

Meghalaya CM, wife visit violence-hit Tura town

TURA, Mar 12 (PTI)

MEGHALAYA Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and his MLA wife Mehtab Chandee A Sangma visited several localities in violence-hit Tura town to meet residents and review situation on the ground, officials said.

The visits took place even as curfew remained in force in parts of West Garo Hills district, where the administration has prohibited the assembly of five or more people to prevent further disturbances.

A video released by the CM's

office showed Sangma and his wife interacting with residents in different neighbourhoods of Tura, assuring them that Government was taking all steps to restore normalcy and safeguard lives and property.

They also met West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner V Aggarwal, who briefed him on incidents of arson and attacks on shops during the unrest, and the prevailing law and order situation in the district. The CM also met senior Army and RAF officers and thanked them for assisting in restoring peace in the town.

Hormuz traffic stalls: Gulf producers cut output by 10 million barrels/day

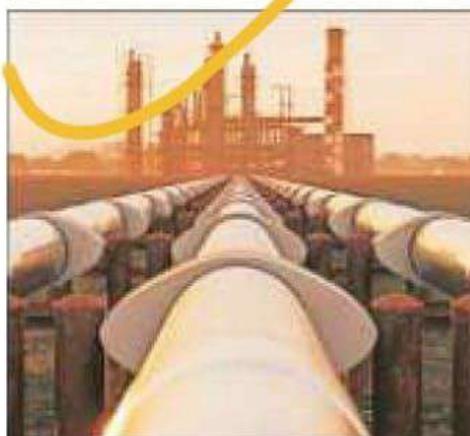
NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (IANS)

THE ongoing conflict in West Asia has triggered the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market, according to a report released on Thursday.

According to the report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), with limited capacity to reroute shipments and storage facilities filling up, oil-producing countries in the Gulf have cut production by at least 10 million barrels per day, it added.

“Unless tanker traffic through the strategic waterway resumes quickly, supply losses are likely to deepen further,” it said.

Crude and petroleum product flows through the Strait of Hormuz have dropped sharply from around 20 million barrels per day before the conflict to minimal levels currently, severely affecting global supply chains, the agency said.



The IEA has estimated that global oil supply could decline by about 8 million barrels per day in March, although some of the losses may be partly offset by higher output from non-OPEC+ producers such as Kazakhstan and Russia.

Major supply reductions are being reported in Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia as storage tanks fill and exports stall.

The conflict has also disrupted refined fuel markets.

Export flows of petroleum products through the Strait have nearly stalled, while more than 3 million barrels per day of refining capacity in the Gulf region has already shut down due to attacks and limited export routes.

The disruption is also affecting demand. Widespread flight cancellations and interruptions to LPG supplies across the region could reduce global oil demand by around 1 million barrels per day during March and April, the agency said.

Earlier in the week, member countries of the International Energy Agency agreed to release 400 million barrels of oil from emergency reserves to stabilise markets.

The agency also noted that global oil inventories remain relatively strong at over 8.2 billion barrels, the highest level since early 2021, providing some buffer against supply disruptions.

Oil shock from Iran war prompts countries to open strategic reserves

■ By Matt Sedensky and Wyatt Grantham-Philipsthe
NEW YORK, Mar 12 (AP)

A WIDENING war in Iran has halted oil tankers, made targets of refineries and spooked investors worried about the cascading impact of spiking energy prices. In response, the International Energy Agency agreed on Wednesday to release the largest volume of emergency oil reserves in its history, with the Paris-based organisation pledging to make 400 million barrels of oil available from its member nations' stockpiles.

The announcement marked a shift in momentum in Government response to the war upending the flow of oil, with other global leaders previously indicating reluctance to tap into stockpiles. Here is a look at the energy supplies that countries hold and when they tap them:

Countries around the world hold vast quantities of oil that they

can use in the event of a crisis. Because oil is a global commodity and flooding the market with a sudden stream of new supply has international implications, countries often talk to one another before tapping reserves. That includes coordinating with the IEA, an organisation created in the aftermath of the 1973 oil crisis.

It has 32 members - including Germany, Austria and Japan, all of whom confirmed on Wednesday that they would be tapping parts of their reserves. The US, Mexico, Australia and other major countries are also part of the IEA. IEA members currently hold over 1.2 billion barrels of public emergency oil stocks, with

further 600 million barrels of industry stocks held under government obligation. The largest-ever previous collective release of emergency stocks by IEA member countries was 182.7 million barrels following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Each of the IEA member countries promises to have a reserve

at least equivalent to what they import in a 90-day period. The US exports more than it imports, maintaining its own reserve - known as the Strategic Petroleum Reserve - despite there being no requirement. But for other countries, tapping their reserves means that they will eventually need to replenish what was removed.

Will tap Strategic Petroleum Reserve to try to reduce gasoline prices: Trump

■ By Samuel Petrequin and Kirsten Grieshaber
PARIS, Mar 12 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump says his administration will tap the United States' Strategic Petroleum Reserve to try and reduce gasoline prices that have risen due to the Iran war. During an interview Wednesday with WKRC Local 12 in Cincinnati,

Trump was asked about tapping the reserve and said, "Well, we'll do that and then we'll fill it up."

He added, "Right now we'll reduce it a little bit, and that brings the prices down." He didn't specify how many barrels of oil the US would release.

Trump frequently criticised the administration of Joe Biden for tapping the reserve to try and bring down gas prices.

Damage to historical sites in Iran raises alarm about war's impact

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 12 (AP)

US and Israeli strikes on Iran have damaged at least 4 cultural and historical sites, including palaces and an ancient mosque, raising alarms about the impact of the widening war on protected landmarks that are important to Iranian identity and world history.

The speed and extent of the damage have so concerned Iran and Lebanon that they sent a request to the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, this week. UNESCO confirmed that it has verified damage to the lavish Qajar-era Golestan Palace in Tehran as well as the 17th century Chehel Sotoun palace and the Masjed-e Jame, the country's oldest Friday mosque, both in Isfahan.

India co-sponsors UNSC resolution

Condemns Iran's 'egregious' attacks on GCC, Jordan

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 12 (PTI)

INDIA co-sponsored a resolution in the UN Security Council that condemned the "egregious" attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan and demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Tehran while denouncing its threats of closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The 15-nation Security Council, currently under the presidency of the United States, adopted the resolution on Wednesday with 13 votes in favour, none against and absten-



Iranian forces shells Riyadh, targeting the area near the US embassy in Saudi Arabia.. (X/AP/File photo)

tions by veto-wielding permanent members China and Russia.

India cosponsored the Bahrain-led resolution along with over 130 nations, including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen and Zambia. The resolution, which had a total of 135 co-sponsors, reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty of nations.

No fuel shortage in country: Puri in LS

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (PTI)

THE Government on Thursday said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, kerosene or aviation turbine fuel in the country despite the ongoing West Asia crisis, and urged the Opposition not to spread rumours and fake narratives.

Responding to concerns raised by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri said it is the foremost priority of the Government that the kitchens of over 33 crore families, especially the poor and the underprivileged, do not face any shortage of gas.

Domestic supply is fully

(Contd on page 5)

Iran allows India-bound tankers through Hormuz



The Liberia-flagged Suezmax tanker Shenlong carrying crude oil berths at the Jawahar Dweep terminal of Mumbai Port in Mumbai on Thursday.(PTI)

Iran's unrelenting attacks in M-E soar oil prices to USD 100/barrel

NEW DELHI, Mar 12 (PTI)

AS A foreign-flagged vessel carrying oil for India has managed to cross the war-hit Strait of Hormuz to reach Mumbai, while another large ship is likely to reach Indian ports in a day or two, unconfirmed reports say Iran may have agreed to allow Indian-flagged vessels through the Strait.

However, at the daily inter-ministerial briefing on the West Asia crisis that has hit India's fuel supplies, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal refused to say if

the reports about Iran allowing Indian-flagged vessels were correct or false.

India's External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Iran have had three conversations in recent days. In the last one, they discussed issues pertaining to the safety of shipping and India's energy security. Beyond that, it would be premature for me to say anything," he said.

According to sources familiar with the developments, Indian tankers 'Pushpak' and 'Parimal' have been passing safely through the Strait of Hormuz, even as

DUBAI, Mar 12 (AP)

UNRELENTING Iranian attacks on shipping traffic and energy infrastructure pushed oil above USD 100 a barrel on Thursday, as American and Israeli strikes pounded the Islamic Republic with no sign of an end to the war in sight.

Iran hit a container ship off the coast of Dubai, caused a blaze near Bahrain's international airport, targeted a major Saudi oil field with a drone and

forced Iraq to halt operations at all of its oil terminals after attacking its port of Basra on the Persian Gulf.

Iran flouted a UN Security Council resolution from the previous day demanding that it halt strikes on its Gulf neighbours with new attacks also reported in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Sirens wailed before dawn in Jerusalem as Israel intercepted incoming Iranian missiles.

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ships from the US, Europe and Israel continue to face restrictions in the strategically important waterway.

Liberia-flagged Shenlong, carrying around 1 million barrels of Saudi Arabian crude oil, arrived at Mumbai port on Wednesday evening. The other tanker - an Indian-flagged VLCC or a very large crude carrier - with around 2 million barrels of Iraqi crude too reached Indian waters and is now headed to Paradip in Odisha.

Shenlong, a Suezmax tanker considered a large carrier, began (Contd on page 5)

Attacks on Gulf Arab neighbours will continue: Iran's supreme leader

DUBAI, Mar 12 (AP)

IRAN'S supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said on Thursday that the leverage of closing the Strait of Hormuz should be used and that Iran's attacks on Gulf Arab neighbours will continue.

His first statement since his appointment was read on state television by a news anchor. Khamenei did not appear on camera, and an Israeli assessment indicates he was wounded in the war's opening salvo.

He vowed to avenge those killed in the war, including in a strike on a school. He said Iran would "obtain compensation" from its enemy, referring to the United States. If it refuses, Iran will "take from its assets" or destroy them to the same extent, he said.

No fuel