Indian Express, Mumbai, 17/03/2026

Page No: 6, Size: 22.54cm × 51.41cm

LPG tanker Shivalik, which crossed the Strait of Hormuz, arrives at the Mundra Port on Monday. ANI

Indian LPG tanker arrives through Strait, two others expected today

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, March 16

EVEN AS the government continues to be engaged in diplomatic efforts to facilitate safe passage to India-flagged vessels stuck in the Persian Gulf, a tanker carrying LPG arrived in India from West Asia on Monday and two others were expected to arrive on Tuesday.

Currently, there are 22 India-flagged vessels with 611 Indian seafarers in the Persian Gulf; the majority of these vessels are oil and gas tankers, and efforts to ensure that they transit safely are underway, according to the government. In addition to these 22 vessels, more ships that are foreign-flagged but India-bound are also likely stuck in the region. But government sources said the priority is to first get the India-flagged ships out of the warzone.

On US President Donald Trump's call for countries to deploy warships to keep the Strait of Hormuz open, the government on Monday said that it has so far not engaged in bilateral discussions with the US on the issue. "We are aware of this particular matter being discussed by several countries. We have not yet discussed it in a bilateral setting," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters.

In response to a question on whether India provided anything to Iran in exchange for the safe passage of the few Indian vessels that have crossed the Strait of Hormuz in recent days, Jaiswal responded in the negative. "I think it has been very elaborately spoken on by the External Affairs Minister and I would like to bring your attention to what he said. There is a history of engagement of dealing with each other between India and Iran. That has been the basis of our engagement and it is not an exchange issue," he said.

Shipping Corporation of India's (SCI) LPG tanker Shivalik — with over 46,000 tonnes of LPG, or about half a day's of India's usual LPG demand — arrived at the Mundra port in Gujarat on Monday; it crossed the fraught waters of the Strait of Hormuz on Friday night. On Tuesday, another one of SCI's LPG tankers — Nanda Devi — and Great Eastern Shipping Company's crude oil tanker Jag Laadki are expected to arrive at Kandla and Mundra ports, respectively, Shipping Ministry Special Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said. According to Sinha, advance paper work and priority discharge was arranged for Shivalik.

Nanda Devi crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday morning; it is also loaded with over 46,000 tonnes of LPG. Jag Laadki did not have to cross the Strait — which connects the Persian Gulf on the west and the Gulf of Oman on the east — as it was at the UAE's Fujairah port on the Gulf of Oman side. The tanker was loading oil at Fujairah, when the oil terminal there came under attack on Saturday. The tanker as well as its crew are safe, according to the government.

Distribution companies incentivise switch from LPG to PNG

PTI & ENS
New Delhi, March 16

FROM FREE gas worth Rs 500 to waiving off security deposit worth Rs 1-5 lakh for commercial users, a few city gas distribution (CGD) companies have announced incentives to encourage consumers to make the switch to piped natural gas (PNG) as part of the government's effort to reduce pressure on LPG supplies amid the ongoing crisis.

According to the government, a few measures undertaken recently have led to an increase of 36% in domestic LPG production vis-à-vis pre-West Asia conflict levels, and a further increase is likely over the next few days. These measures included ordering refiners to maximise LPG production and directing 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 to check hoarding behaviour and manage demand and supply.

Meanwhile, Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) — the CNG and PNG retailer in Delhi and adjoining cities — is offering domestic consumers free gas worth Rs 500 if they take a PNG connection and start using it before March 31. Mumbai retailer Mahanagar Gas Ltd has also announced incentives, including waiver of Rs 500 registration charge for domestic household consumers and Rs 1-5 lakh security deposit for commercial users.

Virat Vaibhav, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 41.88cm × 31.43cm

घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए प्रोत्साहन दे रहीं शहरी गैस कंपनियां: मंत्रालय

वैभव न्यूज ▪ नई दिल्ली

पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष के कारण पैदा हुए आपूर्ति संकट के बीच शहरी गैस वितरण कंपनियों ने उपभोक्ताओं को गैस सिलेंडर के बजाय पाइप से मिलने वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) को अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजनाएं शुरू की हैं। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी दी। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आईजीएल) दिल्ली और आसपास के शहरों में पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने वाले घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को 31 मार्च से पहले उपयोग शुरू करने पर 500 रुपए तक की मुफ्त गैस दे रही है। इसी तरह, मुंबई स्थित महानगर गैस लिमिटेड (एमजीएल) ने घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 500 रुपए का पंजीकरण शुल्क माफ करने और वाणिज्यिक उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए एक से पांच लाख रुपए तक की सुरक्षा जमा राशि में छूट देने की घोषणा की है। शर्मा ने कहा कि सरकारी गैस कंपनी गेल इंडिया और पेट्रोलियम कंपनी भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) जैसी कंपनियों ने भी उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए इसी तरह के प्रोत्साहन उपाय शुरू किए हैं। उन्होंने कहा, मौजूदा स्थिति चिंताजनक है। हालांकि घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं की जरूरतें पूरा करने के लिए एलपीजी की आपूर्ति जारी है। देश में किसी भी एलपीजी वितरक के यहां गैस समाप्त होने की सूचना नहीं है। पश्चिम एशिया में तनाव के कारण होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के रास्ते मालवाहक जहाजों की आवाजाही बाधित होने से हालांकि ऊर्जा आपूर्ति पर दबाव बना है। भारत अपनी जरूरत का लगभग 88 प्रतिशत कच्चा तेल, 50 प्रतिशत प्राकृतिक गैस और 60 प्रतिशत एलपीजी आयात करता है जिनमें से बड़ा हिस्सा पश्चिम एशिया से ही आता है। अधिकारी ने कहा कि देश की सभी रिफाइनरियां पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही हैं और पेट्रोल पंप पर ईंधन की कोई कमी नहीं है। सीएनजी और पीएनजी उपभोक्ताओं को प्राकृतिक गैस की आपूर्ति भी सामान्य रूप से जारी है। उन्होंने कहा कि गैस सिलेंडर की बुकिंग 15 मार्च को घटकर करीब 5055 लाख रह गई, जो ईरान युद्ध से पहले के स्तर के करीब है। इससे पहले शनिवार को यह आंकड़ा लगभग 77 लाख था और 13 मार्च को यह बढ़कर 88.8 लाख के उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गया था। शर्मा ने कहा कि यह देखना अभी बाकी है कि सिलेंडर बुकिंग में आई यह गिरावट एक स्थाई रुझान है या फिर 15 मार्च को रविवार होने के कारण आई गिरावट है। एलपीजी बुकिंग में ऑनलाइन माध्यमों की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर करीब 90 प्रतिशत हो गई है, जो पहले लगभग 87 प्रतिशत थी। सरकार उपभोक्ताओं से लगातार अपील कर रही है कि घबराहट में गैस एजेंसियों पर कतार लगाने के बजाय डिजिटल माध्यमों से बुकिंग करें। उन्होंने उपभोक्ताओं से एलपीजी सिलेंडर की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग और घर तक आपूर्ति की सुविधा का उपयोग करने, घबराहट में बुकिंग करने से बचने और संभव होने पर पीएनजी जैसे वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोत अपनाने की अपील की।

Hari Bhoomi, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 6.38cm × 21.01cm

एलपीजी को लेकर हालात चिंताजनक...

पीएनजी, एलपीजी दोनों कनेक्शन लिए हुए उपभोक्ता एलपीजी को करें सरेंडरः सुजाता शर्मा

हरिभूमि ब्यूरो ▶▶ नई दिल्ली

- घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को जारी है एलपीजी की सप्लाई, कमी की कोई शिकायत नहीं, 90% पर पहुंचा ऑनलाइन गैस बुकिंग का आंकड़ा
- देश में पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्ध है कच्चा तेल, 100% क्षमता के साथ काम कर रही हैं तेल रिफाइनरियां, पैनिक से बचें लोग
- होर्मुज की खाड़ी पार कर 45 हजार मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी की खेप लेकर गुजरात के मुंद्रा बंदरगाह पहुंचा शिवालिक जहाज
- यूएई से 81 हजार टन मुर्बन कच्चा तेल लेकर मंगलवार को भारत पहुंचेगा जग लाडकी जहाज

पश्चिम-एशिया क्षेत्र में अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच चल रहे युद्ध के मद्देनजर भारत में भी एलपीजी के मामले को लेकर सरकार के स्तर पर चिंता बनी हुई है। लेकिन हालात को सामान्य बनाए रखने के लिए कई जरूरी कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। जिसमें बीते 14 मार्च को जारी एक नए आदेश में आम जनता से ये अपील की गई है कि एलपीजी और पीएनजी के रूप में दोनों गैस कनेक्शन लिए हुए उपभोक्ता अपने एलपीजी कनेक्शन को सरेंडर कर दें। तेल कंपनियां पीएनजी कनेक्शन देने के लिए लगातार प्रोत्साहन दे रही हैं। देश में कच्चे-तेल (पेट्रोल) या डीजल की कोई कमी नहीं है। सभी पेट्रोल पंपों पर सप्लाई पर्याप्त मात्रा में बनी हुई है। कहीं से भी ईंधन की कमी या ड्राई आउट की कोई सूचना नहीं है। ऐसे में लोगों को यह सलाह दी जाती है कि वो किसी भी तरह की अफवाह पर ध्यान न दें और घबराहट में बुकिंग न करें। यह जानकारी सोमवार को मामले पर राजधानी में आयोजित की गई अंतर-मंत्रालयी प्रेस वार्ता में केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय (मार्केटिंग-तेल रिफाइनरी) में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने दी है।

कमर्शियल एलपीजी का वितरण शुरूः उन्होंने कहा, घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को एलपीजी की सप्लाई बनी हुई है। गैस वितरकों को इस संबंध में कमी की कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है। वहीं, गैस सिलेंडर की खरीद को लेकर डिजिटल यानी ऑनलाइन बुकिंग का आंकड़ा 90 फीसदी तक जा पहुंचा है। डिलीवरी ऑथेंटिकेशन कोड की संख्या में भी सुधार है। जो पूर्व में 53 फीसदी की जगह पर बीते रविवार को 72 फीसदी तक पहुंच गया है। सभी राज्यों ने कमर्शियल एलपीजी का वितरण शुरू कर दिया है। इस बाबत उन्हें वितरण संबंधी आदेश जारी कर दिए गए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि देश में पीएनजी कनेक्शन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए तेल कंपनियां उपभोक्ताओं को प्रोत्साहन के रूप में कुछ छूट दे रही हैं। आईजीएल ने कहा है कि अगर कोई घरेलू उपभोक्ता 31 मार्च से पहले कनेक्शन लेता है तो उसे 500 रुपए की मुफ्त गैस दी जाएगी। महानगर गैस ने भी कुछ छूट दी है, जिसमें सिक्योरिटी डिपॉजिट को हटाने की बात कही गई है। गेल और बीसीपीएल द्वारा प्रोत्साहन दिया जा रहा है। इन सारे प्रयासों के पीछे की असल वजह ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों की स्वच्छ ईंधन तक पहुंच बनाना है। पीएनजी नियंत्रकों ने गैस कंपनियों को सलाह दी है कि वो अपने अतिरिक्त संसाधन लगाएं और उपभोक्ताओं से संपर्क साधें।

Asian Age, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 4.76cm × 22.30cm

Amid LPG crisis, Centre says gas supply better; in bid to push PNG

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Despite a difficult phase on the LPG supply issue due to the Middle East conflict, the Centre on Monday urged people again not to panic over LPG supplies and warned against hoarding or black-marketing, saying adequate measures are in place to ensure smooth distribution across the country. Apart from all measures, the government is encouraging consumers to shift from LPG to piped cooking gas (PNG) as city gas distribution firms have already rolled out their incentives for them, a top oil ministry official said.

Briefing the media, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum and natural gas ministry, said state governments and local administrations have been asked to closely monitor the situation and prevent any irregularities in LPG distribution.

Ms Sharma said leading CNG and PNG retailer Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) is offering domestic consumers free gas worth ₹500, if they take a PNG connection and start using it before March 31.

Further, she said LPG refill bookings have declined to pre-war levels of 50-55 lakhs on March 15 from about 77 lakhs on Saturday, and a peak of 88.8 lakhs on March 13.

More on Page 3

Asian Age, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 14.21cm × 14.53cm

LPG situation better, govt tells public; warns hoarders

Tells people not to panic, pushes for PNG connections

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

Despite a difficult phase on the LPG supply issue due to the Middle East conflict, the Centre on Monday urged people again not to panic over LPG supplies and warned against hoarding or black-marketing, saying adequate measures are in place to ensure smooth distribution across the country. Apart from all measures, the government is encouraging consumers to shift from LPG to piped cooking gas (PNG) as city gas distribution firms have already rolled out their incentives for them, a top oil ministry official said.

Briefing the media, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum and natural gas ministry,

BRIEFING THE media, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum and natural gas ministry, said state governments and local administrations have been asked to closely monitor the situation and prevent any irregularities in LPG distribution

said state governments and local administrations have been asked to closely monitor the situation and prevent any irregularities in LPG distribution.

"In the present situation, when we are facing a somewhat difficult phase regarding LPG supply, the role of state governments and local administrations becomes very important, particularly in preventing hoarding and black marketing," she said.

Ms Sharma said leading CNG and PNG retailer Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) is offering domestic consumers free gas worth ₹500, if they take a PNG connection and start using it before March 31.

"Similar promotional measures have also been introduced by Gail and BPCL to help the consumers in this regard. As the current situation is worrying, the government is supplying the LPG cylinders to our domestic consumers to meet all their requirements. There are no reports of dry-outs at any LPG distributorship," the official said in a statement.

Further, she said LPG refill bookings have declined to pre-war levels of 50-55 lakhs on March 15 from about 77 lakhs on Saturday, and a peak of 88.8 lakhs on March 13.

Statesman, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 11.43cm × 18.97cm

Indian LPG vessel berth at Mundra amid West Asia war

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 16 March

In a major development that is expected to boost the country's efforts at ensuring energy security in the midst of the war in West Asia, LPG tanker Shivalik arrived at Gujarat's Mundra Port, traversing through the conflictaffected Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel's passage was secured after the Indian authorities coordinated closely with Iranian officials to obtain the necessary transit clearances.

The arrival of the vessel is being considered a major diplomatic success for India since both PM Modi and External Affairs S Jaishankar had telephonic conversations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi last week.

Jaishankar had spoken to his counterpart as many as four times. Another Indian-flagged LPG carrier, the Nanda Devi, is expected to reach the port of Kandla on Tuesday. The vessel is transporting a similar cargo of liquefied petroleum gas, underscoring the steady flow of essential energy supplies to the Indian coast despite geopolitical challenges in the region. Indian officials expressed relief over the arrival of *Shivalik*, hoping it will end panic buying of LPG being witnessed across the country.

Earlier in the day at an inter-ministerial media briefing on the situation arising from the West Asia crisis, senior officials said all refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories.

India remains self-sufficient in petrol and diesel production and no imports of these fuels are required to meet domestic demand.

The officials said LPG supply continues to be monitored in view of the prevailing geopolitical situation.

No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships. Online LPG cylinder bookings have increased from about 84 per cent to around 90 per cent across the industry.

Oil firms halt credit for supplying fuel

HPCL, IOCL, BPCL seek advance payments from fuel outlets

Rituraj Baruah & Manas Pimpalkhare
NEW DELHI

Pay up first, tank up later; at a time of crunch, that's the message from state-run oil marketers to fuel stations.

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have suspended fuel on credit to limit offtake by retail outlets, four people aware of the development said, as the closure of Iran's Strait of Hormuz roils crude supply chains worldwide. While Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL) began insisting on advance payments from last week, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOCL) halted its five-day revolving credit policy on Monday, the people said on condition of anonymity.

The move gains significance since the three OMCs serve the majority of India's nearly 100,000 retail fuel pumps. Apart from the fall in offtake by petrol pumps, agriculture and industrial buyers who purchase fuel on credit may also take a blow. The West Asia war has choked off around 40% of crude supplies for India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, where petro-product demand is expected to touch 250.8 million tonnes in fiscal year 2027 (FY27).

MINT

FUEL FIX

CREDIT CATCH

HPCL, BPCL began insisting on advance payments last week

IOCL halted its five-day revolving credit policy on Monday

THE three OMCs serve most of India's nearly 100,000 pumps

While the Union petroleum ministry and the OMCs did not respond to queries, multiple fuel distributors confirmed the development.

Uday Lodh, national president of the Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers (CIPD), who earlier was the president of the Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers Association (Fampeda), said all three state-run oil marketing companies have started seeking advance payments. Earlier, these companies offered some credit lines stretching for a few days, he said. CIPD represents about 30,000 petrol pumps in the country, and is one of the three national level

TURN TO PAGE 9

Mint, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 22.44cm × 31.75cm

Oil marketing companies halt credit for supplying fuel

FROM PAGE 1

bodies for petroleum dealers.

OMCs offer various credit facilities. One is draft on delivery, where the dealer pays at the end of every day for the purchase made earlier in the day; and the other is revolving credit, under which pumps get fuel on credit for three to five days and pay on the sixth day. Both facilities are currently halted, fuel outlets said. There is a third facility—electronic dealer finance—where a bank issues a letter of comfort to the OMC on behalf of the outlet to supply fuel for 15-30 days. This facility, however, is continuing as of now. The credit model helps retailers procure higher volumes of fuel. In turn, the retailers also give fuel on credit to regular bulk buyers like transporters in some cases.

Dealers in the national capital were expecting the change for several days, said Nischal Singhania, president of the Delhi Petrol Dealers' Association of 400 outlets. "The primary focus of the OMCs may be the retailers who have a record of defaulting. Apart from ensuring a lower-than-usual offtake due to the need for upfront payment, the move is also aimed at ensuring economic prudence in the current times," he said.

Brent crude traded around $102 a barrel on Monday.

The West Asia war choked 40% of India's crude supply. REUTERS

According to Monty Sehgal, spokesperson for the Petrol Pump Dealers Association Punjab, some private fuel marketers are now operating two shifts in several places instead of the usual three. According to Fampeda's Lodh, "they are operating only one machine at night, with all but one light switched on at the pump."

Reliance BP Mobility Ltd's Jio-bp, Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy Ltd and Shell India Ltd operate around 9,400 retail pumps in India. Nayara and Shell declined to comment. A Jio bp spokesperson said it is focused on ensuring that all outlets are "fully operational and adequately stocked".

Fuel pumps which sell bulk fuel on credit to agriculture, transport and industries will find it hard to serve them, Sehgal said.

"There are large sums of credit which are due towards the dealers from these bulk buyers. We generally require a few months' time to recover that, and only then it would have been feasible to run operations smoothly without the credit facility. In states like Punjab and Haryana and some industrial clusters in the National Capital Region, bulk buyers form a significant portion of fuel pump sales. This may bring down our daily consumption significantly," Sehgal said.

A former petroleum secretary said on condition of anonymity that during times of volatility, demand would increase, and OMCs may look at getting their dues, as an immediate shortage of petrol and diesel is not expected.

The government maintains India has adequate supplies of crude and the transport fuels—petrol and diesel.

All refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories, said a government statement on Monday. India remains self-sufficient in petrol and diesel production and no imports of these fuels are required to meet domestic demand, the statement said.

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

Oil industry warns Trump administration that fuel crunch will likely worsen

Oil executives told officials in White House meetings the closure of the Strait of Hormuz may push up oil prices further

Collin Eaton & Benoît Morenne

American oil executives delivered a bleak message to Trump officials in recent days: The energy crisis the Iran war has unleashed is likely to get worse.

In a series of White House meetings Wednesday and recent conversations with Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum , the CEOs of Exxon Mobil , Chevron and ConocoPhillips warned that the disruption to energy flows out of the vital Strait of Hormuz waterway would continue to create volatility in global energy markets, according to people familiar with the matter.

In response to questions from the officials, Exxon CEO Darren Woods said that oil prices could rise past current elevated levels if speculators unexpectedly bid up prices and that markets could see a supply crunch of refined products. Chevron CEO Mike Wirth and ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance also conveyed their concerns about the scale of the disruption , these people said.

President Trump didn't attend the Wednesday meetings. U.S. oil prices have climbed from $87 a barrel that day to $99 a barrel Friday.

The White House has implemented or is considering several measures it hopes will lower oil prices—including further easing sanctions on Russian oil, a massive release of emergency energy reserves and possibly waiving a statute that limits crude flows between U.S. ports. Administration officials have also told oil chief executives that they are hoping to increase the flow of oil between Venezuela and the U.S., a White House official said.

The White House has implemented or is considering several measures it hopes will lower oil prices. AFP

Burgum said the administration has been "working around the clock" with energy companies to stabilize global energy markets. Wright and the Trump administration will continue to take action to minimize disruptions to energy supplies, Energy Department spokesman Ben Dietderich said.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The meetings were described as productive, and none of the executives blamed the Trump administration for the crisis. But many in the oil industry fear that the menu of options available can do little to stem the crisis and that the only solution is to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, through which flows a fifth of the world's daily supply of oil and liquefied natural gas. Otherwise, the strain of prolonged high prices could weigh on the global economy and crimp fuel demand.

"The world does not need $120 oil," said Steven Pruett , chief executive of Midland, Texas-based oil producer Elevation Resources. "It's going to cause economic destruction."

A senior administration official said that the administration knows prices are going to continue to rise but there isn't a lot it can do at the moment. The Pentagon has told the administration that options exist to open the strait, and the administration wants that to happen in a matter of weeks, not months, the person said.

Iran's attacks on ships are surging in and around the narrow strait and the U.S. oil benchmark is currently hovering around $99 a barrel. Announcements this past week that the U.S. would ease sanctions on Russia and contribute to the largest-ever emergency oil release—some 400 million barrels—have done little to quell prices.

"We do crisis management exercises...the big one has always been something in the Middle East that shuts the Strait of Hormuz," Wirth said this past week on the "Ruthless Podcast." "Markets are very uncomfortable, uncertain, volatile and unpredictable."

Some oil executives say they are bracing for a prolonged period of high oil prices that may boost their profits in the short term but could ultimately damage the industry and the economy.

Trump in a Truth Social post on Thursday played down concerns about higher energy prices, saying that the U.S. is the world's largest oil producer, "so when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money."

Officials have also told oil CEOs that they are hoping to increase the flow of oil between the U.S. and Venezuela

For the past decade, the U.S. oil industry has tried to break the cycle of booms and busts that has plagued it for much of its existence. While prices topping $100 a barrel benefit producers in the short-term, these levels hurt consumers in the long-term and prompt them to consume less fuel, which in turn can cause a steep drop in crude prices. Producers then have to slash production, cut costs and fire staff. Investors have pressured them to keep spending in check and not chase higher oil prices.

Burgum said in a recent CNBC interview that he had met with American companies recently and that he expected them to announce increased production in response to higher prices. But any domestic production increases are likely to be modest, industry executives say, and won't replace the roughly 9 million to 10 million barrels of oil a day analysts say are currently trapped behind the Strait of Hormuz.

"The big boys are maintaining discipline and returning cash to shareholders, or buying back stock," said Mike Oestmann , CEO of Tall City Exploration in Midland.

In the past two weeks, U.S. officials including Burgum have had discussions with Exxon and ConocoPhillips about returning to Venezuela to invest billions into the Latin American country's dilapidated oil fields, the White House official said.

Trump hosted oil executives at the White House after the operation to capture Nicolás Maduro in January to discuss increasing oil production in Venezuela. But CEOs initially responded tepidly to Trump's demands that they invest billions of dollars there.

Trump's lieutenants want to use Venezuela's oil to help shore up fuel-supply chains in the Western Hemisphere, according to the White House official. Exxon has told the Trump administration that it is evaluating the prospect of sending a technical team to that country later this month. Chevron, the only major U.S. oil company active in Venezuela, told U.S. officials earlier this month that its oil production in the country has reached record levels and that it is aiming to pump more, this official said.

Exxon and ConocoPhillips pulled out of Venezuela in 2007 after then-President Hugo Chávez nationalized their assets. Both are trying to recoup billions they are still owed.

©2026 DOW JONES & COMPANY, INC.

feedback@livemint.com

Statesman, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 17.01cm × 14.87cm

Adani cuts excess gas price for industrial users by 30 per cent

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai, 16 March

Adani Total Gas Ltd (AGTL) officially announced that it has reduced the price of excess natural gas supplied to certain industrial customers from Rs 119.90 per standard cubic metre (SCM) to Rs 82.95 per SCM, after upstream gas prices softened amid ongoing supply disruptions linked to the West Asia crisis.

According to the company statement, the revised gas rate came into effect from 6:00 am on Monday (March 16). There is no change in other terms and conditions announced earlier regarding additional gas, the company stated.

Adani Total Gas Ltd, a city gas distribution joint venture between the Adani Group and France's Total Energies, stated that the move is aimed at passing on the benefit of lower upstream gas prices to customers while ensuring stable and fair distribution of gas during the current supply constraints.

Earlier, the company had asked commercial and industrial users to reduce their gas consumption to 40 per cent of their contracted volumes after India's LNG supplies were disrupted due to the halt in ship movement through the Strait of Hormuz due to the ongoing US strikes on Iran.

The ATGL had also not increased the prices of compressed natural gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) used in homes for cooking, but supply restrictions were imposed on some large industrial customers due to the impact of the West Asian crisis on gas supplies.

Around 70 per cent of the gas supplied by Adani Total Gas Ltd is sourced domestically and is used for CNG vehicles and piped natural gas for households. The remaining nearly 30 per cent is imported LNG, which is mainly supplied to commercial and industrial users.

The company stated that while managing supply constraints, every effort is being made to ensure uninterrupted gas supply while safeguarding the interests of consumers across all segments.

Business Line, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 18.94cm × 26.06cm

Comfortable on crude, gas, petrol, diesel; still tight on LPG: Govt

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

LPG carrier *Shivalik* arriving at Mundra Port on Monday ANI

The government on Monday said the country's crude oil, petrol and diesel stocks remain "comfortable", with uninterrupted natural gas supply even as the LPG situation remains "tight".

Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Petroleum Ministry, said crude oil supplies remain "adequate" and refineries are operating at high capacity, with petrol pumps functioning normally and no dry-outs reported.

Natural gas supply is also uninterrupted, with 100 per cent availability of compressed natural gas (CNG) and piped natural gas (PNG). Commercial LPG users are being encouraged to shift to PNG where available, with city gas distribution (CGD) companies offering incentives and fast-tracking new connections, she said.

LPG SUPPLY TIGHT

"While the LPG situation remains tight, consumers continue to receive supplies with no distributor-level dry-outs reported. About 90 per cent of LPG bookings are now made online, and delivery authentication code usage has risen to 72 per cent," Sharma said. The States have intensified action against hoarding and black marketing. Consumers with both PNG and LPG connections have been advised to surrender LPG connections and avoid panic booking.

India's average daily LPG production since March 5 has increased by 36 per cent. From about 37,355 tonnes per day in January 2026, the output has risen to around 50,803 tonnes.

SHIPS IN TRANSIT

Rakesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said 22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers remain west of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf region.

These include six VLGCs, one LNG carrier, four very large crude carriers, one chemicals and products vessel, three container ships, two bulk carriers and one dredger. One vessel is in ballast (without cargo), while three are in dry dock for maintenance.

Indian-flag vessel *Jag Laadki*, carrying about 80,800 tonnes of Murban crude oil, sailed from the United Arab Emirates on March 14 and is safely en route to Mundra Port.

Of the two Indian-flag LPG carriers that crossed the Strait of Hormuz on March 14 carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG, *Shivalik* has reached Mundra Port and completed documentation for priority discharge, while *Nanda Devi* is expected to arrive early on Tuesday.

Business Line, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 18.92cm × 19.68cm

Gujarat prioritises commercial LPG supply in areas without piped gas

Our Bureau
Ahmedabad

The Gujarat government on Monday said it has prioritised the supply of commercial LPG cylinders to hospitals, educational institutions and key industries in parts of the State that are not connected to the piped natural gas (PNG) network.

Under the capped supply mechanism, government and private hospitals, as well as educational institutions categorised as essential, will receive 100 per cent of their LPG requirement, according to an official statement.

Other essential sectors, including the pharmaceutical industry, dairy units, seed processing facilities, airline and railway canteens will get up to 70 per cent of their LPG requirement, the government said.

Meanwhile, sectors classified as semi-essential, such as fisheries, restaurants and dhabas, the hotel industry, corporate and industrial canteens, corporate guest houses and the food processing industry, will receive 10 per cent of their LPG requirement.

The State said buffer stocks of LPG cylinders were adequate and rising steadily

The State government said religious institutions that have been serving food for at least the past year will also receive LPG supplies equivalent to 10 per cent of their average consumption over the last six months.

PNG allocation for industrial users has already been cut by about 50 per cent to prioritise household and essential consumption, while the State has also allocated kerosene supplies to ease fuel availability.

ADEQUATE STOCK

The government on Monday added that adequate stocks of PNG were available for residential and commercial consumers across the State, and more than 3,504 new PNG connections had been provided since March 1, 2026.

The State also said buffer stocks of LPG cylinders remain adequate and are rising steadily, ensuring the availability of cooking fuel while prioritising critical services.

Business Standard, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 52.04cm × 18.63cm

War scars begin to show on India Inc

DEEPAK PATEL, SHINE JACOB, ANJALI SINGH, SANJEEB MUKHERJEE, SHARLEEN D'SOUZA & ISHITA AYAN DUTT

New Delhi/ Chennai/ Mumbai/ Kolkata, 16 March

With the Iran war in its third week, the economic costs are beginning to show across India Inc. From export disruption to supply-chain snags and tightening gas supplies, the ripple effects are spreading across industrial sectors.

On the production side, industry is grappling with orders issued on March 5 and March 9 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) directing refineries and petrochemical complexes to maximise liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) output and prioritise supplies to households and essential services, pushing commercial and industrial users lower in the supply order — a move threatening to disrupt operations across sectors.

Fuel supply worries weigh

India's automobile industry, which had been riding a wave of strong demand after last year's goods and services tax rate rationalisation, is now bracing for disruption, executives said.

WEST ASIA **CONFLICT**

Automakers and component manufacturers are worried about the availability of key industrial fuels, such as LPG, piped natural gas (PNG) and propane, which are used across automobile and auto-component factories for forging, casting, heat treatment, welding and paint curing.

Turn to Page 14

Business Standard, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 51.94cm × 72.10cm

FROM PAGE 1

War scars begin to show on India Inc

On March 9, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam) wrote to MoPNG, seeking clarity on the availability and supply visibility of LPG, PNG and propane so that vehicle manufacturers could plan production schedules and minimise potential disruptions.

In a separate letter to the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) warned that emerging constraints in LPG and PNG availability could affect production schedules, particularly for MSME units in the forging and foundry segments, which have limited flexibility to quickly shift to alternative fuels.

In the metals sector, early signs of disruption are already beginning to emerge.

On Friday, Jindal Stainless Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal said in a statement: "Due to the heavy dependence of stainless steel manufacturing on industrial gases like propane/LPG and natural gas, several processes across our plants have been adversely impacted."

He added that his company's plants were operating at a rationalised capacity, given the fuel availability constraints.

Rajamani Krishnamurti, president of the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association, said: "The stainless steel industry is facing an existential energy crisis as disruptions in propane and LPG supplies hit critical manufacturing clusters across northern and eastern India."

"As our members operate 24x7 continuous process plants, any volatility in fuel supply doesn't just halt production but also risks permanent damage to furnaces and months of domestic supply-chain paralysis," he added. The association has urged the government to treat stainless steel as a "priority sector" for fuel allocation.

In the broader steel industry, at least two major integrated steel producers flagged concerns over fuel supply constraints.

"Companies are seeing varying degrees of disruption in downstream operations at units located outside the mother plant," said an official at a steel company who did not wish to be named.

According to analysts, the extent of disruption in the steel sector would be company-specific and depend on the steel-making process. The impact may be more telling on the smaller players.

A primary steel producer said the challenges were emerging on multiple fronts — from LNG and LPG availability to limestone sourcing. "We are trying to manage through domestic supplies and alternative sources of limestone."

Some respite came on Friday as Gujarat increased industrial gas usage to 80 per cent from 50 per cent. A company executive who did not wish to be named said that manufacturing in Gujarat eased for food products, as the government sent a revised circular on Friday increasing the industrial gas usage.

Among the major fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies, biscuit major Britannia Industries said in an exchange filing that it had not experienced any significant disruption in operations at its manufacturing facilities due to constrained industrial gas supply.

Rising costs bite

The cost of war is being felt in more ways than one. Indian manufacturers source key raw materials from West Asia — for instance, polyethylene polymers worth about $1.25 billion came from that region in 2024-25. West Asia also supplies limestone for cement and steel makers, along with metals and copper wire.

Several manufacturing companies are facing challenges amid delays in raw material import supply due to the Strait of Hormuz shutdown and the resultant diversion of routes. This is expected to dent the margins of companies.

ACMA said shipping rerouting and congestion had increased logistics costs for auto-component exporters by 20-40 per cent and extended export lead times by two to four weeks. Also, imports of key raw materials like chemicals, synthetic rubber and petrochemical inputs used in automotive parts were facing delays.

In the electric mobility and broader automotive space, rising petrochemical and aluminium prices could increase the cost of electric vehicle (EV) components and materials, noted Surender Nath, executive director at Hyderabad-based electric mobility company ETO Motors.

To mitigate this, companies are increasingly focusing on strengthening domestic supply chains and adopting modular vehicle platforms that provide greater flexibility and cost control.

The sugar sector is not directly impacted by the ongoing West Asia crisis, but its production cost has indirectly risen due to an increase in prices of many raw materials. These include sulphur, a critical chemical that goes into the process of sulpharisation to convert raw sugar into palatable white sugar.

Secondly, the cost of low-density polyethylene (LDPE) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bags used in bagging of sugar has gone up by more than ₹4 per kg since the crisis broke out. Both LDPE and HDPE bags use petrochemicals as raw material.

The domestic fertiliser sector has had to advance its annual maintenance schedule, given a reduction in gas supplies due to the war. India currently has around 36 per cent more fertiliser stocks than required, according to government estimates, and the peak kharif sowing season is still a few weeks away, but the supply crunch might begin to hurt if the war lingers on.

Exporters count losses

India could be losing $190-200 million a day in direct exports due to the ongoing crisis, taking total losses in trade with countries in the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region to nearly $3 billion, said an exporter. WANA accounted for $71.24 billion of India's $433.56 billion merchandise exports in 2024-25.

A large part of the impact is being felt in key manufacturing sectors like engineering goods, which contribute about $53 million a day to exports, besides small-scale units, refining, electronics, gems & jewellery, and readymade garments.

According to K M Subramanian, president pf the Tiruppur Exporters Association President, the losses go beyond direct exports, as Dubai serves as a hub for shipments to the United States, Europe and Africa. "Due to a diversion of cargo to other routes, we are seeing an almost four-fold rise in costs. The per-container cost, which used to be around $1,500, has increased three to four times. In addition, exports to the entire West Asia and Africa region have stopped."

"For us, the UAE is the third-largest market, with a share of around 9 per cent in total sales. Exports to the entire region have stopped, affecting the future of our manufacturing units," Subramanian added.

With the war showing no signs of abating, the outlook for many sectors of India's industry is clouding over right now.

LPG shortage persists in UP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

LUCKNOW: The shortage of LPG cylinders continued across Uttar Pradesh for the seventh consecutive day on Monday, with long queues seen outside gas agencies in several districts since early morning. Many consumers complained that they were unable to receive cylinders on time even after booking, while others said they waited for hours but returned empty handed.

In Varanasi, members of the National Students' Union of India staged a protest outside Gate No. 1 of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith University. During the demonstration, activists attempted to make tea using gas from a drain to highlight the shortage of cooking gas. Police later registered an FIR against six people in connection with the protest.

A worker unloads an LPG cylinder at a gas agency in Prayagraj PTI

Similar scenes were reported from Kanpur where long queues formed outside gas agencies. In Kalyanpur, residents stood in line for hours before being informed that the delivery vehicle would not arrive on Monday. The announcement triggered protests by angry consumers.

In Prayagraj, women waiting outside a gas agency expressed anger at the government over the continued shortage. A 70-year-old woman said she was forced to stand in line despite her age and added that such a situation had never occurred before.

Consumers in several districts also reported problems with online booking

In Gonda, gas agencies put up notices stating that cylinders would not be distributed because fresh supply had not arrived.

Consumers in several districts also reported problems with online booking. Many said they were unable to connect to the booking number, while calls to gas agencies often went unanswered. When customers approached agencies in person, they were advised to book online, but the system was not working, they said.

Millennium Post, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 25.88cm × 21.14cm

Wholesale price inflation rises to 11-month high of 2.13% in Feb

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Wholesale price inflation rose to a 11-month high of 2.13 per cent in February, driven by an uptick in prices of food and non-food articles, even though vegetable prices eased on a month-on-month basis, government data showed on Monday.

This is the fourth straight month of rise in Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation. It was 1.81 per cent in January and 2.45 per cent in February last year.

Economists said the WPI inflation is likely to pick up pace further if the oil price rise persists, and spills over to other goods (fertilisers, aluminium) given it tracks international prices more closely relative to the CPI basket.

According to WPI data, inflation in food articles was 2.19 per cent in February, as against 1.55 per cent in the previous month.

Although in vegetables, inflation eased to 4.73 per cent in February against 6.78 per cent in January, pulses, potato and egg, meat and fish saw an uptick in inflation in February.

"Positive rate of inflation in February 2026 is primarily due to an increase in prices of other manufacturing, manufacture of basic metals, non-food articles, food articles and textiles, etc.," the industry ministry said in a statement.

Negative inflation, or deflation, in the fuel and power basket narrowed to 3.78 per cent in February, vis-a-vis 4.01 per cent in January. Global oil prices averaged $68/bbl in February from $63/bbl in January.

Barclays in a research note said the passthrough of the rise in crude oil prices from the Middle East conflict will reflect more in WPI inflation vs retail CPI inflation, as retail fuel prices are unchanged in the latter.

"With a sharp jump in crude oil prices crossing $100/bbl as of 16 March, the corresponding WPI will likely reflect this in the March print," Barclays said.

India Ratings and Research the rising crude oil prices since the US-Iran war will have a strong impact on wholesale inflation from March 2026, till the supply side issues are resolved.

The average price of Indian crude basket March 2026 (up to March 12) touched a 44-month high of $101.25/bbl. Ind-Ra Chief Economist Devendra Pant expects wholesale inflation to stay high amidst US-Iran war and a low base.

"The retail prices of petroleum products might remain the same for some time, which may negate any sharp jump in retail inflation. However, the increase in crude oil prices will push wholesale inflation higher. Ind-Ra expects wholesale inflation in March to jump to 3.7 per cent," Pant said.

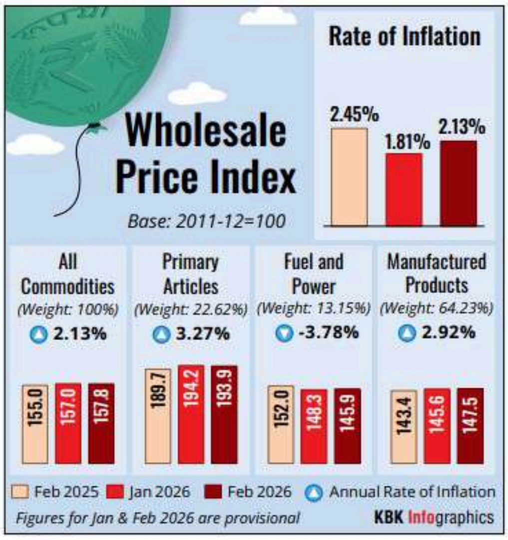
As per WPI data for February, inflation in manufactured products inched up to 2.92 per cent in February, from 2.86 per cent in the preceding month.

Non-food articles category inflation spiked to 8.80 per cent in February, from 7.58 per cent in January.

PHDCCI President Rajeev Juneja said given the geopolitical risks, a continued policy focus on improving supply-chain efficiencies, lowering logistics costs, supporting domestic manufacturing, and ensuring adequate availability of critical inputs for industry is critical to contain cost-push pressures.

As per data released last week, India's retail inflation rose to 3.2 per cent in February, from 2.75 per cent in January.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced policy interest rates by 1.25 percentage points in the current fiscal year as inflation remained low. The RBI mainly tracks retail inflation for deciding on benchmark interest rates.



Highlights

- This is the fourth straight month of rise in Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation. It was 1.81 per cent in January and 2.45 per cent in February last year
- According to WPI data, inflation in food articles was 2.19 per cent in February, as against 1.55 per cent in the previous month
- Non-food articles category inflation spiked to 8.80 per cent in February, from 7.58 per cent in January

Business Standard, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 10, Size: 104.43cm × 33.18cm

THE COMPASS

OMCs face further downgrades if crude oil prices stay elevated

DEVANGSHU DATTA

As the Iran conflict enters week 3, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) has cut off various oil fields in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, and shutdown Qatar and Saudi gas production. Brent crude prices have moved above $90 per barrel, up from $73 per barrel on February 27.

India is critically affected. SoH passage is critical for India, accounting for 50-55 per cent of India's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, and almost 90 per cent of liquefied petroleum gas or LPG imports. SoH carried 55 per cent of India's LNG imports in 9MFY26 and in FY25, this amounted to about 58-60 million metric standard cubic metres per day or mmscmd equivalent to 30 per cent of consumption. Effectively this has led to gas rationing. Sourcing crude from other routes is possible but only at higher transport costs and currently at premium to Brent. LPG is cooking fuel with active 330 million connections (around 87 per cent households) and 62 per cent of consumption is imported. SoH supplies 88 per cent of imports (about 54 per cent of LPG demand). The government has announced LPG price hikes and curbs on industrial and commercial use.

OMCs have not hiked retail prices of petrol and diesel. This implies their integrated margins (marketing plus refining) may decline in near term from the strong margins of between ₹8-12/litre seen in 9MFY26. Higher crude prices may allow inventory gains to offset this to an extent and also petrol/diesel cracks have risen sharply since the war began, leading to gross refining margin (GRM) expansion.

Singapore refining margins are up by 90 per cent since March 1 and this could also offset price rise to an extent. According to one analysis, a GRM rise of $1 per barrel results in annualised earnings per share rise of about 10 per cent for OMCs like IOC, BPCL, HPCL. By a rough rule of thumb, GRM may rise by around $5 for every $10 rise per barrel.

But every ₹1 per litre decrease in marketing margin leads to an annualised earnings per share (EPS) dip of over 20 per cent for these three OMCs. IOC has the lowest sensitivity to marketing margins with a lower retail mix and may fare better than BPCL and HPCL. But in effect rising GRMs will not fully offset falling marketing margins if crude prices rise. Upstream players like ONGC, OIL may gain from higher crude and gas prices but there could be a windfall tax imposed so there's a policy risk to making such an assumption.

As the conflict stretches on, OMCs which have already seen stock market sell offs could see further downgrades. In extreme scenarios (with crude above $100 for extended periods) the operating profit of OMCs could collapse. Standalone refiners (which don't have marketing in the mix) may see operating profit expansion if GRMs continue to be elevated as is likely given the supply demand scenario.

India's LPG exposure is critical with an LPG loss of an extra ₹10.2 per kg for $10 rise in crude. The current priority system announced by the government may hold the shortfall at around 24 per cent by squeezing commercial usage to ensure domestic cooking supply. The petchem and fertiliser sectors may need to seek alternate imports at much higher costs. The situation is less alarming for domestic CNG and PNG consumption where import dependence is relatively lower. Petrol and diesel supply issues can be managed in volume terms, given the possibility of importing Russian crude. India's surplus refining capacity (normally export-oriented) is also a buffer. While RIL will suffer in terms of petchem and lower crude intake, it could benefit from high GRMs and also from upstream production.

One possibility is that India has a tax buffer with excise duties of about ₹19.9 per litre on petrol and ₹15.8 per litre on diesel and tax cuts could prevent retail shocks. But if crude is above $110 for an extended period, even 100 per cent excise cuts won't be enough. This would then be an inflationary, politically sensitive scenario. Among OMCs, HPCL and BPCL are most exposed due to higher retail volumes relative to refining capacity but IOC is also exposed. Standalone refiners don't have to manage retail margins and MRPL and Chennai Petroleum could post operating profit margin expansion unless there's policy interventions such as windfall tax.

Hindu, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 18.94cm × 26.88cm

Police seize 610 LPG cylinders, bust hoarding racket in Mundka

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Under watch: A policeman monitoring distribution of LPG cylinders at a gas depot in New Delhi on March 13. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Amid concerns among residents of the city about the shortage of LPG due to the conflict in West Asia, the Delhi police's Crime Branch on Monday busted an LPG cylinder hoarding racket operating from a godown in outer Delhi's Mundka area.

As part of its ongoing crackdown on hoarding and black marketing, the Crime Branch's Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Cell conducted a raid on the godown of Guruji Indane Gas Service and seized 610 commercial LPG cylinders of different firms such as Indane, Bharat Gas, and Hindustan Petroleum.

"The owner is an authorised distributor, but storing cylinders of different companies is a clear violation of the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order and provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955," DCP (Crime-I) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said.

The police recovered 197 filled cylinders, 392 empty cylinders, and 21 empty small-sized cylinders in the raid conducted in the presence of officers from the Food Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department. "There were significant discrepancies in the stock records. As per verbal communication from officials of Indian Oil Corporation, the distributor's stock of Indane commercial cylinders was expected to be nil as of March 10. However, we found 133 filled commercial cylinders of Indane on the premises, indicating possible irregularities in stock management and unauthorised storage," the DCP said.

The police have registered an FIR under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Section 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The police have launched a search for the owner of the gas agency.

Two arrested

Meanwhile, Yogesh Gupta, 46, was arrested in east Delhi's Shakarpur area for allegedly refilling LPG cylinders illegally and keeping them for sale at his shop, the police said.

"An inquiry revealed that the accused was illegally transferring LPG from large cylinders into smaller ones," a senior police officer said.

The police also arrested Pushpendra, a delivery boy with a gas agency in Rohini's Sector 5, for illegally refilling commercial LPG cylinders to sell them on the black market.

Hindu, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 8.63cm × 9.34cm

Estimated increase in global demand for LNG by 2040

54 in per cent. Global demand for liquefied natural gas is estimated to rise by 54-68% by 2040 and 45-85% by 2050, from 422 million metric tons in 2025, Shell, the world's biggest trader of LNG, said on Monday. A year ago, Shell said that global demand for the fuel was expected to rise between 630 million and 718 million metric tons a year by 2040. REUTERS

India working with Iran for passage of tankers via Strait

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, March 16

INDIA IS WORKING with Iran to facilitate the passage of its ships carrying crude oil and LPG through the Strait of Hormuz, with vessel movements currently being handled individually on a ship-by-ship basis, a senior government official said, as tensions in West Asia threaten one of the world's most critical energy shipping routes.

The diplomatic engagement comes as instability in the Gulf raises concerns over the safety of vessels passing through the narrow maritime corridor that carries a substantial share of global oil trade and a large portion of India's energy imports.

Earlier in the day, in an interview with *The Financial Times*, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that a formal "blanket arrangement" for all Indian-flagged ships has not yet been established, noting that the transit of vessels is currently being handled on a "case-by-case basis." The ongoing engagement appears to have already helped facilitate the movement of several India-bound energy cargoes through the strategic chokepoint.

Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said LPG tanker Shivalik, carrying 46,000 tonne of LPG, docked at Mundra port at around 5 pm, with priority berthing arranged to ensure swift discharge. "Before its arrival, priority berthing has been arranged," Sinha said. Another Indian-flagged vessel, Jag Laadki, carrying about 81,000 tonne of Murban crude, sailed safely from the UAE's Fujairah and is expected to reach Mundra tomorrow, he added.

Meanwhile, the government has taken several measures to ensure domestic fuel availability even as geopolitical tensions persist. According to Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum ministry, India's LPG production has increased by about 36% since March 5, after refineries were directed to maximise cooking gas output.

Russian crude price in India at record high

PRICES FOR RUSSIA'S key export blend delivered to India hit a record high after the US widened its permit allowing countries to buy the nation's crude. Urals crude on India's west coast reached $98.93 a barrel on Friday, according to data from Argus Media. The price is the highest since early 2022. The discount on Russian crude narrowed to $4.80 a barrel versus Brent on Friday. —BLOOMBERG

Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 35.43cm × 47.33cm

CLARIFICATION | **External Affairs Minister Jaishankar says that 'every ship movement is an individual happening'**

'No blanket arrangement with Iran on safe passage'

FPJ News Service
MUMBAI

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in an interview with the Financial Times, said there was no "blanket arrangement" with Iran for Indian-flagged ships and that "every ship movement is an individual happening".

Jaishankar also denied that Iran had received anything in exchange for allowing two Indian-flagged gas tankers to pass through the Strait.

"It's not an exchange issue," he said. "India and Iran have a relationship. And this is a conflict that we regard as something very unfortunate."

He cited a "history of dealing with each other... which is the basis on which I engaged".

India has hailed its direct talks with Iran as the most effective way to restart shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, after US President Donald Trump called on countries to send warships to help the US force open the critical waterway for global energy markets.

S Jaishankar with European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels on Monday.

Jaishankar told the Financial Times that negotiations between New Delhi and Tehran allowed two Indian-flagged gas tankers to pass through the Strait on Saturday and demonstrated what diplomacy could achieve.

"I am at the moment engaged in talking to them and my talking has yielded some results," he said in the interview. "This is ongoing. If it is yielding results for me, I would naturally continue to look at it."

"These are still early days. We have many more ships there. So while this is a welcome development, there is continuing conversation because there is continued work on that," he added.

"Certainly, from India's perspective, it is better that we reason and we co-ordinate and we get a solution than we don't," he said. "So if that sort of allows other people to engage, I think the world is better off for it."

Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said last week that the country's military would continue to block the narrow waterway, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil and gas previously transited.

▸ **Contd on** | nation

'Iran wants India to free seized tankers for safe Hormuz passage'

Iran has asked India to release three tankers seized in February as part of ongoing talks to ensure safe passage for Indian-flagged or India-bound vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, sources told Reuters. Tehran has also requested supplies of certain medicines and medical equipment, according to one source, an Iranian official. The source added Iranian envoy to New Delhi met Indian officials on Monday to discuss the issue. However, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that "nothing is being exchanged". Indian authorities had seized the tankers — Asphalt Star, Al Jafzia and Stellar Ruby — alleging they had concealed or altered their identity and movements and were involved in illegal ship-to-ship transfers.

'No blanket...'

France and Italy are among European countries that have opened talks with Tehran about a possible diplomatic solution that would allow energy shipments to restart.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told CBS on Sunday that Iran was "open" to countries that want to discuss "safe passage of their vessels".

Jaishankar spoke ahead of attending a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday that will include discussions on whether to expand the mandate of the Aspides naval mission in the Red Sea to include the Strait of Hormuz. The mission currently comprises three warships from France, Italy and Greece.

"Each relationship frankly, in a way stands on its own merits," he said when asked whether European countries could replicate India's arrangement.

"So now, it's very hard for me to compare this with some other relationship which may or may not have these."

"I'd be happy to share with [EU capitals] what we are doing... I know many of them have had conversations [with Tehran] as well," he added.

Morning Standard, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 6, Size: 85.83cm × 107.76cm

TIME TO SHIFT FROM GAS TO ELECTRIC

ABHISHEK KAR
Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

SURYA SHEKHAR AUDDY
Research analyst, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

GIVEN the turmoil in West Asia, ensuring a sufficient supply of affordable liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking has emerged as a national priority. India currently imports roughly two-thirds of its LPG, which is used by over 33 crore households for cooking daily. About 90 percent of this LPG came from West Asian countries in 2025, led by the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), connecting over 10 crore low-income households to LPG, is nearing a decade of its completion, and remains one of India's most consequential welfare programmes. When PMUY was launched in 2016, LPG was the best option for a mass-scale clean cooking programme given that India was still upgrading its electricity infrastructure to provide electricity reliably for lighting, cooling, industry and agriculture.

India's power supply has improved significantly since then. Now urban and rural areas receive over 23 and 22 hours of uninterrupted supply daily, respectively, and the grid managed a record peak demand of 250 gigawatts during April-June 2024. Hence, given the volatility of LPG supply, it is time to push for electric cooking—using induction cooktops and electric pressure cookers. PMUY was designed to move poor households away from traditional polluting chulha burning firewood; a hybrid clean cooking stack of gas and electricity sustains the health gains from PMUY, while insulating the country from imported supply shocks.

A costly deal getting costlier

The disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has pushed up freight and insurance costs. In response, the Indian government has directed refiners under the Essential Commodities Act to prioritise LPG production and make it available only to domestic consumers. Moreover, government estimates suggest the market-linked price would require an increase of about ₹135 per cylinder, but households saw only a ₹60 hike on March 7.

India's electricity system has a very different import profile from LPG. About three-quarters of power still comes from coal, most of it mined domestically, with import dependence below 20 percent. Renewables, now, contribute more than 22 percent of daily power generation. Electricity for electric and induction stoves would largely come from coal mines and from growing solar and wind generation within India, not from tankers navigating the Strait of Hormuz.

An induction stove is in no way inferior to LPG—and could even be healthier. Induction cooktops operate at 85-90 percent energy efficiency, compared to 55 percent for gas, and cook faster. The Council on Energy, Environment and Water's Residential Energy Survey 2020 showed that while only about 5 percent of Indian homes use any electric cooking device, more than 10 per cent of urban homes already do so.

> The West Asia war has reminded us of the peril of depending on cooking gas imports. This is the right time to boost the National Efficient Cooking Programme launched in 2023 to promote electric cooking. The Ujjwala scheme can be used to support it

With a wave of new energy-efficient induction stoves and electric pressure cookers entering the market, consumers are slowly building confidence. Recent market research shows that the electric induction cooktop market in India was valued at about $796 million in 2025. From an energy transition perspective, electrification of cooking is key to India's 2070 net-zero goals as well.

The government had already launched the National Efficient Cooking Programme in 2023 to promote electric cooking. Clear policy signals to fast-track the shift from cylinder to current for cooking are the need of the hour.

In the short term, households that have and can afford electric induction stoves should be encouraged to use less LPG and switch to electric cooking, similar to the 'Give It Up' campaign for LPG subsidy. A CEEW report titled, 'Are Indian Homes Ready for Electric Cooking?', estimates that a household cooking entirely on electricity would consume about 80 units per month—making it cost competitive.

For households paying below ₹6.6 per unit on average, electric cooking is already cheaper than unsubsidised LPG currently priced at ₹913 for a 14.2 kg cylinder. The government has already increased the minimum waiting period for booking domestic LPG cylinders from 21 days to 25 days to curb hoarding and black marketing. It can further increase it to 35 days for non-PMUY households to send a policy signal on electric cooking in urban households. It would still allow for 10 cylinders a year, which is generally accepted as exclusive LPG use for a typical family of five.

In the medium term, extending the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme to all electric cooking appliances should drive private investment into domestic manufacturing of induction cooktops and electric pressure cookers, bringing down costs, incentivising multi-burner and energy-efficient designs suited to Indian kitchens and building a supply base ready to meet demand at scale.

As unit costs fall, a capital subsidy like PMUY to make appliances and utensils affordable for the poorest households, alongside behaviour-change campaigns and demonstrations will gradually enable PMUY beneficiaries to stack LPG with electricity.

India's clean cooking journey began with PMUY's bold ambition. In a volatile world with an ongoing energy crisis, cooking fuel for Indian households should gradually shift to energy generated on Indian soil. This is not about LPG versus electricity for cooking, but pushing for a clean cooking stack that reflects the ground realities of import reliance.

(Views are personal)

Tribune, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 36.75cm × 22.57cm

LPG hoarding racket busted in Mundka, 610 cylinders seized

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16

The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police on Monday busted an alleged LPG cylinder hoarding racket in the Mundka area of Outer Delhi and seized 610 cylinders stored in violation of safety norms and government regulations.

The action was carried out following specific information about the illegal storage of the LPG cylinders and a police team conducted a raid at Guruji Indane Gas Service, located at Plot No. 9 in Mundka.

People throng an LPG agency during the ongoing short supply in New Delhi, on Monday. MUKESH AGGARWAL

During inspection, the police found that commercial LPG cylinders belonging to multiple oil marketing companies, including Indane, Bharat Gas and HP Gas, had been stored inside the godown.

Preliminary verification revealed that Guruji Indane Gas Service was authorised to distribute only Indane commercial LPG cylinders.

However, cylinders belonging to other companies were also found stored at the premises, which violates the licensing conditions of the LPG distributorship as well as the LPG regulation of supply and distribution order, an official said.

During the search operation, the police seized a total of 610 LPG cylinders, both filled and empty. These included 423 Indane cylinders, 92 Bharat Gas cylinders and 95 HP Gas cylinders. Among the seized cylinders were 197 filled commercial cylinders, 392 empty commercial cylinders and 21 small-size empty cylinders, the cop added.

Further inquiry also revealed discrepancies in the stock records. According to preliminary information received from officials of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the distributor's stock of Indane commercial cylinders was expected to be nil as of March 10. However, 133 filled Indane commercial cylinders were found at the premises, indicating possible irregularities in stock management and unauthorised storage, the official added.

Cops suspect that such illegal hoarding is often carried out during periods of supply constraints to create artificial scarcity, after which the cylinders are allegedly sold at inflated prices through black marketing.

The police said such activities disrupt the regulated LPG distribution system and pose serious safety hazards due to improper storage of highly inflammable cylinders.

The raid was conducted in the presence of Food Supply Officer Vikas Kumar from the Food Supply and Consumers Affairs Department, Vikas Bhawan, who confirmed that storing cylinders of other companies inside an Indane distributorship premises was illegal and violated the LPG control regulations.

Following the seizure, a case was registered at the Crime Branch police station under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, along with Section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for criminal conspiracy.

The police said the owner of the godown was not present on the premises during the raid and was at large. Efforts were on to trace and apprehend those involved in the racket.

Further investigation is ongoing to identify the complete supply chain and ascertain the extent of the alleged illegal hoarding and black-marketing activities.

Five booked in other Capital areas

At least five persons were booked in connection with the illegal refilling of LPG gas cylinders in the national capital, the police said on Monday.

A person was arrested from the Vijay Vihar area of Rohini who was indulging in illegal refilling of LPG gas cylinders. The cops seized two filled commercial LPG cylinders, 15 filled domestic LPG cylinders, four weighing machines

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Five booked...

machines and four refilling pipes/equipment used for transferring gas from one cylinder to another.

In another crackdown, a 46-year-old man was booked for allegedly refilling and selling domestic LPG cylinders without authorisation in the Shakarpur area of east Delhi.

According to the police, the action was taken following information received from a member of the public regarding illegal refilling and black marketing of LPG cylinders in Shakarpur.

During a raid conducted at a shop in Shakarpur, the police found a man present on the premises who identified himself as Yogesh Gupta, a resident of Shakarpur, aged 46.

During inquiry, Gupta allegedly admitted that he had been refilling LPG from large cylinders into smaller cylinders for the past few days. He further disclosed that he had refilled gas in smaller cylinders around two to three days as well.

In a raid at Gandhi Nagar in Shahdara, a person was booked after the police found him illegally transferring LPG from domestic LPG cylinders into small cylinders with the help of gas-filling machines.

In a similar crackdown in the Bawana area of outer Delhi, two shopkeepers were illegally decanting LPG from commercial and domestic cylinders into smaller containers and selling these at exorbitant prices.

The police said the practice posed a serious fire and explosion hazard to nearby residents and violated multiple safety and supply regulations, so these persons were apprehended.

Economic Times, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 40.53cm × 35.88cm

ASIA'S OIL & GAS DEPENDENCE UNDER SPOTLIGHT

As West Asia Fire Rages, Green Transition Chatter Gets Louder

Shift must reflect diverse realities of countries at different stages of development: COP30 Prez

Urmi Goswami

AI GENERATED

New Delhi: The ongoing conflict in West Asia that triggered the roiling of international oil and gas supplies and prices has given a fresh impetus for a planned transition away from fossil fuels. Colombia, in partnership with the Netherlands, will be hosting the first international conference on Transitioning Away From Fossil Fuels at the end of April in Santa Marta, Colombia.

Meanwhile Brazil, as the COP30 presidency, has begun the process of preparing a roadmap, reaching out to governments, academia, think tanks and intergovernmental energy organisations to identify solutions to ensure a just, orderly and equitable shift away from fossil fuels.

The Abu Dhabi-based intergovernmental renewable energy agency, IRENA, is working on a roadmap to present to the Türkiye-Australia COP31 team.

The virtual closure of free movement through the Strait of Hormuz has affected global supplies of crude oil. But when it comes to gas, the impact is felt most by countries in Asia, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. These countries are paying the steepest prices as the conflict in West Asia rages on.

"A lot of the problems could have been avoided if Asian countries had switched faster to renewables," said Ramnath N Iyer, Sustainable Finance Lead, Asia, at the Institute of Energy Economics & Financial Analysis.

At the final plenary of the UN climate talks in Belem, addressing a demand raised by some 80 countries and in line with a call by President Lula of Brazil, COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago committed to prepare a roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels.

In a letter written in late February, do Lago invited contributions for the roadmap. The COP30 President said that while the initiative does "not derive from a negotiated mandate and are being undertaken under my responsibility, I am firmly convinced that they must be pursued in an inclusive, participatory, and transparent manner, and that these roadmaps can help us identify practical options for implementing the goals we have already agreed."

"The desire is that this roadmap unites countries. I clearly indicated that countries must understand the problems and different contexts of other countries. A just, orderly and equitable transition must best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development and with different levels of dependence on different types of fossil fuels," do Lago told **ET**, laying out the broad strokes of the roadmap.

Among the issues to be addressed are critical barriers—physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social—preventing a transition away from fossil fuels, the potential levers to accelerate the transition, and experience of efforts to reduce fossil fuel dependence.

For instance, India's transition away from fossil fuels could begin with oil and gas. The conflict in West Asia demonstrates this considering that India imports over 85% of its crude oil and nearly half of its natural gas. Even though coal is the "dirtiest" of the fossil fuels, it is India's primary source of domestic baseload power.

"By reducing dependence on expensive gas and oil imports first, India gains the fiscal breathing room necessary to reinvest in massive grid upgrades. This infrastructure is essential to eventually phasing down coal without risking energy poverty or instability," said Harjeet Singh, founding director of Satat Sampada Climate Foundation.

The first international conference on the transition away from fossil fuels hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands will provide an opportunity to bring together different stakeholders. Colombia's Environment Minister Irene Vélez-Torres said the meet should focus on implementing the transition away from fossil fuels rather than negotiating it. A series of online dialogues will precede the conference in Santa Marta at the end of April. The week-long meeting will include a three-day segment focusing on science, and a special focus on subnational governments, trade unions and the private sector, ending with a two-days segment in which government representatives and officials will participate.

"The conference does not intend to replace the COP process, but to complement it," said Daniela Durán González, who is with Colombia's environment ministry.

Times of India, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 18, Size: 47.02cm × 39.87cm

Electric Cooking Is Good Geostrategy

LPG troubles should push govt to free India from overseas dependency. Use LPG subsidy to subsidise new kitchen-use products for the poor. And to meet higher power demand, use Indian coal smartly

TK Arun

India should cook on electricity, generated from domestic renewables and coal, not imported hydrocarbons, whether liquid petroleum gas (LPG) or natural gas distributed to consumers as piped natural gas (PNG). Here is how to go about it.

In the kitchen | We need to cook on induction cooktops, not the traditional heaters in which a heating coil snakes around inside the grooves of a ceramic plate, not even infrared stovetops. When a heating source is placed below the cooking vessel, the heat transfer takes place through radiation. About 60% of the radiant heat is wasted.

The induction cooktop works by producing a magnetic field on top, not heat. You can place your hand on it, and feel no heat. When a vessel made of magnetic material – iron, steel (except for some kinds of stainless steel that retain their crystalline structure) – is placed on the cooktop, an induced magnetic field creates eddies of current inside the wall of the vessel, and the material's electrical resistance creates heat. About 90% of the electrical energy supplied to the induction cooktop is converted into cooking heat.

Cooking vessels made of clay, ceramic, or aluminium will not work. Cookware specifically made for induction cooking has a composite structure: the bottom layer is made of a ferromagnetic material, the middle layer of copper or aluminium to conduct the heat efficiently to the third layer, on which the food rests, made of suitable materials.

To stir-fry in a wok, you'll need a flat-bottomed wok whose sides do not heat up the way a conventional wok on a gas burner does, and stir a bit more than usual, as the food at the bottom will cook more than the food touching the sides.

To boil a litre of water, an LPG stove takes 89% more energy than an induction cooktop. At current, unsubsidised prices of LPG and electricity in Delhi, the fuel cost of cooking would come down 30% by switching from LPG to induction cooktops.

The well-off can capitalise the future savings on fuel to make the investment on the cooktop and cookware. CSR funds and state subsidy from avoided LPG subsidy can help the poor finance the transition. Govt additionally needs to set standards for induction cooktops, and incentivise local manufacture of the glass-ceramic composite plate on which vessels are placed, the copper coil that produces the magnetic field, the inverter that boosts current frequency, thermal sensors, the cooling fan inside the cooktop, and the microcontroller that regulates the stove's behaviour according to the settings selected.

Power generation | While nationwide adoption of induction cooking would make a net saving on energy, its consumption as electricity would have to go up. In transport as well, massive energy savings can be made by switching from hydrocarbons to electricity. Can India produce the additional power required? The question is redundant. World Bank publishes data on per capita power consumption across countries. India's level is one-third the world average, and less than one-fifth China's (2023 figures). If India is to prosper, it must produce a whole lot more power.

Image: AI

Does India have access to the fuel needed to step up generation? The sun, the wind, and the waves have energy waiting to be tapped. Non-fossil fuels account for half the generation capacity, but account for barely 30% of the power generated. The rest is from coal (20,000 MW of gas-based capacity lies idle).

India has the world's fourth or fifth largest deposits of coal, of which 220bn tonnes are proven reserves. India mines about a billion tonnes a year, and imports a fifth as much. While the inefficient state monopoly on coal mining was done away with in 2015, bidding for mining rights could start only in 2020. Then, too, blocks were offered without first putting in place the needed forest and environmental clearances, and societal buy-in from communities, who stood to be displaced and had to be rehabilitated.

Would-be merchant miners bid too high, failed at obtaining clearances, and returned the blocks. India has gone back to allowing captive coal mining by energy-intensive industries like power, steel, and cement, although captive mining had been dubbed a source of massive corruption, and 204 licences cancelled.

The biggest scam in coal is that it lies underground, unutilised, while India has to import a fifth of its coal requirement, spending scarce foreign exchange. This reflects failings in policy and governance, besides in operational efficiency. Fixing this is a function of political will.

Coal gasification | Luckily, it's possible to use coal without mining it, if you gasify it. Coal is burned underground, starved of oxygen and in the presence of steam, to form CO, carbon monoxide, and H2, hydrogen, with traces of methane and moisture. This mixture that comes out is called synthesis gas or syngas. It burns, and can be used as the fuel for a gas turbine. Capturing the waste heat from gas turbines also allows a steam cycle to produce power in combination.

Syngas lends itself to chemical reactions to create natural gas or methane, which, in turn, can be used to synthesise hydrocarbons, including aviation fuel, diesel, and petrol.

Interestingly, Nazis used this process during World War II to utilise German coal and power their Messerschmitts and Panzers.

Climate action | India must, simultaneously, invest in R&D to develop and deploy technologies for carbon capture and use on a massive scale. Freedom from colonial slavery of the mind means trusting Indian capacity for R&D, and funding it.

Tribune, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 4.84cm × 13.12cm

Bathinda refinery triples LPG output

BATHINDA, MARCH 16

In view of the current LPG shortage, HPCL-Mittal Energy Limited (HMEL) has increased the LPG output at its Guru Gobind Singh Refinery here from 1,000 tonne to 3,000 tonne per day.

This was recently announced by industrialist Lakshmi Niwas Mittal, executive chairman of ArcelorMittal. The move has come in response to directions from the Centre asking oil refineries to ramp up LPG production and divert additional output for domestic consumption. The LPG shortage is causing major problems for residents. A 66-year-old man from Barnala lost his life last week after suffering a cardiac arrest while waiting for his turn to get a domestic LPG cylinder outside a gas agency. — TNS

Complete e-KYC, go in for PNG, LPG consumers told

UJWAL JALALI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 16
The government on Monday asked all 33 crore-plus domestic LPG consumers to complete their biometric Aadhaar-based authentication even as it described the current LPG situation as "worrisome but under control".

"All domestic LPG consumers are required to complete Aadhaar authentication (e-KYC)... Now verify from the comfort of your home using your oil marketing company's mobile app and Aadhaar FaceRD app," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on X, in a move that invited a sharp reaction from the Opposition.

The annual authentication by Aadhaar is needed for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries in order to enable them to avail of subsidies on cooking gas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

ONLINE BOOKINGS UP

Online LPG bookings have risen from 84 per cent to nearly 90 per cent. Delivery Authentication Code system aimed at preventing diversion of cylinders has been expanded from 53 per cent coverage before the crisis to 72 per cent.

Complete e-KYC, go in for PNG, LPG consumers...

There are over 10.56 crore Ujjwala beneficiaries. Under the scheme, biometric Aadhaar authentication is needed every financial year to receive Rs 300 targeted subsidy on the eighth and ninth refills.

Even if this is not done, and e-KYC is not completed, subsidy continues till the seventh refill but stops after that and then it will resume once Aadhaar authentication is done.

Apart from this, the government today said efforts were on to encourage a switch from LPG to piped natural gas and city gas distribution forms had extended incentives to promote the switch. "The idea is to ease the pressure on LPG supplies," Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma said, adding 90 per cent of domestic LPG bookings were now online, which was a good sign.

"The current situation is worrying. But LPG is being supplied to our domestic LPG consumers to meet all their requirements. There are no reports of dry-outs at any LPG distributorship," Sharma said.

Indraprastha Gas, the retailer of CNG and PNG in Delhi and NCR, is offering domestic LPG consumers free gas worth Rs 500 if they took a PNG connection and started using it before March 31. The government said daily LPG refill requests and bookings had plummeted to pre-war levels of 50-55 lakh on Sunday.

Times of India, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 43.18cm × 32.60cm

Indian crude hits $137, up 93% since start of conflict

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The cost of crude for Indian refiners has soared 93% since the conflict in the Gulf broke out on Feb 28 and hit $136.56 a barrel on Friday, eroding profits for domestic players ranging from IndianOil, HPCL and BPCL to Reliance Industries.

Several countries, including the US, let retail prices rise in line with increase in crude prices. In India, oil companies have so far kept pump prices unchanged and have taken a hit on their margins after pocketing gains for months.

It's unlikely that govt, which has been raking in revenue, will make any changes until March 31 to ensure that taxes and fiscal balance are in line with budget targets.

▶**Remain volatile, P 14**

US 'okay' with some ships passing Hormuz

Oil prices eased about 1% Monday after the US said it would be fine with some **Iranian, Indian and Chinese ships** moving through the Strait of Hormuz and talk of possible additional releases from emergency reserves. **P 20**

Crude prices to remain volatile until ship movement normalises

▶**Continued from P 1**

With elections due in four states and the UT of Puducherry, the political green light is unlikely until the last phase of voting on April 29. In the US, gasoline prices were estimated at $3.7 a gallon on Monday, according to AAA data.

Since the war broke out, benchmark Brent crude has seen an increase of over 40%, while Russian Urals crude has risen by over 50%.

The Indian basket — which comprises sour crude from Oman and Dubai, as well as the sweet grade of Brent Dated — was estimated at $70.9 a barrel on Feb 26 and rose to $127.2 on March 12, before soaring $9.3 a barrel, or 7.3%, to $136.5 on Friday, official data showed.

India was in a sweet spot for months, buying discounted Russian crude, whose prices have now increased.

The spike is on account of a global scarcity caused by Iran blocking the Strait of Hormuz, which accounts for 20% of global oil and gas supply. For India, the impact is even greater, as the narrow channel supplies around 60% of the energy processed in the country. Crude prices are expected to remain volatile until the movement of vessels from Hormuz is normalised.

Brent rallied to a three-year high of $120 a barrel on March 9 but cooled later after International Energy Agency members decided to release 400 million barrels from emergency reserves to try to quell soaring prices.

Axis Bank chief economist Neelkanth Mishra, who is also a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM, said if crude remains around $100 per barrel for a year, India's import bill would rise sharply and hurt the trade balance by about $80 billion, or 2.1% of GDP.

In a recent report, ratings agency ICRA said prolonged conflict risks disruption of energy supplies and shipping routes, impacting India's macroeconomic outlook and multiple sectors. It added that a $10 increase in the average price of crude oil for the year (vis-a-vis the baseline estimate) would raise the country's current account deficit by 30-40 bps.

Gita Gopinath, professor of economics at Harvard University, said higher crude prices will impact global economic growth. "If we are now looking at an average of $85 a barrel for 2026, then that could shave off around 0.3-0.4pp from global growth. Headline inflation could rise by 60 bps," she posted on X on Sunday.

INDIAN REFINERS FEEL THE PINCH

Date	Indian Basket	Brent Crude	Urals
Feb-27	70.9*	72.9	58.9*
Mar-10	109.4	87.1	81.6
Mar-13	136.6^	102.3^	89.1#

Prices in $ per barrel *Feb 26 | # March 11 | ^ March 16 Source: **PPAC, oilprice.com**

Indian Express, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 4, Size: 10.35cm × 16.48cm

JNU dhaba menus shrink over cap on PNG supply

Express News Service
New Delhi, March 16

WITH INDRAPRASTHA Gas Limited (IGL) restricting supply to commercial customers, kitchens and eateries on campus at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) have been hit, and student leaders have warned that hostel mess bills could rise soon.

In a letter to hostels in JNU on March 11, IGL said supplies to industrial and commercial consumers would be capped at 80% of their average consumption over the previous six months. The restriction took effect at 6 am on March 11.

IGL supplies piped natural gas (PNG) to domestic and commercial consumers in Delhi and several NCR cities.

At JNU, the impact has begun to show up across the informal food economy on campus. While prices have not yet risen across the board, some items have begun to disappear from the menu, Aditi Mishra, president of the JNU Students' Union, said. "In one canteen at the School of Social Sciences, items have become costlier, and egg rolls have been removed from the menu at Ganga Dhaba," she said.

As the cooking limitations have forced vendors to simplify menus, even rotis have disappeared at some places, several students said. Student leaders said the impact of the restrictions on cooking gas and the overall shortage will become clearer when hostel mess bills are calculated. "We are anticipating that charges might go up," Mishra said.

At JNU, which has a reputation for allowing students from underprivileged backgrounds to study and stay at an affordable cost, even modest increases can carry weight.

Mishra added that the shrinking menu options could also affect students on days when hostel messes are closed.

"If the mess is closed because of a festival or holiday, students depend on the dhabas and canteens on campus," she said. "Those food items are also slowly getting reduced."

Times of India, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 14, Size: 25.61cm × 27.97cm

LPG situation 'worrisome', govt ups output by 36% in a fortnight

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's domestic LPG production has been ramped up by 36% in a fortnight to meet demand for domestic cylinders, even as the overall availability of cooking gas remains "worrisome", the petroleum ministry said on Monday.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, said consumers of both domestic and commercial LPG cylinders are being encouraged to switch to piped gas. She said city gas distribution companies have rolled out incentives to promote PNG connections, including free gas worth Rs 500 for domestic consumers by Indraprastha Gas in Delhi-NCR; waiver of the Rs 500 registration charge for domestic PNG connections and security deposits for commercial consumers by Mumbai-based Mahanagar Gas; and waiver of security deposits for all commercial connections by Bharat Petroleum.

Mahesh G

'NO DRY-OUTS SO FAR'

While India is relatively comfortable as far as availability of crude is concerned, officials accepted the squeeze on LPG supplies is palpable due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint that witnesses the transit of energy supplies to India from West Asian countries.

India imports about 90% of its crude requirement, 50% of its natural gas, and 60% of its LPG needs. More than half of India's crude imports, about 30% of gas and 85-90% of LPG imports come from West Asian countries through Hormuz.

Unlike crude, LPG does not have a strategic reserve, and officials said the gas was being arranged from whatever sources possible. While India has partly offset crude supply disruptions by sourcing oil from countries including Russia, gas supplies have been curtailed to industrial users, and LPG availability to commercial establishments such as hotels and restaurants has been limited to ensure domestic consumers do not feel the pinch.

While petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri had earlier said India was tapping more sources such as the US, Norway, Canada and Russia for LPG, officials on Monday refused to share details on the additional cargoes secured so far.

Sharma said no dry-outs were reported at LPG dealerships and action was being taken against hoarding and black marketing. She said online bookings are up from 84% to 90%, and delivery authentication coverage has been expanded from 53% to 72% to prevent diversion of cylinders at the distributor level.

Times of India, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 17, Size: 69.45cm × 9.87cm

The cost of crude for Indian refiners has shot up 51% so far in March as global prices have spiked in the wake of tension in West Asia and the Strait of Hormuz being blocked by Iran. On March 13, the Indian basket price rose to $136.6 a barrel. The average price for March is the highest since July 2023, when the Indian basket averaged $105.5 a barrel

Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

Hindustan Times, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 16, Size: 29.53cm × 34.13cm

Hindustan Times

OMCs halt fuel credit to pumps amid Iran crisis

Rituraj Baruah & Manas Pimpalkhare
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

HPCL, BPCL began insisting on advance payments last week MINT

NEW DELHI: Pay up first, tank up later; at a time of crunch, that's the message from state-run oil marketers to fuel stations.

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have suspended fuel on credit to limit offtake by retail outlets, four people aware of the development said, as the closure of Iran's Strait of Hormuz roils crude supply chains worldwide. While Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL) began insisting on advance payments from last week, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOCL) halted its five-day revolving credit policy on Monday, the people said on condition of anonymity.

The move gains significance since the three OMCs serve the majority of India's nearly 100,000 retail fuel pumps. Apart from the sudden crunch for petrol pumps, agriculture and industrial buyers who purchase fuel on credit may also take a blow. The West Asia war has choked off around 40% of crude supplies for India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, where petro-product demand is expected to touch 250.8 million tonnes in fiscal year 2027 (FY27).

While the Union petroleum ministry and the OMCs did not respond to queries, multiple fuel distributors confirmed the development.

Uday Lodh, president of the Federation of All Maharashtra Petrol Dealers Association (Fampeda), said all three state-run oil marketing companies have sought advance payments. Earlier, these companies offered some credit lines stretching for a few days, he said. Fampeda represents 4,500 petrol pumps in the state.

OMCs offer various credit facilities. One is draft on delivery, where the dealer pays at the end of every day for the purchase made earlier in the day; and the other is revolving credit, under which pumps get fuel on credit for three to five days and pay on the sixth day. Both facilities are currently halted, fuel outlets said. There is a third facility—electronic dealer finance—where a bank issues a letter of comfort to the OMC on behalf of the outlet to supply fuel for 15-30 days. This facility, however, is continuing as of now. The credit model helps retailers procure higher volumes of fuel. In turn, the retailers also give fuel on credit to regular bulk buyers like transporters in some cases.

Dealers in the national capital were expecting the change for several days, said Nischal Singhania, president of the Delhi Petrol Dealers' Association of 400 outlets. "The primary focus of the OMCs may be the retailers who have a record of defaulting. Apart from ensuring a lower-than-usual offtake due to the need for upfront payment, the move is also aimed at ensuring economic prudence in the current times," he said.

According to Monty Sehgal, spokesperson for the Petrol Pump Dealers Association Punjab, some private fuel marketers are now operating two shifts in several places instead of the usual three. According to Fampeda's Lodh, "they are operating only one machine at night, with all but one light switched on at the pump."

Reliance BP Mobility Ltd's Jio-bp, Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy Ltd and Shell India Ltd operate around 9,400 retail pumps in India. Nayara and Shell declined to comment. A Jio bp spokesperson said the company is focused on ensuring that all outlets are "fully operational and adequately stocked".

Fuel pumps which sell bulk fuel on credit to agriculture, transport and industries will find it hard to serve them, Sehgal of Petrol Pump Dealers Association Punjab said.

"There are large sums of credit which are due towards the dealers from these bulk buyers. We generally require a few months' time to recover that, and only then it would have been feasible to run operations smoothly without the credit facility. In states like Punjab and Haryana and some industrial clusters in the National Capital Region, these bulk buyers form a significant portion of fuel pump sales. This may bring down our daily consumption significantly," Sehgal said.

The government maintains that the country has adequate supplies of crude and the transport fuels

Hindustan Times, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 11, Size: 21.99cm × 32.94cm

Hindustan Times

LPG carrier arrives after Hormuz transit

LPG carrier, Shivalik, docked at Mundra Port on Monday after transit via the Strait of Hormuz.
REUTERS

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

KACHCHH, GUJARAT: Indian LPG carrier Shivalik, carrying a total of 46,000 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), ordered by the Indian Oil Corporation, reached Mundra Port on Monday evening.

Earlier, addressing the Inter Ministerial briefing on Recent Developments in West Asia in New Delhi, Special Secretary at the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, said that documentation and priority berthing have been arranged at the port to ensure no delay in the discharge of cargo of the Shivalik. The Shipping Ministry official said that another Indian vessel carrying LPG, 'Nanda Devi', will arrive tomorrow.

The Indian-flagged vessel, 'Jag Laadki', which sailed from the UAE, carrying about 81,000 tonnes of Murban crude oil, is safely en route to India, Sinha said. The official said that all Indian seafarers in the Persian Gulf area are safe and no incident has been reported in the last 24 hours.

Consequently, there are now 22 Indian-flagged vessels remaining in the Persian Gulf, carrying a total of 611 seafarers.

Gujarat agriculture minister Jitu Vaghani told the state assembly that the ship passed safely through the Strait of Hormuz despite global unrest and tensions involving Iran, Israel and other countries.

Mundra Port officials confirmed that Shivalik arrived with 46,000 metric tonnes of LPG ordered by IOCL. While 20,000 MT will be unloaded at Mundra port, 26000 MT will be unloaded at Mangaluru, said a statement from the port.

India imports about 88% of its crude oil, 50% of natural gas and 60% of LPG needs.Before the US-Israel strikes on Iran on February 28, more than half of India's crude imports, and 85-90% of LPG imports came from West Asian countries.

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 58.55cm × 43.55cm

भारतीय उद्योग जगत पर दिखने लगे जंग के जख्म

दीपक पटेल, शाइन जेकब, अंजलि सिंह, संजीव मुखर्जी, शार्लीन डिसूजा और ईशिता आयान दत्त
नई दिल्ली\चेन्नई\मुंबई\कोलकाता, 16 मार्च

ईरान युद्ध के तीसरे सप्ताह में पहुंचने के साथ ही भारतीय उद्योग जगत पर उसके आर्थिक प्रभाव दिखने लगे हैं। निर्यात में व्यवधान, आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में समस्या और गैस आपूर्ति में कमी का असर विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में महसूस किया जा रहा है।

उत्पादन के मोर्चे पर उद्योग जगत 5 और 9 मार्च को जारी पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के आदेशों से जूझ रहा है। इसके तहत मंत्रालय ने रिफाइनरियों को एलपीजी का उत्पादन अधिक से अधिक करने और परिवारों एवं आवश्यक सेवाओं को आपूर्ति में प्राथमिकता देने का निर्देश दिया है। इससे वाणिज्यिक एवं औद्योगिक उपयोग के लिए आपूर्ति प्राथमिकता सूची में नीचे चले गए हैं। इससे सभी क्षेत्रों में कामकाज प्रभावित होने का खतरा पैदा हो गया है।

ईंधन आपूर्ति की चिंता

भारत का वाहन उद्योग पिछले साल माल एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) की दरों में बदलाव के बाद दमदार मांग की लहर पर सवार था। मगर अधिकारियों ने कहा कि वाहन उद्योग अब रुकावटों के लिए तैयार हो रहा है।

वाहन विनिर्माता और वाहन कलपुर्जे बनाने वाली कंपनियां एलपीजी, पीएनजी और प्रोपेन की उपलब्धता के बारे में चिंतित हैं। इनका इस्तेमाल वाहन एवं कलपुर्जे बनाने वाले कारखानों में फोर्जिंग, कास्टिंग, हीट ट्रीटमेंट, वेल्डिंग और पेंट क्योरिंग जैसी प्रक्रियाओं के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर किया जाता है।

वाहन विनिर्माताओं के संगठन सायम ने 9 मार्च को पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय को एक पत्र लिखकर एलपीजी, पीएनजी और प्रोपेन की उपलब्धता एवं आपूर्ति की स्थिति के बारे में स्पष्टता मांगी थी ताकि वाहन निर्माता उत्पादन की योजना बनाने और संभावित व्यवधान से निपटने में मदद मिल सके।

भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय को लिखे एक अन्य पत्र में वाहन कलपुर्जा विनिर्माताओं के संगठन एक्मा ने आगाह किया था कि एलपीजी और पीएनजी की उपलब्धता में आ रही रुकावटें उत्पादन कार्यक्रमों पर असर डाल सकती हैं। उन्होंने कहा था कि खास तौर पर फोर्जिंग और फाउंड्री जैसे क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाली एमएसएमई इकाइयां इससे अधिक प्रभावित होंगी क्योंकि उनके पास तत्काल किसी अन्य ईंधन के इस्तेमाल की गुंजाइश काफी कम होती है।

धातु क्षेत्र में व्यवधान के शुरुआती संकेत अभी से दिखने लगे हैं। जिंदल स्टेनलेस के प्रबंध निदेशक अभ्युदय जिंदल ने शुक्रवार को एक बयान में कहा था, 'स्टेनलेस स्टील का उत्पादन प्रोपेन/एलपीजी और प्राकृतिक गैस जैसे औद्योगिक ईंधन पर काफी निर्भर है। इसलिए आपूर्ति किल्लत का हमारे कारखानों पर बुरा असर पड़ा है।' उन्होंने कहा कि ईंधन की उपलब्धता में आ रही रुकावटों के मद्देनजर उनकी कंपनी के कारखाने कम क्षमता पर काम कर रहे हैं।

इंडियन स्टेनलेस स्टील डेवलपमेंट एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष राजामणि कृष्णमूर्ति ने कहा, 'स्टेनलेस स्टील उद्योग को अस्तित्व के संकट जैसी ऊर्जा समस्या का सामना कर रहा है, क्योंकि प्रोपेन और एलपीजी की आपूर्ति में व्यवधान ने उत्तरी और पूर्वी भारत में मौजूद स्टेनलेस स्टील कारखानों को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया है।'

(शेष पृष्ठ 8 पर)

उद्योग जगत चिंतित

- वाहन और वाहन कलपुर्जे बनाने वाली कंपनियां एलपीजी, पीएनजी व प्रोपेन की उपलब्धता के बारे में चिंतित
- होर्मुज स्ट्रेट बंद होने के कारण मार्ग में बदलाव होने से कच्चे माल के आयात में देरी हो रही है
- चुनौतियों से जूझ रहीं कई विनिर्माण कंपनियों को मुनाफे पर असर पड़ने की आशंका
- शिपिंग मार्ग में बदलाव से वाहन कलपुर्जा निर्यातकों के लिए लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत 20 से 40 फीसदी तक बढ़ गई है

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 1, Size: 36.06cm × 89.09cm

उद्योग जगत पर दिखने लगे जंग के जख्म

पृष्ठ 1 का शेष

इंडियन स्टेनलेस स्टील डेवलपमेंट एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष राजामणि कृष्णमूर्ति ने कहा, 'हमारे सदस्य लगातार चलने वाले कारखानों का संचालन करते हैं। ऐसे में ईंधन आपूर्ति में किसी भी व्यवधान से न केवल उत्पादन रुक जाता है बल्कि भट्ठियों को हमेशा के लिए नुकसान होने और घरेलू आपूर्ति श्रृंखला के महीनों तक ठप पड़ जाने का भी खतरा बना रहता है।' एसोसिएशन ने सरकार से अनुरोध किया है कि वह ईंधन आवंटन के मामले में स्टेनलेस स्टील को प्राथमिकता वाला क्षेत्र माना जाए। व्यापक इस्पात उद्योग में भी उत्पादकों ने ईंधन की आपूर्ति में व्यवधान के बारे में चिंता जताई है।

एक इस्पात कंपनी के अधिकारी ने अपनी प हचान जाहिर न करने की शर्त पर कहा, 'कंपनियों को अपने मुख्य कारखाने से बाहर वाली इकाइयों में डाउनस्ट्रीम संचालन में विभिन्न स्तरों पर रुकावटों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।' जानकारों के मुताबिक, इस्पात क्षेत्र की कंपनियों पर इसका प्रभाव अलग-अलग दिखेगा जो इस्पात बनाने की प्रक्रिया पर निर्भर करेगा। छोटी कंपनियों पर इसका अधिक प्रभाव दिख सकता है। प्राथमिक इस्पात बनाने वाली एक कंपनी ने बताया कि एलएनजी एवं एलपीजी की उपलब्धता से लेकर चूना पत्थर की सोर्सिंग तक कई मोर्चों पर चुनौतियां सामने आ रही हैं। उन्होंने कहा, 'हम घरेलू आपूर्ति और चूना पत्थर के अन्य स्रोतों से काम चलाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।'

हालांकि शुक्रवार को गुजरात ने औद्योगिक गैस के इस्तेमाल की सीमा 50 फीसदी से बढ़ाकर 80 फीसदी कर दी जिससे उद्योग को कुछ राहत मिली। एक कंपनी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने अपनी पहचान जाहिर न करने की शर्त पर कहा कि गुजरात में खाने-पीने की चीजों का उत्पादन थोड़ा आसान हो गया है, क्योंकि सरकार ने शुक्रवार को एक नया परिपत्र जारी कर औद्योगिक गैस के इस्तेमाल की सीमा बढ़ा दी है। रोजमर्रा के इस्तेमाल की वस्तुएं (एफएमसीजी) बनाने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी ब्रिटानिया इंडस्ट्रीज ने स्टॉक एक्सचेंज को बताया है कि औद्योगिक गैस की आपूर्ति कम होने से उसके कारखानों में कोई बड़ी रुकावट नहीं आई है।

बढ़ती लागत की मार

युद्ध की कीमत को कई तरह से महसूस की जा रही है। भारतीय विनिर्माता पश्चिम एशिया से प्रमुख कच्चा माल भी मंगाते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, 2024-25 में खाड़ी क्षेत्र से लगभग 1.25 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के पॉलिएथिलीन पॉलीमर आए थे। पश्चिम एशिया सीमेंट और इस्पात विनिर्माताओं के लिए चूना पत्थर, धातुओं और तांबे के तार भी आपूर्ति करता है। होर्मुज स्ट्रेट के बंद होने के कारण मार्ग में बदलाव होने से कच्चे माल के आयात में देरी हो रही है।

एक्मा ने कहा कि शिपिंग के मार्ग में बदलाव और भीड़भाड़ के कारण वाहन कलपुर्जा निर्यातकों के लिए लॉजिस्टिक्स लागत 20 से 40 फीसदी तक बढ़ गई है। साथ ही निर्यात में लगने वाला समय भी दो से चार सप्ताह बढ़ गया है। इसके अलावा वाहन कलपुर्जे में इस्तेमाल होने वाले रसायन, सिंथेटिक रबर और पेट्रोकेमिकल इनपुट जैसे प्रमुख कच्चे माल के आयात में भी देरी हो रही है। हैदराबाद की इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी कंपनी ईटीओ मोटर्स के कार्यकारी निदेशक सुरेंद्र नाथ ने कहा कि इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी और व्यापक वाहन क्षेत्र में पेट्रोकेमिकल एवं एल्युमीनियम की बढ़ती कीमतें इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) के पुर्जों और सामग्रियों की लागत बढ़ा सकती हैं।

इससे निपटने के लिए कंपनियां घरेलू आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को मजबूत करने और मॉड्यूलर वाहन प्लेटफॉर्म को अपनाने पर अधिक ध्यान दे रही हैं। चीनी क्षेत्र पर पश्चिम एशिया संकट का सीधा असर नहीं पड़ा है, लेकिन कई कच्चे माल की कीमतों में बढ़ोतरी होने के कारण उत्पादन लागत बढ़ गई है। इसके अलावा चीनी की पैकिंग में इस्तेमाल होने वाले लो-डेंसिटी पॉलिएथिलीन (एलडीपीई) और हाई-डेंसिटी पॉलिएथिलीन (एचडीपीई) बैग की लागत संकट शुरू होने के बाद 4 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम से अधिक बढ़ गई है। एलडीपीई और एचडीपीई दोनों तरह के बैग में कच्चे माल के तौर पर पेट्रोकेमिकल्स का इस्तेमाल होता है। सरकारी अनुमानों के अनुसार, भारत के पास फिलहाल करीब 36 फीसदी जरूरत को पूरा करने लायक उर्वरक का भंडार है।

निर्यातकों को नुकसान की चिंता

एक निर्यातक ने बताया कि पश्चिम एशिया में जारी युद्ध के कारण भारत को सीधे तौर पर होने वाले निर्यात में रोजाना 19 से 20 करोड़ डॉलर का नुकसान हो सकता है। इससे पश्चिम एशिया उत्तरी अफ्रीका (डब्ल्यूएएनए) क्षेत्र के देशों के साथ व्यापार में कुल नुकसान 3 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचने की आशंका है। साल 2024-25 में भारत के कुल 433.56 अरब डॉलर के वस्तु निर्यात में डब्ल्यूएएनए का योगदान 71.24 अरब डॉलर था।

इंजीनियरिंग वस्तु जैसे प्रमुख विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में इसका काफी असर महसूस किया जा रहा है। देश के निर्यात में इस क्षेत्र का रोजाना योगदान करीब 5.3 करोड़ डॉलर का है। इसके अलावा छोटी इकाइयों, रिफाइनिंग, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, रत्न एवं आभूषण और रेडीमेड परिधान पर भी इसका प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। तिरुपुर एक्सपोर्टर्स एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष केएम सुब्रमण्यन के अनुसार, यह नुकसान सीधे निर्यात से कहीं ज्यादा है क्योंकि अमेरिका, यूरोप और अफ्रीका को माल भेजने के लिए दुबई एक महत्त्वपूर्ण केंद्र के रूप में का काम करता है।

Business Standard Hindi, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 8, Size: 39.71cm × 67.71cm

कंपनियां पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए दे रहीं प्रोत्साहन

शुभांगी माथुर

पश्चिम एशिया संकट के कारण देश में तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) की गंभीर कमी के बीच शहरी गैस वितरण कंपनियां घरेलू पाइप्ड नैचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दे रही हैं। वे लोगों को पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहनों का ऐलान कर रही हैं।

इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आईजीएल) और गेल गैस लिमिटेड (गेल गैस) सहित तमाम कंपनियां घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को 500 रुपये की मुफ्त गैस दे रही हैं। महानगर गैस लिमिटेड (एमजीएल) घरेलू पीएनजी उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 500 रुपये का पंजीकरण शुल्क माफ कर रही है और व्यावसायिक उपभोक्ताओं के लिए सुरक्षा जमा भी हटा रही है। भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (बीपीसीएल) ने सभी व्यावसायिक कनेक्शनों के लिए सुरक्षा जमा माफ करने की घोषणा की है।

यह कदम ऐसे समय उठाया गया है जब सरकार पश्चिम एशिया से एलपीजी आपूर्ति में बाधा के कारण उपभोक्ताओं से प्राकृतिक गैस की ओर रुख करने का आग्रह कर रही है, ताकि एलपीजी पर भार कम हो सके और संकट के समय लोगों में अफरा-तफरी न मचे तथा आसानी से ईंधन आपूर्ति होती रहे। भारत अपनी घरेलू एलपीजी आवश्यकता का लगभग 60 प्रतिशत आयात करता है, जिसमें से 90 प्रतिशत पश्चिम एशिया से आता है। डाउनस्ट्रीम नियामक पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस विनियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) ने 14 मार्च को सीजीडी कंपनियों को संसाधन बढ़ाने, मौजूदा कनेक्शनों के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने और आपूर्ति शुरू करने की समय-सीमा कम करने की सलाह दी है। नियामक के अनुसार 31 जनवरी तक गैस वितरण कंपनियों के पास 1.65 करोड़ पीएनजी कनेक्शन थे, जिनमें से 1.03 करोड़ उपभोक्ता प्राकृतिक गैस का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।

बोर्ड ने कहा, 'जिन उपभोक्ताओं के लिए अवसंरचना पहले से उपलब्ध है और जो पीएनजी सुविधा लेना चाहते हैं, उन्हें जल्द से जल्द जोड़ा जाए। इन उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी आपूर्ति देने से एलपीजी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पर दबाव भी कम होगा और खाना पकाने के ईंधन के विविधीकरण में मदद मिलेगी।' घरेलू गैस वितरण कंपनियों से यह भी कहा गया है कि जहां बुनियादी ढांचा उपलब्ध है, वहां अधिकतम नए उपभोक्ताओं को घरेलू पीएनजी से जोड़ा जाए। पिछले एक दशक में पाइप्ड गैस कनेक्शन और पाइपलाइन दोनों तरह के पीएनजी नेटवर्क का बहुत तेजी से विस्तार हुआ है। वर्ष 2014 से 2024-25 के बीच घरेलू पीएनजी कनेक्शन 25 लाख से बढ़कर 1.47 करोड़ से अधिक हो गए हैं। साल 2032 तक इन्हें 12.63 करोड़ तक पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य है।

आईजीएल और गेल घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को दे रहीं 500 रुपये की मुफ्त गैस, एमजीएल ने 500 रुपये का पंजीकरण शुल्क किया माफ

इस बीच, 14 मार्च के एक आदेश में सरकार ने पीएनजी कनेक्शन वाले उपभोक्ताओं को अपने घरेलू एलपीजी कनेक्शन वापस करने की सलाह दी है और उन्हें नया एलपीजी कनेक्शन लेने से भी रोक दिया है।

सोमवार को पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि एलपीजी की कमी भारत के लिए अभी भी चिंता का विषय है। उन्होंने बताया कि घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को ऊर्जा की निर्बाध आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार कदम उठा रही है और रोजाना लगभग 50 लाख सिलिंडर वितरित किए जा रहे हैं। ऑनलाइन एलपीजी सिलिंडर बुकिंग लगभग 84 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर करीब 90 प्रतिशत हो गई है। सरकार ने कहा कि वितरक स्तर पर सिलेंडरों के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए डिलिवरी ऑथेंटिकेशन कोड का कवरेज संकट से पहले 53 प्रतिशत से बढ़ाकर लगभग 72 प्रतिशत कर दिया गया है। तेल मंत्रालय ने सभी मौजूदा एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं से बायोमेट्रिक आधार प्रमाणीकरण यानी ई-केवाईसी पूरा करने को भी कहा है।

एलपीजी लेकर पहुंचा पहला भारतीय जहाज शिवालिक

गांधीनगर। पश्चिम एशिया की तनावपूर्ण स्थिति के बीच भारतीय जहाज शिवालिक एलपीजी कैरियर गुजरात स्थित मुंद्रा पोर्ट पहुंच चुका है। यह कतर से गैस लेकर भारत पहुंचा है। यह जहाज सोमवार शाम 5 बजे गुजरात के मुंद्रा पोर्ट पर पहुंचा, जिसकी जानकारी पहले ही शिपिंग मंत्रालय ने प्रेस से साझा कर दी थी। शिवालिक करीब 45 हजार मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी लेकर पहुंचा है, जो लगभग 32 लाख घरेलू गैस सिलेंडरों के बराबर बताई जा रही है। यह जहाज 14 मार्च को होर्मुज स्ट्रेट पार कर भारत की ओर रवाना हुआ था। मिडिल-ईस्ट में जारी संघर्ष के बीच यह भारत पहुंचने वाला पहला एलपीजी जहाज है। सोमवार को भारत सरकार के मंत्रालयों की प्रेस ब्रीफिंग में पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने बताया, 'शिवालिक एलपीजी कैरियर, जो फारस की खाड़ी से रवाना हुआ था, होर्मुज स्ट्रेट पार कर भारत पहुंचा।'

Jansatta, Delhi, 17/03/2026

Page No: 10, Size: 5.40cm × 10.19cm

पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजना शुरू

नई दिल्ली, 16 मार्च (भाषा)।

पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष के कारण पैदा हुए आपूर्ति संकट के बीच शहरी गैस वितरण कंपनियों ने उपभोक्ताओं को गैस सिलेंडर के बजाय 'पाइप से मिलने वाली रसोई गैस' (पीएनजी) को अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजनाएं शुरू की हैं। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी दी। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आइजीएल) दिल्ली और आसपास के शहरों में पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने वाले घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को 31 मार्च से पहले उपयोग शुरू करने पर 500 रुपए तक की मुफ्त गैस दे रही है। मुंबई स्थित महानगर गैस लिमिटेड ने घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 500 रुपए का पंजीकरण शुल्क माफ करने और वाणिज्यिक उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए एक से पांच लाख रुपए तक की सुरक्षा जमा राशि में छूट देने की घोषणा की है।

Business Line, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 5, Size: 34.63cm × 47.28cm

Oil shock's impact on India's BoP

Oil shortages and price spike triggered by US-Israel war on Iran will hit India harder given its integration into global oil markets

MACROSCAN.

CP CHANDRASHEKHAR, JAYATI GHOSH

Uncertainty and shortages have roiled India's oil markets following the unwarranted bombings of Iranian civilian and military targets launched by the United States and Israel and Iran's predictable response to that unprovoked attack.

With India heavily reliant on oil imports and anywhere between 30 and 40 per cent of its crude imports and 80-90 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports sourced from and transiting through the Gulf region, the impact the war is having on the physical supply of oil and LPG and the prices of those supplies is a major shock to the economy.

Globally the war has shaken the world's oil markets for multiple reasons. First, the bombing of Iran threatens to shut down its oil production facilities for quite some time. Since Iran hosts a large oil reserve and was a major supplier to global markets till US sanctions were imposed on the country, that consequence does influence calculations of long-run supply and can therefore impact oil price trends.

Second, since Iran's response includes shutting off the Strait of Hormuz that is the easiest and most cost-effective route to service anywhere between a fifth and close to a third of the world's gas and oil demand, the impact on global supply is immediate. More so because the targets of Iran's retaliation include oil facilities in many oil- and gas-exporting Gulf states, which are seen as implicitly or explicitly facilitating US-Israeli aggression.

Third, large trading firms, like Vitol, Trafigura, Glencore and Gunvor, which are not necessarily large oil producers, dominate the global physical trade in oil, and are known to be secretive speculators for profit in commodity markets. This concentrated trade and speculation leads to an amplified impact of the war on oil prices, far beyond what is warranted by any supply shortfall. This speculative impact is highlighted by the huge volatility that oil prices have displayed around a rising trend.

Finally, this dominance of speculators means that any effort to redress demand-supply imbalances, as is sought to be done through the release from strategic reserves of 400 million barrels of oil by the members of the International Energy Agency, only sends out a signal that the crisis is serious and intensifies speculative activity. So long as uncertainty prevails, oil prices would soar to levels way beyond the so-called $100 psychological barrier.

CHART 1

Price pain

Imported oil prices and India's oil import bill ($ million and $ per barrel)

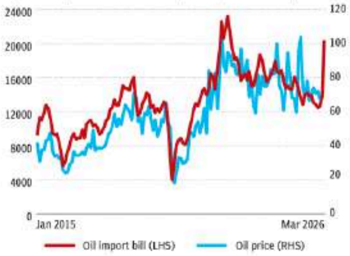


CHART 2

Import profile

Oil in India's import bill ($ million)

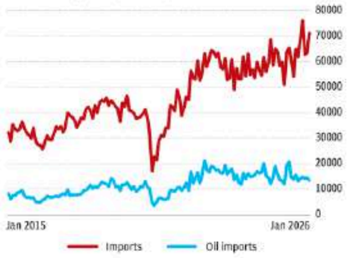


CHART 3

Export impact

India's oil trade balance ($ million)

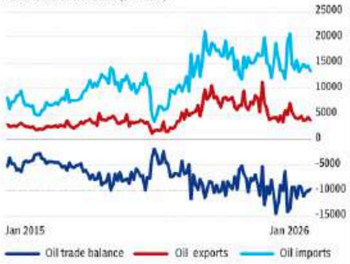
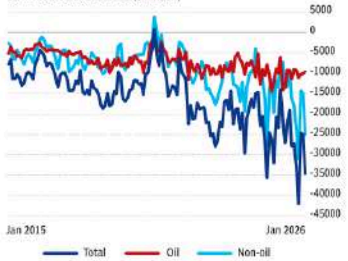


CHART 4

BoP impact

Oil in India's trade balance ($ million)



IMPACT ON INDIA

The impacts from these consequences transmit to the Indian economy through multiple routes. Given India's import dependence for crude and gas, there is already talk of shortages that would affect, among others, households using LPG and oil-based means of transportation, truckers, and farmers using oil based fertilizers.

The rise in the price of a universal intermediate like oil would trigger "imported" inflation both because of the rise in the dollar price of oil and the depreciation of the rupee it precipitates. And the current account of India's balance of payments, crucial to sustaining the 'confidence' of foreign financial investors, which has been shored up by remittances and receipts from IT and IT-enabled services exports, will be hit by falling remittance inflows and a widening trade deficit.

Chart 1 illustrates the relationship between the price of India's oil import bill and the price of the Indian basket of crude (a weighted average of Oman, Dubai and Brent crude prices). The import bill has clearly been driven primarily by the average import price, with some signs of divergence. Since import data are yet to be released, the impact of the recent spike is yet to show itself, though a sharp rise is inevitable.

> **The rise in the price of a universal intermediate like oil would trigger "imported" inflation** both because of the rise in the dollar price of oil and the depreciation of the rupee it precipitates

That rise can be damaging because India's aggregate imports have risen at a much faster rate than its oil imports since the end of the Covid pandemic (Chart 2). Clearly non-oil imports, including imports of non-necessities such as gold, have been rising, not least because of continuous liberalisation in the import trade and the associated reductions in import tariffs. A sharp rise in the oil import bill will only add to the vulnerability resulting from that longer term tendency.

TRADE BALANCE IMPACT

In the past there had been one factor mitigating the impact of oil import dependence on India's trade balance. With excess refinery capacity, India has been exporting refined products manufacture with imported crude, generating export revenues from its oil sector. In fact, as Chart 3 shows, the rise in imports of oil and products has been closely followed by export revenues in that category.

Given value addition through refining in India, the export revenues generated from these related oil imports would be large than the value of those imports. So, the deterioration in the oil trade balance following the pandemic would have been greater than reflected in Chart 3 if these exports had not occurred.

But, given the current loss of physical access to crude imports, the Indian government would possibly retain available imported supplies for domestic consumption, adversely affecting the export of refined products from private facilities. This would mean that the influence of the widening import bill on the oil trade balance would be significantly higher and the deterioration in the balance of payments larger.

The significance of this for the balance of trade comes through from Chart 4 which presents the relative roles of the oil and non-oil trade balances in determining India's overall trade balance. Much of the post-pandemic deterioration in the trade balance was on account of the worsening of the non-oil trade balance, with oil contributing only marginally to that downturn. That would change now, with adverse consequences.

In sum, the fact that the oil crisis, precipitated by the unwarranted attack on Iran, is resulting in both a physical shortage of supply as well as a spike in prices, would amplify its adverse effects on India's balance of payments, given the nature of its integration into global oil markets.

Hindustan, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 9, Size: 35.56cm × 22.73cm

होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पार करने के बाद मुंद्रा बंदरगाह पहुंचा, 'नंदा देवी' से भी लाई जा रही गैस, कच्चा तेल ला रहा 'जग लाडकी'

राहत : गैस लेकर गुजरात पहुंचा शिवालिक

कच्छ, एजेंसी। भारतीय पोत 'शिवालिक' लगभग 40 हजार मीट्रिक टन लिक्विड पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी) लेकर सोमवार शाम गुजरात के मुंद्रा बंदरगाह पर पहुंच गया। यह पोत रविवार को देर रात होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को सुरक्षित पार करने के बाद भारतीय तट पर पहुंचा है।

नई दिल्ली में बंदरगाह और जहाजरानी मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि कार्गो को खाली करने में कोई देरी न हो, इसके लिए मुंद्रा बंदरगाह पर दस्तावेजीकरण और अन्य औपचारिकताएं पहले ही कर दी गई थीं। मंत्रालय ने यह भी जानकारी दी है कि एलपीजी लेकर आ रहा एक अन्य भारतीय पोत 'नंदा देवी' मंगलवार तक पहुंच जाएगा। जबकि संयुक्त अरब अमीरात से 81 हजार टन कच्चा तेल लेकर आ रहा 'जग लाडकी' भी सुरक्षित रूप से भारत की ओर बढ़ रहा है।

फारस की खाड़ी क्षेत्र में वर्तमान में भारत से जुड़े 22 पोत मौजूद हैं, जिनमें 611 नाविक सवार हैं। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पिछले 24 घंटों में उनके साथ किसी भी अप्रिय घटना की सूचना नहीं मिली है।

तेहरान से सीधा संवाद जारी : जयशंकर विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर ने स्पष्ट किया है कि पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के बीच भारत अपनी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए तेहरान के साथ सीधा संवाद कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि होर्मुज जैसे महत्वपूर्ण जलमार्ग से यातायात बहाल करने के लिए ईरान के साथ समन्वय करना अधिक प्रभावी साबित हो रहा है और इसके सकारात्मक परिणाम भी मिल रहे हैं। हालांकि अभी सभी भारतीय पोतों के लिए कोई औपचारिक करार नहीं हुआ है। फिलहाल उनकी आवाजाही का प्रबंधन 'मामले-दर-मामले' के आधार पर की जा रही है।

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अहम : ईरान : ईरान की ओर से भी बयान आया है कि होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य खुला है, लेकिन यह उन देशों और उनके सहयोगियों के लिए बंद रहेगा जिन्हें वे अपना दुश्मन मानता है। ईरान के विदेश मंत्रालय का कहना है कि जहाजों की आवाजाही विशेष शर्तों के तहत होगी और वे अपनी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इस जलमार्ग पर कूटनीतिक और सैन्य नियंत्रण बनाए रखेंगे।

गुजरात

एलपीजी आपूर्ति बढ़ाई

गांधीनगर। गुजरात सरकार ने सोमवार को कहा कि निर्बाध आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उसने सामान्य साप्ताहिक वितरण की तुलना में एलपीजी की आपूर्ति में 20 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की है। साथ ही नेटवर्क की उपलब्धता वाले क्षेत्रों में पीएनजी कनेक्शन देने में प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। खाद्य, नागरिक आपूर्ति और उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग की अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव मोना खांधार ने कहा कि राज्य में एलपीजी का पर्याप्त भंडार है और आपूर्ति शृंखला निर्बाध बनी हुई है। एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी।

पटना में सोमवार को एक गैस एजेंसी के बाहर सिलेंडर लेने के लिए लगी लोगों की लंबी कतार। • एएनआई

तीन लाख गैस सिलेंडर रिफिल के लिए लंबित

झारखंड

रांची, हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो। झारखंड विधानसभा में सोमवार को रसोई गैस आपूर्ति में कमी को लेकर केंद्र बनाम राज्य की राजनीति तेज हो गई। संसदीय कार्यमंत्री राधाकृष्ण किशोर ने सदन में कहा कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय हालात और केंद्र की नीतियों के कारण राज्य में कॉमर्शियल और घरेलू गैस की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है।

खाद्य-आपूर्ति विभाग की तेल कंपनियों के साथ समीक्षा बैठक में सामने आया कि 16 मार्च 2026 तक इंडियन ऑयल, हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम और भारत पेट्रोलियम की ओर से झारखंड में 3,27,630 गैस सिलेंडर रिफिल के लिए लंबित हैं। विधायक प्रदीप यादव के सवाल के जवाब में मंत्री ने यह कहा।

बिहार

ढाबों में चाय-समोसा के दाम बढ़े, थाली भी महंगी

पटना/मुजफ्फरपुर, हिटी। व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलेंडर की किल्लत का सबसे ज्यादा असर छोटे ढाबों, स्ट्रीट फूड की दुकानों और रेस्टूरेंट पर पड़ा है। ज्यादातर छोटे ढाबों के संचालक लकड़ी या कोयले के चूल्हे पर आइटम तैयार कर रहे हैं। लागत बढ़ने पर उन्होंने कीमत बढ़ा दी है। पटना में 15 से 17 रुपये प्रति पीस बिकने वाले रसगुल्ला अब 20 रुपये में मिल रहा है। इसी प्रकार 17 रुपए में मिलनेवाला एक गुलाबजामुन भी 20 का हो गया है।

उत्तराखंड

गाड़ी दिखते ही दौड़ पड़े लोग, सिलेंडर को मची होड़

हल्द्वानी, हिन्दुस्तान टीम। कुमाऊं में रसोई गैस का संकट बरकरार है। हल्द्वानी से लेकर पिथौरागढ़, चम्पावत और ऊधमसिंह नगर तक उपभोक्ता सिलेंडर के लिए भटक रहे हैं। सोमवार को कई जगह गैस की गाड़ी देखते ही लोग टूट पड़े। वहीं गोदामों और वितरण केंद्रों के बाहर लंबी कतारें लगी रहीं। होम डिलीवरी व्यवस्था भी चरमराने से आम लोगों की दिक्कत बढ़ गई है। हल्द्वानी में घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर की किल्लत और विकराल हो गई है।

Hindustan, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 8, Size: 11.54cm × 21.59cm

चौकसी

तेल की कीमतों पर लगाम लगाने के लिए देशों ने खोले आपातकालीन भंडार

वाशिंगटन, एजेंसी। तेल की कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए विकसित देशों ने अपने आपातकालीन रणनीतिक तेल भंडार (एसपीआर) के दरवाजे खोलने का फैसला किया है। पिछले हफ्ते यूरोप, उत्तरी अमेरिका और पूर्वोत्तर एशिया के 32 देशों ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (आईईए) के साथ ऊर्जा कीमतों पर लगाम लगाने की कोशिश के लिए बाजार में 400 मिलियन बैरल तेल की सप्लाई करने पर सहमति जताई थी।

क्या है एसपीआर

यह कच्चे तेल का एक विशाल भंडार होता है, जिसे सरकारें आपातकालीन स्थितियों के लिए सुरक्षित रखती है। अमेरिका के पास आपातकालीन कच्चे तेल का विश्व का सबसे बड़ा भंडार है, जिसे अमेरिकी रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार (एसपीआर) कहा जाता है। राष्ट्रपति जेराल्ड फोर्ड ने 1973-74 के अरब तेल प्रतिबंध के बाद वर्ष 1975 में एसपीआर की स्थापना की थी।

15 दिनों की खपत के बराबर पेट्रोलियम भंडार जारी करने का आदेश दिया जापान ने

172 मिलियन बैरल तेल जारी करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की

जापान ने शुरू की प्रक्रिया

सोमवार को जापान ने अपने इतिहास की सबसे बड़ी तेल रिलीज शुरू की। सरकार के प्रवक्ता मिनोरु किहारा ने बताया कि शुरुआती चरण में 15 दिनों की खपत के बराबर निजी क्षेत्र का पेट्रोलियम भंडार जारी करने का आदेश दिया है। माना जा रहा है कि यह लगभग 20 फीसदी भंडार होगा। इससे पहले ट्रंप प्रशासन ने 172 मिलियन बैरल तेल जारी करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। यह आईईए के कुल तेल का 43 फीसदी है। इस मामले पर पिछले हफ्ते जर्मनी और फ्रांस ने भी सहमति जताई थी।

क्या फायदा मिलेगा

बाजार में तेल रिलीज करने की प्रक्रिया को बाजार में हस्तक्षेप कहा जाता है। इसके मुख्य फायदे हैं। जब बाजार में तेल की कमी होती है, तो कीमतें आसमान छूने लगती हैं। ऐसे में अतिरिक्त तेल आने से कीमतों में स्थिरता आती है। वहीं फैक्ट्रियों, परिवहन और बिजली घरों को कच्चा तेल मिलता रहता है ताकि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था ठप न हो।

भारत की स्थिति

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत का शुद्ध रणनीतिक भंडार सिर्फ 10 दिन का है, लेकिन अगर इसमें तेल कंपनियों के पास मौजूद स्टॉक, पाइपलाइनों में मौजूद तेल को मिला दिया जाए, तो भारत के पास कुल 74 दिनों का बफर है। भारत ने वर्तमान संकट में अपना तेल बाजार में जारी करने से मना कर दिया है ताकि घरेलू सुरक्षा बनी रहे।

देशों के पास कितना रिजर्व

आईईए के नियमों के अनुसार, सदस्य देशों को कम से कम 90 दिनों के नेट आयात के बराबर तेल रखना अनिवार्य है।

देश	भंडार	कुल क्षमता (अनुमानित)
जापान	230 दिन	324 मिलियन बैरल (दुनिया में सबसे सुरक्षित)
अमेरिका	84 दिन	415 मिलियन बैरल (172 मिलियन रिलीज के बाद 243 मिलियन बचेगा)
चीन	60 दिन	1.3 बिलियन बैरल (सरकारी और व्यावसायिक)
जर्मनी	91 दिन	यूरोप का सबसे बड़ा भंडार
भारत	10 दिन	39-40 मिलियन बैरल (सिर्फ रणनीतिक भंडार)

(नोट : आंकड़े मार्च, 2026 तक के हैं।)

आईईए ने कब-कब तेल रिलीज किया

घटनाक्रम	तेल मात्रा (मिलियन बैरल)
पहला खाड़ी युद्ध (1991)	75
हरिकेन कैटरीना तूफान (2005)	60
लिबिया गृह युद्ध (2011)	60
यूक्रेन-रूस जंग (2022)	182
ईरान युद्ध (2026)	400

Amar Ujala City, Ghaziabad, 17/03/2026
Page No: 3, Size: 36.41cm × 34.87cm

राजनगर स्थित गैस एजेंसी में सिलिंडर की बुकिंग के लिए लगी लोगों की कतार। संवाद

राहत...पांच हजार रुपये में लें पीएनजी कनेक्शन

अधिक से अधिक लोगों को कनेक्शन देने के लिए दी जा रही छूट ■ जिलाधिकारी की अपील जहां-जहां पाइपलाइन वहां लोग उठाएं लाभ

माई सिटी रिपोर्टर

गाजियाबाद। एलपीजी के संकट से निपटने के लिए प्रशासन अधिक से अधिक लोगों को पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए प्रेरित कर रहा है। इसको देखते हुए इंद्रप्रस्थ गैस एजेंसी ने अब पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने पर छूट देने का निर्णय लिया है। अब लोग पांच हजार सिक्योरिटी मनी जमा कराकर नया पीएनजी कनेक्शन ले सकते हैं। पहले इसके लिए सात हजार रुपये जमा कराने पड़ते थे।

जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी अमित तिवारी ने बताया कि पीएनजी के नए कनेक्शन तेजी से दिए जा रहे हैं। पहले जहां एक दिन में 150 कनेक्शन लगाए जाते थे। वहीं, अब एक दिन में ढाई सौ से तीन सौ कनेक्शन लगाए जाएंगे।

जिलाधिकारी रविंद्र कुमार मांदड़ ने अपील की है कि लोग अधिक से अधिक पीएनजी कनेक्शन लगवाएं। इसके लिए कंपनी द्वारा भी छूट दी जा रही है। सिक्योरिटी मनी कम करने के अलावा अगर कोई व्यक्ति एक मुश्त पांच हजार रुपये नहीं जमा कर सकता है तो वह 275 रुपये जमा कराकर नया कनेक्शन ले सकता है। बाकी राशि हर महीने के बिल में जुड़कर आया करेगी।

उन्होंने बताया कि कई स्थानों पर पाइपलाइन बिछी हुई है, लेकिन लोग कनेक्शन नहीं ले रहे हैं। उनसे अपील है कि वह पीएनजी कनेक्शन लगवाएं। उन्होंने बताया कि अगले कुछ हफ्तों में 25,000 नए कनेक्शन लगाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

1500 व्यावसायिक कनेक्शन

12 लाख एलपीजी कनेक्शन के उपभोक्ता

राजनगर स्थित गैस एजेंसी से सिलिंडर भरवाकर लाती महिला। संवाद

पटेल नगर स्थित गैस एजेंसी में सिलिंडर बुकिंग के लिए पहुंचे लोग। संवाद

सिलिंडर खत्म होने पर सोसायटी का गार्ड चूल्हे पर खाना बनाते हुए। संवाद

घरेलू सिलिंडरों के लिए गैस एजेंसी के बाहर लगी लाइन

मोदीनगर। घरेलू गैस सिलिंडरों के लिए सोमवार को भी गैस एजेंसियों के बाहर उपभोक्ताओं की लंबी लाइन लगी रही। सिलिंडर के लिए लोग घंटों लाइन में लगे रहे। एलपीजी सिलिंडर की किल्लत से जूझ रहे उपभोक्ताओं का सोमवार का दिन भी लाइन में लग कर गुजरा। नगर के शाहजहांपुर मार्ग स्थित हैप्पी होम भारत गैस गोदाम पर उपभोक्ताओं की लंबी कतार लगी रही। उपभोक्ता सुबह पांच बजे से ही खाली सिलिंडर लेकर लाइन में लग गए। लगभग चार सौ मीटर से अधिक लंबी लाइन के दौरान कई बार हंगामे की नौबत आई। मौके पर पहुंची पुलिस ने लोगों को समझाकर शांत कराया। उपभोक्ता मनोज कुमार ने बताया कि गैस सिलिंडर लेने के लिए चार दिन से चक्कर काट रहे है मगर नहीं मिल रहा है। अगर घर में सिलिंडर खत्म हो गया तो परिवार को भारी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ेगा। उन्होंने कुछ लोगों पर गैस की कालाबाजारी करने का आरोप लगाया। संवाद

व्यावसायिक सिलिंडर की आपूर्ति बढ़ाने के आदेश

व्यावसायिक सिलिंडर की आपूर्ति जहां बिल्कुल बंद कर दी गई थी। अब उसको बढ़ाया जा रहा है। अब अस्पताल और आपातकालीन सेवाओं सहित सामाजिक संगठन, चैरिटेबल संस्थाओं सहित अन्य जरूरत के स्थानों पर आपूर्ति के लिए भी व्यावसायिक सिलिंडर दिए जाएंगे। जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी अमित तिवारी ने बताया कि मंगलवार तक आदेश आने की संभावना है। बताया कि व्यावसायिक सिलिंडर की आपूर्ति शुरू होने से गैस एजेंसियों पर भीड़ से बचाव हो जाएगा।

गैस एजेंसियों पर अभी भी उपभोक्ताओं की लाइन

गाजियाबाद। गैस एजेंसियों पर सोमवार को भी उपभोक्ताओं की भीड़ रही। एजेंसी संचालकों का कहना है कि सर्वर अभी काफी धीमा चल रहा है। इसके अलावा मिस्ड कॉल से बुकिंग नहीं हो पा रही है। सबसे अधिक परेशानी उन लोगों को आ रही है जिनके पास गैस कनेक्शन नहीं है। एक सिलिंडर लेकर वह अपना काम चला रहे थे, लेकिन अब बुकिंग से ही गैस मिलने के नियम के बाद उनको समस्या आ रही है। विजयनगर निवासी कालू ने बताया कि गैस कनेक्शन लेने के लिए स्थायी पता और अन्य दस्तावेज होने जरूरी हैं। कनेक्शन के बिना एक सिलिंडर लेकर काम चला रहा था अब गैस खत्म हो गया है। यूपी एलपीजी गैस एसोसिएशन और गाजियाबाद एलपीजी गैस एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष अरुण कुमार ने बताया कि पहले से स्थिति में सुधार है, लेकिन सर्वर में अभी भी समस्या चल रही है। संवाद

Punjab Kesari, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 1, Size: 4.79cm × 13.73cm

मुंद्रा पोर्ट पहुंचा एलपीजी से भरा टैंकर शिवालिक

ईरान, अमेरिका-इजरायल जंग के कारण मिडिल ईस्ट में तनाव की स्थिति बनी है। हालांकि इस तनाव के बीच सोमवार को भारत के लिए कई राहत भरी खबर सामने आई। जंग के बीच ईरान द्वारा होर्मुज स्ट्रेट बंद किए जाने से ऊर्जा संकट गहरा रहा था। लेकिन भारत के कूटनीतिक प्रयासों से एलपीजी से भरे दो बड़े जहाज शिवालिक और नंदा देवी सकुशल होर्मुज पार गए।

सोमवार को 45,000 मीट्रिक टन से ज्यादा एलजीपी लिए शिवालिक जहाज भारत पहुंचा। पेट्रोलियम और गैस मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को एक नोट जारी कर कहा, जहाज नंदा देवी के मंगलवार को पहुंचने की उम्मीद है"। इससे एलपीजी की सप्लाई मुहैया कराने की जद्दोजहद में जुटी भारत सरकार को राहत मिली है। नंदा देवी पर करीब 92 हजार मिट्रिक टन एलपीजी लोड है। इसके आने से भारत में एलपीजी की किल्लत कम होगी।

Punjab Kesari, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 4.55cm × 15.66cm

सरकार ने रिलायंस और बीपी से मांगे 2.81 अरब डॉलर

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): सरकार ने भारत के पूर्वी तटवर्ती केजी बेसिन में स्थित ओएनजीसी के तेल क्षेत्र से गैस की हेराफेरी करने के आरोप में रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (आरआईएल) और ब्रिटेन की तेल कंपनी बीपी से 2.81 अरब डॉलर की राशि का दावा किया है। यह जानकारी सोमवार को संसद में दी गई।

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस राज्य मंत्री सुरेश गोपी ने राज्यसभा में लिखित जवाब में बताया कि सरकार ने रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड और बीपी से 2.81 अरब डॉलर की मांग की है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह मामला फिलहाल भारत के सुप्रीम कोर्ट में विचाराधीन है। सांसद ने पूछा था कि क्या यह सही है कि सरकार ने ओएनजीसी के पूर्वी तट के गैस ब्लॉक्स से गैस चोरी या निकासी के मामले में निजी कंपनियों से 2 अरब डॉलर से ज्यादा की मांग की है।

Amar Ujala, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 37.07cm × 13.57cm

विकल्प | एलपीजी संकट के बीच बायोगैस बन रही विकल्प, खुद की गैस बनाने की होड़

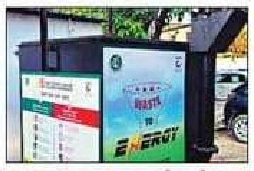
कचरे से गैस की दिशा में राजधानीवासियों ने बढ़ाए अपने कदम

ज्योति सिंह

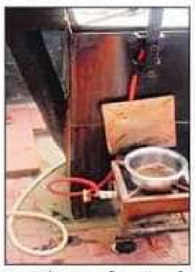
नई दिल्ली। एलपीजी सिलिंडर की किल्लत के बीच लोग वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा स्रोत तलाश रहे हैं। ऐसे में कचरे से गैस बनाने के लिए दिल्लीवासी ओखला स्थित बायोगैस प्लांट पहुंच रहे हैं। घरेलू और व्यावसायिक (कॉमर्शियल) बायोगैस सेटअप के बारे में पूछताछ कर रहे हैं।

ओखला स्थित परफेक्ट बायोगैस एंड पावर मैनेजमेंट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड की प्लांट हेड पुनीता सिंह के अनुसार, रोजाना करीब 400-500 लोग घरेलू बायोगैस प्लांट लगाने के लिए संपर्क कर रहे हैं, जबकि 50 से अधिक कॉल कमर्शियल बायोगैस सेटअप के लिए आ रही हैं। यह पहल शहरों में लैंडफिल कचरे को कम करने में भी मदद कर सकती है।

डेयरी उद्योग में लगी बायोगैस प्लांट। सभी फोटो संवाद



रेलवे स्टेशन पर लगी मशीन।



बायोगैस तकनीक से बनी गैस पर चाय बनाते हुए।

चार किलो कचरे से 450 ग्राम एलपीजी गैस का उत्पादन

विनीता सिंह ने बताया कि शहरी घरों में यदि रोजाना चार किलोग्राम अलग किया हुआ जैविक रसोई कचरा (सब्जियों के छिलके और बचा हुआ भोजन) उपलब्ध हो, तो उससे लगभग 450 ग्राम एलपीजी के बराबर गैस का उत्पादन किया जा सकता है। यदि किसी किसान के पास सिर्फ एक गाय या भैंस हो, तो उसके गोबर से प्रतिदिन लगभग 450 ग्राम एलपीजी के बराबर बायोगैस तैयार की जा सकती है। इससे ग्रामीण परिवारों को खाना पकाने के लिए सस्ती और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा मिल सकती है।

इन रेलवे स्टेशनों पर प्रयोग

प्रयागराज स्टेशन और कानपुर स्टेशन में पोर्टेबल बायोगैस संयंत्र लगाए गए हैं। यहां की रसोइयों में लोकोमोटिव पायलट (ट्रेन चालक) के लिए भोजन तैयार किया जाता है। अब तक देश के कई बड़े डेयरी फार्म और पोल्ट्री फार्म में 500 से अधिक बायोगैस प्लांट स्थापित किए हैं।

क्या है बायोगैस

- बायोगैस एक नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा स्रोत है, जो गोबर, कृषि अवशेष, रसोई के जैविक कचरे और अन्य जैविक पदार्थों को ऑक्सीजन रहित वातावरण में सड़ाकर तैयार की जाती है। इस प्रक्रिया को एनारोबिक डाइजेशन कहा जाता है। इसमें मुख्य रूप से मीथेन और कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड गैस बनती है, जो ईंधन के रूप में उपयोगी होती है।

बायोगैस के बढ़ते विकल्प के मुख्य बिंदु

- **स्थानीय उत्पादनः** गोबर, रसोई का गीला कचरा, खराब सब्जियां और फलों के छिलकों का उपयोग करके घर पर ही छोटा बायोगैस प्लांट लगाया जा रहा है।
- **लागत और सब्सिडीः** घरेलू प्लांट की लागत लगभग 15,000 से 50,000 रुपये तक हो सकती है, जबकि कमर्शियल सेटअप में 19-20 लाख तक का खर्चा आ सकता है। वहीं, सरकार इन संयंत्रों पर सब्सिडी भी प्रदान कर रही है।
- **तकनीकः** पोर्टेबल बायोगैस सिस्टम का उपयोग करना आसान है, जो अवायवीय पाचन के माध्यम से कचरे को मीथेन में बदलते हैं।
- **दोहरा लाभः** खाना पकाने की गैस के अलावा, इससे निकलने वाले अवशेष का उपयोग पौधों के लिए बेहतरीन जैविक खाद के रूप में किया जा सकता है।

बायोगैस के उपयोग

बायोगैस को गैस टैंक या बैग में संग्रहित किया जाता है और इसका उपयोग खाना बनाने, पानी गर्म करने, रोशनी करने और जनरेटर चलाने के लिए किया जा सकता है। इसे शुद्ध कर बायोमीथेन में बदला जा सकता है, जिसका उपयोग परिवहन ईंधन या गैस पाइपलाइन में भी किया जा सकता है।

पर्यावरण के लिए भी फायदे

विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार बायोगैस ग्रीनहाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन को कम करती है, जैविक कचरे के बेहतर प्रबंधन में मदद करती है और ऊर्जा आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देती है। इसके साथ ही बायोगैस प्लांट से निकलने वाला अवशेष उच्च गुणवत्ता की जैविक खाद के रूप में भी इस्तेमाल होता है।

Navbharat Times, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 2, Size: 12.38cm × 25.08cm

गैस एजेंसियों के पास भीड़ को देखते हुए पुलिस की तैनाती की गई है

सिलिंडरों की रीफिलिंग करने वाला शख्स पकड़ा

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, रोहिणी

रोहिणी जिले के विजय विहार इलाके में पुलिस ने अवैध रूप से एलपीजी गैस सिलिंडरों की रीफिलिंग करने वाले शख्स को गिरफ्तार किया है। छापेमारी के दौरान पुलिस ने कमर्शल और घरेलू सिलिंडरों के साथ गैस ट्रांसफर करने वाले उपकरण और एक बाइक भी बरामद की है।

रोहिणी के विजय विहार में छापेमारी कर पकड़ा

डीसीपी शशांक जायसवाल के मुताबिक, विजय विहार एसएचओ मनोहर लाल की पुलिस टीम ने यह कार्रवाई की। 12 मार्च को विजय विहार थाना पुलिस की टीम इलाके में पट्रोलिंग कर रही थी। छापेमारी के दौरान विजय विहार फेज-1 में पुष्पेंद्र नाम के शख्स को अवैध रूप से गैस रीफिलिंग करते हुए पकड़ा गया। जांच में सामने आया कि आरोपी घरेलू एलपीजी सिलिंडरों से गैस निकालकर कमर्शल सिलिंडरों में भर रहा था। इसके बाद वह इन सिलिंडरों को ब्लैक मार्केट में बेचकर अवैध मुनाफा कमाने की तैयारी में था।

छापेमारी के दौरान पुलिस ने आरोपी के कब्जे से 2 भरे हुए कमर्शल सिलिंडर, 15 भरे हुए घरेलू सिलिंडर, वजन करने के लिए 4 मशीनें, 4 पाइप/उपकरण और बाइक बरामद किए। इस मामले में विजय विहार थाने में मामला दर्ज किया। मामले की आगे की जांच जारी है। पुलिस का कहना है कि आरोपी पुष्पेंद्र विजय विहार का रहने वाला है और पहले रोहिणी सेक्टर-5 स्थित एक गैस एजेंसी में डिलिवरी बॉय के रूप में काम करता था।

Navbharat Times, Delhi, 17/03/2026
Page No: 14, Size: 31.33cm × 35.45cm

सरकार का दावा- देशभर में पेट्रोल, डीजल और LPG की पूरी सप्लाई

राहत की उम्मीद: LPG लेकर एक जहाज़ पहुंचा, दूसरा आज आएगा

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

ईरान पर अमेरिका और इस्राइल के हमले से पश्चिम एशिया में बने हालात के बीच सरकार ने सोमवार को कहा कि देश में कच्चे तेल और पेट्रोल-डीजल की कहीं कोई तंगी नहीं है। LPG सिलिंडर के मामले में स्थिति चिंताजनक है, लेकिन देश में किसी भी LPG डिस्ट्रिब्यूटर के पास सिलिंडर खत्म होने की स्थिति नहीं है। घरेलू LPG उपभोक्ताओं को पूरी सप्लाई दी जा रही है।

सरकार ने कहा कि फारस की खाड़ी से चले LPG लदे दो जहाजों में से एक शिवालिक सोमवार शाम मुंद्रा पोर्ट पर पहुंच गया। दूसरा जहाज नंदा देवी मंगलवार को कांडला बंदरगाह पर पहुंचेगा। ये दोनों कुल 92712 टन LPG ला रहे हैं। होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के उस पार अभी 22 भारतीय जहाज हैं, जिन पर सवार सभी 611 लोग सुरक्षित हैं। भारतीय जहाज जग लाडकी करीब 81 हजार टन क्रूड ऑयल के साथ आ रहा है और मंगलवार को इसके पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। वहीं, ईरान से 640 भारतीयों को थल सीमा के जरिए आर्मीनिया और अजरबैजान लाया जा चुका है।

> कहा, PNG कनेक्शन पर दी जा रही छूट, कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए राज्य उठा रहे कदम।

तेल एवं गैस मंत्रालय, विदेश मंत्रालय, सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय और शिपिंग मिनिस्ट्री के अधिकारियों की संयुक्त ब्रीफिंग में तेल एवं गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि कच्चे तेल की पर्याप्त सप्लाई हो रही है और रिफाइनरी 100% क्षमता पर काम कर रही हैं।

सरकार ने दावा किया कि राज्यों ने कमर्शल LPG का आवंटन भी प्रॉयरिटी के आधार पर करना शुरू कर दिया है। LPG उपभोक्ताओं को PNG कनेक्शन लेने पर सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कंपनियां छूट दे रही हैं। देश में LPG का उत्पादन 36% बढ़ चुका है।

Uma Kadam

इंतजार मुंबई के कांदिवली में HP-LPG वितरण केंद्र के पास गैस सिलिंडर रिफिल कराने के लिए लंबी कतार लगी।

LPG सिलिंडरों की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बढ़ी

ब्रीफिंग में बताया गया कि LPG सिलिंडरों की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बढ़ी है। रविवार के आंकड़ों के हिसाब से करीब 90% बुकिंग ऑनलाइन है। डिलिवरी ऑथेंटिकेशन कोड का उपयोग भी 72% हो गया है, जो पहले 53% हुआ करता था।' सुजाता ने कहा, '5 मार्च के बाद से देश में LPG उत्पादन 36% बढ़ा है। कमर्शल LPG सिलिंडर में एजुकेशन और हॉस्पिटल को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। यह राज्य सरकारों पर छोड़ा गया है कि वे किसको पहले देने की जरूरत देख रहे हैं।'

PNG कनेक्शन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इंसेंटिव

सुजाता ने कहा, 'PNG कनेक्शन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इंसेंटिव दिए जा रहे हैं। IGL ने कहा है कि जो भी LPG कंज्यूमर 31 मार्च से पहले PNG कनेक्शन लेकर गैस लेना शुरू कर देंगे, उनको 500 रुपये की गैस फ्री दी जाएगी। महानगर गैस ने डोमेस्टिक PNG उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 500 रुपये का रजिस्ट्रेशन चार्ज और कमर्शल उपभोक्ताओं के लिए सिक्योरिटी डिपॉजिट माफ कर दिया है।'

कतर का एयरस्पेस आंशिक रूप से खुला है

भारतीयों को लाने के मसले पर विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने बताया कि सोमवार को विभिन्न जगहों से 45 से ज्यादा फ्लाइट्स भारत के लिए तय थीं। कतर का एयरस्पेस आंशिक रूप से खुला हुआ है। सोमवार और मंगलवार को कतर एयरवेज भारत के लिए 3 फ्लाइट्स का संचालन कर सकती है।

युद्ध के बीच इंडक्शन चूल्हे की मांग

■ NBT रिपोर्ट : **ईरान के** साथ अमेरिका-इस्राइल के युद्ध के बाद से एलपीजी की उपलब्धता को लेकर बढ़ती चिंता के कारण इंडक्शन और अन्य इलेक्ट्रिक कुकिंग उपकरणों की मांग तेजी से बढ़ी है। कई राज्यों में गैस सिलिंडर खरीदने के लिए लोगों की लंबी कतारें और घबराहट में खरीदारी भी देखी गई है। इसी वजह से घरों और छोटे व्यवसायों ने बैकअप के रूप में इलेक्ट्रिक उपकरण अपनाने शुरू कर दिए हैं।

लोकल सर्कल्स के एक सर्वे के अनुसार, पिछले हफ्ते 57% घरों को एलपीजी सिलिंडर मिलने में देरी का सामना करना पड़ा और लगभग हर 5 में से 1 व्यक्ति ने सिलिंडर ब्लैक मार्केट से खरीदा। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि पहले इंडक्शन कुकटॉप को सिर्फ सुविधा के लिए खरीदा जाता था, लेकिन अब इसे गैस की कमी के समय जरूरी बैकअप उपकरण के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

पिछले 10 दिनों में उपभोक्ताओं के व्यवहार में तेजी से बदलाव देखा गया है और गैस पर निर्भर रसोई के लिए इंडक्शन कुकटॉप तुरंत विकल्प बनकर उभरा है।

इस स्थिति को समझने के लिए LocalCircles ने एक सर्वे किया, जिसमें भारत के 304 जिलों से 39,000 से अधिक लोगों ने भाग लिया। इनमें 61% पुरुष और 39% महिलाएं थीं।

मार्च में इंडक्शन की खरीदारी

सर्वे के अनुसार, 23% भारतीय परिवारों ने मार्च में इंडक्शन कुकिंग टॉप खरीदे। सर्वे में 20,141 लोगों ने बताया कि उन्होंने इंडक्शन कैसे खरीदे।

6%	रिटेल स्टोर
13%	ऑनलाइन स्टोर
4%	अन्य माध्यमों से
34%	पहले से ही इंडक्शन था
40%	नहीं खरीदा
3%	स्पष्ट उत्तर नहीं दिया

एक अन्य सवाल में, जिन लोगों ने इंडक्शन खरीदा उनसे पूछा गया कि उन्होंने इसे क्यों खरीदा। 19,647 लोगों के जवाब में पाया गया:

16%	पड़ोसी भी खरीद रहे
75%	एलपीजी की कमी हो सकती है
9%	

जंग के बीच पहला भारतीय जहाज एलपीजी लेकर पहुंचा

विशेष प्रतिनिधि

नई दिल्ली। जंग के बीच एलपीजी कैरियर जहाज शिवालिक कतर से गैस लेकर भारत पहुंच गया है। यह जहाज सोमवार शाम 5 बजे गुजरात के मुंद्रा पोर्ट पर पहुंचा।

शिवालिक जहाज पर करीब 46 हजार मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी लदी है, जो लगभग 32.4 लाख घरेलू गैस सिलेंडरों के बराबर बताई जा रही है।यह जहाज 14 मार्च को होर्मुज स्ट्रेट पार कर भारत की ओर रवाना हुआ था। मिडिल-ईस्ट में जारी संघर्ष के बीच यह भारत पहुंचने वाला पहला एलपीजी जहाज है। शिपिंग मंत्रालय के मुताबिक नंदा देवी नाम का जहाज भी करीब 46 हजार टन एलपीजी लेकर भारत आ रहा है और उसके कल पहुंचने की संभावना है। वहीं जग लाडकी जहाज करीब 81 हजार टन मुरबान कच्चा तेल लेकर भारत की ओर आ रहा है और इसके भी कल मुंद्रा बंदरगाह पहुंचने की उम्मीद है।

एलपीजी कैरियर जहाज शिवालिक कतर से गैस लेकर मुंद्रा बंदरगाह आते हुए। (एएनआई)

Navbharat Times, Mumbai, 17/03/2026
Page No: 10, Size: 31.59cm × 34.50cm

सरकार का दावा- देशभर में पेट्रोल, डीजल और LPG की पूरी सप्लाई

राहत की उम्मीद: LPG लेकर एक जहाज़ पहुंचा, दूसरा आज आएगा

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

ईरान पर अमेरिका और इस्राइल के हमले से पश्चिम एशिया में बने हालात के बीच सरकार ने सोमवार को कहा कि देश में कच्चे तेल और पेट्रोल-डीजल की कहीं कोई तंगी नहीं है। LPG सिलिंडर के मामले में स्थिति चिंताजनक है, लेकिन देश में किसी भी LPG डिस्ट्रिब्यूटर के पास सिलिंडर खत्म होने की स्थिति नहीं है। घरेलू LPG उपभोक्ताओं को पूरी सप्लाई दी जा रही है।

सरकार ने कहा कि फारस की खाड़ी से चले LPG लदे दो जहाजों में से एक शिवालिक सोमवार शाम मुंद्रा पोर्ट पर पहुंच गया। दूसरा जहाज नंदा देवी मंगलवार को कांडला बंदरगाह पर पहुंचेगा। ये दोनों कुल 92712 टन LPG ला रहे हैं। होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के उस पार अभी 22 भारतीय जहाज हैं, जिन पर सवार सभी 611 लोग सुरक्षित हैं। भारतीय जहाज जग लाडकी करीब 81 हजार टन क्रूड ऑयल के साथ आ रहा है और मंगलवार को इसके पहुंचने की उम्मीद है। वहीं, ईरान से 640 भारतीयों को थल सीमा के जरिए आर्मीनिया और अजरबैजान लाया जा चुका है।

> कहा, PNG कनेक्शन पर दी जा रही छूट, कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए राज्य उठा रहे कदम।

तेल एवं गैस मंत्रालय, विदेश मंत्रालय, सूचन एवं प्रसारण मंत्रलय और शिपिंग मिनिस्ट्री के अधिकारियों की संयुक्त ब्रीफिंग में तेल एवं गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि कच्चे तेल की पर्याप्त सप्लाई हो रही है और रिफाइनरी 100% क्षमता पर काम कर रही हैं।

सरकार ने दावा किया कि राज्यों ने कमर्शल LPG का आवंटन भी प्रॉयरिटी के आधार पर करना शुरू कर दिया है। LPG उपभोक्ताओं को PNG कनेक्शन लेने पर सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कंपनियां छूट दे रही हैं। देश में LPG का उत्पादन 36% बढ़ चुका है।

Uma Kadam

कांदिवली में HP-LPG वितरण केंद्र के पास गैस सिलिंडर रिफिल कराने के लिए लंबी कतार लगी।

LPG सिलिंडरों की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बढ़ी

ब्रीफिंग में बताया गया कि LPG सिलिंडरों की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बढ़ी है। रविवार के आंकड़ों के हिसाब से करीब 90% बुकिंग ऑनलाइन हैं। डिलिवरी ऑथेंटिकेशन कोड का उपयोग भी 72% हो गया है, जो पहले 53% हुआ करता था।' सुजाता ने कहा, '5 मार्च के बाद से देश में LPG उत्पादन 36% बढ़ा है। कमर्शल LPG सिलिंडर में एजुकेशन और हॉस्पिटल को प्रथमिकता दी जा रही है। यह राज्य सरकारों पर छोड़ा गया है कि वे किसको पहले देने की जरूरत देख रहे हैं।'

PNG कनेक्शन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इंसेंटिव

सुजाता ने कहा, 'PNG कनेक्शन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इंसेंटिव दिए जा रहे हैं। IGL ने कहा है कि जो भी LPG कंस्यूमर 31 मार्च से पहले PNG कनेक्शन लेकर गैस लेना शुरू कर देंगे, उनको 500 रुपये की गैस फ्री दी जाएगी। महानगर गैस ने डोमेस्टिक PNG उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 500 रुपये का रजिस्ट्रेशन चार्ज और कमर्शल उपभोक्ताओं के लिए सिक्योरिटी डिपॉजिट माफ कर दिया है।'

कतर का एयरस्पेस आंशिक रूप से खुला है

भारतीयों को लाने के मसले पर विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने बताया कि सोमवार को विभिन्न जगहों से 45 से ज्यादा फ्लाइट्स भारत के लिए तय थीं। कतर का एयरस्पेस आंशिक रूप से खुला हुआ है। सोमवार और मंगलवार को कतर एयरवेज भारत के लिए 3 फ्लाइट्स का संचालन कर सकती है।

युद्ध के बीच इंडक्शन चूल्हे की मांग

■ **NBT रिपोर्ट : ईरान के** साथ अमेरिका-इस्राइल के युद्ध के बाद से एलपीजी की उपलब्धता को लेकर बढ़ती चिंता के कारण इंडक्शन और अन्य इलेक्ट्रिक कुकिंग उपकरणों की मांग तेजी से बढ़ी है। कई राज्यों में गैस सिलिंडर खरीदने के लिए लोगों की लंबी कतारें और घबराहट में खरीदारी भी देखी गई है। इसी वजह से घरों और छोटे व्यवसायों ने बैकअप के रूप में इलेक्ट्रिक उपकरण अपनाने शुरू कर दिए हैं।

लोकल सर्कल्स के एक सर्वे के अनुसार, पिछले हफ्ते 57% घरों को एलपीजी सिलिंडर मिलने में देरी का सामना करना पड़ा और लगभग हर 5 में से 1 व्यक्ति ने सिलिंडर ब्लैक मार्केट से खरीदा। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि पहले इंडक्शन कुकटॉप को सिर्फ सुविधा के लिए खरीदा जाता था, लेकिन अब इसे गैस की कमी के समय जरूरी बैकअप उपकरण के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

पिछले 10 दिनों में उपभोक्ताओं के व्यवहार में तेजी से बदलाव देखा गया है और गैस पर निर्भर रसोई के लिए इंडक्शन कुकटॉप तुरंत विकल्प बनकर उभरा है।

इस स्थिति को समझने के लिए LocalCircles ने एक सर्वे किया, जिसमें भारत के 304 जिलों से 39,000 से अधिक लोगों ने भाग लिया। इनमें 61% पुरुष और 39% महिलाएं थीं।

मार्च में इंडक्शन की खरीदारी

सर्वे के अनुसार, 23% भारतीय परिवारों ने मार्च में इंडक्शन कुकिंग टॉप खरीदा। सर्वे में 20,141 लोगों ने बताया कि उन्होंने इंडक्शन कैसे खरीदा।

6%	रिटेल स्टोर
13%	ऑनलाइन स्टोर
4%	अन्य माध्यमों से
34%	पहले से ही इंडक्शन था
40%	नहीं खरीदा
3%	स्पष्ट उत्तर नहीं दिया

एक अन्य सवाल में, जिन लोगों ने इंडक्शन खरीदा उनसे पूछा गया कि उन्होंने इसे क्यों खरीदा। 19,647 लोगों के जवाब में पाया गया:

16%	पड़ोसी भी खरीद रहे
75%	एलपीजी की कमी हो सकती है
9%	