

AUTO RICKSHAWS TO BE HIT AS MGL PRIORITISES PNG OVER CNG SUPPLY

MUMBAI: The availability of auto rickshaws may take a hit, as Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) has begun rationalising natural gas – distributed as PNG for households, and CNG that drives various modes of public transport. MGL has prioritised supply to PNG, which has led to the pressure required to supply CNG at stations taking a hit.

On the other hand, the state food and civil supplies department has issued instructions to form city- and district-level committees to monitor the supply of LPG, and act against black marketing and hoarding of cooking gas.

→P3

Supply of CNG drops, autos hit



The city's CNG-powered vehicles are likely to suffer as 18-20 CNG filling stations went off the grid on Saturday. RAJU SHINDE/HT FILE PHOTO

Shashank Rao

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MUMBAI: Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) has begun cutting back on the supply of compressed natural gas (CNG) as it prioritises piped natural gas (PNG) supplied to the 30 lakh households that use it for cooking.

As a result, 18-20 CNG filling stations went off the grid on Saturday as pressure dropped, limiting the quantum of gas received at these outlets. That's more than 10% of MGL's 150-odd CNG filling stations in Mumbai.

With pressure dropping, Mumbai's 3 lakh autorickshaws and 5 lakh CNG-powered four wheelers will not be able to fill a full tank in one go.

"This is a way to rationalise the supply of natural gas, which

prioritises PNG supply to homes over CNG for vehicles. Until the situation improves, we will continue to rationalise the supply," MGL sources said.

MGL's primary distribution depot is near Anik Depot in Wadala, from where natural gas is distributed to CNG stations and supply chains for PNG.

"Usually, CNG stations are filled with 15-17 bar (a unit of pressure), which has dropped below 10 bar at a few outlets. So even though there is gas available, the pressure isn't sufficient, and this impacts the functioning of compressors," said a taxi and auto union leader.

The ideal pressure for filling CNG in an autorickshaw is 210 bar. Auto drivers say pressure has dropped to 170 bar. Due to this, they cannot tank up as needed, they say.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ CLOSURE; TANKERS CARRYING 92,700 TONNES OF LPG HEADED FOR GUJARAT

2 India-flagged LPG tankers cross, efforts on for 22 more ships: Govt

Navy is learnt to have deployed warships in Persian Gulf for safe passage of Indian vessels

Sukalp Sharma & Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, March 14

TWO INDIAN-FLAGGED liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tankers headed to ports in Gujarat transited the critical maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz safely between Friday night and Saturday, the government announced on Saturday.

It said diplomatic efforts are on to facilitate safe passage for the remaining 22 Indian vessels — many of which are carrying hydrocarbons — that are stuck in the Persian Gulf, which is to the west of the war-hit Strait.

According to sources, the Indian Navy has deployed multiple warships to the Gulf region to escort merchant vessels carrying fuel to India amid heightened maritime tension in the region. At least two warships were known to have been on operational standby since Iran started the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz that

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US embassy personnel inspect the damage caused by a bombing in Baghdad, Saturday. AP

Adequate stock of fertilisers for kharif season, says Vaishnav

Express News Service
New Delhi, March 14

ANTICIPATING geopolitical uncertainty, the Central government Saturday said it had started preparing itself for the kharif season by procuring and advancing orders for fertiliser stocks from different geographies mid-February itself. This has ensured that “adequate” stocks of urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP) and NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) fertilisers are available despite the supply disruption caused by the ongoing US and Israel war with Iran.

Demand for fertilisers peaks in the middle of May, with farmers sowing seeds over the

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Iran's 'crown jewel'



NATION PAGE 6
DIFFICULT TO FORGE BRICS CONSENSUS: MEA ON CONFLICT

US hits key Iran island; oil prices may mount

Anil Sasi
New Delhi, March 14

IN WHAT marks a new escalatory phase, the US Friday bombed Iran's Kharg Island, a small 8-km-long rocky outcrop in the Persian Gulf around 50 km off the Iranian mainland, through which almost all of the country's oil exports flow. Despite some 5,000 places targeted in Iran since the start of the

US-Israel military operation, Kharg had been spared so far.

In a post on Truth Social, US President Trump said military targets on Kharg Island had

been “totally obliterated” in “one of the most powerful bombing raids in the History of the Middle East.” He said he had chosen not to target oil infrastructure on the island for now.

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LATEST

● IRAN STRIKES UAE'S FUJAIRAH PORT; U.S. SENDS 2,500 MARINES TO REGION

● TRUMP CALLS ON ALLIES TO SEND WARSHIPS



16 CNG outlets face problems in dispensing gas

Mumbai: CNG supply in the city faced hiccups at 15-16 pumps on Saturday evening as autorickshaws, taxis and CNG-run private cars faced long queues due to low pressure at the pumps and “disruption” in services for a while.

While MGL said there was no shortage, an official said there was a huge rush at these pumps and there was a “technical problem” with the pressure of the dispensers. “We ensured that the pumps in the vicinity had proper pressure and the vehicles were advised to fill up gas at those locations. The situation is being normalised,” the official said.

“We are ensuring there is adequate supply of CNG and piped gas for domestic cooking,” the official added.

At the time of going to press, 4 of the 16 pumps still had issues, said MGL officials.

Auto union leader Thamby Kurien, when contacted, said, “We have been assured by MGL there is no shortage, but the supply needs to be uninterrupted. — **Somit Sen**

20% commercial piped gas cut hits hotels, food chains

Somit.Sen@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The city's hospitality and food supply chains are feeling the heat as Mahanagar Gas Ltd's partial curtailment of 20% of piped gas to commercial and industrial users begins to cause ripples across the city. Around 30-35% of hotels in Mumbai that depend on piped gas have been affected, forcing many establishments to reduce items on menu or look for alternative fuel and energy sources.

In a statement, MGL said it had implemented "a partial curtailment" of gas supply to industrial and commercial customers "due to the prevailing geopolitical developments affecting the import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and are supplying them 80% gas." The company maintained domestic PNG (piped cooking gas at home) consumers and CNG stations continue to receive 100% supply and remain unaffected.

The curtailment in piped gas supply for industrial users is 50%, an official said.

The disruption has come at a time when anxiety over fuel availability is already high. In Bhandup, LPG supplies resumed on Friday under heavy police protection after deliveries were disrupted following an assault at a local dealership. Five police personnel were deployed at the outlet as large crowds gathered from early morning, with dealers reporting panic-driven bookings rather than any real depletion of household stocks.

"Deliveries had slowed after the assault, but with more bandobast in place, full-fledged distribution has started again," a dealer said.

Even as domestic consumers saw some relief, commercial LPG users such as hotels, canteens and bulk buyers continued to face uncertainty, with supplies yet to resume fully. The strain was visible across multiple



Workers seen readying sacks for delivery at a coal depot in Vikhroli Parksite on Friday

Charcoal is new black gold as hotels covet wood nuggets; price spirals

Mumbai: Charcoal is the new black gold amid the LPG shortage. Traders in the city's nodal Sewri coal depot are reporting higher sales of these wooden black nuggets that were recently banned as a "polluting fuel" but have now got a temporary reprieve from civic authorities.

A surge in demand from hotels and restaurants, canteens, educational institutes and institutional buyers who are unable to procure commercial gas cylinders has raised prices.

"The retail rate has increased from Rs 35-38 a week ago to Rs 60-70 per kg in local bazaars," said Ashraf Manihar who runs a coal shop at Andheri S V Road. Charcoal is procured mostly from Karnataka, followed by Tamil Nadu and a smaller quantity from Gujarat.

Supplier Santosh Pathak said, "Rates have increased although hotels' demand is more for induction than coal. Yet, those who were buying 40 kg are now buying 60 kg." Pathak is at pains to explain that charcoal is not a polluting fuel, unlike mined coal.

sectors.

At Goregaon's Film City, food providers said they were being forced to tweak menus. The impact has also spread to the vegetable trade, where wholesalers say demand from hotels and eateries

has dropped sharply. In Mulund, a wholesale vegetable vendor said 60-70% of regular bulk buyers who were from restaurants and street business were not lifting stock, leading to significant wastage.

Given the sudden spurt in demand nationwide, Mumbai traders are finding it difficult to source enough stock to meet the needs of restaurants and hotels. Trader Abdul Qudus Choudhary of Chandivli said, "Fewer trucks are arriving these days. Suppliers are not answering our calls." Amirali Charania, owner, Charania Coal Corporation, said, "We supply to restaurants, hotels, caterers who operate tandoors and grills using traditional cooking methods. In recent weeks we have noticed a clear rise in enquiries and demand."

"Many chefs believe that charcoal gives a flavour and aroma that cannot be replicated by electric or gas-based equipment. Yet, over the years, restaurants shifted to electric tandoors, induction equipment and gas-based 'bhattis' perceiving them as convenient and modern. Prices have doubled in recent weeks from Rs 30 per kg to Rs 60. At present, supply is still manageable. But if demand continues to rise, rates could rise further." — **Bella Jaisinghani**

Dealers, though, pointed to a possible easing of the situation after reports that two ships carrying gas had crossed the Strait of Hormuz and were headed to India, raising hopes of improved availability.

Out of Hormuz: 2 ships with 93k tonnes LPG head for Guj

Enough For 68L Cylinders; India Needs 55L Daily

Dipak Dash & Atul Mathur

New Delhi: Two Indian ships carrying 92,700 tonnes of LPG — enough to fill 68 lakh cylinders and equivalent to 1.25 days of India's cooking gas demand (55 lakh daily) — have crossed the Strait of Hormuz, blocked by Iran for a fortnight, and are scheduled to reach Indian ports on Monday and Tuesday. Another 10 ships carrying crude and gas remain on standby in the Persian Gulf.

MGL cuts commercial PNG supply by 20%

A day after assurance of a normal supply, MGL Saturday announced a 20% cut in supply of piped gas to commercial users and 50% to industry. Around 30-35% of hotels in the city that depend on PNG for cooking have been affected. MGL maintained domestic PNG consumers and CNG stations continue to receive 100% supply. P 2

FULL COVERAGE:

P 2, 6, 17, Global

► Iran fgn min: US bullied India on Russian oil, P 17

Although it is still early days, the movement of the ships — Shivalik and Nandadevi — towards Mundra and Kandla signals the easing of curbs in the war-torn corridor amid India's efforts to intensify engagement with Iran that included PM Modi's conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday.

► 22 ships near Hormuz, P 17

HAVE PNG? NO LPG REFILL, SAYS GOVT

► Govt tweaks supply rules, says consumers who have PNG connections will no longer be allowed to retain, obtain or refill LPG cylinders | P 17

► India has adequate stock of fertilisers, especially for upcoming kharif season, says MEA spokesperson | P 17

► State govt forms monitoring panel on LPG supply for MMR, says hospitals, edu institutions and key public services to get 100% LPG supply | P 2

► 16 CNG outlets in city face issues in dispensing gas due to low pressure at pumps | P 2

► Hotels and eateries that



Customers secure their cylinders while waiting for a refill in Noida on Saturday

switch to electric stoves in TN to get ₹2 subsidy on every unit additionally consumed | P 17

► Indian Navy warships deployed off Gulf region for Op Sankalp keeping watch on India-bound cargo vessels leaving Hormuz | P 17

22 Indian-flagged ships near Hormuz waters

► From P 1

Indian authorities are in contact with govts in West Asia and are coordinating with them to ensure safe passage of the ships, a top official said on Saturday. The LPG in transit on the two ships can fill around 68 lakh cylinders, against average daily demand of 55 lakh.

"As a result of multiple contacts with all concerned, some ships destined for India have been able to cross the Strait of Hormuz... Several remain on standby in Gulf region," MEA spokesperson Ranbir Jaiswal said.

"We propose to continue to remain in touch and coordinate with all countries concerned to ensure safe and unimpeded transit for them in our effort to ensure our energy security," he added. He said India has empha-

LPG woes: ₹2 power subsidy for TN eateries

Hotels and eateries that switch to electric stoves in Tamil Nadu will get a subsidy of Rs 2 per unit of power additionally consumed, the state govt said Saturday as it rolled out a series of measures to soften the blow of LPG supply disruption. A meeting chaired by chief minister MK Stalin also decided that under the Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme, small and medium scale hoteliers wishing to switch to electric stoves can get loans with a 25% subsidy up to Rs 3.7 lakh.

Women entrepreneurs will be eligible for loans up to Rs 10 lakh with a 25% subsidy under the women entrepreneurship scheme.

In addition, under the Amal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme, a subsidy of up to 35%, capped at Rs 1 crore, will be extended to eligible industrial units run by scheduled caste and scheduled tribe entrepreneurs. tw

sised unimpeded transit of goods and energy and urged Iran to avoid targeting civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure across the region. With supply remaining short of overall demand, govt acknowledged the "concern" but urged people to avoid panic booking of LPG cylinders. The number

of bookings spiked to 88.8 lakh on Friday.

India imports 80% of its LPG needs, with 85-90% of this being sourced from Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which use the Strait to ship oil and gas to users. Ports are accord- ing priority berthing to LPG vessels to ensure continuity

of energy supply, said Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the shipping ministry. During the last three days, six LPG carriers from other parts of the world were given priority berthing at major ports, which are also providing safe anchorage areas for loaded vessels that are bound for the Gulf but are currently unable to transit.

"There were 24 Indian-flagged vessels on the west of Hormuz on Friday; out of these, two vessels crossed the Strait safely early and are heading towards India. Now there are 22 Indian-flagged vessels in the Persian Gulf," Sinha said, adding Indian seafarers in the region are safe. He said of the 22 remaining Indian-flagged ships on the west of Hormuz, six are LPG vessels; one is a liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier with other cargo in the rest.



अस्पतालों को गैस खपत में कटौती का परामर्श

जनसत्ता संवाददाता
नई दिल्ली, 14 मार्च ।

राजधानी में गैस सिलेंडर की कमी के मद्देनजर दिल्ली के प्रमुख अस्पतालों को निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि वे अपनी गैस खपत में कटौती करें और वैकल्पिक इतजामों के बारे में तैयारी करें। फिलहाल अस्पतालों में कोई आपात स्थिति नहीं है, लेकिन ईंधन की खपत को कम करने के लिए एहतियाती कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। आइजीएल की ओर से जारी परामर्श में दिल्ली कैसर संस्थान, जीटीबी, राजीव गांधी, एलएनजेपी, संजय गांधी और जीबी पत रहित अन्य अस्पतालों को कहा गया है कि वे अपने ईंधन उपयोग में 20 फीसद की कटौती करें। यह कदम गैस अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड की सिफारिश के अनुसार उठाया गया है। जीटीबी अस्पताल के चिकित्सा निदेशक डाक्टर विनोद ने बताया कि अस्पताल की स्थिति सामान्य है, लेकिन गैस बचाने के लिए किछन में कुछ बदलाव किए गए हैं।



2 LPG carriers cross Strait of Hormuz, says official

Saptaparno Ghosh

M. Kalyanaraman

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Two liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carriers, *Shivalik* and *Nanda Devi*, have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are headed to India, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary at Ministry of Shipping and Waterways, said at an inter-ministerial press briefing on Friday.

“Of the 24 vessels with an Indian-flag operating in the Persian Gulf, LPG carriers *Shivalik* and *Nanda Devi* crossed the Strait of Hormuz early this morning safely, and are headed to India,” Mr. Sinha said.

Shivalik is expected to reach Mundra Port by March 16, while *Nanda Devi* is expected to reach Kandla Port by March 17, he said.

FULL REPORT ON

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Delhi rolls out plan to ration LPG amid supply shortage

Hospitals, schools and airports get top priority under new policy that puts a 20% cap on average consumption; enforcement teams to check hoarding; govt. to issue daily bulletins on availability

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders due to escalating conflict in West Asia, the Delhi government on Saturday announced a regulated distribution policy that caps supply at 20% of the average daily consumption and introduced priority-based allocation for essential services.

The Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs, in a special communication, said the policy was framed in compliance with directions issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and in coordination with the three oil marketing companies (OMCs) - Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

"The average daily sale in the Delhi market by the three OMCs together is approximately 9,000 cylin-



The govt. will review the policy from time to time depending on the evolving supply situation. FILE PHOTO

ders (19-kg equivalent). Accordingly, 20% of the daily commercial sale, i.e., approximately 1,800 cylinders, shall be made available for regulated distribution," read the communication.

Allocation break-up

The policy introduces a priority-based daily allocation system divided into eight categories. Priority 1, comprising educational institutions, hospitals, railways, and airports, will re-

ceive 100% of their requirement. Priority 2, involving government and PSU institutions, departments, and canteens operating on their premises, will be allotted 236 cylinders. Priority 3, covering restaurants and eateries, will receive 762 cylinders. Priority 4 - hotels and guest houses - will get 72 cylinders while Priority 5, including dairies, bakeries, and sweet shops, has been allotted 200 cylinders. Priority 6, consisting of ca-

terers and banquet halls, will receive 162 cylinders. Priority 7 - dry-cleaning, cleaning, packaging, and pharmaceutical units - will be given 18 cylinders, and Priority 8, covering sports facilities and stadiums, will receive 150 cylinders.

To prevent hoarding and ensure equitable distribution, the daily quantity supplied to each consumer will be determined on the basis of the average daily consumption during the preceding three months. "Joint enforcement teams including Delhi Police, Legal Metrology Department, and OMCs shall conduct regular inspections and enforcement operations to prevent diversion of LPG cylinders, hoarding, illegal storage, and black marketing," read the communication.

The government will issue daily supply bulletins on the availability of LPG cylinders and review the policy from time to time depending on the evolving supply situation.

LPG woes bite city's restaurants

Eateries cut menus; pause large bookings, corporate gatherings

NEW DELHI: Large corporate gatherings and group parties are now taking a backseat in restaurant calendars across the capital, as eateries scale back menus and bookings amid an LPG supply crunch, with concerns over shrinking cooking gas stocks growing after military escalations in West Asia.

Restaurant owners, particularly in Connaught Place, one of the city's busiest dining hubs, said that preparing food for large tables requires significant gas usage, prompting many establishments to temporarily halt big party bookings while focusing on regular diners.

Paramjeet Kaur, owner of Flavours of China, said the restaurant has scaled back certain offerings and limited group bookings in order to manage LPG consumption.

"We have had to make a few adjustments to manage the

Police boost LPG security

NEW DELHI: Amid prevailing concerns over irregular LPG supply, the Delhi Police has intensified surveillance at LPG godowns and distribution points across the city.

Officers have been deployed in plain clothes and are holding meetings with gas distributors, warning of strict legal action against anyone involved in black marketing.

This action comes a day after the cancellation of routine leave for police person-

nel to maintain law and order amid rising anxiety among households and businesses regarding the availability of cooking gas.



nel to maintain law and order amid rising anxiety among households and businesses regarding the availability of cooking gas. **AGENCIES**

Kaur added that the restaurant has also temporarily stopped hosting large gatherings to conserve fuel.

A manager at Amaltas, a restaurant in Greater Kailash, said the establishment has also been cautious about accepting

large bookings in the current situation.

"With the uncertainty around LPG availability, we are being careful about taking big table reservations or corporate events. Preparing food for large groups requires continuous gas usage, so we are prioritising regular diners and smaller tables for now," the manager said.

Inder, owner of Minar restaurant in Connaught Place, said his establishment has also decided to avoid large-scale bookings until the LPG supply situation stabilises.

"At the moment, we are not taking corporate meetings or big events because managing such gatherings requires extensive cooking, and that means higher LPG consumption. Given the uncertainty around supply, it becomes difficult to plan for large bookings," he said. **AGENCIES**

Mid-day meals: it's a struggle to keep school fires burning amid gas crunch

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Across India, many schools are scrambling to find alternative fuel sources such as firewood and induction stoves to LPG for their mid-day meals programmes.

Schools located in rural areas of States such as Odisha and Telangana that use firewood have been saved from the crisis owing to the shortage of LPG arising from the effects of the West Asia conflict. Many schools are cutting down on their daily menu, affecting the nutritional quality of the food being provided to the children.

The provision of domestic LPG cylinders to mid-day meal schemes has helped stave off an immediate crisis since the government has officially announced curbs only on supply of commercial LPG. But reports indicate that as schools apply for refills, the situation may become

dicey. The ongoing disruption in LPG import due to the war has coincided with the exam season, which means fewer students in schools coming in for lunch. The closure of schools after exams is coming as a relief for education authorities.

Telangana has 24,972 schools. "There are close to 9,000 schools that rely solely on LPG for the meal programme. Some also have induction stoves," says Naveen Nicolas, Director of School Education, Telangana. Most of the remaining schools depend on local firewood for mid-day meal preparations.

In Hyderabad, meals are supplied from centralised kitchens operated by trusts or NGOs. "All our operations are steam-based and use firewood and briquettes [compressed blocks of coal]. LPG use is minimal for the workers, and required stock is available," said Ramana Reddy,



Need to nourish: To prepare meals for students under the mid-day meal scheme, a worker takes out a domestic LPG cylinder at an Akshaya Patra Foundation kitchen in Visakhapatnam. V. RAJU

manager at Manna Trust that supplies to 950 schools.

Odisha currently serves meals to 16,46,497 students out of 38,62,521 enrolled across 50,070 schools under the PM POSHAN Scheme. In rural parts of the State, meals are traditionally cooked using firewood, while in ur-

ban pockets authorities are beginning to confront a potential fuel crisis.

In Karnataka, the programme largely relies on domestic LPG cylinders supplied by the State government to schools and anganwadi centres, preventing it from the shortage of commercial cylinders that has affected

hotels and eateries across the State. However, the shortage has begun to affect private accommodation facilities such as hostels and paying guest (PGs) establishments.

Meanwhile, Sunita, a mid-day meal worker at Kishanpura primary school in Haryana's Jind, said the LPG cylinders are

being delivered although the dealers are not taking calls easily and had to be called repeatedly.

Mud stoves come handy
In several districts in Bihar, such as Darbhanga, Madhubani, Gaya, Purnia, Aurangabad, Rohtas and Bhojpur, school kitchens are switching to traditional earthen cooking stoves made of mud using firewood and coal.

Manju Devi, the cook at Anganwadi Centre no. 156 in Samastipur district, said, "A request was made to refill the gas cylinder one week back but still we did not get the gas cylinder so, headmaster has directed us to cook the mid-day meal on *Chullah* [earthen stove] so that children do not go hungry."

In Bihar, nearly 13 million children studying in the State's government schools eat mid-day meals every day.

In Assam, many schools

in rural and semi-urban areas rely on firewood, thus saving them from a crisis.

"We provide mid-day meals to a substantial number of students, for which we require two LPG cylinders a month. We applied for and received a cylinder a few days ago. Fortunately, we are approaching the end of final exams in Assam, and the schools will remain closed until the next session after the results are declared. We could have faced a problem otherwise," Hem Chandra Kakati, the principal in charge of Guwahati's Assam Railway Higher Secondary School, said.

Radha (name changed), noon-meal organiser in a government school in Chennai, has two cylinders stocked. She is not worried about the stocks running out as the academic year will end in April. "We cook food for over 300 children and since it's exams, the

primary students come in only in the afternoon. Further, as it's exam season not many students come to the school. So, we have enough LPG cylinders to last us until April," she added. Authorities have notified gas agencies that schools and Anganwadis must be given priority for cylinders.

Krishna Pradhan, President of the West Bengal ASHA Workers' Union, said that all ICDS centres are struggling to keep their kitchens working, especially in the rural areas. "Most rural area schools and ICDS centres have shifted to either wood or coal ovens. Centres closer to cities and towns are faring slightly better. But everyone is struggling," Ms. Pradhan added.

She also said that many have resorted to bringing gas cylinders from their own homes to ensure that the young children do not go without food.



PNG supply to hospitals safe, claims IGL

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In response to recent media reports, Indraprastha Gas Limited has clarified that piped natural gas (PNG) supply to hospitals and other essential services remains stable and uninterrupted.

The company issued the statement following concerns raised after Qatar declared force majeure on 3 March, which had initially prompted warnings about potential disruptions. IGL immediately arranged alternative supplies, and there is currently no shortage of natural gas in the country. IGL emphasized that it has prioritized supply to critical institutions, including hospitals and healthcare facilities, ensuring that medical operations continue without interruption. The company also confirmed that industrial and commercial consumers are receiving regulated supplies according to existing protocols. The company's teams are continuously monitoring the situation and coordinating with upstream suppliers to maintain seamless delivery to all priority consumers.

IGL urged customers not to rely on speculative reports and to contact the company directly for any clarifications or support, reaffirming its commitment.



2 India-bound tankers with LPG to arrive March 16, 17

SRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

Ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Saturday evening said India is in contact with Iran, the US, Israel and Gulf countries and confirmed that as a "result of these multiple contacts", two Indian ships — *Shivalik* and *Nanda Devi* — have crossed the Straits of Hormuz with collectively more than 92,700 metric tonnes of LPG and will arrive at Indian ports on March 16 and 17.

Government officials said that out of 22 Indian ships in the Gulf region, six are LPG carriers while four are oil tankers.

Mr Jaiswal said there are several other Indian ships in the Gulf region are "on standby," and that India would continue its engagement with various nations to ensure their safe transit for India's energy security. In response to a media query he also said "India has more than adequate stocks of fertilisers at this point of time."

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Police tightens watch on godowns amid LPG crisis

Govt caps commercial supply at 20% of average consumption

AVINASH PRABHAKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

Amid LPG shortage concerns, the Delhi government has issued a new policy to regulate distribution and ensure that essential services continue to receive adequate supply. The department of food, supplies and consumer affairs announced that only 20 per cent of the average daily commercial LPG sales in Delhi — around 1,800 cylinders — will be released for regulated distribution amid ongoing situation.

"In compliance with the direction of the ministry of petroleum and natural gas to make available up to 20 per cent of the average daily commercial LPG cylinder consumption of Delhi, the policy for distribution of commercial LPG cylinders in the Delhi during the present situation is issued," an official said.

The commercial LPG cylinders will be allocated to different sectors on a priority basis. Essential services such as educational institutions, hospitals, railways and airports have been placed in the first priority category and their full requirement will be met, estimated at about 200 cylinders per day.

Other sectors will receive supplies within fixed caps based on their share of demand. Restaurants and eateries, which represent



A man holds an empty cylinder outside an LPG depot in New Delhi on Saturday amid supply crisis in the country. — PTI

the largest share, have been allotted 42 per cent of the regulated supply, amounting to about 762 cylinders daily.

Government and PSU canteens fall under the second priority category with a 13 per cent allocation, while dairies, bakeries and sweet shops have been assigned 11 per cent. Caterers and banquet halls will receive 9 per cent, sports facilities 8 per cent, hotels and guest houses 4 per cent, and dry-cleaning and pharmaceutical units 1 per cent.

The policy notes that the average daily commercial LPG sale in Delhi is about 9,000 cylinders. The regulated quota of 1,800 cylinders therefore represents 20 per cent of normal daily sales. Distribution will be carried out by the three oil marketing companies in

proportion to their current market share — Indian Oil (58 per cent), Bharat Petroleum (27 per cent) and Hindustan Petroleum (15 per cent).

To prevent hoarding and ensure fair supply, cylinders will be issued only against booking requests, with quantities based on each consumer's average consumption over the past three months. In case of delayed supply, deliveries will follow a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) system.

The Delhi police has intensified surveillance at LPG godowns and distribution points across the city. Officers have been deployed in plain clothes and are holding meetings with gas distributors, warning of strict legal action against anyone involved in black marketing.

LPG crisis: Commercial cylinder distribution resumes in 29 States

RAJESH KUMAR
 ■ New Delhi



As panic buying of cooking gas continues, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Saturday that commercial LPG cylinder distribution has been resumed for some industries in various States, adding that no stock-outs have been reported so far at retail outlets across the country.

The ministry claimed that 62.5 lakh cylinders were delivered in the last 24 hours, while authorities have stepped up raids and surprise inspections across the country to curb hoarding and black-marketing amid heightened pressure on cooking gas supplies.

However, LPG refill bookings have surged sharply due to panic buying by consumers. As per data shared by the ministry, the number of bookings was about 75.7 lakh on Thursday, and it has now increased to around 88.8 lakh on Friday.

In a media briefing on the current fuel situation, Sujata Sharma, joint Secretary (Marketing and Oil Refinery), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the government has decided that commercial consumers will also get LPG. "In some States, commercial cylinders are being directly

supplied to industries to meet their operational requirements," she said. This is likely to provide relief to commercial establishments and industries, especially the restaurant and hospital-

ity sector. "There are no dry-out reports from any retail outlets. Our refineries are operating at full capacity, and sufficient petrol and diesel are available.

CONTINUED ON ►► P4

LPG crisis: Commercial cylinder distribution...

Based on our requirements, we produce adequate petrol and diesel domestically and do not need to import," she said. She further stated that despite the prevailing geopolitical situation, no fuel shortage has been reported.

"The number of bookings was about 75.7 lakh on Thursday, and it has now increased to around 88 lakh on Saturday. This is nothing but panic booking," the official said, urging consumers to book cylinders only when required. Pre-war, daily bookings totalled around 55 lakh and oil marketing companies delivered 50 lakh cylinders per day. While the cylinder deliveries remain the same, bookings have surged," Sharma said.

There are 101469 retail outlets, and 25605 LPG distributors in the country. The Government says around 50 lakh domestic LPG cylinders are delivered on a daily basis. There are 33.37 crore LPG consumers, while PNG consumers stood at 1.5 crore. "The first day we informed you about a 10 per cent increase in domestic production, then 25 per cent, then 28 per cent, and today the increase has reached 31 per cent," she said.

As part of supply management measures, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has allowed the temporary use of biomass and RDF pellets in place of natural gas and LPG by industries, hotels, restaurants and other establishments in the National Capital Region, including Delhi, for a period of one month.

Consumers have been urged to use digital tools such as SMS, WhatsApp and mobile apps of OMCs for refill bookings instead of visiting LPG distributorships. "There is no need to stand in queues at distributorships for booking or cylinder delivery. OMCs deliver cylinders to consumers' homes and will continue to do so," she

said. State Governments and district administrations have been asked to closely monitor the LPG supply situation and ensure smooth distribution, she said, adding that several chief ministers and senior officials have already held review meetings in States such as Haryana, Goa, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Authorities have also intensified enforcement to curb hoarding and black-marketing, with states conducting raids and surprise inspections in coordination with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The Ministry issued an advisory assuring citizens that petrol and diesel remain adequately available across the country. It also urged people to avoid unsafe practices such as storing petrol or diesel in loose containers.

"It has come to notice that at one retail outlet in Tamil Nadu, petrol was being taken in a loose container, which is unsafe and not advisable," the ministry said. The ministry added that strict action has already been taken in the matter.

India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil needs, 50 per cent of its natural gas requirement and 60 per cent of its LPG demand. Before the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, and Tehran retaliated by hitting US bases in neighbouring countries as well as Israel, more than half of the crude oil requirement came from the Middle East countries, 30 per cent of gas from the region and 85-90 per cent of LPG. The war has led to an effective blockage of the Strait of Hormuz, which is the usual sea transit for energy from the Gulf countries. While India has managed to source crude oil from other countries, including Russia, the hit on gas supply has led to cuts for industrial users and to commercial establishments such as hotels and restaurants.



A worker sorts coal in a godown in Nerul area of Navi Mumbai on Saturday amid ongoing LPG crisis .
— PTI

No LPG dearth, avoid panic booking, govt urges people

'Refineries across country are operating at full capacity'

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

Amid concerns over fuel supply due to the widening conflicts in West Asia, the government on Saturday said that LPG availability remains a concern in some areas, but there has been no "shortage" reported at retail stations across the country.

However, the government has conceded the fact that there's a sharp uptick in "panic booking of LPG cylinders in a fear of shortage across the country, whereas the government is taking all possible steps to curb black marketing of cylinders

PLEASE BOOK only when you actually need it. The decision regarding the supply of cylinders to commercial consumers will be taken in consultation with the respective state governments, said the government.

and is closely monitoring the fuel availability as well.

Briefing the media as part of the measures initiated by the government, joint secretary (marketing & oil refinery), ministry of petroleum & natural gas, Sujata Sharma said that India has sufficient crude oil supplies and that refineries across the coun-

try are operating at full capacity, with no reports of fuel shortages at retail outlets. "There is an excessive amount of panic booking for LPG. Please book only when you actually need it. As nearly 8.8 million, or 88 lakh, panic bookings have been observed, the decision regarding the supply of cylinders to commercial consumers will be taken in consultation with the respective state governments," Ms Sharma said.

"As far as crude oil and refineries are concerned, we have a sufficient supply of crude and our refineries are operating at full capacity," Ms Sharma said



'Fuel, LPG adequately available, avoid hoarding': Oil ministry

New Delhi: The Petroleum Ministry on Saturday said that petrol and diesel are adequately available at retail outlets across the country, advising consumers to avoid hoarding. In a post on X, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) said all petrol pumps have sufficient stocks and there is no shortage of fuel. "Petrol and diesel are adequately available at retail outlets across the country. Consumers are advised not to take or store fuel in loose or inappropriate containers, as it poses serious safety risks," the ministry said.

India well-placed to deal with any situation on crude oil, fuel: Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ Mumbai

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said India is well-placed to deal with any situation on crude oil and fuel, as the West Asia crisis disrupts gas shipments and shipping routes, and highlighted that the Government has ramped up kerosene production to provide an alternate option for the common man.

Speaking at the *CNBC-TV India Business Leaders Awards 2026* ceremony, Goyal said the government plans to come up with some "concrete agenda" next week to support exporters.

"On crude oil, on fuel, we are pretty well placed. We have good stocks in hand,



Union Minister Piyush Goyal

There's been absolutely no disturbance of any sort on the crude or the fuel front, petrol, diesel, aviation fuel," Goyal said.

He said that India has ramped up kerosene production so that, in the event of any delays in LPG supplies, there will be an alternate cooking medium for the common man. "Incidentally,

we are also covering through imports from diversified sources the requirements of LPG and LNG," he said. "The shipping times were barely three or four days, at best seven days, when these shipments of gas came into India, he said, adding that "Now we have to diversify to sources which are significantly far away from India... Canada, the US, and possibly Russia, we are looking at various alternate sources which will feed the requirements of India," he said.

Terming the ongoing geopolitical situation a wake-up call for the country, he said that whenever India faced a challenge, it has always been able to convert that into an opportunity.

India engaging key players for energy security



External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Against the backdrop of spiralling hostilities in West Asia, India on Saturday said it has remained in touch with all key players, including the Gulf Cooperation Council, Iran, the US and Israel, with a primary focus on safeguarding its energy security.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that besides advocating for dialogue and diplomacy, India has consistently underlined the necessity of ensuring the unimpeded transit of goods and energy supplies through the region.

Aseem Mahajan, an additional secretary in the ministry, said five Indian nationals have lost their lives and one remains missing in the ongoing conflict. He said around 1,72,000 Indians have returned to India since February 28, the day the hostilities began.

"We have also called for avoiding targeting civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, across the region. We believe that these are the priorities of a large part of the global community since the impact of the conflict is being felt globally," Jaiswal said.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran has virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

West Asia has been a major source of India's energy procurement.

"As you would be aware, we are dealing with a very complex situation concerning the active conflict zone," Jaiswal said. "Nevertheless, we have remained in touch with all important interlocutors, including all the Gulf Cooperation Council members, Iran, the US and Israel at various political and diplomatic levels in an effort to take up with them and underline our priorities, especially concerning our energy security," he said.

Both Jaiswal and Mahajan made the remarks at a media briefing.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson also made a mention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's phone conversations with a number of his counterparts in West Asia in the last few days. The external affairs minister and our embassies have also been in close touch with their interlocutors, he said.



PM inaugurates OIL's NSPL capacity expansion:



PM Modi inaugurated Oil India Limited's Numaligarh-Siliguri Product Pipeline capacity augmentation project in Guwahati on 13 March. The 654-km pipeline's capacity has been increased from 1.72 MMTPA to 5.5

MMTPA to support Numaligarh Refinery's expansion. The brownfield project was completed at around ₹750 crore against an approved ₹860 crore. It also generated about 4.1 million man-hours of employment over more than three years in Assam and West Bengal.

India engages with Iran, GCC, US as LPG, LNG carriers await Hormuz Strait passage

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

The government has stepped up dialogues with Iran as tankers carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) and LPG — likely a month's supply for the country — await safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz (SoH).

The development follows a flurry of talks — led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister S Jaishankar — that helped clear the passage for two tankers carrying 92,712 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through the 34-km Strait.

Rakesh Kumar Sinha,



STUCK AT SEA. An LPG gas tanker lies at anchor in Shinas, Oman, with traffic disrupted in the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

Special Secretary, Shipping Ministry, said on Saturday that six tankers carrying LPG and a tanker loaded with LNG are in the west of SoH awaiting safe transit.

2 VESSELS CLEAR SOH

Two Indian-flagged LPG carriers, Shivalik and Nanda Devi, crossed the SoH early on Saturday and are expected to dock at

Mundra and Kandla ports on March 16 and March 17, respectively. Both are carrying roughly 46,000 tonnes each LPG.

It is likely that the other six LPG carriers are carrying the same volume, bringing the cumulative tonnage to around 2.76 lakh tonnes. India's average monthly LPG consumption stood at 2.81 mt during 11M FY26.

Commenting on India's efforts, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said: "India has remained in close contact with key stakeholders including GCC countries, Iran, the US and Israel at political and diplomatic levels. The Prime Minister,

the External Affairs Minister and Indian Missions have been actively engaging with counterparts to underline India's priorities, particularly energy security and safe maritime transit."

VESSELS ON HOLD

Apart from Shivalik and Nanda Devi, several other Indian-bound vessels remain on standby in the Gulf region and efforts are ongoing to ensure safe and uninterrupted passage, he added.

Four tankers carrying crude oil, three container ships and two bulk carriers also await safe passage through the world's most critical energy choke point, Sinha said.

US, Canada to release emergency oil reserves

BLOOMBERG
March 14

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION started the process of a mammoth drawdown of the US emergency oil reserve, issuing a request to exchange 86 million barrels of crude oil. Deliveries from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, part of a massive 172 million barrel release are expected to begin moving to market by the end of next week, the Energy Department said in a statement. The release, which is expected to take four months to complete, is part of a 400 million barrel effort coordinated with other nations aimed at lowering crude, gasoline, diesel and jet fuel prices that have climbed since the US-Israeli invasion of Iran.

The war has brought shipping traffic to a virtual standstill in the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil flows.

Under the terms of the exchange, companies will return the borrowed oil to Energy Department with additional barrels as a premium. Bids for the solicitation are due no later than 5 pm CT on March 17, the department said. The Trump administration has arranged to replace the withdrawn oil with about 200 million barrels within the next year, the Energy Department said earlier this week, adding it would be 20% more than what would be drawn down. Canada, too, will supply 23.6 million barrels of oil and ramp up natural gas exports in the coming months as part of an international effort to help stabilise energy markets being upended by the Iran war, Energy Minister Tim Hodgson said. The move will support a wider action of 400 million barrels being released by 32 member countries of the International Energy Agency, Hodgson said.

Canada, the world's fourth-largest oil supplier and largest within the IEA, does not hold a



STABILISE SUPPLY

 US to release 86 million barrels	 Canada to supply 24 million barrels	 Japan asks Australia to boost LNG output
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strategic petroleum reserve like the US. The country's support will come from planned production, according to a government official familiar with the matter.

The Middle East conflict has effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf and is preventing oil and gas from leaving the region, sending prices soaring in what the IEA calls the biggest oil market disruption in history. On Friday, Brent crude settled above \$100 a barrel for the second straight day, ending at the highest level in more than three years. Japan's industry minister Ryosei Akazawa on Saturday asked Australia, Japan's biggest supplier of liquefied natural gas, to boost output in light of the Middle East crisis.

Japan relies on the Middle East for around 11% of its LNG imports, with 6% shipped via the Strait of Hormuz, which is effectively closed due to the US-Israeli war on Iran. Japan also depends on the region for about 95% of its crude oil supplies. Some 20% of global LNG supply is offline as the US-Israeli war on Iran has shut Qatar Energy LNG facilities,

disrupting energy supplies from the Middle East. It could take months to return to normal deliveries, Qatari Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi said last week. "For this unprecedented situation, the affordable and stable LNG supply from Australia is the lifeline of energy security in Japan and this region," Akazawa told Australian Resources Minister Madeleine King during their bilateral meeting. "We would like to sincerely ask for your continued contribution to stable supply, including the possibility of increasing production as much as possible," Akazawa said.

Both ministers attended the Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum in Tokyo on Saturday. Australia supplies about 40% of Japan's LNG imports.

"Australia remains a trusted partner for Japan in supplying LNG to your community," King replied. She added that the Scarborough and Barossa fields will soon begin producing more gas, boosting output from Western Australia's gas fields, a major contribution to Australia's LNG exports.

—REUTERS





2 INDIAN SHIPS CROSS HORMUZ

**Ashwin Ahmad &
Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar**

NEW DELHI

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said two Indian ships had crossed the Strait of Hormuz and were heading to Indian shores. Speaking at an inter-ministerial briefing on Saturday, Jaiswal said. "Some ships destined for India have been able to cross through the Strait of Hormuz. In the early hours today, two Indian ships, Shivalik and Nanda Devi, crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are now headed to ports in India. Each of the ships is carrying in excess of 46,000 metric tons of LPG, with a cumulative total of 92,700 metric tons."

He added. "Several of our ships remain in standby in the Gulf region. We propose to continue to remain in touch and coordinate with all concerned countries to ensure a safe and unimpeded transit for them in an effort to ensure our energy security."

The MEA spokesperson also added that India continued to remain in touch with all the important interlocutors in the region, which included GCC countries, Iran, the US, and Israel. Speaking after Jaiswal, Aseem Mahajan, Additional Secretary (Gulf) spoke about the current state of Indian nationals trapped in the region.

► **Contd on | Nation**

PNG USERS BARRED LPG

India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Saturday barred households with piped natural gas (PNG) connections from retaining, obtaining or refilling domestic LPG cylinders under an amended supply order. The ministry said government oil companies will also not issue new LPG connections or provide refills to consumers who already have PNG connections, aiming to streamline domestic gas distribution and prevent duplication of subsidised fuel supplies.



2 Indian ships...

"We have five Indians who have lost their lives and one who is missing in an earlier incident. Our missions in Oman, Iraq, and the UAE remain in touch with the concerned authorities regarding the missing Indian national and for early repatriation of mortal remains of the deceased after completing requisite formalities."

Mahajan also gave an update on the Iranian attack on Sohar city in Oman, where two Indian nationals had lost their lives. "Two Indian nationals lost their lives, and 10 Indian nationals were injured. None of whom are reported to be seriously injured. The embassy is also coordinating to facilitate the early return of the mortal remains of the two deceased to India."

The Additional Secretary also gave an update on the lives of Indian crew members who were on the US-owned and Marshall Island-flagged oil tanker Safesea Vishnu. The tanker was attacked by an Iranian "suicide boat" just off the coast of Khor Al Zubair port in Iraqi territorial waters on March 12. He said that the 15 crew members on the tanker were safely evacuated and are currently residing at a hotel in Basra, Iraq. Regarding the situation of flights in the region, government officials stated that all attempts were being made to repatriate Indian civilians from the region. "On February 25 and February 28, around 172,000 passengers have returned from the region to India," said Mahajan. He added that air connectivity from the region had been steadily improving with the addition of more flights to different cities in India. "Flights have been operating from Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar. In Bahrain, Kuwait, and Iraq, where direct flights are not directly operating, we are assisting the Indian nationals in terms of visa extensions and transit visas to enable their onward journey via Saudi Arabia."

Regarding the situation of Iranian nationals stranded in India, Mahajan said Iranian authorities arranged a chartered flight to take them.

Addressing the "Inter Ministerial Briefing on Recent Developments in West Asia", Special Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping Rakesh Kumar Sinha said "both the LPG carriers safely transited the Strait of Hormuz late last night/early this morning and are now proceeding towards India." And their ports of arrival will be Mundra and Kandla, with expected arrival dates of March 16 and March 17, respectively."

With this, Sinha said 22 Indian-flagged vessels remained in the Persian Gulf with a total of 611 seafarers. However, he added that, "all Indian seafarers in the Persian Gulf region are safe, and no untoward incidents involving them have been reported over the last 24 hours."

Giving a break-up of these 22 vessels, the official further said that they comprise 6 LPG tankers, 1 LNG carrier, 4 crude oil tankers, 1 chemical products tanker, 3 container ships, 2 bulk carriers and 1 dredger. Besides, the vessels also include one empty ballast or as vessel not carrying cargo and three dry docks or vessels that are under repair and maintenance.

On the overall LPG supply situation, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Sujata Sharma said "overall it is being managed well given the geopolitical situation and no dry-out has been reported so far." Incidentally, the daily consumption of LPG in India is around 80,000 metric tonnes and the Centre has also increased the domestic production through the refineries by around 30 percent since March 5.

Sharma also reiterated the appeal to people to "refrain from panic booking" and only book cylinders "when it is absolutely necessary. With a major shortage of commercial cylinders also being reported from some parts of the country, Sharma said "a decision was taken to allocate a certain quantity of LPG to commercial cylinders as well."

CRISIS CONTINUES | Chief Minister accuses Congress of creating a panic situation; black marketing busted in Worli

CM: LPG shortage claims false; it's a conspiracy

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said there is no shortage of domestic LPG, petrol and diesel and accused the Congress of deliberately creating panic with false claims of supply disruptions.

He said the Centre and officials concerned have repeatedly clarified that there is no shortage. "Similarly, there is no rationing as well. It is a conspiracy to instigate people and make them stand in queues," Fadnavis said.

Fadnavis was speaking to media on the sidelines of the ground-breaking ceremony of a ₹6,200 crore integrated 10 GW solar ingot and wafer manufacturing facility in Nagpur.

Meanwhile, in Mumbai, the authorities busted a gas cylinder black-marketing racket in Worli and seized several LPG cylinders during an operation, the police said. The action comes at a time when concerns over cooking gas availability have triggered panic bookings.

During the raid, officials recovered six filled and 58 empty HP cylinders along with several others from the location. The police said the stock was being illegally stored inside residential premises. The seized cylinders have been handed over to Worli police station, where further legal action is being initiated against those involved in the illegal storage and distribution.

Officials said storing and selling cylinders outside authorised channels poses serious safety risks, especially in residential areas where such stockpiling can lead to fire hazards and other emergencies.



Salman Ansari / Anil Shinde

Industrial panic grips Dombivli as PNG supply dips

Danish Azmi
KALYAN-DOMBIVLI

Nearly 70% of industries in the Dombivli MIDC area are on the verge of shutting down due to fuel shortages, leaving the local economy in a precarious state. Units in the area depend heavily on PNG (piped natural gas) to run boilers. However, global supply disruptions have reduced availability, leaving many factories with barely two days of gas stock.

The crisis comes as local hotels struggle with a shortage of commercial LPG cylinders. Dombivli MIDC houses 125 chemical and 110 textile units requiring uninterrupted fuel. "Most industries shifted to PNG to comply with stricter pollution norms. The sudden shortage has placed us in a difficult situation," said Deven Soni, an office bearer of the Kama Sanghatana. Soni warned that if supply is not

restored, companies may halt production, affecting thousands of workers.

Amid rumours of shortages, rationing officer Deepak Doles assured citizens that adequate stocks of domestic LPG, petrol and diesel are available. Doles stated there is no need for panic buying and reminded consumers that a second domestic LPG cylinder can only be booked 25 days after the first.

Meanwhile, authorities have intensified a crackdown on LPG hoarding. The rationing department's flying squad seized 84 LPG cylinders from an illegal stock in Bhiwandi. The raid, supervised by deputy controller of rationing Prashant Kale, targeted a warehouse where 33 filled and 51 empty cylinders were found in three tempos. Police detained two tempo drivers, and a case is being registered at Narpoli Police Station.

30% Vasai-Virar eateries shuttered

Kirti Kesarkar
VASAI-VIRAR

The hotel industry in Vasai-Virar faces a severe crisis due to a shortage of commercial liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders. The Palghar district administration halted supply to the sector, with the Collector of Palghar stating it is currently impossible to provide gas. This threatens the livelihoods of thousands, as 30% of hotels have shuttered and fears mount that 60% could close within two days.

Mohan Shetty, hotel association president, urged the government to classify the industry as an essential service, requesting at least 50% supply to prevent total collapse. With over 350 restaurants facing advance bookings for weddings, owners are struggling. Some have turned to induction cooktops or limited menus to conserve stock. However, those unable to find workarounds or secure alleged "black market" alternatives have been forced to close indefinitely.



Hindustan Times

Gas bookings surge by 60%, Centre urges calm

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply is a matter of concern mainly because of panic bookings that surged by 59% to nearly 8.9 million, but no dry-outs have been reported from any place so far, an official said, as government on Saturday issued an order prohibiting a person having piped natural gas (PNG) to keep LPG connections.

Evoking the Essential Commodities Act, the government prohibited supply of domestic LPG to a person having PNG connection. In case a person having both PNG and LPG facilities, "such persons will be required to immediately surrender their domestic LPG connection," the order said.

Divulging details of fuel supply situation at the inter-ministerial briefing on recent developments in war-torn West Asia, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), said: "Regarding LPG supply, it is still a matter of concern for us in view of prevailing geopolitical situation, but no dry-out has been reported so far."

There has been a surge in the number of LPG bookings on account of panic buying. Daily bookings have increased from an average of 55.7 lakh (5.57 million) to 88.8 lakh (8.88 million) yesterday, she said.

Sharma appealed to both domestic and commercial customers of LPG to switch over to piped natural gas (PNG) supplied

THE CENTRE HAS NOW PROHIBITED THE SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC LPG TO A PERSON HAVING PNG CONNECTION

by city gas distribution (CGD) companies to reduce load on LPG. "India imports 60% of the LPG it uses. In the last one decade, the number of domestic LPG (cooking gas) connections crossed 33 crore (330 million) from about 14 crore (140 million), a 136% jump," she said.

She informed that state-run gas marketing major GAIL India on Friday held virtual meetings with CGD companies supplying fuel in major urban areas such as Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Lucknow, Kanpur, and Jaipur and advised them for expediting and promoting new commercial PNG connections for hotels and restaurants so as to reduce pressure on LPG supplies.

Earlier this week, the government ensured natural gas to priority sectors with 100% supply to domestic PNG and CNG customers without any cuts. Supplies to commercial and industrial consumers are, however, regulated at 80%.

"Commercial cylinders are at the disposal of state governments so that they can prioritize consumers. Distributions have started in about 29 states and union territo-

ries (UTs) and consumers are getting them uninterrupted," she said.

"It is the responsibility of all states and UTs to monitor the supply situation, and the district administration plays a major role in this. Some chief ministers, including CMs of Haryana and Goa, have conducted meetings with their senior officials to ensure equitable distribution of gas cylinders. Similarly, senior officials of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have conducted meetings with line departments and oil marketing companies (OMCs) to maintain a robust supply situation," she added.

On hoarding, Sharma said the state government's role is also important in enforcement through surprise inspections and raids to control hoarding and black marketing.

Meanwhile, joint teams of state officials and OMC executives have conducted raids in Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Surprise inspections have been conducted in about 1,400 locations in Uttar Pradesh. About 20 FIRs have been filed, and several people have been arrested. Prosecutions have been launched on 19 people, Sharma said.

"Similar actions have been taken in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Karnataka. Besides, OMCs have conducted 1,300 surprise inspections at various LPG distributorships and retail outlets on Friday," she added.

The government's effort, Sharma said, is to safeguard fuel supply to domestic consumers.

Toll-free numbers not helping: Gurugram residents

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, MARCH 14
Amid the LPG supply crisis in Delhi-NCR, the Gurugram administration recently released toll-free helpline numbers for consumers facing difficulties in getting cylinders from agencies. However, several residents claim that the helpline numbers are either not responding or failing to provide any assistance. Despite repeated calls, 'The Tribune' also could not get through.

"What kind of a joke is this? These are centralised helpline numbers of oil companies and have not been working for the last three days. The administration shared these to complain about issues they may be facing in cylinder delivery, but none of them are working," said Praveen Malik, president of the United Association of New Gurugram.

While Deputy Commissioner Ajay Kumar could not be contacted for comments, a senior official said they were flooded with complaints of helpline numbers not working and the matter was being



Locals claim supply has been disrupted in parts of Delhi-NCR.

dealt with.

In an advisory circulated by the district administration, consumers were urged to lodge complaints in case of delay by agencies to supply cylinders, or if they refused to provide refills. The complaints could be registered directly with the respective oil companies through their helpline numbers (Bharat Gas: 1800-22-4344; Indane Gas: 1800-2333-555; HP Gas: 1800-2333-555) so that the companies could investigate the complaint and take appropriate action.

Residents said the situation

had left them with little relief, at a time when supply had been severely disrupted in parts of Gurugram and the wider Delhi-NCR. Many households have reported delays in cylinder deliveries, forcing some to look for alternative cooking arrangements.

The administration's advisory was intended to reassure consumers, but with the helpline numbers reportedly not functioning effectively, affected residents said the mechanism meant to resolve complaints was not delivering the expected support during the crisis.

Dist panels to allocate cylinders for weddings

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 14
The state Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department issued instructions on Saturday for the setting up of district-level committees to provide commercial cylinders to essential categories, including marriages.

As per an order issued by the ACS Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department, Raja Sekhar Vundru, committees headed by Deputy Commissioners will ensure the supply of commercial LPG to hospitals and all educational institutions, including hostels.

They may also allot commercial cylinders for weddings as per need, and priority may be accorded to the wedding of daughters, said the order.

As per the orders of the Centre, all commercial estab-

lishments are not prioritised for the use of commercial cylinders.

The committees may include the SP Chief Medical Officer, and District Education Officer as members, with the District Food & Supplies Controller (DFSC) as member secretary.

"This committee may allot LPG based on urgency and priority, and also as per the availability of commercial LPG stock in the district. DFSCs shall coordinate with the local officer of oil marketing companies to enable the availability of 20% LPG stock," it said.

On March 11, the Food and Civil Supplies Department had told DCs to ensure that there is no diversion of domestic LPG for other purposes and that double stocking and overcharging of rates do not take place under any circumstances.



LPG shortage: 350 Panipat units shut

MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, MARCH 14

Panipat has been badly hit by the shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) due to the ongoing war in West Asia.

Exports, primarily of handloom products, account for Rs 18,000 crore out of Panipat's Rs 60,000-crore annual turnover

However, as many as 350 dyeing units have been shut down due to shortage of LPG while, around 150 industrial units, which run on Piped Natural Gas (PNG), have seen supply drop to 60 per cent of capacity.

Nitin Arora, president, Panipat Dyers' Association, said Sector-29 (Part-2) was a dyeing sector with 350 operational

units. Of these, more than 150 units have been forced to shut down on account of LPG shortage. "More than one lakh people are directly or indirectly employed in the dyeing sector are at risk and export houses are also badly affected since dyeing is considered to be the mother of textile and handloom products," he said.

GOVT RESPONDS TO SHORTAGE AND RISING PANIC BY RATIONING SUPPLY

Delhi caps commercial LPG supply at 20% of daily usage; hospitals get top priority

100% allocation for hospitals, schools, Railways & airport

Express News Service
New Delhi, March 14

AMID AN ongoing shortage of LPG cylinders due to the war in West Asia, the Delhi government on Saturday capped the daily regulated supply of commercial LPG cylinders at 20% of the city's average daily consumption, dividing consumers into eight priority sectors with hospitals, educational institutions, Railways and airports getting 100% allocation.

As per an order issued by the Department of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs, only about 1,800 cylinders a day — 20% of Delhi's average daily commercial LPG consumption of around 9,000 cylinders (19-kg equivalent) — will now be distributed through a priority-based allocation mechanism in coordination with the three oil marketing companies (OMCs).

"Priority 1 sectors typically consume not more than 200 cylinders per day, but due to their essential nature they shall be supplied up to 100% of their requirements," the order,

undersigned by Arun Kumar Jha, Additional Commissioner (Food and Supplies), said.

Government departments and public sector institutions operating canteens will fall under the second category, while restaurants and eateries have been placed in the third category. Hotels, hospitality units and guest houses will fall in the fourth category. (See box)

Distribution will be based strictly on booking requests made by consumers, the order said. The daily quota will be divided among the three OMCs in proportion to their current market share for 2025-26 financial year — 58% for IOC, 27% for BPCL and 15% for HPCL, it added.

"Supply of commercial LPG cylinders will be made primarily in the standard 19-kg cylinder format, except where specific capacity requirements exist for Priority 1 institutions. No supply shall be made in 5-kg cylinders, as their distribution is not undertaken through LPG distributors in the commercial supply chain and would be difficult to regulate," the order said.

Further, to prevent hoarding and ensure equitable distribution, the daily quantity supplied to each consumer will be determined on the basis of average daily consumption during the preceding three months, as recorded in the respective OMC software systems, officials said.

"Supply will be restricted to the sectoral cap percentages indicated in the priority table above. The OMCs shall accept online booking requests through their respective systems and maintain a date-wise serial record of refill requests," the order said. It added that where supply cannot be made immediately upon booking, the consumer will be supplied, preferably on a First-In-First-Out basis. "Pending requirements within each sectoral priority will be fulfilled on the next day to the extent feasible," the order said.

Mandating strict action against violations, it said, "...institutions may be encouraged to temporarily adopt alternative systems, such as: electric induction cooking, steam-based cooking systems, PNG..."

• WHO GETS WHAT

PRIORITY 1

Education institutes, Railways, hospitals, airports

Requirement cap 11%
Daily cylinder consumption 200

Priority 1 sectors will get more cylinders if required

PRIORITY 2

Govt/PSU institutions, depts and canteens operating in their premises

Requirement cap 13%
Daily cylinder consumption 236

PRIORITY 3

Restaurants and eateries

Requirement cap 42%
Daily cylinder consumption 762

PRIORITY 4

Hotels, hospitality units, guest-houses

Requirement cap 4%
Daily cylinder consumption 72

The daily quota will be divided among

58% IOC | 27% BPCL | 15% HPCL



PRIORITY 5

Dairies, bakeries, sweet shops

Requirement cap 11%
Daily cylinder consumption 200

PRIORITY 6

Caterers and banquet halls

Requirement cap 9%
Daily cylinder consumption 162

PRIORITY 7

Dry cleaning, packaging and pharmaceutical units

Requirement cap 1%
Daily cylinder consumption 18

PRIORITY 8

Sports facilities, stadiums and others

Requirement cap 8%
Daily cylinder consumption 150

PRIORITY 2 TO 8

Will get LPG cylinders on First-In-First-Out basis

IGL caps PNG supply for hospitals at 80%

Express News Service
New Delhi, March 14

MAJOR GOVERNMENT hospitals in Delhi have begun taking precautionary measures after Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), earlier this week, announced a 20% reduction in piped natural gas (PNG) supply.

The IGL, in an advisory issued on March 11, has stated that following a communication from GAIL Gas Limited, gas supply to industrial and commercial consumers, including hospitals, has been



Long queue for cooking gas outside Dhruv Gas Service at Jhandewalan in New Delhi on Saturday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

capped at 80% of their average consumption over the last six months. The restriction came into effect at 6 am on March 11.

On Saturday, however, an IGL spokesperson said that PNG supply to hospitals and other essential service establishments in Delhi remained stable and uninterrupted.

Meanwhile, at GTB Hospital, Medical Director Dr Vinod Kumar said preparations were underway to deal with any reduction in PNG supply, including shifting to electric-based kitchen services. "We have

stopped in-house preparation of paneer, reducing the number of vegetable dishes from three to two, and occasionally removing either chapati or rice from meals," he added.

The Delhi State Cancer Institute has set up a 13-member committee to assess the impact of the 80% cap and make necessary arrangements.

Dr Ajay Swarup, chairman of the management board at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "The kitchen staff have been asked to explore electric cooking and other alternatives..."

Requests for new PNG connections in Delhi up by 200% in 2 weeks

Gayathri Mani

New Delhi, March 14

DELHI HAS seen nearly a 200% increase in the number of applications received every day — from 700 to around 1,500 — for new piped natural gas (PNG) connections since the last two weeks as the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States rages in West Asia, according to the Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL).

The IGL is the largest authorised gas distributor in the Capital that provides PNG pipeline and CNG. "On average, IGL receives about 700 to 800 applications for new PNG connections, but over the past two weeks, there has been a significant surge amid the panic over the shortage of LPG supply. We are receiving about 1,200 to 1,500 requests for new PNG connections on a daily basis. The volume of requests at our call centres is thrice compared to before," said an IGL spokesperson.

While the Centre has been encouraging 60 lakh LPG users across the country to switch to PNG for domestic use amid the current crisis, the IGL has also come up with an incentive plan, said officials. People who apply for a new PNG connection before or by March 31 will get Rs 500 off in their first bill. "The offer will also apply to

• Surge in demand for PNG connections

FROM 700 TO 1,500: Sharp spike in daily applications

IGL COMES UP WITH AN OFFER:

Apply for PNG connection on or before March 31, get ₹500 off in your first bill.



CONSUMERS IN CAPITAL:

19 lakh households, 4,500 commercial establishments, 2,000 industrial units

TIMELINE FOR NEW CONNECTION:

15-30 days

those who will activate their connections before March 31. This one-time incentive scheme will be given to both domestic and commercial usage of PNG," said an official.

Across Delhi, there are around 19 lakh households, 4,500-odd commercial establishments and around 2,000 industrial units that have PNG connections. An official said it usually takes around 15-30 days for the installation of a new connection. On Friday, Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma had directed officials to promote PNG connections in areas where the network is available.



No need to import petrol, diesel: Govt

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA has enough capacity to meet the domestic demand, and there is no need to import petrol and diesel as the refineries are working in full capacity, assured the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Saturday. It even urged the people not to go for panic buying.

"Sufficient quantities of petrol and diesel are available and there is no report of dry out. As per the needs of the country, we yield ample quantities of petrol and diesel. That's why there is no need to

import too," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary (Marketing & Oil Refinery), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, during a press conference.

The Ministry also issued an advisory asking people not to take or store fuel in loose or inappropriate containers, as it poses serious safety risks. It has come to notice that in a pump in Tamil Nadu, petrol was reportedly being dispensed in a loose container at a retail outlet, which violates safety norms.

Petrol and diesel prices in India remained unchanged despite global crude oil mar-

kets continuing to witness sharp volatility. Recent volatility in crude oil prices has been linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, with concerns growing over potential supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route.

Even oil companies like IOCL confirmed a couple of days ago that fuel supply across the country remains uninterrupted and assured that all its fuel stations nationwide are fully operational and adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products are available.

Govt clamps down on LPG refills for piped gas users

'Cannot Keep Both, Surrender Gas Cylinders'

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amid pressure on domestic LPG supply, govt on Saturday clamped down on consumers keeping both piped cooking gas and LPG connections and directed them to surrender the latter.

It also said consumers having PNG connections will not be allowed to take refills of domestic LPG from any public sector oil company. Though the exact number of consumers having both PNG and LPG connections was not known, officials said the figure could be substantial.

Govt issued a gazette notification on Saturday under the Essential Commodities Act and amended the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order by including these clauses. It has also issued directions to oil companies declaring supplying of domestic



A worker loading gas cylinders in a truck in Vijayawada on Saturday

LPG cylinder refills to consumers already owning PNG as a "prohibited activity".

Petroleum ministry officials said despite ensuring the supply for domestic consumers, panic booking for refills had increased by nearly 60%, from 55.7 lakh in Feb to 88.8 lakh on March 13, forcing govt to take some immediate measures.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum ministry, said though the supply of LPG was still an "issue of concern", govt's highest priority is to ensure an uninterrupted supply of cooking gas cylin-

ders to domestic consumers, educational institutions and hospitals. While govt is tapping new geographies to purchase LPG, Sharma said the refineries had ramped up domestic production by 31%.

Sharma said the PSU oil companies had been asked to promote digital LPG bookings and urged consumers not to visit dealerships. While 84% people were booking their refills online, officials said visiting the dealership was just adding to the queues.

"LPG cylinders can be booked easily through digital platforms such as IVRS calls,

SMS, WhatsApp and mobile applications of the oil marketing companies. Consumers are advised to book cylinders from home and avoid visiting LPG distributors unnecessarily," Sharma said, adding that the IVRS system of one OMC was malfunctioning, which has now been set right.

The officer again asked domestic and commercial consumers to switch to PNG. Piped gas is available in 307 geographical areas across the country. To encourage people, Indraprastha Gas Limited in Delhi said domestic consumers activating their dormant PNG connections or getting a new one by March 31 will be given a waiver of Rs 500 in their first bill.

Officials said the company had doubled its capacity of giving new connections, from 700-800 a day to 1,500 daily. They confirmed that queries for PNG connections in the capital had increased "3-4 times" in just two days.

To prevent black marketing and hoarding, teams of the food and civil supplies departments of respective states and OMCs were conducting raids and taking action.



No disruption in PNG supply to hospitals, says IGL

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) on Saturday clarified that piped natural gas (PNG) supply to hospitals has not been stopped and no disruption is expected.

The company said the advisory issued was only a precautionary step in view of uncertainties in global LNG supply and did not indicate any halt in gas supply.

A report published in The Times of India on March 14, "PNG Supply may be hit, IGL asks hosps to be ready", was based on the advisory issued by the company and the arrangements that hospital authorities we-

re contemplating in case of a disruption. The story nowhere said that the supply had been stopped or disrupted in any manner.

In an advisory issued on March 9, the company stated: "While IGL is undertaking all reasonable efforts to maintain uninterrupted PNG supply to you, we recommend maintaining adequate alternate fuel arrangements as a contingency, as per clause 2.1 of the Gas Sale Agreement."

In a statement sent to **TOI** on Saturday, IGL said that it continues to coordinate with suppliers to manage gas availability and ensure supply for all essential services, including hospitals.

The Lessons to Learn from Icmic and Induction Cookers

FOOD FABLES



VIKRAM DOCTOR

The Icmic cooker was probably invented in Calcutta by Indumadhav Mallik, a Bengali polymath. It is a large tiffin-carrier placed inside a larger, double-walled cylinder with a charcoal stove below and a pointed lid on top, making it look like a ramshackle rocket. The outer cylinder is half filled with water and stove lit, so that steam rises to condense and be heated again.

The Icmic cooker has been called an early pressure cooker, but the steam never gets compressed, so it is more of a slow cooker. It is usually started early in the day, with different foods in the tiffin compartments — rice, dal, meats — all slowly cooking for lunch. The food usually got mushy, and the key is to use recipes where this works.

In *Parsi Kitchen*, Anahita Dhondy writes that one such cooker is still used in her nani's house in Allahabad: "In four hours, everything is cooked perfectly, and the *dhansak* is infused with a smoky aroma."

When I first wrote about Icmic cookers in 2012, I was flooded with responses from readers who remembered or still used them. There was also a shop in Kolkata that made or repaired them. Since then, the shop seems to have closed, and when my friend Anumitra Ghosh Dastidar wanted an



PICS: GETTY IMAGES

While using an induction cooker, the absence of a visible flame, is disconcerting. Cooks must adapt hand movements, since the utensil can't be moved

Icmic cooker, she had to really hunt to have one made. But now, when the LPG crisis broke out, Anumitra told me triumphantly that she was using the cooker to prepare staff meals in Bento Bento, her Bengaluru restaurant.

Anumitra is an evangelist for diversity of all kinds, in the kitchen. She cooks with many heirloom rice varieties, prioritises less-used fish and vegetables and insists that her staff learn how to cook with different fuel sources — wood, coal, LPG, rice cookers, induction, even cow-dung on a

traditional *choola*.

Anumitra was as little perturbed by the LPG crunch as the villagers near Udaipur who are close to another friend, who reported that they were laughing at the panic in the cities. These villagers used LPG mainly for chai, but made and used cow-dung cakes, not only to cook the grain mash given to the buffaloes, but also for the special taste they gave *rotis* or *batis*, the hearty wheat dumplings that are a cornerstone of Rajasthani food.

The big beneficiary today



Induction cooking



The Icmic cooker

seems likely to be induction cooking. As it happens, the first attempts to use the heat-inducing power of magnetic fields for cooking also happened around the time the Icmic cooker was created. British and German patents were filed in 1906 and 1909 respectively, but it was only in the 1950s that General Motors created a demonstration stove, though it was never launched commercially. As we see now, fuel shocks can spur energy innovation, and the next step towards developing induction cookers took place during the oil crisis of the 1970s. But it was only in the early 2000s that they became easily available.

One hurdle may be psychological. The absence of a visible flame, or even a heat element is disconcerting. Cooks must adapt hand movements, since the utensil can't be moved from the induction top. But these adjustments aren't hard, and are made up for by its energy efficiency, precision cooking and safety of use. Induction cooking has long been used, for these reasons, by caterers or outlets in places, such as airports, where open flames are discouraged. Large professional kitchens often place them on the 'cold sides' where pastry work is carried out, and a heating source that doesn't affect ambient temperature is appreciated.

Induction cookers might now become common, but it would be a mistake to depend on them, just as we seem to have been pushed, for what looks like political purposes, to depend on LPG.

The lesson to be learned from this crisis is that we must maintain a diversity of cooking options. Perhaps Kolkata could take a lead by proudly resurrecting the Icmic cooker.



एलपीजी जहाजों ने होर्मुज को सुरक्षित पार किया

■ नई दिल्ली। खाड़ी देशों से एलपीजी लेकर आ रहे दो भारतीय जहाजों ने शनिवार सुबह युद्ध प्रभावित होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को सुरक्षित रूप से पार कर लिया। इसके साथ ही होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को पार करने वाले भारतीय ध्वज वाले जहाजों की संख्या तीन हो गई है। जहाजगनी मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी। जलडमरूमध्य के पश्चिमी हिस्से में बचे हुए 22 जहाज प्रतीक्षा में हैं, क्योंकि भारत सरकार उनकी सुरक्षित आवाजाही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्षेत्र की सरकारों के साथ बातचीत कर रही है। जहाजगनी मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने संवाददाता सम्मेलन में बताया कि एलपीजी ला रहे जहाज शिवालिक और नंदा देवी अब गुजरात के मुंद्रा और कांडला बंदरगाहों की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।

लंबा सफर करके आपके घर तक पहुंचती है गैस

जंग के बीच होर्मुज की खाड़ी से होते हुए गैस से भरे हुए दो टैंकर जल्द भारत आने वाले हैं। ऐसे में आपके जहन में सवाल होगा कि गैस कैसे भारत आती है और किस तरह यह आपके घर तक पहुंचती है। इसके प्रमुख तीन चरण हैं...



गैस का आयात



- भारत अपनी जरूरत की लगभग 50 फीसदी गैस दूसरे देशों (जैसे कतर, यूएई, अमेरिका) से मंगाता है।
- गैस को अत्यधिक ठंडा करके तरल रूप (एलएनजी यानी लिक्विड नेचुरल गैस) में बदला जाता है ताकि उसे टैंकरों में भरा जा सके।
- होर्मुज की खाड़ी जैसे रास्तों से होते हुए ये विशाल जहाज भारत के पश्चिमी तट (दाहज, हजीरा) या पूर्वी तट पर मौजूद एलएनजी टर्मिनल्स पर पहुंचते हैं।

री-गैसीफिकेशन



- एलएनजी टर्मिनल पर उतरने के बाद गैस को फिर से गैसीय अवस्था में बदला जाता है।
- यहां से गैल जैसी कंपनियां हजारों किलोमीटर लंबी पाइपलाइनों के जरिए गैस को पूरे देश में पंप करती हैं।
- पाइपलाइन से गैस खाद कारखानों, बिजली घरों और रिफाइनरियों तक पहुंचती है।

आपके घर और गाड़ी तक



- पीएनजी पाइपों के जरिए सीधे आपकी रसोई के चूल्हे तक पहुंचती है। यह एलपीजी के मुकाबले सुरक्षित और सस्ती मानी जाती है।
- सीएनजी जैसी प्राकृतिक गैस को हाई प्रेशर पर दबाकर पंपों पर भेजा जाता है, जहां से यह वाहनों में भरी जाती है।
- एलपीजी, यह प्राकृतिक गैस नहीं बल्कि कच्चे तेल की रिफाइनिंग के दौरान निकलने वाली गैस है। इसे बॉटलिंग प्लांट में सिलेंडरो में भरकर ट्रकों के जरिए आपके घर तक पहुंचाया जाता है।

अफरातफरी

ई दिल्ली/ लखनऊ/ पटना/ रांची/ देहरादून, हिब्यू। मध्य पूर्व देशों में बढ़ते तनाव ने रसोई का बजट और सुकून दोनों बिगाड़ दिया है। एलपीजी को लेकर देश के कई शहरों में गैस एजेंसियों पर अचानक भीड़ बढ़ गई है। यूपी, बिहार, झारखंड और उत्तराखंड में सिलेंडर को लेकर मारामारी है। यूपी में उद्योगों पर असर पर असर पड़ा है। बिहार में सिलेंडर नहीं मिलने से बेस किचन प्रभावित हुआ है। उत्तराखंड में कई पेट्रोल पंप प्रभावित हुए हैं। झारखंड में प्लास्टिक निर्मित उत्पाद और ड्राई फ्रूट्स की बढ़ गई कीमतें हैं।

यूपी-बिहार, झारखंड और उत्तराखंड में गैस की मारामारी

यूपी : मेडिकल उपकरणों और फुटवियर के दाम बढ़े

लखनऊ। ईरान-इजरायल-अमेरिका संघर्ष की वजह से एलपीजी संकट गहराता जा रहा है। बरेली और बदायूं में घरेलू सिलेंडर न मिलने से हंगामा हुआ। दूसरी ओर सूबे के कई शहरों में उद्योग बंदी के कगार पर पहुंच गए हैं। फिरोजाबाद में काच की चूड़ियों की खनक सुनाई नहीं दे रही, कानपुर में भी औद्योगिक इकाइयां ठप हो रही हैं। वहीं, सप्लाई चैन बाधित होने से मेडिकल उपकरणों और फुटवियर के दाम भी आसमान छूने लगे हैं।

बिहार: स्टील और फूड प्रोसेसिंग उद्योग ठप हुआ

पटना। पटना सिटी के प्लास्टिक और इससे संबंधित उद्योग व फैक्ट्रियां बंद होने के कगार पर हैं। वहीं, फतुहा में स्टील उद्योग भी प्रभावित हुआ है। मुजफ्फरपुर में दो दिन के अंदर पाइप, कार्टन, आलमीरा निर्माण और फूड प्रोसेसिंग की 27 फैक्ट्रियां बंद हो गईं। वहीं, आईआरसीटीसी द्वारा मुजफ्फरपुर में संचालित बेस किचन में अब सिर्फ 20 प्रतिशत ही गैस का स्टॉक बचा है। वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था नहीं की गई तो तीन दिन में बेस किचन में यात्रियों को लिए भोजन तैयार होना बंद हो जाएगा।



झारखंड: प्लास्टिक निर्मित उत्पाद, ड्राई फ्रूट्स महंगे हुए

रांची। मध्यपूर्व में जंग का असर अब झारखंड के बाजार में दिखने लगा है। यहां ड्राई फ्रूट्स की कीमतों में चार से 12 प्रतिशत तक की बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई है। वहीं पॉलीमर महंगा होने से प्लास्टिक उत्पादों की कीमतों में भी इजाजा शुरू हो गया है। पानी की टकी, प्लास्टिक बाल्टी, मग और जग जैसे सामान महंगे होने लगे हैं। रांची में प्लास्टिक टंकी निर्माण कंपनी के मालिक दीपक मारु के अनुसार पानी की टंकी के दाम में करीब सवा रुपये प्रति लीटर तक बढ़ोतरी करनी पड़ी है। प्लास्टिक उद्योग से जुड़े उद्यमियों के अनुसार कर्पणियों को रॉ मटेरियल प्लास्टिक ग्रेन्यूल्स पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं मिल रहा है।

उत्तराखंड : आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों में उबले अंडे ही दे रहे

देहरादून। उत्तराखंड में गहराते रसोई गैस संकट का असर अब आम घरों से निकलकर स्कूलों, अस्पतालों, जेलों और बाजार तक पहुंच गया है। आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों में अब बच्चों को उबले अंडों की जगह कच्चे अंडे घर ले जाने के लिए दिए जा रहे हैं, जबकि खिचड़ी भी 30 दिनों की बजाय केवल 15 दिन ही मिल पाएगी। मेडिकल कॉलेजों के पीजी हॉस्टलों में भी मेन्यू में कटौती कर दी गई है। वहीं, मुनस्यारी के ग्रामीण इलाकों में दौड़ने वाले वाहनों के पहिए पेट्रोल-डीजल की कमी से थम गए हैं। नगर में दूसरे दिन यानी शनिवार को एकमात्र पंप पर लोगों को पेट्रोल-डीजल नहीं मिला। दो दिन से ईंधन की सप्लाई बाधित होने से वाहन चालक परेशान हैं।



चेन्नई का एक रेस्टोरेंट महंगी गैस के लिए अलग से शुल्क ले रहा है। खास बात ये है कि रेस्टोरेंट ने अपने बिल में भी लिखा है। यह बिल आईटी कंपनी में काम करने वाले एक शाख ने अपने सहकर्मियों से शेयर किया। सोशल मीडिया

पीएनजी कनेक्शन वालों को नहीं मिलेगा एलपीजी सिलेंडर

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 14 मार्च।

रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) सिलेंडर के लिए देश भर में मची मारामारी के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने शनिवार को एलपीजी की आपूर्ति को बेहतर करने के लिए एक बड़ा निर्णय किया है।

सरकार की ओर से कहा गया है कि पाइपड प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) के उपभोक्ता अब



एलपीजी सिलेंडर नहीं ले पाएंगे। सरकार ने इस संबंध में एक गजट अधिसूचना जारी की है।

सरकार ने इस संबंध में एक गजट अधिसूचना जारी की है। अधिसूचना के मुताबिक सरकार ने तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण का विनियमन) आदेश 2026 जारी किया है। इसके तहत पीएनजी और घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन रखने वाले कोई भी व्यक्ति एलपीजी कनेक्शन नहीं रखेगा।

अधिसूचना के मुताबिक सरकार ने तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण का विनियमन) आदेश 2026 जारी किया है।

इसके तहत पीएनजी और घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन रखने वाला कोई भी व्यक्ति एलपीजी कनेक्शन नहीं रखेगा। उसे किसी भी सरकार तेल कंपनी या उनके वितरकों के माध्यम से घरेलू सिलेंडर का रिफिल प्राप्त नहीं होगा। ऐसे लोगों को अपना एलपीजी कनेक्शन तुरंत वापस देना होगा।

युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद कच्चे तेल की कीमतें 40% बढ़ीं

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। अमेरिका, इजरायल और ईरान के बीच चल रहे युद्ध के कारण अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में सिर्फ 15 दिनों में 40 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा की वृद्धि हुई है।

युद्ध शुरू होने से पहले, 27 फरवरी को अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों में कच्चे तेल की कीमतें लगभग 73 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर कारोबार कर रही थीं। हालांकि, शनिवार तक, कीमतें तेजी से बढ़कर लगभग 103 डॉलर प्रति बैरल हो गईं। 73 डॉलर से 103 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक की यह बढ़ोतरी लगभग 41.1 प्रतिशत है।

हैदराबाद में सूखे में सूखे मेवों की कीमतें 40 फीसदी बढ़ीं : हैदराबाद में सूखे मेवों की कीमतें लगभग 30-40 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई हैं, क्योंकि पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनाव के कारण सप्लाई बाधित हो गई है। इससे अफगानिस्तान, ईरान, तुर्की और मध्य पूर्व के कुछ हिस्सों जैसे प्रमुख उत्पादक क्षेत्रों से होने वाले आयात पर असर पड़ा है। शहर के व्यापारियों का कहना है अब परिवहन लागत बढ़ गई है।

सख्ती बढ़ी | पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने लिया फैसला, किसी के पास अगर दोनों कनेक्शन हैं तो उसे एलपीजी कनेक्शन तुरंत सरेंडर करना होगा

पीएनजी कनेक्शन वालों को एलपीजी सिलेंडर नहीं दिया जाएगा

नया नियम

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने घरेलू रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) को सप्लाई को लेकर बड़ा फैसला लिया है। नए नियमों के तहत अब जिन घरों में पहले से पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) कनेक्शन मौजूद है, उन्हें घरेलू एलपीजी सिलेंडर उपलब्ध नहीं कराया जाएगा।

एलपीजी कनेक्शन सरेंडर करना होगा: यदि किसी उपभोक्ता के पास पीएनजी और एलपीजी दोनों कनेक्शन हैं, तो उन्हें अपना एलपीजी कनेक्शन

तुरंत सरेंडर करना होगा। यह फैसला शनिवार को जारी अधिसूचना के माध्यम से लागू किया गया है और यह तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू हो गया है। मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी गजट अधिसूचना में तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण का विनियमन) आदेश, 2000 में संशोधन किया गया है। नए प्रावधानों के अनुसार पीएनजी कनेक्शन रखने वाला कोई भी व्यक्ति नया घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन नहीं ले सकेगा।

पीएनजी और एलपीजी दोनों रखने वाले उपभोक्ता एलपीजी सिलेंडर का रिफिल नहीं प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। ऐसे उपभोक्ताओं को एलपीजी कनेक्शन

सरेंडर करना अनिवार्य होगा। सरकारी तेल कंपनियों (आईओसीएल, बीपीसीएल, एचपीसीएल) और उनके वितरक ऐसे घरों में एलपीजी प्रदान नहीं कर सकेंगे।

जरूरतमंद परिवारों तक पहुंचे: सरकार का उद्देश्य है कि एलपीजी की सीमित आपूर्ति बेहतर तरीके से प्रबंधित हो और उन जरूरतमंद परिवारों तक सिलेंडर पहुंचे, जिनके पास पीएनजी जैसा विकल्प नहीं है। पीएनजी मुख्य रूप से शहरी क्षेत्रों में उपलब्ध है, जहां पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से सस्ती और पर्यावरण-अनुकूल गैस मिलती है। वहीं ग्रामीण और छोटे शहरों में अभी



भी एलपीजी ही मुख्य ईंधन है। इस बदलाव से पीएनजी वाले क्षेत्रों में एलपीजी की मांग कम होगी, जिससे ग्रामीण उपभोक्ताओं के लिए सस्ती वाली सिलेंडर की उपलब्धता बढ़ेगी।

झंडेवालान इलाके में शनिवार को सिलेंडर लेने के लिए भारी भीड़ दिखाई दी। इस दौरान दो महिलाएं सिलेंडर ले जाती हुई। कई लोगों को बुकिंग के बावजूद सिलेंडर नहीं मिल पाया। • सोनू मेहता

एक घर एक ईंधन

यह कदम 'एक घर-एक ईंधन' नीति की दिशा में भी माना जा रहा है। पहले भी सरकार ने दोहरे कनेक्शन पर रोक लगाने की कोशिश की थी, लेकिन अब यह नियम स्पष्ट और सख्त रूप से लागू किया गया है। उपभोक्ताओं को सलाह दी गई है कि यदि उनके पास दोनों कनेक्शन हैं, तो वे तुरंत नजदीकी एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर या कंपनी के पोर्टल पर जाकर कनेक्शन सरेंडर करें। सरेंडर करने पर कोई जुर्माना नहीं लगेगा, लेकिन नियम तोड़ने पर कानूनी कार्रवाई हो सकती है।

दो भारतीय जहाज होर्मुज से निकले बाकी 22 को निकालने की कोशिश

राहत : 92,700 टन एलपीजी ला रहे शिवालिक और नंदा देवी टैंकर

नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष के बीच खाड़ी देशों से घरेलू रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) लेकर भारतीय ध्वज वाले दो जहाज शनिवार तड़के होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से सुरक्षित निकल गए। जलडमरूमध्य के पश्चिमी हिस्से में फारस की खाड़ी में 22 जहाज अब भी फंसे हुए हैं, जिनकी सुरक्षित निकासी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार बातचीत कर रही है। इस बीच, 29 राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में पांच दिनों बाद व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलिंडरों की बिक्री भी शुरू कर दी गई है। साथ ही, कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए तेजी से छापे भी मारे जा रहे हैं।

जहाजरानी मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में बताया कि भारतीय जहाजरानी निगम (एससीआई) के शिवालिक और नंदा देवी नामक दो टैंकर 92,700 टन एलपीजी लेकर गुजरात की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं। शिवालिक के 16 मार्च को मुंद्रा और नंदा देवी के 17 मार्च को कांडला बंदरगाह पहुंचने की संभावना है। अमेरिका-इस्राइल और ईरान के बीच 28 फरवरी को शुरू हुए युद्ध के बाद से होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के पश्चिमी



शिवालिक और नंदा देवी जहाज (कड़म)

व्यावसायिक सिलिंडर की बिक्री फिर शुरू पीएनजी वालों को एलपीजी सिलिंडर नहीं...कनेक्शन तत्काल वापस करें

सरकार ने प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) कनेक्शन वाले उपभोक्ताओं को घरेलू एलपीजी सिलिंडर रखने, प्राप्त करने या रिफिल करने से रोक दिया है। साथ ही, ऐसे व्यक्तियों जिनके पास दोनों के कनेक्शन हैं, उनसे एलपीजी कनेक्शन तत्काल वापस करने का आदेश दिया है।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने बताया, देश में पर्याप्त एलपीजी है। घबराहट में बुकिंग करने की जरूरत नहीं है।

सुजाता ने बताया, भारत के पास पर्याप्त कच्चा तेल है और घरेलू रिफाइनरियां पूरी क्षमता के साथ काम कर रही हैं। पेट्रोल व डीजल को देश में कोई कमी नहीं है।

ईरान में फंसे 70 भारतीय छात्र आज पहुंचेंगे दिल्ली : पेज 18

हिस्से में फंसे 24 जहाजों में ये दोनों भी शामिल थे। सिन्हा ने बताया कि फारस की खाड़ी में फंसे शेष 22 जहाजों पर सवार कुल 611 नाविक सुरक्षित हैं। वहीं, होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के पूर्वी हिस्से में फंसे तीन जहाजों पर 76 नाविक

सवार हैं। विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रणधीर जायसवाल ने बताया, खाड़ी क्षेत्र में फंसे जहाजों के लिए सुरक्षित और निर्बाध आवागमन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हम सभी संबंधित देशों के साथ संपर्क में हैं। ब्यूरो

‘वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी की बिक्री शुरू, भंडारण पर्याप्त’

नयी दिल्ली, 14 मार्च (ट्रिब्यून)

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को कहा कि देश के 29 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर का वितरण शुरू हो गया है। गौतमजलि शर्मा साथ ही, रसोई (पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय) गैस की संयुक्त सचिव) जमाखोरी और



कालाबाजारी को रोकने के लिए देशभर में छापेमारी और औचक निरीक्षण तेज कर दिए गए हैं। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि घरेलू उपयोग के लिए रसोई गैस का पर्याप्त भंडार उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद घबराहट में बुकिंग लगातार बढ़ रही है। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि भारत के पास पर्याप्त कच्चा तेल भंडार है और घरेलू रिफाइनरियां पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही हैं, जिससे देश भर में पेट्रोल और डीजल की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित हो रही है।

जिन घरों में गैस पाइप उन्हें नहीं मिलेगा सिलेंडर

देश में घबराहट में की जा रही रसोई गैस सिलेंडर की बुकिंग के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने बड़ा कदम उठाते हुए शनिवार को उन घरों के लिए घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन पर रोक लगा दी है, जिनके पास पहले से पाइप वाली नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) की सप्लाई है। अब ऐसे वाहकों को अपना एलपीजी कनेक्शन तुरंत सरेडर करना होगा। ऐसे वाहकों को सरकारी तेल कंपनियों या उनके डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स से घरेलू एलपीजी सिलेंडरों के रिफिल लेने की इजाजत नहीं होगी। यह फैसला सरकार द्वारा गठित समिति द्वारा हितधारकों और राज्य सरकारों के साथ बतर्बात करने और कुछ क्षेत्रों के लिए कमर्शियल एलपीजी सप्लाई बहाल करने का निर्णय लेने के बाद लिया गया। इस कदम से कई उद्योगों, विशेष रूप से होस्टल-लिट्टी क्षेत्र पर बोझ कम होने की उम्मीद है, जो एलपीजी की कमी से प्रभावित हुआ है।

खार्ग द्वीप पर सैन्य ठिकानों पर की बमबारी : ट्रंप

दुबई : अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा कि अमेरिका ने ईरान के तेल नेटवर्क के लिए खार्ग द्वीप पर स्थित सैन्य ठिकानों को नष्ट कर दिया। साथ ही चेतावनी दी कि अगर ईरान होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से जहाजों के आवागमन में हस्तक्षेप करना जारी रखता है तो इसके बाद उसके तेल इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को निशाना बनया जाएगा।

उन्होंने बताया कि युद्ध शुरू होने से पहले एलपीजी सिलेंडर की दैनिक बुकिंग लगभग 55 लाख थी। शुक्रवार को यह आंकड़ा बढ़कर लगभग 75 लाख था और आज बढ़कर 88 लाख तक पहुंच गया। उन्होंने उपभोक्ताओं से केवल आवश्यकता होने पर ही सिलेंडर बुक करने का आग्रह किया। बुकिंग नियमों को स्पष्ट करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि शहरी क्षेत्रों में पिछली डिलीवरी और अगली बुकिंग के बीच न्यूनतम 25 दिन और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 45 दिन का अंतर होना अनिवार्य है।

एलपीजी लेकर भारत आ रहे दो जहाजों ने पार किया होर्मुज स्ट्रेट



खाड़ी देशों से एलपीजी लेकर आ रहे भारतीय ध्वज वाले दो जहाज शनिवार सुबह युद्ध प्रभावित होर्मुज स्ट्रेट को सुरक्षित पार कर गए। जहाजरानी मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने बताया कि एलपीजी ला रहे जहाज 'शिवालिक' और 'नंद देवी' अब गुजरात के मुंद्रा और कांडल बंदरगाहों की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि ये जहाज 92,700 टन एलपीजी ला रहे हैं और इनके 16-17 मार्च को भारतीय बंदरगाहों पर पहुंचने की संभावना है। ये दोनों जहाज होर्मुज स्ट्रेट के पश्चिम किनारे पर फसे हुए थे।

अमेरिका अब रूसी तेल खरीदने के लिए गुहार लगा रहा : ईरान ईरान के विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अरघवी ने कहा कि रूस से तेल आयात बढ़ करने के लिए दबाव डालने के बाद अमेरिका अब फिर से रूसी तेल खरीदने की गुहार लगा रहा है।

बगदाद में अमेरिकी दूतावास में हेलीपैड पर हमला हुआ

इराक की राजधानी बगदाद में अमेरिकी दूतावास परिसर के भीतर एक हेलीपैड पर मिसाइल से हमला हुआ। फुटेज में दूतावास परिसर के ऊपर धुंए का गुबार उठता दिखाई दे रहा है।

इस्राइल-लेबनान में वार्ता की मेजबानी के लिए तैयार : फ्रांस

फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों ने कहा कि लेबनानी नेता इस्राइल के साथ सीधी वार्ता करने को तैयार हैं। मैक्रों ने कहा कि इस अवसर का लाभ उठाना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि फ्रांस वार्ता की मेजबानी के लिए तैयार है। लेबनान और इस्राइल 1948 से ही युद्धरत हैं।

नया आदेश : पीएनजी कनेक्शन वाले LPG सिलेंडर नहीं ले पाएंगे

मास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

देश में पाइपलाइन से गैस (पीएनजी) लेने वाले उपभोक्ताओं को घरेलू एलपीजी सिलेंडर रखने, लेने और फिर से भरवाने पर रोक लगा दी गई है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को संशोधित आदेश जारी किया है। इसके मुताबिक, सरकारी तेल कंपनियों को उन उपभोक्ताओं को एलपीजी कनेक्शन या रिफिल देने से रोकना है, जिनके पास पहले से पीएनजी कनेक्शन है। यही नहीं, उपभोक्ता अब पीएनजी और एलपीजी दोनों कनेक्शन नहीं रख सकेंगे। पीएनजी उपभोक्ताओं को अपना घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन वापस करना होगा। **कमर्शियल एलपीजी की बिक्री शुरू:** इस बीच, 29 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में कमर्शियल एलपीजी सिलेंडर का वितरण शुरू हो गया है।

- शेष पृष्ठ 14 पर

नया आदेश : पीएनजी कनेक्शन..

खाना फकाने वाली गैस की सप्लाई पर बढ़ते दबाव के बीच जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए छापे भी मारे जा रहे हैं। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय को संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि पैनल बुकिंग लगातार बढ़ रही है। शुक्रवार को 75 लाख बुकिंग थी, जो अब बढ़कर लगभग 88 लाख हो गई है। हालांकि किसी भी रिटेल आउटलेट से स्टॉक खत्म होने की रिपोर्ट नहीं है। युद्ध से पहले रोज लगभग 55 लाख बुकिंग और 50 लाख सिलेंडरों की डिलीवरी होती थी। शर्मा के मुताबिक, शहरी इलाकों में, पिछली डिलीवरी और अगली बुकिंग के बीच अंतर 25 दिन है। ग्रामीण इलाकों में यह 45 दिन है। अगर इस समय सोमा से पहले बुकिंग की कोशिश करते हैं, तो बुकिंग नहीं हो पाएगी।

पीएनजी कनेक्शन वालों को नहीं मिलेगा एलपीजी सिलेंडर

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 14 मार्च।

रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) सिलेंडर के लिए देश भर में मची मारामारी के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने शनिवार को एलपीजी की आपूर्ति को बेहतर करने के लिए एक बड़ा निर्णय किया है।

सरकार की ओर से कहा गया है कि पाइपड प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) के उपभोक्ता अब



एलपीजी सिलेंडर नहीं ले पाएंगे। सरकार ने इस संबंध में एक गजट अधिसूचना जारी की है।

सरकार ने इस संबंध में एक गजट अधिसूचना जारी की है। अधिसूचना के मुताबिक सरकार ने तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण का विनियमन) आदेश 2026 जारी किया है। इसके तहत पीएनजी और घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन रखने वाले कोई भी व्यक्ति एलपीजी कनेक्शन नहीं रखेगा।

अधिसूचना के मुताबिक सरकार ने तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण का विनियमन) आदेश 2026 जारी किया है।

इसके तहत पीएनजी और घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन रखने वाला कोई भी व्यक्ति एलपीजी कनेक्शन नहीं रखेगा। उसे किसी भी सरकार तेल कंपनी या उनके वितरकों के माध्यम से घरेलू सिलेंडर का रिफिल प्राप्त नहीं होगा। ऐसे लोगों को अपना एलपीजी कनेक्शन तुरंत वापस देना होगा।

व्यवधान के बीच निर्भरता समाप्त करना नहीं, व्यवस्था बनाए रखना बड़ी चुनौती, संकट से निपटने के लिए दीर्घकालीन ऊर्जा रणनीति को बनाना होगा मजबूत

भारत ने कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति के लिए 40 देशों तक बढ़ाया नेटवर्क

■ एक आपूर्तिकर्ता या क्षेत्र पर निर्भरता कम

आज समाज नेटवर्क

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिका और इजराइल द्वारा इरान के खिलाफ 28 फरवरी, 2026 को शुरू किए गए ऑपरेशन एफिक फ्यूरी (समन्वित सैन्य अभियान) ने विश्व ऊर्जा कीमतों पर व्यापक प्रभाव डाला है जिससे कुछ दिन पहले कच्चे तेल की कीमतें 120 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच गईं। तब से लेकर कीमतें अस्थिर बनी हुई हैं जिससे पूरा ऊर्जा बाजार तनाव में है।

वैश्विक चिंता के केंद्र में होमुंज जलडमरूमध्य है जो विश्व का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चोकपाइंट है।

बता दें कि यहीं से होकर वैश्विक कच्चे तेल का लगभग 5वां हिस्सा गुजरता है। होमुंज जलडमरूमध्य भारत की ऊर्जा आपूर्ति के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है लेकिन फिलहाल स्थिति नियंत्रण में दिख रही है। पिछले 11 वर्षों में भारत सरकार सक्रिय रूप से अपने ऊर्जा आयात के स्रोतों में विविधता लाई है।

सरकार ने अपने ऊर्जा स्रोतों के मिश्रण को बदलने के लिए भी काम किया है और घरेलू स्तर पर उत्पादित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को भी बढ़ावा दिया है। भारत होमुंज जलडमरूमध्य के



संकट से उत्पन्न उथल-पुथल से अपेक्षाकृत अछूता रहा है। इसके विपरीत, अन्य देश काफी संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। जापान सबसे कमजोर अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक बन गया है।

गैस पर निर्भर ब्रिटेन में भी कीमतों में तत्काल वृद्धि देखी गई है। मिस्र और तुर्की जैसे देश नए मुद्रास्फीति दबकों का सामना कर रहे हैं। सिंगापुर बिजली और पेट्रोल की कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि से

जूझ रहा है, जबकि दक्षिण कोरिया ने तेल की कीमतों में उछाल के बीच अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था को स्थिर करने के लिए लगभग 3 दशकों में पहली बार ईंधन की कीमतों पर सीमा लगा दी है इसलिए मौजूदा संकट एक महत्वपूर्ण सबक है। भारत का आज का सापेक्षक लचीलापन कोई संशय नहीं है।

यह पिछले दशक में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में ऊर्जा स्रोतों में विविधता लाने और घरेलू क्षमता को मजबूत करने के लिए किए गए सुनियोजित नीतिगत निर्णयों का परिणाम है। आज की परस्पर जुड़ी दुनिया में कोई भी देश ऊर्जा के मामले में पूरी तरह आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हो सकता।

दो LPG टैंकर होर्मुज से निकले, जल्द पहुंचेंगे भारत

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

भारत के दो एलपीजी टैंकरों ने होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पार कर लिया है। वो सुरक्षित रूप से देश की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं। पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष को लेकर सरकार की ओर से जारी क्रीफिंग में शनिवार को जहाजरानी मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने बताया कि फारस की खाड़ी में हमारे जहाज सुरक्षित हैं। बीते 24 घंटे में शिवालिक और नंदा देवी नाम के एलपीजी टैंकरों ने शनिवार सुबह होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पार किया। 92,700 हजार मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी ला रहे थे जहाज भारत की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं। शिवालिक 16 मार्च को मुंद्रा बंदरगाह और नंदा देवी 17 मार्च को कांडला पहुंचेगा। फारस की खाड़ी में अब 22 भारतीय ध्वजवाहक जहाज हैं, जिनमें 611 नाविक सवार हैं। सरकार उनकी स्थिति की निगरानी कर रही है। पिछले 24 घंटों में डीजी शिपिंग के कंट्रोल रूम में 312 फोन आए हैं। ये नाविकों और उनके परिवारों की ओर से किए गए। पिछले 15 दिनों में ढाई हजार फोन कॉल और पांच हजार ईमेल मिले हैं, जिनका समाधान किया गया है। क्रीफिंग में बताया गया कि पिछले 24 घंटों में 30 नाविक खाड़ी देशों के कई एयरपोर्ट्स से लौटे हैं। अब तक कुल 253 नाविकों को वापस लाने में कामयाबी मिली है।



92,700

मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी लेकर आ रहे हैं शिवालिक और नंदा देवी टैंकर

22 भारतीय ध्वजवाहक जहाज है फारस की खाड़ी में अब, जिनमें 611 नाविक सवार

30 नाविक खाड़ी देशों से लौटे 24 घंटों में, सरकार की ओर से क्रीफिंग में दी गई जानकारी

लगातार लंबी होती जा रही हैं कतारें

पीटीआई, भोपाल/लखनऊ/कोलकाता : कमर्शल एलपीजी सिलिंडर की किल्लत से अमरा में गैस आधारित पेठा इकाइयां करीब-करीब बंदी के कगार पहुंच गई हैं। इससे जुड़े लोगों ने शनिवार को यह दावा किया। उधर, बंगाल में एलपीजी वितरण केंद्रों पर शनिवार को लंबी कतारें देखी गईं। सुबह से ही कोलकाता, दक्षिण 24 परगना और उत्तर 24 परगना जिलों में कई स्थानों पर एलपीजी वितरण केंद्रों के बाहर लोगो की भारी भीड़ नजर आई। मुंबई और पटना समेत देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में ऐसी ही कतारें लग रही हैं। वहीं, केरल में बड़े पैमाने पर रेस्टोरेंट और होटल बंद होने की नौबत आ गई है। ऐसे में प्रवासी श्रमिक ईद और कुछ राज्यों में विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले ही घर लौटने लगे हैं।

बयानबाजी तेज

NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली : बीजेपी नेता शाहनवाज हुसैन ने कहा कि कांग्रेस देश को बदनाम करने का कोई मौका नहीं छोड़ती। पूरी दुनिया में तेल-गैस का संकट है। इसको सबसे अच्छा भारत संभाल रहा है। आफवाह फेलाना कांग्रेस की आदत बन गई है। वहीं, आरजेडी सासद मनोज झा ने कहा कि पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ दिव्यत है कि वैश्विक स्थिति से भी जो सकट उत्पन्न होता है, उसके लिए वह विपक्ष का नाम लेते हैं।

पटना में गैस सिलिंडर के लिए लगी कतार।

ब्रिक्स देशों से बातचीत जारी

इरान की ओर से ब्रिक्स के जरिये संघर्ष में रचनात्मक भूमिका की मांग के मद्देनजर सरकार समूह के देशों से चर्चा कर रही है। विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रणधीर जायसवाल ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया के हालात में ब्रिक्स के कुछ देश भी शामिल हैं, जिससे साझा रख पर सहमति बनाने पर असर पड़ेगा है। फिर भी भारत बतौर निवर्तमान अध्यक्ष लगातार चर्चा कर रहा है।



काम आई डायलॉग-डिप्लोमेसी

जायसवाल ने दोहराया कि भारत लगातार डायलॉग और डिप्लोमेसी पर जोर देता है। इस जटिल स्थिति से निपटने के लिए सभी अहम बार्ताकारों के संपर्क में है। इनमें ग्लोबल कोऑपरेशन काउंसिल के सदस्य, इरान, इस्राइल, अमेरिका शामिल हैं। इसी के चलते कुछ जहाज होर्मुज से निकले हैं। भारत के दूसरे जहाजों को भी सुरक्षित निकालने के लिए संपर्क जारी है।



चार्टर्ड से गए इरानी नागरिक

विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि उड़ानों में बाधाओं की वजह से कई इरानी नागरिक भारत में फंस गए थे। इरान सरकार ने उनके लिए चार्टर्ड प्लेन की व्यवस्था की। शुक्रवार देर रात कोचि से इस प्लेन के जरिये उनको इरान भेजा गया है। इनमें उनमें बदरगाह पर खड़े इरानी जहाज के 107 गैर जरूरी कू सदस्य, 35 यात्री और 3 राजनयिक शामिल हैं।



पीएनजी पर दिया जा रहा जोर

एलपीजी सप्लाई और उपलब्धता के मौजूदा हालात पर अधिकारी ने कहा कि हम जरूरतों के मुताबिक पर्याप्त पेट्रोल और डीजल का उत्पादन देश में कर रहे हैं। आयात की जरूरत नहीं है। जहां तक नैचुरल गैस का मामला है, सरकार चाह रही है जहां कमर्शल उपभोक्ता एलपीजी सप्लाई से परेशान है, वहां उन्हें पीएनजी की ओर मोड़ा जाए।



बुकिंग में गैप का रखें ध्यान

एलपीजी अपूर्ति अभी चिंता का विषय है। तेल मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि पैनिंग बुकिंग हो रही है। लोगों से पैनिंग बुकिंग न करने की अपील की गई है। पिछली डिलिवरी से अगली बुकिंग के बीच शहरी इलाकों में 25 और ग्रामीण इलाकों में 45 दिनों का गैप है। इससे पहले बुकिंग नहीं होगी। कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए लगातार छापे मारे जा रहे हैं।



सिलिंडर

- कमर्शियल सिलिंडर पर असर, कई और ढाबे-रेस्टोरेट्स बंद होने का डर
- रेहड़ी वालों का रोजगार छिना, ढाबों के स्टाफ की नौकरी जाने का डर
- एजेंसियों पर लंबी लाइनें, पुलिस की छुट्टियां कैसल, माहौल बिगड़ने का डर



सिलिंडर की लकड़ा, लंबी लंबी लाइन

113% की बढ़ोतरी

IGL के पास नए कनेक्शन के लिए कॉल करने वालों की संख्या में

19 लाख

से अधिक पीएनजी कनेक्शन हैं दिल्ली में

25.26 लाख

से अधिक कनेक्शन हैं दिल्ली-एनसीआर में

1000 पीएनजी

कनेक्शन लगाए जा रहे हैं अभी दिल्ली-एनसीआर में रोजना

700 कनेक्शन

रोजाना लगाए जाते थे आम दिनों में

PNG की डिमांड तेज़, नए कनेक्शन पर बिल में मिलेगी छूट

Brijesh Singh
@binesofindia.com

■ दिल्ली-एनसीआर में धरेलू एनपीजी गैस सिलिंडर की बढ़ती डिमांड के बीच पीएनजी (घरेलू नैचुरल गैस) कनेक्शन लेने वाली की संख्या में इजाजत हुआ है। आईजीएल के मुताबिक, दिल्ली-एनसीआर में बहात आम दिनों में रोजना लगभग 700 कनेक्शन होते थे, अब यह संख्या बढ़कर 1000 हो गई है, जहाँ कुल 43 फेसरी का इजाजत हुआ है। इस बढ़ती मांग को देखते हुए आईजीएल ने टैरिफ की संख्या भी बढ़ा दी है। कनेक्शन के लिए कॉल करने वालों की संख्या में भी 113 फीसदी से अधिक की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। आईजीएल के प्रवक्ता के मुताबिक गैस सिलिंडर की डिमांड बढ़ने के बाद हमारे पास नए कनेक्शन के लिए खाने वाली कॉल की संख्या भी बढ़ गई है। यह धरेलू और कमर्शियल दोनों तरह के कनेक्शन के लिए है, लेकिन फिलहाल हमारी प्राथमिकता धरेलू कनेक्शन है। इन्होंने बताया कि धरेलू कनेक्शन के लिए हमारे पास दो तरह की कॉल आ रही हैं। पहली, नए कनेक्शन के लिए। इन कॉला की संख्या 150 से बढ़कर रोजना रोजना 320-350 हो गई है। दूसरी तरह की कॉल उन लोगों की हैं, जिनके घर तक कनेक्शन है लेकिन इन्होंने सिलिंडर नहीं कराया है।

1500 कनेक्शन रोजना करने का लक्ष्य: आईजीएल अधिकारियों के मुताबिक पीएनजी कनेक्शन की बढ़ती मांग को देखते हुए कनेक्शन देने की प्रक्रिया को और तेज किया जाएगा। इसके लिए पीएड में टेक्निकल टीमों की संख्या बढ़ाई जा रही है। कनेक्शन करने वाले वैडर से भी अतिरिक्त टीम लगाने को कहा गया है। हमायत लक्ष्य है कि इस माह के अखिर तक दिल्ली-एनसीआर में रोजना 1500 से अधिक कनेक्शन दिए जा सकें। उन्होंने कहा कि एक नया कनेक्शन देने के लिए कोई तक व्युत्पन्न समय नहीं होती। इसमें सूचना से जुड़ी कुछ प्रक्रियाएँ होती हैं, इसलिए कहीं कम से कहीं अधिक समय लग सकता है।



गैस एजेंसियों के बाहर सूकर से लंबी लंबी लाइन, घंटों इंतजार के बाद भी लोगों को सिलिंडर नहीं मिल पाए

नया कनेक्शन लेने के लिए क्या करें

पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए आपके पास तीन विकल्प होते हैं। 1. एनपीजीआर www.ignonline.net पर जाकर आवेदन कर सकते हैं। 2. आईजीएल कनेक्ट ऐप के जरिए सीधे मोबाइल से आवेदन कर सकते हैं। 3. आईजीएल के कॉल सेंटर नंबर 011-41307000, 011-49835100, 011-69020500 और 011-69020400 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

नए कनेक्शन का प्रोसेस

पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए आवेदन करने के तुरंत बाद कनेक्शन नहीं दिया जाता। आवेदन के बाद एक टेक्निकल टीम आपके घर पर विजिट करके सुरक्षा सबको जांच करती है। इसमें देखा जाता है कि पाइपलाइन कहा से जायेगी और कौन-सी जगह सुरक्षित है। इसके बाद टीम एक रिपोर्ट तैयार करती है। रिपोर्ट के बाद आपको अग्रिम टैरिफ और चार्ज जमा करने होते हैं। इसके बाद वैडर की ओर से कनेक्शन लगाने के लिए अग्रिम टीम आती है। इस पूरी प्रक्रिया में कई बार 10-15 दिन तक का समय लग सकता है।

IGL ने कहा, सीएनजी और पीएनजी की कोई कमी नहीं

आईजीएल के प्रवक्ता ने कहा कि सीएनजी और पीएनजी की आपूर्ति को लेकर किसी तरह की कमी नहीं है। दिल्ली में लोगों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में सीएनजी और पीएनजी उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है। लोगों को ध्यान में रखकर सीएनजी स्टेशन पर लइन लगाने की जरूरत नहीं है। पीएनजी कनेक्शन भी तेजी से लगाए जा रहे हैं और धरेलू एनपीजीआर को हम प्राथमिकता दे रहे हैं। अपने वाले समय में धरेलू पीएनजी कनेक्शन की प्रक्रिया को और अग्रिम बनाया जाएगा। अस्पतालों में भी पीएनजी गैस की आपूर्ति में कोई कमी नहीं है, इसलिए लोग अस्पतालों पर ध्यान न दें।

IGL कनेक्शन लेने पर छूट का ऑफर 31 मार्च तक

इंटरनेशनल गैस लिमिटेड (IGL) ने फ्लैड नेचुरल गैस (PNG) कनेक्शन लेने पर उसके पहले बिल में 500 रुपये की छूट देने की घोषणा की है। आईजीएल का यह ऑफर 31 मार्च 2026 तक के लिए लागू है। यह ऑफर उन एनपीजीआर के लिए भी है जिनसे कनेक्शन वैक्यूम किया है लेकिन उसे अभी तक चालू नहीं कराया है। यह एनपीजीआर भी अपना कनेक्शन एक्टिव करवाकर इस ऑफर का फायदा उठा सकते हैं। दिल्ली में नए कनेक्शन लेने पर 6000 रुपये का टार्वे अलग है। यह रिस्कवॉरंटो डिपॉजिट के रूप में जमा करना होता है।



अगले आदेश तक दिल्ली पुलिस में छुट्टियां रहें

■ **NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली:** दिल्ली पुलिस में आगे आदेश तक सभी की छुट्टियां रद्द कर दी गई हैं। फिलहाल मेंडिकल इमरजेंसी रिस्पॉन्स पर ही छुट्टी अंशु होगी। दिल्ली पुलिस ने रसद गैस (एनपीजी) आपूर्ति संबंधी रिपोर्टों के मॉनिटरिंग कानून-व्यवस्था बनाए रखने के माकसद से अपने कर्मियों की नियमित छुट्टियां वाकाल प्रभाव से रद्द कर दी हैं। मैकडाल हालत में किसी तरह की अस्था तकरी और मोड के बढ़ने के खतरों को रोखने के लिए यह फैसला लिया गया है। सूचना के मुताबिक गैस एजेंसियों के बाहर भी पुलिसकर्मियों को वैक्यूम की गई है। एनपीजी आपूर्ति को लेकर पहले ही दिल्ली पुलिस सराफ है।