition will be strategically durable only if it addresses the critical mineral value chain. These minerals — such as lithium, cobalt and rare earth elements — are essential inputs for clean technologies. China remains the dominant refiner for nearly all strategic minerals, with an average market share of 70 to 90 per cent. India will need to diversify critical mineral feedstocks, build up its midstream processing capabilities and leverage international strategic partnerships for technology transfer and capacity building.

A country that remains tethered to imported fossil fuels will keep importing geopolitical risk along with them. A country that builds domestic clean power, manufacturing, storage and mineral processing capacity will be better placed to ride out external shocks. That is the strategic opportunity hidden inside the present turmoil, and India must move with urgency to convert this moment into a decisive shift towards energy sovereignty.

The author is chancellor, NIIT University, chairman, Fairfax, Centre for Free Enterprise, former G20 Sherpa and former CEO, NITI Aayog. The views are personal

Pioneer, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 23.20cm × 7.59cm

5-kg LPG cylinder quota doubled to ease supply concerns: Joint Secretary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

The Government has doubled the daily quota of market-priced 5-kg LPG cylinders for migrant workers as part of a broader push to stabilise fuel supplies amid disruptions linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz.

Unlike the subsidised 14.2-kg cylinders that are used in household kitchens for cooking, the 5-kg bottles are priced at market rates. A 5-kg cylinder costs Rs 549 in Delhi as against the Rs 913 price for a 14.2-kg domestic cylinder.

The 5-kg cylinders are available across-the-counter at LPG distributorships on production of a simple identity card (no address proof needed). Regular domestic connections are given after a complete KYC. With the war in West Asia disrupting energy supplies, the Government has prioritised cooking gas supply to households as the cost of commercial users, who were initially given only 20 per cent of their requirement and in steps raised to 70 per cent. Migrant workers mostly do not have regular cooking gas connections. To ease their burden, the Government has now made available higher numbers of 5-kg cylinders.

At a news briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the Government vide letter dated April 6 has conveyed that daily quantity of 5 kg free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders in each state available for disbursal to migrant labourers is being doubled based on the average daily supply (number of such cylinders) during March 2-3.

She said in February, 77,000 kg FTL cylinders were sold and the sale on March 2-3 was higher than that. Since March 23, about 7.8 lakh 5-kg FTL cylinders have been sold, she said, adding that on Monday more than 1.06 lakh 5-kg FTL cylinders were sold across the country.

The Government has also increased commercial LPG allocation to about 70 per cent of pre-crisis levels and stepped up enforcement, with over 4,300 raids conducted to curb hoarding and black marketing.

She urged citizens to avoid panic buying of petrol, diesel, and LPG, stressing that adequate stocks are available and retail outlets are operating normally.

Supplies of LPG and piped natural gas (PNG) have been prioritised for households and critical sectors such as hospitals, while refinery output has been ramped up and alternative fuels promoted.

Natural gas supplies to priority segments, including domestic piped natural gas (PNG) and transport CNG, remain fully protected, with additional allocations to fertiliser and industrial sectors.

Pioneer, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 7.96cm × 17.59cm

Crude oil futures hit record high of ₹10,888/barrel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

Crude oil prices rose nearly 3 per cent to hit a record high of ₹10,888 per barrel in futures trade on Tuesday, tracking strong global cues as tensions between the US and Iran intensified ahead of President Donald Trump's deadline for reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil for April delivery increased by ₹300, or 2.83 per cent, to hit a lifetime high of ₹10,888 per barrel. Similarly, the May contract also advanced ₹170, or 1.82 per cent, to touch a fresh record high of ₹9,485 per barrel on the MCX.

"Crude oil prices remained firm as geopolitical tensions intensified ahead of US President Donald Trump's deadline for Iran, keeping markets highly sensitive to every development surrounding the Strait of Hormuz," Kaveri More, Commodity Analyst at Choice Broking, said.

Threats of potential strikes on Iranian infrastructure and warnings from Tehran of retaliation against Gulf energy assets have heightened fears of supply disruptions, overshadowing diplomatic efforts toward a ceasefire, she added.

"With the Strait of Hormuz being a critical route for global oil flows, uncertainty continues to fuel volatility, while rising inflation expectations and a stronger US dollar index above 100 reflect broader macroeconomic concerns tied closely to energy prices," More said.

In the international market, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures for the May delivery gained $ 4.14, or 3.7 per cent to $116.55 per barrel, while Brent oil for the June contract rose 1.5 per cent to $111.40 per barrel in New York.

"WTI crude futures climbed toward $115 per barrel, trading near their highest close since June 2022 as President Trump's deadline for Iran to strike a deal or face intensified attacks approaches," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at IndusInd Securities, said. Meanwhile, Trump on Monday reiterated threats to strike Iranian power plants and other civilian infrastructure.

Hindustan Times, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 37.07cm × 15.48cm

Hindustan Times

Relief measures: 5kg LPG cylinders supply doubled

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government has doubled the supply of 5kg liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders to ensure adequate cooking fuel for migrant labourers, officials said on Tuesday.

The move follows concerns by industries over a potential mass exodus of migrant workers amid shortages of 5kg free trade LPG (FTL) cylinders in several industrial clusters. HT had reported on Monday that some industries were even setting up community kitchens to retain workers.

"It is conveyed that the daily quantity of 5kg FTL cylinders in each state available for disbursal to migrant labourers is being doubled based on average daily supply," petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said in a letter to state chief secretaries.

According to the letter, 5kg FTL cylinders will be placed at the disposal of state food and civil supplies departments for distribution "only to migrant labourers", with support from state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs). Providing a daily update on fuel availability, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the oil ministry, said supplies of petrol, diesel, piped natural gas (PNG), and LPG remain stable, with "no dry-out" reported.

INDUSTRIES WERE CONCERNED OVER A POTENTIAL MASS WORKERS' EXODUS AMID SHORTAGES OF 5KG FREE TRADE LPG CYLINDERS

"Delivery of LPG cylinders is normal. Online booking of LPG refills is around 96%, and OTP-based delivery is approximately 90%," she said, adding that OTP-based delivery helps curb diversion into the black market.

On commercial LPG used by hostels, and restaurants, she said supplies have been restored to 70% of requirements. "Since March 14, approximately 4.55 million 19kg cylinders have been sold, amounting to about 86,400 metric tonnes," she said.

Sharma added that around 6,500 metric tonnes of commercial LPG was sold on Monday, equivalent to roughly 350,000 19kg cylinders. Notably, 5kg FTL cylinders are also classified as commercial LPG and are priced at ₹549 per cylinder in Delhi. Under government policy, domestic LPG — supplied to more than 332 million households — remains the top priority, followed by commercial LPG.

In February, the average daily sale of 5kg FTL cylinders was about 77,000. Following the April 7 order to double supply, daily sales rose to around 100,000 on Monday, she said.

She said OMCs have organised 1,300 awareness camps and sold about 10,000 FTL cylinders.

Asian Age, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 7, Size: 4.76cm × 20.00cm

INDIA INCREASES IMPORT OF OIL FROM VENEZUELA

New Delhi, April 7: India is set to import the most oil from Venezuela in almost six years, helping the world's third-largest crude importer replace Middle East grades disrupted by the Iran war.

More than 12 million barrels are headed to India's west coast this month from the South American producer, the most since February 2020, according to Kpler data.

The April-arriving cargoes were likely secured before the recent disruptions in supplies from the Middle East, underscoring a longer-term shift rather than a purely reactive move, said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, Kpler.

India, which imports about 90 per cent of its crude, has been seeking alternatives after the Iran war disrupted flows through the Strait of Hormuz, which transits almost 40 per cent of the country's oil supplies. India used to be a major buyer from the OPEC producer before the trade was curbed by US sanctions.

— Bloomberg

Indian Express, Mumbai, 08/04/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 17.59cm × 22.44cm

IT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF VENEZUELA CRUDE PURCHASE IN THE LAST 6 YEARS

12 mn barrels of Venezuelan oil may reach India this month

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, April 7

INDIA IS likely to take delivery of around 10-12 million barrels of Venezuelan crude oil this month, the highest in over six years, according to data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler. It comes as the raging war in West Asia has affected global oil and gas flows.

This month will also be the first since May of last year to see Venezuelan crude oil being delivered at Indian ports, the data shows. These barrels, although just a fraction of the country's crude oil imports, are expected to provide some relief and strengthen its crude diversification strategy.

India depends on imports to meet over 88% of its requirement, and processes over 5 million barrels a day of crude.

Over 40% of the imports come from West Asia through the Strait of Hormuz, where vessel movements have been on halt since early March.

Notably, the India-bound Venezuelan oil cargoes were most likely purchased before the West Asia war began, underscoring how diversification of crude supply sources is coming in handy at a time of global crisis.

India imports oil from over 41 countries, with the sourcing slate having expanded considerably over the past few years. This has helped reduce dependence on West Asian crude, which is why the crude oil and petrol, and diesel stocks in the country have been adequate. "The development comes at a time when Indian refiners are actively diversifying their crude slate, particularly in response to uncertainties surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. However, April-arriving cargoes were likely secured well before the recent disruptions, underscoring a longer-term strategic shift rather than a purely reactive move.

"This trend highlights the growing importance of proactive diversification in global energy markets. Securing an alternative supply in advance is increasingly seen as a competitive advantage," said Sumit Ritolia, manager, modelling & refining at Kpler.

With the US capturing Venezuela's then president Nicolás Maduro early January, Trump had said that Washington would take control of Caracas's oil sector. After that, global commodity traders Vitol and Trafigura were authorised by Washington to sell Venezuelan oil globally, which had been under US sanctions.

"More importantly, heavier Venezuelan barrels tend to yield higher proportions of distillates, particularly middle distillates such as diesel and jet fuel. This is significant in the current environment, where distillate markets remain structurally tight. As a result, these imports not only diversify sourcing but also strengthen India's ability to sustain strong distillate output," Ritolia added.

India — specifically private sector refining giant Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) — was a regular buyer of Venezuelan crude prior to the imposition of US sanctions on Caracas in 2019. Following the sanctions, oil imports from Venezuela stopped within a few months.

According to India's official trade data, Caracas was New Delhi's fifth-largest supplier of oil in 2019, providing close to 16 million tonnes, or about 117 million barrels, of crude to Indian refiners. The bilateral trade between India and Venezuela was $6.40 billion in 2019-20, of which Indian imports — primarily crude oil — were worth $6.06 billion.

In October 2023, the US eased sanctions on Venezuela's petroleum sector, authorising oil exports without limitation for six months. This led RIL and a few other Indian refiners to restart oil imports from Venezuela. But then, imports stopped as the sanction waiver was not extended by Washington after its understanding with Caracas on the conduct of free and fair presidential elections in Venezuela broke down.

A few months later, RIL was able to restart Venezuelan oil imports after obtaining a sanctions waiver from the US. But in the summer of 2025, the company halted oil imports from Venezuela after Trump administration threatened higher tariffs on countries buying Venezuelan crude.

India depends on imports to meet over 88% of its requirement, and processes over 5 million barrels a day of crude. REUTERS

• LONG HAUL

THE INDIA-bound Venezuelan oil cargoes were most likely purchased before the West Asia war began

THE COUNTRY was a regular buyer of Venezuelan crude oil prior to the imposition of the US sanctions on Caracas in the year 2019

VENEZUELA WAS New Delhi's fifth-largest supplier of oil in 2019, providing close to 16 million tonnes, or about 117 million barrels, of crude to Indian refiners

Financial Express, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 29.92cm × 13.23cm

Diesel & petrol usage surges up to 8% y-o-y in March; LPG consumption declines 13%

Fuel demand spikes on West Asia crisis fears

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, April 7

A MODERATE SHORTFALL in supply of LPG restricted its consumption in March while use of auto fuels rose unusually amid fears of supply disruptions.

Petrol and diesel saw strong growth both annually and sequentially, driven by panic buying amid fears of supply disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict. Petrol consumption rose 7.6% year-on-year to 3.78 million tonne (MT) in March 2026 from 3.51 MT in March 2025, while diesel increased 8.1% to 8.73 MT from 8.08 MT. On a month-on-month basis, petrol jumped 12.2% from 3.37 MT in February and diesel surged 13.9% from 7.66 MT, indicating pre-cautionary stocking and heightened demand, data by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) showed.

LPG consumption, on the other hand, declined 12.8% year-on-year to 2.38 MT in March 2026 -- the lowest since June 2024 -- as compared to 2.73 MT in March 2025, reversing a 4.5% growth seen a year ago with consumption of 2.61 MT in March 2024. Month-on-month, it declined 15.7% from 2.82 MT in February and 20.93% from January's 3.01 MT, reflecting demand disruption amid supply constraints and shifting consumption patterns.

The trend also reflects a steady rise over the past two years, but the sharp spike in March 2026 stands out. Petrol consumption increased from 3.32 MT in March 2024 to 3.51 MT in March 2025 and 3.78 MT in March 2026, while diesel rose from 8.01 MT to 8.08 MT and further to 8.73 MT for the same period, highlighting sustained growth in transport fuel demand.

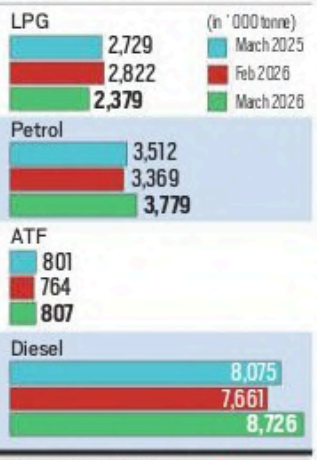
However, month-on-month trends show a clear deviation. In 2026, petrol jumped 12.2% from 3.37 MT in February to 3.78 MT in March, while diesel surged 13.9% from 7.66 MT to 8.73 MT, indicating panic buying amid supply disruption fears. In contrast, in 2025, petrol rose a moderate 5.3% from 3.33 MT in February to 3.51 MT in March, while diesel remained largely flat at around 8.08 MT, showing no abnormal spike.

The sharp double-digit jump in March 2026, compared with single-digit or flat trends in previous years, underscores that the surge was driven by panic buying linked to the West Asia crisis, rather than underlying demand alone.

On an annual basis, petrol consumption rose to 42.59 MT in FY26 from 40.01 MT in FY25 and 37.22 MT in FY24, while diesel increased to 94.70 MT from 91.41 MT and 89.63 MT, respectively.

Continued on Page 7

PETRO METER



»INSIDE« GOVT PANEL TO TAKE A CALL ON BLENDING ETHANOL BEYOND E20 P2

Financial Express, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 12.59cm × 12.12cm

Fuel demand sees a spike

FOR LPG, DESPITE the March decline, full-year consumption rose 6% to 33.21 MT in FY26 from 31.33 MT in FY25, and higher than 29.66 MT in FY24, indicating strong underlying demand over the longer term.

India's total petroleum product consumption increased to 243.19 MT in FY26, up 1.7% year-on-year from 239.22 MT in FY25, and higher than 234.26 MT in FY24, reflecting a two-year growth of around 3.8% and steady expansion in energy demand.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) consumption rose 5.6% month-on-month to 0.81 MT in March from 0.76 MT in February, while remaining broadly stable year-on-year compared with 0.80 MT in March 2025 and up from 0.76 MT in March 2024.

On an annual basis, ATF consumption increased to 9.16 MT in FY26 from 8.99 MT in FY25 and 8.25 MT in FY24, reflecting recovery in aviation demand.

Among other products, naphtha consumption declined 6.8% month-on-month to 0.94 MT in March from 1.01 MT in February, and remained lower compared with 1.03 MT in March 2025 and 1.14 MT in March 2024, reflecting softer petrochemical demand.

Petroleum coke consumption remained stable at 1.73 MT in March, while bitumen consumption increased to 1.02 MT from 0.92 MT in February, indicating stronger infrastructure activity. Fuel oil (FO&LSHS) rose to 0.65 MT from 0.53 MT and lubricants and greases increased to 0.48 MT from 0.41 MT. The country's LPG imports plunged over 45% month-on-month to around 1.12 million tonne (MT) in March from nearly 2.04 MT in February, Kpler data showed.

The drop came as the escalating West Asia conflict choked supply routes through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery that carries nearly 90% of India's LPG imports.

The sharp contraction is seen as a direct fallout of the geopolitical crisis, which has effectively disrupted shipping lanes, stranded vessels and triggered what officials describe as one of the worst gas supply shocks in recent years.

From over 2.04 MT in February—when panic buying and precautionary stocking drove volumes to one of the highest levels—imports collapsed to around 1.12 MT in March.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 08/04/2026
Page No: 21, Size: 10.72cm × 18.07cm

MP sets target of 2L PNG connections in three months

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

The state government has set a target of providing two lakh new Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections in three months to all City Gas Distribution (CGD) institutions. It has also instructed them to carry out daily monitoring of applications received for PNG connections. In the last one day, 225 new PNG connections were provided in the state.

This was informed during the Group of Ministers (GoM) meeting held to review the supply of domestic gas and fuel at Mantralaya on Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Govind Singh Rajput and MSME Minister Chetan Kasyap are part of the Group of Ministers constituted by the state government to ensure the availability of cooking gas and fuel in the state.

The GoM directed officials to ensure the availability of commercial gas cylinders up to district and tehsil levels along with domestic gas supply. The GoM was informed that gas cylinder booking in urban areas is being done at an interval of 25 days, while the period is 45 days in rural areas. LPG booking is normal under the present circumstances.

State Nodal Officer Ajay Shrivastava said that as per Central Government directives, commercial gas cylinders are being provided up to a limit of 70%. Initially, the supply of commercial gas cylinders was only 20%.

Regarding PNG connections, CGD institutions have been directed to upload pipeline details on the PM Gati Shakti portal of the Government of India. PNG connections will be provided to households where pipelines have reached.

Jansatta, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 7, Size: 32.49cm × 9.37cm

बायो गैस व सीबीजी का हो सकता है वाहन व रसोई ईंधन में इस्तेमाल

सर्वेश कुमार

देश

पश्चिम एशिया संकट के दौरान ऊर्जा स्रोतों को लेकर दूसरे देशों पर निर्भरता की वजह से पैदा हो रही स्थिति से निपटने के लिए वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। इसके तहत कृषि अवशेष खासकर पराली और रसोई से निलकने वाले अवशेषों से तैयार, बायोगैस, संपीडित बायो गैस (सीबीजी) और प्रोड्यूशर गैस के तौर पर ऊर्जा स्रोतों के विकल्प के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किए जा सकते हैं। इनका इस्तेमाल वाहनों और रसोई गैस के तौर पर किया जा सकता है। जानकारों का कहना है कि इसके लिए संसाधन मौजूद हैं, लेकिन नीतिगत बदलाव करने की जरूरत है। इससे वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों को अपनाने में सहूलियत बढ़ेगी और पेट्रोलियम के आयात पर निर्भरता भी धीरे धीरे कम होगी।

फसलों के अवशेष यानी पराली से बायोगैस बनाए जा रहे हैं। इसे संपीडित करने के बाद सीबीजी तैयार किया जाता है, जिसे वाहनों वाहनों में सीएनजी या घरेलू पीएनजी के लिए भी इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। यूरोप के कुछ देशों में इसे अपनाया भी जा रहा है जिसकी भूमिका प्रदूषण नियंत्रण के साथ साथ हरित ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा देने के लिहाज से अहम हो सकती है।

ऊर्जा विशेषज्ञ प्रो देबोजित पालित के मुताबिक, गैस के साथ डीएमई सम्मिश्रण से पेट्रोलियम पर निर्भरता को कम किया जा सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी रणनीति ऐसी होनी चाहिए कि देश में बायोगैस और कोयले से गैस के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। इसमें हाइड्रोजन होता है, जिसे अलग कर डाइ मिथाइल ईथर (डीएमई) तैयार कर, एलपीजी के विकल्प के तौर इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं।

उन्होंने बताया कि जिस तरह पेट्रोल में इथेनाल सम्मिश्रण को सफलता मिली है, ठीक उसी तर्ज पर गैसों के लिए डीएमई सम्मिश्रण को और बढ़ावा देना चाहिए। इसकी मदद से 'प्रोडयूसर' गैस तैयार कर, रसोई के लिए ईंधन के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है जिसकी क्षमता कमोबेश एलपीजी की तरह ही है।

इससे जहां ऊर्जा संकट से निटपने में सहूलियत होगी तो दूसरी तरफ किसानों के लिए कृषि अवशेषों, खासकर पराली के जलाने से प्रदूषण की समस्या पर भी काफी हद तक नियंत्रण में मदद मिल सकती है। लेकिन, इसके लिए आपूर्ति शृंखला को और बेहतर करना होगा ताकि मांग के मुताबिक आपूर्ति भी की जा सके। इससे ऊर्जा स्रोतों के विकल्प बढ़ने के साथ दूसरे देशों पर निर्भरता भी कम होगी और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को बढ़ावा मिलने से भारत ऊर्जा विकल्पों के मामले में भी आत्मनिर्भर हो सकेगा।

कचरे से रसोई गैस बनाने के लिए आइआइटी ने तकनीक विकसित की : भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, बाम्बे ने कचरे से रसोई गैस बनाने के लिए एक तकनीक विकसित की है। इसके जरिए सूखे पत्तों और कचरे से रसोई ईंधन बनाया जा सकता है। इस तकनीक के इस्तेमाल से एलपीजी की कम खपत के साथ साथ पर्यावरण को भी फायदा मिल रहा है। आइआइटी ने बायोमास गैसीफायर मशीन तैयार किया है, जिसमें सूखे पत्तों और जैविक कचरे से रसोई गैस बनाया जा सकता है। संस्थान के इसके लिए पेटेंट तकनीक विकसित की है।

कृषि अवशेष पराली और रसोई से निलकने वाले अवशेषों से तैयार, बायोगैस, संपीडित बायो गैस (सीबीजी) और 'प्रोड्यूशर' गैस के तौर पर ऊर्जा स्रोतों के विकल्प के तौर पर इस्तेमाल किए जा सकते हैं। इनका इस्तेमाल ईंधन के रूप में वाहनों और रसोई गैस के तौर पर किया जा सकता है।
जिस तरह पेट्रोल में इथेनाल सम्मिश्रण को सफलता मिली है, ठीक उसी तर्ज पर गैसों के लिए डीएमई सम्मिश्रण को और बढ़ावा देना चाहिए।

Jansatta, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 8.60cm × 9.31cm

नोएडा में 300 टन कचरे का होगा निस्तारण, संयंत्र लगाएगी आइजीएल

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
नोएडा, 7 अप्रैल।

औद्योगिक महानगर में गीले कचरे के निस्तारण के लिए आइजीएल एक कंप्रेस्ड बायो-गैस संयंत्र लगाएगा। करीब तीन सौ टन क्षमता वाले इस संयंत्र पर करीब ढाई सौ करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे। यहां बनने वाली बायोगैस का शहर में इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। इस परियोजना को अस्तौली में लगाया जाएगा।

गौरतलब है कि नोएडा में फिलहाल रोजाना एक हजार टन कचरा निकल रहा है। भविष्य में 1200 से लेकर 1500 टन कचरा प्रतिदिन के निस्तारण की चुनौती होगी। नोएडा प्राधिकरण का एनटीपीसी विद्युत व्यापार निगम लिमिटेड से कुल 600 टन कचरा प्रतिदिन के निपटारे का करार किया है। यह संयंत्र लगाने का करीब पचास फीसद काम पूरा हो चुका है। इसके अलावा 40-40 टन प्रतिदिन की क्षमता के छह डिसेंट्रलाइजड इंटीग्रेटड म्युनिसिपल सालिड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट प्लांट लगाए जा रहे हैं। जिसके चलते 240 टन कचरे का रोजाना निस्तारण किया जा सकेगा। अब प्राधिकरण तीन सौ टन प्रतिदिन की क्षमता का एक नया एकीकृत ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन संयंत्र और लगाने जा रहा है। जिसकी क्षमता को बढ़ाकर 500 टन प्रतिदिन किया जा सकता है। यहां एक ही स्थान पर गीले और सूखे कूड़े का निवारण हो जाएगा।

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 71.68cm × 62.42cm

तेल के लिए रूस-वेनेजुएला का रुख

भारत ने नाइजीरिया और अंगोला जैसे वैकल्पिक स्रोतों से भी तेल की खरीद बढ़ा दी

शुभांगी माथुर

पश्चिम एशिया में लगातार तनाव की वजह से सऊदी अरब और इराक जैसे पारंपरिक आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति सीमित हो गई है। ऐसे में भारतीय रिफाइनर अप्रैल में कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति के लिए रूस और वेनेजुएला की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं। शिप ट्रैकिंग फर्म केप्लर के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत ने अप्रैल के पहले छह दिन में रूस और वेनेजुएला से क्रमशः 6,59,000 बैरल प्रति दिन (बीपीडी) और 6,12,000 बैरल प्रति दिन की अधिकतम मात्रा में कच्चे तेल की खरीद की है। कच्चे तेल की लोडिंग या खरीद मूल देश से भारत की ओर जाने वाली मात्रा को दर्शाती है, लेकिन यात्रा की जानकारी स्पष्ट होने पर आने वाले दिनों में इसमें बदलाव हो सकता है।

रूस और वेनेजुएला दोनों ही भारत के लिए आपूर्ति के सुरक्षित विकल्प हैं, क्योंकि इन देशों से होने वाली शिपमेंट होर्मुज स्ट्रेट पर निर्भर नहीं करती है, जिसके माध्यम से वैश्विक कच्चे तेल का 20 प्रतिशत हिस्सा गुजरता है।

पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष की शुरुआत के बाद से, अमेरिका द्वारा जारी 30 दिवसीय छूट (जो 11 अप्रैल को समाप्त हो रही है) के बाद भारतीय रिफाइनर कंपनियों ने रूसी तेल की खरीद बढ़ा दी है। छूट से देशों को रूस से कच्चा तेल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद खरीदने की अनुमति मिली है, जो वर्तमान में समुद्र में फंसा हुआ है।

इस बीच, केप्लर के अनुसार, भारत वेनेजुएला से तेल की खरीद भी बढ़ा रहा है। वेनेजुएला से आखिरी बार मई 2025 में कच्चे तेल की खेप प्राप्त हुई थी। अमेरिका द्वारा 2019 में वेनेजुएला पर प्रतिबंध लगाने से पहले, आरआईएल और रूस समर्थित नायरा एनर्जी वेनेजुएला के कच्चे तेल के शीर्ष भारतीय खरीदार थे।

■ भारत ने अप्रैल के पहले छह दिन में रूस और वेनेजुएला से क्रमशः **6,59,000** बैरल प्रति दिन (बीपीडी) और **6,12,000** बैरल प्रति दिन कच्चे तेल की खरीद की

■ अप्रैल में अब तक भारत ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) से **4,07,000** बैरल प्रति दिन और ओमान से **3,14,000** बैरल प्रति दिन कच्चे तेल की खरीद की

रूस और वेनेजुएला से बढ़ी हुई खरीद का असर पश्चिम एशिया से आपूर्ति पर पड़ा है, जो क्षेत्र में तनाव के कारण बाधित हुई है। भारत अपने कच्चे तेल के आयात का लगभग 40 प्रतिशत हिस्सा होर्मुज स्ट्रेट के माध्यम से प्राप्त करता है।

अप्रैल में अब तक भारत ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) से 4,07,000 बैरल प्रति दिन और ओमान से 3,14,000 बैरल प्रति दिन कच्चे तेल की खरीद की है। वहीं, नाइजीरिया और अंगोला जैसे वैकल्पिक स्रोतों से भी तेल की खरीद में क्रमशः 3,43,000 बैरल प्रति दिन और 1,82,000 बैरल प्रति दिन की वृद्धि हुई है। इस बीच, भारत के प्रमुख पारंपरिक आपूर्तिकर्ताओं, सऊदी अरब और इराक से कच्चे तेल की कोई भी खेप फिलहाल देश की ओर नहीं आ रही है।

पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के निर्यात को बनाए रखने के लिए, सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात ने होर्मुज स्ट्रेट को छोड़ अन्य मार्गों के माध्यम से शिपमेंट बढ़ा दी है। मार्च में होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से जहाजों की आवाजाही में व्यवधान के कारण इराक, सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात जैसे प्रमुख पश्चिम एशियाई आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से भारत के कच्चे तेल के आयात में भारी गिरावट आई। इस अवधि के दौरान इराक से आयात में लगभग 75 प्रतिशत की कमी आई, जबकि सऊदी अरब से आपूर्ति में लगभग 43 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्ज की गई।

प्रवासी मजदूरों के लिए छोटे सिलिंडरों की आपूर्ति दोगुनी

शुभांगी माथुर

पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बीच देश में तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) की कमी बढ़ने के कारण प्रवासी श्रमिकों के शहर छोड़कर जाने की खबरों के मद्देनजर, सरकार ने प्रवासी श्रमिकों के लिए प्रत्येक राज्य में 5 किलोग्राम के फ्री ट्रेड एलपीजी (एफटीएल) सिलिंडरों की मात्रा दोगुनी कर दी है।

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने कहा कि सिलिंडरों की संख्या दोगुनी करने का निर्णय 2 और 3 मार्च, 2026 के बीच प्रवासी श्रमिकों को दी जाने वाली औसत दैनिक आपूर्ति के आधार पर किया जाएगा। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ये सिलिंडर केवल राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सरकारी तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) की सहायता से प्रवासी श्रमिकों को ही दिए जाएंगे।

मंत्रालय ने बताया कि 23 मार्च से अब तक लगभग 5-किलो के 7.8 लाख एफटीएल सिलिंडर बिक चुके हैं, जिनमें से 6 अप्रैल को देशभर में 1.06 लाख से अधिक सिलिंडर बिके, जबकि फरवरी में प्रतिदिन औसतन 77,000 सिलिंडर बिके थे। सरकारी तेल और गैस कंपनियों ने पिछले चार दिनों में 5-किलो के एफटीएल सिलिंडरों के लिए लगभग 1,300 जागरूकता शिविर आयोजित किए, जिनमें 10,000 से अधिक सिलिंडर बिके।

सरकार ने कमर्शल एलपीजी के संबंध में बताया कि 14 मार्च से अब तक लगभग 86,439 मीट्रिक टन (एमटी) एलपीजी बेची जा चुकी है, जो 4.55 लाख से अधिक 19 किलोग्राम के सिलिंडरों के बराबर है। इसमें से लगभग 6,530 मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी अकेले 6 अप्रैल को बेची गई। सरकार ने कुल व्यावसायिक एलपीजी आवंटन को संकट से पहले के स्तर के लगभग 70 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ा दिया है, जिसमें 10 प्रतिशत सुधार-संबंधी आवंटन भी शामिल है।

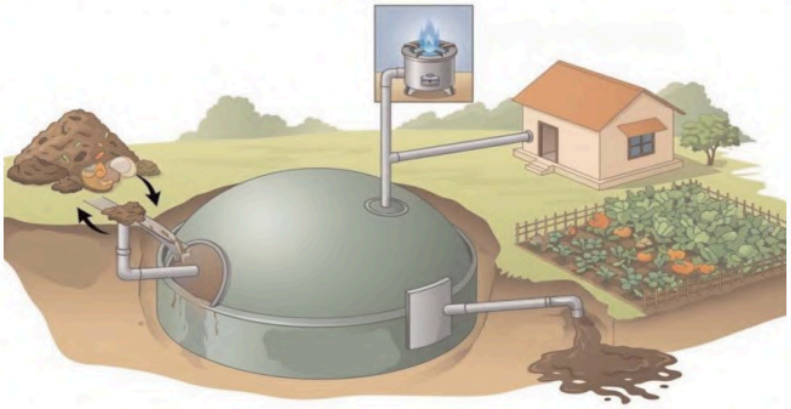
पश्चिम एशिया में एलपीजी संकट के बीच भारत में एलपीजी की कमी को देखते हुए, सरकार ने घरेलू उपयोग को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए वाणिज्यिक उपयोग हेतु आवंटन में कटौती की है। यह कदम ऐसे समय उठाया गया है जब भारत के एलपीजी आयात का लगभग 90 प्रतिशत हिस्सा पश्चिम एशियाई देशों से आता है।

Virat Vaibhav, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 29.47cm × 20.90cm

एलपीजी का विकल्प बन सकती है बायोगैस

शशांक द्विवेदी
लेखक टीएसएससी, परियोजना प्रबंधक हैं

वर्तमान वैश्विक संकट ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता अब विकल्प नहीं, बल्कि आवश्यकता है। बायोगैस जैसे स्वदेशी और टिकाऊ विकल्पों को अपनाकर भारत न केवल अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा कर सकता है, बल्कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण और ग्रामीण विकास को गति दे सकता है। भारत आज ऊर्जा परिवर्तन के एक चुनौतीपूर्ण दौर से गुजर रहा है। एक ओर प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना जैसी योजनाओं ने करोड़ों घरों तक एलपीजी पहुंचाकर स्वच्छ ईंधन की क्रांति लाई है, वहीं दूसरी ओर बढ़ती आयात निर्भरता, कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव और वैश्विक भू-राजनीतिक संकटों ने देश की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा पर गंभीर प्रश्न खड़े कर दिए हैं। हाल के समय में पश्चिम एशिया के तनाव के कारण एलपीजी आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने की घटनाओं ने इस चिंता को और गहरा किया है। अमेरिका-इस्राइल और ईरान के बीच बढ़ते तनाव ने वैश्विक ऊर्जा बाजार को अस्थिर कर दिया है।बेशक, यह स्थिति भारत जैसे ऊर्जा आयात पर निर्भर देश के लिए एक चेतावनी है कि अब ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के प्रश्न को टालना संभव नहीं है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संकटों का सीधा असर आम नागरिकों पर पड़ता है–पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम बढ़ते हैं, महंगाई बढ़ती है और घरेलू रसोई तक प्रभावित होती है। ऐसे में यह जरूरी हो जाता है कि हम पारंपरिक ऊर्जा स्रोतों के विकल्प तलाशें। इसी संदर्भ में बायोगैस एक मजबूत और टिकाऊ समाधान के रूप में उभरती है।बायोगैस जैविक कचरे–जैसे गोबर, कृषि अवशेष, रसोई कचरा आदि–से उत्पन्न गैस है, जिसमें मुख्य रूप से मीथेन होती है। यह गैस खाना पकाने, बिजली उत्पादन और वाहन ईंधन के रूप में भी इस्तेमाल की जा सकती है। भारत जैसे कृषि प्रधान देश में बायोगैस की अपार संभावनाएं हैं। गांवों में पशुधन और जैविक कचरे की उपलब्धता



इसे एक व्यावहारिक विकल्प बनाती है। गांवों में छोटे और मध्यम आकार के बायोगैस प्लांट स्थापित कर स्थानीय स्तर पर गैस का उत्पादन किया जा सकता है। इससे एलपीजी सिलेंडर पर निर्भरता कम होगी। आधुनिक तकनीक के माध्यम से बायोगैस को शुद्ध कर कंप्रेस्ड बायोगैस (सीबीजी) बनाया जा सकता है, जो एलपीजी और सीएनजी का प्रभावी विकल्प है। 'गोबर-धन योजना' और 'एसएटीटी' जैसी योजनाएं बायोगैस उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दे रही हैं। इनके माध्यम से किसानों और उद्यमियों को आर्थिक सहायता और बाजार उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है। शहरों में निकलने वाले जैविक कचरे को बायोगैस में बदलकर न केवल ऊर्जा पैदा की जा सकती है, बल्कि कचरा प्रबंधन की समस्या का भी समाधान किया जा सकता है।

भारत में एलपीजी की सालाना खपत लगभग 2831 मिलियन टन के आसपास है। भारत में एलपीजी का घरेलू उत्पादन लगभग 10-12 एमएमटी प्रति वर्ष है। यानी कुल मांग का केवल 35-40 प्रतिशत ही देश में बनता है। भारत को हर साल लगभग 18-22 एमएमटी एलपीजी आयात करनी पड़ती है। यानी 60-65 प्रतिशत एलपीजी आयात पर निर्भरता। भारत आधा से ज्यादा एलपीजी बाहर से खरीदता है। आयात का बड़ा हिस्सा खाड़ी देशों से आता है। इसलिए हॉर्मुज स्ट्रेट जैसे संकट भारत की ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के लिए सीधा खतरा हैं।

भारत में अभी लगभग 132 सीबीजी प्लांट चल रहे हैं। इनकी कुल उत्पादन क्षमता लगभग 920 टन प्रतिदिन है। यानी अभी बायोगैस का योगदान 1 प्रतिशत से भी कम है। भारत 20 एमएमटी सीबीजी बना सकता है। कुल संभावित क्षमता कचरा, गोबर, अवशेष की। कुल क्षमता लगभग 60 एमएमटी तक मानी जाती है। इसका मतलब भारत अपनी पूरी एलपीजी जरूरत (30 एमएमटी) बायोगैस से पूरा कर सकता है। फिलहाल अभी लगभग 300 से अधिक नए प्लांट निर्माणाधीन हैं। इंटरनेशनल एनर्जी एजेंसी के अनुसार भारत में 2030 तक बायोगैस उत्पादन 7 गुना तक बढ़ सकता है।बायोगैस न केवल सस्ती है बल्कि पर्यावरण के अनुकूल भी है। इससे कार्बन उत्सर्जन कम होता है, जैविक खाद भी मिलती है और किसानों की आय बढ़ती है। साथ ही, यह स्थानीय रोजगार के अवसर भी पैदा करती है। हालांकि, बायोगैस के क्षेत्र में कुछ चुनौतियां भी हैं–जैसे शुरुआती निवेश, तकनीकी जानकारी की कमी और जागरूकता का अभाव। भारत में बायोगैस को लेकर अभी भी कई भ्रांतियां हैं। कई लोग इसे 'गांव की तकनीक' मानते हैं या इसके उपयोग में असुविधा महसूस करते हैं। दूसरी ओर, एलपीजी को आधुनिक, सुरक्षित और सुविधाजनक ईंधन के रूप में देखा जाता है। यही कारण है कि शहरी और यहां तक कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में भी लोग एलपीजी को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।

इसके लिए जरूरी है कि सरकार और निजी क्षेत्र मिलकर प्रशिक्षण, वित्तीय सहायता और तकनीकी समर्थन उपलब्ध कराएं।वर्तमान वैश्विक संकट ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता अब विकल्प नहीं, बल्कि आवश्यकता है। बायोगैस जैसे स्वदेशी और टिकाऊ विकल्पों को अपनाकर भारत न केवल अपनी ऊर्जा जरूरतों को पूरा कर सकता है, बल्कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण और ग्रामीण विकास को गति दे सकता है।आज जरूरत है एक समन्वित प्रयास की–नीतियों, तकनीक और जनभागीदारी के जरिए–ताकि बायोगैस को एलपीजी का वास्तविक विकल्प बनाया जा सके और भारत ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भर बन सके।

Hindustan, Delhi, 08/04/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 5.34cm × 8.36cm

पीएनजी की कीमत में ₹1.70 का इजाफा

नई दिल्ली। इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आईजीएल) ने दिल्ली-एनसीआर समेत कई शहरों में पीएनजी के दाम बढ़ा दिए हैं। पाइपलाइन के जरिए किचन तक आने वाली पीएनजी राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र में 1.70 रुपये प्रति एससीएम महंगी हो गई है। नई दरें एक अप्रैल से लागू हो गई हैं। अब दिल्ली में इसका दाम 49 .59 रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर (एससीएम) कर दिया है।

Navbharat, Mumbai, 08/04/2026
Page No: 12, Size: 22.17cm × 9.50cm

ईंधन | फरवरी के अंत तक 1.64 करोड़ पीएनजी कनेक्शन, लक्ष्य को पाना चुनौतीपूर्ण

2032 तक 11 करोड़ PNG कनेक्शनों की जरूरत

■ दिल्ली, नवभारत नॉलेज डेस्क. भारत ने मार्च में 3.3 लाख से ज्यादा नए पाइप वाले नैचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) कनेक्शन जोड़े और 2.7 लाख और कनेक्शन जारी किए गए. पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के कारण खाना पकाने वाली गैस एलपीजी की सप्लाई में रुकावट आने से सरकार पाइप वाली नैचुरल गैस को ज्यादा अपनाने पर ज़ोर दे रही है, जिसे रोजमर्रा के इस्तेमाल के लिए एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की तुलना में ज्यादा सुविधाजनक माना जाता है.

एक बड़ी वजह यह भी है कि इसमें गैस सीधे पाइपलाइन के जरिए घर तक पहुंचती है और रिफिल बुक करने की कोई परेशानी नहीं होती. फिर भी 2032 के लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए 11 करोड़ पाइप वाले गैस कनेक्शनों की जरूरत है. हालांकि भारत में अभी भी पाइप वाले गैस कनेक्शनों की तुलना में एलपीजी कनेक्शनों की संख्या ज्यादा है. इस क्रम में सरकार के विस्तार के लक्ष्य पीएनजी की ओर बदलाव का संकेत देते हैं, लेकिन इस लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए हर महीने लगभग 13 लाख पीएनजी कनेक्शन जोड़ने होंगे. फरवरी के आखिर तक भारत में 1.64 करोड़ घरेलू पीएनजी कनेक्शन, 48,568 कमर्शियल और 21,512 इंडस्ट्रियल कनेक्शन थे. इसके अलावा 2.7 लाख उन नए पीएनजी कनेक्शनों की संख्या है, जिनके लिए इस महीने आवेदन किया गया है. और जिनके लिए गैस की सप्लाई शुरू करने की प्रक्रिया चल रही है.

3.3 लाख मार्च 2026 में पाइप्ड गैस कनेक्शन जारी किए गए

घरों में खाना पकाने के ईंधन कनेक्शन

हर महीने जोड़ने होंगे 13 लाख कनेक्शन

हालांकि भारत में एलपीजी अभी भी पाइप्ड गैस कनेक्शन से ज्यादा है, लेकिन सरकार के विस्तार के लक्ष्य पीएनजी की ओर बदलाव का संकेत देते हैं. फिर भी लक्ष्य पूरा करने के लिए हर महीने लगभग 13 लाख पीएनजी कनेक्शन जोड़ने होंगे.