

India raises clean-energy ambition with 60% non-fossil fuel power goal by 2035

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Updating its climate goals, India has pledged that by 2035, 60% of its installed electric capacity will comprise non-fossil sources. It also aims to reduce by 47% the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP from 2005 level and to increase its carbon sink to 3.5 billion tonnes – 4 billion tonnes.

These targets make up its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which are to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“We will easily achieve these goals... [with] the speed with which we are expanding our non-fossil

Green goals

The targets set for 2035 under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) are part of India's formal climate pledges under the Paris Agreement

Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by **47%** from 2005 level

Achieve **60%** installed electric power from non-fossil fuel energy resources

Create carbon sink of **3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes** of CO₂ equivalent through forest and tree cover

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was required to update its NDC by 2025 with actions towards curbing fossil fuel and improving energy efficiency



sources,” Union Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing on Wednesday following a Cabinet meeting.

As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, India was

required to issue an updated NDC in 2025, which spells out its voluntary actions towards transitioning away from fossil fuel and improving energy-efficiency measures.

At the 30th edition of the Conference of Parties in Belem, Brazil, in November last year, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that India would announce the NDC by the “year-end”.

India's current NDC, officially conveyed to the United Nations in August 2022, commits to the following by 2030: having 50% of its installed electric power from non-fossil sources; reducing the intensity of emissions per unit of GDP by 44%; and increasing its carbon sink to at least 2.5 billion tonnes to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

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India eyes 60% non-fossil fuel power goal by 2035

The Conference of Parties, or CoP, is a body of nations that convenes annually to discuss climate issues and transition their economies away from fossil fuel. India and Argentina were the only two G-20 countries that had not announced a 2035 NDC as of December 31, 2025.

A total of 128 parties, representing about 78% of global greenhouse gas emissions, had submitted new NDCs by that date. These included 21 Small Island Developing States, 19 Least Developed Countries, and 18 G-20 members.

Current commitments

Currently, about 52% of India's installed electric capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources – a target achieved well before the deadline – though only about 25% of the power generated is non-fossil. These sources include solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, and nuclear power. As of 2019, say of official estimates, India has achieved an emissions intensity of 36% from 2005-2020.

A carbon sink of 1.97 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent had already been created from 2005 to 2019. However, forest and tree cover accounts for about 24.6% of India's geographical area as of 2021, which is higher than the 21% in 2005, but still less than the national policy goal of 33%.

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

● 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
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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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LS passes Finance Bill 2026 with 33 govt amendments

Harikishan Sharma
New Delhi, March 25

THE LOK Sabha on Wednesday passed the Finance Bill 2026 with a voice vote, negating amendments moved by the Opposition members and approving the 33 government amendments moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Bill will go to the Rajya Sabha on Friday for approval, following which the Budget process for 2026-27 will be complete.

The Union Budget 2026-27 envisages an expenditure of Rs 53.47 lakh crore, an increase of 7.7% over the current fiscal. The fiscal deficit for FY27 is projected at 4.3% of GDP, lower than 4.4% in the current fiscal.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Sitharaman hit out at the Congress for “giving lectures” on fiscal deficit while the Modi government has been repaying loans raised during the Congress-led UPA government.

Responding to Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Sitharaman said, “At the time of *chhota sa* [small] global financial crisis, the then UPA government was shaken. While during the Covid, a global crisis, we had retained a sense of calm... The fiscal deficit of 9.3% (during Covid year) has been brought down.”

“I want to put it on record, the actual fiscal deficit during 2008-09 would have been 7.9% but they whitewashed their books by booking their loans in the books of oil marketing companies and showed the fiscal

deficit at 6.1%... Whatever amount they raised from the market, they showed them in the books of oil marketing companies to keep their fiscal deficit number better. We do not do this,” Sitharaman said.

“Till today, the NDA government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been repaying, with interest, the loan raised through those oil bonds... We inherited a total outstanding debt of Rs 1.3 lakh crore from their oil marketing bonds. From 2014 to 2024, our government has returned Rs 1.43 lakh crore, including Rs 44,650 crore in principal. That is why there is a shortfall of that amount in our records for developmental activities like hospitals and schools,” she said.

Referring to Congress MP Manish Tewari’s criticism of the government over rising debt, the minister said, “To speak of debt in nominal terms without a correlation with the GDP will not make no sense. India’s nominal GDP rose from Rs 113 lakh crore to Rs 345 lakh crore, and debt, which Manish Tewari is saying has risen from Rs 56.5 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 214.8 lakh crore in 2025-26, but he should take into cognizance that the nominal GDP has seen such growth and has gone to Rs 345 lakh crore.”

She said the Central government alone can’t be responsible for debt. “Manish Tewari should spend some time with his chief ministers in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka and help them in bringing down debt...,” she 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.

Centre defends stand as Opposition raises 'Pak. role' in West Asia

Sobhana K. Nair

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

Parrying the questions raised by the Opposition regarding the reported central role played by Pakistan in mediating between the U.S. and Iran, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday termed the neighbouring country a “*dalal*” and said that it had been playing this role since 1981.

He was addressing an all-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the recent developments in West Asia and their impact on India. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri also assured the gathering that India continued to maintain a strategic petroleum reserve of 74 days. While the country was not facing any imminent energy crisis, he noted that the supply cycle for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) had extended from 20 days to 45 days. This, he said, should stabilise soon.

Responding to criticism over India’s “silence”, Mr. Jaishankar asserted that with nearly one crore Indians living in West Asian countries, it was crucial for India’s strategic and economic interests to maintain a balanced position.



S. Jaishankar

India, he said, remained in a unique position, able to communicate with all sides.

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent talks with Iranian authorities, he said two Indian ships had been allowed to sail through the Strait of Hormuz, while 18 others still in the region would soon set sail for Indian shores. He said that the U.S. continued to be India’s biggest trading partner, while Israel was a key technological partner.

The External Affairs Minister also said that the U.S. sanctions on India had a long history and that previous administrations in Washington had deployed them in past. While the Opposition “shamed” the government, he said that India’s import of Russian oil never completely stopped.

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• WE WILL BID FAREWELL TO HIS SOUL IN PEACE, SAYS FATHER ASHOK RANA

Harish Rana, first to die by passive euthanasia, is consigned to flames

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
New Delhi, March 25

STANDING BY the pyre of his son on Wednesday morning, Ashok Rana told those gathered around him: "We do not want to bid farewell in grief. We will bid farewell to his soul in peace."

About a 100 people – family members, neighbours, and followers of the Brahmakumaris spiritual movement, stood with folded hands. Among them was Nirmala, the mother of Harish Rana.

This is how Sister Lovely of the Brahmakumaris, who has known the Rana family for more than five years, remembered Harish's farewell. "Nir-

mala kept faith in herself. She did not shed a single tear," Sister Lovely told *The Indian Express*.

Harish, 31, died on Tuesday at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), becoming the first person in India to be permitted passive euthanasia under a Supreme Court order.

He had been in a coma since 2013, after he fell from a fourth-floor balcony in Chandigarh as a B.Tech student. For 13 years, he remained in a permanent vegetative state, sustained by artificial nutrition through a feeding tube and, at times, oxygen support.

The last rites began just after 9 am at the Green Park crema-



During Harish Rana's last rites at Green Park cremation ground in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

tion ground in South Delhi. Harish's body was laid on a platform covered with rose petals, and his

family gathered around. His younger brother, Ashish Rana, performed the rituals, accompa-

nied by his sister Bhavna.

"The whole family was there. Everyone bid farewell to

the soul... In death, as in the years preceding it, the family sought to frame the moment not as an ending but as a transition. There is a journey for a new beginning," sister Lovely said, describing the spiritual message shared during the cremation.

The Rana family's association with the Brahmakumaris has deepened over time. Ashok Rana, who lived in Delhi for almost two decades before moving to Raj Empire Society in Ghaziabad a few years ago, became a regular at the nearby Brahmakumaris centre. "He comes every day," Sister Lovely said.

Sources at AIIMS told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday that the family donated Har-

ish's corneas and heart valve.

For more than a decade, the life of the family had revolved around the room in which Harish had lain. He needed constant care — feeding through a gastrostomy tube four times a day, tending to bedsores, physiotherapy, and turning his body to prevent further injury.

The financial burden was heavy. After retiring from a catering job, Ashok began selling sandwiches and burgers at a local cricket ground on weekends to boost the family's income. His wife, Nirmala, remained by Harish's side.

In 2024, the Delhi High Court rejected the family's plea to withdraw life support. The

Supreme Court initially declined relief but allowed them to return. When they did, the court issued a landmark order on March 11, 2026, permitting the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, extending the principles laid down in the 2018 *Common Cause v. Union of India* judgment.

Passive euthanasia allows the withdrawal of life support, letting death occur naturally with palliative care. For Harish, this meant the removal of nutrition through a PEG tube under medical supervision at AIIMS, where he had been taken on March 14.

On Tuesday evening, that process came to an end.

U.S. IN NEGOTIATIONS, VANCE AND RUBIO PART OF TEAM: TRUMP

Sanctions relief to n-plan rollback: Iran receives US proposals via Pak

Iran silent, state TV claims plan rejected; Egyptian official says deal 'comprehensive'

Jon Gambrell, David Rising, Munir Ahmed & Aamer Madhani
Dubai, March 25

IRAN HAS received an American plan to pause the war in the Middle East, officials said Wednesday — a proposal sent even as Washington deploys paratroopers and more Marines to the region.

Tehran did not confirm receiving the plan and publicly dismissed the diplomatic effort. Iranian state television's English-language broadcaster, Press TV, quoted an anonymous official as saying Iran had rejected America's ceasefire proposal. "Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met," Press TV quoted the official as saying. The official added Tehran will continue its "heavy blows" across the Mideast.

Two officials from Pakistan, which delivered the plan to Iran, described the 15-point proposal broadly, saying it addressed sanctions relief, a rollback of Iran's nuclear programme,

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E. THE 15-POINT PLAN, BROADLY

- Addresses sanctions relief: Pak officials
- Seeks rollback of Iran's nuclear programme
- Places limits on missiles with Tehran
- Calls for reopening the Strait of Hormuz
- Restricts Iran's support for armed groups



Iranian drones hit Kuwait International Airport, Wednesday. PTI

Disruption hits chemicals, steel, aluminium, textile, breweries

Pratyush Deep & Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, March 25

AS THE energy shock waves from the war in West Asia travel deeper, Indian manufacturers, ranging from steel, aluminium, textiles and even alcoholic beverages, are beginning to report operational disruptions on account of surging freight rates, stuck shipments, gas shortages and payment issues.

Much of this originates, either directly or indirectly, from the trade disruption caused due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Indian manufacturing sector is grappling with uncertainty due to cargo stuck at different stages of the supply chain, which could raise the cost of operations and even limit production hours.

A Mumbai-headquartered leading textile brand told *The Indian Express* that they were facing a severe shortage of raw materials and were only left with 30 days of stock as the West Asia conflict had delayed their import cargo.

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ALL-PARTY MEETING ON WEST ASIA CRISIS

Opp flags Pak mediation, Govt says India not a 'dalal' (broker) nation

Manoj CG
New Delhi, March 25

A DAY after US President Donald Trump called up Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed the situation in West Asia, the government Wednesday informed an all-party meeting that Modi made it clear to Trump that India wanted to see the war coming to an end because it was "affecting everyone".

When Opposition leaders enquired if Pakistan's role as a mediator between the US and

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Congress MP Mukul Wasnik after the all-party meeting on West Asia crisis, Wednesday. PTI

Iran receives US proposals via Pakistan

limits on missiles and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped.

An Egyptian official involved in the mediation efforts said it also includes restrictions on Iran's support for armed groups. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet released. Some of those points were non-starters in negotiations before

the war: Iran has insisted it won't discuss its ballistic missile programme or its support of regional militias, which it views as key to its security. And its ability to control passage through the Strait of Hormuz represents one of its biggest strategic advantages.

Iran's attacks on regional energy infrastructure along with its restrictions on the strait have sent oil prices skyrocketing and sparked fears of a global energy crisis, in turn putting pressure on the US to find a way to end the chokehold and calm markets.

On Wednesday, as Iran launched more attacks on Israel and Gulf Arab countries, including an assault that sparked a

huge fire at Kuwait International Airport, it also continued to come under attack.

At least 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division will be sent to the Mideast in the coming days, three people with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press. The paratroopers are trained to jump into hostile or contested areas to secure key territory and airfields. The Pentagon is also in the process of sending about 5,000 more Marines, trained in amphibious assaults, and thousands of sailors to the region.

The 15-point plan now in Iranian hands is "a comprehensive deal" to reach a ceasefire, according to the Egyptian official.

Mediators are pushing for possible in-person talks between the Iranians and the Americans, perhaps as soon as Friday in Pakistan, the Egyptian and Pakistani officials said.

Trump has said the US is "in negotiations right now" and that the participants included special envoy Steve Witkoff, his son-in-law Jared Kushner, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance. He has not disclosed who from Iran

they are in contact with, but said "the other side, I can tell you, they'd like to make a deal."

Iran's Khatam Al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, which commands the regular military and the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, dismissed that. Iranian leaders have repeatedly denied talks are happening, while acknowledging that the foreign minister is in contact with various countries but not the US or Israel.

"Our first and last word has been the same from day one, and it will stay that way: Someone like us will never come to terms with someone like you," Lt Col Ebrahim Zolfaghari, a spokesman for the headquarters, said in the video statement aired on state television. "Not now, not ever."

Israeli officials, who have been advocating for Trump to continue the war against Iran, were surprised by the submission of a ceasefire plan, according to a person who was briefed on the contours of the proposal.

Any talks between the US and Iran would face monumental challenges. It's not clear who

in Iran's government has the authority to negotiate – or would be willing to, as Israel has vowed to continue killing the country's leaders.

Iran remains highly suspicious of the US which twice under the Trump administration has attacked during high-level diplomatic talks, including with the February 28 strikes that started the current war.

"We have a very catastrophic experience with US diplomacy," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei told India Today Tuesday.

The Israeli military said Wednesday afternoon it had completed several waves of airstrikes in Tehran. The army also said that as part of its strikes a day earlier it targeted an Iranian submarine development centre in Isfahan.

Meanwhile, drone and rocket fire from the Iran-back Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon continued unabated. Since entering the fighting, the group has fired rockets into northern Israel around the clock each day, disrupting the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. – ASSOCIATED PRESS

'U.S. to deploy 1,000 elite troops to West Asia'

In a latest addition to the Iran war effort, U.S. officials say thousands of Marines as well as rapid response naval vessels will be heading to the region; Iran and Israel exchange strikes; Gulf neighbours Kuwait and Saudi Arabia come under fire; Iran's military says it also targeted a U.S. aircraft carrier

Agencies

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN/DUBAI

Amid the escalating strikes, counter attacks and rising tensions in West Asia, the United States military is preparing to deploy at least 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division to the region in the coming days, according to people with knowledge of the plans.

The unit is considered the Army's emergency response force and can typically be deployed on short notice.

The force would include a battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team as well as Maj. Gen. Brandon Tegtmeier, the division's com-



Rising risk: Smoke plumes billowing near the Kuwait International Airport after drones hit a fuel tank on Wednesday. AFP

mander, and division staff, according to the people, who spoke on Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

It's the latest addition of American troops to the Iran war effort after U.S. officials recently said thousands of Marines aboard

several Navy ships will be heading to the region.

Diplomats from various countries said they were working behind the scenes to ferry messages between the warring parties. But there was no let-up in the military activity, with tar-

gets in Iran, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia all coming under fire.

Volley of attacks

The Israeli military said on Wednesday it had completed several waves of air-strikes in Tehran. The semi-official Iranian SNN News Agency said the strikes hit a residential area in the city, with rescuers searching the rubble.

Missile alert sirens sounded multiple times in Israel as Iran launched its own attacks.

Iran also kept up the pressure on its Gulf Arab neighbours. Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said it had destroyed at least eight drones in the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province.

Kuwait said it shot down multiple drones but the General Civil Aviation Authority said one hit a fuel tank at Kuwait International Airport, sparking a plume that sent a huge plume of smoke into the sky.

Iran's military said on Wednesday it fired a volley of cruise missiles at a U.S. aircraft carrier.

It said the cruise missiles aimed at *USS Abraham Lincoln* had "forced it to change its position", warning of "powerful strikes" when the "hostile fleet" comes into range.

Meanwhile, White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly deferred to the Pentagon when asked about the impending deployment but noted that "President

[Donald] Trump always has all military options at his disposal."

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee are scheduled to receive a classified briefing from Pentagon officials on Wednesday on Capitol Hill where the potential deployment is expected to be discussed, according to a U.S. official.

Officials previously have said the Japan-based *USS Tripoli* and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit had been ordered to West Asia — shifting them from exercises near Taiwan.

They also confirmed that the Navy has rushed to deploy a set of ships carrying a rapid-response Marine force.

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 respond 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.

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

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THIERRY MATHOU

THE INTERNATIONAL order is increasingly fragmented and its foundations are being eroded. There have never been so many armed conflicts since World War II. Trade tensions and imbalances linked to the growth models of the major global economic regions are weakening us collectively. The war in West Asia is just the latest example of the challenge of resolving disputes through diplomacy. France and India's close coordination to advance peace and stability in the region is key, and President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are working closely to this end.

"The great risk of the times we are living

France's G7 agenda — balance and convergence

in is the risk of[...] seeing the 'might is right' mentality prevail. It is the risk of seeing the egotism of a few individuals prevail," said the French President in September 2025 as he addressed the UN General Assembly. That is why a new international order must emerge to produce a fairer, more inclusive and more effective system, under the banner of renewed multilateralism.

This year, the G7 will meet in France, with its presidency culminating in the Summit of Heads of State and Government, which will be held in Évian from June 15 to 17. President Macron has extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to participate in the G7 Summit.

France's ambition for its presidency is to address structural factors of destabilisation and economic and geopolitical imbalances as well as enhance the resilience

of our societies, while overhauling our partnerships with the most vulnerable countries. The work of the G7 should foster balanced and sustainable global growth for all.

France will also work to ensure that we can collectively strengthen the resilience of our strategic supply chains, cooperate to fight drug trafficking, and build safe digital environments for our children. The protection of our environment must

France will also work to ensure that we can strengthen the resilience of our strategic supply chains and build safe digital environments for our children

also be a priority, with a focus on biodiversity, the oceans, and water.

To find a comprehensive and lasting response to these challenges, dialogue between the richest countries will not suffice. The French G7 presidency has therefore decided to involve major emerging economies and regional partners in its deliberations. The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which is being held at Les Vaux-de-Cernay, near Paris, on March 26 and 27, has also been expanded to include India, Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine. The contribution of these countries is crucial for a growing number of issues, ranging from global governance to reconstruction and tackling cross-cutting threats. For the first time, India is closely associated in several discussions and preparatory deliber-

ations ahead of the G7 Évian Summit.

True to its role as the initiator of the format in 1975, France aims to show that the G7, which was born in response to the first oil crisis, upholds a common vision of global prosperity based on three principles: Solidarity between nations, economic stability, and collective responsibility. France's G7 presidency aims to be one of balance, convergence, and results, with the goal of producing real progress for everyone's security and prosperity. In this spirit, India's contribution and the strong ties between our two countries, which recently elevated their relationship to a special global strategic partnership, are essential to respond collectively to the major challenges confronting our world.

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