

## LPG boost for hotels, canteens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The Union Government on Saturday increased the allocation of commercial LPG by an additional 20 per cent bringing up the total allocation to 50 per cent. The additional allocation will be subject to commercial establishments registering with Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) and applying for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connection, according to a letter written by the oil secretary to States.

"The additional allocation of 20 per cent shall be given



People wait in a queue for LPG cooking gas cylinders in Noida

PTI

on priority to the following sectors— restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteen, food processing/dairy, subsidised canteens/outlets run by State Governments or local

bodies for food, community kitchens, 5kg FTL for migrant laborers along with measures to ensure no diversion," the letter read.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

## LPG boost for hotels, canteens

Earlier, the Government had offered an additional 10 per cent, subject to states expediting PNG projects.

OMCs are to register such customers and keep a record of the sector they operate in the end-use of LPG and annual weight requirement of LPG of that customer in respective database(s).

The letter further stated that no fuel shortages have been reported at retail outlets, and the public has been advised against panic buying. Natural gas supplies to priority segments, including domestic PNG and CNG transport, are being fully maintained, while industrial consumers are receiving about 80 per cent of their usual supply.

Meanwhile, refiners in India have started contemplating buying Iranian oil after US on Saturday removed sanctions on Iranian oil at sea. Refiners are awaiting Government directions and clarity from Washington on details such as payment terms etc.

On Friday, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent permitted the sale of Iranian oil currently stranded at sea, reversing Washington's longstanding policy. Explaining the move, Bessent said the step is intended to inject additional supply into global markets.

# Commercial LPG allocation hiked to 50% as domestic output improves

The War in the Middle East disrupted energy supplies to India, leading to initial curtailment in LPG supplies to commercial establishments

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The government has approved an additional 20 per cent allocation of commercial LPG to states and Union Territories, taking the total allocation to 50 per cent, as increased domestic output is helping the situation crawl back to normalcy.

The three-week-long war in the Middle East disrupted energy supplies to India, leading to initial curtailment in LPG supplies to commercial establishments like hotels to prioritize supplies to household kitchens.

Later, a fifth of their supplies were restored, and the government offered an additional 10 per cent, subject to states expediting piped gas projects.

On Saturday, the government announced a 20 per cent enhanced allocation to key sectors such as restaurants, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing units, community kitchens and subsidised food outlets, while also supporting migrant workers through targeted distribution.

The additional allocation



Later, a fifth of their supplies were restored, and the government offered an additional 10 per cent, subject to states expediting piped gas projects

will be subject to commercial establishments registering with oil companies and applying for a piped natural gas connection, according to a letter written by the oil secretary to states.

An official statement said domestic LPG supply remains stable, with no reported shortages at distributorships and

normal delivery operations continuing.

Panic bookings have declined, and citizens have been advised to avoid crowding and rely on home delivery.

To ease supply pressures, the government is also promoting a shift towards piped natural gas (PNG), particularly for com-

## Highlights

- » Additional allocation will be subject to commercial establishments registering with oil firms & applying for a piped natural gas connection
- » An official statement said domestic LPG supply remains stable, with no reported shortages at distributorships
- » To ease supply pressures, govt is also promoting shift towards PNG, particularly for commercial establishments

mercial establishments, and has urged states to expedite approvals for city gas distribution networks. In parallel, all refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories, ensuring sufficient availability of petrol and diesel.

No fuel shortages have been reported at retail outlets, and the

public has been advised against panic buying, it said. Natural gas supplies to priority segments, including domestic PNG and CNG transport, are being fully maintained, while industrial consumers are receiving about 80 per cent of their usual supply.

Additional steps include increased domestic LPG production, extended booking intervals, and allocation of extra kerosene supplies to states to provide alternative fuel options.

States and Union Territories have been directed to maintain strict vigilance against hoarding and black marketing, it said, adding more than 3,500 raids have been conducted nationwide, leading to the seizure of around 1,400 LPG cylinders.

Most states have also set up control rooms and district-level monitoring committees to oversee supply and distribution.

In the maritime sector, the government said 22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers remain in the western Persian Gulf region, with no reported incidents in the past 24 hours.



## NDMC fast-tracks PNG expansion amid gas crisis

**ANAMTA FATIMA**

**NEW DELHI:** The New Delhi Municipal Council has initiated a series of measures to accelerate the expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections across its jurisdiction, aiming to ensure cleaner and more accessible fuel for residents and establishments.

The move comes amid disruptions in conventional fuel supply and is expected to promote PNG as a reliable and environmentally friendly alternative. The civic body has granted a three-month waiver on road restoration charges for pipeline-laying works undertaken by Indraprastha Gas Limited, a step intended to reduce procedural delays and encourage faster infrastructure rollout.

According to officials, permissions for road cutting related to PNG pipeline installation will now be issued within 24 hours of receiving complete applications. Departments have been directed to maintain close coordination to ensure seamless execution of projects and minimise inconvenience to the public.

The council has also instructed that all excavation sites be promptly backfilled and restored within a fixed timeframe to prevent traffic disruptions

The council has also instructed that all excavation sites be promptly backfilled and restored within a fixed timeframe to prevent traffic disruptions and safety hazards. Road divisions have been asked to prioritise restoration work to maintain normalcy in affected areas.

The initiative is expected to significantly enhance the pace of PNG connectivity in New Delhi, ensuring wider access to clean energy while reducing dependence on conventional fuels. Officials said the decision reflects a citizen-centric approach, balancing infrastructure development with public convenience and environmental sustainability.

# Raids continue to check hoarding, black marketing of LPG, says Centre

## AGENCIES

New Delhi, 21 March

The government on Saturday said that raids continue to be carried out in many of the states and Union Territories (UTs) to check the hoarding and black marketing of LPG.

More than 3,500 raids have been conducted and around 1,400 cylinders have been seized in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra, etc.

"All the States/UTs governments are requested to conduct regular raids so that black marketing and hoardings can be arrested," said Petroleum Ministry.

PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) officials have conducted surprise inspections at more than 2,000 retail outlets and



LPG distributorships across the country to ensure smooth supplies and to check any hoardings/black marketing cases, it added.

Despite this war situation, the government has given highest priority to domestic LPG and PNG, along with

high priority to hospitals and educational institutions.

"The government has already implemented several rationalisation measures on both the supply and demand side, including enhancing refinery production, increasing the booking interval from 21

**MORE THAN 3,500 RAIDS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED AND AROUND 1,400 CYLINDERS SEIZED IN UTTAR PRADESH, TELANGANA AND MAHARASHTRA, ETC.**

to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural areas and prioritising sectors for supply," it informed.

Alternate fuel options like kerosene and coal have been offered to ease pressure on LPG demand. Additional allocation of 48,000 KL of kerosene, over and above the regular allocation, has been made to all the states/UTs.

States/UTs have been requested to identify locations in districts for distribution of kerosene.

Notably, Ministry of Coal has already issued order to Coal India and Singareni

Coalleries to allot higher quantities to States for distributing coal to small, medium and other consumers.

States have been advised to facilitate the new PNG connections for both domestic and commercial consumers. A proposal for 10 per cent additional allocation of commercial LPG has been made to the States facilitating and expediting the process.

"The government is taking all necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted availability and delivery of LPG cylinders to households; citizens are advised to rely only on official sources and avoid rumours. Citizens are requested to avoid panic bookings, use digital modes for LPG bookings, and refrain from visiting distributorships; home delivery of cylinders is being ensured," said the official statement.

# NDMC waives road restoration charges to fast-track PNG expansion

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

*New Delhi, 21 March*

In view of the prevailing circumstances and in the larger public interest, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has issued a circular to facilitate the speedy expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections within its jurisdiction by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL).

"The decision aims to ensure the expeditious execution of pipeline works so that residents and establishments can receive PNG connections without unnecessary delay," NDMC said in a statement.

As per the directions issued, the road restoration charges applicable for laying IGL

pipelines for PNG connections have been waived for a period of three months from the date of issuance of the circular.

This step has been taken to accelerate the pace of infrastructure development and promote the use of cleaner and more convenient fuel among consumers.

NDMC has further directed that permission for road cutting related to IGL pipeline laying will be granted within 24 hours of receiving a complete request, along with instructions to commence work immediately.

The move is intended to remove procedural delays and ensure smooth coordination between departments.

IGL has been instructed to undertake the work on a priority

basis by deploying adequate manpower and resources, and to ensure that all excavated portions are properly backfilled and secured without delay to avoid inconvenience to the public. The concerned road divisions of NDMC have also been directed to carry out restoration of affected road stretches on priority and within a fixed timeframe, so that disruption to traffic and inconvenience to the general public are minimised.

All officers and officials concerned have been instructed to ensure strict compliance with these directions with immediate effect. The circular has been issued with the prior approval of the competent authority of NDMC.



## Restaurants body flags LPG shortage in States; seeks 'essential' status for industry

**Our Bureau**

New Delhi

The National Restaurant Association of India has flagged concerns about the impact of the shortage of commercial LPG on the industry in many States. It has been pointed out that the industry should be considered among the "essential" sectors for allocation of commercial LPG.

In a social media post on X on Friday, NRAI stated, "We thank the Central Government for its efforts and appreciate the Delhi Government for allowing 42 per cent LPG supply to restaurants. However, restaurants across other States continue to face severe shortages... we urge the Central Government to extend this support across all States and recognise restaurants as essential."

### STATE-LEVEL ISSUES

Sources said that despite directions from the Centre to States to allocate LPG to the restaurant industry, many States have been unable to do so, leading to a severe shortage. Industry bodies have also been engaging with Chief Secretaries of various States to seek respite on the allocation of commercial

**Significant business losses, estimated at 25-30 per cent across India, says Shetty**

LPG, sources added.

Earlier this week, Pradeep Shetty of Hotel and Restaurant Association (Western India) had said that the LPG shortage has led to significant business losses, estimated at 25-30 per cent across India, with widespread operational disruptions including shorter service hours, limited menus, event cancellations... and declining occupancy levels in hotels. The crisis has also led to higher operating costs as businesses attempt to manage limited resources and explore alternative arrangements, he added.

The Association has also written to the Maharashtra government requesting an extension or staggered payment of the Annual Licence Fee in the wake of the ongoing disruption in commercial LPG supply, which has severely impacted the hospitality sector across the State and the country.

# Uptrend continues

**CRUDE CHECK.** Buy crude futures on a dip

**Akhil Nallamuthu**

bl. research bureau

Crude oil prices ended higher last week despite high volatility. Brent crude oil futures on the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (\$112.2/barrel) was up 8.8 per cent whereas crude oil futures in the domestic market (₹9,258/barrel) gained 3.5 per cent.

## **BRENT FUTURES (\$112.2)**

Brent crude oil futures, after opening with a gap-up last Monday, reversed direction and declined in the same session.

However, it managed to stay above the \$100-mark. It then recovered in the subsequent sessions to hit a high of \$119.13 for the week on Thursday before closing at \$112.2 on Friday.

The chart shows that the trend remains bullish and there is a chance for the contract to touch \$124 in the near term. A breakout of this can take it higher to \$130.

On the other hand, if the support at \$100 is breached, Brent crude futures can decline to \$95 and \$88.

## **MCX-CRUDE OIL (₹9,258)**

Crude oil futures (April) posted a weekly gain of 3.5 per cent. How-



ever, the price movement through the week shows that the trend was flat and the weekly gain was largely due to the rally on Friday.

However, the broader trend is positive and a weekly close above ₹9,000 substantiates the same. Going ahead, we can expect the contract to rally to ₹10,300. A breach of this can take crude oil futures to ₹10,800.

But if the price drops from the current level, the contract can find support at ₹8,500 and ₹8,000. A breakdown of the latter can lead to a deeper fall, possibly to ₹7,000.

Nevertheless, as it stands, the outlook is positive.

**Trade strategy:** Go long at ₹9,000 with a stop-loss at ₹8,300. On a rally to ₹10,000, revise the stop-loss to ₹9,500. Book profits at ₹10,300.



## Govt approves additional 20% LPG allocation for commercial users

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The government has allotted an additional 20 per cent of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to commercial users, bringing the overall allocation to 40 per cent. This additional quantity will be supplied to States, which will allocate it to hotels, restaurants, and other establishments.

Separately, the Centre is also allocating another 10 per cent of LPG to States based on piped natural gas (PNG) expansion.

### OVERALL ALLOCATION

In a Saturday order, the Centre allowed another 20 per cent allocation of commercial LPG to States, bringing the overall allocation to 50 per cent, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas said.

This additional allocation shall give priority to sectors such as restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing/dairy units, subsidised canteens/outlets run by State government or local bodies for food, community kitchens, and 5 kg FTL for migrant labourers, it added.

Twenty States and UTs have issued orders to allocate non-domestic LPG in line with the Centre's guidelines. In the remaining States/UTs, PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) are releasing commercial LPG cylinders.

A total of around 13,479 tonnes of LPG has been lifted by commercial entities in the States/UTs over the last week. Educational institutions and

hospitals have been prioritised, with around 50 per cent of the total commercial LPG allocation going to these sectors.

### SUPPLY CONCERNS

Even as LPG supply remains a concern due to the prevailing geopolitical situation, no dry-outs have been reported at distributorships.

Despite the Gulf war, the government has given the highest priority to domestic LPG and PNG, as well as to hospitals and educational institutions. Commercial consumers in major cities and urban areas have been requested to switch to PNG.

**Restaurants flag LPG shortage p12**

## US eases oil sanctions on Iran

**Reuters**

The Trump administration on Friday waived sanctions on the purchase of Iranian oil at sea for 30 days in its latest attempt to ease oil prices that have been driven up by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

The waiver will bring some 140 million barrels of oil to global markets and help relieve pressure on energy supplies, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent posted on X.

The licence, posted to the Treasury Department's website after market hours, said Iranian oil can be imported into the US under the waiver when necessary to complete its sale or delivery.

**Details p12**

# Centre looks to speed up city gas network as LPG challenges loom

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**  
New Delhi

Faced with limited supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), the Oil Ministry has chalked out a plan to fast track laying of city gas distribution (CGD) infrastructure.

The Centre has advised all ministries and departments concerned to fast track all pending and new applications related to CGD infrastructure.

This is to swiftly migrate domestic and commercial LPG consumers to piped natural gas (PNG), which will help reduce the burden on the key cooking fuel.

## FUEL MIGRATION

To begin with, all the central establishments, colonies, offices and canteens are being advised to switch to PNG, wherever infrastructure is available.

A senior government official explained that it is a "mitigation measure." Expanding the CGD infrastructure is critically important, particularly as the sector is also supplied with domestically produced natural gas besides imports.

The government has already prioritised natural gas for PNG (domestic) and CNG (transport). The supply situation is also



comfortable, he added.

The West Asia conflict offers an opportunity to the world's third largest LPG importer to shift some of its domestic, industrial and commercial users to PNG considering that the blocking of the Strait of Hormuz has impacted 60 per cent of India's LPG consumption.

## FAST TRACK PERMITS

As part of the strategy to expedite laying of CGD pipelines and setting up compressed natural gas (CNG) stations, the Oil Ministry has suggested reducing the average time taken in getting final permission from various Central

ministries/departments.

For instance, the average time required for final permission from the NHAI for laying pipelines is around four months, which can be reduced to 45 days. Furthermore, the

public notice period of 30 days, as per the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways rule, may be exempted which will further reduce the timeline to 15 days.

For the Railways, once 'wayleave' permission has been granted, the execution of the pipeline crossing work may be expedited in one month instead of the average time of 5 months by taking actions such as the imposition of a caution traffic block.

Considering that CGD pipelines are generally laid underground alongside existing road corridors and typically do not involve any tree felling, the requirement of forest clearances from State and Central authorities for pipeline crossings through forest land may be simplified. At present the average time for clearances takes 12 months, which the Oil Ministry suggests can be reduced to a month.

For clearances from the Central Pollution Control Board, the Ministry suggested giving a waiver for the CGD sector considering that CNG and PNG are cleaner fuels and are replacing polluting fuels. Natural gas is considered the best transition fuel till the time the green hydrogen ecosystem is not ready for commercial roll out.

# LPG relief for hospitality units

● Allocation to states, UTs hiked to 50%

SAURAVANAND  
New Delhi, March 21

**THE CENTRE ON** Saturday allowed an additional 20% allocation of commercial LPG to states and Union territories, taking the total commercial LPG supply to 50% of pre-crisis levels, as it steps up efforts to manage shortages triggered by disruptions in West Asia.

The latest increase—effective March 23—builds on earlier measures, including 20% baseline restoration and 10% additional allocation linked to PNG expansion, as per a communication from the ministry of petroleum and natural gas. “I wish to now inform you that wef 23.3.26 till further notification, another 20% is being allotted...which would take the overall allocation to 50% of the pre-crisis level,” petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said in

## CRISIS CONTROL



■ Latest increase to be effective March 23

■ Builds on earlier measures, including **20%** baseline restoration, **10%** additional allocation linked to PNG expansion

■ Additional supply to be prioritised for key sectors; **5 kg** cylinders for migrant labourers

a letter to states and UTs.

The additional supply will be prioritised for key sectors, including restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing and dairy units, subsidised kitchens and community feeding programmes, as well as 5 kg cylinders for migrant labourers.

# Iran war forces world to curb global energy use

**Strait of Hormuz closure hits 20% of oil, LNG supply**

REUTERS  
March 21

**THE WAR IN** the Middle East has triggered a nightmare scenario for the global energy system, slashing so much supply that consumers around the world must both pay up big and lower consumption. The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow channel along the Iranian coast, has stopped the passage of 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas since the US and Israel began airstrikes on Iran on February 28.

Meanwhile, ongoing strikes by Iran and Israel have targeted Middle East energy infrastructure, doing damage to gas fields, oil refineries, and terminals that industry representatives say will take years to repair. All of that adds up to what the International Energy Agency has already called the worst global energy disruption in history. "You're not going to conserve your way around this. What it's going to translate to is price rises high enough that people stop consuming," said Dan Pickering, chief investment officer for Pickering

## PAY UP BIG TIME

■ The crisis has removed about 400 mn barrels — about 4 days of supply — from market, triggering price rises



■ China has banned refined fuel exports, and UK's plan includes a cut in speed limits to save fuel

■ Record jet fuel prices in Europe likely to filter down fast in the form of expensive airline tickets

## Fill up gas storage early: EU

**THE EUROPEAN** Union's energy chief has told member states to start filling gas storage early in order to avoid competition for supplies that could cause a spike in prices over the summer, as the bloc seeks to mitigate the fallout from the Iran war.

Governments should also lower their gas storage filling targets to 80% and make the

most of the flexibilities offered by the Union's law, the EU's Energy Commissioner Dan Jorgensen wrote in a letter.

Countries can deviate from that 80% goal by 10 percentage points, with a further five percentage point deviation available in unfavourable market conditions. **BLOOMBERG**

Energy Partners. So far, the crisis has removed about 400 million barrels - about four days of world supply - from the market, triggering price increases of around 50%.

Oil, gas, and their refined byproducts are critical to many

parts of the modern world, from fueling cars, trucks and planes, to powering homes and industry, to producing plastics and fertilisers. "The breadth of what is at risk here in fuels, chemicals, LNG and fertiliser inputs is what makes this

moment qualitatively different from previous episodes of Gulf tension," said Aditya Saraswat, senior vice president at consultancy Rystad Energy.

Global benchmark oil prices have already risen more than 50% to over \$110 a barrel since the war started. The impacts are more pronounced for Middle East crudes - a staple for Asian economies - with prices hitting records near \$164.

That has translated to soaring prices for transport fuels, pressuring consumers and businesses across the globe, and triggering government action to conserve supplies. Thailand, for example, ordered civil servants to conserve energy by suspending overseas trips and using stairs instead of elevators, while Bangladesh closed its universities. Sri Lanka has imposed fuel rationing, China has banned refined fuel exports, and the UK government's energy contingency plan includes a cut in speed limits to save fuel.

On Friday, the International Energy Agency outlined other proposals to reduce demand, such as working from home and avoiding air travel, which has already been severely disrupted after the war forced the closure of key Middle Eastern hubs. The IEA earlier this month agreed to make a record 400 million barrels of oil available from emergency stockpiles.

# AIIMS old OPD canteen trims menu amid gas cylinder crisis

Will soon have to start selling packaged food, says manager

## GROUND REPORT

MANIKANT MISHRA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

For two weeks now, old OPD canteen at the country's largest Central Government tertiary hospital, AIIMS, New Delhi, has been battling an acute commercial LPG supply crunch amid the West Asia crisis.

Though the canteen manager wrote to Indian Oil Corporation for LPG supplies with due recommendations from AIIMS officials, the facility has not been getting its pre-wartime supply of four cylinders a day.

The facility, widely known as old OPD canteen, is run privately by JS Hospitality. The government has prioritised hospitals for commercial LPG supplies, but the canteen has not received its regular LPG supply for a week now.

During a visit to the canteen, which serves around 500-600 people daily, including patients, attendants and hospital staff, manager Puran Shah said the canteen



Visitors at the AIIMS old OPD canteen; and (below) empty LPG cylinders at the facility. PHOTOS BY WRITER

### EARLIER GOT REFILLS AT INFLATED PRICE

To continue operations, the canteen earlier procured cylinders through informal channels at inflated prices ranging between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 per refill. Now even this channel is closed as there are no cylinders, says canteen manager Puran Shah.



doesn't have an LNG pipeline. It is dependent on commercial cylinders for cooking. The canteen needs four cylinders daily to meet cooking needs.

"There was no LPG supply last week, affecting operations severely," Shah said. The canteen has a commercial con-

nection from Indian Oil distributor, Guruji Indian Gas Service, in Mundka Shah said they tried to contact delivery person, but to no avail.

To continue operations, the canteen earlier procured cylinders through informal channels at inflated prices

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### AIIMS old...

ranging between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 per refill. Now even this channel is closed as there are no cylinders, says Shah.

The canteen has now shifted to alternative cooking methods such as induction cooktops and electric kettles and cylinders sourced from some other facilities at AIIMS.

The canteen has also trimmed its menu. It has temporarily removed certain items, including sambar vada and samosas, from the menu.

During the visit, empty LPG cylinders were found stacked in the canteen's backyard, indicating the extent of the supply disruption.

The letter, a copy of which is which The Tribune, was sent to the IOC marketing division on March 13. It was signed by AIIMS Additional Medical Superintendent Babita Gupta and Chief of Trauma Centre, Narendra Chaudhary, seeking help given the critical nature of the facility. There has been no response. Emails sent to the IOC went unanswered.

The canteen may have to shift to selling packaged food items like biscuits and chips. The manager said: "We are considering shifting to selling packaged food items. We cannot run operations like this."

AIIMS officials said: "Since the OLD OPD canteen is run through private contractor, the hospital has nothing to do with this."



## Commercial LPG to states hiked by 20%

**Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar**

NEW DELHI

Amid a continuing LPG crunch, the Centre on Saturday increased the allocation of commercial LPG to states and Union Territories by an additional 20%, taking the total supply to 50% of pre-crisis levels.

The fresh allocation comes over and above the earlier 30% supply — comprising a base 20% and an additional 10% granted on March 18 — and is to be distributed on a priority basis. Restaurants, dhabas, hotels and industrial canteens will be the primary beneficiaries. The scheme also extends support to the food processing and dairy sectors, government-run subsidised canteens, and community kitchens.

In a relief measure for migrant labourers, the Centre has also proposed the supply of 5 kg Free Trade LPG cylinders.

However, the additional allocation comes with conditions. States have been asked to ensure that priority sectors receive the extra supply. All commercial and industrial LPG users must register with oil marketing companies to be eligible.

► **Contd on | Nation**

### Commercial LPG...

The Centre has also used the opportunity to push a long-term shift to piped natural gas (PNG). Commercial and industrial LPG consumers will be required to apply for PNG connections with city gas distribution entities and move towards readiness for transition.

Only those taking steps towards adopting PNG will remain eligible for LPG supplies under the expanded allocation.

# Industrialists warn of workers' migration due to LPG shortage

## Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

A shortage of LPG supply in the Pithampur industrial area may force migrant workers without local gas connections in their own names to migrate. To address this issue, authorities should arrange smaller-sized gas cylinders for the workforce, as the working class predominantly uses these.

Industrialists from the Pithampur industrial area raised the issue at a meeting convened by Himanshu Prajapati, Executive Director, MPIDC Indore Regional Office, on Saturday. The meeting took place at Niryat Bhawan, SEZ Phase-2, Pithampur. More than 70 industrialists, along with canteen service providers operating within various industries, attended.

Participants discussed ongoing issues related to LPG



(liquefied petroleum gas) and PNG (piped natural gas) in the Pithampur region. Industrialists highlighted the lack of regular LPG supply for in-house canteens, which has adversely affected operations. Canteen service providers also raised the same concern.

Industrialists also stated that earlier, authorities supplied PNG at a concessional rate of up to 80% of average consumption. The limit has now been reduced to 65%. They requested restoration of the concessional supply limit to 80% to ensure uninterrupted indus-

trial operations. Industries also shared data on PNG demand during the meeting.

Representatives from Naveria Gas and Avantika Gas Limited (AGL) attended the meeting and discussed the issues in detail.

Taking note of stakeholders' concerns and suggestions, Prajapati assured a speedy resolution through coordination with the concerned agencies. He said MPIDC remains committed to ensuring smooth industrial operations and protecting workers' interests.



# Govt raises commercial LPG allocation to 50%

**Sukalp Sharma**

*New Delhi, March 21*

THE CENTRAL government on Saturday approved an additional 20% allocation of commercial liquid petroleum gas (LPG) to states and Union Territories specifically for restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing and dairy sectors, subsidised canteens or food outlets run by state governments and local bodies, and community kitchens.

These segments of commercial LPG consumers were among the worst-hit. The additional allocation will also be for refills of 5-kg cylinders for migrant labourers. Moreover, the government has made it mandatory for commercial and industrial consumers of LPG to register with public sector fuel retailers, and also apply for a piped natural gas (PNG) connection to become eligible to get commercial LPG.

With this additional allocation, commercial LPG allocation to states can be up to 50% of the estimated requirement.

The government had earlier allowed 20% allocation to states for commercial LPG consumers, and later offered an additional 10% if states took certain specific measures to help expedite PNG infrastructure. LPG supply to commercial and industrial consumers was cut

## ● STEP ON THE GAS

- The government had earlier allowed 20% allocation to states for commercial LPG consumers, and later offered an additional 10% if states took certain specific measures to help expedite PNG infrastructure
- With this additional allocation, commercial LPG allocation to states can be up to 50% of the estimated requirement
- LPG supply to commercial and industrial consumers was cut in a bid to shield households

in a bid to shield households that use LPG as kitchen fuel. This was done as a large chunk of India's LPG supplies were disrupted due to the effective closure of the critical maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz amid the West Asia war.

India depends on imports to meet about 60% of its LPG demand, and 90% of its LPG imports comes from West Asia through the Strait of Hormuz.

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.

These measures have helped raise domestic LPG production by around 40% vis-à-vis the pre-war levels, which translates to around 16% of the country's overall LPG demand. The increase in domestic production of the fuel is being seen as a reason for the increased allocation of commercial LPG to the states.

While the supply of LPG is still a matter of concern in view of the prevailing geopolitical situation, delivery of LPG cylinders are being maintained at the pre-war levels, the government said in a release.

It added that panic cylinder bookings among households have reduced and there has been no dry-out reported at any of the 2,500-odd LPG distributorships in the country.

In a letter to chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories, Petroleum Secretary Neeraj Mittal said the commercial and industrial LPG consumers will have to register with public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs)—Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation—before they can become eligible for commercial LPG supplies. Also, they will have to apply for a PNG connection in order to get commercial LPG.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM](http://WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM)

# Refiners in India look to buy Iranian oil as US lifts sanctions

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI/SINGAPORE:** Indian refiners plan to resume buying Iranian oil while refiners elsewhere in Asia are examining such a move after Washington temporarily removed sanctions to alleviate an energy crunch caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran, traders said on Saturday.

Three people familiar with the Indian refining said they will buy Iranian oil and are awaiting government directions and clarity from Washington on details such as payment terms.

Refiners in India, which has much smaller crude stockpiles than other big Asian oil importers, rushed to book Russian oil after the US recently lifted sanctions temporarily. The Indian government could not be immediately reached for comment outside office hours.

Other Asian refiners are making checks to see if they can purchase the oil, several people with knowledge of the matter said.

The Trump administration on Friday issued a 30-day sanctions waiver for the purchase of Iranian oil already at sea, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. The waiver applies to oil loaded on any vessel, including sanctioned tankers, on or



Indian vessel 'Jag Laadki' carrying 80,800 MT of crude oil arrives at Kutch on March 18. PTI

before March 20 and discharged by April 19, according to the Office of Foreign Assets Control. It is the third time the U.S. has temporarily waived sanctions on oil since the start of the war.

## Unlocking millions of barrels of oil

About 170 million barrels of Iranian crude are at sea, said Emmanuel Belostrino, Kpler's senior manager for crude oil market data, on ships scattered from the Middle East Gulf to the waters near China.

Consultancy Energy Aspects on March 19 estimated 130 million to 140 million barrels of Iranian oil on water, equivalent to

less than 14 days of current Middle East production losses.

Asia relies on the Middle East for 60% of its crude supply and the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz this month is forcing refineries across the region to run at lower rates and cut fuel exports.

Trump re-imposed sanctions on Iran in 2018 over its nuclear programme. Since then, China has become Iran's main client with its independent refiners buying 1.38 million barrels per day (bpd) last year, Kpler data showed, attracted by deep discounts as most countries shunned the crude due to the sanctions.

## Commercial LPG quota hiked, relief for eateries

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** In a move aimed at benefiting the food and hospitality industry, govt on Saturday announced a 20% additional quota of commercial LPG cylinders, taking the overall allocation to 50% of pre-conflict levels.

The ministry of petroleum and natural gas said the additional allocation will be prioritised for restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing and dairy units, subsidised canteens and outlets run by state govts and local bodies, and community kitchens. It will also strengthen the distribution of 5kg portable cylinders for migrant workers. The allocation will be available from Monday.

Govt said entities availing

### Iran snubs US easing of curbs on its crude

Iran's oil ministry contradicted the US move to ease sanctions on Iran crude oil loaded on vessels, saying, "At present, Iran essentially has no floating crude or surplus available for international markets." Earlier, the US announced temporary easing of sanctions on Iranian-origin crude oil and petroleum products up until April 19. AGENCIES

commercial LPG cylinders will have to register with oil marketing companies, detailing end use of the gas, and must also register for piped gas connections to be eligible for the additional allocation.

► '30% hotels shut', P 20

## 30% hotels, restaurants shut amid LPG woes: Trade bodies

► Continued from P 1

Hotel associations have estimated that nearly 30% of hotels and restaurants had to shut due to the shortage of LPG supplies, while many others reduced operating hours, cut down menus and restricted kitchen activity to conserve available stocks.

Though govt maintained on Saturday that LPG supply remained a matter of concern amid geopolitical conditions, the decision to increase commercial allocation suggests the overall situation may have improved slightly. Till Thursday, 13,700 new piped gas connections had been issued over nearly a fortnight, while more than 7,300 consumers shifted from LPG to PNG since the

beginning of the week.

Following supply disruptions due to the military conflict in West Asia, govt had initially halted the sale of commercial cylinders and prioritised domestic LPG, besides ensuring supplies to hospitals and educational institutions. It later allowed 20% of the average monthly requirement for commercial and industrial users, leaving it to states to decide distribution priorities. On March 18, the ministry issued another order allowing an additional 10% allocation to states, subject to reforms and faster expansion of PNG infrastructure. Over 20 states and UTs have since issued orders to allocate non-domestic LPG in line with the guidelines.

India imports nearly half of its LPG requirement, with

about 90% sourced from West Asia. Apart from a deal with the US, it is also tapping countries such as Russia, Japan and Norway for supplies.

In a letter to chief secretaries of states and UTs, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said all commercial and industrial LPG consumers must register with oil marketing companies to be eligible for allocation from the overall 50% quota. "OMCs shall register such customers and keep a record of the sector they operate in, the end-use of LPG and the annual weight requirement... of that customer in the respective database(s)," Mittal said. He added that such consumers will also have to take necessary steps to demonstrate readiness for PNG before becoming eligible for additional LPG allocation.

# 100 Gujarat villages turn to bio-CNG amid LPG crunch

**Prashant.Rupera**  
@timesofindia.com

**Vadodara:** Amid LPG crisis and resultant black marketing that have left lakhs scrambling for cylinders, a ray of hope is emerging from the villages of Gujarat’s Anand district, which are preparing an alternative and cleaner fuel sourced from cattle dung, food waste, and agricultural biomass.

A large-scale bio-CNG cluster of 10 plants spread across 100 villages promises not only a cheaper and more reliable alternative to LPG but also a step towards reducing India’s dependence on imported energy.

Once operational, the cluster will produce 10MT of bio-CNG daily — equivalent to 521 commercial LPG cylinders or 715 domestic cylinders — ensuring uninter-

## SAVING CYLINDERS

10 MT bio-CNG saves:		
Cylinders	Daily	Annual
Commercial (19.2 kg)	521	1,90,165
Domestic (14.2 kg)	715	2,60,975



Davol village in Borsad taluka where a bio-CNG cluster is being built

rupted supply for schools, hostels, temples, hotels, and highway eateries that are shut down for lack of LPG.

The project will be rolled out from Davol village in Borsad taluka and extend up to Pandoli in Petlad over a 31-km stretch. The cluster is expected to be commissioned by May, and will produce 10 tonnes of bio-CNG.

“This clean fuel will cost 20% less than LPG,” said project developer Sanjay Patel, CEO of S P Ecofuel, which promotes innovative and low-cost renewable en-

ergy solutions. The entire cluster, including refining and distribution infrastructure, will involve an investment of around Rs 60 crore.

The initiative will source raw material from nearly 100 villages through women-led farmer producer organisations, processing 500MT of cattle dung, food waste, poultry waste, and agricultural biomass daily. Apart from fuel, the project will produce organic fertilisers. The processed slurry will be further be enriched into phosphate-rich fertiliser.

**OIL WORRIES REVERBERATING ACROSS WORLD**

# India, Others in Asia Set Sights on Iran Oil after US Waives Sanctions

Iranian oil at sea, estimated at 130-170 million crude barrels, freed for 30 days

Reuters

**New Delhi | Singapore:** Indian refiners plan to resume buying Iranian oil while refiners elsewhere in Asia are examining such a move after Washington temporarily removed sanctions to alleviate an energy crunch caused by the US-Israeli war on

Iran, traders said on Saturday. Three domestic refiners said they will buy Iranian oil and are awaiting government directions and clarity from the US on details such as payment terms. Refiners in India, which has

much smaller crude stockpiles than other big Asian oil importers, rushed to book Russian oil after the US recently lifted sanctions temporarily.

**60% of Asia Crude Supply >> 7**

## Slick at Sea

Waiver applies to oil on any vessel, including sanctioned tankers

Loading must be on or before March 20, discharge by April 19

Third time the US has temporarily waived sanctions on oil in war

**ABOUT 170 M BARRELS OF IRANIAN CRUDE ARE AT SEA: KPLER**



## ALLOCATION DOUBLED Commercial LPG Users get Breather

The Centre has doubled states' LPG allocation for commercial users to 40% of their previous consumption, a move that is expected to partly ease business disruptions of such consumers. Large manufacturing units have been transitioning to more energy-resilient kitchens, even as restaurants and gig workers face the heat. >> 3

## Crude Supply

>> From Page 1

Other Asian refiners are making checks to see if they can purchase the oil, several people in the know of the matter said. The Indian government could not be immediately reached for comment.

Late Friday, the Trump administration issued a 30-day sanctions waiver for the purchase of Iranian oil already at sea, US treasury secretary Scott Bessent said. The waiver applies to oil loaded on any vessel, including sanctioned tankers, on or before March 20 and discharged by April 19, as per the Office of Foreign Assets Control. It is the third time the US has temporarily waived sanctions on oil since the start of the war.

About 170 million barrels of Iranian crude are at sea, said Emmanuel Belostrino, Kpler's senior manager for crude oil market data, on ships scattered from the Gulf to the waters near China.

Consultancy Energy Aspects on March 19 estimated 130 million to 140 million barrels of Iranian oil on water, equivalent to less than 14 days of current West Asia production losses.

Asia relies on West Asia for 60% of its crude supply and the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz this month is forcing refineries in the region to run at lower rates and cut fuel exports. Trump re-imposed sanctions on Iran in 2018 over its nuclear programme. Since then, China has become Iran's main client.

## Commercial LPG quota hiked, relief for eateries

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** In a move aimed at benefiting the food and hospitality industry, govt on Saturday announced a 20% additional quota of commercial LPG cylinders, taking the overall allocation to 50% of pre-conflict levels.

The ministry of petroleum and natural gas said the additional allocation will be prioritised for restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing and dairy units, subsidised canteens and outlets run by state govts and local bodies, and community kitchens. It will also strengthen the distribution of 5kg portable cylinders for migrant workers. The allocation will be available from Monday.

Govt said entities availing

### Iran snubs US easing of curbs on its crude

Iran's oil ministry contradicted the US move to ease sanctions on Iran crude oil loaded on vessels, saying, "At present, Iran essentially has no floating crude or surplus available for international markets." Earlier, the US announced temporary easing of sanctions on Iranian-origin crude oil and petroleum products up until April 19. AGENCIES

commercial LPG cylinders will have to register with oil marketing companies, detailing end use of the gas, and must also register for piped gas connections to be eligible for the additional allocation.

► '30% hotels shut', P 13

## 30% hotels, restaurants shut amid LPG woes: Trade bodies

► From P 1

Hotel associations have estimated that nearly 30% of hotels and restaurants had to shut due to the shortage of LPG supplies, while many others reduced operating hours, cut down menus and restricted kitchen activity to conserve available stocks.

Though govt maintained on Saturday that LPG supply remained a matter of concern amid geopolitical conditions, the decision to increase commercial allocation suggests the overall situation may have improved slightly. Till Thursday, 13,700 new piped gas connections had been issued over nearly a fortnight, while more than 7,300 consumers shifted from LPG to PNG since the

beginning of the week.

Following supply disruptions due to the military conflict in West Asia, govt had initially halted the sale of commercial cylinders and prioritised domestic LPG, besides ensuring supplies to hospitals and educational institutions. It later allowed 20% of the average monthly requirement for commercial and industrial users, leaving it to states to decide distribution priorities. On March 18, the ministry issued another order allowing an additional 10% allocation to states, subject to reforms and faster expansion of PNG infrastructure. Over 20 states and UTs have since issued orders to allocate non-domestic LPG in line with the guidelines.

India imports nearly half of its LPG requirement, with

about 90% sourced from West Asia. Apart from a deal with the US, it is also tapping countries such as Russia, Japan and Norway for supplies.

In a letter to chief secretaries of states and UTs, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said all commercial and industrial LPG consumers must register with oil marketing companies to be eligible for allocation from the overall 50% quota. "OMCs shall register such customers and keep a record of the sector they operate in, the end-use of LPG and the annual weight requirement... of that customer in the respective database(s)," Mittal said. He added that such consumers will also have to take necessary steps to demonstrate readiness for PNG before becoming eligible for additional LPG allocation.

# 100 Gujarat villages turn to bio-CNG amid LPG crunch

**Prashant.Rupera**  
@timesofindia.com

**Vadodara:** Amid LPG crisis and resultant black marketing that have left lakhs scrambling for cylinders, a ray of hope is emerging from the villages of Gujarat's Anand district, which are preparing an alternative and cleaner fuel sourced from cattle dung, food waste, and agricultural biomass.

A large-scale bio-CNG cluster of 10 plants spread across 100 villages promises not only a cheaper and more reliable alternative to LPG but also a step towards reducing India's dependence on imported energy.

Once operational, the cluster will produce 10MT of bio-CNG daily — equivalent to 521 commercial LPG cylinders or 715 domestic cylinders — ensuring uninter-

## SAVING CYLINDERS

10 MT bio-CNG saves:		
Cylinders	Daily	Annual
Commercial (19.2 kg)	521	1,90,165
Domestic (14.2 kg)	715	2,60,975



Davol village in Borsad taluka where a bio-CNG cluster is being built

rupted supply for schools, hostels, temples, hotels, and highway eateries that are shut down for lack of LPG.

The project will be rolled out from Davol village in Borsad taluka and extend up to Pandoli in Petlad over a 31-km stretch. The cluster is expected to be commissioned by May, and will produce 10 tonnes of bio-CNG.

“This clean fuel will cost 20% less than LPG,” said project developer Sanjay Patel, CEO of S P Ecofuel, which promotes innovative and low-cost renewable en-

ergy solutions. The entire cluster, including refining and distribution infrastructure, will involve an investment of around Rs 60 crore.

The initiative will source raw material from nearly 100 villages through women-led farmer producer organisations, processing 500MT of cattle dung, food waste, poultry waste, and agricultural biomass daily. Apart from fuel, the project will produce organic fertilisers. The processed slurry will be further be enriched into phosphate-rich fertiliser.

## सरकार ने वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी आबंटन 50% तक बढ़ाया

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 21 मार्च।

सरकार ने राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के लिए वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी का अतिरिक्त 20 फीसद आबंटन मंजूर किया है, जिससे कुल आबंटन 50 फीसद हो गया है। घरेलू उत्पादन में बढ़ोतरी के कारण स्थिति धीरे-धीरे सामान्य होने लगी है। पश्चिम एशिया में तीन सप्ताह से जारी युद्ध के कारण भारत को ऊर्जा आपूर्ति में बाधा आई। इसके कारण पहले होटल जैसे वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठानों को एलपीजी की आपूर्ति घटा दी गई थी ताकि घरेलू रसोई के लिए गैस उपलब्ध रहे।

बाद में उनके आपूर्ति का पांचवां हिस्सा बहाल किया गया और सरकार ने अतिरिक्त 10 फीसद आबंटन की पेशकश की थी, यह शर्त रखते हुए कि

राज्य पाइपड गैस परियोजनाओं को तेजी से पूरा करें। शनिवार को सरकार ने रेस्तरां, होटल, औद्योगिक कैंटीन, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयां, सामुदायिक रसोई और सबसिडी वाले खाद्य केंद्रों के लिए एलपीजी का 20 फीसद अतिरिक्त आबंटन करने की घोषणा की। साथ ही सरकार ने कहा कि प्रवासी श्रमिकों को लक्षित वितरण के माध्यम से सहायता भी प्रदान की जाएगी। तेल सचिव द्वारा शब्दों को लिखे गए पत्र के अनुसार, यह अतिरिक्त एलपीजी आबंटन उन वाणिज्यिक संस्थानों को मिलेगा जिन्होंने तेल कंपनियों के साथ पंजीकरण कराया हो और पाइप के जरिए आपूर्ति की जाने वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) कनेक्शन के लिए आवेदन किया हो। सरकारी बयान में कहा गया कि घरेलू एलपीजी आपूर्ति स्थिर बनी हुई है, वित्त्रकों के पास किसी प्रकार की कमी नहीं है।

पेट्रोलियम सचिव ने राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिव को लिखा पत्र

तैयारी

बढ़ेगा व्यावसायिक रसोई गैस का आबंटन

## सिलेंडर वितरण में प्रवासी मजदूरों को प्राथमिकता

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 21 मार्च

पश्चिम एशिया में जारी तनाव के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने देश में एलपीजी, पेट्रोल-डीजल और गैस आपूर्ति को लेकर बड़े कदम उठाए हैं। आम लोगों और छोटे कारोबारियों को राहत देने के लिए पांच किलोग्राम फ्री ट्रेड एलपीजी (एफटीएल) सिलेंडर प्रवासी मजदूरों को प्राथमिकता से उपलब्ध कराने रेस्ट्रॉ-डाबों के लिए व्यावसायिक एलपीजी का आबंटन बढ़ाकर 50 फीसद करने और पीएनजी (पाइपड नेचुरल गैस) को बढ़ावा देने के बड़े फैसले लिए गए हैं।

इस संबंध में केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस सचिव डाक्टर नीरज मिश्रा ने देश के सभी राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिव को पत्र लिखा है। पत्र में कहा गया है कि 23 मार्च से अगली सूचना तक

### जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी पर की जाएगी कार्रवाई

जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी रोकने के लिए अब तक देशभर में 3,500 से अधिक छापेमारी की जा चुकी है। करीब 1,400 सिलेंडर जब्त किए गए हैं। 32 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में कंट्रोल रूम और जिला स्तरीय निगरानी समितियां भी बनाई गई हैं, जो स्थिति पर नजर रख रही हैं। वैकल्पिक ईंधन के रूप में कैरोसिन और कोयले की अतिरिक्त आपूर्ति भी राज्यों को दी गई है, तकि एलपीजी पर दबाव कम किया जा सके। इसके अलावा लोगों को पीएनजी और इन्वेशन कुकटाप जैसे विकल्प अपनाने की सलाह दी गई है। सरकार सतर्क अधिकारी ने बताया कि समुद्री और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मार्ग पर सरकार सतर्क है। भारतीय बंदरगाहों पर कामकाज सामान्य है। पश्चिम एशिया में मौजूद भारतीय नागरिकों और नाविकों की सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है।

अतिरिक्त 20 फीसद व्यावसायिक एलपीजी आवंटित किया जाएगा। इससे कुल आबंटन अब संकट-पूर्व स्तर के 50 फीसद तक पहुंच गया है। सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया है कि इस अतिरिक्त एलपीजी का उपयोग प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों में किया जाएगा। इनमें रेस्टोरेंट, ढाबा, होटल, औद्योगिक कैंटीन, फूड प्रोसेसिंग और डेयरी इकाइयों के साथ-साथ राज्य सरकारों द्वारा संचालित सब्सिडी वाले

कैंटीन, सामुदायिक रसोई और प्रवासी मजदूरों के लिए पांच किलो सिलेंडर शामिल हैं। साथ ही यह सुनिश्चित करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि एलपीजी की कहीं भी कालाबाजारी या दूसरे जगह इस्तेमाल न हो।

सरकार ने व्यावसायिक और औद्योगिक उपभोक्ताओं के लिए नई शर्तें भी लागू की हैं। अब सभी ऐसे उपभोक्ताओं को तेल विपणन कंपनियों के साथ अनिवार्य

रूप से पंजीकरण कराना होगा। कंपनियां उपभोक्ताओं के कारोबार के प्रकार, एलपीजी के उपयोग और सालाना खपत का पूरा रिकार्ड रखेंगी, ताकि पारदर्शिता बनी रहे और आपूर्ति सही जरूरतमंदों तक पहुंचे। इसके अलावा, व्यावसायिक एलपीजी पाने के लिए उपभोक्ताओं को अपने शहर की सिटी गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन (सीजीडी) कंपनी के साथ पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) के लिए आवेदन करना भी अनिवार्य किया गया है। सरकार का उद्देश्य दीर्घकाल में एलपीजी से पीएनजी की ओर आने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। इससे ईंधन आपूर्ति अधिक स्थिर और सुलभ हो सकेगी।

सरकार ने राज्यों से अपेक्षा जताई है कि वे पीएनजी नेटवर्क के विस्तार से जुड़े सुधारों को तेजी से लागू करें और उपलब्ध आबंटन का पूरा लाभ उठाएं। इससे न केवल एलपीजी पर दबाव कम होगा, बल्कि शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित ईंधन का उपयोग भी बढ़ेगा।

# ऊर्जा संकट से निपटने के लिए तेल पर अमेरिका का यू-टर्न

## पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के बीच ईंधन की समस्या को देखते हुए ट्रंप ने दी ईरानी तेल पर लगे प्रतिबंधों में ढील

अमर उजाला नेटवर्क

**वाशिंगटन।** ईरानी तेल पर लगे प्रतिबंध हटाए जाने को अमेरिकी नीति में बड़ा यू-टर्न माना जा रहा है, क्योंकि अब तक वाशिंगटन ईरान के तेल निर्यात पर सख्त प्रतिबंध बनाए हुए था। युद्ध के कारण शिपिंग और उत्पादन पर पड़े असर से दुनिया भर में ऊर्जा कीमतें तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं, जिससे अमेरिका पर दबाव बढ़ा है कि वह वैकल्पिक आपूर्ति के स्रोत तलाशे।

युद्ध से पहले चीन ईरानी तेल का सबसे बड़ा खरीदार था, जो प्रतिबंधों के कारण इसे भारी छूट पर खरीदता था। बेसेंट ने फॉक्स बिजनेस को दिए इंटरव्यू में कहा कि यह छूट भारत, जापान और मलेशिया जैसे देशों को भी ईरानी तेल खरीदने का अवसर दे सकती है, जबकि चीन को अब मार्केट प्राइस चुकाना पड़ सकता है। हालांकि उन्होंने यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया कि इस व्यवस्था में ऐसा कैसे सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा।

ब्लैकस्टोन कंप्लायंस सर्विसेज के डायरेक्टर डेविड टैनेनबाम ने इस फैसले की आलोचना करते हुए कहा, सीधे शब्दों में कहें तो यह चौंकाने वाला है।



### गैस उत्पादन पर खतरा और दीर्घकालिक असर

स्थिति को और गंभीर बनाते हुए ईरान और कतर द्वारा संचालित एक प्रमुख गैस क्षेत्र पर हमलों ने ऊर्जा आपूर्ति की दीर्घकालिक क्षमता पर भी सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि भले ही संघर्ष जल्दी खत्म हो जाए, लेकिन उत्पादन क्षमता को सामान्य होने में वर्षों लग सकते हैं। विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार अमेरिका इस समय हर बैरल मायने रखता है जैसी स्थिति में है, जहां वैश्विक आपूर्ति में आई भारी कमी के चलते उसे हर संभव स्रोत से तेल जुटाने की कोशिश करनी पड़ रही है। हालांकि ईरानी तेल पर छूट से अल्पकालिक राहत मिल सकती है, लेकिन इसके रणनीतिक और राजनीतिक जोखिम लंबे समय तक प्रभाव डाल सकते हैं।

**होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य दुनिया के लिए बेहद अहम :** दुनिया में रोजाना खपत होने वाले लगभग 100 मिलियन बैरल तेल का करीब पांचवां हिस्सा होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य से होकर गुजरता है, जो ईरान के तट के पास स्थित है। लेकिन फरवरी के अंत में युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद इस मार्ग पर शिपिंग लगभग ठप हो गई है। कुछ आपूर्ति को वैकल्पिक रास्तों से भेजा गया है, फिर भी विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है कि वैश्विक आपूर्ति का करीब 10% बाजार से बाहर हो गया है।

हम ईरान को तेल बेचने की अनुमति दे रहे हैं, जिससे उसे युद्ध के लिए धन मिल सकता है। सेंटर फॉर अ न्यू अमेरिकन सिन्वयोरिटी की विशेषज्ञ रेचल जिपम्बा ने भी कहा कि यह कदम गेम चेंजर नहीं है। उनके अनुसार

अमेरिका नहीं चाहेगा कि तेल बिक्री का पैसा ईरानी सरकार तक पहुंचे, लेकिन व्यवहार में इसे रोकना बेहद मुश्किल होगा। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने इस मुद्दे पर स्पष्ट रुख नहीं अपनाया।



## होर्मुज बंद होने से 20 फीसदी तेल और एलएनजी की आपूर्ति बाधित

तेहरान। अमेरिका-इस्त्राइल के साझा हमलों के कारण ईरान के तट से सटे होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के प्रभावी रूप से बंद होने से दुनिया की 20% तेल और द्रवीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस (एलएनजी) की आपूर्ति रुक गई है। पश्चिम एशिया में ऊर्जा बुनियादी ढांचों को भी निशाना बनाया गया है, जिससे कई गैस क्षेत्रों, तेल रिफाइनरियों और टर्मिनलों को

नुकसान पहुंचा है। उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों का कहना है कि इनकी मरम्मत में वर्षों लगेंगे। इन सब कारणों से जो स्थिति उपजी है, उसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी ने इतिहास का सबसे भीषण वैश्विक ऊर्जा संकट बताया है। यह संकट 1973 के अरब तेल प्रतिबंध से भी कहीं अधिक गंभीर है, जिसने ईंधन की कमी और व्यापक आर्थिक क्षति को जन्म दिया था। एजेंसी

# खाड़ी में तनाव के बीच कब तक नहीं बढ़ेंगे पेट्रोल-डीजल के दाम?

**156** डॉलर/बैरल से ज्यादा इंडियन क्रूड बास्केट का एवरेज प्राइस **122%** का उछाल, युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से **14** करोड़ बैरल तेल और ईरान पर US बैन हटा

Akhilesh.Singh1  
@timesofindia.com

■ **नई दिल्ली** : पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से कच्चे तेल का भाव करीब 50% उछल चुका है। प्रीमियम पेट्रोल और इंडस्ट्रियल डीजल के दाम बढ़ा दिए गए हैं। क्या अब सामान्य पेट्रोल-डीजल की बाबरी है? यह बढ़ती 5 राज्यों में विधानसभा चुनावों से पहले होगी या बाद में? ऐसे कई सवाल उठ रहे हैं। सरकार ने कहा है कि उसका ध्यान उपभोक्ताओं के लिए ईंधन आपूर्ति बनाए रखने पर है और कीमतों के बारे में उसका कोई दखल नहीं है और यह फैसला ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियां करती हैं। पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से इंडियन क्रूड बास्केट का औसत भाव भी लगभग 70 डॉलर/बैरल से बढ़कर 20 मार्च को 156.29 डॉलर/बैरल हो गया था। इंडियन बास्केट का भाव देश में इस्तेमाल के लिए आयात होने वाले सॉवर और स्वीट क्रूड के भाव के आधार पर तय होता है। इसके चलते IOC, BPCL और HPCL जैसी ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनियों (OMC) के मार्जिन पर प्रेशर बढ़ा है।



## क्या OMC को नुकसान हो रहा?

ग्लोबल रिथल टाइम डेटा प्रोवाइडर Kpler के रिसर्च एनालिस्ट निखिल दुबे ने कहा, 'OMC रिफाइनरी गेट प्राइसेज पर फ्यूल खरीदती हैं। पेट्रोल का इंटरनैशनल प्राइस 138 डॉलर/बैरल के है। OMC के लिए डीजल सेलिंग प्राइस लगभग 75 रुपये/लीटर है।

21.90 रुपये की एक्सट्राइज इयूटी और 1.88 रुपये की कस्टम्स इयूटी हटाकर OMC के हाथ में 51.23 रुपये/लीटर आ रहे हैं। एलारा कैपिटल के मुताबिक, 'कच्चा तेल 110 डॉलर/बैरल से ऊपर जाने पर पेट्रोल-डीजल पर OMC का मार्जिन 6.3 रुपये/लीटर घट जाएगा।'

## क्या कह रही इंडस्ट्री?

FISME के सेक्रेटरी जनरल अनिल भारद्वाज ने कहा, 'कई इंडस्ट्रीज में बिजली सप्लाई को कपनसेट करने के लिए डीजल से जेनरेटर चलते हैं। NCR में डीजल का उपयोग नहीं कर सकते और PNG की तमी का भी सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

## क्या दाम बढ़ाना पड़ेगा?

कॉम्पट्रेड्स रिसर्च के डायरेक्टर शानशेखर त्यागराजन ने कहा, 'अभी 3 महीने पहले जब क्रूड 50 डॉलर के करीब था, तो OMC ने पुरा प्रॉफिट स्ट्रुट ले लिया। कंस्यूमर को फायदा नहीं दिया। एक-दो महीने अगर क्रूड का भाव ज्यादा भी रहे, तो वे आराम से इसकी लागत ठा सकता हैं।' दिसंबर तिमाही में OMC को 23743 करोड़ रुपये का लाभ हुआ था। त्यागराजन ने कहा, 'होरमुज स्ट्रेट

बंद होने से ट्रांसपोर्टेशन और इंश्योरेंस कोस्ट बढ़ गई है। आना-जाना शुरू होने पर हालात सामान्य हो जाएंगे। सऊदी आने वाले दिनों में जमीन के रास्ते माल भेजना शुरू कर सकता है। रूस से भी खरीदारी बढ़ रही है। हालांकि रूसी तेल अब सस्ता नहीं रह गया है। 5 राज्यों में चुनाव हैं, अभी दाम बढ़ाने से परहेज हो सकता है। बहुत हुआ तो एक-दो रुपये बढ़ा सकते हैं।'



## US की ढील से दबाव घटेगा!

■ **पीटीआई, वॉशिंगटन**: कच्चे तेल की बढ़ती कीमतों को काबू में लाने के लिए अमेरिका ने बड़ा कदम उठाया है। उसने समुद्र में फसे ईरानी तेल की बिक्री पर लगे प्रतिबंध अस्थायी रूप से हटा दिए हैं। अमेरिकी वित्त मंत्री स्कॉट बेसेंट के मुताबिक, इससे करीब 14 करोड़ बैरल तेल बाजार में

आएगा। यह अनुमति सिर्फ पहले से रास्ते में मौजूद तेल के लिए है, नई खरीद या उत्पादन शामिल नहीं है। ब्रेट क्रूड की कीमत 70 डॉलर से बढ़कर 119.50 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पहुंच गई है। यह ढील शुक्रवार से 19 अप्रैल तक लागू रहेगी, जिससे सप्लाई बढ़ने और कीमतों पर दबाव घटने की उम्मीद है।



## सिलेंडर की समस्या के बीच राजगढ़ में थिंक गैस की निरंतर उपलब्धता

राजगढ़। सीजीडी कंपनियों में से एक थिंक गैस ने आज अपने ग्राहकों को आश्वस्त किया कि क्षेत्र में सीएनजी और पीएनजी की आपूर्ति स्थिर बनी हुई है। कंपनी ने बताया कि फिलहाल कीमतों में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है और उसके वितरण नेटवर्क में सामान्य संचालन जारी है। घरेलू ग्राहकों, आवश्यक सेवाओं और परिवहन क्षेत्र के लिए सीएनजी और पीएनजी सेवाएँ सामान्य रूप से जारी हैं। थिंक गैस के मुख्य विपणन एवं वाणिज्यिक अधिकारी, विनूकुमार बालकृष्णन ने कहा, थिंक गैस में हमारी तत्काल प्राथमिकता सरकार के प्राथमिकता आवंटन ढाँचे के अनुरूप घरेलू खाना पकाने की आवश्यकताओं (पीएनजी) और परिवहन क्षेत्र (सीएनजी) के लिए आवश्यक सेवाओं के उपभोक्ताओं को हमारे सभी भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में निबांध आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करना है।