



Inter-Ministerial Briefing on Recent Developments in West Asia

Ministry of Rural Development Strengthens Preparedness to Safeguard Rural Schemes Amid West Asia Crisis

Focus on uninterrupted employment, timely fund flow, housing construction, rural roads and livelihood security despite global uncertainties

Online LPG cylinder bookings increased to 99% on industry basis yesterday

PSU OMCs organize more than 7000 awareness camps for 5 Kg FTL Cylinders; more than 100,000 - 5Kg FTL cylinders sold since 3rd April 2026

An average of more than 7000 MT/day of commercial LPG sold during the last 5 days

Safety and security of Indian seafarers is the top priority of Government of India

More than 2,563 Indian seafarers safely repatriated from various locations across the Gulf region so far

Ministry of External Affairs continues to enhance outreach to the countries in the Gulf

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As part of its ongoing outreach to keep the media informed on the evolving situation in West Asia, the Government of India convened a briefing at the National Media Centre today. Officials from the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and External Affairs provided updates on fuel availability, maritime operations, assistance to Indian nationals in the region, and measures being undertaken to maintain stability across key sectors. The Ministry of Rural Development also shared updates during the briefing.

Rural Development sector:

The Ministry of Rural Development has undertaken a comprehensive review of preparedness measures to ensure uninterrupted implementation of major rural welfare and infrastructure programmes across the country, keeping in view the evolving situation in West Asia and its possible impact on global supply chains, commodity prices and inflationary trends.

The Ministry is closely monitoring developments that may have indirect implications for rural livelihoods, housing construction, road development and watershed activities, and has put in place proactive mechanisms to maintain continuity of benefits, timely fund flow and smooth execution of ongoing schemes.

Employment Security and Wage Support

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 remains fully operational till the commencement of the proposed VB–G RAM G Act, 2025. There shall be no disruption in the provision of wage employment to rural households.
- All statutory entitlements, including demand-based employment and timely wage payments, continue in full force without any dilution. Existing Central Government-notified wage rates remain applicable.
- To maintain adequate liquidity and ensure uninterrupted wage disbursement, approximately ₹17,744 crore is being released as the first instalment towards the wage component under MGNREGA.
- Upon commencement, the proposed VB–G RAM G Act is expected to provide an enhanced guarantee of 125 days of wage employment, with revised wage rates to be notified separately.
- Housing Programme Prepared for Supply Chain Challenges
- To achieve the target of “Housing for All” in rural areas, the Ministry is implementing Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) for construction of 4.95 crore houses by March 2029.
- As a preparedness measure against possible material supply disruptions or price fluctuations, the Ministry is prioritising timely Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) releases, real-time monitoring through AwaasSoft, geo-tagging, and accelerated completion of ongoing houses.
- Strong convergence support through mandays, sanitation, drinking water, LPG and electricity is being ensured so that beneficiaries receive a complete package of basic amenities.
- Structural measures such as creation of material banks are also being promoted to enhance resilience against future market volatility.

Rural Roads Programme Insulated Through Advance Planning

- Under PMGSY, works are sanctioned as per the prevailing Schedule of Rates proposed by the States.
- All sanctioned works under PMGSY-I, II, III and Road Connectivity Projects for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas stand tendered or under execution. Only a few bridge-related works remain under sanction under PMGSY-III.
- Under PMGSY-IV, around 12,100 km road works have been sanctioned and are currently at the tendering stage. At present, the exposure to global volatility remains limited, as bitumen constitutes a relatively small share of total project cost.
- Future project batches will be appraised using updated Schedule of Rates to reflect prevailing market conditions and cost trends.
- Strengthening Agriculture and Natural Resource Resilience
- The Department of Land Resources is implementing WDC-PMKSY 2.0 in 50 lakh hectare area to strengthen water conservation, agriculture intensification, horticulture and pasture development.
- The Department is working in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and other stakeholder Ministries to address any emerging situation and ensure smooth

implementation.

Energy Supply and Fuel Availability

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is taking steps to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum products and LPG across the country, in the context of the ongoing situation involving the Strait of Hormuz. As per Ministry:

Public Advisory and Citizen Awareness

- Citizens are advised to avoid panic purchase of petrol, diesel and LPG as the Govt is making all efforts to ensure availability of petrol, diesel and LPG.
- Beware of rumours and rely on official sources for correct information.
- LPG consumers are requested to use digital booking platforms and avoid visiting distributors.
- Citizens are encouraged to use alternate fuels such as PNG and electric or induction cooktops.
- All citizens are requested to make necessary efforts to conserve energy in their daily use during the current situation.

Government Preparedness and Supply Management Measures

- Despite the ongoing geopolitical situation, the Government has ensured that 100% supply is being made to Domestic LPG, Domestic PNG and CNG (Transport).
- For commercial LPG, priority has been given to hospitals, educational institutions. Besides this, priority has also been given to pharma, steel, automobile, seed, agriculture, etc. In addition to this, supply of 5 Kg FTL to migrant labour is also doubled based on avg. daily supply on 2nd and 3rd March 2026.
- The Government has already implemented several rationalisation measures on both the supply and demand side, including enhancing refinery production, increasing the booking interval from 21 to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural areas and prioritising sectors for supply.
- Alternate fuels such as kerosene and coal have been made available to ease pressure on LPG demand.
- The Ministry of Coal has directed Coal India and Singareni Collieries to supply additional coal to States for distribution to small and medium consumers.
- States have been advised to facilitate new PNG connections for domestic and commercial consumers.

Coordinated Efforts with States/UTs and Institutional Mechanisms

- State Governments are empowered under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and LPG Control Order, 2000 to monitor supply and act against hoarding and black marketing.
- Govt. of States/UTs have to play a primary role in monitoring and regulating supply situation of essential commodities including Petrol, Diesel and LPG. Govt. of India has reiterated the same via multiple letters and VCs to all States/UTs.
- The Government of India vide letters dated 27.03.2026 and 02.04.2026 have stressed the need for proactive public communication to reassure citizens regarding adequate fuel availability. Regular review meetings are being held with States/UTs. In this context, meetings were convened on 02.04.2026 (Chaired by Secretary, MoPNG) and on 06.04.2026 (Chaired by Secretary, MoPNG along with Secretaries of I&B and Consumer Affairs), wherein the following was emphasized:
 - To issue daily press briefings and issue regular public advisories.
 - To actively monitor and counter fake news / misinformation on social media.
 - To intensify daily enforcement drives by District admin and to continue raids and inspections in coordination with OMCs
 - To issue Commercial LPG allocation orders within their States/UTs

- To issue SKO allocation orders for additional SKO allotted to the States/UTs.
- To promote PNG adoptions and alternate fuels.
- To prioritize LPG supply, especially for domestic needs, and adopt targeted distribution of 5 kg FTL cylinders to ensure supply stability.
- All States/UTs have established control rooms and district monitoring committees to curb hoarding and black marketing.
- Many states/UTs are issuing/carrying out press briefs.

Enforcement and Monitoring Actions

- **Enforcement actions continue across the country to curb hoarding and black marketing of LPG. On 19.04.2026, more than 1900 raids were conducted across the country.**
- **PSU Oil Marketing Companies have strengthened surprise inspections and imposed penalties on 267 LPG distributorships and suspended 67 LPG distributorships till yesterday.**

LPG Supply

Domestic LPG Supply Status:

- LPG supply continues to be affected by the prevailing geopolitical situation.
- Supply of LPG to domestic households has been prioritized.
- No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships.
- **Online LPG cylinder bookings have increased to 99% on industry basis yesterday.**
- **Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) based deliveries have increased to around 92% to prevent diversion. DAC is received on the registered mobile number of the consumer.**
- Many of the LPG distributorships were operating on Sunday to ensure delivery of domestic LPG cylinders to households.

Commercial LPG Supply and Allocation Measures:

- Total commercial LPG allocation has been increased to about 70% of pre-crisis levels, including 10% reform-linked allocation.
- The Government of India vide letter dated 06.04.2026 has conveyed that daily quantity of 5 Kg FTL cylinders in each State available for disbursement to migrant labourers is being doubled based on the average daily supply (Number of cylinders) to migrant labourers during 2nd-3rd March 2026 beyond the limit of 20% mentioned in letter dated 21.03.2026. These 5 Kg FTL cylinders are at disposal of the State Government for supplying only to migrant labourers in their State with assistance of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- **Since 3rd April 2026, PSU OMCs have organized more than 7000 awareness camps for 5 Kg FTL Cylinders, wherein more than 100,000 - 5Kg FTL cylinders were also sold. Yesterday, 3360 – 5 Kg FTLs were sold through more than 220 camps.**
- **Since 23 March 2026, more than 18.45 lakh 5-kg Free Trade LPG cylinders have been sold.**
- A three-member committee of Executive Directors from IOCL, HPCL and BPCL is coordinating with State authorities and industry bodies to plan commercial LPG distribution in the States/UTs.
- **During the last 5 days, on an average more than 7000 MT/day of commercial LPG has been sold.**
- Avg. Auto LPG sale by PSU OMCs in the last one week is around 350 MT/day against the avg. of 177 MT/day during Feb-26.
- Auto LPG Sales was observed to have shifted from Private to PSU OMCs. To meet the rising demand, the sale of auto LPG by the PSU OMCs has been increased. The major increase has been observed in the States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, West Bengal etc.

Natural Gas Supply and PNG Expansion Initiatives

- Consumers have been prioritised with 100% supplies to D-PNG and CNG-Transport.
- The overall gas allocation to fertilizer plants has been enhanced to approximately 95% of their six-month average consumption.
- Additionally, gas supply to other industrial and commercial sectors, including supplies through CGD networks, is enhanced up to 80%.
- CGD entities have been advised to prioritize PNG connections for commercial establishments such as hotels, restaurants and canteens across all their GAs, to address concerns regarding the availability of commercial LPG.
- CGD companies including IGL, MGL, GAIL Gas and BPCL are offering incentives for domestic and commercial PNG connections.
- States/UTs and Central Ministries have been requested to expedite approvals required for expansion of CGD networks.
- The Government of India vide letter dated 18.03.2026 has offered all States/UTs additional 10% allocation of commercial LPG to States provided they can help in long term transition from LPG to PNG.
- 22 States/UTs are receiving additional commercial LPG allocation linked to PNG expansion reforms.
- The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways vide letter dated 24.03.26 has adopted an 'Accelerated Approval Framework for CGD infrastructure with reduced timelines' as a special for 3 months to process applications pertaining to CGD infrastructure on priority.
- The Government of India vide Gazette dated 24.03.2026 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, 1955. The Order provides a streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding pipelines across the country, addressing delays in approvals and access to land, and enabling faster development of natural gas infrastructure, including in residential areas. It is expected to accelerate PNG network growth, enhance last-mile connectivity, and support the transition to cleaner fuels, thereby strengthening energy security and advancing India's gas-based economy.
- PNGRB has directed CGD entities to expedite D-PNG connections. Also, the National PNG Drive 2.0 has been extended till 30.06.2026 to sustain momentum in PNG expansion.
- To encourage a cleaner, more secure and self-reliant energy future, the Government of India has developed a model draft State CBG Policy. The model policy is intended to serve as a comprehensive flexible guiding framework to enable States to create their own investor-friendly and implementation-oriented ecosystem for CBG development. Those States which opt for this, will be prioritized for the next tranche of additional allocation of commercial LPG.
- MoEFCC vide order dated 07.04.2026 has directed CPCB to issue necessary directions to SPCB/PCCs for granting consent to establish or consent to operate within 15 days for CGD network/infrastructure.
- **Since March 2026, more than 4.93 Lakh PNG connections have been gasified. Further, more than 5.51 Lakh customers have been registered for new connections.**
- **Till 19.04.2026, about 39,200 PNG consumers have surrendered their LPG connections via MYPNGD.in website**

Crude Position and Refinery Operations

- All refineries are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories, while sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are being maintained.
- Domestic LPG production from refineries has been increased to support domestic consumption.

- An inter-ministerial Joint Working Group (JWG) has been set up to ensure availability of petrochemical feedstock supply for the domestic market. Subsequently, Govt. of India vide order dated 01.04.2026 has permitted Oil Refinery companies including Petrochemical Complexes to make certain minimum quantities of C3 & C4 streams available for critical sectors as determined by Centre for High Technology (CHT).
- Based on the requests received from the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Chemicals & Petro Chemicals (DCPC), Dept. for Promotion of Industry and internal trade (DPIIT), the provision for 1000 MT/day, from LPG pool, has been made for Pharma and Chemical sector companies.
- **Since 9th April 2026, more than 4050 MT of propylene has been sold.**

Retail Fuel Availability and pricing Measures

- Retail outlets across the country are operating normally.
- The Middle East crisis has led to an abnormal increase in crude prices; however, to protect consumers, the Government of India has reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre.
- Govt. of India vide Gazette notification dated 11.04.2026 has increased the export levy on diesel to Rs. 55.50 per litre and on ATF to Rs. 42 per litre, to ensure availability of these products in the domestic market.
- Regular Retail Prices for Petrol and Diesel are unchanged and there is no price increase at PSU OMCs Retail Outlets.

Kerosene Availability and Distribution Measures

- An additional allocation of 48,000 KL of kerosene has been provided to States/UTs over and above regular allocation.
- 18 States/UTs have issued SKO allocation orders, while Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh have indicated no requirement.

Maritime Safety and Shipping Operations

The current maritime situation in the Persian Gulf, along with measures being undertaken to safeguard Indian vessels and crew, was also briefed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. It was stated that:

- **Vessel Update:** Indian-flagged crude oil tanker **Desh Garima** carrying 97,422 MT crude oil safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz on **18 April 2026**. The vessel, with **31** Indian seafarers onboard, is expected to arrive at Mumbai on **22 April 2026**.
- **In the past 48 hours**, two Indian vessels, VLCC Samnar Herald and Bulk Carrier Jag Arnav, reported a firing incident while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, following which they returned to the Persian Gulf. There has been no injury to any crew reported.
- The ministry is in close and continuous communication with the crew and owners of both the vessels and is closely monitoring the situation. The safety and security of Indian seafarers is the top priority of Government of India, ministry is monitoring the situation on continuous basis and assured to extend all the possible help.
- **All Indian seafarers are safe.** The situation continues to be closely monitored in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and relevant stakeholders.
- **DG Shipping Control Room Update:** The Control Room has handled **6,918** calls and more than **14,605** emails since activation. In the past 24 hours, **25** calls and **135** emails have been received.
- **Repatriation Update:** The Ministry, through the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping), has facilitated the safe repatriation of more than **2,563** Indian seafarers so far, including **25** in the last 24 hours from various locations across the Gulf region.
- **Port Operations:** Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported.

Safety of Indian Nationals in the Region

The Ministry of External Affairs continues to monitor developments in the Gulf and West Asia region, with focussed efforts on ensuring safety, security and welfare of the Indian community in the region. It was informed that:

- On the direction of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Ministry of External Affairs has continued to enhance outreach to the countries in the Gulf
- National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval paid an official visit to Riyadh on April 19th and held meetings with Energy Minister H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Foreign Minister H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan, and National Security Advisor H.E. Dr. Musaed Al-Aiban. During the meetings they discussed bilateral relations, regional situation and other issues of mutual interests.
- Dedicated special control rooms in the Ministry of External Affairs are operational and are working in coordination with Indian missions.
- The Ministry of External Affairs is in regular contact with State Governments and Union Territories for sharing of information and better alignment of efforts.
- Indian Missions and Posts continue to operate round-the-clock helplines and are proactively assisting Indian nationals. They remain in close contact with the local Governments.
- Updated advisories are being issued regularly, including information on local government guidelines, flight and travel situations and consular services and various welfare measures being undertaken to support our community.
- Indian Ambassadors are regularly interacting with the Indian community associations, organizations, professional groups, an Indian companies to address their concerns.
- Government is according high priority to the welfare of Indian seafarers in the region. Our Missions are extending all assistance to them including coordination with the local authorities and agencies, extending consular assistance, and assisting for requests to return to India.
- **Flights continue to operate from the region to India from countries where airspace is open. Since 28 February, around 11,30,000 passengers have travelled from the region to India.**
- In the UAE, airlines continue to operate limited non-scheduled commercial flights between the UAE and India based on operational and safety considerations, with around 110 flights expected today between UAE and India.
- Flights continue to operate from various airports in Saudi Arabia and Oman to destinations in India.
- With Qatar airspace partially open, Qatar Airways is expected to operate around 10 to 11 flights to India today.
- Kuwait airspace remains closed. Jazeera Airways and Kuwait Airways are operating non-scheduled commercial flights from Dammam Airport in Saudi Arabia to India.
- Bahrain airspace is open. Gulf Air of Bahrain is planning limited flight operations from Bahrain to India and is currently operating non-scheduled flights from Dammam Airport in Saudi Arabia to various destinations in India.
- Iraq airspace is open with limited flight operations to destinations in the region, which can be used for onward travel to India.
- **The Embassy of India in Tehran has so far facilitated the movement of 2,358 Indian nationals from Iran to Armenia and Azerbaijan for onward travel to India, including 1,041 Indian students and 657 Indian fishermen.**
- Israel airspace is partially open with restricted flight operations. Travel of Indian nationals continues to be facilitated through Jordan and Egypt to India.
- Iranian airspace remains partially open for cargo and chartered flights. Indian Embassy in Tehran continues to facilitate movement of Indian nationals through Armenia and Azerbaijan for onward travel to India. So far, 2423 Indian Nationals have moved out of Iran into Armenia and Azerbaijan. This includes 1091 Indian students and 657 Indian fishermen.

- **Israel:** Israel airspace is open and limited flight operations have resumed to destinations in the region, which can be used for onward travel to India. We also continue to facilitate travel of Indian nationals from Israel, through Jordan and Egypt to India.

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