

**KEEPING FERTILISER UNITS RUNNING**

# ₹600 cr war chest in works to boost spot LNG supplies

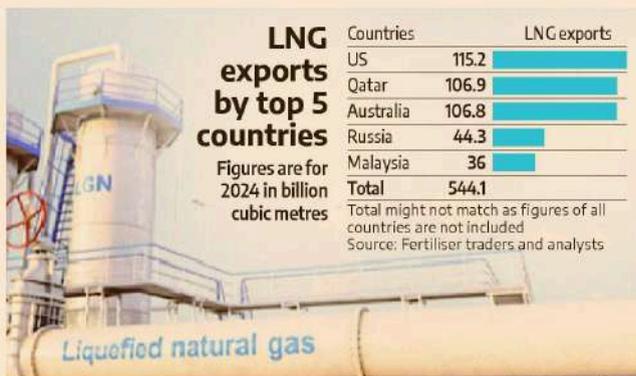
**SANJEEB MUKHERJEE**  
New Delhi, 17 March

The government is building a war chest exceeding ₹600 crore to immediately augment gas supplies to fertiliser plants from spot markets, sources indicated.

Sources said the need for more spot purchases of LNG for fertiliser plants arose because the government anticipates availability could drop below the promised 70 per cent of the average of the last six months' consumption to 60 or even 50 per cent if the Iran crisis lingered.

In accordance with the current plan, urea-manufacturing units are sourcing at least 65 per cent of their LNG requirements from revised long-term contracts and 15 per cent is sourced from spot markets, according to sources. The remaining 20 per cent shortfall is being adjusted by advancing the closure of units for maintenance.

With the West Asia war showing no sign of an early end, the government has started working on alternative plans to keep fertiliser units running once they resume operations.



Under this plan, the amount of spot purchase of LNG for fertiliser plants is being ramped up to ensure that the monthly production of plants doesn't drop significantly after the scheduled maintenance closure that they have preponed due to the shortage of LNG.

India usually consumes 32-33 million tonnes of fertilisers during the kharif season.

Sales usually start in southern India.

Of approximately 37 urea-manufacturing units in the domestic market, a majority depend on LNG, which forms more than 80 per cent of their raw material cost. Urea is most widely consumed fertiliser during the kharif season due to its extensive usage in paddy and maize cultivation.

This financial year India is poised to

## Asian spot LNG prices to rise 40 % in 2026: Rystad Energy

The spot prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Asia are likely to climb to \$14 per million British Thermal unit (mmbtu) for around \$10 per mmbtu, an increase of 40 per cent, on account of the conflict in West Asia, said Norway-based Rystad Energy in a report on Tuesday. Shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is likely to remain at a minimum through early April, the research firm said.

BS REPORTER

consume around 40 million tonnes of urea, of which around 10 million is being imported. Meanwhile, experts said for an average-sized urea plant annual scheduled maintenance closure could be 15-25 days, depending on its size.

India produces, on average, 2-2.5 million tonnes of urea a month.

More on [business-standard.com](http://business-standard.com)

LPG supply remains a concern for India as Iran intensifies Gulf energy attacks and its supreme leader rejects de-escalation. Amid setbacks, Trump says the US will leave Iran operation in 'very near future'

# Ramping up domestic LPG output: FM

**BS REPORTERS**  
New Delhi, 17 March

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the domestic production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was being ramped up to ensure cooking-gas supply to households during turbulent times amid the West Asia crisis, while officials and industry sources signalled mounting pressure on fuel and fertiliser supply chains.

Replying to a debate on the second batch of supplementary demands for grants in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman said India had taken steps to maintain



**WEST ASIA  
CONFLICT**

supply despite its reliance on imports. "Overwhelmingly, 90 per cent of the 65 per cent LPG imports come through the Strait of Hormuz. As a result, there was speculation about whether we would get it or not. There are enough reports on how we are ensuring a steady flow during these turbulent times," she said. The Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping artery, has been blocked since the start of the war between

the US-Israel and Iran. She added that domestic capacity had been increased by diverting refinery streams such as propane and butane towards LPG production. Turn to Page 16 ▶



A restaurant remains closed on Tuesday due to a shortage of LPG cylinders in Mumbai PHOTO: PTI

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## Ramping up domestic LPG output: FM

“So to ensure that households don’t suffer, not only are there steady streams of shipping lines coming in, but domestically we have also ramped up the capacity for production of LPG... As a result, domestic supplies will be adequately streamlined, and supplies will remain steady,” Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Officials indicated that supply conditions continue to be closely monitored. Sujata Sharma, joint secretary at the petroleum and natural gas ministry, said LPG supplies “remain concerning” in the context of the ongoing war in West Asia, where a large share of India’s energy imports originates. She said domestic LPG production from refineries has increased by about 38 per cent since oil companies were directed to maximise output.

“The government’s highest priority remains ensuring uninterrupted LPG supply, particularly for households and priority sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions,” the ministry said, adding that cylinder deliveries continue as normal and online bookings have risen. According to a PTI report citing preliminary industry data, cooking gas LPG consumption in India fell by a steep 17.7 per cent year-on-year in the first half of March. LPG use declined to 1.147 million tonnes (mt) during the first fortnight of March, lower than the 1.387 mt consumed in the same period last year and 26.3 per cent lower than the 1.557 mt demand in the first half of February this year.

Meanwhile, LPG vessel

Nanda Devi arrived at Kandla port early Tuesday, safely crossing the Strait of Hormuz a day after another LPG carrier, Shivalik, reached Mundra Port. The two vessels brought about 92,712 MT of LPG.

Shipping constraints through the Strait are expected to persist in the near term, with global supply adjustments taking time. Spot prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Asia, according to a report by Norway-based Rystad Energy, could rise from around \$10 per million British thermal units to about \$14 in the current environment.

Sitharaman said there is adequate availability of fertilisers for the Kharif season and that global bidding for imports will begin for the Rabi crop. Alongside this, officials and industry sources said contingency measures are being put in place to support gas availability for fertiliser production.

Although some gas-based urea units have brought forward scheduled maintenance shutdowns, sources indicated the government is building a war chest exceeding ₹600 crore to enable purchases of gas from spot markets if required. The move is aimed at cushioning a potential drop in gas availability below the assured 70 per cent of recent consumption levels if the crisis persists. Under current arrangements, urea plants are sourcing about 65 per cent of their LNG requirement from long-term contracts and around 15 per cent from spot markets, with the remaining gap managed through operational adjustments, including rescheduling maintenance.

# India in talks with Iran for safe passage of 2.7 lt of LPG

**FOR THE PEOPLE.** Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the govt is ensuring that supplies to households are not hit

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

India is in talks with Iran, the US and GCC countries for the safe passage of around 2.7 lakh tonnes (lt) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) across the Strait of Hormuz. At present, six fully laden LPG carriers with capacity of around 45,000 tonnes are idling in the Persian Gulf west of the Strait, ready to deliver the critical commodity to India.

Asked about the volume of LPG in stationed ships, Rakesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary at the Shipping Ministry, said on Tuesday: "I don't have their product volume details right now. However, each ship can carry

around 45,000 tonnes of LPG."

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said the Ministry continues to closely monitor the evolving situation in West Asia and the Gulf region.

"Our objective is to continue the dialogue with Iran and other countries to get other ships stationed in the Persian Gulf to safely transit the Strait of Hormuz and reach India," he added, when asked about talks with Iran on the passage of stationed vessels.

## DOMESTIC SUPPLIES

Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), said that despite



**STEP ON THE GAS.** India's daily average LPG production since March 5 has risen 38 per cent

the LPG situation being a "matter of concern", the Ministry has ensured that

supplies to households are not affected. Priority sectors continue to receive protec-

ted gas supplies, including 100 per cent supply to PNG and CNG, while supplies to

**Six fully laden LPG carriers with capacity of around 45,000 tonnes are idling in the Persian Gulf west of the Strait, ready to deliver the critical commodity to India**

industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at around 80 per cent, she added. Sharma noted that panic booking for LPG cylinders has come down. The peak of panic booking was on March 13 when bookings had hit around 89 lakh compared to the normal of

around 50 lakh per day. "Today, it is 70 lakh, which indicates that panic booking is coming down as we are ensuring supplies," she added.

India's daily average LPG production since March 5 has increased 38 per cent. India's average daily production in February (latest) was around 37,919 tonnes. Compared to February, average daily output may have increased to roughly 52,342 tonnes.

The Ministry also intensified enforcement actions to curb hoarding and black marketing with over 12,000 raids conducted and over 15,000 cylinders seized. Major actions were reported in Delhi, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, said Sharma.

# Another LPG tanker arrives in India after crossing Strait of Hormuz

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

*New Delhi, 17 March*

The second Indian flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker *Nanda Devi* arrived at Vadinar Port in Gujarat on Tuesday with about 46,500 metric tonnes of LPG from Qatar after crossing the Strait of Hormuz in the war-affected Zone in West Asia even as the government sought to allay fears about the shortage of LPG.

Earlier on Monday, the first Indian-flagged *Shivalik* docked at Mundra Port in Gujarat, carrying a total cargo of about 46,000 metric tonnes (MT) of LPG, with 20,000 MT set to be unloaded at Mundra and the remaining 26,000 MT to be discharged at Mangalore.

Another ship, *Jag Laadki*, carrying nearly 81,000 tonnes of crude oil from the UAE, is also reportedly en route to India.

At a media briefing here,



officials said nearly 3 lakh metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is currently stranded at the Strait of Hormuz.

Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said multiple vessels carrying LPG are unable to move due to the situation in the crucial shipping route. Six ships are currently stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, with each vessel carrying around 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG.

The government said the authorities conducted 12,000 raids and seized more than

15,000 LPG cylinders to curb hoarding amid rumours of shortages and panic bookings while maintaining that there is no supply shortage across the country.

Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, assured that availability of LPG remained adequate despite increased demand. Confirming around 70,000 bookings made on Monday due to panic buying, she appealed to consumers to avoid unnecessary bookings and consider alternative arrangements where feasible.



## India rejects Iran tanker swap reports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

India on Tuesday rejected reports claiming that Iran had sought an exchange of three seized tankers in return for allowing safe passage of Indian-flagged or India-bound ships through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been closed following US-Israeli strikes.

Terming the reports "baseless", Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said there had been "no discussion of this nature". "The three vessels are anyway not Iranian owned, neither are there any Iranian vessels," he said at an inter-ministerial briefing. Jaiswal said India is in talks with Iran and other countries to ensure the safe return of Indian vessels stranded in the region.

"Many of our ships are still stuck in Strait of Hormuz. We plan to have talks with Iran and other countries so that those vessels can be brought back home safely," he said. He reiterated that discussions are ongoing to secure maritime movement through the critical waterway, which carries over 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

### India rejects Iran tanker swap reports

"We are in talks with Iran and other countries... It is our intention to work with them to bring those ships back home safely. This is our objective," he said, adding that talks with Iran are also covering humanitarian issues.

Amid continued tensions and disruptions caused by exchanges of drones and missiles between the US-Israel alliance and Iran, the Indian LPG carrier Nanda Devi arrived at Vadinar port in Gujarat's Jamnagar on Tuesday, carrying 46,500 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas for ship-to-ship transfer.

The Government had said on Saturday that two Indian-flagged LPG vessels — Nanda Devi and Shivalik — had safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz. While Nanda Devi anchored on Tuesday, Shivalik reached India on Monday. With both vessels now back, 22 Indian-flagged ships remain in the Persian Gulf, carrying 611 seafarers, according to official figures released earlier.

# India, EU discuss energy security amid escalating West Asia conflict

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday that both sides underlined the need for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The escalating conflict in West Asia and its ripple effects on global energy security figured prominently in External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's high-level talks with his counterparts from the 27 European Union (EU) member states in Brussels.

A day after the talks, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday that both sides underlined the need for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the crisis.

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

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

Jaishankar visited the Belgian capital at the invitation of EU foreign and security policy chief Kaja Kallas to join a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council, which comprises the foreign ministers of the bloc.

It was the first high-level visit from India to the Brussels-headquartered EU after the two sides firmed up a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) follow-



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, left, exchanges a handshake with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas during a meeting, in Brussels, Belgium PTI

**Global oil & gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, that handles roughly 20% of global oil & LNG**

ing summit talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the EU leadership in January.

Jaishankar also held separate meetings with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and his counterparts from EU member states such as Germany and Belgium.

The external affairs minister highlighted the strong momen-

tum following the India-EU Summit in January and called for unlocking the full potential of the FTA, besides deepening defence industrial collaboration and maritime co-operation under the security and defence partnership, the MEA said.

Jaishankar also underlined the need for transform the India-EU Trade and Technol-

## Highlights

» Jaishankar visited the Belgian capital at the invitation of EU foreign and security policy chief Kaja Kallas to join a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council

» It was the first high-level visit from India to the Brussels-headquartered EU after the two sides firmed up a landmark Free Trade Agreement

» The External Affairs Minister also held separate bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands

exchanged views on pressing global challenges, particularly the situation in West Asia including its effects on energy security and underlined the need for dialogue and diplomacy.

"They also discussed the situation in Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific. EAM stressed on the growing convergence between India and the EU in maintaining a stable international order and strengthening multilateralism," the MEA added. On the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council, Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with Kallas.

"Both sides reaffirmed their shared ambition to further elevate India & EU cooperation to a higher strategic level. They also underlined the importance of regular consultations on key global and regional matters including the Indo-Pacific," the MEA said. Jaishankar also held separate bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands.

"India and EU relations have entered a phase of renewed strategic momentum, with both sides intensifying engagement on implementation of the 'Towards 2030: A Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda,'" the MEA said.

ogy Council into a more "outcome driven" forum.

"The external affairs minister urged the EU foreign ministers to realise synergies between India's relations with the European Union and with member states -- a sentiment that was fully reciprocated by his EU counterparts," the MEA said.

It said the ministers also

# India buys LPG from US to augment supplies

Efforts on to ensure passage of 22 Indian vessels stranded in conflict zone

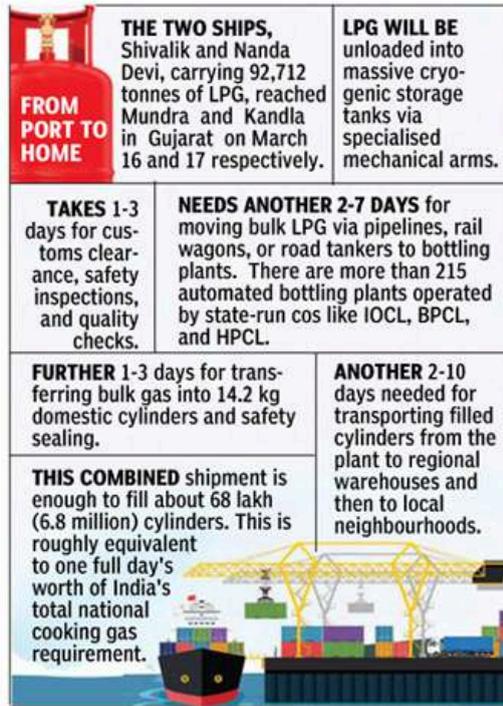
MADHUSUDAN SAHOO  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

Amid the ongoing West Asia crisis, India has begun sourcing cooking gas or LPG from the US to augment supplies.

"The fuel availability is stable now as we are getting more crude today due to increased diversification. Most of the LPG is coming from the Gulf. Besides, our OMCs have started taking LPG from the US. Our refineries are running at full capacity and have sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel. The government is putting all efforts to diversify sources of LPG," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas.

Meanwhile, a second Indian-flagged LPG tanker reached the country early Tuesday after safely sailing from the war-hit Strait of Hormuz. Efforts are on to ensure the safe passage of the remaining 22 Indian vessels stranded in the conflict zone.

"On Monday, the first ship, Shivalik, reached Mundra port in Gujarat and another LPG tanker, Nanda Devi, reached Kandla port in Gujarat at around 2.30 am this morning," said Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways. The two ships are carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG, which is equivalent to a day's requirement of cooking gas in the country.



**THE TWO SHIPS,** Shivalik and Nanda Devi, carrying 92,712 tonnes of LPG, reached Mundra and Kandla in Gujarat on March 16 and 17 respectively.

**LPG WILL BE** unloaded into massive cryogenic storage tanks via specialised mechanical arms.

**TAKES 1-3** days for customs clearance, safety inspections, and quality checks.

**NEEDS ANOTHER 2-7 DAYS** for moving bulk LPG via pipelines, rail wagons, or road tankers to bottling plants. There are more than 215 automated bottling plants operated by state-run cos like IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL.

**FURTHER 1-3** days for transferring bulk gas into 14.2 kg domestic cylinders and safety sealing.

**ANOTHER 2-10** days needed for transporting filled cylinders from the plant to regional warehouses and then to local neighbourhoods.

**THIS COMBINED** shipment is enough to fill about 68 lakh (6.8 million) cylinders. This is roughly equivalent to one full day's worth of India's total national cooking gas requirement.

"To ease pressure on domestic LPG demand, alternative fuels such as kerosene and coal have also been activated. Authorities have stepped up enforcement to prevent hoarding and black marketing as well," officials said.

Around 15,000 LPG cylinders have been seized, they said.

Meanwhile, commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that India is

on the cusp of a new phase in global trade that could strengthen its position worldwide.

"I believe a new phase, a new era of international trade for India is beginning a new chapter that will strengthen India's position in the world, framing India's trade trajectory as resilient despite near-term pressures," the commerce minister elaborated in a reply to the Lok Sabha.

**MKT INVESTORS GAIN**  
**₹2.9 L-CR AS SENSEX**  
**ENDS 568 PTS HIGHER**

FALAKNAAZ SYED  
MUMBAI MARCH 17

Indian equities extended their recovery for a second consecutive session on Tuesday supported by a rally in metal and auto shares and a positive trend in the global markets and bargain hunting by global investors.

The Sensex jumped 568 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 76,071, while Nifty-50 gained 172 points or 0.74 per cent to end the session at 23,581. The benchmark indices have recorded sharp gains this week so far, after a massive selloff last week.

Meanwhile, the all India market capitalisation of BSE listed of 5,947 companies rose by ₹2.99 lakh crore.

Excluding Nifty IT and FMCG, all sectoral indices closed green, led by metal, auto, and realty.

The rupee also continued its upward trajectory for the second day, appreciating by 5 paise to close at 92.37.

The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday injected ₹48,014 crore into the banking system through a seven-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction, as it moved to ease tightening liquidity conditions driven by tax-related outflows.

# LPG supplies still concerning: Govt

**SHUBHANGI MATHUR**  
New Delhi, 17 March

The supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) remain concerning for India as the conflict continues in West Asia, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), on Tuesday.

Domestic LPG production from refineries has increased by about 38 per cent since the government ordered oil companies to maximise cooking fuel production, Sharma said.



As tensions persist in West Asia, India faces tightening LPG supplies because nearly 90 per cent of the country's LPG imports originate from the region.

Amid the US-Israel war with Iran, Tehran has blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint through which significant volumes of energy cargoes transit. India depends on LPG imports for around 60 per cent of its domestic requirements.

All refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate



A second Indian-flagged LPG tanker, Nanda Devi, reached the country early Tuesday after safely sailing from the war-hit Strait of Hormuz

PHOTO: PTI

crude oil inventories. India remains self-sufficient in petrol and diesel production, and no imports are required to meet domestic demand, the oil ministry said in a statement.

No cases of fuel dry-outs have been reported at retail outlets and LPG distributorships by the oil marketing companies (OMCs). An additional allocation of 48,000 kilolitres (kl) of kerosene has also been provided to states and Union territories (UTs).

The ministry has also urged consumers to shift to natural gas amid disruptions in LPG supplies from West Asia. It said domestic LPG cylinder

deliveries continue as normal, while online bookings have increased to about 94 per cent.

"The government's highest priority remains ensuring uninterrupted LPG supply, particularly for households and priority sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions," the ministry said.

Meanwhile, an LPG vessel, Nanda Devi, arrived at Kandla port early Tuesday, safely crossing the Strait of Hormuz. This comes a day after another LPG carrier, Shivalik, had reached Mundra port. The two vessels were carrying about 92,712 million tonnes of LPG.

## Consumption of LPG falls 17%

Consumption of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in India fell by a steep 17.7 per cent in the first half of March on the back of supply disruptions due to the war in West Asia, preliminary industry data showed.

LPG consumption fell to 1.147 million tonne (mt) during the first fortnight of March, 17.3 per cent lower than 1.387 mt consumed in the same period last year and 26.3 per cent lower than 1.557 mt demand in the first half of February.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirements, much of it via the Strait of Hormuz.

With supplies from Saudi Arabia and the UAE disrupted, the government has cut LPG supplies to commercial establishments to safeguard household cooking gas availability.

Three state-owned fuel retailers control 90 per cent of the market. LPG consumption has grown at a steady 4 per cent annually in recent years, driven by government efforts to replace firewood and other polluting fuels.

PTI

# Domestic LPG production up 38%, informs Centre

Domestic production now estimated at more than 48,000 tonnes on a day-to-day basis; increase follows issuance of supply maintenance orders

**Kalyanaraman M.**  
CHENNAI

**D**omestic LPG production has increased 38% till date since the supply maintenance orders were issued, Union government officials said at a briefing on Tuesday.

In February, as per government data, domestic LPG production was slightly more than 1 million tonne. Normally, India's daily LPG consumption is around 90,000 tonne on an average. Out of this, 55,000 tonnes comes from imports and 35,000 from domestic production on a proportionate basis.

A 38% increase could mean that domestic production is now more than 48,000 tonnes on a day-to-day basis. Of the total LPG consumption, some 85-90% goes into households as cooking gas, while the remaining is for commercial and industrial purposes. Curbing industrial and commercial uses would mean that the daily import requirement has come down to around 30,000 tonne from 55,000 tonne.

The cargo of Shivalik and Nanda Devi, two LPG tankers that left the Strait of Hormuz with naval escort and have currently docked in India, will be adequate for three days of imports, as opposed to two



**Kitchen lifeline:** Of the total LPG consumption, some 85-90% goes into households as cooking gas. G.N. RAO

days of imports in the past.

About half a dozen LPG tankers bound for India are still in the west of Strait of Hormuz. These carry a total of some 3 lakh tonne of LPG, according to the government. The Indian LPG system works on a continuous supply cycle since there is little long-term storage. The government is working to diversify sources of LPG, too, since most of the supplies were coming from the Persian Gulf in the past. "There is no real substitute for Gulf LPG in the Indian market. While alternative supplies are available, they come with longer shipping times and cannot provide immediate relief," said Manish Sejwal, Senior Vice President, Commodity Markets - Oil, Rystad Energy, an energy information agency based in Norway.

Qatar to west coast of India takes some four days on an LPG carrier. And a round voyage takes a little more than a week.

LPG ships are available for bringing in the fuel to India. "VLGC freight rates have not risen as sharply as those for crude or LNG carriers, partly because only about 4% of the global VLGC fleet was stranded west of Hormuz," said Mr. Sejwal. Meanwhile, two LPG vessels of each around 24,000 to 25,000 tonnes cargo are expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam between March 26 and 30. On March 7, a 24,000-tonne LPG vessel had docked Visakhapatnam. Ennore terminal, which sees two or three LPG ship calls a month is expecting an LPG ship on March 21.

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh)

# LPG consumption slows 17%; supply still a concern

SAURAV ANAND  
New Delhi, March 17

**COOKING GAS CONSUMPTION** in the first fortnight of March fell 17.3% from the year-ago period and 26.3% from the same period last month, reflecting a demand slowdown amid supply disruptions linked to the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Government officials said the domestic LPG supply situation remains under close watch even as distribution continues without interruption.

"India's LPG situation remains a concern amid the West Asia conflict, even as domestic supplies stay stable and no distributor has reported a dryout," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary (marketing & oil refinery), ministry of petroleum and natural gas, during an inter-ministerial briefing. Officials said panic booking of cooking gas cylinders had added pressure to the supply system. LPG bookings had surged to over 8.8 million cylinders on March 13 before easing. "On Monday it came down to about 7 million bookings, against the pre-war levels of around 5 million bookings," Sharma said.

To maintain supply stability, the government has stepped up domestic production and tightened monitoring of the distribution system.

"Domestic LPG production from refineries has been increased by about 38%. Online LPG bookings have increased to about 94%, while delivery authentication code coverage has expanded from 53% before the crisis to about 76% to prevent diversion," Sharma said.

According to preliminary data, cooking gas consumption fell to 1.147 million tonne in the first fortnight of March, compared with 1.387 million tonne in the same period last year and 1.557 million tonne in the first half of February.

## 300,000 tonne of LPG stuck in Hormuz

Shipping disruptions in the Gulf have slowed cargo movement to India. Rajesh Kumar



Nanda Devi, an Indian-flagged tanker carrying 46,500 tonne LPG, arrives at Vadar port, in Gujarat on Tuesday. This is the second LPG tanker to reach India from West Asia this week

## Domestic cooking gas production ramped up to secure supplies: FM

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, March 17

**FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA** Sitharaman on Tuesday said India is stepping up domestic LPG production to safeguard cooking gas supplies to households amid disruptions linked to the West Asia crisis. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha during a discussion on supplementary demands for grants, she emphasised that the government is taking both domestic and external measures to maintain uninterrupted availability.

India currently depends on imports for nearly 65% of its LPG needs, with about 90% of these shipments routed through the strategically sensitive Strait of Hormuz. Given the geopolitical tensions in the region, concerns had emerged over potential supply disruptions. Sitharaman noted, however, that proactive planning and diversified supply



FM Nirmala Sitharaman in the Rajya Sabha

arrangements are ensuring steady inflows despite the uncertainty.

She highlighted that the government has accelerated domestic LPG output by redirecting hydrocarbons such as propane and butane towards LPG production. This move, initiated earlier this month, has led to a significant increase in local output — esti-

mated at around 25%. The entire additional production is being prioritised for domestic consumption to shield households from any supply shocks.

The minister also underlined that India's broader push for self-reliance, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has strengthened the country's resilience during global crises. Alongside steady import flows, the expansion of domestic capacity is helping stabilise the LPG supply chain.

On the agriculture front, Sitharaman assured that fertiliser availability for the upcoming kharif season remains adequate. She added that global procurement processes for the rabi season will commence shortly to ensure timely supplies.

She further pointed out that the proposed Economic Stabilisation Fund has created fiscal flexibility, enabling the government to respond effectively to global shocks.

Sinha, special secretary in the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways, said about 300,000 tonne of LPG remains stranded at the Strait of Hormuz.

To diversify supply sources, India has begun importing LPG from the US. "Most of the LPG is coming from the Gulf.

Our OMCs (oil marketing companies) have started taking LPG from the US. The government is making all efforts to diversify sources of LPG too," Sharma said, adding that diversification has also helped increase crude availability.

India currently consumes

about 33 million tonne of LPG annually, while domestic production stands at around 13 million tonne, leaving the country about 60% dependent on imports for cooking gas supplies. And, 90% of India's imports come through the war-hit Strait of Hormuz.

# Fertiliser output not hit due to LNG availability: IFFCO MD

SANDIP DAS  
New Delhi, March 17

**AMID REPORTS OF** possible disruption to fertiliser production because of the West Asia crisis, the country's largest producer of soil nutrients IFFCO has said that a number of its manufacturing plants are undergoing planned maintenance and the remaining units continue to operate normally.

"At present, fertiliser production, including urea, continues to operate normally across plants, and there has been no disruption in production schedules attributable to LNG availability," K J Patel, managing director, IFFCO, told FE.

Patel said "as part of our routine operational practices, certain units are periodically taken up for scheduled maintenance to ensure optimal efficiency and safety." Such annual maintenance is taken up during the "lean" period of demand for fertilisers, he added.

Patel has said that at this stage, there is no immediate concern regarding fertiliser production or availability, and operations across units are proceeding as per the

**K J PATEL,**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, IFFCO

**At present, fertiliser production, including urea, continues to operate normally across plants**



planned schedule. Sources said continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key import route from the Gulf countries, has caused concerns about LNG supply.

The Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) recently stated that the current disruption has impacted LNG supplies, a feed-

stock, and it is working closely with the government to prioritise gas allocation for urea production.

Last week the government invoked the Essential Commodities Act for the first time to ensure the supply of natural gas, a key raw material, to fertiliser plants.

In FY25, IFFCO produced 9.31 million tonne (MT) of fertilisers out of 64 MT consumed in the country. Last fiscal, IFFCO produced 4.21 MT of urea out of the total output of 30.66 MT in the country.

During April-January FY26, IFFCO produced 4.12 MT of urea, marginally higher than output during the same period last year. Currently, 50% of LNG used in domestic urea manufacturing is imported from Qatar, under a long-term agreement. About 80% of urea production in the country uses LNG while the rest uses domestic gas. At present, 30 out of 32 urea units use natural gas as feedstock.

The annual consumption of fertilisers in the country is around 64-65 MT, of which urea accounts for 40 MT while DAP consumption is around 11 MT. The rest of the consumption is potash (2-3 MT) and complex fertilisers (10-11 MT).

# Domestic LPG production up 38%, informs Centre

Domestic production now estimated at more than 48,000 tonnes on a day-to-day basis; increase follows issuance of supply maintenance orders

**Kalyanaraman M.**  
CHENNAI

**D**omestic LPG production has increased 38% till date since the supply maintenance orders were issued, Union government officials said at a briefing on Tuesday.

In February, as per government data, domestic LPG production was slightly more than 1 million tonne. Normally, India's daily LPG consumption is around 90,000 tonne on an average. Out of this, 55,000 tonnes comes from imports and 35,000 from domestic production on a proportionate basis.

A 38% increase could mean that domestic production is now more than 48,000 tonnes on a day-to-day basis. Of the total LPG consumption, some 85-90% goes into households as cooking gas, while the remaining is for commercial and industrial purposes. Curbing industrial and commercial uses would mean that the daily import requirement has come down to around 30,000 tonne from 55,000 tonne.

The cargo of Shivalik and Nanda Devi, two LPG tankers that left the Strait of Hormuz with naval escort and have currently docked in India, will be adequate for three days of imports, as opposed to two



**Kitchen lifeline:** Of the total LPG consumption, some 85-90% goes into households as cooking gas. G.N. RAO

days of imports in the past.

About half a dozen LPG tankers bound for India are still in the west of Strait of Hormuz. These carry a total of some 3 lakh tonne of LPG, according to the government. The Indian LPG system works on a continuous supply cycle since there is little long-term storage. The government is working to diversify sources of LPG, too, since most of the supplies were coming from the Persian Gulf in the past. "There is no real substitute for Gulf LPG in the Indian market. While alternative supplies are available, they come with longer shipping times and cannot provide immediate relief," said Manish Sejwal, Senior Vice President, Commodity Markets - Oil, Rystad Energy, an energy information agency based in Norway.

Qatar to west coast of India takes some four days on an LPG carrier. And a round voyage takes a little more than a week.

LPG ships are available for bringing in the fuel to India. "VLGC freight rates have not risen as sharply as those for crude or LNG carriers, partly because only about 4% of the global VLGC fleet was stranded west of Hormuz," said Mr. Sejwal. Meanwhile, two LPG vessels of each around 24,000 to 25,000 tonnes cargo are expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam between March 26 and 30. On March 7, a 24,000-tonne LPG vessel had docked Visakhapatnam. Ennore terminal, which sees two or three LPG ship calls a month is expecting an LPG ship on March 21.

(With inputs from Saptarparno Ghosh)



## Expedite pending, new gas pipeline projects, Centre tells States, UTs

**Saptaparno Ghosh**  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has written to State governments and Union Territories, urging them to expedite disposal of pending applications for laying city gas distribution pipelines and approve new applications within 24 hours, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told reporters here at an inter-ministerial briefing on Tuesday.

Ms. Sharma also informed that the Centre had urged the respective governments to waive road restoration and permission charges and relax working conditions, among others.

These actions are part of the government's broader objective to create a supportive infrastructure to prompt consumers for a switch to piped natural gas (PNG), to ease pressure off liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

According to data from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), as of September end last year, it had authorised laying of approximately 34,200 km of natural gas pipelines. Of this, 25,293 km had been made operational with 9,954 km under construction.

### Charges waived

The regulator said considering the "prevailing geopolitical crisis" it had decided to waive the imbalance charges applicable to relevant entities, shippers and consumers until June 30, with immediate effect.

"This waiver is being allowed as a temporary relief measure in light of the extraordinary circumstances arising out of the current geopolitical situation in the Gulf countries, which has adversely impacted supply conditions and operational balancing," the notice read. "During the aforesaid period, no imbalance charges shall be levied on concerned entities/shipper in respect of gas scheduling/offtake/transportation/balancing subject to compliance with all other terms and conditions, regulations, and operational requirements," it added.

# Welfare success meets global supply crunch



**V SHUNMUGAM**

The author is Partner, MCQube, and a commodity markets expert

India's LPG demand has surged due to welfare initiatives. While a safety net is necessary, simply subsidising LPG will only keep consumption high

**THIS MONTH,** A surge in panic buying and long queues at LPG distributors surprised Indian households. The root cause is supply disruptions from the West Asia conflict, combined with India's remarkable clean-cooking success. Over the past decade, policies like the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) have connected about 330 million households to LPG. However, our refineries produce less than half of the required LPG, making India heavily reliant on imports. This dependency exposes every gas stove in the country to global supply shocks.

India's LPG demand has surged due to welfare initiatives. Since its launch in 2016, the PMUY aimed to replace smoky *chulhas* with cleaner LPG stoves for women in low-income households. By early 2025, there were roughly 32.9 crore active domestic LPG connections, with over 10.3 crore beneficiaries. A decade ago, India used roughly 15 million metric tonnes (MMT) of LPG; now it is 31-32 MMT. Overall, policy has greatly expanded LPG usage, benefitting public health and women's empowerment, but the demand has exceeded domestic supply capacity.

This surge in demand conflicts with strict supply limitations. Indian refineries are unable to produce enough LPG. Even at maximum capacity, domestic production covers only 40-45% of the demand. Why is the domestic share so low? Because LPG (propane and butane) is a by-product of crude oil and gas processing. Refineries prioritise oil products and petrochemicals, leaving little room to increase LPG output beyond their original design. The government has invoked the Essential

Commodities Act to compel refineries to divert all available propane and butane to LPG production. This move raised output by roughly 25%, according to officials, but it still couldn't fill the supply gap.

Import logistics worsen the issue. About 90% of our LPG imports originate from West Asia, with over 85% passing through the Strait of Hormuz. A brief halt in Hormuz transits in March nearly stopped all new LPG shipments to India. Besides, we have minimal storage capacity. Unlike crude oil, there are no significant government LPG reserves. Once imported, LPG must quickly move through bottling plants and distributors.

Many factors make LPG particularly vulnerable. First, it is primarily a household fuel. Over 330 million homes depend on LPG cylinders for cooking, with many refilling every two-four weeks. This short refill cycle means any disruption quickly dooses stoves. In contrast, a month-long supply interruption of petrol or diesel can be mitigated somewhat through stockpiles and filling stations. Second, LPG logistics involve numerous hand-offs: ships to tanks, trucks to bottlers, and distributors to consumers. Each transition introduces a potential point of risk. Third, a non-price shock is driving the current crisis: the main problem is hoarding and uncoordinated distribution. Overall, LPG's role as a clean-cooking welfare good, distributed in cylinders, makes its security issues fundamentally different from those of oil or natural gas.

Policy makers have implemented emergency measures, ordering refiners to maximise LPG recovery for domestic use. The oil ministry directed both imported and domestic LPG to be sold only to households, banning industrial and export channels, with a 25-day booking limit to prevent hoarding. The government is diversifying sources by securing cargoes from the US and other non-Gulf suppliers and revising contracts to avoid critical routes. Demand-side measures include maintaining free Ujjwala connections, providing ₹300 per refill (up to 12 cylinders), and promoting alternatives like piped natural gas (PNG) and electric cooking. City-gas networks are slowly expanding, with some states piloting induction stove and biogas plans.

Many gaps still exist. First, domestic production remains well below required levels. Relying heavily on a limited import source is risky; diplomacy and contracts

may prevent immediate crises, but a prolonged disruption, like a long-term Hormuz crisis, would be disastrous. Second, storage capacity is incomplete, and adequate only for short-term disruptions. Third is on-demand substitution: PNG pipelines supply only 4% of households, and electric cooking is not yet widespread. Developing these options will take years, making LPG indispensable for most. Fourth, subsidy policies still promote high usage. While a safety net is necessary, simply subsidising LPG will keep consumption high.

Structural improvements are neces-

sary. First, upgrade and optimise refineries to increase LPG yield. This might involve adding a propane splitter or hydrocracker units tailored for light fuel, while maintaining the new policy of consistently directing all propane and butane to LPG. Second, diversify suppliers and routes. Secure long-term import agreements with Africa, the Americas, and even domestic sources of propane (such as petrochemical off-gas). Invest in additional import terminals, including floating storage, on different coasts so that energy supplies do not depend on a single strait. Third, set up strategic LPG reserves by creating several weeks' worth of buffer stock funded either by the government or mandated for private dealers. Fourth, promote fuel substitution by accelerating the PNG pipeline rollout—particularly in semi-urban areas—supporting clean biogas in villages, and making electric stoves affordable for urban households with reliable power. These will help reduce LPG demand growth over the medium term. Fifth, enhance efficiency and reduce losses by subsidising state-of-the-art LPG stoves and nozzle covers, enforcing leakproof distribution standards, and cutting waste in bottling plants.

Finally, modernise LPG distribution by introducing digital tracking of cylinder inventories and bookings, optimising inter-state port allocations, and improving rural delivery networks. For example, if each LPG distributor could report stock levels in real-time, shortages could be quickly addressed by reallocating supplies from regions with surplus. Over time, these measures would make LPG distribution as reliable as piped utilities.

**Structural improvements are necessary. First, upgrade and optimise refineries to increase LPG yield**

# Explainer

## ● LPG production and consumption in India

INDIA'S LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM gas or LPG consumption was 31.3 million tonnes in FY25, of which 12.8 million tonnes is produced domestically, accounting for 40% of total consumption. Domestic production has remained at similar levels over the last few years, while consumption in India witnessed significant growth in the last decade owing to the government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme (PMUY), which increased LPG connections among below-poverty-line (BPL) families.

## ● How current supply constraint is being addressed

AROUND 90% OF India's LPG imports originate in West Asia, primarily Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE. Nearly 90% of these is routed through the Strait of Hormuz (SoH), which is virtually closed due to the conflict in West Asia. India is in talks with Iran to secure safe passage for around 10 LPG tankers and two tankers have safely crossed the SoH in the last two days. It is also scouting additional LPG cargoes from suppliers beyond West Asia. Domestic production is being increased by refining companies by tweaking the product slate to maximise LPG production. Refineries have been directed not to divert propane and butane for petrochemicals production. The sale of LPG to commercial establishments is being restricted.



EXTERNAL SHOCKS

## Why there's an LPG crisis in India

The Iran war has disrupted LPG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a key energy chokepoint, pushing up global LPG prices. Despite the hike in domestic LPG cylinder prices and government subsidies, the under-recoveries of oil marketing companies are likely to increase, writes *Prashant Vasisht*

### ● What is the consumption mix in India?

THE DOMESTIC SEGMENT accounts for 88% of the consumption mix, followed by commercial / industrial (11%) and transportation (<1%). The cost of LPG is determined on import parity basis using Saudi Contract Price and other charges such as ocean freight, bottling, inland freight, etc.

The total number of domestic LPG connections is 330 million, of which 103 million are PMUY beneficiaries. In FY25, PMUY beneficiaries consumed an average of 4.5 cylinders per beneficiary per year, while non-PMUY consumers averaged 6.6 cylinders per beneficiary per year.

60%

OF TOTAL LPG CONSUMPTION IS SOURCED FROM OVERSEAS SUPPLIERS

THE COST OF LPG IS DETERMINED ON IMPORT PARITY BASIS USING SAUDI CONTRACT PRICE AND OTHER CHARGES SUCH AS OCEAN FREIGHT, BOTTLING, INLAND FREIGHT

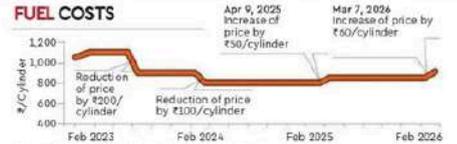
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LPG UNDER-RECOVERIES OF OMCs AS ON DECEMBER 31, 2025

## ● Domestic price trends

THE OIL MARKETING companies (OMC) hiked domestic LPG cylinder prices by ₹60 per 14.2 kg cylinder from March 7, 2026 increasing the retail price to ₹913 per cylinder in Delhi. The previous price

increase was on April 9, 2025 when the prices were increased by ₹50 a cylinder. The subsidy for PMUY beneficiaries is ₹300/cylinder leading to an effective price of ₹613/cylinder for the consumer.



Source: IOC (domestic LPG retail selling price in Delhi), IHS Research

## ● OMCs' LPG under-recoveries

THE LPG UNDER-RECOVERY burden for OMCs was ₹50,600 crore on December 31, 2025 owing to high international prices of LPG and lower realisations on sales. This is set to go up further given the recent hike in international LPG prices, despite the upward revision in domestic cylinder prices and support by the government. The government had approved a ₹30,000 crore compensation package for the OMCs in August 2025. The grant is being released in 12 equal monthly tranches, with the first tranche disbursed in November 2025.

## ● PMUY subsidy burden on govt

THE PMUY SUBSIDY burden has been rising over the years with an estimated burden of ₹12,700 crore in FY26, driven by the growth in both the number of beneficiaries and per capita LPG consumption. PMUY connections rose to 10.3 crore in FY25 from 80 million in FY20 and average consumption grew to 4.5 cylinders/beneficiary/year from 3 cylinders/beneficiary/year during the same period. The government also raised the subsidy to ₹300/cylinder in October 2023 from ₹200/cylinder, adding to the subsidy burden.

## ● Impact on OMCs' profitability

IF CRUDE OIL prices remain elevated and retail prices of auto fuels are not revised, the marketing margins of OMCs are likely to come under pressure, adversely impacting overall profitability. Also, despite some improvement in gross

refining margins, the continued burden of sizeable LPG under-recoveries will further weigh on earnings.

The writer is senior vice president and co-group head, Corporate Ratings, IIRA



# 3 lakh tonnes of LPG in 6 Indian ships stranded in Strait of Hormuz

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Around 3 lakh tonnes of LPG loaded in six Indian-flagged ships is currently stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, the shipping ministry said on Tuesday. A second Indian ship, Nanda Devi, carrying 46,500 tonnes of LPG reached the Vadinar facility of Kandla Port on early Tuesday morning.

At present, there are 22 Indian vessels in the strait, including the six LPG ships, an LNG tanker, four vessels with crude oil, one loaded with chemical and products, three container ships, and two bulk carriers. Shipping ministry special secretary Rajesh Kumar Sinha said unloading from LPG carriers Shivalik and Nanda Devi was under way.



Nanda Devi arrived at Gujarat's Vadinar port on Tuesday

► **Monitoring ships, P 18**

## Monitoring ship movements closely: Govt

► **Continued from P 1**

The shipping ministry said all central govt-owned ports are closely monitoring vessel movements and cargo operations and providing necessary support, including additional storage space. VO Chidambaranar Port provided around 90,000 sqm for transshipment containers.

Sinha said perishable containers were reduced from about 2,000 to around 1,000 at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

He explained that some containers have returned to the domestic market and some have sailed to ports such as Salalah in Oman and Khor Fakkan in the UAE.

# Cos Plug into LPG Alts to Keep Factories Humming

**THE SWITCH** Some have started production using alternative fuels while others are firming up plans in case the situation worsens

**Writankar Mukherjee**

**Kolkata:** Manufacturers reliant on LPG in their production plants are switching to alternative fuels to cope with the supply shortage and keep output steady. Companies have shifted LPG-based brazing stations to oxy-acetylene, while diesel is being used for powder-coating and paint shop operations that were earlier largely dependent on LPG.

Executives said after an initial disruption to production due to commercial LPG shortage, where supplies are currently low, these alternatives have helped stabilise output and can be scaled up if availability worsens. Some companies have already started commercial production using these alternatives, while others are in the final stages of testing before rollout.

"We are gradually shifting to alternatives, which now account for about 30% of our LPG-based work and can be scaled up if required," said Ajay DD Singhania, chief executive at Epack Durable, one of India's top electronic contract manufacturers.

Brazing is used for metal-joining in the manufacturing of household appliances such as air-conditioners and refrigerators, besides automobiles. Powder-coating and paint-shop operations are used across a wide range of products. These processes have so far been largely undertaken using LPG.

"We are working on alternatives to LPG and trials are underway," said Kamal Nandi, head of appliances business at Godrej Enterprises, a maker of refrigerators, washing machines and ACs. "We will switch once test reports come. Even now, we have visibility of commercial LPG supplies for only two days."

Haier Appliances India president Satish NS said the company has started production on some lines using LPG alternatives. "Since commercial LPG supplies are still regulated, we are trying to save as much as possible on the use of this

gas," he said. "Electrical brazing is being used and, as of now, there is no impact on production."

The LPG crisis has also affected some fast-moving consumer goods companies, though many are yet to implement alternatives. An industry executive said shifting to other fuels would require redesigning production lines, involving capital expenditure and time. "We don't want to take a knee-jerk reaction as we are managing supplies from other plants," he said.

Companies cautioned that despite adopting alternatives, volatility on the production side remains. Electronic contract manufacturer PG Electroplast managing director (operations) Vikas Gupta said while alternatives are being tested before mass production, longer-term challenges persist in supply of raw materials such as polymers, where shortages could affect output.



# Oil's Fair in Love and War



**Neeraj Kaushal**

**New York:** How high will price of crude oil rise? The answer depends on another question: how long will the US-Israel war against Iran last? And the answer to this second question depends on a third question: how long can Donald Trump continue the war without worrying about its repercussions on the forthcoming mid-term elections?

The longer the conflict continues, the tighter the global supply of oil and gas will become, and the higher prices will climb, and the greater would become Trump's chances of losing the House, or Senate to Democrats in the mid-terms.

In the first three weeks of the war, crude prices have already risen by roughly 50% from their pre-war levels. That's a sharp increase, but

still modest compared with earlier oil shocks in West Asia.

During the first oil crisis in October 1973, when Opec imposed an embargo on countries that supported Israel during the Yom Kippur War, crude prices quadrupled. The second oil shock followed the 1979 Iranian Revolution, when oil prices surged roughly two-and-a-half times.

Disruption in oil supplies after Saddam Hussein's 1991 invasion of Kuwait nearly

doubled the price of crude.

History suggests that oil prices could rise far beyond what we have seen so far. Risk of natural gas price increase is much higher, because it's more difficult to store and transport. Goldman Sachs analysts have projected that if LNG flows through the Strait of Hormuz are completely halted for a month, Dutch natural gas, or TTF (Title Transfer Facility), could approach €74/MWh, an increase of 136%. If the disruption lasts 2 mths, European natural gas prices could rise to more than €100/MWh.

Ironically perhaps the only thing that can push Trump to end the war is price of gas and oil. Having launch-

ed the war, he faces enormous pressure to continue it until he can claim a clear victory—either by dismantling Iran's capacity to build a nuclear weapon or by engineering regime change in Tehran. The latter goal appears unrealistic.

Achieving the former would likely require several more weeks, if not months, of sustained military operations. So, Trump finds himself fighting the war while watching two indicators closely: global oil price, and performance of the US stock market.

As long as Iran constricts the Strait of Hormuz, which carries about one-fifth of the world's oil, higher oil and gas prices are inevitable. What is truly striking is that Washington did not foresee this most predictable retaliation. Did the US think it can bomb the hell out of Iran, and Iran would do nothing in response?

Trump has repeatedly argued that higher oil prices benefit the US because the country is now a net exporter of energy. That claim is partly true. Yet, oil prices are set in the global market. A disruption in supply anywhere in the world pushes prices up everywhere, including at US gas stations.

If current market forecasts prove correct, the political cost of rising energy prices could quickly outweigh the strategic gains of continuing the war. In that case, Trump may find it difficult to sustain the conflict for more than a few weeks.

US voters are acutely sensitive to gasoline prices. Trump won his second term in part by promising to bring inflation under control. Since the war began, gas prices in the US increased by roughly 20%, and diesel prices by about 37%. Higher diesel prices ripple through the entire economy, especially the food supply chain, because fruit, vegetables and other goods must be transported long distances. Rising transportation costs inevitably translate into higher food prices for consumers.

Trump has 'demanded' other countries to come forward in protecting vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. So far, US allies he had earlier rebuffed through Trump tariffs and jibes against Nato members have stayed away. As expected, Trump is quite unhappy with this raft of refusals. He has threatened that Nato faced 'a very bad future'.

The US may be able to wage the war militarily. But it may struggle to sustain it politically—both abroad and at home. If oil prices continue their upward march, and American voters begin to feel the pain at pumps and grocery stores, pressure on the White House will intensify.

In the end, the trajectory of the war may be determined less by events on the battlefield than by numbers flashing on gas station signs across the US.



**EYES WIDE SHUT**

*The writer is professor of social policy, Columbia University, US*

## Amid LPG crunch, Govt asks States to fast-track piped gas projects

Sukalp Sharma  
New Delhi, March 17

IN A bid to rapidly expand piped natural gas (PNG) access and coverage amid the shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) due to the West Asia conflict, the Centre has written to States to expedite approvals to city gas distribution (CGD) firms for laying pipelines.

This comes amid the Centre's appeal to LPG consumers — commercial users as well as households — to shift to PNG, wherever feasible, to take



The Nanda Devi vessel, which crossed the Strait of Hormuz, arrives in Gujarat, Tuesday. ANI

some pressure off LPG supplies. The government has also advised consumers to use

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## States told to fast-track piped gas projects

alternative kitchen equipment like electricity-powered induction cooktops if possible, and use LPG efficiently, even as oil marketing companies (OMCs) continue to maintain LPG supplies to households at regular levels.

With the effective halt in maritime traffic through the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, India's LPG supplies have been majorly hit. The country depends on imports to meet 60% of its LPG needs, and 90% of those flow through the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow maritime passage between Iran and Oman that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. This effectively means that roughly 55% of India's LPG consumption volumes are currently unavailable. While the government has prioritised LPG supplies to households, commercial and industrial users are facing severe shortages of the fuel.

According to Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma, the government on Monday wrote to States and Union Territories with requests to help expedite city gas infrastructure expansion, which would help give the choice of shifting to PNG to more consumers. The requests include issuance of deemed permission for pending applications for laying CGD pipelines, approval of all new CGD permissions within 24 hours, full waiver on road restoration and permission charges levied by state and local authorities, relaxations in working hours and working season rules, and appointment of nodal officers for support, coordination and faster rollout.

While natural gas supplies to India have also been hit due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the situation is not as concerning as in the case of LPG. India depends on imports to meet roughly half of its natural gas needs, with 55-60% of the imports coming through the Strait. Over the past few days, the government has been appealing to consumers to switch to PNG if it is available in their vicinity. Some CGD companies have also announced incentives, like some volumes of free gas and waiver of connection charges, to encourage consumers to sign up for PNG connections.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has also advised CGD companies to deploy additional resources and step up outreach to provide connections quickly to consumers wherever networks are available. According to the government's estimates, there are roughly 60 lakh households that are in the vicinity of PNG

coverage, and can quickly switch to piped gas connections. As against 33.3 crore households with LPG connections, the number for PNG connections stands at around 1.5 crore. But while LPG is supplied in portable cylinders, PNG requires pipeline connectivity at the doorstep.

According to Sharma, there has been a reduction in panic booking of LPG cylinders by households — from the peak of 88.8 lakh bookings on March 13, the bookings fell to around 70 lakh on March 16 — although the number is still significantly higher than the April-February average of 57 lakh cylinder a day. She said that the OMCs are maintaining regular LPG cylinder supplies at pre-war levels of 50 lakh cylinders a day, with the numbers breaching the 60-lakh mark on a few days recently. She also informed reporters that despite the high demand and worrying supply situation, no dry-out has been reported at any of the 2,500-odd LPG dealerships across the country. She said the situation with regard to LPG, while being a matter of concern, has not worsened.

Apart from prioritising LPG supplies to households over commercial and industrial consumers, the government ordered refiners to maximise LPG production, and directed them to divert propane, butane and other streams from petrochemical manufacturing to LPG production. According to Sharma, these measures have led to an increase of 38% in domestic LPG production vis-à-vis pre-West Asia conflict levels, and a further increase is likely over the next few days.

The government has also increased waiting time 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. The government has also activated alternative fuel streams like kerosene, fuel oil, biomass and even coal for commercial consumers to help them cover their LPG shortfall.

Regarding action against hoarding and black marketing of LPG, authorities have stepped up raids and surprise checks, Sharma said. More than 12,000 raids have been conducted and over 15,000 cylinders seized, with major actions reported in Delhi, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, she said. At their level, the OMCs have conducted over 2500 surprise inspections at retail outlets and LPG distributorships to ensure smooth supply and prevent irregularities.



## House Panel Warns of Leadership Crisis in CPSEs

**New Delhi:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has flagged a “deep-rooted managerial crisis” in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and urged the government to overhaul leadership appointments, noting that 53 CPSEs are functioning without full-time chairmen and managing directors (CMDs). The panel also called for a review of the dividend policy for CPSEs to allow them greater flexibility in retaining earnings. It said rigid payout expectations could constrain investments in research and development (R&D) and capacity expansion, jeopardising long-term growth and competitiveness.

In its report on the Demands for Grants, the committee highlighted a ‘triple crisis’ across CPSEs—leadership vacancies, funding constraints and gaps in state capability—warning that these structural weaknesses are undermining governance and strategic decision-making.

—Our Bureau



# How the global energy shock threatens India's Goldilocks era

Siddharth Upasani  
New Delhi, March 17

INDIA HAS always been dependent on the world's energy producers on account of it having to import a vast majority of its fuel needs. But the last half-a-decade, starting with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the US and Israel's attacks on Iran and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz, has shown just how vulnerable the economy is.

The impact is already visible on the rupee, which has had to contend with weak foreign direct investment and portfolio outflows over the last one year. The Indian currency, which fell below 90- and 91-per-dollar in December, breached 92 earlier this month and ended at 92.38 on Tuesday, hovering close to its all-time low of 92.48. If crude oil prices remain elevated, even 100-per-dollar may not be far away.

According to a scenario analysis by QuantEco Research's economists, while the potential hit will be minuscule if oil averages around \$80 per barrel in 2026-27 (up from \$70 per barrel in 2025-26), the impact could become "non-linear and broad based" at higher levels: at \$100/barrel in 2026-27, the rupee could weaken to as much as 98.5-per-dollar, they found.

The Indian economy has posted impressive growth rates recently, both under the old and new GDP series, clocking in at 7.8% in the final three months of 2025. Inflation, too, has settled comfortably below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% target, with inflation as per the updated Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 3.21% in February. However, this positive growth-inflation mix is now under threat.

"The Goldilocks narrative of strong growth and low inflation persists under the new GDP and CPI series, but is challenged by higher crude oil prices and fuel shortages," Nomura economists said last week.

### Shock to growth, inflation

After retreating from \$100/barrel-plus levels, global crude oil prices remain highly volatile and elevated. The average price of India's crude oil basket so far in March is \$108.23/bbl, up 57% from February. And while the US has granted India a 30-day waiver to buy Russian oil stuck at sea, this isn't seen as a "game changer" by Nomura.

Meanwhile, the gas shortage has already forced the government to prioritise certain sectors and hike the price of household cooking gas by Rs 60 per cylinder, among other measures. The cooking gas

### • What happens if crude price spikes?

A higher average crude oil price in 2026-27 will hurt growth, raise inflation, weaken the rupee, and widen the CAD

	FY26	FY27 pre-war	FY27 post-war		
Crude oil price assumption (\$/bbl)	70	70	80	90	100
GDP growth	7.6%	6.6-6.8%	6.5-6.7%	6.4-6.6%	6-6.2%
CPI inflation	2.1%	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%	5.1%
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-1.1%	-1.2%	-1.6%	-1.9%	-2.2%
Rupee's exchange rate (per USD)	91.5	93.0	95.5	97.0	98.5

Note: FY27 post-war figures are statistical scenarios, not QuantEco Research forecasts; oil price assumption is FY27 average; bbl refers to barrel; Source: QuantEco Research

price hike by itself may push up inflation in March by 12-13 basis points (bps), according to Barclays; Nomura has already raised its forecast for average CPI inflation in 2026-27 by 70 bps to 4.5%.

The growth story is similar, with the RBI's projections pegging GDP growth (as per the old series) at 6.9-7% in the first two quarters of 2026-27, with risks "evenly balanced". Economists at ICICI Securities Primary

Dealership, however, have cut their forecast for next year by 50 bps to around 7% even if the acute supply disruptions are "largely resolved in a month". And if the conflict drags on longer and movement of energy via the Strait of Hormuz remains problematic, the resultant hit to global growth would be an additional headwind for India.

### Footnote the bill

Some costs due to the West Asia war are already piling up, with the Finance Ministry having sought Parliamentary approval to spend another Rs 19,230 crore on fertiliser subsidy in 2025-26 itself. An Economic Stabilization Fund, with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore, is also being set up.

Then there is the cost of higher global crude oil prices, which have brought down the margins of domestic oil marketing companies (OMCs) close to four-year lows as these higher prices haven't been passed on to consumers at the pump. This will hurt their dividend to the Centre — and if the government decides to reduce the excise duty, tax collections will be hit. Either way, the carefully-constructed fiscal deficit and debt-to-GDP targets of 4.3% and 55.6% of GDP are at risk just a few weeks after the 2026-27 Budget was presented.

# India taps Iran for safe passage of oil, LPG vessels

Subhash Narayan &  
Rituraj Baruah

NEW DELHI

**T**he Indian government is in talks with Iranian authorities for the safe passage of six India-bound vessels carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and two crude oil carriers to help the country tide over the short-term crunch, two people aware of the matter said.

The LPG tankers carry around 270,000 tonnes of cooking gas, enough to fill around 1.9 million domestic cooking gas cylinders of 14.2 kg capacity), equivalent to three days of consumption. The two countries are working on a priority schedule for the staggered passage of all eight vessels, the people said on the condition of anonymity.

The talks have been "positive", with the passage to be planned in a staggered manner, one of the two people cited above said. The person added that Indian ports on the western coast have been advised to keep anchorage space available for these tankers so that oil and gas can be unloaded quickly. The vessels are currently on the western side of the Strait of Hormuz, anchored near the ports of Qatar and the UAE.

A total of 22 Indian-flagged vessels are stranded on the western side of the Strait of Hormuz. Of these, six are car-



The tankers carry 270,000 tonnes of cooking gas. AFP

rying LPG, four are transporting crude oil, and one vessel is transporting LNG. West Asia and the Strait of Hormuz are key for India's energy security, with about 90% of its LPG import and 50% of crude imports dependent.

"The talks have been positive so far. The priority currently is to ensure safe passage for six LPG tankers and two crude carriers. The vessels are expected to be allowed in batches of one or two ships at a time," the second person said.

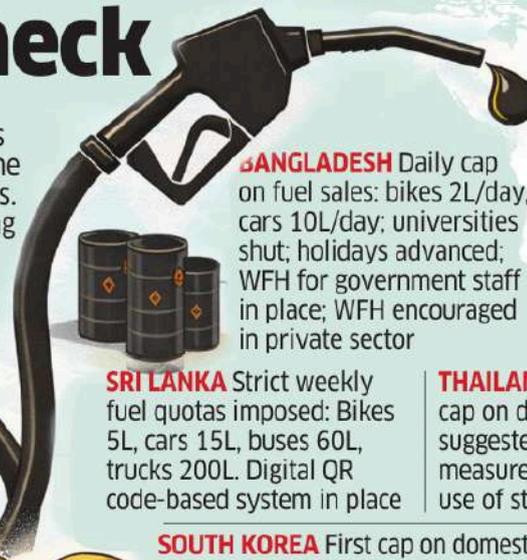
The intervention comes at a time when India has prioritized gas for household use. The scarcity has led to a scramble for electric stoves and forced eateries to trim operations. While government has assured enough stocks, India has seen panic booking of LPG cylinders.

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*For an extended version of this story, go to [livemint.com](http://livemint.com).*

# Fuel Check

As the West Asia crisis drags on, nations across the region are feeling the squeeze on fuel supplies. The result: Fuel rationing and more. Here's how countries from Bangladesh to Japan are responding.



**BANGLADESH** Daily cap on fuel sales: bikes 2L/day, cars 10L/day; universities shut; holidays advanced; WFH for government staff in place; WFH encouraged in private sector

**MYANMAR** Odd-even licence plate system for private vehicles, fuel purchase curbs

**PHILIPPINES** Government agencies told to reduce fuel and electricity consumption by 10-20%. Four-day work week for government employees

**SRI LANKA** Strict weekly fuel quotas imposed: Bikes 5L, cars 15L, buses 60L, trucks 200L. Digital QR code-based system in place

**THAILAND** Temporary price cap on diesel (under 30 baht/L); suggested unconventional measures include encouraging use of stairs

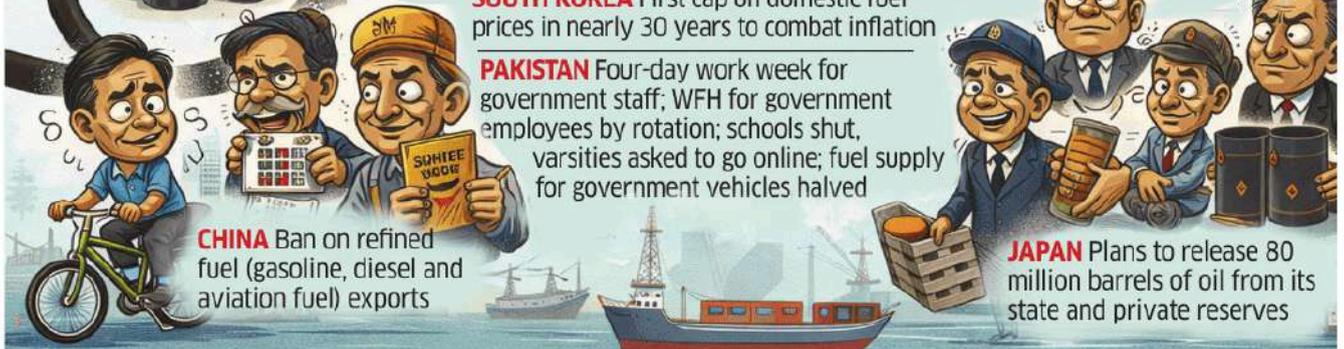
**VIETNAM** Corporates urged to let staff work from home

**SOUTH KOREA** First cap on domestic fuel prices in nearly 30 years to combat inflation

**PAKISTAN** Four-day work week for government staff; WFH for government employees by rotation; schools shut, varsities asked to go online; fuel supply for government vehicles halved

**CHINA** Ban on refined fuel (gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel) exports

**JAPAN** Plans to release 80 million barrels of oil from its state and private reserves



# Oil PSUs Clamp Down on Dealer Credit to Curb Losses

Same-day payments kick in as fuel sales turn loss-making

**Our Bureau**

**New Delhi:** State-run oil companies have withdrawn credit to petrol pump dealers, as they are no longer chasing higher sales with retailing turning loss-making, according to industry executives and dealers.

State oil companies, which control around 90% of fuel stations in the country, have asked dealers to pay for fuel on the same day, ending the usual practice of 3-5 days of credit.

Dealers typically extend credit ranging from a few days to weeks to large diesel customers. They have now begun shortening these credit periods as well.

With oil companies ending credit, managing cash flows has become a challenge, a petrol pump dealer said, adding that this is forcing some outlets to order less fuel.

“Companies provide credit to dealers to boost sales and market share. Now higher sales mean higher losses. Companies don’t want that anymore,” an industry executive said.

Prices of crude oil as well as petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel have surged in the international market. Brent futures are trading above \$100 per barrel, while spot prices at which

## Centre Pushes PNG Adoption, Asks States for Quick Approvals

**New Delhi:** The Centre has asked states to fast-track clearances for laying city gas pipelines and waive road restoration and permission charges to speed up infrastructure rollout and the adoption of piped natural gas (PNG) by households amid liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply concerns, an official said.

The government is urging both households and commercial LPG users to switch to PNG as the Iran war has disrupted LPG imports, on which India depends for about 60% of its consumption.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has also waived imbalance charges for city gas companies, shippers and consumers “as a temporary relief measure in light of the extraordinary circumstances” due to the Iran war. Imbalance charges in gas transport are penalties levied when a shipper’s actual gas offtake or injection deviates

from its scheduled quantity on a pipeline network.

The Centre is seeking to address the “structural constraints” that have held back PNG expansion in the country, said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. On Monday the Centre requested state governments to “issue deemed permission for pending applications for laying city gas distribution (CGD) pipelines; mandate approval of all new CGD permissions within 24 hours; waive road restoration and permission charges levied by state or local authorities; relax working hours and working seasons; and appoint state nodal officers for support, coordination and faster implementation, according to a presentation shared by Sharma.

India has about 10 million active PNG customers, compared with 330 million LPG customers. —

**Our Bureau**

refiners are actually buying are much higher. Margins on diesel and ATF have also risen sharply.

However, domestic pump prices have not budged, meaning every litre sold results in losses for state refiners. By withdrawing credit, companies are seeking to avoid in-

centivising higher sales.

Domestic pumps are well supplied and no dry-outs have been reported anywhere, Sujata Sharma, a joint secretary in the oil and gas ministry, said, adding that the withdrawal of credit to dealers is a commercial decision made by oil companies.



**Morning Standard, Delhi, 18/03/2026**

Page No: 10, Size: 33.63cm × 22.12cm

# OMCs begin procuring LPG from US

Domestic LPG output hiked by 38%, govt working to cut dependence on Gulf region by diversifying energy sourcing

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE LPG availability situation in the country is not worsening, with the government ensuring uninterrupted domestic supplies after ramping up refinery output by 38%, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Tuesday.

The government, along with oil marketing companies (OMCs), is also working to reduce dependence on the Gulf region for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and crude oil by diversifying sourcing to ensure sustained availability. OMCs have also begun procuring LPG from the US, the government said.

"Domestic LPG production has been increased by 38% in our refineries. Every refinery has its own configuration, based on which different products are produced. We are diverting some molecules to the LPG pool, which is adding to supply," said Sujata Sharma, joint secretary (marketing & oil refinery), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, during a media briefing on Tuesday.

The Centre has also nudged companies to widen their im-

**1** Centre has asked companies to widen their import basket for both crude oil and LPG to increase supplies

**2** Sujata Sharma, joint secretary at petroleum ministry, says commercial LPG cylinder sales have been partially restored

**3** Govt says two LPG vessels — Shivalik and Nanda Devi — reached India on Monday and Tuesday, respectively

**4** Panic booking of cylinders has eased in recent weeks, will continue to promote alternative fuels, says govt

**WIDENING IMPORT BASKET TO EASE FUEL SUPPLY**



port basket for both crude oil and LPG to safeguard supplies. Commenting on the fall in LPG cylinder sales, Sharma said the government ensured domestic supply by curbing commercial supplies. However, she added that sales of commercial LPG cylinders have been partially restored.

"Earlier, crude was largely imported from the Gulf region. The government then focused on diversifying suppliers, and now India imports crude from more than 40 countries. A similar approach is being followed for LPG. Two to three months ago, OMCs started buying

LPG from the US," Sharma said. She added that due to diversification, nearly 70% of crude imports now come from varied sources.

The government further said that two LPG vessels — Shivalik and Nanda Devi — reached India on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.



**Domestic LPG output has been increased by 38% in refineries. We are diverting some molecules to LPG pool**

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary, petroleum ministry

Sharma said panic booking of cylinders has eased in recent weeks. She added that the government will continue to promote alternative fuels, including piped natural gas (PNG), even as she acknowledged structural constraints in expanding connections. The Centre has advised state governments and city gas distribution companies to address these bottlenecks.

On enforcement action, Sharma said about 15,000 cylinders have been seized so far. "Yesterday in Delhi alone, around 600 cylinders were seized," she added.

# India not facing an energy shortage, says Sitharaman

'The economy's position gives India strength to deal with unforeseen challenges'

Subhash Narayan  
subhash.narayan@livemint.com  
NEW DELHI

India is well-positioned to withstand global shocks and is not facing an energy shortage despite the crisis in West Asia, finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to the debate on supplementary demands for grants in the upper house, Sitharaman said India was ramping up domestic capacity and the government had directed refineries and petrochemical complexes to maximize liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) output by diverting propane, butane, propylene and butane stream for its production.

"Nearly 65% of our LPG is imported, and a large share of that comes through the Strait of Hormuz," she said, acknowledging the risks presented by geopolitical tensions. "As a result of government's measures, domestic production itself is going up by 25% and the entire increased production would go domestic consumers to ensure households do not suffer," Sitharaman said. "So, we are not just depending on getting steady flow of LPG even in troubled waters, but also ensuring that domestic supplies remain steady."

The minister said the Indian economy today stands at a position of strength even under unforeseen situations. "We have navigated successive global disruptions, from the covid-19 pandemic and supply chain breakdowns to the



Russia-Ukraine war, debt crisis, inflation spikes, trade wars, de-globalization trends, climate shocks without severe disruptions... The position of the Indian economy gives us strength to deal with these unforeseen challenges," said the minister.

Sitharaman said the government's *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) initiative had strengthened the Indian economy and insulated it against external shocks.

The Rajya Sabha passed the second batch of supplementary demands for grants, ₹2 trillion in net additional spending this fiscal year. Parliament, thus, approved the supplementary demands, with the upper house returning the Appropriation Bill 2026 to the Lok Sabha.

The Lok Sabha had passed the demands for grants on 13 March.

For an extended version of the story, go to [live-mint.com](https://live-mint.com).



## Fertilizer reform: Strike while the prices are hot

*As urea and gas get dearer, relief from the fiscal cost of an outdated subsidy regime is one reason to adopt direct transfers instead. Climate and farm output benefits are another*

**O**n 7 January, *Mint* made a case for reforming India's highly inefficient regime of fertilizer production, pricing and distribution, and for switching over from product subsidization to income support for farmers. This imperative has since been sprung centre-stage by a war in West Asia that has disrupted our imports of urea and its feedstock gas, both of which form large shares of domestic usage and have seen global prices flare up. The fiscal burden that this imposes on the government should be enough to trigger action. The longer we retain the *status quo*, the worse this war's likely impact will be through inflated import bills, which look poised to enlarge rapidly if peace proves elusive. In general, India privileges the fertilizer industry for allocations of natural gas, but right now, its allotment has been slashed by 30%, while prices have held firm, as the Centre prioritizes piped natural gas supply to homes for cooking and the compressed kind used by vehicles as a fuel.

In recent times, half of India's natural gas requirement has been met by shipments, the bulk of them from Qatar in its liquefied form, LNG. Our reliance on this Gulf state for LNG has dropped from above 80% to below 50% over the years as we diversified our sources to include the US, UAE, Oman, Australia and Mozambique. However, Iran's clamp on the Strait of Hormuz—or attempt to play gate-keeper—has cut off LNG supplies to big buyers like Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, which are now in a scramble for options that has pushed up LNG prices in the global spot market. Even for those with contracts, pricing is typically linked to oil price indices such as the Japanese

Crude Cocktail, and when oil gets dearer, so do these contracted supplies. Should India cling to its outdated fertilizer subsidy regime, the public money needed to fund it would bloat. Even if Hormuz opens up to pre-war levels of traffic and production resumes at the LNG plants in the Gulf that have been shut down, the ripple effect of this supply shock could keep the dollar price of gas high and the rupee weak, making it that much harder for the government to keep its spending in check.

Fertilizer reform would both ease pressure on the fisc and raise the efficiency of India's crop production. Heavily subsidized urea releases nitrous oxide into the air, a global warming gas, and pollutes the ground water with nitrates. To boost farm output, we need a judicious mix of fertilizers. While the ideal proportion of nitrogenous (N), phosphatic (P) and potassic (K) fertilizers is 4:2:1, a long-running subsidy skew in favour of N has resulted in an N:P:K farm ratio of 10.9:4.4:4. This depresses nutrient conversion into grain by plants and partly explains why our agricultural value addition per unit of crop area is only 38% of China's. To secure a mix of fertilizer types that is optimal for crop output, India should rid fertilizer prices of their subsidy. An artificial incentive to use a specific fertilizer over others only distorts market choices and masks demand patterns that would otherwise reflect what farmers deem best for their farms. The money saved by putting an end to a distortive subsidy regime could be sent to individual farmers as income support in proportion to the area they cultivate, so that cultivators have no reason to complain. A cost-benefit analysis rarely makes such a robust case for reform. And there's no better time to act than now.



## दूसरा एलपीजी टैंकर पहुंचा भारत

नयी दिल्ली (ट्रिब्यू) : भारतीय ध्वज वाशला दूसरा एलपीजी टैंकर मंगलवार तड़के स्वदेश पहुंच गया। युद्ध क्षेत्र में फंसे अन्य 22 भारतीय जहाजों को सुरक्षित लाने के प्रयास जारी हैं।

### 'एलपीजी उत्पादन बढ़ाया'

वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि एलपीजी का घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाया गया है। सीतारमण ने राज्यसभा में यह बताया।

'चीन ने ईरान को बेचा कच्चा माल'  
अमेरिकी कांग्रेस के एक महत्वपूर्ण आयोग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि चीन ने ईरान को हमलावर ड्रोन और रॉकेट ईंधन बेचा है।

# सिलिंडर ने छीना सुख-चैन, अब तो लाइनों में बीत रहा दिन

आमजन नौकरी से छुट्टी कर दिनभर लगे रहते हैं सिलिंडर का जुगाड़ करने में

गैस संकट : कालाबाजारी पर प्रहार, सात एफआइआर दर्ज, 10 सिलिंडर जब्त



सेक्टर-64 स्थित गैस गोदाम के बाहर लाइन में खड़े हुए सिलिंडर • जहाज



कलकत्ता के पत्राजी मोहल्ला में होम डिलीवरी करत एजेंट की कर्मी •

जमाना संकटका, फरीदाबाद : एक अंतर धरोर गैस सिलिंडर की उपलब्ध ने मेरी जैसी अमय महिला का सुख-चैन छीन लिया है। मैं एक दिन जल्दी ही लाइन में लगी थी, पर जब एक मंत्र नंबर आया, तब तक सिलिंडर खत्म हो गए। अब सुक पांच बजे से लाइन में लगी हूँ, तबकि नंबर जल्द आ जाए। पर का कर्म-काज और बच्चों को पति के हकाने कन्के अहाँ हूँ। कुछ इसी तरह हराम परेशान महिला सुनीता सेक्टर-64 स्थित गैस गोदाम के बाहर धरोर गैस सिलिंडर लेने के लिए लाइन में लग कर अपनी ज्यवा सुनती मिली।

**अध्यापक संवाददाता के चुपने पर कि उनके पति को लाइन में लग सकने दे, तो जवाब दिया कि पति को छुट्टी भी जाना है। छुट्टी नहीं कर सकते, क्योंकि उनकी दिल्ली भवो जाएगी।** वह अकेले सुनीता को परेशान नहीं थी। जिन लोगों के पास कनेक्शन हैं, बुकिंग करने के बावजूद उन्हें दो से तीन दिन तक सिलिंडर के लिए इंतजार करना पड़ रहा है। गैस एजेंटों वाले आवासन तो दे रहे हैं कि पर पंचु जरूरा, पर ऐसा ही नहीं था।

**दुसरी गैस एजेंटों के गोदाम के बाहर भी यही स्थिति दिखा:** सुक कबीर पौने आठ बजे मोहन रोड स्वयंसेवक गैस एजेंटों पर भी लंबी लाइन लगी हुई थी। यहां लाइन में कन्के महिलाएं थी थीं। कई बुजुर्ग महिलाएं मिलीं, जिनकी बतया कि सुक पांच बजे बला आ गए थे लेकिन अभी तक नंबर नहीं आया है।

घर में पुरुष का काम कर रही और बच्चे सोफल रही हैं। हम बुजुर्ग हैं, इसलिए यहां नंबर लगाने के लिए आ गई हूँ। करीब 9.15 बजे सेक्टर-64 में खाली मैदान में 100 से अधिक लोग मिले। यहां धरत गैस एजेंटों द्वारा ट्रक भेजकर सिलिंडर सप्लाई किए जाते हैं।

• बुकिंग के बाद भी लोगों को करना पड़ रहा दो से तीन दिन इंतजार

• कमर्शियल सिलिंडर की सप्लाई शुरू नहीं होने से कारोबार प्रभावित



मोहन रोड स्थित गैस एजेंटों के बाहर लाइन में लगी हुई महिलाएं • जहाज

### कमर्शियल सिलिंडर का सिर्फ मिल रहा आवासन

कमर्शियल सिलिंडर पर रोक न हटने से होटल-रेस्टोरेंट सलित अम इसका प्रयोग करने वाले लोग बाधों पर ऐसा हो नहीं सके। इस दिन बुरी तरह से परेशान हैं। हर दिन

मैं सुक पांच बजे से ही आ गया था लाइन में लगाने के लिए। अभी थोड़ा भरे सिलिंडर की है, क्योंकि रसोई में खाना नहीं बनगा तो रसोई के लिए परेशानी हो जाएगी।  
-जयवंत, निवारी अंचा बस टैलर कालनी

सोमवार को गैस सिलिंडर की बुकिंग कराई थी। घर पर डिलीवरी का इंतजार करने के बजाय खूब ही लगे आ गया हूँ। सिलिंडर मिल जाएगा तो ही मैं आऊंगा।  
-राहुल, निवारी कलकत्ता

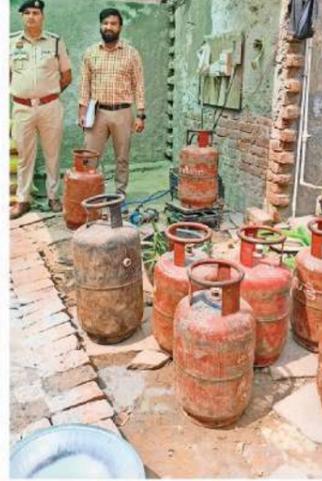
परसेल गैस की कमी नहीं है। अधिकतर लोग एडवांस में सिलिंडर भरकर रखना चाहते हैं, बरना गृह शुरू होने से पहले तो 20 हजार सिलिंडर प्रतिदिन की आपूर्ति हो रही थी, जबकि अब तो 28 हजार सिलिंडर की आपूर्ति की जा रही है। चिन्मयी रसोई में सिलिंडर लगा हुआ है और दूसरा खाली पड़ा है तो बस भरता कर स्टोर करना चाहते हैं। इसी कारण मांग अप्रत्याशित रूप से बढ़ गई है। लोगों को धैर्य रखना होगा। वैसे इमारी टीम निगरानी कर रही है।  
-कविता सिंह धरिहार, सात एफ अग्रणी विभाग

जमाना संकटका, फरीदाबाद : गैस संकट के बीच काली लोग कम्प्लेंट करने में लगा गए हैं। एक ओर लोगों को रसोई के लिए सिलिंडर का जुगाड़ करना मुश्किल हो रहा है वहीं दूसरी ओर होटलों पर शेड्यूल धरोर गैस सिलिंडर प्रयोग किए जा रहे हैं। इतना ही नहीं मार्केट में बड़े से छोटे गैस सिलिंडरों में गैस भरने का काम जारी है। यह लोग खुब मुनाभ कमा रहे हैं। अब ऐसे लोगों पर कार्रवाई शुरू हो गई है। खास पूरे अग्रणी विभाग की टीम ने कुछ घरों में सला मामले दर्ज करवा रहे हैं।

10 सिलिंडर जब्त किए गए हैं। विभाग की ओर से निर्धारित दर से अधिक कीमत पर रसोई गैस सिलिंडर बेचने के आरोप में दो गैस एजेंटों को काराग बलाओ नोटिस भी जारी किया गया है। विभाग के विवेक विभाजन की टीम ने सला-जहाज जांच की है। दो जवाबे अकेले फरीदाबाद स्थित मो. बल्लासेक्टर-64, बुकनी, किराडीकी, सारन में एक-एक काराग दर्ज किया गया है। मीके पर 18 परसेल गैस सिलिंडर जब्त कर लिए, जिनका उपयोग निवारी के विवेकक किया जा रहा था। जांच में सामने आया कि इनमें से 15 बड़े सिलिंडरों से छोटे सिलिंडरों में अंधेरा रूप से गैस भरने जा रही थी। बंगाल स्ट्रीट में एक होटल से तीन परसेल सिलिंडर मिले, जिनका उपयोग कमर्शियल कार्यों के लिए किया जा रहा था, जबकि यहां कम्प्लेंट सिलिंडर का उपयोग अनिवार्य है।

• टाकों व मिठाई की दुकानों पर बेक्रीफ धरोर गैस सिलिंडर का किया जा रहा था प्रयोग

• बाजार में कई लोग घड़े से छोटे गैस सिलिंडरों में गैस भरसे हुए भी दबोचे गए



ओला फरीदाबाद में मिठाई की दुकान से बरामद हुए धरोर गैस सिलिंडर • तो. किराज

### कमर्शियल सिलिंडर भरता था आरोपित

पार्षीफ कालनी पुलिस चौकी के अगत भजन चौक के पास विभाग की टीम ने कार्रवाई की। यहां किराये के कमरे में धरोर गैस सिलिंडरों से गैस निकालकर कमर्शियल सिलिंडरों में भरने का काम चल रहा था। मीके पर टीम के साथ पुलिसकर्मी भी थे। पुलिस ने पूरे आरोपित को मीके से बंधन लिया। पुलिस के अनुसार ठडुआ निवारी समकल अला-अला गैस एजेंटों से सिलिंडर लगा था। इन सिलिंडरों से कमर्शियल सिलिंडरों में गैस भरता था। इसके बाद इन्हें होटल व रेस्टोरेंट पर जकर केला था। आस्थास के लोगों को समझ हुआ तो इसकी सूचना विभाग को दी। मीके पर सला परसेल गैस सिलिंडर व एक कमर्शियल सिलिंडर बरामद हुआ। खास पूरे अग्रणी विभाग को निगरानी कलित सिंह धरिहार ने बताया कि कालाबाजारी और दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए विभाग की ओर से निगरानी की जा रही है। एजेंटों स्वयंसेवकों व अन्य को दस्तावेजों दी गई है। यदि कोई भी धरोर

गैस का व्यावसायिक उपयोग या अंधेरा रूप से गैस भरने का कार्य करता पाया गया, तो उसके खिलाफ मामला दर्ज करवा जाएगा। सिलिंडर भी जब्त किए जाएंगे।

# गैस सप्लाई कम होने से टूटी एमएसएमई इंडस्ट्री की कमर

गैस संकट के साइड इफेक्ट

40%

महंगा हुआ प्लास्टिक, एल्युमीनियम पेपर और लोहे की कीमतें भी लगातार बढ़ रहीं

माई सिटी रिपोर्टर

ग्रेटर नोएडा। ईरान के साथ जारी अमेरिका-इस्राइल युद्ध और गैस संकट ने एमएसएमई सेक्टर को बुरी तरह प्रभावित किया है। इस सेक्टर पर गैस सिलिंडर की किल्लत के बाद महंगाई की मार पड़ रही है। प्लास्टिक के बाद अब पेपर भी 30 से 40 प्रतिशत तक महंगा हो गया है। वहीं, लोहे और एल्युमीनियम की कीमतें भी लगातार बढ़ी हैं, जिससे उद्यमी परेशान हैं। उद्यमियों ने बताया कि कई उद्योग गैस न मिलने की वजह से बंद हैं, जबकि कई महंगाई की वजह से बंद होने की कगार पर हैं।

इंडस्ट्रियल बिजनेस एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष अमित उपाध्याय ने बताया कि उद्योगों के लिए आवश्यक कच्चा माल, गैस और ऊर्जा संसाधन या तो उपलब्ध ही नहीं हैं, या महंगे दामों पर मिल रहे हैं। इससे छोटे उद्योगों का चलना संभव नहीं। पीएनजी गैस की आपूर्ति में काफी अनियमितताएं हैं।

उद्यमियों ने बताया कि कच्चा माल केवल अग्रिम भुगतान पर मिल रहा है। बड़े खरीदार कीमत बढ़ोत्तरी को स्वीकार नहीं कर रहे। बिजली बिल, वेतन, किराया और बैंक ईएमआई कमर तोड़ रही है।



...लेकिन खतरे से अंजान हैं

सेक्टर-54 के पास मंगलवार को सिलिंडर ले जा रही महिला गैस किल्लत के कारण आने वाले परेशानियों से तो वाकिफ थी लेकिन इस लारवाही के खतरे से अंजान। अमर उजाला

नोएडा। व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलिंडर की किल्लत का सीधा असर अब एमएसएमई पर दिखने लगा है। जिस गति से बीते माह उत्पादन का काम चल रहा था वह अब धीमी पड़ गई है। एमएसएमई इंडस्ट्रियल एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष सुरेंद्र सिंह नाहटा ने बताया कि व्यवसायिक एलपीजी सिलिंडरों की किल्लत के चलते छोटे उद्योगों का संचालन संभव नहीं है।

**धीमी पड़ गई रफ्तार**

व्यावसायिक एलपीजी सिलिंडर की भारी कमी है। कच्चे माल की कीमतों में भारी वृद्धि कर दी गई है। पेपर उद्योग में कीमतों में बेतहाशा उछाल होने से लोहे और एल्युमीनियम जैसे धातुओं के दाम लगातार बढ़ रहे हैं। उद्यमियों का कहना है कि यदि समय रहते इस संकट का समाधान नहीं किया गया, तो इसका सीधा असर शहर और प्रदेश की अर्थव्यवस्था पर पड़ेगा। ब्यूरो

दिन बीते, सिलिंडर भी पहुंचे लेकिन कई चूल्हे अब भी ठंडे

माई सिटी रिपोर्टर

नोएडा। सिलिंडर लेने के लिए अब भी कई जगहों पर लंबी कतारों में लोग खड़े हो रहे हैं। कोई नौकरी से छुट्टी लेकर लाइन में लगा है, तो कोई भूखा-प्यासा लाइन में इस आस से लगा है क घंटे-दो घंटे में सिलिंडर लेकर ही घर जाएगा। मगर सुबह से दोपहर हो गई, कई लोगों को अब भी सिलिंडर नहीं मिला। बस कतार और लंबी होती जा रही है।

सेक्टर-73 स्थित गैस गोदाम, सर्फाबाद, सेक्टर 54 गोदाम, सेक्टर 22, 23 गैस एजेंसी, बहलोलपुर, होशियारपुर और निठारी समेत जहां भी नजर डालिए, सभी सेक्टरों की गैस एजेंसियों और गोदामों के बाहर करीब-करीब एक जैसी तस्वीर ही नजर आएगी। उधर, स्थिति सामान्य होने के प्रशासन के दावे धरातल पर नदारद हैं।

प्रशासन का दावा है कि गैस गोदामों और एजेंसियों पर पर्याप्त मात्रा में सिलिंडर हैं, लेकिन जमीनी हकीकत इससे बेहद अलग है। सिलिंडर के लिए रोजाना लंबी



सेक्टर-57 के पास कार में गैस सिलिंडर रखते ट्रैफिक पुलिसकर्मी। संवाद

कतारें लग रहीं हैं। बावजूद सिलिंडर न मिलने से लोग परेशान हो रहे हैं। सेक्टर-23 के रहने वाले रोहिताश सेंगर बताते हैं कि बीते तीन दिनों से वे सिलिंडर के लिए लाइन में लग रहे हैं।

वहीं बहलोलपुर के निवासी रवि व्यास ने बताया कि गैस खत्म होने के कारण ढाबे पर भोजन करना पड़ रहा है। कई लोगों ने बताया कि बीते दो-तीन दिन से लगातार चक्कर लगा रहे हैं, लेकिन उन्हें

खाली हाथ लौटना पड़ रहा है। ऐसे में नए उपभोक्ताओं के साथ पुराने लोग भी लाइन में जुड़ रहे हैं, जिससे भीड़ और बढ़ती जा रही है। वहीं, कई जगहों पर लोगों की कर्मचारियों से नोकझोंक भी हो गई। सेक्टर-73 स्थित गोदाम पर सुबह के समय अव्यवस्था को लेकर लोगों में नाराजगी दिखी।



सेक्टर-5 में सिलिंडर लेने के लिए लगी लाइन। संवाद

## पीएनजी का नया कनेक्शन 24 घंटे के अंदर मिलेगा, पाइपलाइन बिछाने के लिए तमाम मंजूरीयों की जरूरत नहीं

### सवेरा न्यूज/शीतल विज

नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च : पश्चिम एशिया संकट के मद्देनजर सरकार ने पाइप के माध्यम से रसोई गैस का पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने वालों के लिए प्रोत्साहन योजना शुरू करने के साथ-साथ नए आवेदनों को 24 घंटे में मंजूरी देने का निर्णय लिया है।

उपभोक्ताओं को रसोई गैस सिलेंडर आसानी से उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सरकार जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी के खिलाफ व्यापक अभियान चला रही है। इसके तहत पिछले कुछ दिनों में देश भर में लगभग 12,000 छापे मारे गए हैं और लगभग 15,000 सिलेंडर जब्त किए

एलपीजी जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी के खिलाफ देशभर में लगभग 12,000 छापे मारे गए

गए हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में 10 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। इसके अलावा घरेलू एलपीजी का उत्पादन भी 38 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया है।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने पश्चिम एशिया के संकट से उत्पन्न स्थिति की जानकारी देने के लिए बुलाए गए संवाददाता सम्मेलन में मंगलवार को बताया कि केन्द्र सरकार वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी में स्थानांतरित करने ● शेष पृष्ठ 4 पर



## पीएनजी का नया कनेक्शन...

की कोशिश कर रही है। केन्द्र ने राज्य सरकारों को पत्र लिखकर उनसे अनुरोध किया है कि पीएनजी की नई पाइपलाइन बिछाने के लिए सभी अनुमतियां स्वीकृति मानी जाएं और स्थानीय प्राधिकरण द्वारा लगाए जाने वाले सड़क पुनर्स्थापन और अनुमति शुल्क को माफ किया जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि इस दिशा में जीएल अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया पहले ही सभी सीजीडी कंपनियों के साथ बैठक कर चुकी है।

इसके अलावा, पीएनजी आरबीआई ने भी एक परामर्श जारी किया है। शर्मा ने कहा, हमारी सीजीडी कंपनियां जैसे आईजीएल, एमजीएल, जीएल इंडिया और बीपीसीएल ने उन कंपनियों के लिए विभिन्न प्रोत्साहन घोषित किए हैं जो पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेना चाहती हैं। इसी प्रकार, भारत सरकार ने सभी राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को पत्र लिखा है। उनसे अनुरोध किया गया है कि पाइपलाइन बिछाने की सभी अनुमतियों को स्वीकृत माना जाए।

परेशानी

मध्य पूर्व तनाव के चलते सप्लाई पर पड़ सकता है असर

## होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में 3 लाख टन एलपीजी फंसी

नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च (एजेंसियां)। पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के कारण करीब 3 लाख मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी (एलपीजी) इस समय होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में फंसी हुई है। यह जानकारी पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने मंगलवार को दी। विशेष सचिव ने बताया कि महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री मार्ग में मौजूदा हालात के कारण एलपीजी लेकर जा रहे कई जहाज आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रहे हैं।

उनके अनुसार, इस समय 6 जहाज होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में फंसे हुए हैं, और हर जहाज में करीब 45,000 मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी भरी हुई है। इस तरह कुल मिलाकर करीब 3 लाख मीट्रिक टन ईंधन अपनी मंजिल तक नहीं पहुंच पाया है, जिससे सप्लाई पर असर पड़ सकता है। होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य दुनिया के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री मार्गों में से एक है, जो पश्चिम गल्फ (फारस की खाड़ी) को अरब सागर से जोड़ता है। इस रास्ते में किसी भी तरह की बाधा आने से



### 6 जहाज होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य में फंसे

वैश्विक ऊर्जा व्यापार और सप्लाई चेन पर सीधा असर पड़ता है। एक दिन पहले सोमवार को पहला भारतीय टैंकर 'शिवालिक' भी गुजरात के मुंद्रा

### 'नंदा देवी' टैंकर वडीनार पोर्ट पहुंचा

इस बीच, भारत के लिए राहत की खबर भी आई है। भारतीय झंडे वाला दूसरा एलपीजी टैंकर 'नंदा देवी' मंगलवार को गुजरात के वडीनार पोर्ट पहुंच गया।

पोर्ट पर पहुंचा था। अधिकारियों के अनुसार, शिवालिक करीब 46,000 मीट्रिक टन एलपीजी लेकर आया, जिसमें से 20,000 टन मुंद्रा में उतारा जाएगा और बाकी 26,000 टन मंगलुरु में उतारा जाएगा। ये दोनों जहाज होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से बेहद जोखिम भरे रास्ते को पार करके

भारत पहुंचे हैं, जहां ईरान, अमेरिका और इजरायल के बीच चल रहे तनाव के कारण समुद्री यातायात प्रभावित हो रहा है। हालांकि, अभी भी एक और जहाज 'जग लाडको', जो यूएई से करीब 81,000 टन कच्चा तेल लेकर आ रहा है, भारत की ओर रास्ते में है।

## पीएनजी का नया कनेक्शन 24 घंटे के अंदर मिलेगा



नई दिल्ली।  
पश्चिम एशिया  
संकट के

मद्देनजर सरकार ने पाइप  
के माध्यम से रसोई गैस का  
पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने  
वालों के लिए प्रोत्साहन  
योजना शुरू करने के साथ-  
साथ नए आवेदनों को 24  
घंटे में मंजूरी देने का निर्णय  
लिया है। उपभोक्ताओं को  
रसोई गैस सिलेंडर आसानी  
से उपलब्ध कराने के लिए  
सरकार जमाखोरी और  
कालाबाजारी के खिलाफ  
व्यापक अभियान चला रही है।

# एलपीजी खपत में मार्च में 17 प्रतिशत गिरावट, युद्ध के कारण आपूर्ति बाधित

एजेंसी ■ नई दिल्ली

पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के कारण आपूर्ति बाधित होने से देश में रूसी गैस (एलपीजी) की खपत मार्च के पहले पखवाड़े में 17.7 प्रतिशत घट गई। प्रारंभिक उद्योग आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी मिली है। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, मार्च के पहले पंद्रह दिन में एलपीजी खपत घटकर 11.47 लाख टन रह गई जो पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि के 13.87 लाख टन के मुकाबले 17.3 प्रतिशत कम है। यह फरवरी के पहले पखवाड़े की 15.57 लाख टन मांग से 26.3 प्रतिशत कम है। भारत अपनी एलपीजी आवश्यकता का लगभग 60 प्रतिशत आयात करता है जिसमें से अधिकतर होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के रस्ते आता है। अमेरिका तथा इजराइल द्वारा इंगन पर हमले और तेहरान की जवाबी



कारवाई के बाद यह मार्ग बाधित हो गया है। सऊदी अरब और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात से आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने के कारण सरकार ने घरेलू रूसी गैस की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए होटल जैसे वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठानों और उद्योगों को एलपीजी आपूर्ति में कटौती की है। सार्वजनिक

क्षेत्र की तीन तेल विपणन कंपनियों के प्रारंभिक बिक्री आंकड़ों के अनुसार एक से 15 मार्च के दौरान एलपीजी खपत 2024 की समान अवधि की तुलना में 16 प्रतिशत और 2023 की समान अवधि की तुलना में 10.6 प्रतिशत कम रही। इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड, हिंदुस्तान

पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड और भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड की बाजार में करीब 90 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी है। एलपीजी खपत में पिछले कुछ वर्षों में सालाना आधार पर तीन से चार प्रतिशत की स्थिर वृद्धि देखी गई थी, जिसका कारण सरकार द्वारा लकड़ी एवं अन्य प्रदूषणकारी

ईंधनों के स्थान पर स्वच्छ ईंधन को बढ़ावा देना है। युद्ध के कारण खाड़ी देशों में हवाई क्षेत्र बंद होने और उड़ानों के निलंबन से विमान ईंधन (एटीएफ) की खपत भी प्रभावित हुई है। मार्च के पहले पखवाड़े में यह चार प्रतिशत घटकर 3,27,900 टन रह गई जो पिछले वर्ष की समान अवधि की तुलना में कम है। वहीं मासिक आधार पर इसमें 12.3 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्ज की गई। इन दो युद्ध-प्रभावित ईंधनों के अलावा पेट्रोल और डीजल की मांग में अच्छी वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। पेट्रोल की बिक्री 13.2 प्रतिशत बढ़कर लगभग 15 लाख टन हो गई जबकि डीजल की खपत 8.2 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 33.84 लाख टन रही। मासिक आधार पर पेट्रोल की खपत में 11.2 प्रतिशत और डीजल की बिक्री में 7.7 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।



## **घरेलू एलपीजी उत्पादन बढ़ाने से घरों में आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित होगी**

नई दिल्ली। वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने मंगलवार को कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया संकट के बीच घरों में रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने को लेकर एलपीजी का घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा रहा है।

सीतारमण ने राज्यसभा में अनुदान संबंधी पूरक मांगों के दूसरे बैच पर चर्चा का जवाब देते हुए यह भी कहा कि देश में खरीफ फसल के लिए पर्याप्त उर्वरक उपलब्ध है और अगली रबी फसल के लिए पोषक तत्वों की खरीद को लेकर वैश्विक बोली प्रक्रिया जल्द ही शुरू होगी।

## एलपीजी सिलेंडर संकट में मुख्यमंत्री ममता हस्तक्षेप करें : दार्जिलिंग चाय संघ

वैभव न्यूज़ ■ कोलकाता

दार्जिलिंग चाय संघ ने पश्चिम बंगाल की मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी को पत्र लिखकर उनसे औद्योगिक एलपीजी संकट के मामले में तत्काल हस्तक्षेप करने का अनुरोध किया है ताकि उस समस्या का समाधान किया जा सके। चाय संघ ने कहा कि एलपीजी की किल्लत से दार्जिलिंग की पहाड़ियों में स्थित चाय बागानों का संचालन ठप होने की आशंका पैदा हो गई है। चाय संघ ने 17 मार्च को लिखे एक पत्र आगाह किया कि दार्जिलिंग में चाय बागान कारखानों को एलपीजी की गंभीर कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जिससे 55,000 श्रमिकों और उनके परिवारों को रोजगार देने वाले चाय बागानों का परिचालन ठप होने की आशंका पैदा हो गई है। यह संकट पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के पांच मार्च के उस आदेश से



उत्पन्न हुआ है जिसमें सभी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों (ओएमसी) को एलपीजी की आपूर्ति केवल घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं और प्राथमिकता सूची में शामिल लोगों को करने का निर्देश दिया गया है। पत्र में कहा गया कि दार्जिलिंग चाय उद्योग पूरी तरह से औद्योगिक एलपीजी पर निर्भर है लेकिन

प्राथमिकता सूची से बाहर है। इसमें कहा गया, तीन महीने के लंबे अंतराल के बाद दार्जिलिंग चाय उद्योग ने अभी-अभी अपनी पहली फसल की चाय का उत्पादन शुरू किया है, जिसका निर्यात किया जाता है और यह उच्च गुणवत्ता की है तथा इससे राजस्व प्राप्त होता है। यदि एलपीजी की कमी को तत्काल दूर नहीं किया गया, तो यह उद्योग के लिए विनाशकारी साबित होगा। चाय संघ ने कहा कि जब उसने अधिकतर चाय बागानों को एलपीजी की आपूर्ति करने वाली कंपनी एचपीसीएल (हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड) से संपर्क किया, तो उसने बताया कि चाय बागानों को गैस की आपूर्ति का निर्णय लेने का अधिकार पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार के खाद्य और नागरिक आपूर्ति विभाग के पास है, और फिलहाल यह उद्योग प्राथमिकता सूची में नहीं है।

# असर • मार्च के पहले पखवाड़े में ईंधन की खपत के आंकड़े LPG की खपत 17% घटी; पेट्रोल 13% और डीजल 8% ज्यादा बिका

भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

एलपीजी किल्लत का असर मार्च के पहले पखवाड़े में साफ दिखा। 90% मार्केट शेयर वाली 3 सरकारी कंपनियों के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, पिछले साल की तुलना में एलपीजी खपत करीब 17.7% गिरी। मार्च की इस अवधि में खपत 1.147 मिलियन टन रही, जबकि पिछले साल इसी समय में ये 1.387 मिलियन टन थी। गत फरवरी के पहले पखवाड़े की तुलना में मार्च में 26.3% कम खपत रही।

दूसरी तरफ, पेट्रोल-डीजल की मांग में वृद्धि दर्ज हुई। पेट्रोल की बिक्री 13.2% बढ़कर 1.5 मिलियन टन और डीजल की बिक्री 8.2% बढ़कर 3.384 मिलियन टन रही। माह दर माह आधार पर पेट्रोल 11.2% और डीजल 7.7% ज्यादा बिका। इसी बीच, एलपीजी से लदा दूसरा टैंकर 'नंदा देवी' होर्मुज से निकलकर मंगलवार सुबह गुजरात के कांडला बंदरगाह पहुंच गया।

## इधर सख्ती... एलपीजी सप्लाई पर सरकार की नजर, 12 हजार छापे; पीएनजी को बढ़ावा

- केंद्र सरकार ने कहा कि घरेलू एलपीजी की कमी नहीं है। सप्लाई सामान्य है। कालाबाजारी और जमाखोरी पर सख्त कार्रवाई जारी है।
- देशभर में अब तक 12 हजार से ज्यादा छापे मारे गए। 15 हजार से अधिक सिलेंडर जब्त किए हैं। राज्यों को आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत सख्ती के निर्देश दिए हैं।
- एलपीजी सप्लाई पर दबाव कम करने के लिए शहरी क्षेत्रों में होटल,

- रेस्टोरेंट और अन्य कमर्शियल उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है।
- राज्यों को सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन पाइपलाइन बिछाने की मंजूरी प्रक्रिया तेज करने को कहा है।
- डिजिटल सिस्टम को मजबूत करते हुए एलपीजी की ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बढ़कर करीब 94% तक पहुंच गई है। रिफाइनरियों से एलपीजी उत्पादन में 38% की बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

## होर्मुज में अभी 22 जहाज, 611 नाविक और फंसे हैं

केंद्र सरकार के अनुसार, 611 नाविकों के साथ भारतीय ध्वज वाले 22 जहाज पश्चिमी खाड़ी में हैं। इनमें 6 एलपीजी कैरियर, 1 एलएनजी टैंकर, 4 कच्चा तेल टैंकर भी शामिल हैं।

## ई-केवाईसी सिर्फ उनके लिए जरूरी, जिन्होंने करवाई नहीं

सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि ई-केवाईसी सिर्फ उनहीं एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं के लिए जरूरी है, जिन्होंने अभी नहीं करवाया। पहले से करवा चुके उपभोक्ताओं को दोबारा करवाने

18 March 2026

# युद्ध का पीएनजी सप्लाई पर फिलहाल असर नहीं

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। ईरान युद्ध ने भारत के एलपीजी बाजार को हिलाकर रख दिया है, लेकिन अब नजरें देश के तेजी से बढ़ते पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) नेटवर्क पर हैं। जानकारों की माने तो तत्काल पीएनजी सप्लाई पर असर नहीं है लेकिन दुनियाभर के झटकों से यह प्रभावित जरूर हो सकता है। अगर संकट बरकरार रहा तो कीमतें बढ़ सकती हैं।

भारत में अब 1.5 करोड़ से अधिक पीएनजी कनेक्शन हैं, और शहरी घरों को सिलेंडरों के बजाय पाइप वाली गैस अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है। साथ ही, सीएनजी अब पेट्रोल के बाद भारत का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा वाहन ईंधन बन चुका है। देश में

■ अगर संकट बरकरार रहा तो कीमतें बढ़ने की है संभावना

पीएनजी की तत्काल कमी नहीं होगी। भारत की पाइपड गैस की आपूर्ति घरेलू उत्पादन और आयातित एलएनजी का मिश्रण है। लगभग आधी आपूर्ति घरेलू क्षेत्रों (जैसे ओएनजीसी और रिलायंस) से आती है, जबकि बाकी आयात पर निर्भर है। अधिकारियों के अनुसार घरों और वाहनों के लिए किसी व्यवधान की उम्मीद नहीं है क्योंकि सरकार ने इन दो क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता दी है। हाल के सालों में, एलएनजी ने देश में उपलब्ध कुल गैस का लगभग आधा हिस्सा सप्लाई किया है।

# PNG प्रोजेक्ट्स को मंजूरी देने में तेजी लाएं राज्य: केंद्र सरकार

## युद्ध के कारण भारत की लगभग 60% LPG सप्लाई प्रभावित हुई है

■ पीटीआई, नई दिल्ली

देशभर में एलपीजी संकट के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने राज्यों से कहा है कि पाइपलाइन गैस प्रोजेक्ट्स को जल्दी मंजूरी दी जाए, ताकि उन्हें तेजी से लागू किया जा सके और कुकिंग गैस पर दबाव कम हो।

पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे युद्ध के कारण भारत की लगभग 60% एलपीजी आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है। ऐसे में सरकार अब इंडवशन कुकर जैसे वैकल्पिक साधनों के उपयोग को बढ़ावा दे रही है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि स्थिति चिंताजनक नहीं हुई है, लेकिन हम फॉरेन उपभोक्ताओं को पहले की तरह सप्लाई दे रहे हैं। यह संभव हुआ क्योंकि रिप्लेनमेंटों को

5 मार्च के मुकाबले LPG बढ़ाने के लिए का फॉरेन प्रथमिकता से घरेलू उत्पादन के लिए इस्तेमाल किया गया। होटलों

और रेस्तरां जैसे व्यावसायिक उपयोग के लिए एलपीजी की आपूर्ति पहले घटाई गई थी, जिसे बाद में सामान्य स्तर के पांचवें हिस्से तक बहाल किया गया।

उन्होंने कहा कि हमें विकल्पों की ओर देखना होगा। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 13 मार्च को एलपीजी सिलिंडर की श्रद्धाहट में बुकिंग 87.7 लाख तक पहुंच गई थी, लेकिन अब इसमें कमी आई है। सोमवार को लगभग 70 लाख बुकिंग हुई, जबकि युद्ध से पहले यह संख्या लगभग 55 लाख थी। दिलीवरी भी जारी रही। 13 मार्च को 62.5 लाख सिलिंडर और 14 मार्च को 60 लाख सिलिंडर दिलीवर किए गए, जबकि पहले यह संख्या लगभग 50 लाख थी।

सुजाता शर्मा ने बताया कि पर्याप्त सप्लाई होने के बावजूद लोग घबराकर बुकिंग कर रहे हैं। साथ ही, 5 मार्च के मुकाबले एलपीजी का फॉरेन उत्पादन 38% बढ़ गया है। दबाव कम करने के लिए सरकार लोगों को पाइपलाइन गैस (PNG) अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रही है। सिटी गैस कंपनियों इसके लिए प्रोत्साहन और तेज कनेक्शन दे रही हैं।

<b>12,000+</b> छापेमारी, 15,000 से ज्यादा LPG सिलिंडर जबकि जगाखोरी और ब्लैक मार्केटिंग पर सख्त कार्रवाई	CGD पाइपलाइन के लिए राज्यों/UTs को मंजूरी लेने को कहा। शहरी कमर्शियल यूजर्स को PNG अपनाने की सलाह	<b>इंडरिस्ट्रियल और कमर्शियल सेक्टर को 80% गैस सप्लाई</b>	कई राज्यों में कमर्शियल LPG सप्लाई शुरू	कई राज्यों में कमर्शियल LPG सप्लाई शुरू
ऑनलाइन LPG बुकिंग 94% तक पहुंची				



### LPG लदा भारत का दूसरा जहाज पहुंचा गुजरात

- भारत का दूसरा एलपीजी लदा जहाज नदा टोवी मालकर को वाईनार बंदरगाह सुरक्षित पहुंच गया।
- यह जहाज होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य पर कर 46,500 मीट्रिक टन गैस लेकर आया है।
- शुरू से पहले जहाज शिवालिक सोमवार को एलपीजी लेकर मुदा बंदरगाह पहुंचा था।

## LPG संकट से निपटने को उठा रहे कदम: केंद्र

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, मुंबई

केंद्र सरकार ने बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट की नामूर बेंच को सूचित किया है कि एलपीजी सिलिंडर संकट से निपटने के लिए सुधार के कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, ताकि इंधन-इलाहल युद्ध के कारण भारत में सिलिंडर सप्लाई पर असर न पड़े।

सिलिंडर जनरल तुषार मेहता ने कहा कि सरकार एलपीजी सिलिंडर के मुद्दे के समाधान के लिए पूरी कोशिश कर रही है। इसके लिए हरसंभव कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। सरकार पर भरोसा रखा जाए। नागरिकों को भलाई के लिए कोशिशें जारी हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि इस मामले में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर उठाए जा रहे कदमों के जानबूझकर खुलासा नहीं किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने जस्टिस अनिल किलोर की बेंच से मामले को लेकर दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई बंद करने का आग्रह किया।



बेंगलुरु में भी LPG सिलिंडर को लेकर नागरिकी गयी हुई है।

कोर्ट में नामूर में एलपीजी सिलिंडर डीलर की ओर से याचिका दायर की गई थी, जिसमें दावा किया गया था कि एलपीजी की डोमेस्टिक सप्लाई को प्राथमिकता नहीं दी जा रही है। मिडिली सुनवाई के दौरान कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया था। नोटिस के बाद सरकार ने याचिका के जवाब में हलफनामा दायर किया।

### पेंडिंग हो eKYC, आधार बायोमेट्रिक तभी जरूरी: सरकार

■ नई दिल्ली: सरकार ने मंगलवार को स्पष्ट किया कि आधार का बायोमेट्रिक प्रमाणिकरण केवल उन एलपीजी उपभोक्ताओं के लिए आवश्यक है जिन्होंने अभी तक अपना eKYC पूरा नहीं किया है। यह स्पष्टिकरण उन मीडिया रिपोर्ट्स के बाद आया, जिनमें कहा गया था कि गैस सप्लाई में रुकावट के

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बायोमेट्रिक आधार प्रमाणिकरण का निर्देश नहीं है।

बीच एलपीजी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स ने सिलिंडर रिफिल के लिए आधार बायोमेट्रिक अनिवार्य कर दिया है। मंत्रालय ने हाल ही में सोशल मीडिया पर बताया कि उपभोक्ता घर बैठे ही ऑनलाइन बुकिंग कंपनियों के मेबरान ऐप और अपने स्पॉन्सरेड में Aadhaar FaceID के जरिए eKYC पूरा कर सकते हैं।

## एलपीजी जहाज नंदा देवी पहुंचा गुजरात बंदरगाह

### विशेष प्रतिनिधि

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय ध्वज वाला दूसरा एलपीजी टैंकर युद्धग्रस्त होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से सुरक्षित निकलने के बाद मंगलवार तड़के स्वदेश पहुंच गया।

युद्ध क्षेत्र में फंसे अन्य 22 भारतीय जहाजों को सुरक्षित लाने के प्रयास जारी है। बंदरगाह, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने बताया कि एलपीजी टैंकर नंदा देवी, मंगलवार तड़के लगभग 2:30 बजे गुजरात के कांडला बंदरगाह पर पहुंचा। सोमवार को पहला जहाज, शिवालिक गुजरात के मुंदड़ा बंदरगाह पर पहुंचा था। दोनों जहाज पर लगभग 92,712 टन एलपीजी है। यह देश में एक दिन की खाना पकाने की गैस की आवश्यकता के बराबर है। सिन्हा ने यहां संवाददाताओं से कहा, दोनों जहाजों ने एलपीजी उतारना शुरू कर दिया है। इस समय, नंदा देवी मुख्य जहाज से अपने छोटे जहाजों में एलपीजी स्थानांतरित कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि फारस की खाड़ी क्षेत्र में सभी भारतीय नाविक सुरक्षित है और पिछले 24 घंटों में भारतीय जहाजों से जुड़ी कोई



**ईरान के सुरक्षा अधिकारी अली लारीजानी की मौत : इजराइल** यरूशलम, (एपी)। इजराइल के रक्षा मंत्री ने मंगलवार को दावा किया कि उनकी सेना ने रात भर किए गए हमले में ईरान के शीर्ष सुरक्षा अधिकारी अली लारीजानी को मार गिराया है। इजराइल काट्ज ने हमले में लारीजानी की मौत का दावा किया। इजराइली सेना ने यह भी दावा किया कि उसने रिवॉल्यूशनरी गार्ड के स्वयंसेवी बासिज बल के प्रमुख गुलाम रजा सुलेमानी को भी मार गिराया है। इससे पहले, 28 फरवरी को हुए हमले में ईरान के 86 वर्षीय सर्वोच्च नेता अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई की मौत हो गई थी।

भी घटना नहीं हुई है। एलपीजी लाने वाले दोनों जहाजों ने 13 मार्च को अपनी यात्रा शुरू की और 14 मार्च की सुबह होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य को पार किया था। इसके साथ ही युद्ध क्षेत्र से सुरक्षित रूप से गुजरने वाले भारतीय झंडे वाले जहाजों की संख्या चार हो गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्तमान में खाड़ी क्षेत्र में 611 नाविकों को ले जा रहे 22 भारतीय ध्वज वाले

जहाज मौजूद हैं। पोत परिवहन महानिदेशालय जहाज मालिकों, एजेंसियों और भारतीय दूतावासों के साथ मिलकर संचालन पर करीबी नजर रख रहा है। फारस की खाड़ी को खुले महासागर से जोड़ने वाला संकरा जलमार्ग, होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य ईरान पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के हमले के बाद प्रभावी रूप से बंद हो गया है।

# बुकिंग से लेकर LPG डिलिवरी तक परेशानी बरकरार गैस सिलिंडर मिल नहीं रहे, हेल्पलाइन नंबर भी हैं बंद

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, गुडगांव

जिला प्रशासन चाहे लाख चाहे करे, लेकिन अभी हालात सुधर नहीं रहे हैं। बुकिंग से लेकर गैस डिलिवरी तक में लोगों को परेशानी हो रही है। 25 दिन बाद भी बुकिंग नहीं हो रही है। लोगों की सुविधा के लिए फूड एंड सप्लाय विभाग की ओर से जारी हेल्पलाइन नंबर भी लोगों की पहुँच से दूर है। तीनों हेल्पलाइन नंबर मिन ही नहीं रहे हैं। एक नंबर पर रिंग जाकर डिस्कनेक्ट हो रहा है, वहीं दो पर रिंग तक नहीं जा रही है। विभाग का भी कहना है कि इस बारे में शिकायतें आई हैं।

**दावा: हर दिन डिलिवर हो रहे 50 हजार सिलिंडर**

जिलेभर में डेटन, एचपी और भारत गैस की 52 एजेंसी हैं। हर दिन इन एजेंसी से 45 से 50 हजार गैस सिलिंडर की डिलिवरी हो रही है। जिलेभर में तीनों एजेंसियों के साढ़े पाँच लाख से अधिक कनेक्शन हैं। ऐसे भी हजारों लोग हैं, जिनके पास कनेक्शन नहीं है। इस दिन से कमर्शियल गैस की डिलिवरी पूरी तरह बंद होने के कारण ही फरेलू गैस की सप्लाय भी प्रभावित हुई है। डेटन, टाबों और सेलार्स पर फरेलू गैस का चौरी-चिपे प्रयोग होने लगा है। ब्लैक में गैस बेचने वाले छोटे सिलिंडर लेकर उनकी गैस कमर्शियल में भर रहे हैं। दो दिन पहले डीसी ने इस बारे में डिस्ट्रिक्ट फूड एंड सप्लाय विभाग के अधिकारियों को हर दिन की मॉनिटरिंग करने के अलावा बुकिंग व डिलिवरी की रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के आदेश दिए हैं।

**ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बंद, बढ़ी परेशानी**

पटेल नगर निवासी मीनू अरोड़ा ने बताया कि गैस सिकट में एक ओर तो एजेंसियों की ओर से हेल्पलाइन नंबर दिए गए हैं, लेकिन कोई नंबर मिल नहीं रहा है। कई बार इन नंबरों पर दायर कर चुके हैं। सिलिल लाईंस निवासी दीपक सिंगला ने बताया कि हेल्पलाइन नंबर पर कॉल नहीं मिल रहा है। एजेंसी संचालक फोन त्वा नहीं रहे हैं, जबकि ऑनलाइन बुकिंग बंद है। उनके पर एक महीने पहले सिलिंडर आया था। मामले में डिस्ट्रिक्ट फूड एंड सप्लाय ऑफिसर अशोक रावत ने बताया कि हेल्पलाइन नंबरों पर कॉल न मिलने की शिकायतें मिली हैं। इसे लेकर कॉर्पोरेशन के अधिकारियों को अवगत करवाया गया है।



सोहना रोड स्थित सेटल पार्क फ्लायर केली सेसायटी में की गई है पहल

## अच्छी शुरुआत

- 10 किलो के कॉर्पोरेट सिलिंडर मिल रहे
- कोई अतिरिक्त शुल्क नहीं देना होगा
- इल्का, जग से मुक्त, पारदर्शी सिलिंडर
- बाहर से देख सकते हैं किलो गैस बाकी
- डिजिटल पेमेंट होते ही मशीन देगी भरा हुआ सिलिंडर
- 25 दिन का वॉटिंग सिस्टम लागू नहीं
- 24 घंटे चालू रहेगी मशीन, इंतजार नहीं करना होगा

## हरियाणा में पहली बार रसोई गैस के लिए ATM शुरू

■ NBT न्यूज, गुडगांव: गैस सिलिंडर के लिए मछी अमरातापुरी के बीच हरियाणा में गृहमंत्रालय से एक नई शुरुआत की गई है। सोहना रोड स्थित सेटल पार्क फ्लायर केली सेसायटी में भारत गैस का फरेलूजी एटीएम शुरू हुआ है, जिसे हरियाणा का पहला और देश की गिनी-गुनी मशीनों में से एक बताया जा रहा है। अब लोगों को सिलिंडर के लिए डिलिवरी का इंतजार नहीं करना पड़ेगा। मशीन 24 घंटे चालू रहेगी। इसका इस्तेमाल वहीं लोग कर सकते हैं, जो भारत गैस से रजिस्टर्ड हैं। रैथ कनेक्शन होने जरूरी है। कानून का कहना है कि यह सुविधा अभी भी जारी रहेगी। बताया गया कि इस मशीन से 10 किलो का कॉर्पोरेट सिलिंडर मिलाता है, जिसकी सीमावर्त गैस के रेट के अनुपात ही रहेगी है। इसके अलावा कोई अतिरिक्त शुल्क नहीं लिया जात। यह सिलिंडर इल्का, जग से मुक्त और पारदर्शी है, जिससे गैस का स्तर देखा जा सकता है।



### सुविधा सिर्फ रिफिल एक्सचेंज के लिए

इस मशीन से 10 किलो के कॉर्पोरेट सिलिंडर मिल रहे हैं। यह सुविधा सिर्फ रिफिल एक्सचेंज के लिए है, यानी खाली सिलिंडर देकर भरा हुआ लिया जा सकता है। नए कनेक्शन की सुविधा इसमें नहीं है। यह सिस्टम सफल रहा है तो गृहमंत्रालय को अन्य सेसायटियों में भी इसे लागू किया जा सकता है।

### OTP के बाद स्कैन करना होगा QR कोड

शाहक को मशीन पर अपना रजिस्टर्ड मोबाइल नंबर दर्ज करना होगा। मोबाइल पर आए ओटीपी से पहचान पक्की की जाती है, फिर खाली सिलिंडर का क्यूआर कोड स्कैन होता है। सिस्टम उसकी जांच करता है। डिजिटल पेमेंट होते ही मशीन भरा सिलिंडर दे देती है।

### वही लोग सिलिंडर ले सकेंगे, जिनके पास कनेक्शन

सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि यहां 25 दिन का वॉटिंग सिस्टम लागू नहीं होगा। मशीन 24 घंटे चालू रहेगी है और दो से तीन मिनट में सिलिंडर मिल जाता है। फिलहाल मशीन पर वही लोग सिलिंडर ले सकते हैं, जिनसे भारत गैस का कॉर्पोरेट सिलिंडर कनेक्शन लिया हुआ है और रजिस्ट्रेशन कराया है।

## कामगार लोगों के लिए RWA ने की पहल, मुफ्त दिए सिलिंडर

■ NBT न्यूज, गुडगांव: शाह न गैस सिलिंडरों की किल्ला के बीच सेसायटियों की आरडब्ल्यू अर्थिक वर्गों को मदद के लिए आगे आ रही है। खासकर कामगार, रबीयर और धरती सहायकों के लिए कई सेसायटियां अपने स्तर पर सिलिंडर की व्यवस्था कर रही हैं, बाकि उनके घरों की रकबें बंद न हो और परिवारों को भोजन मिल सके। आरडब्ल्यू ने अपने यहां काम करने वाले अर्थिकों को निशुल्क सिलिंडर देने की पहल की है। सेक्टर-8 स्थित प्रिंसटन फ्लोर सोसायटी में भी यह पहल की गई है। यहां आरडब्ल्यू और रजिडेंट्स मिलकर स्वीपर व हेल्परों को खाल की है।

प्रती सिलिंडर देकर उनको मदद कर रहे हैं। सोसायटी के लोगों का कहना है कि हमारी सोटी से मदद अगर किसी के घर का फूला जल सकती है, तो हम यह जरूर करेंगे। उन्होंने अन्य सेसायटियों से भी आगे आकर जखबतियों की मदद करने की अपील की है। आरडब्ल्यू अध्यक्ष अनित मेरवागी ने बताया कि यह फैसला समूह की साहमति से लिया गया है और जब तक समाव होगा, हम इन लोगों की मदद करते रहेंगे।



# सोसायटी में PNG सप्लाई शुरू कराने की मांग

■ NBT न्यूज, गुड़गांव

सेक्टर-92 स्थित राइजिंग होम्स सोसायटी में गैस संकट ने लोगों की परेशानी बढ़ा दी है। खासकर किराए पर रहने वाले परिवार ज्यादा दिक्कत झेल रहे हैं। हालात ऐसे हैं कि कुछ जगहों पर सिलेंडर 4 से 5 हजार रुपये तक मिल रहा है, जिससे आम लोगों का बजट बिगड़ गया है।

सोसायटी में करीब डेढ़ साल पहले ही पाइपट गैस के लिए पूरा नेटवर्क बिछा दिया गया था और मीटर भी लग चुके हैं, लेकिन अब तक सप्लाई शुरू नहीं हो पाई है। करीब 3000 फ्लैटों वाली इस सोसायटी में 1500 से ज्यादा परिवार रह रहे हैं, जो लंबे समय से पाइपट गैस का इंतजार कर रहे हैं। आरडब्ल्यू अध्यक्ष प्रवीण मलिक ने

राइजिंग होम्स सोसायटी में मीटर तक लग गए लेकिन गैस सप्लाई नहीं हुई है शुरू

कहा कि गैस की किल्लत बढ़ने के बाद किरायेदारों की परेशानी सामने आई। अधिकतर किरायेदारों के पास स्थायी गैस कनेक्शन नहीं होता और वे जरूरत के अनुसार सिलिंडर लेते हैं, लेकिन अब उन्हें आधिकारिक तौर पर सिलिंडर नहीं मिल पा रहे हैं। मजबूरी में उन्हें महंगे दाम पर सिलिंडर खरीदना पड़ रहा है। समाधान की मांग की है।

**एचसीजी अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक** : इसी समस्या को लेकर आरडब्ल्यू ने हरियाणा सिटी गैस (HCG) के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक की और स्थिति की गंभीरता बताई। कंपनी ने आश्वासन दिया है कि अटके हुए मामलों पर तेजी से काम शुरू कर दिया गया है और अप्रैल के मध्य तक गैस सप्लाई शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।