Financial Express, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 22.17cm × 19.42cm

Iran war: Fertiliser supplies may soon get disrupted

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, March 15

THE WEST ASIA war may disrupt India's fertiliser production and supply within a month, officials have warned. "For the next month, we are comfortable in terms of supplies as we are in a lean period. But if the conflict continues, it would impact our fertiliser production capability," an official with a major manufacturer told *FE*.

The March–April period is considered a lean phase for fertiliser demand. However, demand is expected to peak by mid-May, just before the onset of the monsoon in June for the kharif season. "Comfortable fertiliser stocks are likely until peak kharif demand starting May 15," the official said.

At present, urea stocks stand at around 6.2 million tonne (MT), at least 1 MT higher than a year ago. Fertiliser companies have also placed import orders for 1.35 MT of urea, which is expected to arrive by the end of March. Stocks of diammonium phosphate (DAP) are currently about 2.5 MT — double last year's level — while nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (NPK) inventories are at a record 5.6 MT, compared with 3.1 MT a year earlier.

For the 2025 kharif season, the government has projected soil nutrient requirements at 18.53 MT of urea, 5.69 MT of DAP, 1.11 MT of muriate of potash, and 7.61 MT of NPK.

The department of fertiliser is monitoring an unusual spike in soil nutrient sales across 650 districts in an effort to curb panic buying.

Urea production is expected to decline to 1.7 MT this month due to annual maintenance shutdowns at some plants, compared with an average monthly output of around 2.5 MT, an official said.

To boost LNG supplies, a key feedstock for urea production, the state-owned GAIL will buy gas from the spot market from countries such as Australia, Russia and the US starting March 17.

CAUSES FOR CONCERN

- At present, urea stocks stand at around **6.2 MT**
- Fertiliser firms have placed import orders for **1.35 MT** of urea

- Stocks of diammonium phosphate are currently at about **2.5 MT**

'Scheme to cut use of chemical fertilisers a non-starter'

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, March 15

THE PM-PRANAM SCHEME, aimed at reducing chemical fertiliser consumption, has largely remained a "non-starter" in terms of financial disbursement to states, parliamentary panel report said. "Not a single rupee has been released as incentive to any state or UT under this scheme," the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers said in its report. The panel noted that only nine states and UTs were found eligible for incentives in FY24, with a cumulative reduction in chemical fertiliser consumption of 1.45MT. In FY25, just three states/UTs qualified, recording a much lower reduction of 42,000 tonne.

Asian Age, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 7, Size: 6.19cm × 8.78cm

PNG users told to not retain LPG

The government has barred households with piped cooking gas (called PNG) connections from retaining or obtaining subsidised domestic LPG connections, even as the sector regulator pushed city gas distributors to accelerate PNG rollout to ease pressure on cooking gas supplies amid global energy supply disruptions.

In a notification, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas amended the Liquef-ied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, under the Essential Commodities Act, making it mandatory for consumers with PNG connections to surrender domestic LPG connections.

Mint, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 71.28cm × 50.03cm

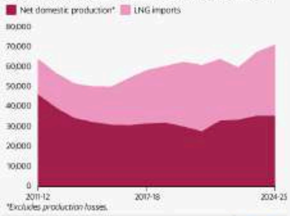
WHY WAR IN IRAN HIT INDIA'S GAS ECONOMY

BY HOWINDIALIVES.COM

India is currently facing a shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as the West Asia conflict has disrupted supplies. Petronet LNG Ltd, which funnels about one-third of India's gas supplies, invoked a *force majeure* clause with its largest supplier last week, after its liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers were unable to reach Ras Laffan, a loading port in Qatar, due to the ongoing war between Iran and Israel. Two days later, LNG supplier QatarEnergy, also issued *force majeure* to Petronet LNG. The war has brought maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, a busy channel used to transport oil and gas to a halt. The impasse has highlighted India's dependence on gas imports, particularly from Qatar, and how that impact is spread across a range of sectors.

Share of imports in gas supply rose to 50% in FY25 from 28% in FY12

Supply of natural gas in India (in million standard cubic metres)



*Excludes production losses.

Source: *Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, petroleum and natural gas ministry* | mint

IMPORT DEPENDENCE

OVER THE years, natural gas has progressively come to play a greater role in India's energy mix, supplementing crude oil (in the transport sector) and coal (in the power sector). According to government figures, natural gas accounted for about 7% of India's total energy consumption in 2023-24, after coal (60%) and crude oil (29%). Natural gas is seen as a link fuel due to its lower carbon emissions. India has set a target to increase its share to 15% by 2030. That was unlikely before, and seems even more unlikely now.

The disruption in West Asia means that about one-third of India's energy basket is currently facing supply and pricing challenges. The share of imports in India's gas basket has increased from about 28% in 2011-12 to 50% in 2024-25. Part of this increase is the result of India's gas production shrinking by about 23% between 2011-12 and 2024-25. Meanwhile, imports doubled in the same period to meet growing gas demand in India.

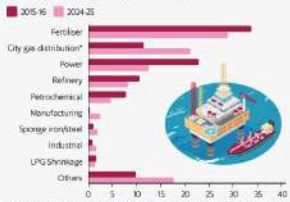
LNG DYNAMICS

FOR INDIA, the chief mode of natural gas import is LNG. This is natural gas liquefied to reduce its volume exponentially, making it economical and efficient to transport over long distances by ship (instead of pipelines). India's LNG demand grew 50% in the last decade, but the trend is not smooth. This shows that structurally demand is growing, but it remains price-sensitive. In India, two sectors accounted for about half the total consumption in 2024-25: fertilizers and city gas distribution (CGD). CGD comprises domestic piped gas connections and CNG for vehicles—direct touchpoints with households—and the sector's share in gas consumption has nearly doubled in the past decade.

India had around 8,600 CNG stations and 16.2 million domestic piped gas connections as of December 2025. About 73% of these connections are in four states: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. These states account for 80% of commercial and 60% of industrial connections.

LNG share has nearly doubled for cooking, vehicles since FY16

Sector-wise natural gas consumption (in %)

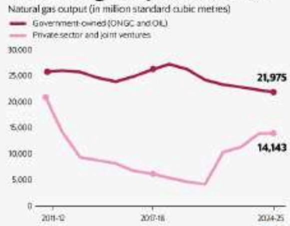


*Includes domestic piped gas and CNG (compressed natural gas) for vehicles

Source: *Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), petroleum and natural gas ministry* | mint

Private sector gas output is still sub-FY12 high despite recent rise

Natural gas output (in million standard cubic metres)



Source: *Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, petroleum and natural gas ministry* | mint

PRODUCTION CHALLENGES

IN THE context of energy self-sufficiency, one of the structural problems for India has been its inability to ramp up domestic production of natural gas. Between the peak in 2011-12 and 2020-21, domestic production dropped 40%. Production has picked up since, but is still about one-fourth below its 2011-12 peak.

The main reason for the drop was the collapse of output from KG-D6, an offshore block owned by Reliance Industries and British Petroleum along the Andhra Pradesh coast. It has been revived after 2021, along with investments by government-owned ONGC in the same area, but production hasn't reached the 2011-12 peak. To bring new players and up capacity, the Centre introduced the Open Acreage Licensing Policy in 2017 to allot blocks to companies on a continuous basis. The policy, based on a revenue-sharing model and lower royalty rates, gave companies greater freedom to choose oil and gas blocks. Blocks have been allotted, but discoveries and production will take time.

QATARI RELIANCE

IN THE absence of ample domestic gas production, or even visibility of an increase, India has no choice but to rely on imports in a big way.

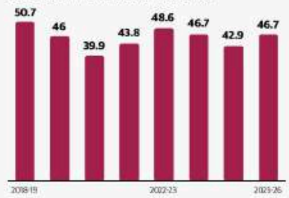
Even in imports, there is one country that India has an outsized dependence on: Qatar. In each of the last eight years, 40-50% of India's natural gas has come from Qatar, via the Strait of Hormuz. India's top two gas trading and distribution companies, Petronet LNG and GAIL (India), have long-term arrangements to procure large quantities of LNG from Qatar.

According to the International Energy Agency, in 2023, Qatar was the sixth-largest producer of natural gas, after the US, Russia, Iran, China, and Canada. India was ranked 22nd, with its output matching only a fifth of Qatar's.

The Qatari reliance is hitting India hard. With stocks running low, the Indian government is looking to divert existing supplies to piped gas connections and vehicle gas stations.

Qatar accounted for 40-50% of India's LNG imports in last 8 years

Share of Qatar in India's total LNG imports (in %)

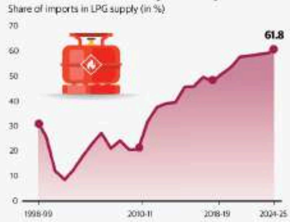


Data for 2025-26 till December 2025

Source: *Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, commerce ministry* | mint

Share of imports in LPG supplies has doubled in the past 15 years

Share of imports in LPG supply (in %)



Source: *Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, petroleum and natural gas ministry* | mint

LPG IMBROGLIO

INDIA HAS set an ambitious target of 120 million piped gas connections by 2030—a seven-fold increase from current levels. Without reviving domestic output, India will become captive to imports, exposing the economy to supply and price risk. The alternative to piped gas is LPG, which is more common in Indian households than piped gas. LPG is extracted through oil refining, while LNG is derived from natural gas fields. In terms of supply, India's import dependence on LPG is similar to LNG. More than half of consumption is met through imports from West Asia.

India imported about 32% of its LPG supply in 2010-11. This has nearly doubled to 62% in 2024-25. A prolonged LNG and LPG imports disruption will hurt India. Supply from India's long-term gas contracts is captive to reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. And purchases in spot market will be expensive.

www.howindialives.com is a database and search engine for public data.

Mint, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 14.90cm × 41.99cm

Oil companies weigh freeze on refinery prices

PTI
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Despite the conflict, India's fuel prices stayed unchanged. MINT

State-owned oil marketing companies are considering paying refineries a price lower than the imported rates of petrol and diesel to limit mounting losses from a retail fuel price freeze, a move that could hit standalone refiners like Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL).

International oil prices have risen from about $70 per barrel before the West Asia conflict to over $100, but retail petrol and diesel prices in India have remained unchanged, forcing oil marketing companies (OMCs) to absorb the impact.

With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, OMCs are exploring ways to limit losses on fuel sales, two persons aware of the matter said.

With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, OMCs are exploring ways to limit losses on fuel sales

One option under consideration is either freezing or fixing a discount on the refinery transfer price (RTP)—the internal price at which refineries sell fuel to marketing arms—to effectively pay refineries less than the import-parity cost of the fuels like petrol and diesel.

The proposed move would prevent refiners from passing on higher crude costs through RTP, forcing them to absorb part of the impact if global oil prices remain elevated.

While integrated state-run firms such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) can offset part of the hit between refining and marketing operations, standalone refiners that rely on market-linked RTP for revenue could face a sharper margin squeeze, they said.

MRPL, CPCL and HMEL—which have negligible retail presence and sell most of the petrol and diesel produced to the three OMCs—would be the most hit by the move.

The changes will impact refiners like Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries Ltd if the freeze or discount on RTP is also implemented for private refiners, the persons said.

The two private refiners sell a bulk of their production of petrol and diesel to OMCs, who own and operate 90% of the over 100,000 petrol pumps in the country.

Petrol and diesel in India is priced on an import parity basis, meaning the fuels are valued as if they were imported, though it's primarily crude oil brought in and refined locally.

Mint, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 11.48cm × 14.05cm

400 mn barrels of oil to flow soon: IEA

More than 400 million barrels of oil from International Energy Agency (IEA) emergency reserves will begin flowing soon, the agency said in its most detailed account of the rollout of the plan to combat a spike in crude prices since the start of the Iran war. Stocks from Asia and Oceania countries will be available immediately and stocks from Europe and the Americas will be available at the end of March, the agency said on Sunday, four days after the agreement was announced. Governments have committed to make available 271.7 million barrels of oil from government stocks, 116.6 million barrels from obligated industry stocks and 23.6 million barrels from other sources, IEA stated. **REUTERS**

Business Line, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 25.43cm × 18.63cm

Indian tanker carrying crude safely exits Fujairah day after drone hits oil terminal

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

An Indian-flagged tanker carrying around 80,800 tonnes of crude oil safely left Fujairah for Mundra Port on Sunday, a day after the UAE's major bunkering hub and crude export terminal was hit by a drone attack.

Jag Laadki, which is a Suezmax, is the fourth Indian-flagged vessel to transit the Strait of Hormuz. Before this, two very large gas carriers (VLGCs) and a very large crude carrier (VLCC) safely crossed the 34 km-long and the world's most critical energy choke point.

"On March 14, 2026, while the Indian-flag vessel *Jag Laadki* was loading crude oil at the Fujairah Single Point Mooring (SPM), the Fujairah oil terminal was attacked. The vessel sailed safely from Fujairah at 1030 hrs IST today carrying about 80,800 tonnes of Murban crude oil and is bound for India. The vessel and all Indian seafarers onboard are safe," the government said in an inter-ministerial update.

COMING IN TWO DAYS

Besides, two Indian-flag VLGCs *Shivalik* and *Nanda Devi*, carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG, crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday.

Shivalik and *Nanda Devi* are currently on passage to India and are scheduled to reach Mundra Port on March 16 and Kandla Port on March 17, respectively.

"At present, 22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers remain west of the Persian Gulf region. The Directorate General of Shipping continues to monitor the situation in coordination with ship owners, RPSL agencies and Indian Missions," the government said.

The Centre is engaged with key stakeholders, including GCC countries, Iran, the US and Israel at political and diplomatic levels to underline India's priorities, particularly energy security and safe maritime transit.

EFFORTS ON

Efforts are ongoing to ensure safe and uninterrupted passage for these Indian-bound vessels as they remain on standby in the Gulf region, the government said.

The Ministry of External Affairs continues to closely monitor the evolving situation in West Asia and the Gulf region. The safety, well-being and security of Indian nationals in the region remain the government's highest priority.

The Centre said that steps had been taken to ensure stable availability of petroleum products and LPG across the country. All refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories. India remains self-sufficient in the production of petrol and diesel.

On natural gas supply, it said that priority sectors continue to receive protected gas supplies, including 100 per cent supply to PNG and CNG, while supplies to industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at about 80 per cent.

"LPG supply continues to be monitored in view of the prevailing geo-political situation. No reported dry-outs at LPG distributorships," the government added.

Mint, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 11.48cm × 14.05cm

Govt blocks LPG for PNG consumers

The government has barred households with piped cooking gas (called PNG) connections from retaining or obtaining subsidised domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections, even as the sector regulator pushed city gas distributors to accelerate PNG rollout to ease pressure on cooking gas supplies amid global energy supply disruptions.

In a notification issued on 14 March, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas amended the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, under the Essential Commodities Act, making it mandatory for consumers with PNG connections to surrender their domestic LPG connections. PTI

Business Line, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 5, Size: 34.63cm × 13.84cm

Short take

Turning India's kitchens into energy wells

Ashwin Chari

As the crisis in the Middle East deepens and regional instability threatens critical energy corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz, global oil markets are entering a period of prolonged volatility. For India, the vulnerability isn't just at the petrol pump — it is in the 'Blue Flame' of our kitchens.

While India has made massive strides in solar energy, the nation remains critically tethered to imported LPG. To survive this new era of oil shocks, India must stop treating its organic waste as a municipal burden and start harvesting it as a strategic fuel reserve.

The era of massive, centralized waste-to-energy plants is being superseded by Modular Urban Biogas (MUB). Today's systems are plug-and-play, IoT-enabled, and compact enough to fit in a parking lot. To bypass the historical failure of 'last-mile segregation', India must adopt a Staircase Strategy.

Phase 1: The Bulk Engine — We must begin with Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) — cloud kitchens, hotel clusters, and corporate canteens. These hubs produce consistent, high-calorie organic "fuel" that can be processed at the source. Under the ₹1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), we can de-risk an 'Energy-as-a-Service' model where start-ups/SMEs can install modular units at zero upfront cost, providing businesses with fuel at rates lower than the fluctuating market price of commercial LPG.

Phase 2: The Household Loop — Once the bulk infrastructure is stabilised, the model can scale to household organic waste. Indore has already provided the global textbook for this transition. By achieving 95 per cent + purity in source segregation through digital governance and GPS-tracked collection, Indore proves that household waste can be converted into Bio-CNG for public transport. Our urban pilots should adopt these "Indore Standards".

This transition should begin in Vertically Aligned jurisdictions — regions like Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat where administrative goals are synchronised.

- Varanasi: As a spiritual epicentre, its hospitality sector can power pilgrim focused infrastructure using on-site digesters.
- NOIDA: With its dense concentration of corporate canteens and tech parks, it is the ideal laboratory for Phase 1 commercial scalability before transitioning to Phase 2 residential loops.

The transition to modular biogas is no longer just an environmental goal; it is a national security imperative. Turning waste into energy ensures that India's kitchens keep burning even when global oil taps tighten.

The writer is Director of Venture Building, NTUitive (NTU Innovation and Entrepreneurship), Singapore

Statesman, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 45.43cm × 14.26cm

India bolsters energy security through production push, EV adoption and diversified oil imports

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 15 March

Over the past decade, India has boosted its energy sector through a strategy focused on expanding domestic production, managing the transition to new energy technologies and diversifying global supply partnerships.

Energy sector reforms implemented over the last 11 years have helped the country build stronger safeguards against global supply disruptions while ensuring stable energy availability for a rapidly growing economy.

The approach has been built around three key pillars - boosting domestic alternatives, supporting the transition to cleaner technologies, and widening the country's energy sourcing network.

A major component of this strategy has been the rapid expansion of ethanol blending in petrol.

Although ethanol blending was first introduced as a pilot initiative in 2001, progress remained limited for several years. The programme gathered momentum after 2014 through a series of policy reforms aimed at strengthening energy security, combating climate change and supporting the rural economy.

Official data shows that ethanol blending in petrol rose from around 1.5 per cent in 2014 to 20 per cent in 2025.

The government had initially set the target of achieving 20 per cent blending by 2030 but later advanced the deadline to 2025 to accelerate efforts aimed at reducing dependence on imported crude oil.

Ethanol production also witnessed substantial growth during this period. Production increased from about 38 crore litres in 2014 to 661.1 crore litres by June 2025.

The achievement of the 20 per cent blending target is estimated to displace roughly 44 million barrels of crude oil every year.

The expansion of ethanol blending has already helped substitute more than 190 million barrels of crude oil imports since 2014, generating foreign exchange savings of over rs1.55 lakh crore, according to official figures.

Alongside expanding domestic alternatives, India has also focused on accelerating the transition toward cleaner technologies, particularly electric mobility.

Policy reforms allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the automobile sector have helped attract around USD 36 billion in investment over the past four years.

The government's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) programme has been a key policy instrument supporting this shift.

The FAME' aims to promote electric and hybrid vehicle adoption by providing financial incentives to lower the cost of purchasing EVs and encourages local manufacturing and charging infrastructure development to reduce pollution and fossil fuel dependency.

The first phase of the scheme, launched in 2015, resulted in the addition of around 2.78 lakh electric vehicles and helped save approximately 59 million litres of fuel.

Building on these gains, the second phase of the programme was introduced in 2019 with expanded incentives to promote large-scale adoption of electric vehicles. The scheme subsidised around 16 lakh electric vehicles while also supporting the development of charging infrastructure across the country. These measures led to fuel savings of nearly 42.9 million litres. Electric mobility has since grown rapidly in India.

Statesman, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 6.38cm × 29.55cm

PNG connections to reach every household in Varanasi: UP minister

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Varanasi, 15 March

Uttar Pradesh minister Ravindra Jaiswal *(photo)* on Sunday said piped natural gas (PNG) connections would be provided to every household in Varanasi and directed officials to complete the task on a war footing.

Inspecting a special camp set up at the Municipal Corporation's zonal office in Nadesar, the minister reviewed the progress of the Domestic PNG scheme and asked officials to ensure that gas connections are provided to applicants as quickly as possible.

He said the initiative aims to make cooking gas facilities safer, affordable and easily accessible for people living in both urban and rural areas of the city. Following his directions, special camps have been organised at all eight zonal offices of the Municipal Corporation from Sunday. Citizens can apply for domestic PNG connections and complete the required formalities at these camps.

Jaiswal said the government's objective is to ensure that safe and affordable gas supply reaches every household in Varanasi, adding that the work should be carried out on a priority basis.

Officials informed that about 102 km of high-pressure steel pipelines have already been laid as part of the main gas distribution network. In addition, around 1,450 km of low-pressure plastic pipelines have been installed to supply gas directly to homes in the city and surrounding areas.

Business Standard, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 104.33cm × 44.98cm

India gains most from US nod to Russian oil imports, but concerns remain

Country still faces shortfall of 750K bpd of crude oil in March compared to Feb

S DINAKAR
Hyderabad, 15 March

India moved about a week ahead of other Asian buyers in procuring Russian oil, with refiners asked to lift as much as possible. Even so, the country is still facing a crude shortfall of about 750,000 barrels per day (bpd) in March compared with February, as of Sunday, according to calculations based on ship-tracking data accessed by *Business Standard*. The gap reflects a sharp drop in purchases from West Asia. India is poised to be the biggest beneficiary of the over 110 million barrels of Russian oil parked in tankers and floating on high seas — equivalent to India's consumption needs of close to three weeks — after China, Japan and South Korea, the biggest competitors for this oil, expressed reservations over Washington's conditions for going ahead with purchases, according to industry officials and shipping data. The war in West Asia has entered the 16th day.

Russian supplies may help India meet another 30 days of requirement, insulating its refineries and retail outlets from any shortage of liquid transport fuels and obviating the need for rationing, two senior industry officials told *Business Standard*. "We are completely covered for crude oil supplies until mid-April", beyond which India will again need to seek Washington's nod for purchase of additional crude oil from Russia, India's biggest oil source, the officials said. Besides ensuring India's retail outlets do not run dry of diesel and petrol, uninterrupted flows of imported oil sustain the level of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is partly produced by processing oil in refineries.

While the level of crude oil stock looks comfortable, according to refining officials, India's overall crude oil imports this month are 14 per cent lower than February — despite Russian shipments doubling over last month. Indian refiners typically run their facilities at full throughput in the last quarter of a financial year to show good annual results, said a Mumbai-based analyst who did not wish to be named.

Russian oil shipments surged in the week of March 9 to 2.1 million bpd from 1.18 million bpd a week earlier, the highest since the week of November 10, 2025, according to industry data firm Kpler. But the country still faces a shortfall of 750,000 bpd of crude oil for March compared to February after purchases from West Asian producers plummeted amid the Israel-US-Iran war. In the week of March 2, West Asian producers led by Saudi Arabia and Iraq supplied around 2 million bpd of crude oil to India, most shipped in February, along with 1.2 million bpd of Russian oil. In the week of March 9, Russian shipments doubled to 2.1 million bpd, while West Asian supplies crashed to 230,000 bpd, Kpler data showed.

On March 13, the US offered all countries a one-month waiver on sale, purchase and delivery of crude oil or petroleum products of Russian Federation origin, from sanctioned and non-sanctioned producers, loaded on any vessel, including sanctioned vessels, on or before March 12 and through April 11. A week before this order, the US had allowed India to buy additional volumes under General Licence 133, which required the volumes to have been loaded as on March 5 and discharged by April 4 — with both orders only permitting purchase of floating cargoes and effectively blocking new loadings from Russian ports. Russian crude oil in transit and in floating storage totalled between 120 and 130 million barrels, according to market intelligence company Vortexa and Kpler.

Premium buys

India bought a lot of cargoes after the Washington order relaxing sanctions, said Sumit Ritolia, an analyst at Kpler in Delhi. Around 25 million barrels were available in the Arabian sea, Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, a short haul from Indian ports, but they were fast depleting, he added. India has already secured 13 million barrels last week, twice as much as in the week of February 23.

Premiums on Russian barrels may rise now that other Asian buyers have shown interest, a senior Indian trader said. India last week booked Russian oil at a premium of $3-5 to Dated Brent on a delivered basis, compared to discounts of $10-12 per barrel on medium, sour Urals grade in January.

But China, Japan and South Korea are exercising caution, despite Washington allowing sanctioned tankers to transport cargoes from sanctioned producers. Typically, sanctioned oil is purchased by Chinese independent refiners, referred to as teapots, while large state-run Chinese oil companies, with global operations and exposure to the US dollar, avoiding Russian cargoes.

Japanese and South Korean refiners have issues buying Russian oil due to payment concerns. Banks in Japan and Korea take more than 30 days to process credit lines for Russia and Russia-linked counterparties, which would be longer than the 30 days of sanction waiver granted by the US, said UK-based market information provider Energy Intelligence.

Hormuz blockade

A senior oil ministry official said at a briefing last week that about 70 per cent of India's oil was coming from routes outside the Hormuz. Kpler data showed that 53 per cent of India's crude volumes came via the Strait of Hormuz in February. March volumes via the strait averaged 32 per cent in the first half of March amid lower imports.

"Shipping activity suggests most shipowners remain reluctant to transit the Strait of Hormuz, with only a handful of vessels entering or leaving the Gulf in recent days," said Muyu Xu, senior crude oil analyst, at Kpler.

Russia, Kazakhstan, and Brazil cannot offset Gulf oil losses amid Hormuz insurance crisis, said Anas Alhajji, a global energy expert, in a note. The weekly supply (exports) of crude oil from Russia, including Kazakh exports from the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) terminal and Brazil, has declined in recent months with no end in sight, he added. Long-voyage cargoes are 30-50 days away. Alternative export routes via Fujairah and Yanbu are still leaving effective West Asian exports at only about one-third of the normal level.

The US has not loaded any cargoes for India this month, according to ship-tracking data. Brazil loaded only around 237,000 bpd in March, which takes 45-50 days to reach India, and two Venezuelan cargoes of dirty, acidic Merey, and a similar Colombian-grade Castilla, have set sail for India.

India's continued imports of Russian crude barrels remain a key factor in maintaining stability amid the recent tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, said Sergio Gor, US ambassador to India. "Global spare capacity is mostly concentrated in this region, so it is absolutely critical that shipping resumes through the Strait of Hormuz," he noted.

Delays in reopening the Strait of Hormuz may send oil prices, already over $100 a barrel, 40 per cent higher than those before the start of the war, even higher this week. "Oil has gathered all the catalysts it needs for a perfect storm to propel prices to the next level," Xu said. "Asian refiners are expected to step up purchases of long-haul cargoes from the Atlantic Basin as no quick reopening of Strait of Hormuz traffic appears in sight."

Business Standard, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 28.34cm × 76.31cm

India stares at steep rise in oil import bill

SHUBHANGI MATHUR & SAKET KUMAR
New Delhi, 15 March

As the war in West Asia enters its third week with no immediate signs of de-escalation, India stares at a massive ballooning of its energy import bill with global prices surging amid supply disruptions in the market.

Higher energy prices add to country's import bill as New Delhi relies on overseas supplies for about 90 per cent of its crude oil needs, 60 per cent of LPG demand and roughly half of its LNG requirements.

Global oil prices are likely to jump further on Monday as US has hit Iran's prime oil export hub, Kharg Island, through which Tehran exports almost all its crude oil. Benchmark Brent settled over $100 a barrel on Friday from around $65 per barrel prior to the beginning of the conflict.

"It is in Asia where signs of market duress are most evident. Half of the crude oil processed in Asia in 2025 came from the Middle East Gulf region. But duress is spreading. The longer the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively shut, the worse the impact on physical supplies, inventories and prices — and not just in Asia," said Jim Burkhard, Vice President and Global Head of Crude Oil Research, S&P Global Energy.

According to experts, India's net oil import bill could rise by $56-64 billion annually assuming global crude averages $110-115 per barrel in FY27. "Each $10 per barrel increase in the average crude oil price results in a $14-16 billion increase in net oil imports. If the oil price moves to an average of $110-115 per barrel in FY27, then the increase in net oil imports would be to the tune of $56-64 billion," said Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar.

She added that every $10 per barrel increase in average crude prices could widen the current account deficit (CAD) by 30-40 basis points, while raising wholesale price index (WPI) inflation by 80-100 basis points and consumer price index (CPI) inflation by 40-60 basis points, assuming a full pass-through into retail fuel prices.

If crude prices were to climb to $120 per barrel, India's oil trade deficit could expand to $220 billion, pushing the current account deficit beyond 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and potentially weakening the rupee, according to DSP Mutual Fund.

Impact at home

India is already feeling the strain of supply shortages, prompting the government to prioritise energy availability for households over commercial and industrial users, a move that has begun to affect businesses.

The government has prioritised gas allocation for domestic piped natural gas (PNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport, while cutting supplies for fertiliser sector, power plants and refineries.

Domestic PNG users in India have also been prohibited to hold LPG connection, as the country faces acute LPG shortage. The government has also requested consumers to avoid panic buying and use digital platforms to book cylinders.

Some dealers argue the technical issues faced while booking LPG cylinders are largely due to panic buying by consumers. "Because of the surge in bookings, the server has been going down, which is why customers feel there is a problem," said Amit Bhati, owner of B.L. Indane Gas Agency in Faridabad, adding that customers due for refills after 25–30 days are continuing to receive their cylinders.

Millennium Post, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 22.07cm × 16.38cm

LPG BOOKINGS FALL TO 77 LAKH

No shortage of petrol, diesel or gas: Govt

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: LPG refill bookings have declined to about 77 lakh from 88.8 lakh earlier, indicating some easing of panic buying, even as the government said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or cooking gas, and supplies remain stable despite the West Asia conflict.

In a daily update on the impact of the West Asia situation, the government said the share of online LPG bookings has risen to about 87 per cent from 84 per cent, attributing the increase to a campaign by oil marketing companies promoting digital booking and discouraging people from queuing up at LPG dealerships for panic purchases.

All domestic "refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories," the update said. "The country remains self-sufficient in the production of petrol and diesel, requiring no imports of the fuels to meet domestic demand."

REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Oil marketing companies have reported no dry-outs at fuel retail outlets or LPG distributorships, and petrol, diesel and LPG supplies are being maintained regularly.

"LPG bookings have shown a decline, with about 77 lakh bookings recorded yesterday (on Saturday) compared to 88.8 lakh bookings on March 13, 2026," the update said, adding "Online LPG cylinder bookings have increased from 84 per cent to about 87 per cent."

The government said it continues to prioritise the interests of domestic consumers and ensure uninterrupted LPG supply, particularly for households and priority sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions.

> **The share of online LPG bookings has risen to about 87% from 84%**

Several States and UTs, including Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan, have issued orders for allocation of non-domestic LPG in line with government guidelines.

State governments are undertaking enforcement measures to prevent hoarding and black marketing of petrol, diesel and LPG.

Raids are being carried out in several states, including Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, to check hoarding and black marketing of LPG cylinders.

Officials of PSU Oil Marketing Companies are also conducting surprise inspections at LPG distributorships to ensure smooth supply and prevent irregularities.

"Citizens are advised not to resort to panic buying as adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available across the country," the update said.

Priority sectors continue to receive protected natural gas supplies, including 100 per cent supply for piped natural gas (PNG or natural gas piped to household for cooking purpose) and compressed natural gas (CNG), while supplies to industrial and commercial users have been regulated at about 80 per cent.

Commercial LPG cylinders have been placed at the disposal of state governments for priority distribution and are now available in 30 states and Union Territories, while authorities have stepped up raids and inspections to curb hoarding and black-marketing, it said.

Financial Express, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 21.30cm × 23.20cm

NEW DELHI MAY BUY 50 MN BARRELS OF STRANDED URALS

Most of $3-billion Russian crude at sea India-bound

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, March 15

INDIA COULD ABSORB a significant portion of the 6.9 million tonne of Russian oil (50.577 million barrels) worth €2.3 billion ($2.99 billion) currently stranded at sea, as disruptions to oil flows in the Strait of Hormuz and a US waiver for Russian barrels give Moscow a strategic opening to find buyers for its crude.

At its peak in mid-2024, India's imports of Russian oil exceeded 2 million barrels per day. By February 2026, purchases had fallen to about 1.06 million barrels per day, according to analytics firm Kpler, as India curtailed imports under pressure from Washington. Analysts, however, predict a rebound following the US waiver and the availability of stranded cargoes.

"Russian barrels bound for India. Post-US waiver, Indian refiners are ramping up fast, about 20 million barrels already delivered, with another around 25-30 million on the way," Nikhil Dubey, senior refining analyst at Kpler told the *FE*.

The development comes amid escalating tensions in West Asia that are threatening global energy supply routes.

TIMELY SUPPORT

- **Imports fell:** From **2 mn** barrels per day in mid-2024 to **1.06 mn** barrels per day Feb 2026: Kpler.
- **Rebound likely: 20 mn** barrels delivered, **25-30 mn** more en route, say analysts
- **Hormuz risks rise:** Strait disruptions threaten **60 mn** tonne crude, **7 mn** tonne LNG

- **Energy security concern:** India's strait-dependent crude hit **55%** in Jan 2026
- India still a top Russian buyer; Feb imports **€1.8B, 81%** crude, CREA data shows
- Russian fossil fuel export revenues continue to rise despite sanctions and shifting trade routes

Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are putting at risk nearly 60 million tonne of crude oil and 7 million tonne of LNG flows every month, with 89% of crude and 66% of LNG shipments through the chokepoint destined for East and South Asia, including India.

For India—the world's third-largest oil consumer—this poses direct implications for energy security. Dependence on crude passing through the strait reached as high as 55% in January 2026, highlighting the importance of diversifying supply amid escalating geopolitical risks.

"Countries like India, whose dependence on crude oil through the strait reached 55% in January, will seek to secure alternative sources to mitigate domestic supply and price shocks," analysts said.

Despite these pressures, India remained a key buyer of Russian energy in February. It was the third-largest importer of Russian fossil fuels, purchasing €1.8 billion worth of hydrocarbons, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Crude accounted for 81% (€1.4 billion) of this total, followed by coal (€223 million) and oil products (€121 million).

Of this, crude oil accounted for 81% or €1.4 billion, followed by coal at €223 million and oil products at €121 million. The data also showed that Russian fossil fuel export revenues continued to rise despite sanctions and shifting trade routes. In February, monthly export earnings increased 7% month-on-month to €492 million per day, even as export volumes rose by only 1%. Crude oil was the primary driver, with export revenues climbing 13% to €232 million per day. Seaborne crude revenues increased 14% to €173 million per day, alongside a 4% rise in export volumes.

Millennium Post, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 22.65cm × 20.69cm

Oil cos weigh refinery price freeze, move likely to hit MRPL and CPCL

Global oil prices have risen from $70/barrel before West Asia conflict to over $100, but retail fuel prices in India have remained unchanged

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: State-owned oil marketing companies are considering paying refineries a price lower than the imported rates of petrol and diesel to limit mounting losses from a retail fuel price freeze, a move that could hit standalone refiners like MRPL, CPCL and HMEL.

International oil prices have risen from about $70 per barrel before the West Asia conflict to over $100, but retail petrol and diesel prices in India have remained unchanged, forcing oil marketing companies (OMCs) to absorb the impact.

With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, OMCs are exploring ways to limit losses on fuel sales, two sources aware of the matter said.

One option under consideration is either freezing or fixing a discount on the refinery transfer price (RTP) - the internal price at which refineries sell fuel to marketing arms - to effectively pay refineries less than the import-parity cost of the fuels like petrol and diesel.

The proposed move would prevent refiners from fully passing on higher crude costs through RTP, forcing them to absorb part of the impact if global oil prices remain elevated. While integrated state-run firms such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) can offset part of the hit between refining and marketing operations, standalone refiners that rely on market-linked RTP for revenue could face a sharper margin squeeze, they said.

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL) and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) - which have negligible retail presence and sell most of the petrol and diesel produced to the three OMCs - would be the most hit by the move.

The changes would also impact refiners like Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries Ltd if the freeze or discount on RTP is also implemented for private refiners, sources said.

The two private refiners sell a bulk of their production of petrol and diesel to OMCs, who own and operate 90 per cent of the over 1 lakh petrol pumps in the country.

Traditionally, petrol and diesel in India have been priced on an import parity basis, meaning the fuels are valued as if they were imported, even though it is primarily crude oil that is brought into the country and refined locally.

Refinery transfers of these products to oil marketing companies were based on import parity price (IPP) until June 2006, after which the government adopted trade parity pricing (TPP) - a benchmark that assigns 80 per cent weight to import parity price and 20 per cent to export parity price.

This pricing protected refinery margins, particularly of standalone refiners, who did not have the cushion of marketing margins on petrol and diesel, as the pricing was deregulated by the government in 2010 and 2014, respectively.

Despite being freed, petrol and diesel prices have not exactly moved in line with cost and have been frozen since April 2022, with OMCs absorbing losses when crude oil prices rise and making bumper profits when rates fell.

The move on the RTP freeze or discount move is being examined under-recoveries or losses on petrol and diesel have widened, sources said, adding that unlike cooking gas LPG, the government does not compensate OMCs for losses on auto fuels. OMCs feel the freezing RTP would effectively distribute the financial burden across the refining ecosystem, but analysts say it could disproportionately affect independent refiners with limited downstream marketing exposure.

With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, OMCs are exploring ways to limit losses on fuel sales, two sources aware of the matter said

Highlights

- One option under consideration is either freezing/fixing a discount on refinery transfer price at which refineries sell fuel to marketing arms
- It would prevent refiners from fully passing on higher crude costs via RTP, forcing them to absorb part of impact
- Standalone refiners that rely on market-linked RTP for revenue could face sharper margin squeeze

Hindu, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 18.94cm × 38.89cm

AAP hits out at Centre over LPG shortage; BJP accuses Oppn. of 'misleading public'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A war of words broke out between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the BJP on Sunday over reports of a shortage of LPG cylinders in parts of Delhi due to supply disruptions sparked by the escalating conflict in West Asia.

AAP took out 'Gas Cylinder Shobha Yatras' in several parts of the city and blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "flawed" foreign policy for the crisis.

"Yatras are being taken out at 250 places. People are showing great enthusiasm to catch a rare glimpse of gas cylinders. Modiji's failed foreign policy has pushed the country into this situation," said AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, however, said the Centre and Delhi government were closely monitoring the situation and asked citizens not to panic.

Addressing an event in Budhpur in north Delhi, Ms. Gupta said there was no reason for alarm and warned against hoarding or spreading rumours. "The government is keeping a close watch on the LPG situation with full responsibility. Some people are unnecessarily trying to create fear and encourage hoarding, which goes against the national interest. If any individual or organisation is found spreading misinformation or engaging in wrongdoing, strict action will be taken," she said.

During a march in Trilokpuri, AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar claimed that the government's stance in international matters had affected fuel supplies, leading to long queues for cylinders in several areas. "On the one hand, the Modi government says there is no shortage of gas while on the other, long queues can be seen on the streets. Poor people are being forced to buy gas at ₹300 per kilogram. Even small shops have shut down due to the unavailability of cylinders," Mr. Kumar said.


Delhi residents carrying refilled LPG cylinders from a depot in the city on March 13. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

'Exaggerated claims'

The BJP hit back, accusing AAP of spreading panic and "misleading" the public for political gain.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said the shortage was being exaggerated and supply had been affected only to a limited extent due to global factors.

He said the ongoing Iran-U.S.-Israel tensions had reduced LPG supplies from some West Asian countries, affecting not only India but also Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and even the United States. "Due to misinformation spread by some political parties, a misconception about a shortage of cooking gas has taken root in the minds of people, leading them to panic-buy cylinders," Mr. Sachdeva said.

'Petty politics'

Criticising the protest march in east Delhi, he said such demonstrations could create conditions that encourage black-marketing. "The cylinder march taken out today is proof of the petty politics of AAP leaders. By organising such marches, they are creating an atmosphere that could benefit black-marketers," Mr. Sachdeva said.

Food and Supplies Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said there is no shortage of LPG in the Capital and appealed residents to remain calm. The Minister said the government had deployed 70 joint teams to monitor LPG availability across Delhi.

"These teams are checking stock levels at distributors and markets and will act against hoarding or unfair trade practices. There is no need for any panic, supplies are fully in order," Mr. Sirsa said in a statement, advising residents not to stock up unnecessarily.

Hindu, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 6, Size: 38.68cm × 36.04cm

Oil prices reflect geopolitical risks, not only supply

Pankaj Sharma

is a former Additional Director, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, and a former Chief General Manager, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), India

In the aftermath of the war in West Asia, crude oil prices surged to as high as $118 a barrel last week. Alongside rising tensions, this situation has been building for over two months. Since mid-December 2025, when Brent crude stood at $57.56, prices have surged by more than 100%. They have, however, come down since then but remain in three digits, with no immediate sign of easing.

Historically, geopolitical shocks follow a predictable pattern. There is an immediate market overreaction that is followed by gradual stabilisation as trade routes adjust. However, the global oil market is once again operating under a profound geopolitical shadow.

What has changed in the development now

The developments in West Asia, intensifying strategic rivalries among major powers, and persistent conflict-driven uncertainty have brought geopolitics back to the centre of the energy discourse. Yet, the nature of this influence has shifted. Unlike previously, where regional conflicts rarely removed Gulf barrels from the global pool, the current disruptions have created tangible barriers to supply, fundamentally altering the costs, confidence, and conditions of the oil trade.

For major importing economies such as India, this shift has significant implications. Oil security is no longer just about physical access. It is also defined by exposure to the financial, logistical, and political uncertainties surrounding every shipment.

The vulnerability of global maritime arteries is stark. Around a fifth of global oil consumption is transported through the Strait of Hormuz, and roughly a tenth of seaborne crude passes through the Bab el-Mandeb and Suez corridor. The ongoing conflict involving Israel and Iran has effectively sidelined 20% of global supplies, even in the absence of planned production cuts. The market has reacted sharply to these signals. Over the past year, Brent crude has frequently fluctuated by 5%-10% within days of military or diplomatic developments, regardless of actual production volumes. Currently, however, the impact on physical supply is so drastic that prices continue to climb without a visible peak.

Tensions do more than just inflate the price of a barrel. They make maritime unsecure. Chokepoints remain vital arteries of trade, but their significance today lies in making global machinery vulnerable. Even limited disruptions or attacks on commercial shipping can alter vessel routing and raise freight costs. These drive up freight rates; the world has seen daily rates for supertankers more than double) , affect shipping insurance premiums, and tighten vessel availability. Major container carriers have implemented emergency conflict surcharges or war risk surcharges. These escalations ripple through the supply chain, directly influencing landed import prices.

> As tensions rise and oil volatility grows, importing nations will need adaptable energy and trade strategies

It is about politics

Furthermore, oil has been transformed from a mere commodity into a political instrument. The redirection of Russian crude following the Ukraine conflict illustrates this dynamic. Although Russia maintained export volumes by pivoting to Asian markets, the shift introduced longer shipping routes, complex payment arrangements, and evolving compliance frameworks. What appeared stable in volume was highly volatile in operational and financial terms.

For importing countries, this creates a dual exposure. Price volatility is no longer driven solely by the supply-demand balance but by changes in geopolitical sentiment. Markets respond to diplomatic signals, military developments and regulatory announcements with a speed that often exceeds the pace of actual trade flows. This weakens the historical relationship between production levels and consumer prices.

The growing role of financial markets amplifies geopolitical sentiment, as oil is traded not only as a physical commodity but also as a financial asset through futures, options, and derivatives. During periods of stress, investors use oil as both an inflation hedge and a risk-sensitive instrument. This explains why speculative positions often expand even when physical inventories are comfortable – prices reflect expectations and portfolio behaviour rather than immediate scarcity.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) have also evolved. Originally intended to address physical supply interruptions, they are now deployed to counter psychological volatility in the market. For instance, G-7 leaders have announced the release of 400 million barrels of oil in response to the war in West Asia (which is said to be about 20 days of the usual oil traffic through the Strait of Hormuz). The goal is to stabilise market sentiment as much as it is to provide physical barrels. The news of these discussions recently prompted a sell-off, easing Brent and West Texas Intermediate gains to some extent.

Major powers shape this environment in different ways. The United States, now one of the world's largest producers of various petroleum products, influences markets through its strategic stock policies and diplomatic engagement with producers.

Meanwhile, Asia has become the primary centre of demand growth, accounting for the majority of incremental oil consumption over the past decade. Producer coordination through organisations such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries continues to influence supply management, but its impact now interacts with geopolitical risk premia embedded in prices.

The continuing relevance of oil

The energy transition adds another layer of complexity. While renewable energy and electric mobility are expanding, oil remains central to the transport, aviation and petrochemicals sectors/industries. Global oil demand still exceeds 105 million barrels per day, and petrochemicals account for a rising share of incremental consumption. This produces a segmented market: one part linked to declining fuel use, another tied to industrial growth. Thus, geopolitics continues to exert influence over a commodity whose strategic relevance is changing but not disappearing.

For India, where oil demand is not expected to peak soon and is projected to drive much of global growth, this environment highlights the need for adaptability rather than alarm. The ability to process diverse crude grades, source from multiple geographies and maintain strategic reserves provides buffers against instability. Equally crucial is building commercial and financial expertise to navigate complex trading arrangements. Energy policy, in this sense, must integrate diplomacy, maritime awareness and market analytics.

This evolving structure complicates the notion of energy security. It now requires resilience not only against supply disruptions but also against financial and logistical shocks. Payment systems, shipping insurance, and contract enforcement have become integral to the energy security architecture.

The broader lesson is that oil has entered a phase where risk is as significant as the resource itself. Geopolitics will continue to influence oil prices by shaping perceptions of safety, reliability, and continuity, as well as affecting the physical flow of oil. Understanding this transformation is essential for managing a vulnerable world. Stability now depends on preserving predictable trade mechanisms and avoiding diplomatic ruptures that amplify uncertainty. In the years ahead, the resilience of importing nations will depend both on the origin of their crude and on how effectively they manage the political and financial currents surrounding every barrel of oil.

Economic Times, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 39.50cm × 33.55cm

Urgent Need to End War in Gulf

Closure of Hormuz strait not simply a result of Iranian attacks but also linked to withdrawal of insurance

DP SRIVASTAVA

Global oil and LNG supplies are disrupted following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which carries nearly 20% of the world's crude oil and the same proportion of LNG supplies. The risk to LNG supplies is greater. In the case of crude oil, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pipelines to skirt the Hormuz, though their capacity is limited. LNG transport at scale has to be by sea.

The shipping problem is compounded by damage to oil and gas installations. Saudi Aramco's largest refinery at Ras Tanura was hit. Qatar stopped LNG production after an attack on its Ras Laffan plant. This removed 20% of global LNG supply from the international market and led to more than doubling of spot prices for Asian LNG. The effect is reinforced by the fact that LNG supplied by Qatar and the UAE is linked to the price of oil.

There is no other source that can compensate for the loss of oil and gas supplies on this scale. The Indian crude oil basket has reached $127.22 per barrel. The release of 400 million barrels of crude from reserves by IEA, and 172 million barrels by the US, has not moderated the price hike. These reserves will take weeks or months to reach the market, while the loss of Persian Gulf supplies is immediate. We may be witnessing the beginning of the third oil price shock.

How long the disruption will continue depends on how long the war lasts. US President Donald Trump on March 9 said it will end "pretty quickly." However, the US defence secretary announced an intensification of the bombing campaign, and a spokesman of Iran's IRGC said it will not allow "a litre of oil" to pass through Hormuz and that the price of oil will hit $200 per barrel. Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei has also said the strait will remain closed. The US bombing of Iran's Kharg oil terminal is a dangerous escalation. IRGC has stepped up retaliation.

70% of India's oil supplies come from routes outside the Hormuz Strait. In the case of LNG, out of India's total gas consumption of about 189 mmscmd, 47.4 mmscmd or 25% has been affected. Supply of gas to industries has been cut; priority is being given to the city gas distribution and fertiliser sectors. If the Hormuz Strait remains closed, the pressure on limited supplies will increase. Unlike oil, LNG or gas storage facility is extremely limited.

The closure of the strait is not simply a result of Iranian attacks but is also linked to the withdrawal of insurance cover. Seven out of the 12 largest companies providing reinsurance have stopped giving

In case of LNG, it is not simply a question of safe passage, but production itself has been affected

war risk coverage in the Persian Gulf. This situation is qualitatively different from the crisis in the Red Sea following Houthi attacks on shipping a couple of years ago. At the time, insurance rates went up, but the war risk coverage was available. It will take time before insurance companies resume operations in the Persian Gulf area, and further time lag before the rates are normalised. In the Red Sea area, this has still not happened.

Surface transport is always exposed to geopolitical risks. An undersea pipeline from West Asia to India can avoid the complications caused by the Strait of Hormuz closure.

There is a proposal for an undersea, Middle East to India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP), which can carry 31 mmscmd per day of gas from Oman or the UAE to Gujarat. Technical and financial feasibility have been certified by reputed companies. The project will cost around $5-6 billion. This will not replace LNG but provide a useful supplement in case such a crisis recurs.

According to financial feasibility report by SBI Cap, the tariff will be around $2 per mmbtu cheaper than LNG. LNG requires converting gas to liquid at the shipment point and re-gasification at the destination. Double conversion results in energy loss and increased costs. Transnational pipelines would require government support.

While two India-bound LPG carriers have been allowed to sail through Hormuz, the situation will remain volatile. In case of LNG, it is not simply a question of safe passage, but production itself has been affected. There is an urgent need to bring the war in the Gulf to an end, followed by negotiations on a nuclear deal. The progress achieved in the Geneva talks between the US and Iran may be a starting point. But given the distrust, negotiations this time will have to be in a multilateral framework.

The writer is former ambassador to Iran

Hindustan Times

LPG bookings dip; states crack down on hoarders

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: State governments are undertaking enforcement measures to prevent hoarding and black marketing of petrol, diesel and cooking gas, petroleum ministry said on Sunday, adding that several states such as Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have conducted raids to check hoarding and black marketing of gas cylinders.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply continues to be monitored in view of the prevailing geopolitical situation, it said in its daily update. "No reported dry-outs at LPG distributorships," it said, adding that LPG bookings have shown a decline, with about 7.7 million bookings recorded on March 14 as compared to 8.88 million bookings on March 13.

State governments continue to play an important role in monitoring the supply of essential commodities including petrol, diesel and LPG. High-level meetings have been conducted in several states and union territories (UTs) to review LPG supply, ensure continuity of distribution and prevent black marketing and panic booking, the ministry said in a statement. "22 states and UTs have established control rooms to monitor the situation," it added.

The government is monitoring LPG supplies in view of the prevailing geopolitical situation. PRAFUL GANGURDE /HT PHOTO

According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB), over 1,483 inspections were carried out in Uttar Pradesh alone, leading to 24 FIRs and 6 arrests for hoarding of LPG cylinders. "Joint raids conducted in Maharashtra and Rajasthan to prevent illegal hoarding," it said in a post on X.

Petroleum ministry said energy supply and fuel availability situation is stable. "Steps have been taken to ensure stable availability of petroleum products and LPG across the country. Necessary arrangements are in place to maintain regular supply and distribution. All refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories. Our country remains self-sufficient in the production of petrol and diesel and, no imports of petrol and diesel are required to meet domestic demand," it said in the statement.

"No cases of fuel dry-outs have been reported at retail outlets by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), and supplies of petrol and diesel continue to be maintained. Citizens are advised not to resort to panic buying as adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available across the country," it said.

Three state-run OMCs – Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) – have near monopoly of fuel retail in the country. Despite global energy supply disruptions and international oil price volatility, they have been able to serve the consumers nationwide without raising prices of petrol and diesel. Although petrol and diesel are deregulated fuels. International benchmark Brent crude price surged to $103.14 a barrel on Friday (March 13), over 41.5% jump since Iran war, about two weeks ago.

"Prices of petrol and diesel in the country are market-determined and the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel," minister of state for petroleum Suresh Gopi informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday. Petrol and diesel prices are by and large static since from mid-March 2024. On March 15 that year petrol and diesel rates were reduced by ₹2 a litre, bringing down their retail prices to ₹94.72 a litre and ₹87.62 respectively. Petrol is currently priced at ₹94.77 a litre in Delhi and diesel at ₹87.67, because of a marginal five-paise increase on October 30, 2024, on account of marketing cost adjustments.

Hindustan Times

2nd tanker reaches Mumbai port after transiting Hormuz

Yogesh Naik
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: A Liberian-flagged ship, Smyrni, carrying 135,000 metric tonnes of crude oil for the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) reached Mumbai on Sunday, becoming the second India-bound ship to safely navigate the Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

The vessel arrived in the morning from Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia, and it will start discharging crude oil to the HPCL refinery in Mahul once it gets berthing space on Monday, Jitendra Jadhav, shipping agent with the Atlantic Shipping Company told Hindustan Times.

Earlier, another Liberia-flagged oil tanker, Shenlong Suezmax, had docked at Mumbai's Jawahar Dweep on March 11, becoming the first India-bound ship to cross the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial maritime corridor where operations have been affected due to the United States' and Israel's war against Iran. A status report from the shipping ministry on Sunday evening said that 24 Indian vessels were currently navigating through the Persian Gulf region, to the west of Strait of Hormuz, among which five vessels belonged to the Shipping Corporation of India.

Around 23,000 Indian seafarers in Indian-flagged vessels were stranded in the Persian Gulf region, while 276 seafarers had been evacuated by various shipping companies from the region till March 15, the status report said.

Economic Times, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 8, Size: 49.37cm × 37.65cm

‘Ready’ Solution in Times of LPG Crisis

Sales of instant food options, frozen snacks surge 20% amid shortage of gas cylinders...

...Households are also buying alternate cooking aids such as induction cooktops, e-appliances

Ratna Bhushan

New Delhi: From Thai curry pastes to biryani kits, ready-to-cook or no-cook foods, and frozen snacks and veggies are flying off retail shelves and quick commerce carts, with up to 20% increase in sales month-on-month as households look to conserve scarce liquified petroleum gas (LPG), while companies have stepped up stocking and are extensively promoting such products.

“Categories such as ready meals, frozen snacks, instant noodles and ready-to-cook products have seen strong traction, leading to about a 10-12% rise in this segment. While the surge appears temporary, we are proactively stocking these categories to ensure adequate availability,” said Karan Ahuja, spokesperson at premium grocery retailer Le Marche.

The current LPG crisis peaked a week back because of the ongoing Gulf War, which led to acute shortage of gas cylinders across restaurants, manufacturing plants, corporate and school cafeterias, and households.

“Our Thai curry ready-to-cook pastes are seeing the highest consumer sales for the first time since launch in two years. This may also lead to a long-term shift in consumer behaviour towards adapting ready-to-eat pastes even when things normalise,” said Deb Mukherjee, founder of Asian packaged ready-to-eat foods and condiments label Moi Soi. Over the weekend, Mother Dairy revived ads for its frozen vegetables range, while quick delivery platform Swiggy Instamart has started promotions for ‘induction-friendly’ cookware.

“We are consistently seeing significant traction for our ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook range. Moreover, if the shortage and uncertainty continue over the coming weeks or more, we expect the ready-to-eat category to see higher sales offtake,” a spokesperson for LT Foods, which makes Daawat ready-to-cook biryani kits and rice mixes, said.

Executives said the adoption of such categories, which peaked to high double-digit growth during Covid-19 lockdowns and then normalised to single-digits, may become the norm and here to stay as the scarcity of traditional cooking methods increase. Ankit Jha, founder and chief marketing officer at health and nutrition brand Doctor’s Choice, said: “Products such as protein oats and millet muesli are witnessing strong traction, making them particularly popular among working professionals and health-conscious individuals.”

While the ministry of petroleum and natural gas prioritised supplies of domestic cooking gas over commercial supplies on March 5, households across various cities have still been reporting shortages or markup in LPG cylinder prices by up to 30%. The development also led to stock-outs of alternate cooking aids such as induction cooktops and electric cooking appliances.

“We have observed a sharp and immediate uptick in demand for induction cooktops over the past few days with our average daily run rate having surged to nearly three times the usual levels,” said Shibashish Roy, managing director at Infiniti Retail, which operates the Croma electronics and appliances retail chain.

On the Menu

Ready-to-cook meals market size

$7.1 billion — 2025 | $12 Billion (projected) — 2034

Source: IMARC Group

In focus

Ready meals, frozen snacks & veggies, ready-to-cook pastes | Current LPG crisis peaked a week back

Cos stocking up these products at retail shelves & quick comm carts

Execs say...

ADOPTION OF SUCH CATEGORIES MAY BECOME THE NORM

Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 16/03/2026

Page No: 3, Size: 37.07cm × 49.45cm

Hindustan Times

Eateries fear piped gas supply cut; trim menus, operating hrs

MGL to levy higher rate, asks eateries to limit gas use to 80% of six-month average

Ateeq Shaikh

ateeq.shaikh@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Restaurant owners in the city are in a bind after Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) informed them via email that piped natural gas would cost higher than usual from March 9. Though the company did not specify the increased rate, it directed restaurants to trim gas usage by 20% in light of the US-Israeli war on Iran that has disrupted oil and natural gas supplies across the world.

The email from MGL referred to the central government order dated March 9, which diverted natural gas to priority sectors.

"...please note that as per the order...there will be changes in the current price of gas due to pooling of gas. We would inform you about the details of the same as and when we are informed by our gas suppliers / government and gas drawn with effect from today will incur such additional financial implication," the email said.

Starting March 12, gas usage in restaurants and eateries must be limited to 80% of their past six months average gas consumption, MGL said.

"Please note that gas drawn above the threshold volume will attract additional charges including disconnection without any further notice to you," said the statement, which HT accessed.

The email prompted restaurants to switch to alternate fuel sources such as charcoal and induction cooktops. At permit rooms and bars on Sunday, patrons were largely being served dry snacks and tandoor items cooked over charcoal, and a limited number of menu items were prepared in-house.

A good way for restaurants to reduce gas usage is by trimming the menu or reducing operational hours, said Vijay K Shetty, President, Indian Hotel & Restaurant Association (AHAR).

"Revenue of restaurants has dipped by at least 20-30% since the crisis started," Shetty said.

Typically, large hotels and restaurants use piped gas while a majority of the smaller eateries rely on commercial LPG cylinders, which are in short supply, even as domestic LPG cylinders are dispatched from godowns in the city. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT PHOTO

Wood-fired stoves thrive in city's 254 Adivasi padas, keep LPG crisis at bay

Hepzi Anthony

hepzi.anthony@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: While many households and restaurants across Mumbai struggle with a shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, a large section of the city's adivasi population remains largely insulated from the disruption, as most continue to rely on traditional wood-fired stoves for their daily cooking.

For the adivasi communities living in 254 padas (hamlets) across the city, LPG cylinders are often treated as a supplementary fuel rather than the primary cooking source. The bulk of the cooking, from making bhakris to boiling rice and heating water, is still done on wood-fired stoves, which residents say remain more affordable and practical.

According to Shakuntala Dalvi of the Maharashtra Adivasi Manch Kashtari Shetkari Sanghtana, more than 500,000 adivasi residents live in these padas across Mumbai. These include 56 padas inside the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Borivali, 27 in Aarey, 25 in Marol, 10 in Madh Island, eight in Gorai, and around 28 in the eastern suburbs between Ghatkopar and Mulund.

The bulk of the cooking, from making bhakris to boiling rice and heating water, is still done on wood-fired stoves, which residents say remain more affordable and practical.

Dalvi said the community had similarly remained unaffected during the Covid-19 lockdown period because of their reliance on forest resources and traditional cooking methods. "Communities in forested areas such as Aarey continue to live close to nature and are relatively insulated from such shortages. However, those in more urbanised padas like Andheri face challenges similar to other Mumbaikars," she said.

Dalvi herself maintains a farm in Palaspada and continues to cook largely on a wood-fired sigdi. "Depending on the number of guests, a gas cylinder in my house has sometimes lasted more than three months," she said.

Inside the adivasi padas within SGNP, stacks of chopped firewood outside homes remain a common sight. The availability of open spaces also allows residents to cook on wood stoves without worrying about smoke accumulation.

Many women in these hamlets work as domestic workers or housekeeping staff and say the rising cost of LPG cylinders has pushed them further towards traditional fuels.

"Most women here got gas connections when the Ujjwala Yojana was launched around 2016. Earlier, we were denied gas connections because we did not have proper documentation. Under the scheme, we were given free stoves and paid around ₹2,200 for the cylinder," recalled Anita Thakur, a resident.

However, residents say rising prices and the disappearance of subsidies have made LPG increasingly unaffordable.

As a result, LPG is now reserved for emergencies or when cooking needs to be done quickly.

Times of India, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 37.07cm × 45.51cm

LPG panic booking eases, online orders up after crash

Bookings Down From 89L To 77L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The govt's campaign to discourage panic booking of LPG refills seems to have had an impact, with the number of domestic bookings declining from 88.8 lakh on Friday to 77 lakh on Saturday.

The petroleum ministry said online bookings have also increased from 84% to 87%, while no dry-outs were reported at LPG distributors. Online booking had become difficult over the past few days as unusually high call volumes led the system to crash. This led to consumers lining up at gas depots and demanding immediate refills.

Though the availability of LPG amid the conflict in West Asia continues to be a concern, forcing govt to reduce the delivery of commercial cylinders — largely used by small eateries, restaurants and the hospitality industry — to just 20%, the ministry said in a statement that arrangements were in place to maintain regular supply and distribution.

"Steps have been taken to ensure stable availability of petroleum products and LPG across the country. LPG supply continues to be monitored in view of the prevailing geopolitical situation," it said.

▶6 ships on standby, P 20

CBSE CANCELS XII BOARDS IN W ASIA

Photo: Anushka Kogta

➤ **India-flagged tanker Jag Laadki on way to India** with 88,000 tonne of oil after **escaping attack at UAE's Fujairah port Saturday** when it was loading crude

➤ **22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers** remain west of Persian Gulf region

➤ After Class 10, CBSE cancels Class 12 boards in entire West Asia region, affecting around **20,000 students in 200 schools**

Students returned from Iran to Delhi on Sunday | **P 2**

➤ **Formula One's Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix** in April will not take place. **Qatar GP** in April postponed to Nov

6 India-flagged ships on standby at Hormuz

▶Continued from P 1

India imports nearly 60% of its LPG requirement and about 90% of it comes through the Strait of Hormuz, which has effectively been closed since the military conflict broke out in West Asia on Feb 28.

While two ships carrying 97,200 metric tonnes of LPG are scheduled to reach Mumbai in the next couple of days, officials said six more carrying the fuel were among 22 Indian-flagged vessels currently on standby on the western side of Hormuz.

File Photo

Two ships carrying 97,200 metric tonnes of LPG are scheduled to reach Mumbai in the next couple of days

While govt has maintained that there is no shortage of domestic LPG, panic-stricken consumers trying to procure refills have led to a surge in bookings.

It also said there were adequate crude oil and petroleum inventories and that all refineries were operating at high capacity.

Officials from the ministry, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board and city gas distribution companies met on Friday to review the status of consumers willing to activate their PNG connections or convert from LPG to piped gas.

Govt is also encouraging commercial LPG consumers in major cities to opt for piped natural gas connections.

'West Asia situation, crude oil prices to drive stock market this week'

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, March 15

THE DEVELOPMENTS surrounding the ongoing conflict in West Asia and crude oil price movement will be the major factors driving trends in the equity market this week, analysts said.

Besides global trends, the US Fed interest rate decision and inflation data would also influence trading in markets, they added.

"This week is packed with several important developments and data releases, both domestically and globally. Geopolitical developments will remain the key factor to watch, as their impact on crude oil prices is likely to influence overall market direction."

"On the domestic front, market participants will closely track key macroeconomic indicators, such as WPI inflation, balance of trade data and foreign exchange reserves," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Globally, investors will focus on the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) economic projections, he added.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 4,354.98 points or 5.51%, and the NSE Nifty dropped 1,299.35 points, or 5.31%. Indian equity markets ended the week under significant corrective pressure as global risk sentiment deteriorated amid rising crude oil prices, escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia, and persistent selling by foreign institutional investors, Hariprasad K, research analyst and founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

Indian Express, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 9.63cm × 8.44cm

Oil marketing companies weigh refinery price freeze

New Delhi: With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) are exploring ways to limit losses on fuel sales, two sources aware of the matter said.

One option is to freeze or fix a discount on the refinery transfer price (RTP) — internal price at which refineries sell fuel to marketing arms — to effectively pay refineries less than the import-parity cost of the fuels.

This would prevent refiners from fully passing on higher crude costs through RTP, forcing them to absorb part of the impact. Integrated state-run firms such as IOCL, BPCL and HPCL can offset part of the hit, but standalone refiners like MRPL, CPCL and HMEL, which sell most of the petrol and diesel produced to the three OMCs, would be the most hit by the move. Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries will also be impacted if the freeze or discount on RTP is also implemented for private refiners, sources said. PTI

Times of India, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 17.67cm × 17.41cm

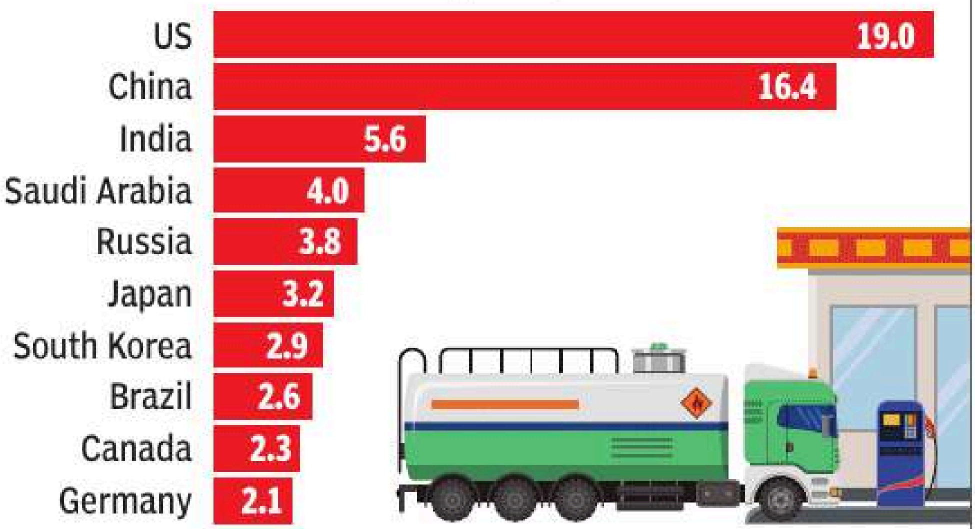
STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Who are the world's biggest oil guzzlers?

In 2024, the US and China dominated global oil consumption at 19 and 16 million barrels per day, respectively, far ahead of India's 5.6 million barrels per day

Countries with highest oil consumption, 2024

(million barrels per day)



Source: 2025 Energy Institute Statistical Review of World Energy

Indian Express, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 13, Size: 4.76cm × 9.95cm

LPG bookings fall to 77 lakh; online bookings up: Govt

New Delhi: LPG refill bookings have declined to about 77 lakh from 88.8 lakh earlier, indicating some easing of panic buying, even as the Centre said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or cooking gas, and supplies remain stable despite the West Asia conflict.

In a daily update on the impact of the West Asia situation, the Centre said the share of online LPG bookings has risen to about 87% from 84%, attributing the increase to a campaign by oil marketing companies promoting digital booking. PTI

Times of India, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 8, Size: 16.96cm × 36.57cm

By expanding crude sourcing, India ready to handle disruptions

Times News Network

New Delhi: India today is in a far stronger position to handle disruptions in global energy markets than it was a decade ago, officials said on Sunday. While Strait of Hormuz remains an important chokepoint, India can reroute vessels and shift strategy to other energy-exporting countries.

In a world of increasingly uncertain supply chains, a wider and more diverse base of energy sources and partnerships has become an important safeguard for the country's energy security.

India used to import 55% of its crude from non-Hormuz routes before the military conflict began in West Asia a fortnight ago. Officials said the share has increased to 70%. India has also tapped additional countries to source natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, and cargoes through non-Hormuz routes have also started arriving. India imports nearly half of its natural gas requirement and about 60% of LPG.

"By expanding domestic production, managing the transition to new energy sources and diversifying supply sources, Modi govt has reduced the country's vulnerability to external shocks to its energy needs," said an official.

In a world of uncertain supply chains, a more diverse base of energy sources has become an important safeguard

Officials said govt pursued a policy of multi-alignment, enabling India to cultivate deeper relationships with multiple states to advance its interests. This diplomatic outreach has expanded India's crude sourcing base from 27 countries a decade ago to more than 40 today.

Another major factor reducing vulnerability to energy imports is the 20% ethanol blending programme, which displaces 44 million barrels of crude oil annually.

Govt also backed the development of the electric vehicle industry. EV registrations in 2023-24 increased nearly tenfold compared with 2019-20. In 2025-26, EV sales reached 2.3 million units, accounting for about 8% of total vehicle registrations.

Indian Express, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 16, Size: 31.91cm × 30.74cm

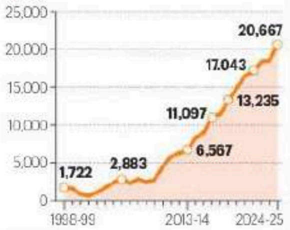
• ECONOMY

Why LPG sector is the worst hit by Iran war

India's import dependency for LPG supplies is around 60 per cent. The now-choked Strait of Hormuz is a major passageway for the imports

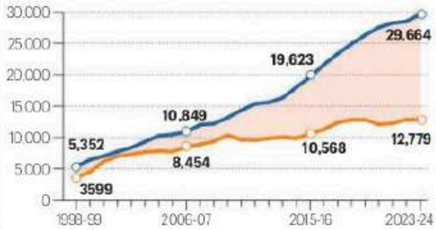
SUKALP SHARMA

• **LPG imports**

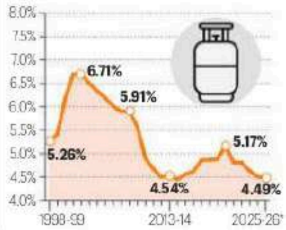


SOURCE: PPAC

• **LPG production and consumption**



• **Share of LPG in total output of domestic refineries**



*DATA AS ON JANUARY 31, 2026. COMPILED BY ANIISHNU DAS

THE WAR in West Asia has affected India's overall energy imports, be it crude oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG), or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). But the country's overall supply challenge in the case of LPG — used as kitchen fuel by crores of Indian households — is far more acute than oil and LNG.

While India so far appears comfortable on crude oil, petrol, and diesel stocks, the government has prioritised natural gas so that sectors that need the fuel the most get it, while others receive curtailed volumes. But in the case of LPG, relatively drastic steps have been undertaken.

Given the scale of LPG use in homes, the government has prioritised LPG supplies to households over commercial and industrial consumers, which has led to massive shortage of the fuel for these segments across India. It has also ordered refiners to maximise LPG production, and directed them to divert propane, butane, and other streams from petrochemical manufacturing to LPG production.

The government has also increased waiting times between cylinder bookings by households from 21 days to 25 days in urban areas and 45 days in rural areas. Such is the supply crunch, particularly for commercial consumers, that the government has activated alternative fuel streams like kerosene, fuel oil, biomass, and even coal for them.

Why is LPG the hardest-hit?

India's annual LPG consumption is currently estimated at around 33 million tonnes, of which domestic production is around 13 million tonnes, or around 40%. This means that India's import dependency for LPG supplies is around 60%. Now, in the case of crude oil, the reliance on imports is much higher at over 88%. So why is it that so far India appears to be doing fine on crude oil and major fuels like petrol and diesel, while LPG supplies have been affected?

At the heart of the problem is the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea — where maritime traffic has effectively come to a halt since the conflict began.

India's reliance on the Strait of Hormuz for crude is around 40%, while in the case of LPG, it is a whopping 90%. This effectively means that with the chokepoint all but closed, over 50% of India's LPG supply has disappeared.

Although the government's emergency measures have led to about 30% increase in domestic production of LPG vis-à-vis the pre-conflict levels, it essentially translates to just 10-12% of additional production when total consumption is considered. So even with higher LPG output from domestic refineries, 42-44% of the country's LPG supply is still offline for all intended purposes.

The government and oil companies are getting some LPG cargoes from non-Hormuz regions, particularly North America, but these will take weeks to reach India, as compared with West Asian cargoes, which usually take a few days.

Why is there no panic on crude oil, petrol, diesel supplies?

As for crude, getting extra cargoes from regions other than West Asia has been relatively easier so far. For instance, millions of barrels of Russian crude that were idling in tankers in international waters around India before the conflict are taking just a few days to arrive at Indian ports. India also has relatively higher levels of stockpiles of oil, petrol, and diesel than LPG and LNG, which hardly have additional stocks beyond what is there in the supply chain.

Last week, a top government official said that India had six-eight weeks of crude and petrol and diesel stocks put together—including commercial stocks as well as strategic reserves—and expected the position to remain "comfortable" going forward, considering additional volumes of oil from non-Hormuz-dependent regions was being bought. The regular oil supply from outside West Asia is continuing unabated.

What about natural gas supplies?

There is some stress in natural gas supplies as well, though not as much as LPG. India depends on imports to meet around half of its natural gas needs, and roughly 60% of those imports came through the Strait of Hormuz, mainly from Qatar and the UAE. This means that the Strait's effective closure has cut off roughly 30% of India's natural gas supplies.

The government has decided to divert natural gas to the critical "priority sectors" that are dependent on the fuel. Segments that directly impact millions of common consumers—PNG for households, compressed natural gas (CNG) for vehicles, and LPG production—will have precedence. Also, as is the case with crude oil and LPG, Indian companies are actively scouting for spot LNG cargoes from regions other than West Asia.

The government order on natural gas supplies lists four priority categories that shall receive, subject to availability, natural gas in varying quantities based on their average gas consumption levels of the past six months. The top priority category, which will receive 100% of the average gas consumption of the last six months, includes PNG for households, CNG for transportation, natural gas used for LPG production, and gas consumed for essential pipeline operations.

The second priority category, according to the order, is fertiliser units, which will receive 70% of their average gas consumption of the past six months.

The third category includes "tea industries, manufacturing and other industrial consumers supplied through the national gas grid", for which supply will be maintained at 80% of their six-month average consumption.

In the fourth category are commercial and industrial consumers of city gas distribution companies; they will get 80% of their past six-months average gas use.

Russian oil factor

With the US no longer objecting to India buying Russian oil, New Delhi's daily average oil imports from Moscow have shot up by over 50% from February levels.

•

"Crude supply risk can be partially mitigated through diversification and Russia flows. LPG availability is the variable to monitor in the coming weeks," said Sumit Ritolia of Kpler

LONGER VERSION
INDIANEXPRESS.COM/EXPLAINED

Indian Express, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 9.58cm × 13.34cm

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Press Trust of India
New Delhi, March 15

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Indian Express, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
Page No: 13, Size: 9.63cm × 8.44cm

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This would prevent refiners from fully passing on higher crude costs through RTP, forcing them to absorb part of the impact. Integrated state-run firms such as IOCL, BPCL and HPCL can offset part of the hit, but standalone refiners like MRPL, CPCL and HMEL, which sell most of the petrol and diesel produced to the three OMCs, would be the most hit by the move. Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries will also be impacted if the freeze or discount on RTP is also implemented for private refiners, sources said. **PTI**

Tribune, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 17.17cm × 19.68cm

Black market thrives as LPG shortage triggers panic buying

Long queues, repeated calls to distributors a daily routine

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

What began as concerns over delayed LPG deliveries has now snowballed into a worrying black market crisis in parts of the Capital. While many households complain that cylinders booked days ago are still not delivered, others say their orders are marked "delivered" on the system even when they have not received these. The situation has pushed some desperate residents towards the illegal market, where cooking gas is being sold at shockingly inflated prices.

During visits to several residential pockets, residents said they had been running from one gas agency to another trying to secure a refill. Long queues outside agencies and repeated calls to distributors have become a daily routine for many households.

In the black market, a domestic LPG cylinder is reportedly being sold for up to Rs 6,500, while refills are being offered for Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,000, several times higher than the regular price.

Sellers operate quietly through contacts and references, often conducting illegal refilling in small repair shops or hidden setups.

For many families, especially those who depend entirely on LPG for cooking, the shortage has created serious day-to-day difficulties.

"We booked our cylinder almost a week ago but it still hasn't come. On the app it shows delivered, but we never received anything," said Sunita Sharma, a resident of North West Delhi. "Someone told us we can get a refill from the black market, but the price they asked was more than Rs 3,500. It's impossible for us to pay that."

Another resident, Rajesh Kumar, who runs a small food stall, said the situation is affecting his livelihood. "Without gas, I cannot cook food for my customers. Yesterday someone offered to refill the cylinder for Rs 4,000. What choice do we have? Either pay the huge amount or shut down the stall."

Gas agencies, however, claim that the supply in the system remains adequate and that deliveries are being made as per schedule. Officials say panic buying and multiple bookings by households are putting pressure on the distribution chain.

Despite these assurances, residents say the ground reality is different. Many

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

People stand in a queue to refill their LPG cylinders outside a gas agency at Vivek Vihar in New Delhi on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI

DOMESTIC LPG REFILLS BEING OFFERED FOR ₹3,500 TO ₹4,000

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Tribune, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 4.34cm × 19.24cm

Black market thrives as LPG shortage triggers panic...

FROM PAGE 1

households are now trying to arrange additional cylinders or alternative cooking arrangements as a precaution.

"There is a lot of confusion," said Suman, another resident waiting outside a distribution agency. "People are afraid the shortage will get worse. That's why some are booking extra cylinders or buying from anywhere they can find one."

The authorities have warned that selling LPG cylinders outside authorised channels is illegal and punishable under the Essential Commodities Act and LPG control regulations. Officials say strict action will be taken against hoarding and black marketing if such cases are reported.

However, residents argue that enforcement alone will not solve the problem unless deliveries become more reliable.

For now, many households in the Capital continue to wait anxiously for their next refill, hoping their booked cylinder will arrive before their kitchen runs out of gas. Until then, the illegal market appears to be thriving on public anxiety and desperation.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 16/03/2026

Page No: 6, Size: 17.75cm × 11.14cm

Cons impersonate MGL staff, steal lakhs

Avadhut Kharade

MUMBAI

A fresh wave of cyber fraud has hit Mumbai, with scammers impersonating officials of Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) to dupe residents by falsely claiming their gas bills are pending.

Threatening messages about disconnection of gas supply are being sent via WhatsApp and phone calls, often with malicious links or APK files that allow fraudsters to access victims' phones and siphon off lakhs of rupees. Police said multiple such cases have been reported in recent weeks, with victims losing significant sums after being tricked into downloading fake apps or entering banking details under the pretext of updating gas bills. An FIR at Park Site police station stated that on March 11, cybercriminals targeted 52-year-old Lav Kundar, a housekeeping businessman from Ghatkopar West. He received a WhatsApp notice claiming his gas bill was unpaid.

After clicking a link, Rs4.84 lakh was withdrawn from his account.

In another case, 45-year-old assistant manager Vaibhav Baliram Rahate of Kurla East downloaded an APK file after a disconnection threat; Rs2.75 lakh was stolen. On March 8, Samar Chavan, 33, of Kanjurmarg lost Rs2.82 lakh after installing an APK titled "Mahanagar Gas Bill Update Online App." Similarly, Bhumi Kambidiya, 47, from Ghatkopar was cheated of Rs3.6 lakh, and Bhushan Advani, 54, from Parel lost Rs7.32 lakh after following instructions during a video call.

The Kalachowki police reported 70-year-old Ramesh Khurana lost Rs6.90 lakh after installing an APK named "MGL-Gas-Bill-Update."

Another persSanjay Bhairbar, 42, from Andheri lost Rs2 lakh after entering bank details on a fake BillDesk page. Vilas Teravankar, 45, from Parel lost Rs2.25 lakh after downloading a suspicious link.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
Page No: 14, Size: 11.06cm × 19.50cm

Nearly 15k cylinders delivered on Sunday after panic booking

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder bookings and dispatches have surged sharply, pointing to a fresh wave of panic booking across Goa.

While an average of around 11,000 domestic LPG cylinders were dispatched daily over the last three days, the number spiked to nearly 14,700 cylinders on Sunday alone, indicating a sudden rush among consumers to secure supplies.

Official data for Sunday shows that the State had 360.494 metric tonnes (MT) of domestic LPG as opening stock. During the day, an additional 219.842 MT was received, taking the total available stock to 580.336 MT.

However, 209.21 MT of LPG was dispatched during the day, which translates to around 14,700 domestic cylinders, suggesting that consumers rushed to book cylinders despite government appeals against panic buying.

The closing domestic stock stood at 371.126 MT, equivalent to roughly 26,000 cylinders, while authorities maintained that the inflow of LPG cylinder to distributors will continue on daily basis.

Officials said the State currently has 55 LPG distributors, including 33 of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPC), 17 of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and five of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL). One of the IOCL distributors caters exclusively to the Army.

Meanwhile, commercial LPG supplies remain constrained. On Sunday, over 700 cylinders were supplied for commercial purposes.

Sources said that the supply is enough to tackle the current situation and everything should normalize shortly. "We appeal citizens not to panic and go for such huge bookings. The server has slowed down as a result of heavy bookings," sources said.

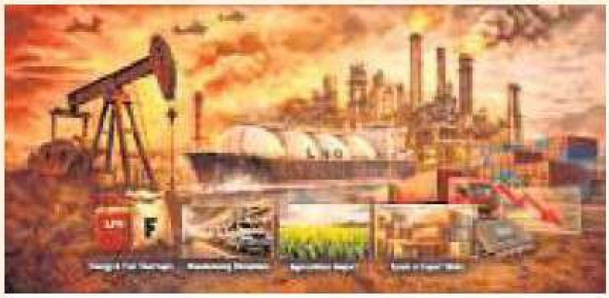
Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 16/03/2026

Page No: 10, Size: 16.59cm × 23.79cm

Oil shock threatens Asia's industries amid conflict

Business Desk

MUMBAI



Rising global crude oil prices triggered by the escalating conflict in West Asia could unleash widespread ripple effects across Asia's key economic sectors, including India, according to a report by Morgan Stanley.

The investment bank warned that prolonged supply disruptions in the energy market could trigger broader economic consequences across the region. As the crisis drags on, the effects are likely to spread beyond energy markets and start affecting industrial production, exports, and supply chains, ANI reported on Sunday.

Morgan Stanley noted that sustained increases in oil prices could push Asia's oil burden from below its 10-year average to above it, intensifying pressure on energy-importing economies. However, the report expressed even greater concern over potential disruptions in the supply of LNG, which could have more immediate consequences for several countries.

Among Asian economies, India, Thailand, South Korea and Taiwan are seen as the most vulnerable to LNG supply disruptions.

Any significant curtailment of LNG availability could disrupt energy supply chains and raise costs for industries dependent on natural gas.Beyond crude oil and LNG, the report highlighted the risk of supply shortages in several industrial inputs such as fertilisers, propane, petrochemicals like butadiene, helium and sulphur.

Disruptions in these materials could cascade through multiple industries including agriculture, semiconductor manufacturing, automobile production and consumer goods.

Early signs of stress are already emerging across the region. India has reportedly begun rationing LNG supplies while increasing LPG prices to manage energy demand. Meanwhile, South Korea has imposed fuel price caps, lowered fuel taxes and extended diesel subsidies in an effort to cushion consumers.

Other governments are also taking precautionary steps. Thailand has asked civil servants to work from home to reduce fuel consumption, while the Philippines has introduced a four-day work week for government employees.Morgan Stanley added that several Asian refiners have cut utilisation rates to conserve fuel reserves. In addition, countries including India, China and Thailand have started curbing exports of refined fuel products to prioritise domestic supply. If geopolitical tensions persist, the report warned that disruptions to production and exports could intensify across Asia in the coming weeks.

Analysts said investors and policymakers will closely watch high-frequency indicators such as South Korea's export data, purchasing managers' indices (PMI), industrial production and trade flows for early signs of economic stress. The report cautioned that prolonged energy disruptions could amplify inflationary pressures across Asia, forcing central banks to reassess monetary policies.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 5.42cm × 12.51cm

Refinery price freeze considered

State-owned oil marketing companies are weighing a proposal to freeze or discount refinery transfer prices to offset mounting losses caused by unchanged retail fuel prices despite surging global crude rates. International oil prices have climbed above $100 per barrel following the West Asia conflict, while domestic petrol and diesel prices remain frozen. The move could limit losses for fuel retailers but may pressure standalone refiners such as Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL), and HMEL.

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 28.28cm × 22.94cm

SUNDAY LAPSE | Residents return empty-handed as LPG shortage worsens

Collector's order ignored, 60% gas agencies keep shutters down

Gas agency outlet closed in DIG Bungalow area on Sunday

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

The cooking gas crisis in the city intensified on Sunday as around 60% of LPG agencies remained closed despite clear directives from the district administration to stay open on holidays.

The situation left hundreds of residents struggling to obtain cylinders. Efforts by the administration to curb black marketing showed limited impact, as not a single seizure was made by newly formed search teams across the city in the past three days. Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh had instructed all cooking gas agencies on Saturday to keep their outlets operational even on holidays to ease the shortage. However, many dealers of Indane, Bharat Gas and HP Gas failed to follow the order, forcing residents to return home empty-handed.

Truck of oil marketing companies at TT Nagar for delivery of LPGs on Sunday

■ Zero seizures by agency search teams in last three days

Residents were seen moving across different parts of the city carrying empty cylinders on their vehicles. Many reached agencies hoping to obtain cylinders but found locked shutters. People also complained that domestic LPG cylinders could not be booked online through mobile phones for the seventh consecutive day, further worsening the situation.

People left waiting

During the day, multiple gas agencies across the city were found closed. These included Vineet Gas Agency at Vijay Market in BHEL Barkheda, Arya Gas Agency in Chandbad, Rajiv Gas Agency near Nehru Nagar Crossing and RK Indane Distribution at Jawahar Chowk. Agencies in areas such as Bairagarh and Ayodhya Bypass were also reported shut despite the administration's instructions to remain open.

Even open agencies ace stock shortage

Among the agencies that did open on Sunday, many were unable to provide cylinders due to lack of stock. Agencies such as Rai Gas Agency in Shahpura and Kolar Indane Gas Agency reported that supplies had not reached them. Several residents travelled to agency warehouses with their cylinders hoping to get a refill but were forced to return empty-handed due to unavailability.

Vehicle checking drive to curb black marketing

In an attempt to control the illegal trade and transportation of LPG cylinders, the district administration conducted a special vehicle checking drive on Sunday. The operation was carried out by a joint team of the Berasia revenue department, police personnel and the District Transport Office led by DTO Jitendra Sharma. During the drive, nearly 200 vehicles were inspected. Authorities issued challans to 54 vehicles for violations. Some loading vehicles were found transporting LPG cylinders illegally, and a total compounding fee of Rs93,200 was collected from offenders.

Hotels, restaurants told to shift to PNG

Additional District Magistrate Sumit Kumar Pandey told The Free Press Journal that the administration has urged hotel and restaurant operators to adopt the Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Think Gas pipeline network instead of relying on commercial LPG cylinders. Pandey said around 35% of the city has already been connected to the Think Gas network. Operators located in areas where the network is available have been advised to obtain a connection, especially as restrictions have been imposed on supplying commercial LPG cylinders to such establishments.

20% commercial LPG quota fuels black marketing fears

Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Allocation of 20% LPG cylinders for commercial use is likely to widen the scope of black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders, domestic gas consumers fear. They say domestic LPG cylinders could be passed off as commercial blue cylinders.

Hotels Association president Tejkul Pal Singh Pali said, "Now Food and Civil Supplies officials will have greater responsibility to check black marketing of gas cylinders. It is true there is a possibility of such practices after 20% allocation of cylinders for commercial use."

Consumers fear domestic LPG cylinders may be sold as commercial cylinders

Common gas consumers say that after the ban on commercial LPG, many shop vendors closed their outlets, but they may now resume operations. There is apprehension that they may use domestic gas cylinders in the garb of commercial ones.

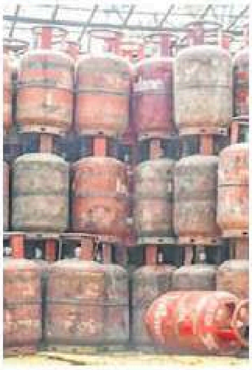
RK Gupta, an LPG cylinder distributor, said, "Big hoteliers will not engage in corrupt practices of black marketing as it would affect their reputation. The Central Government should coordinate with the state government for proper implementation of the 20% relaxation for commercial LPG." To combat rising black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders, often diverted for commercial use due to supply shortages, the Union Government has allowed Oil Marketing Companies to allocate 20% of the average monthly requirement of commercial LPG to businesses.

> MP Petrol Pumps Dealers Association president Ajay Singh said, "Street food vendors closed their shops as continuing operations would expose how they managed under the ban on commercial LPG. However, after allocation of 20% commercial LPG for hotels and restaurants, the scope for black marketing of domestic LPG widens. Vendors can use one commercial cylinder to avoid inspection while supplying domestic LPG illegally."

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
Page No: 15, Size: 9.58cm × 23.07cm

LPG: Govt assures adequate stock, consumers struggle

Citizens appealed to avoid spreading rumours regarding availability



Our Staff Reporter
BHOPAL

Despite the state government's claim that adequate LPG cylinders are available, people continue to run from pillar to post to book cylinders across Madhya Pradesh. In some places, protests have also erupted. To control the situation, the government on Sunday appealed to PNG (Piped Natural Gas) consumers not to book LPG cylinders unnecessarily.

Meanwhile, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry issued a communiqué urging people not to panic-book LPG cylinders. It advised consumers to use digital modes instead of visiting gas agencies for bookings.

Oil marketing companies have already provided platforms such as mobile apps, SMS, WhatsApp and IVRS calls for LPG bookings.

The government also appealed to citizens to avoid spreading rumours regarding LPG availability and said district administrations have been instructed to take immediate action against misinformation. Officials reiterated that adequate stock of LPG cylinders, petrol and diesel is available in the state.

1,357 LPG cylinders seized

The state government has intensified action against black marketing of LPG cylinders. A total of 1,357 cylinders were seized from 1,025 locations across the state, while FIRs were registered in eight cases. A six-member committee recently formed by the government is closely monitoring the LPG distribution situation. Commercial gas users have been asked to use their existing stock judiciously and consider alternative fuel options where possible. Consumers have also been encouraged to opt for PNG connections in areas where piped gas pipelines are available. People have been advised to limit the use of LPG in activities that require high gas consumption

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 51.51cm × 67.15cm

तेल का आयात बिल बढ़ेगा!

शुभांगी माथुर और साकेत कुमार
नई दिल्ली, 15 मार्च

कच्चे तेल के वैश्विक दाम बढ़ने और आपूर्ति बाधित होने के कारण भारत के ऊर्जा आयात बिल में जबरदस्त उछाल का खतरा मंडरा रहा है। पश्चिम एशिया युद्ध का तीसरा सप्ताह शुरू हो गया है और तत्काल तनाव कम होने का कोई संकेत नजर नहीं आ रहा है।

भारत सऊदी अरब, इराक, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) और कतर जैसे प्रमुख खाड़ी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से बड़ी मात्रा में कच्चा तेल, तरलीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) और तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) खरीदता है। ईरान ने अमेरिका और इजरायल के हमले के जवाब में होर्मुज स्ट्रेट को बंद कर दिया है। इससे इन देशों से भारत को आने वाली एलएनजी और एलपीजी की आपूर्ति बाधित हो गई है।

भारत 40 प्रतिशत कच्चे तेल, 90 प्रतिशत एलपीजी का और 50 प्रतिशत एलएनजी का आयात होर्मूज स्ट्रेट से करता है। ईरान और ओमान के बीच महत्त्वपूर्ण होर्मूज स्ट्रेट है। लिहाजा इस क्षेत्र में तनाव से देश को तेल की आपूर्ति को अत्यधिक जोखिम बढ़ जाता है और इस महत्त्वपूर्ण ऊर्जा की आपूर्ति की आपूर्ति बाधित हो सकती है। इसके अलावा ऊर्जा की बढ़ती कीमतें देश के आयात बिल को और बढ़ा देती हैं। इसका कारण यह है कि भारत अपनी कच्चे तेल की जरूरतों का लगभग 90 प्रतिशत, एलपीजी की मांग का 60 प्रतिशत और एलएनजी की लगभग आधी जरूरतों के लिए विदेशी आपूर्ति पर निर्भर है।

पश्चिम एशिया के युद्ध का भारत पर पड़ने वाला असर

- कच्चे तेल की कीमत 110-115 डॉलर प्रति बैरल रहने पर भारत का शुद्ध तेल आयात बिल सालाना 56-64 अरब डॉलर तक बढ़ सकता है
- बेंचमार्क ब्रेंट शुक्रवार को 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल से ऊपर बंद हुआ जबकि संघर्ष शुरू होने से पहले यह लगभग 65 डॉलर प्रति बैरल था

दरअसल वैश्विक तेल की कीमतों में सोमवार को और उछाल आने की आशंका है। इसका कारण यह है कि अमेरिका ने ईरान के प्रमुख तेल निर्यात केंद्र, खारग द्वीप पर हमला किया है। इससे ईरान अपने लगभग सभी कच्चे तेल का निर्यात करता है। बेंचमार्क ब्रेंट शुक्रवार को 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल से ऊपर बंद हुआ जबकि संघर्ष शुरू होने से पहले यह लगभग 65 डॉलर प्रति बैरल था।

एसऐंडपी ग्लोबल एनर्जी के उपाध्यक्ष व कच्चे तेल अनुसंधान के वैश्विक प्रमुख जिम बर्कहार्ड ने कहा, 'एशिया के बाजार में दबाव का संकेत दिखाई दे रहा है। वर्ष 2025 में एशिया में प्रोसेस कच्चे तेल का आधा हिस्सा मध्य पूर्व खाड़ी क्षेत्र से आया था। लेकिन यह प्रभाव फैल रहा है। होर्मुज स्ट्रेट जितने लंबे समय तक प्रभावी रूप से बंद रहेगा, उतना ही आपूर्ति, भंडार और कीमतों पर उतना ही बुरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा। यह प्रभाव केवल एशिया तक ही सीमित नहीं रहेगा।'

विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार यदि वित्त वर्ष 2027 में वैश्विक कच्चे तेल की औसत कीमत 110-115 डॉलर प्रति बैरल रहती है तो भारत का शुद्ध तेल आयात बिल सालाना 56-64 अरब डॉलर तक बढ़ सकता है। इक्रा की मुख्य अर्थशास्त्री अदिति नायर ने कहा, 'औसत कच्चे तेल की कीमत में प्रत्येक 10 डॉलर प्रति बैरल की वृद्धि से शुद्ध तेल आयात में 14-16 अरब डॉलर की वृद्धि होती है। यदि वित्त वर्ष 2027 में तेल की कीमत औसतन 110-115 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक पहुंच जाती है तो शुद्ध तेल आयात में लगभग 56-64 अरब डॉलर की वृद्धि होगी।'

उन्होंने कहा कि कच्चे तेल की औसत कीमतों में प्रति बैरल 10 डॉलर की वृद्धि से चालू खाते का घाटा 30 से 40 आधार अंक तक बढ़ सकता है। हालांकि खुदरा ईंधन कीमतों में पूर्ण वृद्धि होने पर थोक मूल्य सूचकांक मुद्रास्फीति 80-100 आधार अंक और उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (सीपीआई) मुद्रास्फीति 40-60 आधार अंक तक बढ़ सकती है।

डीएसपी म्यूचुअल फंड के अनुसार यदि कच्चे तेल की कीमतें बढ़कर 120 डॉलर प्रति बैरल हो जाती हैं तो भारत का तेल व्यापार घाटा बढ़कर 220 अरब डॉलर हो सकता है। इससे चालू खाता घाटा सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) के 3 प्रतिशत से अधिक हो जाएगा और रुपये के कमजोर होने की आशंका है।

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 6.75cm × 7.33cm

सिलिंडर नहीं रख सकेंगे पीएनजी कनेक्शन वाले

सरकार ने पाइप वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) का कनेक्शन रखने वाले वाले परिवारों के लिए सब्सिडी वाला एलपीजी कनेक्शन रखने या लेने पर रोक लगा दी है। इस बीच, वैश्विक स्तर पर ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में संकट के चलते क्षेत्र के नियामक ने शहर गैस वितरण कंपनियों से अपने पीएनजी ढांचे का विस्तार तेजी से करने को कहा है। इससे रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति पर दबाव कम किया जा सके। पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने 14 मार्च को जारी अधिसूचना में आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस आदेश-2000 में बदलाव किया है। इसके तहत अब पीएनजी कनेक्शन वाले उपभोक्ताओं के लिए अपने घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन को 'सरेंडर' करना जरूरी हो गया है। *भाषा*

DJ Rashtriya Sanskaran, Delhi, 16/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 69.14cm × 35.64cm

हालिया संकट से कटी 20 साल की बाधा, कनाट प्लेस में पहुंचेगी पीएनजी

प्रमुख रेस्तरां हब में पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस पहुंचने पर थी तकनीकी बाधा

नेमिष हेमंत • जागरण

- **आइजीएल और एनडीएमसी के बीच हुआ करार, कुछ दिन में काम हो जाएगा शुरू, 200 रेस्तरां को होगा फायदा, 2006 में मिली थी परियोजना को मंजूरी**

नई दिल्ली : कामर्शियल एलपीजी के संकट के बीच जहां कई क्षेत्रों के रेस्तरां संचालक मुश्किल में हैं, वहीं दिल्ली के प्रमुख रेस्तरां हब कनाट प्लेस में 20 वर्ष के अवरोध के बाद पीएनजी आपूर्ति का रास्ता निकल आया है। आइजीएल के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि कनाट प्लेस में पीएनजी लाइन बिछाने को लेकर एमसीडी से करार हो गया है। अब कनेक्शन देने की प्रक्रिया में तेजी आएगी, जिससे करीब 200 रेस्तरां, पब और बार समेत अन्य तक स्वच्छ ईंधन की पहुंच संभव हो सकेगी।

कनाट प्लेस में हेरिटेज इमारतें होने के साथ ही रेस्तरां, पब तथा बार का हब भी है। पीएनजी कनेक्शन दिल्ली की छोटी-छोटी कालोनियों तक पहुंच गया, लेकिन अभी तक कनाट प्लेस में नहीं पहुंच सका है। जबकि, यहां के रेस्तरां संचालक 2006 से ही इसकी मांग कर रहे थे। उसी वर्ष इस परियोजना को मंजूरी भी मिल गई थी। लेकिन मंजूरी के बाद भी पीएनजी की लाइन बिछाने में कनाट प्लेस के हेरिटेज होने की बाधा आ रही थी।

इसके चलते पीएनजी के लिए अलग से खोदाई की एमसीडी अनुमति नहीं दे रहा था। एमसीडी का कहना था कि कनाट प्लेस के इनर और आउटर सर्कल के बीच भूमिगत कारिडोर बनाया गया है। इसमें बिजली, पानी और टेलीफोन की लाइनें हैं। यहीं से पीएनजी की लाइन भी निकाली जाए जबकि आइजीएल बिजली के तारों की वजह से इसके लिए तैयार नहीं था। इसके अलावा हेरिटेज बिल्डिंग होने की वजह से एमसीडी ड्रिलिंग और तोड़फोड़ की अनुमति भी नहीं दे रहा था।

ऐसे निकला पाइप लाइन का रास्ता : एलपीजी संकट के बीच पाइप लाइन के लिए बीच का रास्ता निकाला गया है। अब हेरिटेज इमारतों को क्षति पहुंचाए बिना पाइप लाइन के लिए सड़क किनारे और गलियारो के बाहर फुटपाथ वाले हिस्से में खोदाई करके पाइप लाइन डाली जाएगी।

दिल्ली का दिल माने जाने वाला कनाट प्लेस। जागरण

इस परियोजना को 2006 में ही मंजूरी मिल गई थी, लेकिन पाइप लाइन बिछाने की प्रक्रिया आरंभ करने में 20 वर्ष लग गए। एनडीएमसी यह कदम काफी पहले उठा सकती थी।

– विक्रम बधवार, महासचिव, नई दिल्ली ट्रेडर्स एसोसिएशन

200 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ गई कोयले की मांग

जागरण संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

कामर्शियल एलपीजी सिलिंडर की आपूर्ति शुरू हो गई है, लेकिन उसकी आपूर्ति सामान्य होने में अभी कुछ दिन और लग सकते हैं। ऐसे में घरेलू से लेकर व्यावसायिक इस्तेमाल में कोयले की मांग बढ़ गई है। वैसे, कोयले के इस्तेमाल की अनुमति शनिवार को वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (सीएक्यूएम) ने दी है। जिसके बाद से इसकी बिक्री बेधड़क होने लगी है। ऐसे में दिल्ली में कोयले की दुकानें फिर से गुलजार होने लगी हैं। वैसे, विक्रेताओं के अनुसार, संकट के साथ ही कोयले की मांग में तेजी देखने को मिल रही है। पहाड़गंज में कोयला बिक्री की एक दुकान के संचालक अमित गोयल के अनुसार, मौजूदा समय में कोयले की मांग 200 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ चुकी है। खासकर रेस्तरां, ढाबे तथा कैटरिंग में इसका इस्तेमाल बढ़ा है। व्यावसायिक सिलिंडरों की किल्लत के बीच खासकर इसे प्रमुख विकल्प के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

इसी तरह, घर में भी सिलिंडर की खपत को कम करने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाने लगा है। वैसे, दिल्ली में शनिवार तक कोयला जलाना प्रतिबंधित था, तब भी दुकानें खुली रहती थीं। एक दुकानदार अमित गोयल के मुताबिक, पहले दिनभर में बमुश्किल 20 से 30 ग्राहक आते थे। वर्तमान में उनकी संख्या 50 से अधिक पहुंच चुकी है। लोग आवश्यकतानुसार, बोरी में भरकर तथा झोले में कोयला लेकर जा रहे हैं। मौजूदा समय में वह 10 से 15 क्विंटल कोयला बेच पा रहे हैं, लेकिन बढ़ती मांग के बीच भी कोयले का दाम यथावत है। यह 40 रुपये प्रति किलो में उपलब्ध है।

एनआरएआइ की रेस्तरां संचालकों को एडवाइजरी, लगवाएं पीएनजी कनेक्शन : पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के निर्देश के बाद एनआरएआइ ने एडवाइजरी जारी कर दिल्ली के रेस्तरां संचालकों से पीएनजी कनेक्शन लगवाने का आग्रह किया है। नेशनल रेस्टोरेंट एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (एनआरएआइ), दिल्ली के अध्यक्ष संदीप आनंद गोयल ने व्यावसायिक पीएनजी कनेक्शन लगवाने की अनुमति के साथ कोयला व अन्य विकल्पों को आजमाने की अनुमति देने का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि इससे उद्योग को बड़ी राहत मिलेगी। साथ ही उन्होंने दिल्ली के सभी रेस्तरां संचालकों से कहा कि संभव हो तो जल्द पीएनजी कनेक्शन करा लें। ऐसे रेस्तरां की संख्या तीन से चार हजार होगी, जहां पीएनजी कनेक्शन लगाए जा सकते हैं, लेकिन जागरूकता की कमी के चलते पहले नहीं लगा।

आइजीएल ने शुरू किया पीएनजी व एलपीजी कनेक्शन का डाटा जुटाना : पीएनजी के घरेलू कनेक्शन वालों से एलपीजी का कनेक्शन वापस लेने के पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के निर्देश के बाद आइजीएल ने पीएनजी व एलपीजी कनेक्शन का डाटा जुटाना शुरू कर दिया है। ताकि आगे की कार्रवाई आरंभ की जा सके। एलपीजी डीलरों के अनुसार, ऐसे कनेक्शनों की संख्या लाखों में है। ऐसे उपभोक्ताओं के पास पीएनजी व एलपीजी कनेक्शन दोनों हैं। अगर उन्हें चिन्हित कर कनेक्शन वापस लिया जाता है तो एलपीजी कनेक्शनों का दबाव काफी कम हो जाएगा।


पहाड़गंज मेन बाजार स्थित दुकान में बोरे में कोयला भरता श्रमिक। हरीश कुमार

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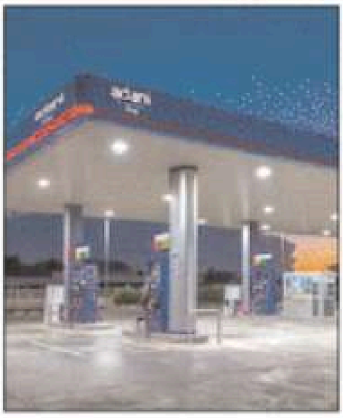
अदाणी-टोटल गैस ने कुछ औद्योगिक ग्राहकों के लिए गैस की कीमत घटाई

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली



अदाणी टोटल गैस लिमिटेड ने कुछ औद्योगिक ग्राहकों को आपूर्ति की जाने वाली अतिरिक्त प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम 119.90 रुपए प्रति मानक घन मीटर से घटाकर 82.95 रुपए प्रति मानक घन मीटर कर दिए हैं। यह बदलाव 16 मार्च की सुबह छह बजे से लागू होगा। अदाणी समूह और फ्रांस की टोटल एनर्जी के शहर गैस संयुक्त उद्यम ने कहा कि यह मूल्य संशोधन उपभोक्ताओं तक कम कीमत का लाभ पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से किया गया है। साथ ही यह मौजूदा आपूर्ति प्रतिबंधों के दौरान प्रणाली की स्थिरता बनाए रखने और गैस का समान वितरण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी है। पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के कारण होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में जहाजों के आवागमन में व्यवधान के कारण भारत में एलएनजी आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई थी। इसके कारण कंपनी ने वाणिज्यिक और औद्योगिक ग्राहकों से कहा था कि वे अपनी अनुबंधित गैस खपत का केवल 40 प्रतिशत ही उपयोग करें। कंपनी ने उपयोगकर्ताओं को सूचित किया, हमें आपको यह जानकारी देते हुए प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि तीन मार्च, 2026 की अधिसूचना के अनुसार अतिरिक्त गैस के दाम बढ़ाकर 119.90 रुपए प्रति मानक घन मीटर किए गए थे, जिसे अब घटाकर 82.95 रुपए प्रति मानक घन मीटर कर दिया गया है। यह 16 मार्च, 2026 से सुबह छह बजे से लागू होगी कंपनी ने कहा कि यह संशोधन उपभोक्ताओं को कम कीमत का लाभ देने के उद्देश्य से किया गया है। कंपनी ने मौजूदा आदेश के तहत औद्योगिक ग्राहकों को 80 प्रतिशत आपूर्ति के संबंध में गैस आपूर्ति निगम से स्पष्टता भी मांगी है। पूर्व में कंपनी वाणिज्यिक और औद्योगिक ग्राहकों से 40 प्रतिशत की सीमा के बाद बढ़ी हुई मात्रा पर 119.90 रुपए प्रति घन मीटर का शुल्क वसूल रही थी।

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तेल से ज्यादा गैस के मोर्चे पर है चुनौती

महाबीर सिंह

लेखक वरिष्ठ टिप्पणीकार हैं।

ईरान के खिलाफ अमरीका-इजरायल की लड़ाई शुरू हुये दो सप्ताह बीत चुके है। दोनों तरफ से एक दूसरे को नुकसान पहुंचाने के अपने अपने दावे किये जा रहे हैं लेकिन सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि इस लड़ाई की आंच अब भारत सहित दुनिया के तमाम देशों तक महसूस की जाने लगी है। कच्चे तेल के दाम 100 डालर प्रति बैरल को लांघ चुके हैं। इस संकट से तेल-गैस के दाम में भारी उतार-चढ़ाव देखा जा रहा है। तेल, गैस उपलब्धता को लेकर बढ़ती आशंका के बीच सरकार को बार बार सफाई देनी पड़ रही है। हालांकि, सरकार का कहना है कि देश में पेट्रोल, डीजल, मिट्टी तेल, विमान ईंधन की कोई कमी नहीं है। लेकिन, गैस के मामले में सरकार ने माना है कि वैश्विक स्थिति काफी चुनौतीपूर्ण है। अप्रत्याशित परिस्थितियों के चलते प्राकृतिक गैस आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है, उसकी भरपाई के लिये अन्य रास्तों और आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के जरिये खरीद का काम चल रहा है। स्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिये मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच संतुलन बनाये रखने को कई कदम उठाये गये हैं। आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत प्राकृतिक गैस और एलपीजी नियंत्रण आदेश जारी किया गया है जिसमें तेल रिफाइनरियों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा एलपीजी उत्पादन करने को कहा गया है।

यह सही बात है कि वर्तमान में कच्चे तेल के मामले में स्थिति उतनी कठिन नहीं है जितनी कि गैस के मामले में है। भारत दुनिया के 40 देशों से कच्चा तेल खरीदता है इसके साथ ही देश में 45 दिन की खपत के बराबर रणनीतिक तेल भंडार भी है। लेकिन जहां तक गैस की बात है इसका देश में कोई रणनीतिक भंडारण नहीं है और न ही इसके बारे में फिलहाल कोई योजना बनी है। लिक्विफाइड नेचुरल गैस (एलएनजी) का सबसे अधिक आयात कतर से होता है। देश की कुल एलपीजी खपत का लगभग 60 प्रतिशत हिस्सा आयात किया जाता है और इसमें से 90 प्रतिशत आयात खाड़ी देशों कतर, सउदी अरब और यूएई से होता है जो कि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्यम के रास्ते आता है। अमेरिका-इजरायल के खिलाफ लड़ाई में ईरान ने इस मार्ग को दबाव का बड़ा केन्द्र बनाया है। उसका कहना है किसी भी जहाज को इस रास्ते से नहीं गुजरने दिया जायेगा। इससे स्थिति चुनौतीपूर्ण बन गई है।

बहरहाल, सरकार बार बार यह कह रही है कि किसी ईंधन की कोई तंगी नहीं है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्री हरदीप पुरी ने गुरूवार को लोकसभा में देशवासियों को आश्वस्त करते हुये कहा कि भारत की कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति स्थिति सुरक्षित है। पेट्रोल, डीजल, मिट्टी तेल, विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ), ईंधन तेल की कोई कमी नहीं है। खुदरा केन्द्रों में पूरा स्टाक उपलब्ध है और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला सामान्य है। फारस की खाड़ी के होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से जितना कच्चा तेल आता है उससे अधिक मात्रा के आयात सुरक्षित कर लिये गये हैं।

गुरूवार को ही पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय, विदेश मंत्रालय, पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने मीडिया ब्रीफिंग कर नागरिकों से आग्रह किया है कि वे घबराहट में एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की अधिक बुकिंग करने से बचें। लोग गलत सूचनाओं और अफवाहों से सावधान रहें। हर दिन 50 लाख सिलेंडर वितरित किये जा रहे हैं, वहीं घरेलू एलपीजी उत्पादन में 28 प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है। देशभर के बंदरगाहों पर कामकाज सामान्य बना हुआ है। देश में 22 रिफाइनरियां हैं जो कि वर्तमान में पूरी क्षमता से परिचालन कर रही हैं।

दरअसल, न्यूज चैनलों और समाचार पत्रों में देश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर को लेकर लंबी लाइनें लगने के समाचार से सरकार के लिये सफाई देना जरूरी हो गया था। संसद में विपक्ष भी इस मुद्दे को जोरशोर से उठा रहा है। कहीं न कहीं यह बात भी सही है कि रेस्त्रां, होटलों और अन्य वाणिज्यिक इस्तेमाल करने वालों को एलपीजी आवंटन की समीक्षा से स्थिति जटिल हुई है। यही वजह है कि सरकार एलपीजी पर दबाव कम करने के लिये वैकल्पिक ईंधन के इस्तेमाल की बात कर रही है। राशन की दुकानों से मिट्टी तेल उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है जबकि औद्योगिक और वाणिज्यिक उपभोक्ताओं के लिये ईंधन तेल उपलब्ध कराने की बात कही जा रही है। पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु मंत्रालय ने राज्य प्रदूषण बोर्डों को सलाह दी है कि वह संकट अवधि के दौरान होटल, रेस्टोरेंट क्षेत्र के लिये वैकल्पिक ईंधन के इस्तेमाल की अनुमति दें ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा एलपीजी घरेलू उपभोग के उपलब्ध हो सके।

इस बीच, यह समाचार भी प्रमुखता से सामने आया है कि भारत के लिये कच्चा तेल ला रहा विदेशी झंडा लगा एक पोत बुधवार शाम मुंबई बंदरगाह पहुंच गया। लाइबेरियाई ध्वज वाला यह जलपोत 'शेनलोंग' लगभग 10 लाख बैरल कच्चा तेल लेकर युद्ध प्रभावित फारस खाड़ी के होर्मुज जलडमरू मध्य से होता हुआ सुरक्षित भारत पहुंच गया।

इसके अलावा भारतीय झंडा लगा एक और बड़ा जहाज जिसमें 20 लाख बैरल तेल है, एक दो दिन में भारतीय बंदरगाहों पर पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। बताया गया है कि जो जहाज मुंबई बंदरगाह पहुंचा है होर्मुज स्ट्रेट से गुजरते समय जहाज के कैप्टन ने उसे डार्क मोड में कर दिया था जिससे उसके बारे में ईरान को भनक नहीं लग सकी। यह तमाम जानकारी समुद्री जहाज ट्रैकिंग डाटा और उद्योग से जुड़े सूत्रों ने दी। क्या सचमुच ईरान को इस जहाज के बारे में जानकारी नहीं थी या फिर भारत जाने वाले इस जहाज को ईरान ने जानते बूझते भी जाने दिया। क्योंकि, भारत के विदेश मंत्री लगातार स्थिति पर नजर रखे हुये हैं और पिछले दिनों ईरानी समकक्ष से उनका कई बार संपर्क हुआ है।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने भी पश्चिम एशिया में जारी युद्ध और तनाव के बीच गुरूवार को ईरान के राष्ट्रपति मसूद पेजेशकियान से टेलीफोन पर बात की। लड़ाई शुरू होने के बाद दोनों नेताओं के बीच यह पहला सीधा संपर्क था। प्रधानमंत्री ने क्षेत्र में बढ़ते तनाव और नागरिक जीवन को हो रहे नुकसान पर चिंता जताई। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की प्राथमिकता अपने नागरिकों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के साथ ही उर्जा के निर्बाध परिवहन को बनाये रखना है। इससे पहले प्रधानमंत्री ओमान, कुवैत, बहरीन, सउदी अरब, यूएई, जार्डन, इजरायल, कतर के नेताओं के साथ भी बातचीत कर चुके हैं। हाल के दिनों में होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में तेल जहाजों पर हमलों के कारण वैश्विक उर्जा आपूर्ति को लेकर चिंतायें बढ़ी हैं। दो दिन पहले ही भारत के लिये तेल ला रहे टेंकर पर हमला हुआ था। फारस खाड़ी क्षेत्र में भारतीय ध्वज वाले 28 जहाजों में 778 भारतीय नाविक सवार हैं सरकार का कहना है उनकी सुरक्षा के लिये सक्रिय निगरानी की जा रही है।

Hari Bhoomi, Delhi, 16/03/2026

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प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम 119,90 रुपए प्रतिघन मीटर

अदाणी-टोटल ने औद्योगिक ग्राहकों के लिए गैस की कीमत घटाई

एजेंसी ▶▶ नई दिल्ली

अदाणी टोटल गैस लिमिटेड ने कुछ औद्योगिक ग्राहकों को आपूर्ति की जाने वाली अतिरिक्त प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम 119.90 रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर से घटाकर 82.95 रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर कर दिए हैं। यह बदलाव 16 मार्च की सुबह छह बजे से लागू होगा।

■ बदलाव आज सुबह छह बजे से लागू हो जाएगा

अदाणी समूह और फ्रांस की टोटल एनर्जी के शहर गैस संयुक्त उद्यम ने कहा कि यह मूल्य संशोधन उपभोक्ताओं तक कम कीमत का लाभ पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से किया गया है। साथ ही यह मौजूदा आपूर्ति प्रतिबंधों के दौरान प्रणाली की स्थिरता बनाए रखने और गैस का समान वितरण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भी है। पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के कारण होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में जहाजों के आवागमन में व्यवधान के कारण भारत में एलएनजी आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई थी। इसके कारण कंपनी ने वाणिज्यिक और औद्योगिक ग्राहकों से कहा था कि वे अपनी अनुबंधित गैस खपत का केवल 40 प्रतिशत ही उपयोग करें। तीन मार्च, 2026 की अधिसूचना के अनुसार अतिरिक्त गैस के दाम बढ़ाकर 119.90 रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर किए गए थे, जिसे अब घटाकर 82.95 रुपये प्रति मानक घन मीटर कर दिया गया है।

Hindustan, Delhi, 16/03/2026
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राजधानी में अलग-अलग स्थानों पर हादसे, बदरपुर में भीषण आग लगी, मयूर विहार फेज-तीन इलाके में बच्ची की जान गई

पीएनजी पाइपलाइन में लीकेज से लगी आग, बुजुर्ग जिंदा जली

दर्दनाक | 1 |

नई दिल्ली, वरिष्ठ संवाददाता। राजधानी के बदरपुर स्थित मोलरबंद इलाके में शनिवार शाम एक घर में पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) रिसाव के कारण भीषण आग लग गई। इस दर्दनाक हादसे में एक 65 वर्षीय बुजुर्ग महिला की जिंदा जलने से मौत हो गई।

घटना की सूचना मिलते ही दमकल विभाग की चार गाड़ियां मौके पर पहुंचीं और करीब एक घंटे की कड़ी मशक्कत के बाद आग पर पूरी तरह काबू पाया गया। हालांकि, तब तक बुजुर्ग महिला गंभीर रूप से झुलस चुकी थीं। पुलिस ने शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया है और मामले की विस्तृत जांच शुरू कर दी है।

दक्षिण-पूर्वी दिल्ली के पुलिस उपायुक्त डॉ. हेमंत तिवारी ने जानकारी दी कि मृतका की पहचान 65 वर्षीय वीनू सिंह उर्फ पुष्पा के रूप में हुई है, जो अपने परिवार के साथ मोलरबंद में रहती थीं। शनिवार शाम पुष्पा घर की छत पर बने बाथरूम में गई थीं। परिजनों के अनुसार, जैसे ही वह अंदर पहुंचीं, अचानक एक जोरदार धमाके के साथ वहां आग लग गई। आग इतनी तेज थी कि पुष्पा को बाहर निकलने या बचने का जरा भी मौका नहीं मिल सका।

गैस रिसाव का ऐसे पता लगाएं

तीखी गंध

गैस रिसाव होने पर सड़े हुए अंडे या कचरे जैसी तेज गंध का आना

फुसफुसाहट

फिटिंग से गैस निकलने पर 'हिसिंग' या सीटी जैसी आवाज आना

साबुन टेस्ट

जोड़ों पर साबुन का घोल लगाने पर बुलबुले बनना रिसाव का संकेत है

शारीरिक लक्षण

अचानक आंखों में जलन, गले में खराश, चक्कर आना या जी मिचलाना

पौधों का सूखना

पाइपलाइन के आसपास लगे पौधों का अचानक सूखना या पीला पड़ना

मीटर रीडिंग

उपकरण बंद होने के बावजूद गैस मीटर की रीडिंग का लगातार बढ़ना

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- त्वरित सहायता के लिए गैस बिल पर दिए गए नजदीकी जोनल ऑफिस नंबर पर कॉल करें
- कॉल न लगने पर अपने रजिस्टर्ड मोबाइल नंबर से शिकायत लिखकर मैसेज भेजें

आपूर्ति कंपनी की लापरवाही का आरोप : पीड़ित परिवार ने इस हादसे के पीछे गैस आपूर्ति कंपनी की लापरवाही की आशंका जताई है। मृतका की बहू ममता सिंह ने बताया कि करीब दो महीने पहले घर में पीएनजी कनेक्शन कराया था। उसी लाइन में लीकेज की समस्या थी। एक वॉशरूम छत पर बना हुआ है, जिसे हमारी सास वीनू इस्तेमाल करती थीं। वे शुगर की पेशेंट थीं। कभी-कभी बीड़ी जला लेती थीं। शनिवार शाम पूरा वॉशरूम गैस से भरा था, लेकिन गंध नहीं आने से पता नहीं चला। उन्होंने बीड़ी जलाई तो अचानक आग लग गई। धमाके की आवाज सुनकर घर के अन्य सदस्य और पड़ोसी मौके पर पहुंचे। उन्होंने आग बुझाने का प्रयास किया और पुष्पा को बाहर निकाला, लेकिन तब तक उनका शरीर बुरी तरह झुलस चुका था। उन्हें तत्काल पास के अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने उन्हें मृत घोषित कर दिया।

जांच के दायरे में सुरक्षा मानक : बदरपुर थाना पुलिस ने इस संबंध में संबंधित धाराओं के तहत मामला दर्ज कर लिया है। पुलिस अधिकारियों का कहना है कि शुरुआती जांच में आग लगने की मुख्य वजह गैस लीकेज ही प्रतीत हो रही है।

रसोई गैस के रिसाव से ढाई साल की मासूम का दम घुटा

दर्दनाक | 2 |

नई दिल्ली, कार्यालय संवाददाता। पूर्वी दिल्ली के मयूर विहार फेज-तीन इलाके में रविवार दोपहर एलपीजी सिलेंडर से गैस लीक होने के कारण दम घुटने से ढाई साल की एक मासूम बच्ची की मौत हो गई, जबकि उसकी बड़ी बहन की जान बच गई।

गाजीपुर थाना पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए लाल बहादुर शास्त्री अस्पताल की मोर्चरी में रखवाया है और मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है। पुलिस के अनुसार, 42 वर्षीय मोहम्मद राहिद मयूर विहार फेज-तीन स्थित आशीर्वाद अपार्टमेंट के फ्लैट नंबर-162 में परिवार के साथ रहते हैं। वह पास की राजबीर कॉलोनी में सिलाई का काम करते हैं। परिवार में उनकी पत्नी प्रवीन खातून और साढ़े सात वर्षीय राफिया और ढाई वर्षीय सना थीं।

रविवार को राहिद काम पर गए हुए थे। दोपहर के समय प्रवीन अपने कमरे में सो रही थीं, जबकि दोनों बच्चियां पास में खेल रही थीं। इसी दौरान कमरे में रखा गैस सिलेंडर लीक होने लगा। गैस के प्रभाव से खेलते-खेलते सना जमीन पर गिर पड़ी और कुछ ही देर में राफिया भी बेहोश हो गई। गैस की तेज गंध से प्रवीन की नींद खुली तो उन्होंने देखा कि सिलेंडर से गैस निकल रही है और दोनों बच्चियां बेसुध पड़ी हैं। सूचना के बाद राहिद पड़ोसियों की मदद से उसे नोएडा के मेट्रो अस्पताल ले गए, जहां डॉक्टरों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। फिलहाल पुलिस मामले की जांच कर रही है।

ढाई वर्षीय सना। • फाइल फोटो

बड़ी बेटी राफिया की हालत में सुधार

मां प्रवीन खातून ने जब दोनों बेटियों को कमरे में बेसुध देखा तो वह घबराकर उन्हें लेकर तुरंत बाहर भागी। खुली हवा में आने पर बड़ी बेटी राफिया की हालत में कुछ सुधार हुआ, लेकिन ढाई साल की सना बेहोश ही रही। सूचना मिलते ही पिता भी घर पहुंच गए और पड़ोसियों की मदद से बच्ची को तुरंत अस्पताल ले गए। माता-पिता को उम्मीद थी कि डॉक्टर उसे बचा लेंगे, लेकिन रास्ते में ही मासूम ने दम तोड़ दिया। अस्पताल पहुंचने पर डॉक्टरों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। हादसे के बाद मां प्रवीन और परिवार का रो-रोकर बुरा हाल है।

Hindustan, Delhi, 16/03/2026

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गैस का इंतजाम एक बड़ा इम्तिहान

यहां स्कैन करें

आलोक जोशी | वरिष्ठ पत्रकार

यूरोप से लेकर एशिया तक ज्यादातर देश ईरान युद्ध के संकट का ताप झेलने लगे हैं। कहीं गैस की कमी है, तो कहीं तेल की किल्लत और महंगाई का डर भी सताने लगा है।

लगेगी आग तो आएंगे घर कई जद में
यहां पे सिर्फ हमारा मकान थोड़ी है!

शहूर शायर राहत इंदौरी का यह शेर किसी मोहल्ले, गांव, शहर या कह सकते हैं कि किसी पूरे देश को नजर में रखकर लिखा गया होगा और यह उसी रोशनी में सुना व सुनाया जाता रहा है। वैसे, आज शायद यह शेर पूरी दुनिया के लिए सही साबित होता दिख रहा है।

अमेरिका द्वारा ईरान पर हमले के पहले शायद ही किसी ने सोचा था कि इसकी आंच इतनी जल्दी इतनी दूर तक फैल जाएगी। अब तस्वीर साफ है। यूरोप से लेकर एशिया तक तमाम देश इस युद्ध से उपजे संकट का ताप झेल रहे हैं। कहीं गैस की कमी है, तो कहीं तेल की किल्लत और महंगाई का डर सता रहा है।

भारत के लिए यह बड़ी मुसीबत है, क्योंकि होर्मुज जलमार्ग बाधित होने या बंद होने का सबसे खराब असर भारत पर पड़ना तय था। फारस की खाड़ी को ओमान की खाड़ी के रास्ते अरब सागर से जोड़ने वाला यह महत्वपूर्ण जलमार्ग पूरी दुनिया के ऊर्जा-व्यापार की जीवनरेखा है। दुनिया भर में कच्चे तेल और गैस की कुल आपूर्ति का लगभग 20 से 25 फीसदी हिस्सा इसी रास्ते से गुजरकर मंजिल तक पहुंचता है। हर रोज इस रास्ते से औसतन 138 जहाज या टैंकर फारस की खाड़ी से अरब सागर तक का सफर तय करते हैं, जिनमें लगभग 1.40 करोड़ बैरल कच्चा तेल और 29 करोड़ घनमीटर तरल प्राकृतिक गैस या एलएनजी ढोई जाती है। पिछले दो हफ्तों में इस रास्ते से कुछ ही टैंकर निकल पाए हैं, इधर कुछ और टैंकरों को भी निकाला जा रहा है, पर टैंकरों की आवाजाही घटने का ही असर तेल और गैस के बढ़ते दामों पर दिख रहा है।

पूरी दुनिया में हर रोज करीब 10.5 करोड़ बैरल कच्चे तेल की खपत होती है। इसमें से दो करोड़ बैरल सिर्फ पश्चिम एशिया से आता है। इसका बड़ा हिस्सा होर्मुज के रास्ते निकलता है और करीब 60 लाख बैरल पाइपलाइन के रास्ते लाल सागर जाता है। लड़ाई की वजह से दोनों ही रास्तों पर असर पड़ा है और दुनिया को हर रोज दो करोड़ बैरल तेल कम मिल रहा है। अब तक का मोटा अनुमान यही है कि करीब 20 से 25 करोड़ बैरल तेल अटक गया है, जिसका बड़ा हिस्सा उन्हीं देशों के स्टोरेज टैंकरों में आ चुका था। चूंकि अब वे भी भरने लगे हैं, इसलिए ये देश अब कुओं से तेल निकालना ही बंद कर रहे हैं।

भारत की तेल-आपूर्ति का लगभग आधा हिस्सा यहीं से आता है। हालांकि, इससे भी बड़ी परेशानी है एलएनजी या प्राकृतिक गैस। हम गाड़ियों में सीएनजी या घरों में पीएनजी के नाम से जो गैस इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं, वे यही हैं। भारत 84 प्रतिशत एलएनजी पांच देशों से मंगाता है- कतर, अमेरिका, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, अंगोला और ओमान, लेकिन इसका 60 फीसदी हिस्सा पश्चिम एशिया के उन्हीं इलाकों से आता है, जिनकी आपूर्ति होर्मुज जलमार्ग से गुजरती है।

तेल के मुकाबले गैस का बाजार बहुत विकट है। तेल तो कहीं से भी कम या ज्यादा मात्रा में खरीदा जा सकता है, पर गैस की आपूर्ति में लंबे समय के करार करने पड़ते हैं। इसीलिए भारत कतर पर काफी हद तक निर्भर है। कतर एनर्जी इस इलाके में एलएनजी का सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता है, पर उसके रस लफान कॉम्प्लेक्स पर ड्रोन हमले के बाद से उसने एलएनजी उत्पादन बंद कर रखा था। इसी परिस्थिति में दुनिया के दिग्गज विशेषज्ञ चेता रहे हैं कि यदि होर्मुज का रास्ता दो महीने से ज्यादा बंद रहा, तो एलएनजी का दाम दोगुना होने का डर है। इस वक्त भी इसका दाम 15 डॉलर प्रति एमएमबीटीयू पहुंच चुका है, जो जंग शुरू होने से पहले सात डॉलर पर था। तेल के दाम प्रति बैरल 150 से 200 डॉलर तक पहुंचने की चेतावनियां पहले ही आ चुकी हैं। मान लें कि यह लड़ाई आज ही खत्म हो जाए, तब भी स्थिति सुधरने और आपूर्ति के वापस पटरी पर आने में कम से कम एक महीने का वक्त लग ही जाएगा। हालांकि, इस समय ज्यादा जानकार भविष्यवाणी करने से कतरा रहे हैं, पर तीन तरह के अनुमान लग रहे हैं।

अगर युद्ध तुरंत रुक जाए और दोनों पक्ष शांति के लिए राजी हो जाएं, तो इस इलाके से तेल और गैस आना फिर शुरू होगा। तीन-चार हफ्ते में उत्पादन भी शुरू हो सकता है। फिर भी, हालात सामान्य होने में एक से दो महीने का वक्त लग सकता है।

हालांकि, यदि यह लड़ाई एक-दो महीने तक खिंचती है और होर्मुज की नाकाबंदी जारी रहती है, तब तेल के दाम फिर चढ़ेंगे और 150 डॉलर के ऊपर भी जा सकते हैं। ऐसे में, सऊदी अरब और यूएई को अपना उत्पादन बंद करना पड़ेगा। गैस की भारी किल्लत हो जाएगी, जिससे खाद कारखानों और प्राकृतिक गैस पर निर्भर दूसरे उद्योगों को झटका लगेगा। शहरों में पाइप लाइन गैस की आपूर्ति भी प्रभावित हो सकती है और यातायात महंगा हो सकता है। भारत का तेल आयात खर्च तेजी से बढ़ने का डर है, जिसकी वजह से रुपया भी कमजोर होगा और काफी समय से काबू में दिख रही महंगाई के भी बेलगाम होने का डर पैदा होगा। युद्ध रुकने के बाद भी संकट से उबरने में समय लग सकता है।

तीसरी तस्वीर और भी डरावनी है। अगर वियतनाम और अफगानिस्तान की तरह ईरान का मोर्चा भी अमेरिका के लिए एक लंबी लड़ाई का मैदान बन जाता है और होर्मुज जलमार्ग को बंद रखने में ईरान कामयाब रहता है, तब कच्चे तेल का दाम 200 डॉलर प्रति बैरल तक उछल सकता है। दुनिया के तमाम देशों में ऊर्जा संकट पैदा हो सकता है। तमाम चीजों की किल्लत देखने को मिल सकती है। महंगाई तेजी से बढ़ी, तो केंद्रीय बैंकों को ब्याज बढ़ाने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ सकता है, जिसका असर आर्थिक विकास पर भी पड़ेगा। ऐसे में अनेक देश मंदी की चपेट में भी जा सकते हैं। भारत भी इन सबसे अछूता नहीं रह सकेगा।

अभी भारत और ईरान के बीच बातचीत से उम्मीद बनती है कि होर्मुज का रास्ता शायद भारत के लिए पूरी तरह बंद नहीं होगा, इसलिए अभी परिस्थिति उतनी बिगड़ती नहीं दिखती। अगर तटस्थ होकर देखना है, तो सऊदी अरब की सबसे बड़ी तेल कंपनी अरामको के प्रमुख की यह चेतावनी याद रखनी चाहिए कि यह लड़ाई जितनी लंबी चलेगी, दुनिया के तेल कारोबार के लिए उसके नतीजे उतने ही हाहाकारी होंगे।

भारत सरकार पूरे प्रयास में लगी है कि उसे किसी तरह से तेल मिलता रहे। ईरान को मनाने में कुछ सफलता भी मिली है। हालांकि, अपनी जरूरत भर का तेल लाने के लिए भारत सरकार को अभी और प्रयास करने की जरूरत है। ध्यान रहे, हर गुजरता दिन दुनिया को भी महंगा पड़ रहा है और भारत को भी।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)

Navbharat Times, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 11, Size: 19.05cm × 13.60cm

LPG की पैनिक बुकिंग घटने के संकेत: केंद्र

सरकार ने कहा, तेल और रसोई गैस की देश में तंगी नहीं

■ **NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली**

File

देश भर में LPG सिलिंडरों की भारी किल्लत की खबरों के बीच रविवार को सरकार ने कहा कि पैनिक बुकिंग घटने के संकेत हैं। बुकिंग्स पहले के 88.8 लाख रोजाना से घटकर करीब 77 लाख पर आ गई हैं। सरकार ने दोहराया कि देश में पेट्रोल-डीजल या रसोई गैस की कोई तंगी नहीं है। कमर्शल LPG के बारे में सरकार ने कहा कि बिहार, दिल्ली, हरियाणा और राजस्थान सहित कई राज्यों ने सरकारी गाइडलाइंस के मुताबिक नॉन-डोमेस्टिक LPG आवंटन के आदेश दिए हैं। कमर्शल LPG सिलिंडर अब उपभोक्ताओं को 30 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में उपलब्ध कराए जा रहे हैं।

'LPG सप्लाई पर नजर है': सरकार ने एक बयान में कहा कि 'मौजूदा भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति को देखते हुए LPG सप्लाई पर नजर रखी जा रही है। किसी भी LPG डिस्ट्रिब्यूटर के यहां सिलिंडर खत्म होने की सूचना नहीं है।' सरकार ने कहा, 'LPG बुकिंग में गिरावट दिख रही है। सरकार ने जहां भी संभव हो, वहां LPG उपभोक्ताओं को PNG कनेक्शन लेने की सलाह दोहराई और यह भी कहा कि LPG सिलिंडर बुकिंग के लिए SMS, वट्सऐप, IVRS या ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों के ऐप्स का उपयोग किया जाए। सरकार ने कहा कि ऑनलाइन बुकिंग 84% से बढ़कर 87% हो चुकी है।

6 टैंकर और आ रहे: LPG वाले 6 टैंकर और LNG का एक टैंकर होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के पश्चिम ओर हैं। शनिवार को LPG वाले दो टैंकर होर्मुज स्ट्रेट पार कर इधर आ गए थे और इनमें से एक सोमवार को मुंद्रा पोर्ट और दूसरा मंगलवार को कांडला बंदरगाह पर पहुंचेगा। इनमें से हर एक पर लगभग 46000 टन LPG है।

चंद दिनों के संकट से कटी 20 साल की बाधा, कनाट प्लेस पहुंचेगी पीएनजी

नेमिष हेमंत • जागरण

- दिल्ली के दिल और राजधानी के प्रमुख रेस्तरां हब में पीएनजी पहुंचने पर थी तकनीकी बाधा
- आइजीएल व एनडीएमसी के बीच हुआ करार, कुछ दिन में काम हो जाएगा शुरू
- 2006 में मिली थी परियोजना को मंजूरी, एनडीएमसी के निर्णय से 200 रेस्तरां को होगा फायदा

नई दिल्ली: व्यावसायिक एलपीजी के गहराए संकट के बीच जहां कई क्षेत्रों के रेस्तरां संचालक मुश्किल में है, वहीं दिल्ली के प्रमुख रेस्तरां हब कनाट प्लेस में 20 वर्ष के अवरोध के बाद पीएनजी आपूर्ति का रास्ता निकल आया है। आइजीएल के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि कनाट प्लेस में पीएनजी बिछाने को लेकर एनडीएमसी के साथ करार हो गया है। अब कनेक्शन देने की प्रक्रिया में तेजी आएगी, जिससे करीब 200 रेस्तरां, पब और बार समेत अन्य तक स्वच्छ ईंधन की पहुंच संभव हो सकेगी।

कनाट प्लेस के रेस्तरां संचालक 2006 से पीएनजी की मांग कर रहे थे • आर्काइव

इस परियोजना को 2006 में ही मंजूरी मिल गई थी, लेकिन पाइप लाइन बिछाने की प्रक्रिया आरंभ करने में 20 वर्ष लग गए। एनडीएमसी यह कदम काफी पहले उठा सकती थी।

–विक्रम बधवार, महासचिव, नई दिल्ली ट्रेडर्स एसोसिएशन

कनाट प्लेस दिल्ली का दिल है, यहां हेरिटेज इमारतें होने के साथ ही रेस्तरां, पब तथा बार का हब भी है। जिसके मुरीद दिल्ली-एनसीआर के लोग ही नहीं विदेशी भी हैं। पीएनजी कनेक्शन दिल्ली की छोटी-छोटी कालोनियों तक पहुंच गया, लेकिन अभी तक कनाट प्लेस में नहीं पहुंच सका है। जबकि, यहां के रेस्तरां संचालक 2006 से ही इसकी मांग कर रहे थे। उसी वर्ष इस परियोजना को मंजूरी भी मिल गई थी। लेकिन मंजूरी के बाद भी पीएनजी की लाइन बिछाने में कनाट प्लेस के हेरिटेज होने की बाधा आ रही थी। इसके चलते पीएनजी के लिए अलग से खोदाई की एनडीएमसी अनुमति नहीं दे रहा था।

एनडीएमसी का कहना था कि कनाट प्लेस के इनर और आउटर सर्कल के बीच भूमिगत कारिडोर बनाया गया है। इसमें बिजली, पानी और टेलीफोन की लाइनें हैं। यहीं से पीएनजी लाइन भी निकाली जाए जबकि आइजीएल बिजली के तारों की वजह से इसके लिए तैयार नहीं था। एलपीजी संकट के बीच पाइप लाइन के लिए बीच का रास्ता निकाला गया है। अब हेरिटेज इमारतों को क्षति पहुंचाए बिना पाइप लाइन के लिए सड़क किनारे और गलियारो के बाहर फुटपाथ वाले हिस्से में खोदाई करके पाइप लाइन डाली जाएगी।

बीड़ी जलाने के दौरान बाथरूम में हुआ धमाका जिंदा जली बुजुर्ग महिला

दो महीने पहले ही लगा था पीएनजी कनेक्शन

धमाके के बाद क्षतिग्रस्त बाथरूम और बीनू सिंह की फाइल फोटो।

नई दिल्ली, 15 मार्च (नवोदय टाइम्स): बदरपुर इलाके में शनिवार शाम बाथरूम में बीड़ी पीने के लिए माचिस जलाने के दौरान हुए विस्फोट के बाद लगी आग में एक बुजुर्ग महिला जिंदा जल गई। आग इतनी तेजी से फैली कि बुजुर्ग महिला को बचाव का मौका तक नहीं मिला। विस्फोट इतना भयानक था कि बाथरूम के ऊपर लगी फाइबर सीट तक उड़ गई।

सूचना पर पहुंची पुलिस ने मौके से महिला का जला हुआ शव बरामद किया। मृतका की पहचान बीनू सिंह उर्फ पुष्पा (65) के रूप में हुई है। परिजनों का कहना है कि पीएनजी गैस रिसाव के चलते हादसा हुआ है। दो माह पहले ही घर में पीएनजी गैस का कनेक्शन लगा था। जिस बाथरूम में आग लगी उसके समीप भी पीएनजी गैस पाइप लाइन जा रही थी। पुलिस मामले की जांच कर रही है।

डीसीपी साउथ ईस्ट डॉ. हेमंत तिवारी के अनुसार बीनू सिंह अपने तीन बेटों के साथ मोलड़बंद इलाके में रहती थीं। उनके पति कमला सिंह का निधन हो चुका है। परिवार में बड़े बेटे नरेंद्र सिंह गुरुग्राम में एक प्राइवेट कंपनी में काम करते हैं, जबकि दूसरे बेटे यतेंद्र साउथ एक्सटेंशन में नौकरी करते हैं। सबसे छोटा बेटा अंकित अभी पढ़ाई कर रहा है। शनिवार को पीसीआर कॉल के जरिए पुलिस को मोलडबंद इलाके में मकान संख्या 1894 में आग की सूचना मिली थी। पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची तो दूसरी मंजिल की छत पर बने बाथरूम में आग लगी देखी। वहां लकड़ी तथा कबाड़ भी रखा हुआ था। बाथरूम से पुलिस ने बीनू सिंह का जला हुआ शव बरामद किया।

पीएनजी गैस रिसाव के चलते हुआ हादसा : परिजन

परिवार ने किसी प्रकार का संदेह तथा गड़बड़ी की आशंका नहीं जताई है। मामला हादसा प्रतीत हो रहा है। खबर मिलते ही मौके पर पहुंची पुलिस पहुंची।

साथ ही क्राइम टीम और एफएसएल को भी बुलाया गया। मौके से जरूरी साक्ष्य जुटाए गए हैं। पुलिस पूरे मामले की जांच कर रही है।

गैस पाइपलाइन में लीकेज की समस्या थीः परिजन

परिजनों का कहना है कि करीब दो महीने पहले उन्होंने घर मेंपीएनजी गैसकनेक्शन लगवाया था। इस दौरान उन्होंने पाया कि गैस पाइप लाइन में लीकेज की समस्या थी। इसको लेकर कई बार शिकायत भी की गई थी। परिवार का कहना है कि गैस लीकेज के कारण ही यह हादसा हुआ है। हालांकि पुलिस के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि जांच के बाद ही आग लगने के कारणों का खुलासा संभव हो पाएगा।

अचानक विस्फोट हुआ और बाथरूम में आग लग गईः बहू

बीनू सिंह की बहू ममता सिंह ने बताया कि उनकी सास को जब भी तनाव होता था तो वह चोरी-छिपे छत पर बने बाथरूम में जाकर बीड़ी पीती थी। परिवार को इसकी जानकारी थी। शनिवार शाम भी वह इसी तरह बीड़ी पीने के लिए बाथरूम में गई थीं। धमाके की आवाज सुनते ही परिवार के लोग तुरंत छत की ओर दौड़े जहां बाथरूम में आग लगी हुई थी। परिजनों ने किसी तरह खुद ही आग पर काबू पाया। सूचना पुलिस को दी गई।

अदाणी टोटल गैस ने उद्योगों के लिए गैस के दाम घटाए

नई दिल्ली | अदाणी टोटल गैस लि. ने कुछ औद्योगिक ग्राहकों को सप्लाई की जाने वाली अतिरिक्त प्राकृतिक गैस के दाम घटा दिए हैं। अब ये 119.90 रु./ स्टैंडर्ड क्यूबिक मीटर (एससीएम) के बजाय 82.95 रुपए होंगे। यह नई कीमत 16 मार्च से लागू होगी। मालूम हो, एलएनजी की सप्लाई में रुकावट के बाद कंपनी ने कमर्शियल और औद्योगिक ग्राहकों से तय मात्रा की 40% गैस ही इस्तेमाल करने को कहा था। इसके बाद स्पॉट मार्केट दरें लागू की गई थीं।

Dainik Bhaskar, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 16.54cm × 14.58cm

आपाधापी • उपभोक्ताओं को 171 कमर्शियल सिलेंडर और 16 हजार घरेलू सिलेंडर दिए

सरकारी आदेशों के बाद भी पहले दिन नहीं पहुंची पर्याप्त कमर्शियल सिलेंडर की खेप

भास्कर न्यूज | गुरुग्राम

गुरुग्राम में एलपीजी सिलेंडर की किल्लत लगातार बनी हुई है। एक तरफ जहां केंद्र सरकार ने कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई पांच दिन बाद बहाल करने के आदेश जारी कर दिए, वहीं रविवार को गुरुग्राम में कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं पहुंच पाई। रविवार को गुरुग्राम में कुल 171 कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर उपभोक्ताओं को बेचे गए जबकि घरेलू गैस के 16 हजार गैस सिलेंडर उपभोक्ताओं को वितरित किए गए। वहीं लोगों में गैस खत्म होने की ऐसी अफवाह बनी हुई है कि गैस की सप्लाई गाड़ियों से डोर-टू-डोर बंद कर दी गई है। वहीं एजेंसी से ही उपभोक्ताओं को सिलेंडर दिए जा रहे हैं। साथ ही सभी एजेंसी संचालकों को नजदीकी पुलिस स्टेशन के फोन नंबर दिए गए हैं, जिससे कि किसी भी तरह की अफरा-तफरी से निपटने के लिए पुलिस सहायता मिल सके। गुरुग्राम में घरेलू गैस के जहां पहले नौ हजार गैस सिलेंडर बुक किए जाते थे, वहीं एलपीजी की किल्लत की सूचना मिलने के बाद 18 हजार तक गैस सिलेंडर बुक किए जा रहे हैं। गत शनिवार को गुरुग्राम में घरेलू गैस के 17 हजार गैस सिलेंडर उपभोक्ताओं को दिए गए। वहीं अब कमर्शियल सिलेंडर के लिए लोग एजेंसियों के चक्कर लगा रहे हैं। कमर्शियल गैस के सिलेंडर की पांच दिन पहले सप्लाई बंद कर दी गई थी। वहीं खाद्य एवं आपूर्ति विभाग के एएफएसओ सुनील कुमार का कहना है कि रविवार को कमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं मिली है।

डॉलर के मुकाबले रुपया गिरने से इंडस्ट्रीयल यूज़ के लिए बढ़ाए पीएनजी रेट

पीएनजी के रेट बढ़े, सप्लाई सुचारू रहेगी

वहीं हरियाणा सिटी गैस की ओर से राहुल चोपड़ा ने बताया कि अमेरिका-इजराइल-ईरान जैसे हालात व डालर के मुकाबले रुपए की कीमत गिरने से पीएनजी के रेट बढ़ाए गए हैं। लेकिन पीएनजी की सप्लाई लगातार सुचारु रहेगी। यह रेट केवल इंडस्ट्रीयल यूज के लिए बढ़े हैं। वहीं सीएनजी की सप्लाई मे बाधा नही आएगी।

कांग्रेस का हल्ला बोल, काली पट्टी बांधकर कार्यकर्ताओं ने की नारेबाजी

गुरुग्राम | महंगाई और गैस की किल्लत को लेकर जिला कांग्रेस कमेटी की ओर से रविवार देर शाम सरकार के खिलाफ हल्ला बोल विरोध प्रदर्शन किया गया। जिला शहरी अध्यक्ष पंकज डावर के नेतृत्व में कांग्रेस कार्यालय कमान सराय पर एकत्रित होकर कांग्रेस कार्यकर्ता व नेता प्रदर्शन करते हुए रवाना हुए। कार्यकर्ताओं के बीच सजाई गई घोड़ी की पीठ पर बंधा सिलेंडर आकर्षण का केंद्र रहा। सिलेंडर को सजा-धजाकर घोड़ी पर सवार करके उसकी बारात निकाली गई। कार्यकर्ताओं ने माथे पर काली पट्टी बांधकर जुलूस में चलते हुए भाजपा सरकार को जमकर कोसा। सरकार को जगाने के लिए कार्यकर्ता थाली-चम्मच बजाते चल रहे थे। जिला अध्यक्ष (शहरी) पंकज डावर ने कहा कि क्या सरकार का यही नारी सम्मान है।

Punjab Kesari, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 12, Size: 10.11cm × 14.76cm

कच्चे तेल की कीमतों से तय होगी शेयर बाजार की चाल

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संघर्ष और कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में उतार-चढ़ाव इस सप्ताह शेयर बाजार की दिशा तय करने वाले प्रमुख कारक होंगे। विश्लेषकों ने कहा कि इसके अलावा अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व के ब्याज दर के फैसले और मुद्रास्फीति के आंकड़े भी बाजार को प्रभावित करेंगे। रेलिगेयर ब्रोकिंग लिमिटेड के शोध उपाध्यक्ष अजित मिश्रा ने कहा कि यह सप्ताह घरेलू और वैश्विक स्तर पर कई महत्वपूर्ण घटनाक्रमों और आंकड़ों से भरा है। उन्होंने बताया कि भू-राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों पर विशेष नजर रहेगी, क्योंकि कच्चे तेल की कीमतों पर उनका प्रभाव बाजार की समग्र दिशा को प्रभावित कर सकता है। घरेलू मोर्चे पर, बाजार थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (डब्ल्यूपीआई) आधारित मुद्रास्फीति, व्यापार संतुलन के आंकड़े और विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार जैसे प्रमुख व्यापक आर्थिक संकेतकों पर नजर रखेंगे। लाइवलॉन्ग वेल्थ के संस्थापक और शोध विश्लेषक हरिप्रसाद के. ने

- **अमेरिकी फेडरल रिजर्व के ब्याज दर के फैसले और मुद्रास्फीति के आंकड़े भी बाजार को प्रभावित करेंग**

बताया कि वैश्विक जोखिम धारणा बिगड़ने, पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव और विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों (एफआईआई) की लगातार बिकवाली के कारण भारतीय बाजार पिछले सप्ताह भारी दबाव में रहे। पिछले सप्ताह बीएसई सेंसेक्स 4,354.98 अंक या 5.51 प्रतिशत टूट गया, जबकि एनएसई निफ्टी में 1,299.35 अंक या 5.31 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्ज की गई। पिछले महीने 27 फरवरी से अब तक सेंसेक्स 6,723.27 अंक या 8.27 प्रतिशत नीचे आ चुका है। विशेषज्ञों ने चेतावनी दी है कि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में जारी गतिरोध वैश्विक कच्चे तेल आपूर्ति को सख्त बना सकता है।

Veer Arjun, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 46.51cm × 16.56cm

रोक

अब एलपीजी सिलेंडर नहीं रख सकेंगे पीएनजी कनेक्शन वाले उपभोक्ता

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा)। सरकार ने पाइप वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) का कनेक्शन रखने वाले वाले परिवारों के लिए सब्सिडी वाला एलपीजी कनेक्शन रखने या लेने पर रोक लगा दी है।

इस बीच, वैश्विक स्तर पर ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में संकट के चलते क्षेत्र के नियामक ने शहर गैस वितरण कंपनियों से अपने पीएनजी ढांचे का विस्तार तेजी से करने को कहा है, जिससे रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति पर दबाव कम किया जा सके। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने 14 मार्च को जारी एक अधिसूचना में आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण नियमन) आदेश-2000 में बदलाव किया है। इसके तहत अब पीएनजी कनेक्शन वाले उपभोक्ताओं के लिए अपने घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन को सरेंडर करना जरूरी हो गया है।संशोधित आदेश में यह भी कहा गया है कि सरकारी पेट्रोलियम कंपनियां और वितरक उन उपभोक्ताओं को भरा गैस सिलेंडर नहीं देंगे, जिनके पास पहले से एलपीजी कनेक्शन है। आदेश में कहा गया, कोई भी व्यक्ति जिसके पास पीएनजी कनेक्शन है और जिसके पास घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन भी है, वह घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन नहीं रखेगा, या किसी भी सरकारी पेट्रोलियम कंपनी से या उनके वितरक के जरिये भरा हुआ एलपीजी

▶सरकारी पेट्रोलियम कंपनियां और वितरक उन उपभोक्ताओं को भरा गैस सिलेंडर नहीं देंगे, जिनके पास पहले से एलपीजी कनेक्शन है

सिलेंडर नहीं लेगा। ऐसे लोगों को तुरंत अपना घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन सरेंडर करना होगा। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियां संशोधित आदेश के तहत पीएनजी कनेक्शन रखने वाले उपभोक्ताओं को खाली एलपीजी सिलेंडर के बदले भरा हुआ सिलेंडर नहीं देंगी। इस कदम का मकसद उन घरों के लिए एलपीजी आपूर्ति को प्राथमिकता देना है जिनके पास पाइप के जरिये गैस की आपूर्ति की सुविधा नहीं है। भारत अपनी लगभग 88 प्रतिशत कच्चे तेल, 50 प्रतिशत प्राकृतिक गैस और 60 प्रतिशत एलपीजी की जरूरत को आयात से पूरा करता है। 28 फरवरी को ईरान पर अमेरिका-इजराइल के हमले और जवाबी ईरानी कार्रवाई से पहले भारत का आधे से ज़्यादा कच्चे तेल का आयात, लगभग 30 प्रतिशत गैस और 85-90 एलपीजी आयात सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) जैसे पश्चिम एशियाई देशों से आता था।इस युद्ध की वजह से होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य बंद हो गया है, जो खाड़ी देशों की ऊर्जा आपूर्ति का मुख्य रास्ता है। हालांकि, भारत ने रूस जैसे देशों से कच्चा तेल मंगाकर आपूर्ति में व्यवधान को कुछ हद तक ठीक किया है, लेकिन औद्योगिक ग्राहकों को गैस आपूर्ति कम कर दी गई है और होटल और रेस्तरांओं को भी एलपीजी की उपलब्धता कम हो गई है। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) ने शहर गैस वितरण कंपनियों से घरों को घरेलू पीएनजी कनेक्शन देने के काम में तेजी लाने और उन इलाकों में उपभोक्ताओं को प्राथमिकता देने को कहा है जहां पाइपलाइन का ढांचा पहले ही बिछाया जा चुका है।

देश में LPG बुकिंग घटकर 77 लाख हुई

भाषा, नई दिल्ली: पश्चिम एशिया में जारी संकट के बीच सरकार ने बताया कि देश में घरेलू एलपीजी रिफिल बुकिंग में गिरावट आई है और यह अब लगभग 77 लाख पर पहुंच गई है, जबकि 13 मार्च को यह 88.8 लाख थी। सरकार ने कहा है कि पेट्रोल, डीजल और रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित है और किसी तरह की कमी नहीं है।

सरकार ने कहा, ईंधन की कमी नहीं, पैनिक होकर सिलेंडर बुक न करें

तेल कंपनियां लोगों से अपील कर रही हैं कि घबराकर सिलेंडर बुक करने या गैस एजेंसियों के बाहर लाइन लगाने की जरूरत नहीं है। इसके लिए वे कैंपेन भी चला रही हैं। कंपनियों का कहना है कि देश में LPG का स्टॉक पर्याप्त है। सभी रिफाइनरियां पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही हैं और कच्चे तेल का भी अच्छा भंडार मौजूद है।

सरकार के मुताबिक पेट्रोल और डीजल की भी देश में पर्याप्त उपलब्धता है, इसलिए फिलहाल इनकी अतिरिक्त आयात की

जरूरत नहीं है। पेट्रोल पंपों और गैस एजेंसियों पर कहीं भी सप्लाई की कमी नहीं है। ट्रक और टैंकरों के जरिए नियमित रूप से ईंधन की सप्लाई की जा रही है।सरकार ने लोगों से कहा है कि घबराकर पेट्रोल या डीजल खरीदने की जरूरत नहीं है, क्योंकि पूरे देश में इनका पर्याप्त स्टॉक मौजूद है। जरूरी सेक्टरों को नेचुरल गैस की पूरी सप्लाई दी जा रही है। पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस (PNG) और CNG के लिए 100 प्रतिशत सप्लाई जारी है, जबकि इंडस्ट्री और कमर्शियल यूजर्स को करीब 80 प्रतिशत गैस मिल रही है। कमर्शियल LPG सिलेंडर राज्य सरकारों को दिए गए हैं, ताकि उन्हें जरूरत वाली जगहों पर पहले पहुंचाया जा सके। अब ये 30 राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में उपलब्ध हैं।

Dainik Savera, Delhi, 16/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 11.27cm × 10.42cm

अब एलपीजी सिलेंडर नहीं रख सकेंगे पीएनजी कनैक्शन वाले उपभोक्ता, सरकार ने लगाई रोक

सवेरा न्यूज

नई दिल्ली, 15 मार्च : सरकार ने पाइप वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) का कनैक्शन रखने वाले परिवारों के लिए सब्सिडी वाला एलपीजी कनैक्शन रखने या लेने पर रोक लगा दी है। इस बीच, वैश्विक स्तर पर ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में संकट के चलते क्षेत्र के नियामक ने शहर गैस वितरण कंपनियों से अपने पीएनजी ढांचे का विस्तार तेजी से करने को कहा है, जिससे रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति पर दबाव कम किया जा सके। पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने 14 मार्च को जारी एक अधिसूचना में आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत तरलीकृत पैट्रोलियम गैस (आपूर्ति एवं वितरण नियमन) आदेश-2000 में बदलाव किया है।

Hamara Mahanagar, Mumbai, 16/03/2026
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क्रूड ऑयल की आग में झुलसेंगी ये भारतीय कंपनियां!

नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम एशिया में सुलगती भू-राजनीतिक चिंगारी अब वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था के साथ-साथ भारतीय शेयर बाजार को भी तपाने लगी है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल की कीमतें रॉकेट की रफ्तार से भाग रही हैं और यह 100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के स्तर को पार कर चुका है। एक आम नागरिक के तौर पर आप सोच रहे होंगे कि देश के पेट्रोल पंपों पर तो कीमतें स्थिर हैं, फिर चिंता की क्या बात है? दरअसल, सतह पर दिखने वाली इस खामोशी के नीचे तेल कंपनियों के भीतर एक भारी उथल-पुथल मची हुई है। महंगे कच्चे तेल और

स्थिर खुदरा कीमतों के बीच का यह फासला अब भारतीय तेल कंपनियों के मुनाफे और निवेशकों के पोर्टफोलियो पर गहरी चोट करने की तैयारी कर रहा है। कुछ समय पहले तक जो कच्चा तेल करीब 65 से 70 डॉलर प्रति बैरल के आसपास कारोबार कर रहा था, वह आज युद्ध और तनावों के कारण 100 डॉलर के पार निकल गया है। इसके बावजूद, भारत में पेट्रोल और डीजल के खुदरा दामों में कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। आम जनता के लिए यह राहत की बात जरूर है, लेकिन सरकारी तेल विपणन कंपनियों (OMCs) के लिए यह एक बड़ा आर्थिक संकट बन गया है। वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार से महंगा कच्चा तेल खरीद रही हैं, लेकिन घरेलू बाजार में उसे पुरानी और कम कीमतों पर बेचने को मजबूर हैं। इस लगातार बढ़ रहे नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए अब ये कंपनियां एक नया और सख्त कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रही हैं।

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फरमानः रसोई गैस की मारामारी के बीच सरकार का एक और हंटर

PNG वालों को LPG बंद

■ **दिल्ली, ब्यूरो.** देश में छाया गैस संकट हाथ से निकला देख अब केंद्र सरकार ने हालात पर काबू पाने के लिए एक नया आदेश जारी कर दिया है. इसके तहत अब पीएनजी कनेक्शन धारियों को अपना एलपीजी कनेक्शन सरेंडर करना होगा. इससे पहले संकट से निपटने के लिए सरकार रसोई और कमर्शियल गैस के दामों में वृद्धि कर चुकी है. इसके बाद बुकिंग का लॉक इन पीरियड शहरों में 15 दिन से बढ़ाकर 25 और ग्रामीण इलाकों की एजेंसी में 45 दिन कर दिया. बावजूद इन प्रयासों के देश में गैस की किल्लत बढ़ती ही जा रही है. एजेंसियों पर लंबी कतारें लग रही हैं, पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने नया आदेश जारी करते हुए कहा कि जिन लोगों के घर में पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस कनेक्शन है और एलपीजी कनेक्शन भी रखे हुए हैं, वे अब एक साथ दोनों कनेक्शन नहीं रख सकेंगे. उन्हें एलपीजी सिलेंडर कनेक्शन तुरंत सरेंडर करना होगा. अब उनकी रिफिल पर रोक रहेगी.

तेल-गैस कंपनियों को सख्त आदेश

सरकार ने तेल और गैस वितरण कंपनियों से भी सख्त लहजे में कहा है कि जिनके पास पहले से ही पीएनजी कनेक्शन है, उन्हें घरेलू लिक्विफाइड पेट्रोलियम गैस कनेक्शन देना या ऐसे कंज्यूमर को घरेलू एलपीटी सिलेंडर रिफिल सप्लाई करना प्रतिबंधित है. तत्काल प्रभाव से दोनों कनेक्शन रखने वाले उपभोक्ताओं को एलपीजी की सप्लाई रोक दी जाए.

सपा नेता के रिसॉर्ट से 88 सिलेंडर जब्त

लखनऊ में सपा नेता सुरेंद्र कुमार के रिसॉर्ट पर जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी की टीम ने छापा मारकर 88 घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर जब्त किए हैं. कालाबाजारी के आरोप में नेता, उनकी पत्नी और गैस एजेंसी मैनेजर सहित 6 लोगों के खिलाफ मुकदमा दर्ज किया गया. काकोरी थाना क्षेत्र में टीम ने सपा नेता के मोहन रोड पर स्थित अभिनंदन रिसॉर्ट पर छापा मारा था.

Navbharat, Mumbai, 16/03/2026

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गैस आपूर्ति : निर्देश के बाद MGL का फैसला

घरेलू गैस PNG और CNG को प्राथमिकता

■ मुंबई, (सं.) शहर में प्राकृतिक गैस की उपलब्धता को देखते हुए महानगर गैस लिमिटेड (एमजीएल) ने घरेलू पाइप नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) और सीएनजी की आपूर्ति को प्राथमिकता देने का निर्णय लिया है. केंद्र सरकार के पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के 9 मार्च 2026 के गजट नोटिफिकेशन के बाद यह कदम उठाया गया है. एमजीएल के अनुसार घरेलू पीएनजी उपभोक्ताओं और स्टेशनों को पिछले औसत खपत के आधार पर 100 प्रतिशत गैस सप्लाई जारी रहेगी. इससे घरों में खाना पकाने और सार्वजनिक परिवहन के लिए सीएनजी की उपलब्धता प्रभावित नहीं होगी. हालांकि, नए निर्देशों के तहत औद्योगिक और वाणिज्यिक उपभोक्ताओं को मिलने वाली गैस आपूर्ति में आंशिक कटौती की जाएगी. कंपनी का कहना है कि इन उपभोक्ताओं के पास वैकल्पिक ईंधन और ऊर्जा स्रोत अपनाने का विकल्प मौजूद है.

घरेलू और परिवहन क्षेत्र की सभी जरूरतें होंगी पूरी

एमजीएल के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि यह कदम गैस की सीमित उपलब्धता के बीच जरूरी सेवाओं को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए उठाया गया है. आदेश के अनुसार शहर में घरेलू जरूरतों और परिवहन क्षेत्र की मांग को पहले पूरा किया जाएगा. ऊर्जा क्षेत्र के जानकारों का मानना है कि इस फैसले से उद्योगों की परिचालन लागत बढ़ सकती है, लेकिन आम उपभोक्ताओं और सार्वजनिक परिवहन को राहत मिलेगी.