

The oil supply crunch is spreading from the Gulf to the rest of the world

Traders warn of record high prices for some Middle Eastern cargoes having a cascading effect

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For a glimpse of how much higher energy prices could still soar, look beyond the prices Wall Street analysts normally track for West Texas Intermediate in the U.S. and Brent in Europe.

At the center of the supply squeeze in the Middle East, traders are paying an eye-watering \$160 a barrel for the Emirati oil that can dodge the Strait of Hormuz, far above those global benchmarks.

Those sky-high prices, traders say, are a harbinger of where the rest of the market could be heading if the Persian Gulf isn't reopened soon. That is because Asian customers are scouring the world for similar varieties of crude to keep churning out diesel and jet fuel.

Benchmark oil prices sank after President Trump postponed strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure and said the U.S. had held "productive" talks with Tehran, raising the prospect he might be searching for a way to end the war.

But traders warn that the talks might be another false start toward peace. They also worry that Iran must agree to an end of hostilities before oil tankers can sail freely through the strait. Unless peace talks pan out fast, record high prices for specific grades of Middle Eastern crude cargoes will soon cascade to the U.S. and elsewhere.

"The disruption is so massive, we will turn into full panic mode if this situation is not resolved rather quickly," said Helge Andre Martinsen, an energy analyst at Norwegian investment bank DNB Carnegie.

A resolution means oil flowing through the strait again. Even then, for prices to fall toward prewar levels, traders want to see Persian Gulf producers reverse output cuts from the early days of the war. It would also require long-term sanctions relief on Iran and Russia, Martinsen said. The U.S. has relaxed sanctions on both to soothe markets but only for a month.

Oil prices appear to move on every headline about the war, but in fact, it can take weeks or months for them to ripple through the complex logistical and financial system connecting well-heads to gas station pumps.

The most yawning gap in prices is between oil that used to flow out of the Gulf and different kinds of crude from farther afield. Prices for a grade of crude known as Dubai had risen well over 150% so far in 2026 by Monday's close, according to commodities data provider OPIS, which shares a parent



At the center of the supply squeeze in the Middle East, traders are paying an eye-watering \$160 a barrel for Emirati oil. #11

company with *The Wall Street Journal*. That is far more than the standard benchmarks cited in the media.

Brent futures prices have been less sure by contrast, rising 72% for the year through Thursday.

There are other large distortions. Brent crude, the global benchmark reflecting prices for oil pumped in Europe, trades at a historically wide \$12 per barrel premium over the WTI American benchmark, traded in Cushing, Okla.

The difference, traders say, can be chalked up to WTI's location, far from where the oil is needed in Asia. Its lower price also reflects the higher shipping costs required to get it to Asian buyers

as well as angst that the U.S. might restrict crude exports to husband energy resources at home.

Asian refiners are hunting for sulfur-rich oil to replace the Middle Eastern grades that are getting prohibitively expensive, driving up prices for oil from Norway, Russia, Colombia and even some crude from the U.S. Cargoes are diverting from Europe to Asia, where the shock from the Persian Gulf is most acute and traders can earn a premium.

Brent itself has much less sulfur than Dubai oil. And widely tracked Brent futures contracts are for crude that will be delivered in May, when many traders think the war might be over. Some also say futures have become a poor guide to conditions in the physical oil

market because banks, commodity traders and hedge funds have reined in activity to avoid big losses, creating a vicious cycle of thin trading and huge spikes and slumps.

Markets in the Gulf have been so chaotic that prices for Dubai, the oil, don't even include crude from Dubai, the emirate, right now. It can't get out of the strait, so price-tracking firms removed the grade from their calculations.

Instead, the prices reflect deals for oil from Oman—just outside Hormuz—and a dribble of crude from Abu Dhabi that gets piped to the port of Fujairah, also beyond the strait's narrowest stretch.

The trading arm of French oil producer TotalEnergies has been particularly active, buying dozens of cargoes, said people who have tracked the sales on a platform run by S&P Global. How much of the oil Total has agreed to sell onward couldn't be learned, but the massive position may amount to a bet that Asian refiners will pay top dollar for scarce supplies.

A spokesman for Total, which had stopped producing oil and gas at various sites inside the Gulf, didn't respond to a request for comment.

The scramble for oil from the Gulf is starting to seep into broader international oil markets. Prices for oil from the Johan Sverdrup field off the coast of Norway have jumped to

record premiums over Brent. Other sulfur-heavy crudes—"sour" in industry jargon—have also rocketed in price, including oil from northern Alaska, Argus data show.

Sucking all the oil available to Asia is one way in which the global market solves the immediate problem, but it also spreads the pain around the world.

"You've seen Asia absolutely fighting for every barrel there is in the world," said Anrita Sen, founder of consulting firm Energy Aspects. She said Brent prices will eventually catch up with the Middle Eastern crudes

changing hands at over \$150 a barrel if Hormuz stays shut. WTI, far from the action and lacking sulfur, can keep trading at huge discounts, Sen added.

Before the war, almost a fifth of global oil supplies sailed through the strait each day, roughly 15 million barrels of crude and five million barrels of refined fuels. Workarounds have freed some to flow on alternative routes, including a Saudi pipeline to the Red Sea.

As of Monday, the closure had sheared 16 million barrels from daily oil supplies, according to J.P. Morgan Chase analysts. That shortfall could shrink next month with more oil flowing through the pipe and releases from strategic stockpiles in the U.S. and its allies. The world economy would still be short 10 million barrels of oil daily.

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Gulf markets have been so chaotic that prices for Dubai oil don't even include crude from the emirate right now

Push for oil storage, piped gas transition

Odisha SPR bids by April end; areas with PNG to shift from LPG

Rituraj Baruah
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NEW DELHI

New Delhi is accelerating a multi-billion-dollar expansion of its strategic crude reserves and forcing a nationwide shift to piped cooking gas, as a blockade in the Strait of Hormuz threatens energy supply for its 1.4 billion people.

The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) is set to float a global tender by the end of April to build a four-million-tonne facility at Chandikhhol in Odisha which was approved five years ago, and fast-track yet another project at Padur in Karnataka. Alongside this, the Centre fights a more immediate battle over cooking gas, directing households in localities with piped natural gas (PNG) networks to switch to it within three months.

The Chandikhhol strategic reserve may cost \$1 billion to build and \$3 billion to fill, two people aware of the matter said. At the same time, Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL) has won the work order to build India's first strategic reserve in a public-private partnership (PPP) model for a 2.5-million-tonne

ACTION TIME



STEPPING UP

<p>ISPRL to float tender to build four-million-tonne Odisha facility</p>	<p>CHANDIKHOL reserve to cost \$1 bn to build, \$3 bn to fill</p>	<p>CENTRE is directing households to switch to PNG in 3 months</p>
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crude reserve in Padur.

The Odisha government has allotted land for the Chandikhhol SPR, one of the two people mentioned above said. "The request for proposal (RFP) for the project will be out in a month's time. Also, the construction of Padur-II project will be done quickly as the work order

has been sent and some required financial transactions have also been completed."

While building oil reserves takes years, expanding the reach of piped gas can be done relatively quickly. On Wednesday, the Union petro-

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Govt makes a concerted push for oil storage, piped gas transition

FROM PAGE 1

leum ministry set a three-month deadline for households in areas with PNG networks to switch from LPG. City gas distribution operators (CGD) will notify eligible consumers, and LPG supply will cease if connections are not made, except where technical constraints prevent PNG access. The deadline would start after the CGD entity in the area informs a household by registered post that it can shift from LPG to PNG.

The move is "in the interest of the nation for households to shift from LPG to PNG," joint secretary Sujata Sharma said at a press briefing, citing higher

domestic availability of natural gas and more import sources. The shift targets roughly 6 million households that the government says can transition easily.

Alongside, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has asked hotels and restaurants to stop levying additional charges such as "LPG charges", "gas surcharge" or "fuel cost recovery" on consumers, tightening scrutiny on billing practices in the hospitality sector amid rising complaints.

The concerns come in the backdrop of about 90% of India's LPG imports from West Asia disrupted after the blockade of Iran's Strait of

Hormuz.

A day earlier, the Centre ordered a streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding PNG pipelines, in a bid to fast-track approvals and access to land, and enable faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas.

India currently has a strategic reserve capacity of 5.3 million tonnes, and is working on building another 6.5 million tonnes of capacity. The Union cabinet had cleared the 6.5 million tonne capacity, 4 million in Chandikhol and 2.5 million in Padur, in 2021. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of global energy shipments pass,



The Centre ordered a streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding PNG pipelines.

has put 40% of India's crude supplies at risk.

Queries mailed to the petroleum ministry, ISPRIL and MEIL went unanswered.

Costly delay?

Experts said while strategic reserves are critical for energy security, they should be developed much faster.

H.P.S. Ahuja, ISPRIL's former managing director and chief executive officer said: "Strategic reserves are the need of the hour to ensure energy security. Having both commercial and strategic reserves helps the country. The PPP mode was introduced to enhance investments and fast-track the process," he said.

"However, these projects will take about 5-7 years for completion."

Kirit Parikh, former member (energy) at the erstwhile

Planning Commission of India, said given their long-gestation nature, these projects should have been accelerated much earlier.

PETRO POWER

CONCERNS come in backdrop of about 90% of India's LPG imports from West Asia being disrupted

INDIA currently has SPR capacity of 5.3 million tonnes, looks to build another 6.5 million tonnes

"Strategic reserves are obviously required during exigencies like the current war situation and the global impact. The capacities should have been increased earlier," Parikh said. "Now, when the prices are high, government should look at other immediate measures such as diversification of imports from more

countries. Strategic reserves need to be looked at when global oil prices are low."

Meil had won the bid for Padur Phase-II storage project in September 2025. The project includes deployment and operations of 2.5-million-tonne capacity commercial-cum-strategic petroleum reserves. The project is in the "engineering stage", the second person said, adding the project will have four storage units of 625,000 tonnes capacity each.

The government has said the country is comfortable in terms of oil stock and that more is coming in from alternative sources. However, price spike remains a worry.

Govt orders PNG shift, tightens LPG access

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Centre has mandated a shift from LPG to piped natural gas (PNG) in areas where pipeline infrastructure exists, as part of a new policy aimed at expanding gas networks and improving energy security amid global supply disruptions.

The directive, issued under the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, seeks to curb LPG supply to households that do not transition to PNG where available. The



Workers load filled LPG cylinders for distribution amid the ongoing supply crunch in Kanpur

move comes against the backdrop of the ongoing West Asia crisis affecting global oil and gas supplies.

The order focuses on accelerating pipeline infrastructure, simplifying approvals and enforcing strict time-

lines. Authorities must grant permissions within set deadlines, failing which approvals will be deemed granted. Residential complexes must provide access for pipeline installation within three working days, while last-mile PNG connections are to be completed within 48 hours. Applications for connectivity cannot be rejected in such notified areas.

Designated officers, vested with powers akin to a civil court, will resolve disputes related to land access and right of way for pipeline installation.

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Govt orders PNG shift, tightens LPG access

The policy also aims to optimise LPG distribution by redirecting supplies from areas with PNG access to regions lacking such infrastructure, while promoting fuel diversification. Officials said the reforms are intended to improve ease of doing business through time-bound clearances, standardised charges and streamlined procedures for faster project execution. Separately, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has cracked down on hotels and restaurants levying additional charges such as "LPG charges", "gas surcharge" or "fuel cost recovery" on consumer bills.

In an advisory issued Wednesday, the CCPA said such charges cannot be imposed automatically. "The price displayed in the menu shall be the final price, exclusive only of applicable taxes," it said, warning that violations would be treated as unfair trade practices under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The advisory follows reports and social media posts showing eateries adding "gas crisis" fees to bills amid LPG shortages. Authorities clarified that input costs like fuel and electricity must be built into menu pricing and cannot be passed on as compulsory add-ons.



India buys Iranian LPG after US sanctions ease

New Delhi: India bought its first cargo of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas in years after the US temporarily removed sanctions on Tehran's oil and refined fuels, LSG trade flows and three industry sources said. India shunned energy purchases from Iran in 2019 under pressure from Western sanctions. The tanker was initially bound for China, according to LSEG data. Sanctioned tanker *Aurora* carrying Iranian LPG is expected to shortly reach the west coast port of Mangaluru, the sources said and LSEG data showed. REUTERS

India's energy choices have been sub-optimal

Under US pressure, it moved away from Iranian oil earlier. Such choices may have started to hurt

Ritesh Kumar Singh

For years, Indian foreign policy has proudly invoked the doctrine of "strategic autonomy." Yet as the Middle East crisis deepens in 2026, a sobering reality is emerging: New Delhi is paying a steep "appeasement tax" to Washington, while its primary regional rival, China, and its "all-weather" partner, Russia, reap the dividends of the chaos.

India imports roughly 85 per cent of the crude oil it consumes, leaving the economy deeply exposed to disruptions in global energy markets. Yet in recent years New Delhi has repeatedly aligned its oil purchases with pressure from the US — first by halting imports from Iran under sanctions and more recently by scaling back purchases of discounted Russian crude during trade tensions with Washington.

India should respond with alacrity to limited waivers from US to buy Iranian oil. India shouldn't voluntarily give up some of the cheapest and closest sources of energy while its competitors secure them.

SELECTIVE BLOCKADE

At the centre of the current crisis lies the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow waterway through which roughly one-fifth of global oil trade normally



OIL SUPPLIES. Need to assert strategic autonomy. GETTY IMAGES

passes. Since the conflict escalated, Iranian forces have effectively turned the strait into a geopolitical filter. Attacks on commercial vessels, security threats and maritime disruptions have sharply reduced tanker traffic, forcing many ships to delay or avoid the route altogether.

Yet the disruption has been far from uniform. While shipments from Gulf producers such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia face growing obstacles, Iranian crude continues to pass through the strait to China.

In effect, the Strait of Hormuz allows Iran to squeeze rival exporters while ensuring its own oil keeps flowing to its most important buyer.

Geography makes Iran one of India's most natural energy partners. Iranian ports lie barely a week's sailing distance

from India's western refineries, making Iranian crude among the cheapest barrels to transport. By contrast, sourcing oil from the Atlantic basin — whether from Brazil or the US Gulf Coast — can require voyages lasting several weeks. Longer routes mean higher freight costs, higher insurance premiums and larger inventories for refiners. In stable markets those differences are manageable. In a geopolitical crisis centred on the Strait of Hormuz, they become decisive.

Even as Washington now signals flexibility through temporary waivers on Iranian oil, India seems to be reacting cautiously. Chinese buyers continue to purchase Iranian oil despite sanctions, relying on non-dollar payment systems, shadow tanker fleets and independent refineries willing to process sanctioned crude. While China secures discounted energy supplies, India often ends up paying higher prices for more distant barrels.

KREMLIN BENEFITS

If there is one country that clearly benefits from the current chaos, it is Russia. Russia's flagship export blend — Urals crude oil — which traded at steep discounts for much of the past two years, is now selling at a premium to Brent crude in deliveries to India as buyers scramble for alternatives to Middle Eastern supplies.

The longer the conflict persists and the longer Gulf oil flows remain constrained, the stronger Russia's position becomes in global energy markets. For India, it is the opposite. The longer the war drags on, the higher the cost of oil imports and the greater the economic penalty.

For India, turmoil in the Middle East carries consequences far beyond crude prices. The region is not only a major energy supplier but also one of India's largest sources of inward remittances and a key export destination. Prolonged instability therefore threatens two pillars of the Indian economy: affordable energy imports and steady trade and remittance flows.

Expensive oil feeds directly into inflation because fuel prices ripple across the economy through transportation and logistics costs. At the same time, slowing trade and remittance flows can place additional pressure on the rupee. The result could be higher inflation, sluggish exports and a weaker INR.

At some point, New Delhi must decide whether "strategic autonomy" is a slogan or a policy. Even as Washington begins to ease its stance through limited waivers on Iranian oil, it remains to be seen whether India acts decisively.

The writer is a business economist and CEO, Indonomics Consulting Private Ltd

Sachdeva slams Oppn over LPG remarks, says India ensured steady supply amid global crisis



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 25 March

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Wednesday criticised the opposition parties over their remarks on cooking gas supply, calling their statements "irresponsible" and likening them to actions that could harm national interest.

Addressing the media, Sachdeva accused leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress of exaggerating concerns around LPG cylinder availability at a time when

global energy markets are under strain. He said the ongoing Gulf conflict has led to oil and gas shortages across a large part of the world, affecting both developing and developed nations.

"In such a situation, instead of supporting efforts to manage the crisis, opposition leaders are engaging in political opportunism," Sachdeva said.

He alleged that protests and public statements highlighting shortages could indirectly encourage black marketing and create unnecessary panic among consumers.

Sachdeva maintained that the Government of India acted proactively from the onset of the international crisis, implementing policy measures that have helped cushion the domestic impact.

According to him, most households across the country

are currently receiving regular LPG cylinder supplies upon booking. He further emphasised that the government ensured uninterrupted gas supply during recent major occasions, including Eid and Navratri community feasts, and is making similar arrangements for the upcoming Ram Navami celebrations.

"Despite global disruptions, there has been no significant shortage affecting citizens during important festivals," he said.

The BJP leader also addressed concerns raised by commercial establishments, noting that while there was a brief disruption lasting about a week, supply chains have largely stabilised.

"Hotels, restaurants, and roadside eateries in Delhi and other parts of the country are now functioning normally with adequate gas availability," he added.

Sirsa: Don't panic as there's no shortage of LPG in Delhi

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 25 March

Delhi's Food and Supplies Minister Manjinder Sirsa on Wednesday assured that there is no shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in the national capital, adding that rumour-mongering in this regard should not be encouraged.

Addressing the House during the ongoing Budget session, Sirsa said, "I would like to inform citizens and the entire House that rumours regarding LPG distribution in Delhi should not be encouraged. The department is working with full vigilance to curb black marketing and ensure smooth supply."

Sirsa clarified that the situation has remained completely normal over the past 22–25 days, with no signs of overbooking or shortage. He said that domestic as well as commercial LPG cylinders are being supplied on a priority basis in accordance with the Central Government's policy, ensuring that essential services, including hospitals, receive uninterrupted supply.

The minister said, "With the festive season approaching, I want to assure the entire House



that there will not be any shortage anywhere, even for a single day or hour."

Sirsa further assured that any complaint received would be acted upon immediately by his office. He added that the Delhi government continues strict monitoring of the situation and is taking firm action against rumours regarding LPG availability.

Earlier, the Central Government had also assured that the country has sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel, and that domestic production of LPG has been stepped up, with top priority being accorded to domestic LPG and PNG supply.

Crude takes long to correct, OMCs wait four months

AS CRUDE PRICES have surpassed \$100 a barrel due to the ongoing West Asia crisis, past trends suggest that whenever prices rise above \$80 a barrel, they typically remain at that elevated level for at least a year. A report by Ambit Capital shows that between October 2007 and October 2008, when the crude price peaked at \$144 a barrel at some point, prices remained elevated for 13 months. Similarly, between August 2010 and October 2014, when the maximum crude price was \$128 a barrel, prices remained at that level for 50 months. Oil marketing companies typically undertake fuel price hikes within four months of a surge in crude prices.

—Saikat Neogi

Months oil stayed above \$80 a barrel

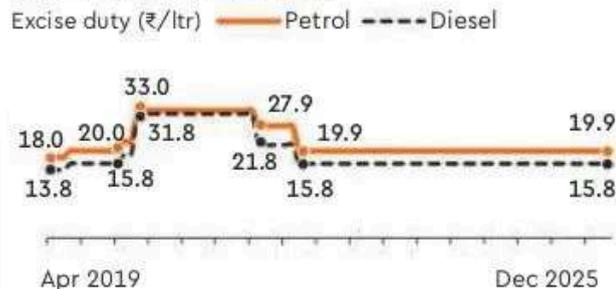


Past hikes in petrol prices by OMCs

Period	Days taken to hike petrol prices	Hike taken (₹/litre)	Maximum crude price (\$/barrel)
Oct 2007–Oct 2008	127	2.1	144
Aug 2010–Oct 2014	51	0.4	128
Oct 2021–April 2023	2	1.0	133

Petrol is average of Mumbai and Delhi prices

The government has supported consumers through cuts in excise duty



Source: Ambit Capital research



Govt's policy shift: No LPG if PNG ignored

IN A SIGNIFICANT policy shift amid supply disruptions triggered by the West Asia conflict, the Centre has mandated that LPG supply to households will be discontinued if consumers refuse to switch to piped natural gas (PNG) where connectivity is available, as part of a broader push to secure domestic fuel availability and accelerate gas infra rollout. The move, notified under the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026, comes as India grapples with constrained LPG supplies following disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a key transit route for imports.

The government order clearly states that in areas where PNG infra exists, failure to switch will result in discontinuation of LPG supply. "...such address shall cease after three months from the date of the communication issued by the authorised entity," the notification said.

Crude oil drops over 4% to ₹8,340/barrel in futures trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ New Delhi

Crude oil prices declined more than 4 per cent to ₹8,340 per barrel in futures trade on Wednesday tracking weak global trends amid reports of possible negotiations between the US and Iran to end the war.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude oil for April delivery depreciated by ₹396, or 4.5 per cent, to ₹8,340 per barrel. The May contract also fell by ₹305, or 3.58 per cent, to ₹8,209 per barrel.

Analysts said crude prices came under pressure as a bearish sentiment gripped global energy markets following shifting geopolitical developments in West Asia.

"Crude oil prices took a hit on Wednesday opening with a gap down as bearish sentiment takes hold," Aamir



Makda, Commodity & Currency Analyst at Choice Broking, said. He added that much of this cooling is driven by a shift in the geopolitical landscape.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures for the May contract slipped \$3.21, or 3.48 per cent, to \$89.14 per barrel on the NYMEX, while Brent

Oil for June delivery decreased \$4.65, or 4.64 per cent, to \$95.58 per barrel in New York. Makda said that there were reports that the US may lift trade sanctions on Iran in exchange for a nuclear deal have significantly eased global supply concerns and war-related uncertainty.

A slight dip in the dollar index to 98.79 also added

downward pressure on oil prices, he added.

US President Donald Trump has expressed optimism over a potential deal with Iran, stating that Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio were engaged in negotiations.

However, Tehran has yet to formally respond, with messages reportedly exchanged via intermediaries.

In the previous session, crude oil prices had ended nearly 5 per cent higher, recovering some of its earlier losses amid reports that Washington was considering to deploy 1,000 soldiers to West Asia, which intensified supply disruption concerns.

Contrasting media reports from the West Asia has kept investors cautious, with analysts noting that uncertainty around possible negotiations continues to drive volatility in energy markets.



NeuEN wins Numaligarh green hydrogen contract:

Hyderabad: NeuEN Green Energy Pvt Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture between Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Sembcorp Green Hydrogen India, on Wednesday said it has secured a contract to supply 10,000 tonnes per annum (10 KTPA) of green hydrogen to Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL). Under the agreement, NeuEN will set up a green hydrogen production facility at NRL's refinery in Assam, backed by a long-term offtake arrangement. The project is expected to commence commercial operations in 2028, the company said in a release.



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Energy self-reliance

Crisis an opportunity to increase fossil-fuel production

The oil-and-gas markets have responded with optimism to reports that the United States (US) administration has sent leaders in the Islamic Republic of Iran a 15-point agenda for ending the war in West Asia. The hopes sparked by this information have been enhanced by an apparent statement from the Iranian authorities that they will permit ships from “non-hostile” nations to go through the crucial Strait of Hormuz as long as they maintain contact with Iran and seek permission. While it is easy to understand the desire to see these as signs that the weeks-long crisis in the Gulf will end and the fossil-fuel markets return to normalcy, that might be too much to expect, given the mercurial natures of everyone involved in the US, Iran, and Israel. And, India should be prepared to pay higher than expected prices for imported energy in the foreseeable future.

One of the more important consequences of the weaponisation of trade chokepoints has been that some markets that were earlier global in nature, such as those for crude oil, have seen sharp variations in regional prices. For India, for example, the price of oil from the Gulf is far more relevant than the price of oil from Texas or the North Sea. By some estimates, this may mean that for a significant part of the coming few months, the price of the Indian basket of crude oil might be almost double of what it was over the past several months. It should go without saying that, if this is the case, it will put tremendous stress on both household and government finances.

The threat to India’s political economy caused by a sharp spike in the price of energy is a sadly familiar prospect. This has been the case before — in 2013, in 1999, and earlier. The only real weapon that New Delhi has against this is not something that can be deployed at short notice: Greater energy independence. However, the current government has had more than a decade to develop this weapon. Since it took office in 2014, it has been blessed with a longer-than-normal run of manageable energy prices. In this period, it has taken some steps towards self-reliance in energy — for example, the ambitious targets for renewable-power capacity. But, in current circumstances, renewables are not a sufficient replacement for fossil fuels, particularly when it comes to the base load for power, and they will not be for many years to come. There is thus no alternative to increasing domestic exploration, extraction, and processing of oil and gas.

Unfortunately, on this crucial metric, the government has fallen short. In spite of some attempts at forward-looking changes to exploration policy, production has declined over 30 per cent since 2014. This is in spite of increasing domestic demand, which has risen alongside a growing economy. The introduction in 2016 of a new exploration and licensing policy did not substantively increase production or gain commercial interest. Production sharing was replaced with revenue sharing, but this meant that companies would see revenue a lot later in the project timeline, rendering them less interested. Data coverage for new open acreage remained too low, and price uncertainty persisted; Brazil, in comparison, has two or three times the level of exploration, thanks to investing in geological data. India clearly needs to work harder and learn from successes elsewhere. This crisis — or threat of crisis — should not be wasted but used as an opportunity to increase self-sufficiency.



Govt: Shift to PNG if available or risk losing LPG supply

Move to reduce dependence on single fuel source, expand pipeline network

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, MARCH 25

In a move to expand gas pipeline networks and reduce dependence on a single fuel source, the government has mandated that cooking gas or LPG supply to households and commercial users will be discontinued if consumers fail to switch to piped natural gas (PNG) where such connectivity is available.

Amid the LPG shortage, widely reported across India due to supply disruptions from key sources resulting from the ongoing West Asia conflict, the government is pushing for more convenient alternatives to meet the LPG demand.

In an order, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas has aimed at accelerating pipeline infrastructure, easing approvals and promoting a shift from LPG to PNG to strengthen energy security. The order, issued on March 24, states that LPG supply "shall cease after three months" if a household does not opt for PNG despite availability. The provision, however, allows continuation where it is "technically infeasible" to provide a piped connection, subject to a no-objection certificate.

Commenting on the order, oil secretary Neeraj Mittal, in the post on X, said, "A crisis (has been) turned into an opportunity through the ease of doing business reforms." The order, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, seeks to fast-track pipeline infrastructure by easing approvals, standardising charges and ensuring time-bound per-

No shortage of fuel, avoid panic buying: Oil firms

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

State-owned oil companies on Wednesday said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG in the country, urging citizens not to believe rumours circulating on social media or resort to panic buying. "There is no shortage of petrol or diesel and our outlets are well-stocked and fully operational," said Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd termed reports of fuel shortages in certain areas completely unfounded, asserting there is no shortage of fuel across the nation. "India is a net exporter of petrol and diesel and has 'adequate' stocks of crude oil, petrol, diesel and ATF, with supply chains operating smoothly without any disruption," it said.

To facilitate rapid rollout, public authorities must grant right of way or permissions within prescribed timelines, failing which approvals will be deemed granted. The order also bars authorities from imposing charges beyond those specified. In housing areas, entities controlling access must grant permissions within three working days, and last-mile PNG connectivity is to be provided within 48 hours. Applications for pipeline connectivity in such areas cannot be rejected.



INDIA BUYS 60 MN BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL FROM RUSSIA

New Delhi, March 25: Indian refiners have bought about 60 million barrels of Russian oil for delivery next month, according to people familiar with the matter, easing supply concerns as the Middle East war chokes flows.

The cargoes were booked at premiums of \$5 to \$15 a barrel to Brent, said the people, who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the trade. The volume is similar to the amount of purchases for this month, but more than double than that for February, according to data intelligence firm Kpler.

The buying spree followed a US waiver that allowed India to take Russian oil that was already loaded onto vessels before March 5 to offset shortages caused by the effective closure of Strait of Hormuz. The measure was subsequently expanded to include other countries and updated to allow purchases of crude already at sea before March 12. — *Bloomberg*



Business Standard, Delhi, 26/03/2026

Page No: 4, Size: 75.22cm × 42.33cm

LPG supply to be cut if users refuse PNG switch: Govt order

SUDHEER PAL SINGH & DHURUVAKSH SAHA
New Delhi, 25 March

The Centre has threatened to cut liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply to consumers if they fail to switch to piped natural gas (PNG) in areas where PNG connectivity exists.

The move is aimed at ensuring maximum coverage of the PNG network, amid the LPG crisis due to the ongoing war in West Asia.

In an order issued on Tuesday, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas laid out the consequences for households not applying for and obtaining PNG connection when notified by the authorised entity.

It said LPG supply to an address will cease after three months from the date of communication by the entity if the household is located in an area where an authorised entity has already laid a pipeline or is in a position to supply natural gas.

The entity must also send a com-

munication to the person to become a domestic PNG consumer. After this, if the household does not shift to PNG, then LPG supply will be discontinued.

The Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (via laying, building, operation and expansion of pipelines and other facilities) Order, however, allows continuation of LPG supply where it is "technically infeasible" to provide a piped connection, subject to a no-objection certificate.

The government is pushing consumers to switch to PNG, a more convenient fuel alternative that is less impacted by the supply disruption arising from the West Asia war.

It has so far authorised City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities for development of CGD network in 307 geographical areas across the country.

The order, issued under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955, provides a time-bound framework for laying and expanding pipelines.

It addresses delays in approvals

and access to land, and enables faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas. The government today said the move is expected to accelerate PNG network growth, support the transition to cleaner fuels and strengthen energy security. CGD entities reported 9,046 PNG connections across 110 geographical areas on Tuesday.

"The government has already restored partial commercial LPG supply of 20 per cent to consumers. Further, it has proposed an additional 10 per cent allocation linked to PNG expansion reforms and, last week allowed another 20 per cent allocation of commercial LPG to states. This would bring the overall allocation to 50 per cent," the oil ministry said.

During the briefing, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said all refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories. And, sufficient stocks of

petrol and diesel are being maintained and retail outlets are functioning normally nationwide.

In a related development, the Central Consumer Protection Authority on Wednesday warned hotels and restaurants against charging 'LPG charge,' 'gas surcharge,' 'gas crisis charge,' or other similar charges on consumers. It stated that any input cost, including LPG or electricity, is part of the cost of running the business. And, their recovery through separate mandatory charges amounts to unfair trade practices. On the shipping front, several government-owned ports have offered relief and concession measures to exporters with stuck cargo. The shipping ministry on Wednesday said a private port has also offered such facilities.

Gujarat's Mundra Port, owned by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, has begun offering concessions, a senior ministry official said at the inter-ministerial group's briefing.

India buys first Iran LPG cargo since 2019

India has bought its first cargo of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in years after the US temporarily removed curbs on Tehran's oil and refined fuels, LSG trade flows and three industry sources said.

India had shunned energy purchases from Iran in 2019 under pressure from Western sanctions. The tanker was initially bound for China, according to LSEG data.

Sanctioned tanker Aurora carrying Iranian LPG is expected to shortly reach the west coast port of Mangalore.

The Iranian LPG cargo will be shared among the three fuel retailers, Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum.

The cargo has been purchased from a trader, and payment will be made in rupees, the sources said, adding India is exploring buying more Iranian LPG cargoes. **REUTERS**



Govt, oil firms assure no shortage of petrol, diesel

Urges public to avoid panic buying

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Centre and state-owned oil marketing companies on Wednesday jointly sought to reassure citizens that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG across the country, even as global supply chains remain under strain due to the West Asia conflict. In coordinated messaging, the government and firms such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd urged people not to rely on social media rumours or resort to panic buying, warning that such behaviour could disrupt otherwise stable supply systems.

At a media briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said all refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories in place. She added that sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are available and that fuel stations across the country are functioning

KEY POINTS

- » Refineries operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories
- » Panic buying reported in some areas caused temporary spikes in fuel demand
- » Petrol pumps and oil terminals fully stocked, functioning normally nationwide
- » LPG supply affected due to Strait of Hormuz disruption, but no delivery failures
- » Commercial LPG supply restored to about 50% in phases, prioritising essential services

normally. "Don't believe in rumours. We have adequate fuel stocks and the government is making all efforts to reach them to consumers," she said.

The government acknowledged that panic buying had been reported in some areas, triggered by misinformation, leading to **Continued on P4**

Govt, oil firms

temporary spikes in sales and long queues at petrol pumps. Sharma clarified that there is no shortage at any retail outlet or oil terminal. "There are enough stocks of petrol and diesel and there is no shortage of any retail outlet. Oil terminals also have enough stocks," she said.

On LPG, officials said supplies remain affected due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz linked to the ongoing geopolitical situation. However, they maintained that there have been no instances of supply dry-outs and that cylinder deliveries are continuing. To manage demand, additional allocations have been made to states, while commercial LPG supply is being restored in phases and currently stands at about 50 per cent of normal levels, with priority for essential services such as restaurants, hotels and community kitchens.

To ease pressure on LPG, the government is pushing the transition to piped natural gas. Priority allocation has ensured full supply to domestic PNG users and CNG transport, while industrial and commercial consumers are receiving around 80 per cent of their usual supply. City gas distribution companies have been directed to expand PNG connections, with states asked to speed up approvals and simplify permissions.

In the last 25 days, 2.5 lakh new PNG connections have been issued and 2.20 lakh LPG users have shifted to PNG, according

to official data. Additional measures include increasing domestic LPG production, allocating an extra 48,000 kilolitres of kerosene to states, and promoting alternative fuels such as electricity, PNG and coal.

Enforcement agencies have also acted against hoarding and black marketing. More than 2,700 raids have been conducted so far, leading to the seizure of around 2,000 cylinders, registration of over 650 FIRs and 155 arrests.

Oil marketing companies echoed the government's stance, stressing that supply chains remain intact. Indian Oil Corporation said its outlets are well-stocked and fully operational. Its chairman, A S Sahney, said there is no shortage of petrol or diesel and cautioned that unverified rumours can create unnecessary concern and disrupt normal supply patterns.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd termed reports of shortages in some areas as completely unfounded, noting that India is a net exporter of petrol and diesel and has adequate stocks of crude oil, petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel. The company said its operations are running smoothly and it remains committed to uninterrupted supply.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd also said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG, advising consumers to continue normal consumption and not be misled by rumours.

The reassurances come as the conflict in West Asia has disrupted supplies of crude oil, liquefied natural gas and LPG. India has mitigated the impact by sourcing crude from regions such as West Africa, Latin America and the United States.

LNG supplies have been affected after facilities in Qatar, a major supplier, were hit, leading to prioritisation of gas for domestic households and CNG transport, with reduced allocation for some industrial users, including fertiliser plants.

LPG remains the most affected fuel, as India depends on imports for about 60 per cent of its requirement, much of it sourced from Gulf countries. With supplies constrained, the government has prioritised household consumption and reduced allocations to commercial establishments by at least half.

Reiterating its advisory, the government said it is taking all necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuels and urged citizens to avoid panic buying, conserve energy and rely on verified information.



LPG supply to be cut off if households refuse PNG switch where available: Govt order

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: The Centre has issued a new directive mandating households to shift from liquefied petroleum gas to piped natural gas in areas where such infrastructure is available, warning that LPG supplies will be discontinued if consumers fail to comply within a specified period.

The order, notified by the

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on March 24, states that LPG supply to a household "shall cease after three months" from the date of communication if the consumer does not opt for a PNG connection despite its availability. An exception has been made for cases where piped connectivity is not feasible, subject to the issuance of a no objection certificate.

Continued on P4

LPG supply

The policy comes at a time when India is dealing with supply constraints in LPG due to disruptions linked to the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Damage to liquefaction facilities in the Gulf and the continued blockage of the Strait of Hormuz have affected supplies from key sources, prompting the government to push for alternative arrangements. Officials said the move is intended to reduce dependence on a single fuel and ensure better allocation of LPG to regions without pipeline access.

Piped natural gas, which is supplied directly to kitchens through pipelines, removes the need for cylinder refills and is sourced through a mix of domestic production and diversified imports. The government sees it as a more reliable option during global supply disruptions.

Speaking at a media briefing, Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma said authorised entities operating in designated geographical areas will notify LPG users about the availability of PNG connections. "Such users are expected to switch within three months, failing which LPG supplies will be stopped," she said.

The directive forms part of the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026, which seeks to accelerate the expansion of pipeline infrastructure and streamline approval processes. Officials described it as a "time bound framework" aimed at improving last mile connectivity and facilitating a transition to cleaner fuels.

Oil Secretary Neeraj Mittal, in a post on X, said the reforms reflect how "a crisis has been turned into an opportunity" through measures that ease doing business and support infrastructure growth.

The order also introduces provisions to speed up permissions for laying pipelines. Public authorities are required to grant right of way approvals within fixed timelines, failing which permissions will be deemed granted. They are also barred from imposing charges beyond those specified under the new rules.

In residential complexes, entities controlling access must grant permission within three working days, and PNG connections are to be provided within 48 hours. Applications for such connections cannot be rejected. If access is denied, designated officers with powers similar to a civil court can intervene to resolve disputes and grant necessary approvals.

Companies authorised to supply PNG must begin pipeline work within four months of receiving approval or risk penalties, including loss of exclusivity in the area.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has been designated as the nodal agency to oversee implementation, including monitoring approvals, compliance and any rejections.

The order further clarifies that if housing authorities fail to grant permission for pipeline access, a notice will be issued, and LPG supplies may still be discontinued three months later. However, households will retain LPG access if a no-objection certificate is issued on technical grounds, with authorised entities required to document such cases and review them once connectivity becomes feasible.

Central govt asks states to fast-track gas pipeline approvals, mandates shift to PNG where available

SIMONTINI BHATTACHARJEE

NEW DELHI: The central government, on Wednesday, said that it has asked states and Union Territories to expedite approvals required for the expansion of gas pipeline networks. Stressing the change in the cooking fuel patterns of millions of households, the centre has ordered that LPG supply will be cut off if consumers fail to switch to piped natural gas where it is available.

In a recent notification issued under the Essential Commodities Act, the government has introduced a new order to provide a time-bound framework for laying and expanding natural gas and petroleum pipelines. Officials said the move is expected to accelerate PNG connectivity, improve last-mile supply and strengthen energy security.



Piped Natural Gas is not produced separately — it comes from natural gas extracted from oil and gas fields or imported LNG that is regasified and supplied through pipelines. Furthermore, PNG is supplied through the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network - which allows continuous supply. Once pipelines are laid, the PNG supply is more stable compared to LPG.

Amid the rising West Asia conflict, causing uncertainty

over energy imports through the Strait of Hormuz, the centre aims to reduce the LPG dependency as the imports pass through the conflict region. Any disruption in this region affects LPG availability faster than natural gas supplied through long-term contracts or domestic sources.

Meanwhile, several steps have been taken to speed up infrastructure development, including faster clearances, longer working hours and rationalisation of right-of-way charges. In Delhi, the development authority has waived road restoration charges and allowed round-the-clock work for laying new PNG pipelines.

However, the centre is reiterating that the country's fuel supply remains stable despite the disruption caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, while a series of emergency measures have been put

in place to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum products, LPG and natural gas across the country.

Adding, to the natural gas supply, the petroleum and natural gas ministry said priority allocation is being maintained, with full supply being ensured for domestic piped natural gas (PNG) and CNG transport. Industrial and commercial consumers connected to the grid are currently receiving around 80 per cent of their average consumption. City Gas Distribution companies have been directed to prioritise PNG connections, especially for restaurants, hotels, canteens and other essential establishments.

On LPG supply, the ministry acknowledged that availability has been affected due to the prevailing geopolitical situation but said deliveries of domestic cylinders are continuing without interruption and

no distributorship has reported a dry-out. The government has increased allocation of commercial LPG to states in phases, taking the overall allocation to about 50 per cent, with priority being given to restaurants, dhabas, hotels, industrial canteens, food processing units, subsidised canteens and community kitchens.

Regularly, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas along with other important ministries - Shipping and Ports, and External Affairs - are holding briefings here in the national capital. The government said fuel supplies remain stable, with refineries operating at high capacity and adequate stocks available. It stepped up enforcement against hoarding, conducted raids and inspections, and urged citizens to avoid panic buying, rely on official information and conserve fuel.

Odisha govt fast-tracks gas distribution network amid West Asia crisis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bhubaneswar

WITH the Centre pushing forward piped natural gas (PNG) network amidst the West Asia crisis, the Odisha government has rolled out a series of measures to accelerate city gas distribution (CGD) across urban areas of the state to counter the emerging LPG supply constraints. Acting on directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the state government issued an order to facilitate faster rollout of piped natural gas (PNG) connections by putting place critical enabling measures which would remain in effect till June 30.

Under the new guidelines, all pending applications for laying CGD pipelines with urban local bodies, Works department, Water Resources department and other authorities concerned will be deemed approved, subject to compliance with safety and technical norms, said the order issued by addi-



tional chief secretary to Housing and Urban Development department Usha Padhee.

All fresh applications must be processed within 24 hours, significantly cutting bureaucratic delays. To ensure uninterrupted execution, CGD entities have been permitted round-the-clock (24×7) pipeline laying operations, with restrictions on working seasons also relaxed. Departments have been directed to extend full cooperation to gas distribution companies.

The government clarified that road cutting, restoration and permission charges will continue to be levied.



Switch to PNG or lose LPG where gas pipelines exist, Centre mandates

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE government has mandated that liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) supply to households will be discontinued if consumers fail to switch to piped natural gas (PNG) where such connectivity is available.

The new order is aimed at accelerating gas network expansion and reducing reliance on a single fuel. The government on Wednesday said that ever since the war started in West Asia, nearly 2.5 lakh new PNG connections have been provided to consumers across the country. At an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said 2.5 lakh new applications or registrations have also been received. The move comes



after the supply of LPG cylinders has been impacted due to the ongoing war in West Asia, which has choked the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 90% of India's LPG imports pass through.

"In the last 25 days, 2.5 lakh new PNG connections have been given. Additionally, nearly 2.20 lakh consumers have shifted from LPG to PNG. About 2.5 lakh new applications or registrations have also been received," said Sharma.

As the supply of cooking gas cylinders has been impacted in the country, the government is asking consumers, including commercial users, to shift to PNG, as it continues to have a seamless supply and has not been affected like LPG. Sharma said unlike LPG, for which India is highly dependent on imports, LNG/PNG supply remains smooth as the country is less dependent on imports.

To fast-track the adoption of PNG, the government on Tuesday introduced an order to speed up approvals for new PNG connection requests. Under the new framework, entities authorised by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) or the government will be allowed to lay, operate and expand pipelines across public, private and residential areas.

An energy transition driven by ethics

Fossil fuel dependency is ripping away national security and sovereignty, and replacing it with subservience and rising costs,” UN climate change arm executive secretary Simon Stiell told European Union officials and ministers in Brussels on March 16, against the backdrop of the U.S.-Israel-Iran war. He added that the disruption serves as an “abject lesson” on the pitfalls of banking on fossil fuels.

The war in West Asia has disproportionately affected economies such as India which gets nearly 60% of its crude oil from the region. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has forced state-run refineries to declare force majeure – an act of god. Pushing a country like India to abandon its remaining coal or domestic gas reserves without a take-off ramp could lead to industrial collapse.

Mr. Stiell’s comments are reminiscent of the expressions of impatience by climate negotiators and stakeholders about how slow countries have been to switch away from fossil fuels: in 2021, activist Greta Thunberg called the COP26 talks “blah, blah, blah”.

The West used fossil fuels to build its strategic reserves and today can’t deny India and other countries like it the same opportunities, especially as the latter waits for its renewables infrastructure to mature and expand. At the same time, India’s reliance on fossil fuels from West Asia is obviously why its economy is currently hostage to the region’s geopolitical crisis.

Dependence on minerals

Mr. Stiell et al. have argued that renewables are immune to such blockades, which is true in part: if the flow of fossil fuels stops today – it is pinched in the Strait of Hormuz – the ‘flow’ of energy also stops, because we burn fossil fuels to release energy. With renewables, the critical minerals are not the source of energy itself.



Vasudevan Mukunth

Short-term gains or geopolitical shocks should not dictate green energy shift

Once the state has set up solar panels and erected wind turbines, their ability to generate energy cannot be embargoed because they will operate as long as the sun shines and the wind blows.

However, critical minerals still represent a significant bottleneck, with additional complications such as the number of industries that need them – from consumer electronics to missile targeting, with the renewable energy sector somewhere in between. The supply chains for many minerals are even more concentrated than oil. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) controls around 40% of global oil production. And while the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Australia plus Chile extract most of the cobalt and lithium, respectively, a single country – China – currently processes almost 60% of the world’s lithium, 70% of its cobalt, and 90% of rare-earth elements.

With renewable energy also making intensive use of hardware, a blockade of the required components, whether it be turbine blades or magnets based on rare earth minerals, would be just as effective as one of oil. At that point, it is once again a question of whether war could break out between the world’s primary mineral-processing hubs.

Fossil versus mineral

The “abject lesson” is only so abject because of the prevailing oil situation. If, say, the West Asia conflict had not begun and Brent crude was \$65 a barrel, the trade-off for renewables could return to seeming like a moral luxury – in turn retrenching the value of ‘shock’ events like wars to push the world away from fossil fuels. And to that extent, perhaps Mr. Stiell et al. are smart to seize the chance.

Without a war driving prices up, the high upfront capital expenditure for renewables is less attractive to governments. If oil is cheap, the payback period for a large offshore wind farm might be

15 years; if gas prices jump 50%, this period could shrink to 4-5 years. In other words, sans a war, governments would have continued to place fiscal responsibility before energy sovereignty.

In the same scenario, the world’s dependencies on the critical mineral supply chain presents itself as a scarier prospect. If West Asia is stable and oil is flowing, the U.S. and its allies would likely view the option of trading West Asian oil for Chinese minerals as a net loss in strategic autonomy, which could encourage countries to reshore mineral mining and processing capabilities even before the energy transition picks up pace.

For India, a more stable supply of oil together with its arguably excessive focus on easing business could render its off-ramp into a long and gentle slope with room to continue using its domestic coal and cheap imported gas to power industrial growth while waiting for renewables to mature.

In other words, the Strait of Hormuz blockade could be forcing India to accelerate investments in renewables simply because it has no choice.

Fear not an effective tool

Mr. Stiell is in effect wielding fear as his primary tool, especially when he says “dependency is ripping away national security”. The effects of fear never last – especially when countries imagine new ways to outmanoeuvre these threats. What ultimately matters is ethics. The virtue of renewables should be debated, and adopted, in order to save the planet rather than for saving the economy for another month.

This also matters because when oil is cheap, the environmental damage of mining lithium, or human rights issues in Congolese cobalt mines are scrutinised more heavily by the public – and while this is as it should be, it should not just be because oil is cheap.

LPG shortage affects students preparing for govt. job exams in Patna

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

In a windowless room of a five-storey building on Rampur Nahar Road in the Musallahpur Hatt area of eastern Patna, Prahalad Kumar, 24, and Rahul Kumar, 25, have crammed their cots, study table, coaching materials, books stacked on cemented slabs, a single gas stove with a five-kg Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder, and other essentials needed for daily use.

But their LPG cylinder is empty, and they have not cooked a proper meal since Tuesday. "We are surviving only on *chura-dahi* (flattened rice and curd) and *sattu* (roasted gram flour)," Mr. Rahul said on Wednesday. Like lakhs of other students, both are enrolled at the

nearby coaching institute to prepare for competitive examinations for government jobs. They, along with their friend Shrawan Kumar, tried getting their LPG cylinder refilled, but without success.

Earlier, refilling a small LPG cylinder cost about ₹100, but since the shortage began due to conflict in West Asia, they have been paying ₹300 to ₹350. "If the crisis continues, we will go back to our village. It is better to return home than fall sick or remain hungry here," they said. Their friend Guddu Yadav, 28, hailing from Supaul district like them, said they are waiting only for the State government's Assistant Education Development Officer (ADEO) examination scheduled from April 14-20. "Otherwise, there is no point staying



(From left) Prahalad Kumar, Rahul and Shrawan looking to refill LPG cylinders in Musallahpur Hatt area on Wednesday. AMARNATH TEWARY

here in such a situation," Mr. Yadav said.

Food prices go up

Even roadside hotels have raised meal prices from ₹10 to ₹40, the students complained. "Our parents are asking us to come back home, saying health is more important... Black

marketing of LPG refills for students is happening openly. Has the government not noticed?" said Mr. Prahalad. The State government, however, has said there is no shortage of LPG cylinders.

Students carrying empty cylinders could be seen in several lanes of Musal-

lahpur Hatt, Bazar Samiti, and Saidpur Nahar areas - the main coaching hub of Patna. Outside Gyan Bindu GS Academy, hundreds of students walked out after classes, but attendance has fallen. A staff member at the reception admitted there had been a sharp drop since the LPG shortage began. At the nearby coaching institute run by Faisal Khan, popularly known as Khan Sir, an office staff member told *The Hindu* that the crisis has affected attendance.

Back to coal

Rajendra Yadav, who runs Mohit Library at Saidpur Nahar Road for about 200 students, said attendance has dropped from 210 to nearly 100. "The impact on students' lives in the city is bad," he said. At Shree Sai Girls Hostel, cooking has

shifted from LPG to coal to feed over 100 students paying ₹6,000-7,000 per month. Magadh Mahila College principal Nagendra Verma has written to the Patna District Magistrate about the shortage. "For 10 days, we have not received any LPG supply. We have shifted to coal and wood, and the hostel menu had to be changed," Mr. Verma told *The Hindu*.

However, at Saidpur Boys Hostel of Patna University, students cooking on electric heaters say they have not been affected. "We have no mess here and we do not face any crisis," said a boarder, Anish Kumar. Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav blamed the government. "The crisis of LPG, petrol and diesel will increase further, and it is a failure of foreign policy," he said.

India said to have bought Iran LPG after U.S. eased sanctions

Sanctioned tanker *Aurora* carrying Iranian LPG expected to shortly reach the west coast port of Mangalore, say sources, LSEG data; Indian official denies knowledge of the cargoes being bought

Reuters

NEW DELHI

India has bought its first cargo of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas in years after the U.S. temporarily removed sanctions on Tehran's oil and refined fuels, LSG trade flows and three industry sources said.

India had shunned Iranian energy in 2019 under pressure from Western sanctions. The tanker was initially bound for China, LSEG data showed.

Sanctioned tanker *Aurora* carrying Iranian LPG is expected to shortly reach the west coast port of Mangalore, the sources said and LSEG data showed.

The South Asian nation



Guzzling down: The Iranian LPG cargo will be shared among the three major fuel retailers, say sources. REUTERS

has been hit hard by the disruption of energy shipments via the Strait of Hormuz caused by the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran.

The Iranian LPG cargo will be shared among the three fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum

Corp, and Hindustan Petroleum Corp.

The cargo has been purchased from a trader, and payment will be made in rupees, the sources said, adding that India was exploring buying more Iranian LPG cargoes.

Still, an official said he was not aware of Iranian cargoes being bought.

"[There are] no loaded cargoes from Iran, we have not heard of that," Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the federal shipping ministry said Wednesday at a press conference.

The three firms and India's oil ministry did not respond to Reuters requests for comments.

The world's second-largest LPG importer is battling its worst gas crisis in decades with the government cutting supplies for industries to shield households from shortage of cooking gas.

India consumed 33.15 million metric tons of LPG last year.



Paradip set to receive 7 mn barrels of crude

Satyasundar Barik

BHUBANESWAR

Amid the continuing crisis in West Asia, there is a note of reassurance. Off the coast of Odisha, Paradip Port is in midst of hosting four tankers carrying over 7 million barrels of crude oil, an amount exceeding India's average daily consumption.

While two ships are emptying crude oil at Paradip Port which will continue till Thursday evening, a mid-sized vessel carrying 3.296 metric tonnes will be docking at Paradip by Thursday evening.

According to Paradip Port sources, *San Ramon Voyage*, carrying 2,63,530 metric tonnes of crude oil from Angola and Nigeria, both members of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, has commenced discharge operations at the Single Point

Mooring and is expected to complete unloading by Thursday evening.

Similarly, *Phoenix*, a crude oil tanker carrying 99,016 MT, which recently moored at Paradip, began discharging operations on Wednesday. The vessel had sailed from Nakhodka Anchorage in the Russian Far East.

Another tanker, *Alexandros*, is currently in the Bay of Bengal and is scheduled to berth at Paradip Port at 11 am on Thursday. The vessel is carrying 2.53 lakh MT of crude oil and had departed from Forcados Terminal in Nigeria on March 23, 2026.

Meanwhile, *Almi Titan*, carrying 3.296 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil, is expected to dock at Paradip Port around 10 pm on Thursday. The tanker had commenced its voyage from Panama in South America.



MoPNG issues directions to strengthen natural gas infra

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted reforms to ease provisions towards expanding piped gas network – both domestic and commercial. Late on Tuesday, the government invoked the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), seeking to accelerate the push for piped natural gas.

The Ministry stressed

that the reforms were aimed at “addressing delays in approvals and access to land, and enabling faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas”, alongside instituting an investor-friendly network and improving last-mile connectivity.

The gazette notification underlines that in housing areas, the relevant entities would have to grant necessary permission to “lay,

build or expand” a pipeline within three days of receiving an application. Further, they would have 48 hours to accord approvals for last-mile connectivity.

In public areas that are not housing areas, the gazette clarifies that if the entity concerned neither rejects nor grants permission for laying of pipelines within the stipulated timelines, the application would be “deemed approved”.



Dealers flag irregular petrol, diesel supply

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, MARCH 25

Petroleum dealers in Haryana have raised concerns over irregular supply of petrol and diesel, alleging that disruptions in the supply chain have begun affecting fuel availability at retail outlets across the state.

The Haryana Petroleum Dealers' Welfare Association claimed that several petrol pumps are either run-

ning dry or operating on limited stock. The issue, they said, has emerged amid global tensions involving Iran, Israel and the US, which have started impacting fuel supply dynamics.

Sanjeev Chaudhary, state president of the association, said despite making advance payments, petrol pumps were not receiving adequate supply from oil marketing companies such as IOCL, HPCL and BPCL.

"The supply has started disrupting these days," he said, adding that "almost 9 to 10 petrol pumps in every district of the state have been dried up or running on a limited supply system."

Chaudhary said the association has taken up the matter with officials of oil companies, but they cited directions from higher authorities. "We have talked to the officials of the oil companies, but they said that they are following the directions

of higher officials," he added.

He further alleged that long queues of oil tankers could be seen outside supply depots, indicating delays and disruptions in distribution.

The association also flagged concerns over rising diesel demand during the ongoing wheat harvesting season. Farmers, they said, are facing difficulties due to inadequate fuel supply at petrol pumps.

"Petrol pump owners have

deposited the payment in advance, but they didn't get oil supply properly. Due to this attitude of the oil companies, a dire situation could arise in the state in the coming days due to an inadequate supply of diesel and petrol," Chaudhary warned.

The association has appealed to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to intervene and ensure smooth supply of fuel in the public interest to avoid any potential crisis.



PNG companies offer free gas to woo consumers

SUNIT DHAWAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

REWARI, MARCH 25

Amidst the ongoing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) crisis, cooking gas companies have begun promoting piped natural gas (PNG) to consumers. Efforts are being made to encourage households to switch from LPG to PNG.

Cut security deposit for domestic connections

Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), which supplies PNG in Rewari district, has reduced the advance security deposit for domestic PNG connections by Rs 2,000. IGL has already developed a PNG network in the district to serve residents, restaurants and hospitals.

In an official statement, Anshuman Singh Kushwaha, CGM and GA Head, IGL, said the company had launched several consumer-friendly initiatives to promote PNG. "The advance security deposit for domestic PNG connections has been reduced from Rs 7,000 to Rs 5,000. Additionally, the meter security fee for commercial connections has been completely waived," he said. He added that customers who register for PNG connections and activate them by March 31, 2026 would also receive free gas worth Rs 500. Kushwaha noted that the stability of PNG had played a vital role in maintaining essential services, particularly food supply chains and healthcare facilities.

'Ignore rumours': Govt, oil firms say no shortage of petrol, diesel

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, March 25

WITH PANIC buying of petrol and diesel being reported from some parts of the country, the government and oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Wednesday assured that there is no shortage of the two automobile fuels with enough stocks available across India. They also urged the people to not fall prey to rumours on social media and avoid panic buying. Over the past couple of days, there have been instances of long queues outside fuel retail outlets from some parts of the country, such as Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

"We have adequate inventory of crude oil, our refineries are operating at optimum capacity...we have an annual crude oil refining capacity of around 26 crore tonnes. I want to say all this because over the past two days we have seen that in various regions, there have been queues outside retail outlets or petrol pumps, and panic buying has also been observed," said Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma.

"I want to assure all citizens that petrol and diesel are avail-



Police personnel stand guard as people queue up at a petrol pump in Prayagraj on Wednesday. PTI

able in adequate quantities. There is no shortage at petrol pumps or at the fuel terminals that supply to petrol pumps. Therefore, please don't fall for rumours and avoid panic buying," she said.

According to industry insiders, some fuel pump dealers have raised concerns that a recent change implemented by the OMCs in payment terms have impacted their operations. The OMCs now require upfront payments—cash-and-carry model—to be made by dealers before they can lift fuel

for sale. Until recently, in some cases, the OMCs were allowing dealers to take fuel on a few days of credit. On being asked if this is leading to problems at some retail outlets and whether the OMCs plan to offer credit to dealers, Sharma said that cash-and-carry is a routine commercial operation for OMCs. She said that credit policies vary across OMCs, and it is their commercial decision which they can review and look into if required.

In a public advisory, the country's largest refiner and

fuel retailer, Indian Oil Corporation, said, "There is no shortage of petrol or diesel. Rumours circulating online can create unnecessary concern and disrupt normal supply patterns. Indian Oil outlets are well-stocked and fully operational. We urge citizens to avoid panic buying and rely only on verified information. Together, we can keep the system running efficiently for everyone."

The other two public sector OMCs—Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

(HPCL)—also issued advisories. Together, the three companies have a 90% share in India's petrol and diesel retail segment.

"Rumors of petrol and diesel shortages are completely unfounded. India has ample fuel reserves and supply chains are running normally. BPCL is fully operational and committed to uninterrupted fuel supply. Please don't rely on rumors or crowd fuel stations and only rely on official sources for further information," BPCL said. HPCL said: "Fuel supplies remain stable, and adequate stocks are available. Customers are advised not to be misled by rumours or resort to panic buying. Please continue with normal consumption patterns."

The war in West Asia and the consequent disruption in global energy supplies from the region has impacted India's oil and gas imports. While LPG supplies have been hit the hardest, and some stress is also visible in natural gas supplies, supplies of crude oil—from which petrol and diesel are produced—has been the least impacted. India has also ramped up crude oil imports from non-West Asia sources, particularly Russia, to cover the shortfall.

No LPG Cylinders for Households in Areas Served by Piped Gas



Our Bureau

New Delhi: Households in areas served by piped natural gas (PNG) will stop receiving liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) within three months after being given an opportunity to apply for PNG, according to a government order.

The rule will apply to households that can be supplied natural gas by city gas distributors due to their proximity to pipeline infrastructure. City gas companies will first send a communication by registered post, asking such households to apply for and become PNG subscribers. If they do not apply within three months, their LPG supply will be discontinued.

Applying for a PNG connection requires certain documentation, including proof of residence. Accordingly, the rule will apply to households "provided that an application to become a domestic piped natural gas consumer can be made by the lawful occupier of the household or the owner of the said premises".

LPG supply will not be affected if the city gas distributor issues a no-objection certificate "on the ground that it is technically infeasible to provide a piped natural gas connection or gas supply to such household".

Where PNG Reach Hits A Wall In City

Unauthorised Colonies And Rented Homes Pose Challenge

Mallica Joshi & Abhinav Rajput | TNN

New Delhi: The Centre's decision to stop LPG cylinder supply in areas that have piped natural gas (PNG) coverage may hit a wall in Delhi's unauthorised colonies and at homes occupied by tenants.

According to Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), which provides PNG connections across Delhi, its network now extends across the capital, but unauthorised colonies pose a challenge.

"There is a feasibility issue in unauthorised colonies and areas where the streets are very narrow. There are several factors that have to be kept in mind when approving

connections to ensure safety," an IGL official said.

At present, there are over 19 lakh domestic and 5,200 commercial PNG connections in Delhi. Because of the squeeze on LPG supply because of the conflict in West Asia, IGL has seen a marked increase in requests for fresh connections over the past four weeks. IGL officials said 30,000 new connections have been provided in the first 23 days of March.

Till two years ago, a dark spot in Delhi PNG coverage was rural areas. However, since IGL was given a go-ahead, it has covered 260 out of 350 villages in the capital.

When compared to other utilities such as power and water,

30K NEW PNG CONNECTIONS IN MARCH

PNG CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

Domestic connections: **19 lakh**

Commercial connections: **5,200**

Over **30,000 new connections** provided in first 23 days of March

Penetration in unauthorised colonies low **due to feasibility concerns**



NATION-WIDE FIGURES

Domestic connections: **31.8 lakh**

Commercial connections: **12,567**

**IGL operates in Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Rewari, Karnal, Kaithal, Kanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Ajmer and Banda*

HOW THIS COMPARES TO POWER CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

Domestic connections **62 lakh**

Commercial connections **11.6 lakh**

however, PNG penetration in Delhi lags. According to Delhi's Economic Survey, there are over 62 lakh domestic electricity connections. Unlike PNG connections, a large majority of homes in unauthorised colonies have electricity connections.

This is primarily because even if a PNG pipeline has been laid in the vicinity of one's home, other factors, including street width, have to be taken into account before approving a connection – something that is not required

for electricity connections.

As per Delhi Development Authority, over 40 lakh people in the city live in unauthorised colonies. This equals at least 8 lakh homes.

PNG connections require proper ventilation inside ho-

mes, accessible pipelines for maintenance, and adequate emergency response systems that are difficult to ensure in congested settlements.

The second hurdle is rented spaces. A new PNG connection costs roughly Rs 7,000, money that landlords are unwilling to spend. Similarly, many tenants are unwilling to spend to get a PNG connection in a home they will not live in permanently.

"My colony has PNG pipelines but my landlord has not taken a connection. He lives in the same colony and has a PNG connection in his home. Even if I want to switch from LPG to PNG, I cannot apply for a connection since I am not the owner. I cannot afford to pay for a new connection each time I shift to a new house," said Rajiv Tyagi, 34, a tenant in a DDA flat in Sarita Vihar.



Have enough fuel stocks, don't believe rumours, says govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt and oil companies on Wednesday said there was no shortage of petrol and diesel and advised people against panic buying.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, told a media conference that reports of long queues at fuel pumps were received over the past two days due to rumours of shortage.

"Don't believe rumours. Don't indulge in panic buying. Let me assure you we have adequate fuel stocks. I also want to tell people that there is no hike in petrol and diesel prices," she said.

Oil marketing companies and their heads also issued statements, while govts of Telangana, Goa and MP dismissed rumours of a crisis.

Indian Oil chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney, in a social media post, assured people of adequate fuel stocks.

"We would like to assure all citizens that there is no shortage of petrol or diesel. IndianOil outlets nationwide are well-stocked and functioning normally. Un-

verified rumours can lead to unnecessary panic and supply disruptions. Please avoid panic buying and trust only official sources. Let us act responsibly and support seamless fuel availability for all," he said on X.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) termed reports of fuel shortages "completely unfounded". It said supplies were stable and well managed across India, and its refineries, terminals and logistics network were operating continuously to ensure steady availability. "There is ample fuel available and retail outlets are being replenished regularly. There is no need to panic, refuel as usual and rely only on verified information. BPCL is working behind the scenes to keep the nation moving without disruption," the company said.

Hindustan Petroleum advised customers to continue refuelling normally. "We would like to reassure you that there is no shortage of fuel or LPG. Customers are requested to avoid panic buying and refuel as per normal requirements," it said.

LPG DISTRIBUTORS WILL NOTIFY CONSUMERS ABOUT THE 3-MONTH COUNTDOWN

Switch to piped gas if available or lose LPG supply, says govt

'LPG supply will cease if a household does not apply for PNG within three months of receiving communication'

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, March 25

HOUSEHOLDS USING liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will have to mandatorily shift to piped natural gas (PNG) in areas where PNG infrastructure and supplies are available, according to a government order aimed at accelerating natural gas network expansion and reducing dependence on LPG.

With the war in West Asia severely hitting India's LPG imports, the government has been appealing to consumers to switch to PNG if it is available in their vicinity to take some pressure off of LPG supplies. Some city gas distribution (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 Centre has also urged states to help expedite PNG network expansion, and has even offered additional commercial LPG allocation if they take certain specific measures in this regard.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution (Through Laying, Building, Operation and Expansion of Pipelines and Other Facilities) Order, 2026 under the Essential Commodities Act. The order aims to facilitate the expansion of PNG networks, im-

prove last-mile connectivity, and promote a shift towards natural gas for cooking, transport, and industrial purposes. The order—the government expects—will help free up LPG supplies from areas that have PNG connectivity, allowing those volumes to reach consumers in areas that currently don't have PNG infrastructure.

According to the order, LPG supply shall cease if a household does not apply for a PNG connection—despite it being available—within three months of receiving formal communication to become a PNG consumer. Also, if the resident welfare association or the property owner fails to grant permission for city gas pipelines to be laid for the purpose of providing PNG connections, LPG supplies will stop three months after a notice is issued in this regard. In both these scenarios, residents will be notified of this three-month countdown by their LPG distributors "either by text message or telephonically or by recorded voice message". LPG supplies will continue only in cases where it is technically infeasible for the authorised CGD operator to provide PNG supply; no objection certificates will be provided to consumers in such cases.

According to Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma, there are around 60 lakh households in India that have PNG infrastructure avail-



The Central government has also urged states to help expedite PNG network expansion.

REUTERS

able in their vicinity, but continue to use LPG.

She informed that so far in March, around 2.5 lakh new PNG connections—domestic and commercial—have been provided and 2.2 lakh LPG users have shifted to PNG.

Sharma said that this move is intended to reduce India's high import dependency for LPG, due to which the ongoing West Asia crisis has had such an impact on LPG supplies.

India depends on imports to meet 60% of its LPG requirement, and 90% of the imports come from West Asia via the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, where vessel movements have all but come to a halt. By contrast, India's reliance on imports for natural gas is around 50%, and 55-60%

of LNG imports come through the Strait of Hormuz. Also, in the most vulnerable segment of household consumers, India has a huge LPG consumer base with 33.3 crore domestic connections.

Households with PNG connections are far fewer at about 1.6 crore. In the current scenario, priority sectors continue to receive protected natural gas supplies, including 100% supply to the household PNG and CNG for transport segments, while supplies to industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at around 80%.

The LPG supply constraint has forced the government to heavily cut supplies to commercial and industrial consumers in an effort to ensure

• DIRESTRAITS

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• So far in March, around 2.5 lakh new PNG connections—domestic and commercial—have been provided and 2.2 lakh LPG users have shifted to PNG

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• The LPG supply constraint has forced the government to heavily cut supplies to commercial and industrial consumers in an effort to ensure uninterrupted supplies to crores of households

uninterrupted supplies to crores of households that use the fuel for cooking. Additionally, 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 led to an increase of 40% in domestic LPG production vis-à-vis pre-West Asia conflict levels, which means that India's own LPG production is now meeting roughly 55% of the country's demand versus 40% earlier.

Once the requisite pipeline infrastructure is established, PNG scores higher than LPG in terms of convenience for users.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



IRAN WAR HAS LED TO SURGE IN ASIAN LNG PRICES

Why Europe-bound LNG cargoes are now headed to Asia, including India

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, March 25

AMID THE effective halt in vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz and liquefied natural gas (LNG) production suspension by Qatar, a growing number of LNG tankers that were carrying cargoes meant for Europe are diverting to Asia, including India.

According to maritime firm MarineTraffic, around 11 LNG tankers originally bound for Europe have diverted to Asia since March 3 "as buyers responded to tightening supply and rising spot prices following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and outages at Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG complex".

"The latest diversion involves the LNG carrier La Seine, which altered course from Montoir (France) to Asia on 19 March after loading in the United States. Other vessels, including BW Brussels and LNG Cross River, are now heading toward Dahej, India, while additional cargoes are signalling destinations in Taiwan and East Asia," MarineTraffic said Monday.

According to industry insiders and experts, the trend of LNG cargoes diverting to Asia could continue going forward, as long as LNG flows through the Strait of Hormuz remain heavily disrupted.

Various countries in Asia—India among them—have high dependency on West Asia, particularly Qatar, for LNG supplies. Unless supplies through the Strait of Hormuz normalise, Asian buyers are expected to compete with Europe for LNG supplies from alternative sources, even at soaring prices. In the current scenario where the physical supply risk is clearly present, supply security takes precedence over price,



Due to the surge in Asian LNG prices, cargoes — even from faraway US — are heading to Asia instead of Europe. AP

at least for sectors where LNG use is critical and demand inelastic. Apart from India, countries that are in the market to cover supply shortages from West Asia include the likes of South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, and Bangladesh, according to analysts.

E. Hormuz closure & Qatar outage

Most of the LNG exports from West Asia depend on the Strait of Hormuz to enter the international market. With vessel movements through the critical maritime chokepoint all but halted amid the West Asia war, supplies to Asian LNG importers, including India, have been hit, creating an immediate supply gap.

This has forced India and the other buyers to scout for LNG from alternative geographies through spot market purchases, which has led to a surge in Asian LNG prices, making it lucrative for cargoes even from faraway geographies like the US to head to Asia instead of Europe.

The Strait of Hormuz, under normal circumstances, accounted for one-fifth of global LNG flows. As for India, 55-60% of the country's LNG imports—mainly supplies from Qatar and the UAE—depend on the strait. India depends on LNG to meet around half of its natural gas requirement, which means that the West Asia war has effectively made 30% of India's natural gas supply unavailable.

Apart from the effective halt in shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, QatarEnergy has also suspended LNG production at its flagship Ras Laffan facility, which came under attack twice. QatarEnergy's primary LNG production units, liquefaction plants, and export infrastructure are all concentrated in Ras Laffan, making it the world's largest LNG hub that accounts for roughly a fifth of global LNG supply. Although QatarEnergy has so far not mentioned the impact on supplies to India, there have been concerns that long-term LNG flows to India could be impacted.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM





US curbs eased, India buys first Iranian LPG consignment in years

New Delhi: India has bought its first cargo of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in years after the US temporarily removed sanctions on Tehran's oil and refined fuels, LSG trade flows and three industry sources said.

India had shunned energy purchases from Iran in 2019 under pressure from Western sanctions. The tanker was initially bound for China, as per data. Sanctioned tanker Aurora carrying Iranian LPG is expected to shortly reach Mangalore. The Iranian LPG cargo will be shared among the three fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Hindustan Petroleum Corp.

The cargo has been purchased from a trader, and payment will be made in rupees, the sources said, adding India is exploring buying more Iranian LPG cargoes.

Still, an official said he was not aware of Iranian cargoes being bought.

“(There are) no loaded cargoes from Iran, we have not heard of that,” said Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the shipping ministry Wednesday at a press conference.

The three oil companies and oil ministry has not yet responded to requests for comments. REUTERS



Have PNG access but not switched? Govt will stop LPG refills

New Delhi: In a bid to wean away consumers from LPG, govt has decided to stop after three months the supply of cylinders to households which have access to piped natural gas but have shied away from taking a connection, reports **Atul Mathur**.

India imports about 60% of its LPG requirement, with nearly 90% of it coming through the Strait of Hormuz. Though about half of the requirement of LNG — converted into PNG and CNG and also used by industries and power plants — is also imported, officials said its supplies remain comfortable.

A senior official said even rented houses where tenants currently use LPG will have to switch. LPG supply will not be stopped if the authorised entity issues an NOC stating providing a PNG connection is technically not feasible. Officials said city gas distribution (CGD) companies will send a communication to LPG consumers who can switch to PNG.

Timelines prescribed for grant of right of way or permissions to CGD firms

Eyeing quick expansion of the piped gas network, govt has made it mandatory for authorities to grant right of way or permissions to CGD companies within prescribed timelines, failing which approvals will be deemed granted. The order, issued under Essential Commodities Act, focuses on reforms to fast-track approvals for laying pipeline infrastructure and ensuring time-bound permissions.

Shift to PNG must in serviced areas



Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

NEW DELHI

The Centre has mandated that households in areas serviced by Piped Natural Gas (PNG) must switch to PNG or risk losing their Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply within three months.

The move comes as the government seeks to ease pressure on LPG supplies amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Officials said 2.5 lakh new PNG connections have been issued in the last 25 days, and 2.2 lakh consumers have already shifted from LPG to

PNG.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued the order on Tuesday, stating that LPG connections may be discontinued if consumers do not opt for PNG despite connectivity being available. The Centre has been pushing the transition as over 90% of India's LPG imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been blockaded by Iran due to the conflict.

The order has been notified under the Essential Commodities Act India.

Centre warns of LPG supply cut in three months

▶ **Contd on | nation**

Shift to PNG...

It also aims to fast-track pipeline expansion by easing approvals and ensuring time-bound clearances. However, households will be allowed to continue using LPG where it is technically not feasible to provide PNG.

The order establishes a unified, transparent framework for laying and expanding PNG pipelines. It provides for deemed approval if local bodies fail to clear pipeline proposals within strict timelines, such as three days for housing areas. It also replaces fragmented approvals with a single system and defines a "dig and pay" mechanism to address disputes with local authorities.

At an inter-ministerial briefing, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Sujata Sharma said the shift from LPG to PNG was taking place at a rapid pace, with 2.5 lakh new applications or registrations received. She added that there was no shortage at any distributorship and that online booking levels were satisfactory.

On commercial LPG supply, Sharma said approximately 26 states have allocated 22,000 tonnes so far, including allocations by state governments and supplies from public sector oil marketing companies. Nearly 30,000 cylinders of 5kg each were distributed on Tuesday.

To support the transition to alternate fuels, the Centre has made additional allocations of kerosene, with orders issued in 16 states and union territories.

Sharma said the Centre and states are also working together to curb black marketing. "Yesterday, approximately 2,700 raids were conducted in various states, and approximately 2,000 cylinders were seized," she said.

Meanwhile, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping Rajesh Kumar Sinha said two India-flagged LPG tankers, Jagat Vasant and Pine Gas, which transited the Strait of Hormuz late on Monday carrying over 92,000 metric tonnes of LPG, will arrive at Kandla and New Mangalore ports on March 26 and 27, respectively.

He also dismissed reports that 20 Indian vessels were stranded in the Persian Gulf, stating that all 540 Indian seafarers on board were safe. He said no permission from Iran was required to pass through the strategic waterway and added that routing decisions are taken by shipping companies based on safety and operational assessments.

If available, switch to PNG or lose LPG

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government has ordered households in areas with existing piped natural gas infrastructure to switch from LPG cylinders to PNG connections within three months of receiving notice, or face discontinuation of gas refill supplies — a move driven by mounting pressure on India's LPG imports following the West Asia conflict.

The order, issued on Tuesday under the Essential Commodities Act and titled the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026, directs local area gas distributors to notify households via registered or speed post where pipeline infrastructure is already in place.

If a household does not apply for a PNG connection within three months of receiving such notice, "the LPG supply to such address shall cease," the gazette notification said. Applications can be made by the lawful occupier or the owner of the premises.

The order provides one exemption: LPG supply will not be cut if the distributor issues a no-objection certificate certifying it is technically infeasible to



LPG connection will be lost if not applied for PNG within 3 months of receiving notice. HT

provide a piped connection to that address.

Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the ministry of petroleum, confirmed the order at an inter-ministerial briefing and framed it as a supply security measure. "Our import dependency for LPG is much higher than the import dependency for PNG or LNG. We produce 50% domestically as far as PNG is concerned. So, this is in the interest of nation that we shift from LPG to PNG," she said.

The compulsory switch applies only to areas that already have gas pipeline infra-

structure. The government estimates that six million consumers can make the transition; 0.22 million have already done so, Sharma said.

India currently has 16.2 million domestic PNG connections — against over 332 million LPG consumers, a number that grew from 140 million in 2014, including 105.6 million poor households with subsidised connections under PM Ujjwala Yojana.

India imports over 60% of the LPG it consumes, with Qatar alone accounting for 47% of total LPG imports. Iran's strike on Qatar's Ras Laffan industrial city — in addition to continued challenges in vessels navigating the Strait of Hormuz — has shut those supplies completely since March 18, sharpening the government's push to reduce dependence on cylinder gas.

The LPG-to-PNG directive is part of a broader notification that also mandates landowners — private individuals, government entities and housing societies — to grant right of way for gas pipeline laying, a measure aimed at removing the land access disputes and approval delays that have long hobbled pipeline expansion across the country. HT reported on that provision on Wednesday.



 Hindustan Times

India buys 1st Iran LPG cargo in years

Reuters

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India has bought its first cargo of Iranian liquefied petroleum gas in years after the US temporarily removed sanctions on Tehran's oil and refined fuels, LSG trade flows and three industry sources said.

India had shunned energy purchases from Iran in 2019 under pressure from Western sanctions. The tanker was initially bound for China, according to LSEG data.

Sanctioned tanker Aurora carrying Iranian LPG is expected to shortly reach the west coast port of Mangalore, the sources said and LSEG data showed.

The South Asian nation has been hit hard by the disruption of energy shipments via the Strait of Hormuz caused by the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran.

The Iranian LPG cargo will be shared among the three fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp, and Hindustan Petroleum Corp.

The cargo has been purchased from a trader, and payment will be made in rupees, the sources said, adding India is exploring buying more Iranian LPG cargoes. Still, an official said he was not aware of Iranian cargoes being bought. "(There are) no loaded cargoes from Iran, we have not heard of that," said Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the federal shipping ministry said Wednesday at a press conference.

The three firms and India's oil ministry did not immediately respond to comment requests.

India consumed 33.15 million metric tons of LPG, or cooking gas, last year, with imports accounting for about 60% of demand. About 90% of those imports came from West Asia. India is gradually moving out its stranded LPG cargoes from the Strait of Hormuz, with four LPG tankers moved so far--Shivalik, Nanda Devi, Pine Gas, and Jag Vasant. India is also loading LPG onto its empty vessels stranded in the Persian Gulf.

India preps \$1bn tender for Odisha crude reserve

Rituraj Baruah

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NEW DELHI: The West Asia war and the disruptions to energy supply have stirred urgency around India's long-delayed push to build strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs). Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) is set to float a tender by the end of April for a 4-million-tonne facility at Chandikhol in Odisha that had been approved five years ago, and advance yet another project at Padur in Karnataka, people aware of the developments said.

While the Chandikhol facility's construction cost is pegged at \$1 billion, another \$3 billion may be required to fill the reserve, they said.

In another development, Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL) has got the work order to develop India's first strategic reserve in a public-private partnership (PPP) model for a 2.5-million-tonne crude reserve in Padur.

"There is a plan to ramp up the strategic reserve capacity. A



The push to expedite the projects comes at a time when India is facing crude supply disruptions due to the US-Iran war. REUTERS

few locations have also been identified. The progress of the projects in pipeline will be accelerated. Land allocation has been done in Chandikhol. The RFP (request for proposal) for the project will be out in a month's time, said one of the two people mentioned above. "Also, the construction of Padur-II project will be done quickly as the work order has been sent and some required financial transactions have also been completed."

MEIL had won the bid for Padur Phase-II Crude Oil Underground Storage Cavern Project in September 2025. The project includes deployment and opera-

tions of 2.5-million-tonne capacity commercial-cum-strategic petroleum reserves, including dedicated single point mooring (SPM) and associated on-shore and off-shore pipelines.

Queries mailed to the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve and MEIL were unanswered until press time.

India currently has a strategic reserve capacity of 5.3 million tonnes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed the Lok Sabha on Monday that India is working on building 6.5 million tonnes of additional crude reserves. The Union cabinet had

cleared the 6.5 million tonne capacity, 4 million in Chandikhol and 2.5 million in Padur, in 2021.

Mint had in September 2025 reported that Indian Oil Corp Ltd, Vitol, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd and Larsen & Toubro Ltd had shown initial interest in developing the strategic crude reserve at Chandikhol.

Apart from these two facilities, India also plans to build new SPRs at six locations, as reported earlier by Mint.

The second person cited above said the second phase of the Padur facility is in the "engineering stage". The project will have four storage units, with a 625,000 tonnes capacity each, the person added.

The push to expedite the reservoir projects comes at a time when the country is facing crude supply disruptions due to the ongoing US-Iran war. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of global energy shipments move, has put at risk 40% of India's crude supplies.

The government has said the

country is comfortable in terms of oil stock and that more is coming in from alternative sources. However, price spike is a worry. India imports about 90% of its total oil requirement and a rise of every \$1 for a barrel of oil for a year may lead to a Rs 16,000-crore increase in the country's annual import bill. This is likely to lead to a host of macroeconomic implications on the external sector front as well as inflation and growth.

Experts said although strategic reserves are important for energy security, India needs a much accelerated development of reserves.

H.P.S. Ahuja, former managing director and chief executive officer at the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves, said: "Strategic reserves are the need of the hour to ensure energy security. Having both commercial and strategic reserves help the country. The PPP mode was introduced to enhance investments and fast-track the process," he said, indicating that these are not quick solutions. "However, these projects will take about 5-7 years for completion."

LPG DISTRIBUTORS WILL NOTIFY CONSUMERS ABOUT THE 3-MONTH COUNTDOWN

Switch to piped gas if available or lose LPG supply, says govt

'LPG supply will cease if a household does not apply for PNG within three months of receiving communication'

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New Delhi, March 25

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prove last-mile connectivity, and promote a shift towards natural gas for cooking, transport, and industrial purposes. The order—the government expects—will help free up LPG supplies from areas that have PNG connectivity, allowing those volumes to reach consumers in areas that currently don't have PNG infrastructure.

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According to Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma, there are around 60 lakh households in India that have PNG infrastructure avail-



The Central government has also urged states to help expedite PNG network expansion.

REUTERS

able in their vicinity, but continue to use LPG.

She informed that so far in March, around 2.5 lakh new PNG connections—domestic and commercial—have been provided and 2.2 lakh LPG users have shifted to PNG.

Sharma said that this move is intended to reduce India's high import dependency for LPG, due to which the ongoing West Asia crisis has had such an impact on LPG supplies.

India depends on imports to meet 60% of its LPG requirement, and 90% of the imports come from West Asia via the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, where vessel movements have all but come to a halt. By contrast, India's reliance on imports for natural gas is around 50%, and 55-60%

of LNG imports come through the Strait of Hormuz. Also, in the most vulnerable segment of household consumers, India has a huge LPG consumer base with 33.3 crore domestic connections.

Households with PNG connections are far fewer at about 1.6 crore. In the current scenario, priority sectors continue to receive protected natural gas supplies, including 100% supply to the household PNG and CNG for transport segments, while supplies to industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at around 80%.

The LPG supply constraint has forced the government to heavily cut supplies to commercial and industrial consumers in an effort to ensure

• DIRE STRAITS

• There are around 60 lakh households that have PNG infrastructure available in their vicinity, but they continue to use LPG

• So far in March, around 2.5 lakh new PNG connections—domestic and commercial—have been provided and 2.2 lakh LPG users have shifted to PNG

• Priority sectors continue to receive protected natural gas supplies, including 100% supply to the household PNG and CNG for transport segments

• The LPG supply constraint has forced the government to heavily cut supplies to commercial and industrial consumers in an effort to ensure uninterrupted supplies to crores of households

uninterrupted supplies to crores of households that use the fuel for cooking. Additionally, 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 led to an increase of 40% in domestic LPG production vis-à-vis pre-West Asia conflict levels, which means that India's own LPG production is now meeting roughly 55% of the country's demand versus 40% earlier.

Once the requisite pipeline infrastructure is established, PNG scores higher than LPG in terms of convenience for users.

FULL REPORT ON

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पीएनजी उपलब्ध होने पर भी एलपीजी न छोड़ी तो नहीं मिलेगा गैस सिलिंडर

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : घर में पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) की सुविधा उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद यदि आप एलपीजी सिलिंडर का उपयोग जारी रखते हैं तो तीन महीने बाद आपकी एलपीजी सप्लाय बंद कर दी जाएगी। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को जारी आदेश में यह सख्त प्रविधान किया है। यह कदम पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे युद्ध के कारण उत्पन्न एलपीजी की कमी को दूर करने और देश में नेचुरल गैस पाइपलाइन नेटवर्क को तेजी से फैलाने के लिए उठाया गया है।

सरकार का कहना है कि पीएनजी उत्पादन में देश की स्थिति एलपीजी से बेहतर है। इसलिए जिन आवासीय इकाइयों के पास पीएनजी की सुविधा उपलब्ध है, उन्हें इसका ही उपयोग करना चाहिए। इसमें सिलिंडर बुक करने या घर पर रखने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती, क्योंकि यह सीधे पाइप से आती रहती है।

‘नेचुरल गैस एंड पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन आर्डर, 2026’ में कहा गया है कि जहां भी पीएनजी पाइपलाइन पहुंच चुकी है, वहां के सभी घरों को पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य होगा। सरकार या अधिकृत एजेंसियों की तरफ से संबंधित घरों को सूचना दी जाएगी और तीन महीने के अंदर एलपीजी से पीएनजी में स्विच करना होगा। यदि कोई घर पीएनजी कनेक्शन नहीं लेता है तो तीसरे महीने के बाद उस पते पर एलपीजी सप्लाय बंद कर दी जाएगी। यदि किसी तकनीकी कारण से पीएनजी कनेक्शन देना संभव नहीं है तो अधिकृत एजेंसी को आब्जेक्शन सर्टिफिकेट (एनओसी) जारी कर सकती है। ऐसी स्थिति में एलपीजी जारी रहेगी, लेकिन एनओसी को रिकार्ड में रखा जाएगा और जैसे ही



- सरकार का सख्त आदेश, जहां पीएनजी पाइपलाइन पहुंच चुकी है, वहां सभी घरों को यह कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य
- कनेक्शन नहीं लिया तो 90 दिन बाद एलपीजी सप्लाय हो जाएगी बंद, सरकार हर संबंधित घर को करेगी अलर्ट

1.50

करोड़ से 1.60 करोड़ पीएनजी कनेक्शन हैं अभी देश में, पाइपलाइन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को और तेज किया जाएगा

60 लाख घर ऐसे हैं, जो पीएनजी ले सकते हैं, वहां पीएनजी टांचा मौजूद

2.20

लाख नए पीएनजी कनेक्शन दिए गए हैं हाल में, दुकानों-होटलों के लिए भी अभियान शुरू

सरकार ने कहा, पेट्रोल-डीजल की कोई कमी नहीं, सिलिंडर बुकिंग की समयसीमा भी नहीं बदली गई

पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने लोगों से अपील की है कि वे पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की सामान्य खपत बनाए रखें और घबराकर अनावश्यक ज्यादा खरीदने से बचें। देश के कई हिस्सों में पेट्रोल व डीजल की आपूर्ति को लेकर अफवाह को भी केंद्र सरकार और सरकारी क्षेत्र की तीनों पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों (एचपीसीएल, बीपीसीएल और आइओसी) ने खारिज किया है। सरकार ने कहा है कि कहीं भी पेट्रोल-डीजल की कोई किल्लत नहीं है। कीमतों में भी बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने कहा कि एलपीजी सिलिंडर बुकिंग की समयसीमा में बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। मंत्रालय ने बदलाव संबंधी खबरों को खारिज किया है।

कनेक्शन संभव होगा, इसे वापस ले लिया जाएगा। इस आदेश का उद्देश्य उन क्षेत्रों से एलपीजी की वचत करना है, जहां पाइपलाइन पहुंच चुकी है, ताकि उस एलपीजी को दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में भेजा जा सके। यह सरकार की ईंधन विविधीकरण की योजना का भी हिस्सा है।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में सचिव नीरज मित्तल ने एक्स पर लिखा है - ‘संकट को अवसर में बदल दिया गया है।’ आदेश में पाइपलाइन विछाने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया गया है। राज्य सरकारों की एजेंसियों की तरफ से दी जाने वाली मंजूरी के लिए समयबद्ध समयसीमा तय की

गई है। यदि समय पर मंजूरी नहीं मिलती है तो इसे माना जाएगा कि मंजूरी दे दी गई है। आवासीय सोसाइटियों में एक्सेस कंट्रोल करने वाली संस्थाओं को तीन कार्य दिवस में अनुमति देनी होगी और लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी 48 घंटे में देनी होगी। आवेदन बिना वजह खारिज नहीं किए जा सकेंगे। पाइपलाइन विछाने वाली कंपनियों को मंजूरी मिलने के चार महीने के अंदर काम शुरू करना होगा, अन्यथा पेनल्टी लग सकती है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) इस आदेश के क्रियान्वयन की निगरानी करेगा।

संबंधित >> पेज 10

जहां पहुंची पीएनजी, नहीं मिलेगी एलपीजी

पश्चिम एशिया संकट: जिन क्षेत्रों में पीएनजी लाइन मौजूद है वहां कनेक्शन नहीं लेने वालों पर पड़ेगा असर

सुधीर पाल सिंह और ध्रुवाक्ष साहा

जिन इलाकों में पाइपलाइन से प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) की आपूर्ति हो रही है, वहां के उपभोक्ता यदि पीएनजी कनेक्शन नहीं लेते हैं तो उन्हें एलपीजी सिलिंडर नहीं दिया जाएगा। यह कदम पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे युद्ध के कारण एलपीजी संकट के बीच उठाया गया है ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोग पीएनजी नेटवर्क से जुड़ जाएं और आगे ईंधन आपूर्ति में आने वाली दिक्कतों को कम से कम किया जा सके। सरकार ने इस संबंध में मंगलवार को आदेश जारी कर दिया है।

इस आदेश में कहा गया है कि यदि कोई घर ऐसे क्षेत्र में स्थित है, जहां किसी अधिकृत एजेंसी ने पहले ही पाइपलाइन बिछा दी है या प्राकृतिक गैस की आपूर्ति करने की स्थिति में है और एजेंसी ने उस पते पर घरेलू पीएनजी उपभोक्ता बनने के लिए मैसेज भेजा है, इसके बाद भी घरेलू पीएनजी उपभोक्ता बनने के लिए आवेदन नहीं किया गया है, तो उस पते पर मैसेज भेजे जाने की तारीख से तीन महीने बाद एलपीजी आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी। यह प्राकृतिक गैस और पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण (पाइपलाइन बिछाने, निर्माण, संचालन और विस्तार करने तथा अन्य सुविधाओं के जरिए) आदेश उन मामलों में लागू नहीं होगा जहां तकनीकी रूप से पाइप कनेक्शन प्रदान करना संभव नहीं है। इसके लिए अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र देना होगा। सरकार उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी पर लाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रही है, जो एक अधिक सुविधाजनक ईंधन विकल्प है और पश्चिम एशिया संकट से उत्पन्न आपूर्ति व्यवधान से कम प्रभावित होता है। अब तक, इसने देश भर में 307 भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में सीजीडी नेटवर्क विस्तार के लिए सीजीडी संस्थाओं को अधिकृत किया है। आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम-1955 के तहत जारी इस आदेश में देश भर में पाइपलाइन बिछाने और इनके विस्तार के लिए समयबद्ध रूपरेखा पेश



राजेश कुमार सिन्हा, नौवहन मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव

की गई है, जिसमें मंजूरी और भूमि तक पहुंच में देरी जैसी अड़चनों को दूर किया गया है। सीजीडी संस्थाओं ने मंगलवार को कहा कि वे 110 भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों में 9,046 पीएनजी कनेक्शन जारी कर चुकी हैं। तेल मंत्रालय ने पश्चिम एशिया संकट पर आयोजित संवाददाता सम्मेलन के बाद एक बयान में कहा, 'सरकार ने पहले ही उपभोक्ताओं को 20 प्रतिशत वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी आपूर्ति आंशिक रूप से बहाल कर दी है। इसके अतिरिक्त पीएनजी विस्तार सुधारों से जुड़ा अतिरिक्त 10 प्रतिशत आवंटन का प्रस्ताव दिया गया है। साथ ही पिछले सप्ताह राज्यों को अलग से वाणिज्यिक एलपीजी का 20 प्रतिशत आवंटन करने की अनुमति दी गई है। इस तरह अब कुल आवंटन 50 प्रतिशत हो जाएगा।'

संवाददाता सम्मेलन में पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने यह भी कहा कि सभी रिफाइनरियां उच्च क्षमता पर काम कर रही हैं, कच्चे तेल का पर्याप्त भंडार है। पेट्रोल और डीजल को भी कोई कमी नहीं है। पेट्रोल पंप भी देश भर में सामान्य रूप से काम

कर रहे हैं। पश्चिम एशिया संकट के कारण फंसे कार्गो वाले निर्यातकों के लिए कई सरकारी बंदरगाहों ने राहत और रियायतों का ऐलान किया है। अदाणी पोर्ट्स एंड स्पेशल इकॉनॉमिक जोन के स्वामित्व वाले गुजरात के मुंद्रा बंदरगाह ने भी मंगलवार से निर्यातकों को रियायतें देना शुरू कर दिया है। यह बात मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने अंतर-मंत्रालयी समूह की बैठक के दौरान कही। यह बंदरगाह भारत का सबसे बड़ा कंटेनर कार्गो हैंडलर है। ईरान के साथ संघर्ष शुरू होने के बाद होर्मुज स्ट्रेट को पार करने वाला एक एलपीजी जहाज यहां भी आया है।

नौवहन मंत्रालय के विशेष सचिव राजेश कुमार सिन्हा ने कहा, 'मुंद्रा बंदरगाह ने पश्चिम एशिया जाने वाले निर्यात कंटेनरों के लिए 15 दिनों तक मुफ्त भंडारण सुविधा प्रदान की है। रीफर प्लग-इन शुल्क पर 80 प्रतिशत की छूट दी है और लिफ्ट-ऑन/लिफ्ट-ऑफ और परिवहन शुल्क भी माफ कर दिए गए हैं। इसके अलावा, बंदरगाह ने 'बैक-टू-टाउन' कंटेनरों के लिए 15-दिन की मुफ्त भंडारण विंडो की पेशकश की है।'

रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडारों की विस्तार प्रक्रिया में तेजी

सुधीर पाल सिंह

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने कहा है कि ओडिशा और कर्नाटक में भारत के रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार (एसपीआर) की दो प्रमुख विस्तार परियोजनाओं के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया तेजी से आगे बढ़ रही है। पश्चिम एशिया में संघर्ष की वजह से उपजे ऊर्जा संकट को देखते हुए सरकार देश भर में पर्याप्त एसपीआर स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दे रही है।



मंत्रालय ने पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस पर संसदीय स्थायी समिति को काम की स्थिति पर पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में बताया, 'ओडिशा के चंद्रिखोल में पेट्रोलियम भंडार के लिए अधिग्रहीत होने वाली भूमि और मुआवजे की दर को अंतिम रूप दिया जा रहा है जबकि उदुपी के पास पाडुर में भूमि अधिग्रहण का काम लगभग पूरा होने वाला है।'

इसमें कहा गया है कि चंद्रिखोल में भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया तेजी से चल रही है। ओडिशा सरकार ने परियोजना के लिए 400 एकड़ भूमि को मंजूरी दे दी है और इंडिया स्टेटेजिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व्स लिमिटेड को 363.3 एकड़ के लिए मांग पत्र मिल गया है। मंत्रालय ने कहा, 'शेष 36.7 एकड़ के लिए मांग पत्र शीघ्र मिलने की उम्मीद है।'

कंपनी ने आंध्र प्रदेश के विशाखापत्तनम और कर्नाटक के मंगलूर और पाडुर में 53.3 लाख टन कच्चे तेल की कुल क्षमता वाली एसपीआर स्थापित की हैं। ये एसपीआर आपूर्ति संकट के समय बफर के रूप में काम कर सकती हैं।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस राज्य मंत्री सुरेश गोपी ने संसद में एक सवाल के लिखित उत्तर में कहा, 'कच्चे तेल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के भंडारण के लिए वर्तमान कुल राष्ट्रीय क्षमता 74 दिन है, जिसमें तेल विपणन कंपनियों की 64.5 दिनों की भंडारण सुविधाओं की क्षमता शामिल है।'

अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी के सदस्यता मानदंड के अनुसार सदस्य देशों को पिछले वर्ष के शुद्ध आयात के 90 दिनों के बराबर कच्चे तेल और उत्पाद भंडार बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता होती है।

सरकार ने जुलाई 2021 में ओडिशा के चंद्रिखोल और कर्नाटक के पाडुर में 65 लाख टन भंडारण क्षमता वाली दो अतिरिक्त वाणिज्यिक-सह-रणनीतिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व सुविधाओं की स्थापना को पीपीपी मॉडल के तहत मंजूरी दी थी, जिसमें कुल परियोजना लागत 14,527 करोड़ रुपये रखी गई थी और व्यवहार्यता अंतर वित्तपोषण कुल परियोजना लागत का 60 प्रतिशत तक सीमित था।

आदेश: सरकार ने कहा, पाइपलाइन की सुविधा है तो कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य पीएनजी वाले इलाकों में गैस सिलेंडर नहीं मिलेगा



नई दिल्ली, विशेष संवाददाता।
 ईरान और अमेरिका-इजराइल जंग के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार को नए आदेश जारी किए। इसके मुताबिक, पीएनजी वाले इलाकों में कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य होगा। सरकार ने ऐसे लोगों को एलपीजी की आपूर्ति बंद करने का फैसला किया है।

अफवाहों से बचें लोग:
 पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि यदि लोग कनेक्शन नहीं लेंगे तो तीन महीने बाद गैस सिलेंडर की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी। हालांकि, जहां पाइप कनेक्शन देना तकनीकी रूप से संभव नहीं है, वहां एनओसी के आधार पर एलपीजी आपूर्ति जारी रहेगी। इसके साथ ही केंद्र सरकार में देश में पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की किसी तरह की किल्लत से इनकार करते हुए लोगों से अफवाहों पर ध्यान नहीं देने की अपील की। सरकार का कहना है कि देश में पेट्रोल, डीजल, एलपीजी और पीएनजी की आपूर्ति पूरी तरह सामान्य है।

घबराहट में खरीदारी न करने की अपील: संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि देश में सभी तेल रिफाइनरी पूरी क्षमता के साथ काम कर रही हैं। लोगों को विश्वास दिलाते हुए उन्होंने



नई दिल्ली के दरियागंज इलाके में गैस एजेंसी के बाहर लगी कतार। • खंनू मेहता

एलपीजी, ईंधन शुल्क वसूलना गैर कानूनी

एलपीजी संकट की आड़ में उपभोक्ताओं से एलपीजी और ईंधन शुल्क वसूल रहे होटलों और रेस्तरांओं को सरकार ने चेतावनी जारी की है। केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (सीसीपीए) ने बुधवार को कहा कि यह गैर कानूनी है और ऐसे मामलों में सख्त कार्रवाई की जाएगी। प्राधिकरण ने होटल, रेस्तरांओं को आगाह किया कि वे एलपीजी शुल्क और ईंधन लागत वसूली जैसे अतिरिक्त शुल्क उपभोक्ताओं से न वसूलें। **> P13**

जंग - दिन 26 | ईरान का दावा, एफ-18 विमान मार गिराया



कहा कि देश में पेट्रोल, डीजल और गैस की किसी भी तरह की कमी नहीं है। उन्होंने अपील की कि लोग घबराहट में खरीदारी नहीं करें।

ढाई लाख नए कनेक्शन: सुजाता शर्मा ने कहा कि पिछले 25 दिनों में 2.5

लाख पीएनजी के नए कनेक्शन लिए गए हैं। इनमें 2.2 लाख एलपीजी उपभोक्ता पीएनजी पर शिफ्ट हुए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि विभिन्न गैस वितरण कंपनियों के पास 2.5 लाख आवेदन लंबित हैं।

1 ईरान ने दावा किया कि उसने अमेरिका के एफ-18 विमान को मार गिराया है।

2 अमेरिका ने युद्धविराम के लिए 15 सूत्रीय प्रस्ताव दिया। ईरान ने पांच शर्तें रखीं।

3 ईरान ने होर्मुज के बाद अब अल मंडेब जलमार्ग को बंद करने की चेतावनी दी।

@2AM

- इजरायल ने दावा किया कि उसने हिजबुल्ला के रॉकेट लॉन्चर नष्ट किए
- पेटागन ने जंग के लिए और अधिक मिसाइल बनाने का आदेश दिया

03 महीने की समय सीमा के बाद बंद कर दी जाएगी सिलेंडर की आपूर्ति

2.2 लाख नए पीएनजी उपभोक्ता जुड़े वीते 25 दिनों के मोतर

25 दिन ही रहेगी बुकिंग की समय सीमा

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को स्पष्ट किया कि एलपीजी रिफिल बुकिंग की समय-सीमा में बदलाव को लेकर फैल रही खबरें पूरी तरह गलत हैं। मौजूदा समय-सीमा में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, न्यूज रिपोर्टों और सोशल मीडिया में दबाव किया जा रहा है कि उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत कनेक्शन की रिफिल बुकिंग के लिए समय-सीमा 45 दिन, गैर पीएमयूवाई सिंगल सिलिंडर रिफिल बुकिंग के लिए 25 दिन और गैर पीएमयूवाई डबल सिलिंडर रिफिल बुकिंग के लिए 35 दिन की समय-सीमा तय की गई।

किराएदार को एनओसी लेने पर ही मिलेगा सिलेंडर

किराएदारों को घर मालिक के नाम पर पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेना होगा। यदि मकान मालिक पीएनजी लगवाने के लिए अपनी सहमति नहीं देता है, तो किराएदार को पीएनजी वितरण एजेंसी से एनओसी लेनी होगी, तभी वह एलपीजी कनेक्शन रख पाएगा।

2700 डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर को कारण बताओ नोटिस दिए हैं। सरकार के अनुसार, प्रवासी श्रमिकों की परेशानी को ध्यान में रखते हुए 30 हजार से अधिक पांच किलो के सिलेंडर वितरित किए हैं।

> मध्यपूर्व में जंग P12

पीएनजी कनेक्शन के लिए रोड खोदने पर शुल्क नहीं



अच्छी खबर

नई दिल्ली, प्रमुख संवाददाता। पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए एनडीएमसी के बाद लोक निर्माण विभाग (पीडब्ल्यूडी) ने भी बड़ी राहत दी है। इसके तहत सड़क खोदने के लिए एजेंसियों को शुल्क नहीं देना होगा। यह छूट तीन महीने के लिए दी गई है।

विभाग ने यह भी निर्णय लिया है कि पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेने के लिए सड़क खोदने का आवेदन मिलने के 24 घंटे के भीतर इसकी अनुमति दी जाएगी। छूट 30 जून तक प्रभावी रहेगी।

■ आईजीएल को पर्याप्त मानव संसाधन के साथ काम करने को कहा

पीडब्ल्यूडी की ओर से जारी आधिकारिक आदेश के अनुसार, यह निर्णय उपभोक्ताओं को तेज गति से पीएनजी कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से लिया गया है।

पीडब्ल्यूडी ने आईजीएल को यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कहा है कि पर्याप्त मानव संसाधन के साथ काम को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर पूरा करें और खुदाई किए गए क्षेत्र को शीघ्र भरकर सुरक्षित किया जाए।



‘एशियाई देशों को तेल-गैस देने को रूस तैयार’

मॉस्को। रूसी ऊर्जा मंत्री सर्गेई त्सिविल्योव ने बुधवार को कहा कि रूस गैस और पेट्रोलियम पदार्थ एशियाई देशों को देने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है। उन्होंने किसी देश का नाम लिए बिना कहा कि हम बढ़ती मांग के बीच, अपने हाइड्रोकार्बन की आपूर्ति का बहाव एशिया की ओर मोड़ने की तैयारी में हैं। हमें उन एशियाई देशों से कई अनुरोध मिले हैं जिन्हें पहले आपूर्ति मिल रही थी, और जिनकी आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएं बाधित हो गई थीं। उन्होंने कहा कि कच्चे तेल, एलएनजी, एलपीजी और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों की आपूर्ति के लिए अधिकांश एशियाई देशों के साथ बातचीत चल रही है।

पीएनजी उपलब्ध होने पर भी एलपीजी न छोड़ी तो नहीं मिलेगा गैस सिलिंडर

सरकार का आदेश, जहां पीएनजी पाइपलाइन पहुंच चुकी है, वहां सभी घरों को यह कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य

कनेक्शन नहीं लिया तो 90 दिन बाद एलपीजी सप्लाई हो जाएगी बंद, सरकार हर घर को करेगी अलर्ट
जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली



एलपीजी और पीएनजी। फाइल

1.5 करोड़ से 1.6 करोड़ पीएनजी कनेक्शन हैं अभी देश में, पाइपलाइन इफ़ास्ट्रक्चर को और तेज किया जाएगा

60 लाख घर ऐसे हैं जो पीएनजी ले सकते हैं, वहां पीएनजी ढांचा मौजूद

2.20 लाख नए पीएनजी कनेक्शन दिए गए हैं हाल में, दुकानों-होटलों को भी ये कनेक्शन देने का अभियान शुरू

सरकार बोली- पेट्रोल-डीजल की कमी नहीं, सिलिंडर बुकिंग समयसीमा में भी बदलाव नहीं

पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने लोगों से अपील की है कि वे पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की सामान्य खपत बनाए रखें। घबराकर ज्यादा खरीदने से बचे। देश के कई हिस्सों में पेट्रोल व डीजल की आपूर्ति को लेकर अफवाहों को भी

केंद्र सरकार व सरकारी क्षेत्र की पेट्रोलियम कंपनियों (एचपीसीएल, बीपीसीएल व आईओसी) ने खारिज किया है। सरकार ने कहा है कि देश में कहीं भी पेट्रोल या डीजल की आपूर्ति की कोई किल्लत नहीं है। स्टोरेज में

पर्याप्त भंडार है। ईंधन की कीमतों में भी कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है। एलपीजी गैस सिलिंडर रिफिल बुकिंग की समयसीमा में भी कोई बदलाव नहीं किया गया है। मंत्रालय ने बदलाव संबंधी खबरों को सिर से नकार दिया।

चुकी है, वहां के सभी घरों को पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य होगा। सरकार या अधिकृत एजेंसियों की तरफ से संबंधित घरों को सूचना दी जाएगी और तीन माह के अंदर एलपीजी से पीएनजी में स्विच करना होगा। यदि कोई घर पीएनजी कनेक्शन नहीं लेता तो तीन माह बाद उस पते पर एलपीजी सप्लाई बंद कर दी जाएगी। यदि किसी तकनीकी कारण से पीएनजी कनेक्शन देना संभव नहीं है तो अधिकृत एजेंसी एनओसी

जारी कर सकती है। ऐसी स्थिति में एलपीजी जारी रहेगी। लेकिन एनओसी को रिकार्ड में रखा जाएगा और जैसे ही कनेक्शन संभव होगा, इसे वापस ले लिया जाएगा।

पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में सचिव नीरज मिश्र ने एक्स पर लिखा, - 'संकट को अवसर में बदल दिया गया है।' पाइपलाइन बिछाने की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाया गया है। राज्य सरकारों की एजेंसियों की तरफ से दी

जाने वाली मंजूरी के लिए समयबद्ध समयसीमा तय की गई है। आवासीय सोसाइटियों में एक्सेस कंट्रोल करने वाली संस्थाओं को तीन कार्य दिवस में अनुमति देनी होगी और लास्ट-माइल कनेक्टिविटी 48 घंटे में देनी होगी। आवेदन बिना वजह खारिज नहीं किए जा सकेंगे। पाइपलाइन बिछाने वाली कंपनियों को मंजूरी मिलने के चार महीने के अंदर काम शुरू करना होगा अन्यथा पेनल्टी लग सकती है।

होटलों में एलपीजी शुल्क पर सख्ती, अतिरिक्त चार्ज लिया तो कार्रवाई होगी

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली

होटलों और रेस्तरां में खाने के बिल पर मनमाने ढंग से एलपीजी शुल्क या गैस सरचार्ज जोड़ने पर सख्ती हो गई है। केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (सीसीपीए) ने इसे अनुचित व्यवहार माना है और साफ कर दिया है कि इस तरह का अतिरिक्त शुल्क लेना तुरंत बंद किया जाए। नियम तोड़ने पर कार्रवाई भी होगी।

सीसीपीए ने बुधवार को इससे संबंधित एडवाइजरी जारी की है, जिसमें कहा गया कि कई होटल और रेस्तरां में नू में दी गई कीमत के अलावा एलपीजी शुल्क, फ्यूल कास्ट या इसी तरह के अन्य चार्ज जोड़कर अतिरिक्त पैसे वसूल रहे हैं। यह तरीका उपभोक्ताओं को गुमराह करता है। इससे ग्राहक पर अतिरिक्त बोझ पड़ता है। गैस, बिजली या ईंधन जैसी लागतें होटल या रेस्तरां के रोजमर्रा के खर्च का हिस्सा हैं। इन्हें अलग से वसूलने के बजाय खाने-पीने की कीमत में ही शामिल किया जाना चाहिए। सीसीपीए ने यह भी कहा, कुछ कारोबारी सेवा शुल्क से जुड़े पुराने निर्देशों से बचने के लिए नए नाम से अतिरिक्त पैसे ले रहे हैं। ऐसे सभी सेवा शुल्क की तह ही

ग्राहकों के हक में बड़ा फैसला, होटल वाले नहीं वसूल पाएंगे अतिरिक्त पैसे
एलपीजी शुल्क गैस सरचार्ज जोड़ने पर हेल्पलाइन 1915 पर करें शिकायत

माने जाएंगे एवं इन्हें जबरन वसूलना गलत होगा। एडवाइजरी के मुताबिक मैनू में जो कीमत लिखी है, वही अंतिम मानी जाएगी। ग्राहक को किसी भी अतिरिक्त भुगतान के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया जा सकता। अगर कोई होटल या रेस्तरां इन नियमों का उल्लंघन करता है तो उसके खिलाफ उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत कार्रवाई की जाएगी। उपभोक्ताओं को भी अपने अधिकारों के प्रति सतर्क रहने को कहा गया है। अगर बिल में ऐसा कोई चार्ज दिखे तो ग्राहक तुरंत उसे हटाने की मांग कर सकते हैं। जरूरत पड़ने पर राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता हेल्पलाइन 1915 नंबर पर काल कर शिकायत दर्ज कराई जा सकती है। एनसीएच मोबाइल एप या ई-जागृति पोर्टल के जरिए भी शिकायत की जा सकती है। प्राधिकरण ने कहा कि वह देशभर में ऐसी हरकतों पर नजर रख रहा है। उपभोक्ताओं के हितों से समझौता करने वालों के खिलाफ सख्त कदम उठाए जाएंगे।

युद्ध का असर, मेडिकल उपकरण निर्माण पर संकट के बादल

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : होर्मुज इलाके से तेल व गैस के जहाज निकलने से एलपीजी की आपूर्ति में थोड़ी राहत दिख रही है, पर कच्चे माल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित नहीं दिख रही है। इस वजह से मेडिकल उपकरण खास कर सिरिंज, ग्लोव्स, कैथेटर और अस्पताल में प्रयोग होने वाले विभिन्न सामानों पर संकट के बादल छा सकते हैं। एसोसिएशन आफ इंडियन मेडिकल डेवाइस इंडस्ट्री ने सरकार से इन आइटम के निर्माण से जुड़े कच्चे माल के आयात शुल्क में राहत देने की मांग की है।

एसोसिएशन का कहना है कि इन आइटम के निर्माण से जुड़े विभिन्न प्रकार के प्लास्टिक की कीमतों में गत 25 दिनों में 50 तो पैकेजिंग की लागत में 20 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हो चुकी है। इन आइटम के निर्माता कच्चे माल के पुराने स्टॉक से काम चला रहे हैं। अमूमन उपकरण निर्माताओं के पास 20-30 दिनों का स्टॉक होता है। लेकिन अगले एक-दो सप्ताह तक युद्ध जारी रहने पर कच्चे माल की कमी हो सकती है, जिससे अस्पतालों में इलाज का काम प्रभावित हो सकता है और इन आइटम की कीमत बढ़ने से मरीजों का खर्च बढ़ेगा।

पीएनजी नहीं ली तो नहीं मिलेगा सिलेंडर

घर के पास है पाइप लाइन तो अब 3 महीने में लेना होगा कनेक्शन

पंजाब केसरी/नई दिल्ली

मिडिल-ईस्ट में जारी युद्ध और गैस की किल्लत को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार ने बड़ा फैसला लिया है। केंद्र सरकार के आदेश मुताबिक अगर आपके घर के पास गैस पाइपलाइन आ गई है और आपने पीएनजी कनेक्शन नहीं लिया है, तो अगले तीन महीने में आपके घर आने वाला एलपीजी सिलेंडर बंद कर दिया जाएगा।

नए नियमों के तहत अब इसके तहत अब पाइप वाली गैस (पीएनजी) का कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य होगा। हालांकि, इसके लिए पहले नोटिस दिया जाएगा।

सूचना मिलने के बाद भी अगर कोई कनेक्शन नहीं लेता, तो 90 दिन बाद उसकी एलपीजी सप्लाय रोक दी जाएगी। साथ ही सोसाइटियों को तीन दिन में पाइपलाइन की मंजूरी भी देनी होगी।

सरकार ने साफ कर दिया है कि जिन घरों के पास पीएनजी पाइपलाइन मौजूद है, वहां पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेना अनिवार्य होगा इसके लिए ग्राहकों को 3 महीने की मोहलत दी गई है, जिसके बाद एलपीजी सिलेंडर की सप्लाय बंद कर दी जाएगी। यह कदम ईंधन के रूप में



बड़ा फैसला

पीएनजी के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उठाया गया है। सरकार ने तय किया है कि कंपनियों को निश्चित अवधि में कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराना होगा। जो जानबूझ कर पीएनजी कनेक्शन नहीं लेंगे, उनकी एलपीजी सप्लाय बाधित हो सकती है। इस बारे में गजट नोटिफिकेशन जारी हो गया है। पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इन सुधारों का मुख्य उद्देश्य यह

सुनिश्चित करना है कि पाइप के जरिये घरों में पहुंचने वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) के उपयोग को बढ़ावा मिले। साथ ही इस बदलाव से उपभोक्ताओं पर अत्यधिक वित्तीय बोझ न पड़े। इसका उद्देश्य पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना के विकास में तेजी लाना, मंजूरियों को आसान बनाना तथा एलपीजी से पीएनजी की ओर बदलाव को बढ़ावा देकर ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है।

केंद्र सरकार द्वारा जारी आदेश में कहा गया कि यदि पीएनजी उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद कोई परिवार इसे नहीं अपनाता है तो तीन महीने बाद एलपीजी की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी।

पीएनजी सुविधा होने पर लेना होगा कनेक्शन, बंद होगी एलपीजी आपूर्ति

उपभोक्ताओं को कनेक्शन लेने के लिए मिलेगा तीन महीने का समय

नई दिल्ली। पाइप से मिलने वाली प्राकृतिक गैस (पीएनजी) की सुविधा उपलब्ध होने पर भी इसकी सेवा नहीं लेने वाले उपभोक्ताओं की एलपीजी सिलिंडर की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी।

केंद्र सरकार ने इस आशय का प्राकृतिक गैस एवं पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण आदेश, 2026 अधिसूचित किया है। यह कदम गैस नेटवर्क के विस्तार को तेज करने और एक ही ईंधन पर निर्भरता कम करने के मकसद से उठाया गया है। पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के आदेश के अनुसार, किसी क्षेत्र में पीएनजी पाइपलाइन बिछ चुकी है एवं ग्राहक को कनेक्शन लेने के लिए सूचित किया गया है, तो उसके पास सिर्फ तीन महीने का समय होगा। इसके बाद पीएनजी नहीं लेने पर एलपीजी आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी। हालांकि, जिन क्षेत्रों में तकनीकी कारणों से पीएनजी कनेक्शन संभव नहीं है, वहां यह प्रावधान लागू नहीं होगा। इसके लिए अधिकृत एजेंसी को अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र (एनओसी) जारी करना होगा। पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध व आपूर्ति बाधाओं के कारण एलपीजी संकट बढ़ गया है। **ख़ूरी >> पाइपलाइन संजूरी में देरी तो स्वतः स्वीकृत : पेज 14**



हाउसिंग सोसायटी को तीन दिन में देनी होगी अनुमति

आदेश में कहा गया है, हाउसिंग सोसायटी या कॉलोनी के प्रबंधन को पीएनजी कनेक्शन देने के लिए अधिकतम तीन कार्यदिवस में अनुमति देनी होगी, जबकि अंतिम कनेक्शन 48 घंटे के अंदर देना अनिवार्य होगा। अगर कोई संस्था जानबूझकर अनुमति देने में देरी करती है, तो सरकार कार्रवाई कर सकती है।

एलपीजी चार्ज या फ्यूल कॉस्ट रिकवरी की वसूली पर कार्रवाई

केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता संरक्षण प्राधिकरण ने रेस्तरां व होटलों को चेतावनी दी कि वे ग्राहकों के बिल में एलपीजी चार्ज और फ्यूल कॉस्ट रिकवरी जैसे अतिरिक्त चार्ज न लगाएं।

■ प्राधिकरण ने इसे गलत कारोबारी तरीके बताते हुए कहा कि शिकायत मिलने पर सख्त कार्रवाई की जाएगी। प्राधिकरण ने स्पष्ट किया कि मेन्यू में लिखी कीमत में सिर्फ लागू टैक्स ही जोड़े जा सकते हैं। >> कारोबार

ईरान से एलपीजी लेकर भारत आ रहा जहाज

ईरान से एलपीजी लेकर भारत आ रहा जहाज जल्द मंगलौर बंदरगाह पहुंचेगा। 2019 के बाद पहला मौका है, जब भारत ने ईरान से ट्रेडर के जरिये एलपीजी का सौदा किया है। खास बात यह है कि इसका भुगतान रुपये में होगा।

गैस पाइप लाइन मंजूरी में देरी तो स्वतः स्वीकृत मानी जाएगी

पेट्रोलियम सचिव नीरज मित्तल बोले-सुगम होगी व्यवस्था

नई दिल्ली। देशभर में प्राकृतिक गैस आपूर्ति के बुनियादी ढांचे को नई रफ्तार देने के लिए केंद्र ने ऐतिहासिक आदेश मंगलवार को जारी किया था। इसका उद्देश्य गैस पाइप लाइन बिछाने में आने वाली देरी को खत्म करना है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के सचिव नीरज मित्तल ने सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में बताया कि व्यापार सुगमता सुधारों के माध्यम से संकट को अवसर में बदल दिया गया है।

आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत जारी इस आदेश का उद्देश्य पाइप लाइन के लिए अनुमोदन प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाकर, शुल्क मानकीकृत करके और समयबद्ध अनुमतियां सुनिश्चित करके पाइपलाइन ढांचे के विकास में तेजी लाना है। तेजी से कार्य शुरू करने के लिए, सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों को निर्धारित समय सीमा के भीतर मार्ग का अधिकार या अनुमतियां देनी होंगी, ऐसा न करने पर अनुमोदन स्वतः स्वीकृत मान लिया जाएगा। आदेश में प्राधिकरणों को निर्धारित शुल्कों से अधिक शुल्क लगाने से भी प्रतिबंधित किया गया है। मित्तल ने कहा कि पीएनजी कनेक्शन



नीरज मित्तल

द देने के मामले में भूमि उपयोग संबंधी विवादों को सुलझाने और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर मार्ग का अधिकार देने के लिए दीवानी न्यायालय के समान शक्तियों वाले नामित अधिकारियों के हस्तक्षेप का भी प्रावधान है। अधिकृत संस्थाओं को अनुमोदन के चार महीने के भीतर पाइपलाइन बिछाना शुरू करना होगा अन्यथा उन्हें दंड का सामना करना पड़ेगा, जिसमें एकाधिकार का संभावित नुकसान भी शामिल है। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस नियामक बोर्ड (पीएनजीआरबी) को कार्यान्वयन की निगरानी के लिए नोडल एजेंसी के रूप में नामित किया गया है, जिसमें अनुमोदन, अस्वीकृति और अनुपालन पर नजर रखना शामिल है। ब्यूरो

औद्योगिक और रिहायशी इलाकों में बिछेगी पीएनजी पाइपलाइन

मेरठ। औद्योगिक और रिहायशी क्षेत्रों में पीएनजी पाइप लाइन बिछाने के लिए प्रशासन ने कसरत शुरू कर दी है। इसके लिए जिलाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में समन्वय समिति का गठन किया गया है। शीघ्र होने वाली समन्वय समिति की बैठक में गैस पाइप लाइन बिछाने में आ रही बाधाओं को दूर किया जाएगा।

जिलाधिकारी को इस समिति का अध्यक्ष, पुलिस अधीक्षक को सदस्य सचिव, जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी को संयोजक बनाया गया है। इसी तरह अधीक्षण अभियंता पीडब्ल्यूडी, अधीक्षण अभियंता पीवीवीएनएल,

डीएम की अध्यक्षता में बनी समन्वय समिति गठित

इंडियन ऑयल, हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम व भारत पेट्रोलियम के अधिकारी, गेल व आईजीएल गैस कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधि और उद्यमी शामिल हैं।

जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी विनय कुमार सिंह ने बताया कि समन्वय समिति की बैठक में गैस पाइप लाइन बिछाने में कंपनियों के सामने आने वाली समस्याओं को रखा जाएगा। उद्यमियों के माध्यम से जाना जाएगा कि किन-किन क्षेत्रों में गैस पाइपलाइन बिछाई जा सकती है। संवाद



तिरंगा गैस एजेंसी के बाहर लगी उपभोक्ताओं की कतार। संवाद

सरकार ने कहा, 45 दिन बाद LPG सिलिंडर की बुकिंग के दावे गलत, पेट्रोल-डीजल की देश में तंगी नहीं

'LPG घरेलू सप्लाई ठीक, पर PNG को प्राथमिकता'

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली

केंद्र सरकार ने बुधवार को कहा कि देश में पेट्रोल-डीजल का पचास भंडार है। सरकार ने कहा कि घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को LPG सिलिंडर की बिलिंगरी भी सामान्य तरीके से चल रही है। LPG उपभोक्ताओं की पहचान नैचुरल गैस (PNG) पर सिस्टिम पर जोर देते हुए सरकार ने कहा कि पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद से करीब 2 लाख डबल सिलिंडर वाली 20 हजार ऐसे उपभोक्ता PNG अधिना चुके हैं और उन्हें इसकी सप्लाई भी शुरू हो चुकी है। वहीं PNG कनेक्शन के लिए 35 दिन में काला गैस मंत्रालय ने एक निवेदन को अघाटीन बताया, नितमें कहा गया था कि निचुन लोगों के पास डबल LPG सिलिंडर के कनेक्शन हैं, उनके लिए बुकिंग पीरियड बढ़ाकर 35 दिन कर दिया गया है।

बचान में कहा गया, 'कुछ रिपोर्ट्स में देश के कुछ हिस्सों में पेट्रोल पंप पर कठारें लगने का जिक्र किए जाने पर तेल एवं गैस मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता वर्मा ने कहा, 'देश में पेट्रोल-डीजल का पर्याप्त भंडार है। कच्चे तेल का भी अच्छा भंडार है। हमारी रिवाइन्सरीज पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही है। हमारे पास सालाना 26 करोड़ टन कच्चे तेल का रिप्राइज करने की क्षमता है। यह बताया इसलिए जरूरी है क्योंकि पिछले दो दिनों में कई क्षेत्रों में पेट्रोल पंपों के बाहर लाइन देखी गई है और पैनिक बह्य भी दिखाई है। मैं विरयस दिखाना चाहती हूँ कि किसी भी पेट्रोल पंप पर कोई कमी नहीं है। पेट्रोल पंपों को सप्लाई करने वाले टर्मिनलों पर भी पर्याप्त मात्रा में पेट्रोल-डीजल उपलब्ध है।' LPG के बारे में सुजाता ने कहा, 'LPG सिलिंडर की पैनिक बुकिंग नहीं हो रही है, लेकिन बुकिंग्स ज्यादा हैं। कुल करीब 58 लाख बुकिंग्स थीं। फिर भी दिल्लीवादी पूरी तरह नॉर्मल चल रही हैं। कहीं कोई इंडिआउट नहीं है। ऑनलाइन बुकिंग करीब 92% है। कमर्शल LPG का अवस्टन जरूरत के 50% तक किया जा चुका है।



खत्म क्यों नहीं हो रही ये लाइन: राबी की तरह ऐसे तस्वीर देश के और भी इलाकों में दिखा रही है।

पेट्रोल पंप पर लाइन, कहा- हड़बड़ी में लोग ऐसा कर रहे

देश के कुछ हिस्सों में पेट्रोल पंप पर कठारें लगने का जिक्र किए जाने पर तेल एवं गैस मंत्रालय में संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता वर्मा ने कहा, 'देश में पेट्रोल-डीजल का पर्याप्त भंडार है। कच्चे तेल का भी अच्छा भंडार है। हमारी रिवाइन्सरीज पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही है। हमारे पास सालाना 26 करोड़ टन कच्चे तेल का रिप्राइज करने की क्षमता है। यह बताया इसलिए जरूरी है क्योंकि पिछले दो दिनों में कई क्षेत्रों में पेट्रोल पंपों के बाहर लाइन देखी गई है और पैनिक बह्य भी दिखाई है। मैं विरयस दिखाना चाहती हूँ कि किसी भी पेट्रोल पंप पर कोई कमी नहीं है। पेट्रोल पंपों को सप्लाई करने वाले टर्मिनलों पर भी पर्याप्त मात्रा में पेट्रोल-डीजल उपलब्ध है।' LPG के बारे में सुजाता ने कहा, 'LPG सिलिंडर की पैनिक बुकिंग नहीं हो रही है, लेकिन बुकिंग्स ज्यादा हैं। कुल करीब 58 लाख बुकिंग्स थीं। फिर भी दिल्लीवादी पूरी तरह नॉर्मल चल रही हैं। कहीं कोई इंडिआउट नहीं है। ऑनलाइन बुकिंग करीब 92% है। कमर्शल LPG का अवस्टन जरूरत के 50% तक किया जा चुका है।

क्षमता है। यह बताया इसलिए जरूरी है क्योंकि पिछले दो दिनों में कई क्षेत्रों में पेट्रोल पंपों के बाहर लाइन देखी गई है और पैनिक बह्य भी दिखाई है। मैं विरयस दिखाना चाहती हूँ कि किसी भी पेट्रोल पंप पर कोई कमी नहीं है। पेट्रोल पंपों को सप्लाई करने वाले टर्मिनलों पर भी पर्याप्त मात्रा में पेट्रोल-डीजल उपलब्ध है।' LPG के बारे में सुजाता ने कहा, 'LPG सिलिंडर की पैनिक बुकिंग नहीं हो रही है, लेकिन बुकिंग्स ज्यादा हैं। कुल करीब 58 लाख बुकिंग्स थीं। फिर भी दिल्लीवादी पूरी तरह नॉर्मल चल रही हैं। कहीं कोई इंडिआउट नहीं है। ऑनलाइन बुकिंग करीब 92% है। कमर्शल LPG का अवस्टन जरूरत के 50% तक किया जा चुका है।

सुजाता ने कहा, 'LPG सिलिंडर की पैनिक बुकिंग नहीं हो रही है, लेकिन बुकिंग्स ज्यादा हैं। कुल करीब 58 लाख बुकिंग्स थीं। फिर भी दिल्लीवादी पूरी तरह नॉर्मल चल रही हैं। कहीं कोई इंडिआउट नहीं है। ऑनलाइन बुकिंग करीब 92% है। कमर्शल LPG का अवस्टन जरूरत के 50% तक किया जा चुका है।

अपडेट

9,046
PNG कनेक्शन मंगलवार को जारी किए गए- सरकार

22,268
मिट्रिक टन कमर्शल LPG की सप्लाई 14 मार्च से बुधवार तक की जा चुकी है।

2,20,000
लोग युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद अब तक PNG में खुद को शिफ्ट कर चुके हैं

सख्ती का निर्देश

जमाखोरों पर सख्ती करें: मंत्री

■ आईएनएस, नई दिल्ली : केंद्रीय कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने बुधवार को एक समीक्षा बैठक बुलाई, जिसमें खाद की आपूर्ति मजबूत करने, काला बाजारों रोकने और अन्य जरूरी कदमों पर जोर दिया गया। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि बैचक में आने वाले खरीदक सीजन को ध्यान में रखते हुए तैयारियों को भी समीक्षा की गई।



मुंबई: भंडारे में सिलिंडर नहीं मिलने पर लकड़ी पर खाना बन रहा

गैस सरचार्ज लेने वाले होटलों पर होगा ऐक्शन

1915 पर काल करके शिफाकत करें

■ NBT रिपोर्ट, नई दिल्ली : होटल और रेस्टोरेंट मोजुल गौहोल के बीच 'LPG चार्जिंग' 'गैस सरचार्ज' अ 'फ्यूल कोस्ट रिफॉर्म' जैसे चार्जेज ग्रहकों पर न धोर उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय के तहत काम करने खा मंडल कंस्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन अथॉरिटी (CCPA) ने बुधवार को एक एडवाइजरी में यह बात कही। CCPA ने कहा कि होटलों और रेस्टोरेंट्स को ऐसी हरकत समुभोक्ताओं के हि को रोकने के लिए बनाए गए कानून खा डल्लेशन है क्योंकि इस कानून में इस तरह के चार्जेज लगाने की मनाही है। CCPA ने कहा कि ऐसे मामलों में कड़ी कार्रवाई की जाएगी। CCPA ने कहा कि नेशनल कंस्यूमर डेप्लोअडन (NCD) पर मिली शिफायती के अंधार पर यह देखा गया कि कुछ होटल और रेस्टोरे कंस्यूमर के बिल में अपने आप ऐसे चार्ज जोड़ दे रहे हैं जो मैन्यू में खुले-पौने की पौने के दामों और लागू टैड के अतिरिक्त हैं। इससे उपभोक्ता पर बेना बौड पड़ रहा है। CCPA ने कहा कि 'फ्यूल, LPG, बिजली या दूसरे जो: खूब होते हैं, वे बिजनेस चलाने की लागत में शामिल हो हैं और इनका अंशर पहले ही मैन्यू के अडवैरस के दाम शामिल होना चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसी लागत को अंशर चार्जेज लगकर कंस्यूमर प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट 201 के सेक्शन 2(47) के तहत अनुचित व्यापार गतिविधि है



शिवराज सिंह

सरकार का आदेश • एलपीजी पर दबाव कम करने के लिए फैसला पीएनजी कनेक्शन लेना ही होगा*

***शर्त:** घर तक PNG लाइन हो; तब भी कनेक्शन नहीं लेते तो 3 माह में LPG सप्लाई बंद
भास्कर न्यूज़ | नई दिल्ली

जिन घरों तक पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पीएनजी) की लाइन बिछी हुई है और वहां अगर उपभोक्ता पीएनजी कनेक्शन नहीं लेते हैं तो तीन महीने बाद उनकी एलपीजी सिलेंडर सप्लाई बंद कर दी जाएगी। ईरान-इजराइल युद्ध के चलते एलपीजी सप्लाई पर बढ़ते दबाव के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने यह आदेश जारी कर दिया है।

पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने बताया कि पाइपलाइन से पीएनजी लगातार मिलती है, इसलिए रिफिल बुक कराने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। यदि तकनीकी कारणों से किसी घर तक पीएनजी कनेक्शन देना संभव नहीं है, तो अधिकृत एजेंसी एनओसी जारी कर सकती है। ऐसे मामलों में एलपीजी सप्लाई बंद नहीं होगी। एजेंसी को इसका रिकॉर्ड रखना होगा। घर तक पीएनजी लाइन पहुंचने के बाद एनओसी वापस ले ली जाएगी। हाउसिंग सोसायटी, क्षेत्र में नियंत्रण करने वाली संस्थाओं को तीन वर्किंग डे में अनुमति देनी होगी। पिछले 25 दिनों में 2.5 लाख नए PNG कनेक्शन हुए हैं। 2.20 लाख ने LPG से PNG में शिफ्ट किया है।

तेल कंपनियां बोलीं- पम्प भरे हुए हैं, अफवाह से बचें

बीपीसीएल, आईओसी, एचपीसीएल जैसी तेल कंपनियों ने कहा, सभी पंपों में पर्याप्त पेट्रोल-डीजल है। अफवाह से बचें। 26 राज्यों को 22 हजार टन एलपीजी दे चुके हैं। इसी तरह, सिलेंडर बुकिंग की टाइमलाइन बदलने की खबरें भी गलत हैं। शहरों में यह 25 दिन तो ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 45 दिन तय है।

इंडिगो ने कहा- जेट ईंधन महंगा, बढ़ सकता है किराया

देश की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने कहा है कि युद्ध के चलते जेट ईंधन का दाम 4 हफ्ते में दोगुना हो गया है। इसके असर से विमान किराया बढ़ने की आशंका है।
बाजार चढ़ा: दूसरे दिन भी सेंसेक्स 1205 (1.63%) अंक चढ़कर 75273 पर बंद हुआ। निफ्टी में 394 अंकों की बढ़त रही। - पढ़ें बिजनेस पेज

भास्कर नॉलेज... एलपीजी के मुकाबले पीएनजी 30% सस्ती, बर्बाद भी नहीं होती

- देश में दिसंबर 2025 तक 1.62 करोड़ पीएनजी कनेक्शन थे। सरकार इसे 2034 तक बढ़ाकर 12.6 करोड़ कर रही है।
- अभी रोजाना पीएनजी की खपत 195 मिलियन मीट्रिक स्टैंडर्ड क्यूबिक मीटर है।
- जरूरत की 50% पीएनजी देश में ही ओएनजीसी और रिलायंस जैसी कंपनियां कृष्णा-गोदावरी बेसिन, मुंबई हाई और असम से निकाल रही हैं। बाकी 50%



गैस कतर, अमेरिका और यूएई से आयात करनी पड़ती है।
आयातित गैस LNG रूप में आती है, इसे PNG में बदलकर घरों तक पहुंचाते हैं। पीएनजी 20-30% तक सस्ती पड़ती है। इसमें गैस बर्बाद भी नहीं होती।

- एलपीजी की औसत दैनिक खपत 90 हजार मीट्रिक टन है। 40% गैस देश में रिलायंस, आईओसी, बीपीसीएल आदि कच्चे तेल का शोधन कर बनाती हैं। 60% कतर, यूएई, सऊदी अरब से आती है।

गैस किल्लत
उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों के लिए बदले एलपीजी रिफिलिंग के नियम

सिलेंडर के लिए अब 25 के बजाय 45 दिन का इंतजार

■ जिले में हैं 1.11 लाख के लगभग उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थी

गाजियाबाद, 24 मार्च (नवोदय टाइम्स): प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के लाभार्थियों के लिए एलपीजी रिफिलिंग के नियमों में बदलाव किया गया है। अब उज्ज्वला उपभोक्ताओं को दूसरे सिलेंडर के लिए 25 के बजाय 45 दिन का इंतजार करना होगा। इसके साथ ही विभाग ने ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बीच बुकिंग के अंतराल में होने वाले अंतर को भी पूरी तरह समाप्त कर दिया है।

फरवरी-मार्च 2026 के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, गाजियाबाद में लगभग 1.11 लाख



मांग के मुताबिक मिलेगी 20 प्रतिशत गैस

मांग के मुताबिक 20 प्रतिशत गैस मिलेगी। इससे पहले उस प्रतिष्ठान की जांच होगी। पिछले तीन महीने में खर्च का औसत निकाला जाएगा। औसत मांग के आधार पर 20 प्रतिशत गैस मिलेगी। शहर में एक हजार से अधिक होटल, रेस्तरां हैं। कई औद्योगिक इकाइयां और 2000 से अधिक ढाबे हैं। डीएसओ ने बताया कि प्रतिमाह करीब 60 हजार कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर की खपत होती थी। नए नियम के मुताबिक करीब 15 हजार सिलेंडर ही उपलब्ध होंगे। जिन्हें व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठानों के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।

(1.11,000) से अधिक उज्ज्वला अलावा जिले में लगभग 12 लाख योजना के लाभार्थी हैं। इसके से अधिक घरेलू एलपीजी उपभोक्ता

45 दिन में बुकिंग

जिले में प्रतिदिन करीब 150 टन एलपीजी की खपत होती है। उज्ज्वला योजना के तहत जिले के 1.11 लाख लाभार्थियों को अब नए नियमों के अनुसार ही गैस की आपूर्ति की जाएगी। पहले के प्रावधानों के अनुसार, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उपभोक्ताओं के लिए 45 दिन और शहरी क्षेत्रों में 25 दिन बाद बुकिंग की सुविधा थी।

शादी के लिए मिलेंगे सिलेंडर

आगामी दिनों में जिन घरों में शादियां हैं। उनके लिए कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर की मांग शासन से की जाएगी। एक परिवार ने बेटियों की शादी के लिए पांच सिलेंडर मांगे हैं। अन्य मांग पत्र भी प्राप्त हुए हैं। तीनों कंपनियों से कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर की डिमांड भेजी जा रही है।

हैं। जिले में 3.5 लाख से अधिक घरेलू पीएनजी कनेक्शन भी हैं।

कालाबाजारी पर लगाम

जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी अमित तिवारी के अनुसार जिले में एक समान व्यवस्था लागू कर दी गई है। अब कोई भी उज्ज्वला उपभोक्ता 45 दिन की अवधि बीतने से पहले दूसरा सिलेंडर रिफिल नहीं करा सकेगा। इस कदम का मुख्य उद्देश्य सब्सिडी वाले घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर की कालाबाजारी रोकना है।

96 गैस एजेंसियों के माध्यम से घरेलू एलपीजी की आपूर्ति की

जाती है। यहां कमर्शियल कनेक्शन भी उपलब्ध हैं। पिछले कुछ समय में एलपीजी की किल्लत के कारण पीएनजी कनेक्शनों की मांग में भी तेजी आई है।

कॉमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई बंद: एलपीजी संकट के बाद से शहर में कॉमर्शियल गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई बंद है। केंद्र सरकार ने 23 मार्च से होटल, ढाबा व अन्य व्यावसायिक प्रतिष्ठानों के लिए 50 प्रतिशत कॉमर्शियल गैस दिए जाने के आदेश दिए थे लेकिन प्रदेश में यह आदेश लागू नहीं हो सका है।

जिला पूर्ति अधिकारी अमित तिवारी ने बताया कि शादी वाले घरों से लेकर होटल, रेस्तरां और हलवाई तक कॉमर्शियल सिलेंडर मांग रहे हैं। सभी से उनकी डिमांड पूरी होगी है।

सुर्खियों से आगे • आप ताकतवर हो, कुछ भी कर सकते हो, लेकिन कुछ तो भी मत करिए...

तुम सौदागर तेल के, हम कोल्हू के बैल!

देश-दुनिया

नवनीत गुर्जर

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कच्ची घाणी। अब तो इसके लिए भी आधुनिक तरीके, मशीनें आ गई हैं। लेकिन पहले कोल्हू होता था और कोल्हू का बैल। जी, हम सब कच्ची घाणी के या कोल्हू के बैल ही तो हैं। कोल्हू चलता था तो 'चक चू' करता था। बैल बस, सारी उम्र चलता रहता था। साल, महीने गिने बिना। गोल-गोल घूमता फिरता था। गले की घंटी बजती रहती थी, जिससे उसे लगता था कि इस गोल-गोल दुनिया के सिवाय भी कुछ है। जैसे आवाज, घंटी की या शोर किसी और चीज का।

इसी धुन में, इसी ध्रम में, खींचता रहता था पुल्ली को। बीज सभी पिसते रहते थे। तेल निकलता रहता था। पीछे से चानुक पड़ता था जब, खाल उधड़ जाती थी। कितने हजार मील चलता था, फिर भी वहीं पर। उसी जगह! मालिक तेल बाजार में बेचता था। बैल का कोई हिस्सा नहीं! यही तो है जिसका दुःख है। तेल किसी का। खाल किसी की। उसके लिए बस सुखी घास! यू ही तो चलता है दुनिया का कोल्हू, बैल बनाकर आदमी को! जोत दिया है खांचों में। रातें लम्बी होती जा रही हैं। सांसें सिकुड़ रही हैं। जैसे कोई होली में अन्नक छिड़क गया हो।

अमेरिका वाले कोल्हू मालिक डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने अपनी जिद के कारण दुनियाभर को एक अजीब संकट

में डाल दिया है। ईरान से युद्ध का हल्लाकि कोई ठोस कारण नहीं था लेकिन बिना उद्देश्य के हमला बोल दिया। ठीक है, आप ताकतवर हो, कुछ भी कर सकते हो, लेकिन कुछ तो भी मत करिए। क्या मिला आपको? होर्मुज के कारण पूरी दुनिया परेशान है। उनके जहाज निकल नहीं पा रहे। उनकी भैंसे-गाएं अपने खूंटों से बंधी रंभ रही हैं। मतलब सैकड़ों जहाज, एलपीजी गैस और कच्चा तेल लादकर खड़े हुए हैं। उनके लिए कोई रास्ता नहीं। कोई जगह नहीं। जाएं तो जाएं कहां? किससे कहें? किसकी सुनें? कुछ समझ नहीं आ रहा।

दुनिया का थानेदार बनने या बने रहने की आकांक्षा या महत्वाकांक्षा ही है, जिसने ट्रम्प को आंदोलित किया होगा या इजराइल को उकसाया होगा। वरना तेल के सिवाय इस दुनिया में लालच ही क्या बचा है?

वैसे इजराइल अपना मकसद अच्छी तरह जानता है। वो अपना विस्तार करने में या विस्तार करने की दिशा में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ रहा है। लेबनान पर हमले और उसकी जमीन हथियाने के मामलों से चीजों को समझा जा सकता है। लेकिन इस समूचे पुलिस कर्म में अमेरिका का क्या हित है? वैसे भी अमेरिका के लिए ईरान में तेल के सिवाय रक्खा ही क्या है? इजराइल तो हमेशा से लड़ता रह रहा है और लड़-लड़कर ही उसने जमीन हथियाई है लेकिन अमेरिका अपना अरबों का नुकसान करने के बावजूद इस युद्ध में शामिल क्यों है, ये समझ से परे है।

इधर भारत में हालांकि सरकार तमाम प्रयास कर रही है, लेकिन फिर भी तेल और रसोई गैस की किल्लत तो



अमेरिका इस युद्ध में क्यों?

अमेरिका के लिए ईरान में तेल के सिवाय रक्खा ही क्या है? इजराइल तो हमेशा से लड़ता रहा है और लड़-लड़कर ही उसने जमीन हथियाई है। लेकिन अमेरिका अपना अरबों का नुकसान करने के बावजूद युद्ध में क्यों है, समझ से परे है।

हर हल में महसूस हो रही है। होने लगी है। अगर ईरान से युद्ध एक महीने और चला तो हो सकता है भारत में फिर से लॉकडाउन की नौबत आ जाए। हवाई यात्राएं बंद हो जाएं। सड़क पर वाहन चलाना सीमित हो जाए।

लेकिन भारत हार मानने वाला नहीं है। दुनियाभर में जब 2008 में मंदी आई थी तब भी भारत पर उसका

असर लगभग शून्य रहा था। कोविड के वक्त भी दुनियाभर को हमने वैक्सीन दी। दरअसल, भारत की परम्पराएं, उसके रीति-रिवाज उसे हर हल में जिंदा रखते हैं। यही वजह है कि दुनिया के किसी भी और किसी भी तरह के संकट का असर हम पर नगण्य होता है। घर आए मेहमान को या उसके बच्चे को पैसे-रुपए देना, भारत के सिवाय दुनिया में कहीं नहीं होता! इस इकोनॉमी का पर्याय या विकल्प भला दुनिया में और कहीं कहां है? हम अमेरिका की तरह पेंशन कार्ड तक से उधार लेकर चबा जाने वाले लोग नहीं हैं। हम बचत में माहिर हैं। बचत करना हमारे जौन में है। पेट काटकर भी पैसा बचाते हैं। यही वजह है जिसके कारण भारत को महान कहा जाता है। इसीलिए हम महान हैं भी।

इस तरफ मौसम पर आए तो यहाँ युद्ध का तनाव तो दिख रहा है लेकिन बेमौसम बारिश ने सबकुछ थोड़ा आसान कर दिया है। ठंडा कर दिया है। मौसम, गर्मी का न सही, लेकिन बरसात का तो नहीं ही है। फिर भी मेह बरस रहा है। गर्मी के मुहने ठंडक दस्तक दे रही है। रात को जब सोते हैं, पता नहीं चलता बारिश कब हुई, लेकिन सुबह जब सड़क गीली दिखती है तो समझ नहीं आता कि रात को बारिश हुई थी या सड़क को पसीना आया है!



इस लेख को मोबाइल पर सुनने के लिए QR कोड को स्कैन करें।

उपलब्ध होने पर भी पीएनजी की सेवा नहीं लेने वालों को चेतावनी

कदम

एक ही ईंधन पर निर्भरता कम करने की कवायद

तीन माह में अपनाएं पीएनजी, नहीं तो एलपीजी आपूर्ति बंद

नई दिल्ली, 25 मार्च (भाषा)।

पाइप के जरिये आपूर्ति की जाने वाली रसोई गैस (पीएनजी) की सुविधा उपलब्ध होने पर भी इसकी सेवा नहीं लेने वाले उपभोक्ताओं की धरेलू रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी। सरकार ने आदेश जारी कर इसकी जानकारी दी है। यह कदम गैस नेटवर्क के विस्तार को तेज करने और एक ही ईंधन पर निर्भरता कम करने के उद्देश्य से उठाया गया है।

पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव सुजाता शर्मा ने एक संवाददाता सम्मेलन में स्पष्ट किया कि गैस वितरण कंपनियां उन इलाकों के रसोई गैस उपभोक्ताओं को नोटिस भेजेंगी जहां पाइपलाइन बिछाने का काम पूरा हो चुका है। उन्होंने कहा कि नोटिस मिलने के तीन महीने के भीतर ग्राहकों को पीएनजी



पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने प्राकृतिक गैस तथा पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण (पाइपलाइन बिछाने, निर्माण, संचालन व विस्तार तथा अन्य सुविधाएं) आदेश, 2026 अधिसूचित किया है। इसका उद्देश्य पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना के विकास में तेजी लाना, मंजूरीयों को आसान बनाना तथा एलपीजी से पीएनजी की ओर बदलाव को बढ़ावा देकर ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है।

अपनानी होगी, ऐसा न करने पर रसोई गैस (एलपीजी) की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी।

शर्मा ने बताया कि प्राकृतिक गैस वितरण आदेश, 2026 का उद्देश्य पाइपलाइन बिछाने के काम में तेजी लाना और ईंधन विविधीकरण को बढ़ावा देना है। पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के कारण प्रमुख स्रोतों से आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने से भारत में

एलपीजी की कमी की स्थिति के बीच सरकार धरेलू एवं वाणिज्यिक उपभोक्ताओं को पीएनजी अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रही है।

पीएनजी अधिक सुविधाजनक विकल्प है और इसकी आपूर्ति धरेलू उत्पादन तथा विविध स्रोतों से की जाती है। पीएनजी पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से रसोई गैस बनकर तब लगतार पहुंचाई

जाती है, जिससे सिलेंडर की बुकिंग की आवश्यकता नहीं रहती। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने प्राकृतिक गैस तथा पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण (पाइपलाइन बिछाने, निर्माण, संचालन व विस्तार तथा अन्य सुविधाएं) आदेश, 2026 अधिसूचित किया है। इसका उद्देश्य पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना के विकास में तेजी लाना, मंजूरीयों को आसान बनाना तथा एलपीजी से पीएनजी की ओर बदलाव को बढ़ावा देकर ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है। इस 24 मार्च को जारी आदेश में कहा गया कि यदि पीएनजी उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद कोई परिवार इसे नहीं अपनाता है तो तीन महीने बाद एलपीजी की आपूर्ति बंद कर दी जाएगी। हालांकि, जहां पाइप कनेक्शन देना तकनीकी रूप से संभव नहीं है, वहां अनापत्ति प्रमाणपत्र (एनओसी) के आधार पर एलपीजी आपूर्ति जारी रह सकेगी।

'पी.एन.जी.' उपलब्ध होने पर भी कनेक्शन नहीं लेने वालों की एल.पी.जी. आपूर्ति होगी बंद

नई दिल्ली, 25 मार्च (प.स.): पाइपड नेचुरल गैस (पी.एन.जी.) की सुविधा उपलब्ध होने पर भी इसकी सेवा नहीं लेने वाले उपभोक्ताओं की घरेलू रसोई गैस (एल.पी.जी.) की आपूर्ति 3 महीने बाद बंद कर दी जाएगी। सरकार ने आदेश जारी कर इसकी जानकारी दी है। यह कदम गैस नेटवर्क के विस्तार को तेज करने और एक ही इंधन पर निर्भरता कम करने के उद्देश्य से उठाया गया है।

पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के

कारण प्रमुख स्रोतों से आपूर्ति प्रभावित होने से भारत में एल.पी.जी. की कमी की स्थिति के बीच सरकार घरेलू एवं वाणिज्यिक उपभोक्ताओं को पी.एन.जी. अपनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित कर रही है। पी.एन.जी. अधिक सुविधाजनक विकल्प है और इसकी आपूर्ति घरेलू उत्पादन तथा विविध स्रोतों से की जाती है। पी.एन.जी. पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से रसोई गैस बर्नर तक लगातार पहुंचाई जाती है, जिससे सिलेंडर की

खुर्किंग की आवश्यकता नहीं रहती। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने 'प्राकृतिक गैस तथा पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद वितरण (पाइपलाइन बिछाने, निर्माण, संचालन व विस्तार तथा अन्य सुविधाएं) आदेश, 2026' अधिसूचित किया है। इसका उद्देश्य पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना के विकास में तेजी लाना, मंजूरीयों को आसान बनाना तथा एल.पी.जी. से पी.एन.जी. की ओर बदलाव को बढ़ावा देकर ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है।

सरकार ने कहा- घबराहट में गैस बुकिंग न करें

नई दिल्ली : सरकार ने बुधवार को स्पष्ट किया कि देश में पेट्रोल, डीजल या रसोई गैस (एल.पी.जी.) की कोई कमी नहीं है। सरकार ने जागरूकता से सोशल मीडिया पर फैलाई जा रही अप्रत्याहों पर विश्वास न करने और घबराहट में गैस बुकिंग न करने का आग्रह किया है। खाड़ी क्षेत्र के होमुज जलडमरूमध्य में जारी तनाव के कारण रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति प्रभावित हुई है।

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त संघिय सूजाता शर्मा ने संवाददाताओं को बताया कि सभी तेल रिफाइनरियां कच्चे तेल के पर्याप्त भंडार के साथ पूरी क्षमता से काम कर रही हैं।

'एल.पी.जी. संकट' को लेकर विपक्ष का संसद परिसर में प्रदर्शन

नई दिल्ली : विपक्षी दलों के सांसदों ने देश में एल.पी.जी. के 'संकट' को लेकर बुधवार को संसद परिसर में प्रदर्शन किया। कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे, राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (श.प.) की नेता सुप्रिया सुले, समाजवादी पार्टी के सांसद धर्मेन्द्र यादव और कई अन्य दलों के सांसद इसमें शामिल हुए। सांसदों ने हाथों में एक बड़ा बैनर ले रखा था जिस पर 'एम्पिटी सिलेंडर, एम्पिटी प्रॉमिसेस' (खाली सिलेंडर, खोखले वादे) लिखा हुआ था।