Statesman, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 17.41cm × 13.02cm

No LPG shortage in capital, don't panic: Minister Sirsa

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 15 April

Delhi's Food and Supplies Minister Manjinder Sirsa on Wednesday assured that there is no shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in the national capital, adding that rumour-mongering in this regard should not be encouraged.

Addressing the House during the ongoing Budget session, Sirsa said, "I would like to inform citizens and the entire House that rumours regarding LPG distribution in Delhi should not be encouraged.

The department is working with full vigilance to curb black marketing and ensure smooth supply."

Sirsa clarified that the situation has remained completely normal over the past 22–25 days, with no signs of overbooking or shortage. He said that domestic as well as commercial LPG cylinders are being supplied on a priority basis in accordance with the Central Government's policy, ensuring that essential services, including hospitals, receive uninterrupted supply.

The minister said, "With the festive season approaching, I want to assure the entire House that there will not be any shortage anywhere, even for a single day or hour."

Sirsa further assured that any complaint received would be acted upon immediately by his office.

Business Line, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 25.43cm × 16.51cm

Russian crude oil imports rebound in March as PSU refiners lift record volumes

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

Crude oil imports from Russia surged in March, on a monthly basis, as State-run refiners more than doubled their purchases of the geopolitically sensitive commodity from Moscow.

According to the Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Russia is heavily reliant on Asian markets to sell its oil with 90 per cent of its total exports of crude oil delivered to China and India in the first quarter of 2026.

"India's imports of Russian crude oil doubled month-on-month (m-o-m). The biggest shift was in State-owned refineries' imports from Russia, which saw a massive 148 per cent increase (m-o-m), presumably due to Russian barrels being more available in the spot market, which serve as their primary source of imports," CREA pointed out.

According to global real time data and analytics provider Kpler, India roughly imported around 1.98 mb/d of crude oil from Russia in March compared to around 1 mb/d in February 2026.

India was the second-highest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in March 2026, importing a total of €5.8 billion of Russian hydrocarbons. Crude oil products constituted 91 per cent of India's purchases, totalling €5.3 billion. Coal (€337 million) and oil products (€178.5 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly imports, CREA said.

CRUDE IMPORTS DIP

While India's total crude imports recorded a 4 per cent m-o-m reduction in March 2026, Russian imports doubled. The biggest shift was in State-owned refineries' imports from Russia. Their imports were, in fact, 72 per cent higher than March 2025, presumably due to Russian barrels being more available in the spot market, which serves as the primary source of imports for them, it added.

The State-owned New Mangalore (Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals) and Visakhapatnam (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation) refineries had stopped Russian imports at the end of November 2025, but purchases resumed in March 2026. Private refineries, meanwhile, registered a more modest 66 per cent m-o-m increase, but remained lower than the same time last year, it said.

Despite the EU's ban on imports of oil products made from Russian crude on January 21, 2026, 14 shipments of oil products from refineries, including Indian, have unloaded at EU ports in March, CREA said.

Oil prices hit new high in March as refiners try to replace West Asian grades: IEA

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said that crude oil prices recorded their highest monthly gain in March 2026, with North Sea Dated trading at $130 per barrel, as refiners scrambled to replace West Asian grades.

Refiners in India are also impacted in terms of crude oil supplies considering the world's third-largest exporter sourced more than 50 per cent of its imports from the Middle East Gulf (MEG) region before the latest escalation in hostilities between Iran and the US (February 28).

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) has exacerbated India's crude oil shipments from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. However, Indian refiners have diversified supplies reducing their dependence on West Asia and the SoH to 30 per cent currently, which helps it get assured cargoes, albeit at record-high prices. High prices coupled with a weak rupee is adversely impacting India's current account deficit.

In its oil market report for April 2026, the IEA pointed out that global oil supply plummeted by 10.1 million barrels per day (mb/d) to 97 mb/d in March, with continued attacks on energy infrastructure in West Asia and ongoing restrictions to tanker movements through the SoH leading to the largest disruption in history.

"Oil prices posted their largest-ever monthly gain in March in the wake of the most-severe oil supply shock in history. Spot crude benchmarks and differentials soared, outpacing futures markets, as refiners anxiously scrambled to replace locked in West Asian cargoes," it added.

CEASEFIRE RELIEF

At the time of writing, North Sea Dated crude was trading $60 above pre-conflict levels. The IEA noted that last week's announcement of a two-week ceasefire provided some welcome respite to global oil markets just as the impact of disruptions to supply and trade were spreading globally.

However, it remains unclear whether the ceasefire will turn into a lasting peace and a return to regular shipping flows through the SoH.

With oil-importing nations scrambling to source replacement barrels from an increasingly shrinking pool of supply, physical crude oil prices surged to record levels near $150 per barrel, far above the prices in futures markets, with the physical-futures disconnect becoming increasingly acute. Even steeper gains have been seen for refined products, with middle distillate prices in Singapore reaching all-time highs above $290 per barrel.

S&P Global Energy pointed out that a fragile US-Iran ceasefire with no major missile attacks, despite the US blockade of Iranian ports going into effect, and reports of a second round of talks being considered are 'neutral' for global gas and LNG prices.

Ships going to and from Iranian ports have not openly challenged the US blockade yet, but the risk of miscalculation and retaliation remains high. Iran has said it would target Gulf port infrastructure if its vessels are threatened, said Eric Yep, Senior principal analyst for First Take Gas at S&P Global Energy CERA.

"The likelihood of stranded ships, including laden LNG carriers, evacuating quickly from the SoH during the ceasefire has now decreased significantly. The risks are emanating from a lack of clarity on what the US blockade means and how Iran will respond. A full naval blockade would stop everything from Iranian oil exports to imports of essential and non-essential goods and materials, including food supplies," he added.

If the blockade cripples the Iranian economy, it risks triggering an escalatory response. The control of SoH will remain a key concern for markets in the coming weeks, Yep emphasised.

Business Standard, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 51.62cm × 43.66cm

Oil PSUs ramped up Russian oil purchases 148% in March

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 14 April

There was a 148 per cent rise in the import of crude oil from Russia by Indian state-run oil refiners in March over the previous month amid a 30-day waiver given by the United States (US) on purchasing oil products from the Eurasian country, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (Crea), a European think tank.

Including private refiners' purchases, India's oil import from Russia in March doubled month-on-month despite a 4 per cent reduction in inbound shipment.

"The biggest shift was in state-owned refineries' imports from Russia, which saw a massive 148 per cent increase, presumably due to Russian barrels being more available in the spot market, which serve as their primary source of imports," said Crea in a report.

State-run refiners' import from Russia was 72 per cent higher in the month over the same period last year.

Since the beginning of the conflict in West Asia, Indian refiners have increased purchases of Russian oil on the back of the US waiver, which expired on April 11. Before the war started, India had been reducing purchases from Russia amid pressure from the US and the European Union.

State-owned refiners include Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), while private players include Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Russia-backed Nayara Energy.

WEST ASIA **CONFLICT**

Private refineries rang up a 66 per cent month-on-month increase in March while state-owned refineries in Mangalore and Visakhapatnam, which had stopped Russian imports at the end of November last year, resumed purchases in the month.

India, the second-highest buyer of Russian fossil fuel in March, imported hydrocarbons worth 5.8 billion euros from the country with crude-oil products constituting 91 per cent of those (totalling 5.3 billion euros in value). Coal and oil products comprised the rest.

In March, Russia's revenues from fossil-fuel export saw a 52 per cent month-on-month increase to 713 million euros per day, the highest in two years, while the volumes grew by modest 16 per cent.

Meanwhile, the government continues a dialogue with its energy partners in West Asia. Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar talked to the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Israel, Singapore, and Australia on the regional situation and the well-being of the Indians community, the government said on Tuesday in a multi-sectoral response to the evolving situation.

The oil ministry on Tuesday said the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the country continued to be affected by the prevailing geopolitical situation but no dryout had been reported at distributorships. Online LPG bookings increased to 98 per cent across the industry on Monday, it said.

Business Standard, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 51.38cm × 50.38cm

Crude at $130 could unsettle growth outlook: S&P Global

AUHONA MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 14 April

A sustained rise in crude oil prices to $130 per barrel could slow India's economic growth, weaken fiscal metrics, and strain corporate and banking sector performance, according to a scenario analysis by S&P Global Ratings released on Tuesday.

The report estimates that growth could decline by up to 80 basis points from baseline projections, while the government's fiscal position may temporarily worsen.

Under the stress scenario, corporate earnings are projected to come under pressure, with earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation declining by 15-25 per cent and leverage rising by about 0.5x to 1x. The banking system is also expected to see some deterioration in asset quality, with weak loans rising to around 3.5 per cent.

"The pain of higher energy prices and supply disruptions may persist for months, crimping economic activity across households, corporations, and banks," S&P said in a release.

The report observed that the energy shock would transmit through several channels, including a worsening current account balance, higher production costs, rising consumer prices, and fiscal pressures. It said a sustained $10 per barrel increase in oil prices could widen the current account deficit (CAD) by about 0.4 percentage points of gross domestic product, while the rupee could face depreciation pressures amid higher external financing needs and risk-off capital flows.

- Inflation could rise to 5.6% in FY27 compared with 4.3% in the base case
- Growth may drop by up to 80 bps
- Sustained $10/barrel spike could widen CAD by 0.4% of GDP
- Prolonged disruptions (up to six months) could cut earnings by 25-30%

Rising input costs are expected to compress corporate margins, with higher prices eventually passed on to consumers, reducing purchasing power and dampening demand, the report said.

"Energy supply disruptions that lead to fuel rationing or shortages of downstream petrochemicals and related products such as fertilisers are a risk that could hamper growth," it added.

Fiscal pressures are likely to increase as the government may need to absorb part of the shock through lower fuel taxes or higher subsidies. This could affect revenue collections and delay fiscal consolidation, with the possibility of missing deficit targets if subsidy spending rises.

On the external front, CAD is expected to widen due to a higher oil import bill and potentially lower remittances from West Asia. The exchange rate could weaken further, adding to imported inflation.

The report added that corporate sector stress could intensify if supply disruptions affect operations. In a scenario where disruptions last up to six months, earnings could decline by 25-30 per cent due to lower capacity utilisation. Sectors such as chemical, refining, aviation, cement, metals and mining, steel, and automotive are expected to be hit the hardest.

Banks could see rising stress in certain segments, particularly small and midsize enterprises, unsecured retail loans, and microfinance. Credit losses are projected to increase, while profitability may come under pressure due to higher provisioning requirements.

The report also flagged that higher energy prices and uncertainty could affect investment activity, with companies potentially delaying capital expenditure plans in the near term.

It said that Consumer Price Index is likely to rise as higher energy costs feed through the economy. Under the stress scenario, inflation could increase to around 5.6 per cent in FY27, compared with 4.3 per cent in the base case. The rise would be driven by higher fuel prices and increased input costs for producers, which are expected to be passed on to consumers over time, raising overall price levels and reducing purchasing power.

Business Standard, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 102.45cm × 32.41cm

THE COMPASS

Higher underrecoveries keep Street cautious on OMCs

DEVANGSHU DATTA

The government has revised windfall export tax rates with the diesel rate raised to ₹55.5 per litre (or $95 per barrel), a massive hike from the earlier ₹21.5 per litre ($36/bbl). The aviation turbine fuel or ATF rate is ₹42 per litre (or $72 per barrel), up from ₹29.5 per litre (or $50 per barrel). The ATF price hike for domestic consumption is capped at 25 per cent per month. Petrol is exempted. These taxes will be adjusted on a fortnightly basis.

This tax reduces gross refining margins (GRMs) for third-party refiners which export, and it offers an incentive for exporters to sell to oil marketing companies (OMCs) instead for domestic consumption. Since excise rates have been cut, the new windfall taxes may offset some revenue forgone from excise duty reductions.

Most diesel exports are from SEZ refineries exempted from windfall export taxes. Hence revenues will be realised mainly on ATF exports. OMCs may seek lower prices from non-SEZ independent refiners. The tax may not be applicable to about half of Reliance's refining capacity, which is SEZ-designated.

Standalone refiners may get into agreements with OMCs to supply diesel at export realised prices (after windfall tax), which would be lower cost for OMCs. HPCL for example, sources 32 per cent of the diesel it sells from standalone refineries so this could be a substantial saving. Right now, integrated margins for IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL are negative. ATF is a small proportion of overall volume for OMCs and 35 per cent of ATF is sold to international airlines at prices linked to Dubai and Singapore. IOCL has 59 per cent market share in ATF sales. OMCs will be losing over ₹22 per litre on ATF sold to domestic airlines after windfall tax.

The taxes are designed to partly offset higher crude oil prices and encourage domestic availability. The revised rates may leave small or negative spreads on diesel. The government says crude oil sourcing is secured for next two months and surplus refining capacity also provides a buffer for diesel, petrol and ATF. Given high export taxes, non-SEZ independent refiners may seek to sell products domestically at discount to OMCs.

As of now, risks of re-imposition of windfall tax on upstream production seems low. Crude oil prices are guaranteed to stay high due to the blockade and damage to infrastructure. At spot prices, the OMCs are subsidising retail consumers by about ₹18 per litre on petrol and ₹35 per litre on diesel. If crude oil rises by $10 per barrel, OMCs would incur incremental ₹6 per litre losses assuming retail prices are not hiked. After Assembly elections, price hikes are very likely.

India imported 88 per cent of its crude in 2025, with 45 per cent sourced from West Asia, 35 per cent from Russia, and 6 per cent from the US. On the product side, India is a net diesel exporter (exporting 24 per cent of production), petrol (35 per cent of production), and ATF (44 per cent of production).

Excise on petro products generates 8 per cent of revenue. The government cut excise duties by ₹10 per litre in March, 2026. The central excise on petrol and diesel is now ₹11.9 per litre and ₹7.8 per litre, respectively. The current account deficit or CAD which was $13 billion or roughly 1.3 per cent of GDP (annualised) in October-December 2025 may be over $20 billion in January-March 2026. CII estimates a rise of $10 per barrel in crude prices could impact CAD by 30 basis points of GDP, if other variables are stable. Analysts assume a rule-of-thumb impact of 5 per cent of operating profit on OMCs for every $1 per barrel change in crude oil costs. At crude oil above the $80-85 band, operating profit moves into the negative zone without price hikes.

OMCs IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL buy 18 million tonnes per annum diesel in aggregate from refiners like Reliance and MRPL. The 'Refinery Transfer Price' or RTP for sales is linked 20 per cent to export parity prices and 80 per cent to import parity. The $95 per barrel export tax on diesel will reduce RTP by about $19 per barrel. Bloomberg says diesel is currently priced at $180 per barrel and cracks are $60 per barrel at current crude prices. The tax will pull GRM down by $6-7.

Given geopolitics, retail price hikes seem inevitable if OMCs are to stay in the black. Reduced excise duties cannot compensate for the big spikes in crude oil prices and the likelihood that higher crude prices will be sustained.

Financial Express, Delhi, 15/04/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 21.27cm × 22.30cm

Ukraine strikes pile up India's oil woes

• Drones target 3 Russian seaports handling 80% of India shipments

BLOOMBERG
April 14

UKRAINE'S DRONE STRIKES on key Russian oil-export outlets in the Baltic and Black seas may put India's crude-refining operations at risk in the near future, according to the International Energy Agency.

Last year, 80% of Russian crude imports to India originated from three major ports — Primorsk, Ust-Luga and Novorossiysk — that have recently become regular targets of Ukrainian drones, the Paris-based agency said in its monthly report published on Tuesday. "Any prolonged disruption to Russian port availability could significantly affect Indian refining operations in the coming weeks," according to the report.

Since the war in West Asia began, India, the world's third-largest oil importer, has faced energy shortages, surging prices and the prospect of slower economic growth.

Russian crude oil flows have become a lifeline for the country's refiners, while alternative barrels, including from Iran, have had limited success, in part because of concerns over suppliers and other intermediaries.

Continued on Page 7

Ukraine strikes pile up oil woes

INDIA EMERGED AS a key buyer of Russian crude after the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine as western nations banned purchases of Moscow's barrels. Last year, US President Donald Trump began applying tariff and sanctions pressure on India to cut Russian imports.

However, as the Iran war roiled the market, the US issued a waiver allowing New Delhi to resume Russian oil purchases. Imports from Russia averaged 1.98 million barrels a day in March, the highest since June 2023, according to data from intelligence firm Kpler. "In March, twelve Indian refineries processed Russian crude, compared with seven in February," the IEA report said. The 30-day waiver expired on April 11, yet several Asian nations including India are pushing the US Treasury Department to renew it, according to people familiar with the matter.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has been relentlessly striking key Russian energy infrastructure — from ports to pipelines and crude refineries — to reduce the Kremlin's windfall profits from the global oil rally.

The strikes have caused infrastructure damage and disrupted operations at the three major ports, which, according to IEA estimates, accounted for nearly 60% of Russia's seaborne crude exports prior to the attacks. While the ports have resumed loadings, the volumes originating from Ust-Luga and Novorossiysk remain limited, according to the IEA and data compiled by Bloomberg.

Hindu, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 8.63cm × 9.34cm

India's crude oil imports from Russia surge in March

5.3 In euro billion. India's crude oil imports from Russia more than tripled to 5.3 billion euros in March 2026, driven by higher volumes and rising global prices, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Russian crude accounted for 91 per cent of India's total fossil fuel imports from Moscow during the month. PTI

Financial Express, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 26.43cm × 14.82cm

Projections for FY26 fuel demand precise

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, April 14

IN A YEAR defined by global supply disruptions and volatile energy markets, India's fuel demand projections proved remarkably precise. Actual consumption reached 243.19 million tonne (MT) against an estimate of 244.00 MT in FY26, delivering an impressive 99.7% realisation — even as supply-side pressures dragged LPG and petcoke below expectations.

Transport fuels remained the primary drivers of consumption growth. Diesel (HSD), which accounts for the largest share of demand, rose to 94.70 MT, surpassing estimates of 94.09 MT with a 100.7% realisation. Petrol (MS) closely tracked projections as well, reaching 42.59 MT against an estimate of 42.53 MT, achieving 100.1% accuracy.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) also exceeded expectations, with consumption at 9.16 MT compared to 9.13 MT — translating into 100.3% realisation and reflecting sustained momentum in aviation recovery.

"Every year, PPAC does an extensive exercise for estimating consumption... It is noted that these estimates are very accurate and thus work as yardsticks for better planning," the report said.

However, beneath the headline accuracy, the numbers reveal clear stress points. LPG consumption came in at 33.21 MT, lower than the estimated 33.70 MT, resulting in 98.5% realisation, with the shortfall attributed to supply constraints.

"LPG realisation is 98.5% due to supply constraints," the report noted, underscoring the impact of disruptions in sourcing and logistics.

Petroleum coke registered the sharpest deviation, with actual consumption at 19.85 MT versus an estimate of 20.96 MT — translating into 94.7% realisation and pointing to weaker-than-expected industrial demand.

Bitumen consumption also lagged projections, coming in at 8.84 MT against 9.09 MT, achieving 97.2% realisation and indicating a moderation in infrastructure activity.

In contrast, several smaller segments outperformed expectations. Fuel oil and LSHS consumption rose to 6.40 MT, delivering 104.2% realisation, while kerosene (SKO) demand reached 0.46 MT, achieving 102.5% realisation — highlighting resilience in niche categories.

Hindustan Times, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 14.45cm × 36.91cm

Hindustan Times

Indian refining ops at risk after drone hits on Russia ports

Bloomberg
letters@hindustantimes.com

Ukraine's drone strikes on key Russian oil-export outlets in the Baltic and Black seas may put India's crude-refining operations at risk in the near future, according to the International Energy Agency. Last year, 80% of Russian crude imports to India originated from three major ports — Primorsk, Ust-Luga and Novorossiysk — that have recently become regular targets of Ukrainian drones, the Paris-based agency said in its monthly report published on Tuesday.

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Since the war in West Asia began, India, the world's third-largest oil importer, has faced energy shortages, surging prices and the prospect of slower economic growth. Russian oil flows have become a lifeline for India's refiners, while alternative barrels, including from Iran, have had limited success, in part because of concerns over suppliers and other intermediaries.

India emerged as a key buyer of Russian crude after the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine as western nations banned purchases of Moscow's barrels. Last year, US President Donald Trump began applying tariff and sanctions pressure on India to cut Russian imports. However, as the Iran war roiled the market, the US issued a waiver allowing New Delhi to resume Russian oil purchases. Imports

LAST YEAR, 80% OF RUSSIAN CRUDE IMPORTS WERE FROM 3 PORTS OF NOVOROSSIYSK, PRIMORSK, UST-LUGA— THAT HAVE BECOME REGULAR TARGETS OF UKRAINIAN DRONES

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Hindustan Times

Price stabilisation fund for auto fuel, LPG likely

Dhirendra Kumar & Rituraj Baruah
dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: India is considering creating a financial buffer for petroleum products such as petrol, diesel and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) to manage supply disruptions and global price volatility, according to two people aware of the development.

The buffer would be similar in concept to the price stabilisation fund (PSF) that exists to help manage inflation in select critical agricultural commodities, which was set up in fiscal year 2015 (FY15).

The plan for a dedicated price stabilization fund for energy—being explored by the Union ministries of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, and petroleum and natural gas—was mooted during a recent meeting of the empowered group of secretaries, the people cited above said on condition of anonymity, and follows the uncertainty over energy supply and price rise due to the West Asia war.

"Drawing from the success of the PSF in containing inflation and cooling soaring prices of essential commodities such as pulses, onions, potatoes and tomatoes, the government is now looking to replicate a similar framework for key energy commodities like petrol, diesel and LPG," said the first person, while adding that talks are in initial stages.

A proposal to create a buffer reserve for key petroleum products is under discussion within the government. REUTERS

The second person said discussions in the government are centred around how such a fund would be financed, the triggers for intervention, and the mechanism for deployment without distorting market signals.

"The petroleum ministry is examining whether a dedicated buffer could provide a more predictable and transparent tool for price management," the second person added.

The fund would operate like the PSF for agri commodities, which allows the government to procure goods from farmers, farmer producer organisations and, sometimes, directly from mandis at the time of harvest under contract, and release them in both retail and wholesale markets during periods of crisis. For the ongoing fiscal, the government has allocated ₹4,100 crore under the PSF to the ministry of consumer affairs.

For the energy framework, the government would enter into contracts with oil refiners to create a buffer reserve of a certain quantity of fuels including petrol, diesel and LPG, which can be released during periods of crisis to help cool prices in the market.

To be sure, these reserves would be in addition to the 5.3 million tonnes of strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) to store crude oil, which are owned and managed by government-owned Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd.

Notably, price stabilization funds are not a subsidy mechanism. They are only used during periods of abnormal price rise as an intervention mechanism to increase supply in the market and help bring down prices.

Queries emailed to the spokespeople of the ministries of consumer affairs, petroleum and natural gas and prime minister's office remained unanswered till press time.

Arun Kumar, former professor of economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, said the plan to create such a dedicated fund for petroleum products is workable.

"As seen in essential commodities, when prices rise, the government steps in at the retail level and makes supplies available at subsidised rates, often with limits such as a fixed quantity per person," Kumar said.

The government's move comes in the backdrop of crude prices shooting up to about $100 per barrel since the war began compared to $70 prior, and the uncertainty over supply through the Strait of Hormuz.

![GAIL]

Mint, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 21.22cm × 19.95cm

Price stabilization fund for auto fuel, LPG likely

Move follows uncertainty over energy supply, price rise due to West Asia war

Dhirendra Kumar & Rituraj Baruah
NEW DELHI

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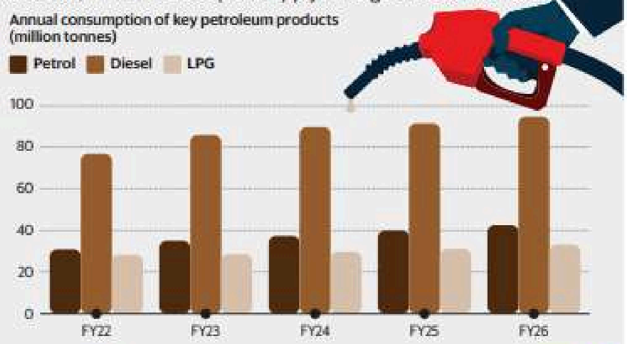
TURN TO PAGE 6

PRICE PLAY

Crude prices crossed $100 per barrel since the start of the West Asia war, which has disrupted supply through Strait of Hormuz.



Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

mint

SAFETY NET

BUFFER to be similar to PSF in agriculture, set up in FY15

GOVT, OMCs to also create a buffer reserve of fuels

THESE reserves will be apart from 5.3 mn tonnes of SPRs

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

Mint, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 9.53cm × 27.15cm

Govt plans a price stabilization fund for auto fuel, LPG

FROM PAGE 1

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Rakesh Arrawatia, professor at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (Irma), Gujarat, and dean of School of Cooperative Banking and Finance, suggested that the government could add another component to the fund to support alternative sources of energy, so that dependence on fossil fuels can be reduced.

The government's move comes in the backdrop of crude prices shooting up to about $100 per barrel since the war began compared to $70 prior, and the uncertainty over supply through the Strait of Hormuz.

So far, rising prices have led to private fuel retailers Nayara Energy and Shell, which operate around 7,500 retail pumps, raising retail fuel prices.

State-run OMCs have raised prices of premium fuels and industrial diesel, procured by industries and the agriculture sector, but have not touched prices of regular petrol and diesel.

OMCs raised premium fuel and industrial diesel prices. AP

Currently, refiners do have storage for operations. The fund would require a significant capacity addition

The government has already lowered excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre to discourage oil marketing companies (OMCs) from raising prices of regular fuels. However, the losses or under-recoveries for the state-run OMCs stand at around ₹25 per litre of petrol and ₹105 a litre for diesel.

In the case of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), commercial supplies have seen a major increase in prices along with curtailed availability, while a surge in domestic cooking gas prices has so far been avoided with a one-time hike of ₹60 in early March.

The plan for setting up a price stabilization fund would also involve setting up storage capacities for the products concerned.

Currently, refiners do have storage for their operations. However, this fund would require a significant capacity addition.

dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

Mint, Delhi, 15/04/2026

Page No: 2, Size: 9.21cm × 11.46cm

West Asia war upends IEA's global oil market outlook

AFP

London: The International Energy Agency (IEA) sharply cut its forecasts for global oil supply and demand growth, saying both are now expected to fall from 2025 levels as the West Asia war disrupts oil flows and weighs on the global economy. It now sees global oil demand falling by 80,000 barrels per day in 2026, compared with a projected year-on-year rise of 640,000 bpd in its previous report. **REUTERS**

Economic Times, Delhi, 15/04/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 10.19cm × 51.25cm

IEA: Global Oil Demand to Decline in '26, a 1st Since Covid

Global oil demand will decline this year for the first time since the 2020 pandemic as a price surge caused by West Asia conflict wipes out growth, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

"The Iran war has thoroughly upended the global outlook for oil consumption," the adviser to major economies said in its monthly report. "Demand destruction will spread as scarcity and higher prices persist."

Global oil supply plunged by 10.1 million barrels a day in March, or about 9%

Flows of crude oil and refined products through the Strait of Hormuz have been reduced to just 3.8 million barrels a day, compared with pre-crisis levels of about 20 million — or roughly 20% of world supplies, according to the agency.

Global oil supply plunged by 10.1 million barrels a day last month, or about 9%, as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait were forced to shutter production, the IEA said.

OIL'S DISCONNECT

While oil futures registered an unprecedented surge in March, they remain considerably below record levels and the price of actual cargoes, trading at just under $100 a barrel in London. This "disconnect" between futures and physical markets is becoming "increasingly acute," according to the report.

RUSSIAN MARCH EARNINGS NEARLY DOUBLE

Russia nearly doubled its earnings from oil exports in March as Moscow was granted sanctions relief in a bid to offset soaring energy prices, the IEA said on Tuesday.

The country earned $19 billion last month as crude and oil product exports rose to 7.1 million barrels per day (mb/d), an increase of 320 thousand barrels a day from February levels. **Agencies**

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 15/04/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 16.59cm × 8.33cm

Fuel price freeze: ₹1,600 cr loss/day

PTI
NEW DELHI

Losses on petrol have widened to ₹18 per litre and to ₹35 on diesel as state-owned fuel retailers continue to keep pump prices frozen despite a sharp rise in input costs, sources said.

Despite prices being deregulated more than a decade back, state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have not changed the retail petrol and diesel price since April 2022. Global crude oil prices have seen sharp fluctuations over this period, from above \$100 per barrel following the Russia-Ukraine war, to easing to around \$70 a barrel earlier this year, before surging again to about \$120 last month after the US-Israel attacks on Iran triggered fresh supply concerns.

The three firms were incurring losses of about ₹2,400 crore per day at the peak last month, which have since narrowed to around ₹1,600 crore daily after the government cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre each, a reduction that was not passed on to consumers but used to partly offset losses, industry sources said.

Times of India, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 35.11cm × 28.81cm

India's March crude import bill falls 4%, but up 4x from Russia

State Refiners Largest Buyers Of Russian Fuel

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India's crude imports from Russia surged in March, with purchases at nearly €5.3 billion (about $6.2 billion) compared with €1.4 billion ($1.6 billion) the previous month, amid the military conflict in West Asia and closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

In its latest analysis of Russian fossil fuel exports and sanctions, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) said India imported €5.8 billion worth of Russian hydrocarbons in March — the second-highest after China — as both volumes and prices increased. Crude accounted for 91% of imports, followed by coal and oil products.

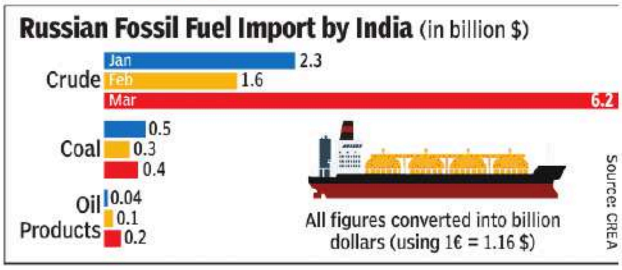
The report added India's total crude imports fell 4% in March, but those from Russia rose four times.

"The biggest shift was in state-owned refineries' imports from Russia, which saw a massive 148% month-on-month increase. Their imports were in fact 72% higher than in March 2025, presumably due to Russian barrels being more available in the spot market," it said. Private refineries registered more than 66% month-on-month increase.

In Feb, India was the third-largest importer of Russian hydrocarbons after China and Turkiye, with purchases valued at €1.8 billion and crude accounting for nearly 81% (€1.4 billion) of shipments. The value and volume of imports, however, may differ. Russian Urals were earlier available to India at a discount, but prices surged due to the closure of Hormuz.

Though India has been importing Russian barrels in large volumes over the past four years, shipments dipped in Jan and Feb before surging again in March after the US granted a one-month sanctions waiver to ease prices.

IN FULL FLOW



Govt nudge sees 10L consumers convert to PNG

New Delhi: Nearly 10 lakh consumers have converted to piped gas (PNG) following a nudge by govt last month due to a squeeze on LPG supplies amid the West Asia conflict.

The petroleum ministry on Tuesday said over 4.4 lakh connections have been activated, while nearly 5 lakh new applications are being processed and supply will likely begin soon. Govt launched a campaign to expand the PNG network by activating dormant connections and installing new ones. While states have been urged to relax norms to allow gas companies to install infrastructure faster, orders were issued to stop the supply of LPG cylinders within three months to customers with access to piped gas. TNN

Economic Times, Delhi, 15/04/2026

Page No: 5, Size: 9.68cm × 33.23cm

Russian Oil Imports More than Triple to €5.3 b in Mar

New Delhi: India's crude oil purchases from Russia more than tripled to €5.3 billion in March as volumes doubled and a surge in oil prices pushed up the import bill.

European think tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), in a report, said after a drop in purchases in February, India was back to a buying binge in March.

"India was the second-highest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in March 2026, importing a total of €5.8 billion of Russian hydrocarbons. Crude oil products constituted 91% of India's purchases, totalling €5.3 billion," it said.

Coal (€337 million) and oil products (€178.5 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly imports. In February, India was the third largest importer, purchasing Russian hydrocarbons worth €1.8 billion. Crude oil constituted the largest share at 81% (€1.4 billion), followed by coal (€223 million) and oil products (€121 million). "While India's total crude imports recorded a 4% reduction in March, Russian imports doubled," CREA said. The spurt followed the US granting a one-month sanctions waiver on Russian oil, covering cargoes already at sea and shipments on previously sanctioned vessels. – PTI

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 15/04/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 27.62cm × 16.75cm

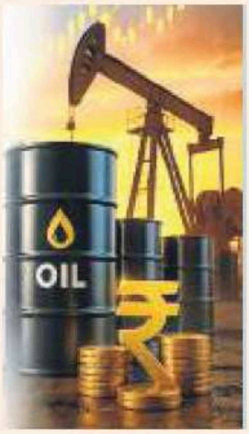
OIL SHOCK IMPACT | Economic growth could slow by up to 80 basis points

India can absorb energy shock but fiscal strains possible: S&P

PTI
NEW DELHI

India's robust macroeconomic and financial sector fundamentals are likely to cushion the impact of a sustained oil price shock, though economic growth could slow by up to 80 basis points if crude averages $130 per barrel in 2026, according to S&P Global Ratings.

Under its stress scenario, corporate earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) could decline 15%–25% in FY27, with leverage rising by 0.5x–1x, while banking sector asset quality may weaken, pushing bad loans to around 3.5%.



"India isn't immune to the shocks reverberating from the Middle East war. The pain of higher energy prices and supply disruptions may persist for months, crimping economic activity across households, corporations, and banks," S&P Global Ratings said in a report.

However, strong corporate balance sheets, well-capitalised banks and a resilient external position provide buffers against the impact.

The rating agency assumes Brent crude at $130 per barrel in 2026 and $100 in 2027 under the stress case, versus a base case of $85 and $70, respectively. It does not expect any immediate impact on India's sovereign rating, though fiscal consolidation efforts could face temporary setbacks.

Higher oil prices could widen the current account deficit, with estimates suggesting a $10 per barrel increase may expand the gap by about 0.4 percentage points of GDP. The rupee could also face depreciation pressures amid risk-off sentiment and a rising import bill.

S&P Global Ratings warned that an energy shock would transmit through higher input costs, squeezed corporate margins, rising consumer prices and increased fiscal strain if the government steps in with subsidies. Growth could also be hit by potential supply disruptions affecting fuel and petrochemicals.

Despite these risks, India's economy entered 2026 with strong growth momentum, resilient domestic demand and low inflation, which should help absorb near-term shocks. Strong domestic fundamentals, potential government support, and significant improvement in corporate and banking sector health over the past few years would mitigate the severity of any shock.

While sectors such as chemicals, refining and aviation are most exposed, infrastructure and utilities are expected to remain relatively resilient. Corporate deleveraging over the past few years and improved banking sector health are also seen limiting systemic stress. Indian banks are well positioned to absorb the shock, supported by strong capital buffers and low non-performing assets, though credit costs may rise modestly, and profitability could come under pressure in FY27.

Millennium Post, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 22.86cm × 20.85cm

Fuel price freeze: ₹18/litre loss on petrol, ₹35 per litre on diesel

The three state-owned cos — Indian Oil Corporation, BPCL & HPCL were incurring losses of about Rs 2,400 cr/day at the peak last month

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Losses on petrol have widened to Rs 18 per litre and to Rs 35 on diesel as state-owned fuel retailers continue to keep pump prices frozen despite a sharp rise in input costs, sources said.

Despite prices being deregulated more than a decade back, state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have not changed the retail petrol and diesel price since April 2022. Global crude oil prices have seen sharp fluctuations over this period - from above $100 per barrel following the Russia-Ukraine war, to easing to around $70 a barrel earlier this year, before surging again to about $120 last month after the US-Israel attacks on Iran triggered fresh supply concerns.

The three firms were incurring losses of about Rs 2,400 crore per day at the peak last month, which have since narrowed to around Rs 1,600 crore daily after the government cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each - a reduction that was not passed on to consumers but used to partly offset losses, industry sources said.

The losses in March have wiped away all gains they made in January/February, they said, adding the three firms are most likely to post losses in the January-March quarter.

Macquarie Group, in a report on 'India Fuel Retail', said, "At spot petrol-diesel pricing of $135-165 per barrel, we estimate India's oil marketing companies lose Rs 18 and Rs 35 per litre on petrol and diesel sales (respectively)."

Every $10 per barrel increase in crude adds roughly Rs 6 per litre to marketing losses, the report said.

The brokerage flagged a high likelihood of retail fuel price hikes after elections in key states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu at the end of this month. "We see risk of higher pump prices post state elections in April."

India, which imported about 88 per cent of its crude oil requirement in 2025, remains highly exposed to global price swings. Around 45 per cent of imports came from the Middle East, 35 per cent from Russia and 6 per cent from the United States. Despite this, the country continued to be a net exporter of key petroleum products, including diesel, petrol and aviation turbine fuel.

Highlights

- 'The loss has narrowed to around Rs 1,600 crore daily, after the govt cut excise duty on petrol, diesel by Rs 10/litre each'
- However, the reduction in excise duty on petrol & diesel was not passed on to consumers but used to partly offset losses, industry sources said

While the government cut excise duty on fuels by Rs 10 per litre in March, central levies have been on a declining trend and now stand at Rs 11.9 per litre on petrol and Rs 7.8 per litre on diesel.

Even a complete removal of excise duties would not fully offset OMC losses at current prices, the report noted. State-level VAT rates, however, have largely remained stable.

The fiscal implications of further tax cuts could be significant. Based on provisional consumption estimates of about 170 billion litres in FY26, a full rollback of excise duties could lead to an annual revenue loss of around $36 billion, widening the fiscal deficit by an estimated 80 basis points, it said.

The contribution of fuel excise duties to government revenue has already declined to about 8 per cent in FY26 from 22 per cent in FY17, and now accounts for less than a fifth of the fiscal deficit, down from a peak of 45 per cent.

Higher crude prices also pose a risk to India's external balances. The current account deficit, which was near balance in mid-2025, is expected to widen to around $20 billion in the first quarter of 2026. A sustained $10 per barrel rise in crude could expand the deficit by roughly 30 basis points of GDP, assuming no policy response, the Macquarie report said.

Earnings visibility for OMCs remains uncertain, with every $1 per barrel change in crude prices impacting EBITDA by about 5 per cent. The sector's break-even crude price is estimated at $80-85 per barrel.

Given the outlook, Macquarie Group said it prefers utilities over oil marketing companies in the near term.

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 15/04/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 58.66cm × 58.34cm

तेल संकट से बढ़ेगी महंगाई !

अहोना मुखर्जी
नई दिल्ली, 14 अप्रैल

भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि को कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में 130 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक की लगातार वृद्धि धीमा कर सकती है। यह वृद्धि राजकोषीय मैट्रिक्स को कमजोर कर सकती है और कॉर्पोरेट व बैंकिंग क्षेत्र के प्रदर्शन पर दबाव डाल सकती है। एसऐंडपी ग्लोबल रेटिंग्स के मंगलवार को जारी परिदृश्य विश्लेषण का अनुमान है कि कच्चे तेल के दामों में वृद्धि से भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि के आधारभूत अनुमानों में 80 आधार अंक तक कमी हो सकती है जबकि सरकार की राजकोषीय स्थिति अस्थायी रूप से बिगड़ सकती है।

दबाव के माहौल में कॉरपोरेट क्षेत्र की कमाई पर दबाव पड़ने का अनुमान है। इसमें एबिटा में 15 से 25 प्रतिशत की गिरावट और फायदे में लगभग 0.5 से 1 गुना तक की वृद्धि होगी। बैंकिंग प्रणाली में भी संपत्ति की गुणवत्ता में कुछ गिरावट देखने की उम्मीद है। इसमें कमजोर ऋण लगभग 3.5 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ जाएंगे।

एसऐंडपी की विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, 'उच्च ऊर्जा कीमतों और आपूर्ति व्यवधानों की कठिनाइयां महीनों तक बना रह सकती है। इससे परिवारों, निगमों और बैंकों की आर्थिक गतिविधियों पर अंकुश लगेगा।' रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि ऊर्जा क्षेत्र की दिक्कतें कई स्तरों पर महसूस की जा सकती हैं। लिहाजा चालू खाता शेष बिगड़ना, उत्पादन लागत में वृद्धि, उपभोक्ता कीमतों में वृद्धि और राजकोषीय दबाव पर असर पड़ सकता है। इसमें कहा गया कि तेल की कीमतों में प्रति बैरल 10 डॉलर की वृद्धि लगातार बने रहने से चालू खाते का घाटा जीडीपी का 0.4 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ सकता है। हालांकि विदेशी में अधिक धन भेजे जाने की जरूरतें और जोखिम-से-पलायन पूंजी प्रवाह के बीच रुपया में गिरावट का दबाव पड़ सकता है।

वैश्विक संकट से धीमी हो सकती है वृद्धि

- कच्चे तेल के दामों में वृद्धि से भारत की आर्थिक वृद्धि के आधारभूत अनुमानों में 80 आधार अंक तक कमी हो सकती है : एसऐंडपी ग्लोबल
- उच्च ऊर्जा कीमतों और आपूर्ति व्यवधानों की कठिनाइयां महीनों तक बना रह सकती है
- इन कठिनाइयों से परिवारों, निगमों और बैंकों की आर्थिक गतिविधियों पर अंकुश लगेगा
- तेल की कीमतों में प्रति बैरल 10 डॉलर की वृद्धि लगातार बने रहने से चालू खाते का घाटा जीडीपी का 0.4 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ सकता है

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार बढ़ती इनपुट लागत से कॉरपोरेट मार्जिन के कम होने की उम्मीद है और उच्च कीमतों को अंततः उपभोक्ताओं पर डाला जाएगा। इससे क्रय शक्ति कम होगी और मांग कमजोर होगी। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 'ऊर्जा आपूर्ति व्यवधान जोखिम विकास को बाधित कर सकता है। इस जोखिम में ईंधन की राशनिंग या डाउनस्ट्रीम पेट्रोकेमिकल्स और उर्वरक जैसे संबंधित उत्पादों की कमी हो सकती है।'

राजकोषीय दबाव बढ़ने की आशंका है। इसका कारण यह है कि सरकार को ईंधन करों में कटौती या सब्सिडी बढ़ाकर झटके का कुछ हिस्सा झेलना पड़ सकता है। इससे राजस्व संग्रह प्रभावित हो सकता है और राजकोषीय समेकन प्रयासों में देरी हो सकती है।

यदि सब्सिडी खर्च बढ़ता है तो घाटे के लक्ष्य चूकने की आशंका है। बाहरी मोर्चे पर उच्च तेल आयात बिल और मध्य पूर्व से कम धन भेजे जाने की आशंका के कारण चालू खाता घाटा बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। विनिमय दर और कमजोर हो सकती है, जिससे आयातित मुद्रास्फीति में वृद्धि होगी। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि यदि आपूर्ति व्यवधान कारोबार के संचालन को प्रभावित करते हैं तो कॉरपोरेट क्षेत्र का तनाव बढ़ सकता है। ऐसे परिदृश्य में जहां व्यवधान छह महीने तक रहता है, क्षमता उपयोग में कमी के कारण कमाई 25-30 प्रतिशत तक गिर सकती है। रसायन, रिफाइनिंग, एयरलाइंस, सीमेंट, धातु व खनन, इस्पात और ऑटोमोबाइल जैसे क्षेत्रों में सबसे अधिक प्रभाव पड़ने की उम्मीद है।

बैंकों के कुछ खंडों विशेष रूप से छोटे व मध्यम आकार के उद्यमों, असुरक्षित खुदरा ऋणों और सूक्ष्म वित्त में बढ़ते तनाव को देखा जा सकता है। ऋण नुकसान में वृद्धि का अनुमान है जबकि उच्च प्रावधान आवश्यकताओं के कारण लाभप्रदता पर दबाव आ सकता है।

वैश्विक एजेंसियों और वित्तीय संस्थानों ने भारत के वृद्धि के पूर्वानुमानों को कम करना शुरू कर दिया है। दरअसल, पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष ऊर्जा बाजार बाधित होने और महंगाई के बढ़ते जोखिमों के कारण वृद्धिके पूर्वानुमानों पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ सकता है।

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने वित्त वर्ष 2027 के वृद्धि अनुमान को घटाकर 6.9 प्रतिशत तक कर दिया है, जबकि विश्व बैंक ने तेल आपूर्ति व्यवधान व बढ़ती कीमतों के बारे में चिंताओं के बीच अपने 6.6 प्रतिशत अनुमान के लिए नीचे की ओर जोखिमों को चिह्नित किया है।

Dainik Jagran, Delhi, 15/04/2026

Page No: 6, Size: 61.12cm × 29.90cm

भारत ने गैर-खाड़ी देशों से कच्चे तेल की खरीद बढ़ाई

सउदी अरब, ईराक से आपूर्ति कम हुई तो रूस और अमेरिका से खरीद कई गुना बढ़ाई, देश में 60 दिनों का बफर मौजूद

जयप्रकाश रंजन • जागरण

- पश्चिम एशिया संकट के सात हफ्ते बीतने पर भी कच्चे तेल की उपलब्धता भारत के लिए बड़ी चिंता का विषय नहीं
- मार्च 2026 में अकेले पेट्रोल की खपत 3,779 हजार मीट्रिक टन और डीजल की 8,726 हजार मीट्रिक टन रही

20 लाख बैरल प्रतिदिन कच्चे तेल की खरीद कर रहा है भारत इस समय रूस से

नई दिल्ली : सरकार ने तीन सप्ताह पहले दावा किया था कि देश में 74 दिनों का कच्चा तेल उपलब्ध है। हालांकि, दैनिक जागरण के पास जो जानकारी है, उसके मुताबिक भारतीय रिफाइनरियों, पेट्रोल पंप और रणनीतिक भंडार मिलाकर कम से कम 60 दिनों का भंडार अभी भी है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के मुताबिक, 'पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष की शुरुआत होने के साथ ही भारतीय रिफाइनरियों को जहां से भी क्रूड मिल रहा है, वहां से खरीद रही हैं। मार्च में भारत ने गैर खाड़ी देशों जैसे रूस और अमेरिका से तेल खरीद कई गुना बढ़ा दी है। ये दोनों देश भारत के शीर्ष पांच तेल आपूर्तिकर्ता देशों में आ चुके हैं। रूस से अब भारत औसतन 20 लाख बैरल प्रतिदिन तेल की खरीद कर रहा है। इससे पहले रूस से इतनी ज्यादा क्रूड की खरीद अप्रैल, 2023 (21 लाख बैरल प्रति दिन) में की गई थी।

तेल की खरीद निश्चित तौर पर इंडियन आयल, ओएनजीसी, बीपीसीएल, एचपीसीएल, रिलायंस जैसी कंपनियां वाणिज्यिक आधार पर कर रही हैं लेकिन इनकी मदद के लिए पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय और विदेश मंत्रालय की मदद भी मिल रही है। असलियत में दुनियाभर में फैले भारतीय दूतावासों व मिशनों के लिए अभी सबसे बड़ा काम यही है कि वह ऊर्जा खरीद से जुड़े अभियानों में भारतीय कंपनियों की मदद करें। इसका असर यह हुआ है कि पहले मैक्सिको, ब्राजील, नाइजीरिया, घाना, गुयाना जैसे देशों से सीमित मात्रा में तेल की खरीद होती थी लेकिन अब वह एक बड़े आपूर्तिकर्ता के तौर पर सामने गये हैं। पश्चिम एशिया के हालात सुधरने तक यही स्थिति रहेगी। सरकार द्वारा मार्च के अंतिम सप्ताह में संसद में पेश की गई एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक एसपीआर (विशाखापट्टनम, मंगलुरु और पादुर) में 5.33 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन क्षमता के मुकाबले 3.37 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन (64 प्रतिशत) कच्चा तेल भरा हुआ था, जो पूर्ण क्षमता पर लगभग 9.5 दिनों का बफर प्रदान करता है। बाकी लगभग 50 दिनों का स्टाक तेल कंपनियों, तेल उत्पादक कंपनियों व पेट्रोल पंपों के पास है। अप्रैल 14 तक स्थिति में कोई बड़ा बदलाव नहीं आया है। पीपीएसी की वेबसाइट के मुताबिक वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में पेट्रोल की कुल खपत 42,586 हजार मीट्रिक टन रही, जबकि डीजल की खपत 94,704 हजार मीट्रिक टन रही। मार्च 2026 में पेट्रोल की खपत 3,779 हजार मीट्रिक टन और डीजल की 8,726 हजार मीट्रिक टन रही, जो आर्थिक गतिविधियों की मजबूती दर्शाता है।

मार्च में भारत का रूसी तेल आयात तीन गुना से अधिक बढ़कर 5.3 अरब यूरो रहा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेट्र : मार्च में भारत का रूसी तेल आयात तीन गुना से ज्यादा बढ़कर 5.3 अरब यूरो हो गया। तेल कीमतों में उछाल और फरवरी के मुकाबले दोगुना तेल खरीदने के चलते आयात बिल बढ़ा। यूरोपीय थिंक टैंक 'सेंटर फार रिसर्च आन एनर्जी एंड क्लीन एयर' के मुताबिक फरवरी में खरीद में गिरावट के बाद मार्च में भारत फिर से बड़े पैमाने पर रूस से कच्चे तेल की खरीद करने लगा। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि मार्च में भारत रूस के जीवाश्म ईंधन का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खरीदार था और इस दौरान उसने कुल 5.8 अरब यूरो के रूसी हाइड्रोकार्बन खरीदे। भारत की कुल खरीद में कच्चे तेल के उत्पादों का हिस्सा 91 प्रतिशत था और इनकी कीमत 5.3 अरब यूरो थी। बाकी मासिक आयात में कोयला (33.7 करोड़ यूरो) और तेल उत्पाद (17.85 करोड़ यूरो) शामिल थे। फरवरी में, भारत तीसरा सबसे बड़ा आयातक था, जिसने 1.8 अरब यूरो के रूसी हाइड्रोकार्बन खरीदे थे। मार्च में भारत के कुल कच्चे तेल के आयात में चार प्रतिशत की कमी दर्ज की गई, लेकिन इस दौरान रूस से आयात दोगुना हो गया। खरीद में यह उछाल तब आया जब अमेरिका ने रूसी तेल पर लगे प्रतिबंधों में एक महीने की छूट दी। मार्च में सरकारी रिफाइनरियों का रूस से आयात 148 प्रतिशत बढ़ा है।

खोज का हौसला, ग्रीन ईंधन, बदलाव

LPG संकट में भी यह गांव बेफिक्र

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■ **चंदौली:** उत्तर प्रदेश के चंदौली जिले के एकौनी गांव में 32 वर्षीय उद्यमी चंद्र प्रकाश सिंह ने अपने प्रयासों से बायोगैस के जरिए आत्मनिर्भरता की मिसाल पेश की है। शुरुआत में गांव के करीब 90% लोगों को इस पहल पर भरोसा नहीं था, लेकिन आज वही लोग इसकी सराहना कर रहे हैं, खासकर LPG संकट के दौर में।

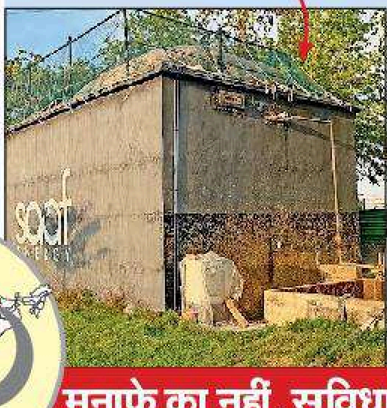
चंद्र प्रकाश की योजना के तहत अब गांव के 125 घरों तक गैस की सप्लाई हो रही है, जबकि कुछ लोग अब भी पारंपरिक ईंधन का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। इस सफलता के पीछे लंबा संघर्ष रहा। स्थानीय लोगों के अनुसार, शुरुआत में इस योजना को असफल मानकर विरोध किया गया, लेकिन आज इसकी नियमित सप्लाई और तेज लौ ने इसे टिकाऊ बना दिया है।

परियोजना के दौरान चंद्र प्रकाश को स्थानीय राजनीति, मतभेदों का भी सामना करना पड़ा। 185 परिवारों में से केवल 135 ने ही कनेक्शन और पाइपलाइन के लिए अनुमति दी। कई बार विरोध इतना बढ़ा कि पुलिस की मदद लेनी पड़ी। लोगों को आशंका थी कि मुफ्त कनेक्शन के बाद उनसे ज्यादा पैसे वसूले जाएंगे। लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए चंद्र प्रकाश ने एक महीने तक मुफ्त गैस सप्लाई दी। इसके बाद 20 रुपये प्रति क्यूबिक मीटर दर तय की गई। हर घर में रोज 0.80 से 1 क्यूबिक मीटर गैस की खपत होती है, मासिक खर्च 500 से 800 रुपये आता है।

चंद्र प्रकाश ने इंजीनियरिंग छोड़कर डेयरी व्यवसाय अपनाया और गोबर के निपटान की समस्या से निपटने के लिए बायोगैस प्लांट लगाने का निर्णय लिया। टाटा ट्रस्ट की मदद से 2021 में करीब 90 लाख रुपये की लागत से प्रोजेक्ट शुरू हुआ। आज प्लांट रोज लगभग 60 क्यूबिक मीटर गैस बना रहा है, जिससे गांववालों की दिनचर्या भी आसान हो गई है।

125 *घरों का चूल्हा जला रहा 32 साल के उद्यमी का बायोगैस प्लांट*

90% *लोगों को पहले नहीं था इस पहल पर भरोसा, अब वही बना सहारा*



मुनाफे का नहीं, सुविधा देने वाला प्रोजेक्ट

हर महीने करीब 50 हजार रुपये का कलेक्शन प्लांट के संचालन, रखरखाव में खर्च होता है, यह मुनाफे नही बल्कि सुविधा देने वाला प्रोजेक्ट है। प्लांट से निकलने वाली स्लरी का व्यावसायिक उपयोग अभी नही हो पा रहा, क्योंकि इसके लिए अलग यूनिट की जरूरत है। चंद्र प्रकाश की गोशाला से रोज लगभग 1000 लीटर दूध बिकता है, जिसकी आय का बड़ा हिस्सा इसी में लगता है। BHU के प्रोफेसर गुरु प्रसाद सिंह और डीएम चंद्र मोहन गर्ग ने इस मॉडल की सराहना की है।

सोलर, बायोमास पर शिफ्ट हुए होटल-कैफे

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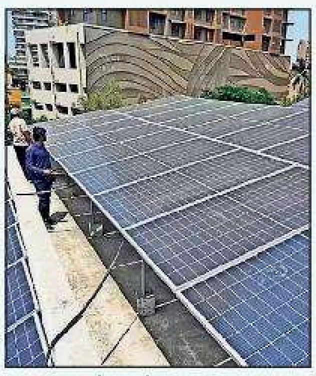
■ **मुंबई:** माटुंगा स्थित कैफे मैसूर में 1980 के दशक में मालिक नागेश नायक ने किचन में अनोखा प्रयोग किया। उन्होंने गैस से चलने वाला बॉयलर लगाया, जिससे प्रेशर वाली भाप पाइप के जरिए कुकिंग रेंज तक पहुंचती थी। इससे खाना जल्दी और समान रूप से पकता था, साथ ही धुआं और प्रदूषण भी कम होता था।

करीब 40 साल बाद उनके बेटे नरेश ने इस मॉडल को और आगे बढ़ाया। अब कैफे की छत पर लगे सोलर पैनल बिजली पैदा करते हैं और लगभग 50% कुकिंग सोलर एनर्जी से होती है, जबकि बाकी काम पाइप्ड नैचुरल गैस से चलता है। नरेश का मानना है कि भविष्य में कुकिंग पूरी तरह बिजली आधारित हो सकती है।

इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर एनर्जी इकॉनमिक्स एंड फाइनेंशल एनालिसिस के अनुसार, बिजली से चलने वाले उपकरण PNG से 14% और बिना सब्सिडी वाले LPG से 37% तक सस्ते पड़ सकते हैं।

पुणे में जिलियनथ बिस्ट्रो की मालिक सैली जहागीरदार ने भी पेलेट स्टोव और इंडक्शन बर्नर अपनाए। गैस सप्लाई बाधित होने पर उन्होंने वैकल्पिक ईंधन से काम जारी रखा। हालांकि पेलेट स्टोव में समय अधिक लगता है, लेकिन इससे भोजन की गुणवत्ता बेहतर होती है।

इसी तरह एलरिंगक्लिंगर ऑटोमोटिव प्लांट की कैंटीन में भी बायोमास पेलेट का उपयोग हो रहा है।



मुंबई में कैफे मैसूर की बिल्डिंग की छत पर लगे सोलर पैनल