



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

# The Analyst

**CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout**

**6th May 2026**



# India's Energy Security in a Volatile World



**CONTEXT:** In a fragmented energy market, India's edge lies not in self-sufficiency but in optionality.

## Context: Geopolitical Shocks & Economic Impact

- Recent West Asia Conflict - Global Energy Disruptions
- IEA - more severe - Shocks of 1973, 1979 and 2022 Combined

## Impact on India

- Brent Crude: peaked ~\$120/barrel
- Freight Rates, Exchange Rates -
- GDP growth: 7.4% (FY26) → 6.5% (FY27)
- Inflation: 2.3% → 4.4%
- LESSON?
- Energy security = Resilience + Diversification + Macro Stability

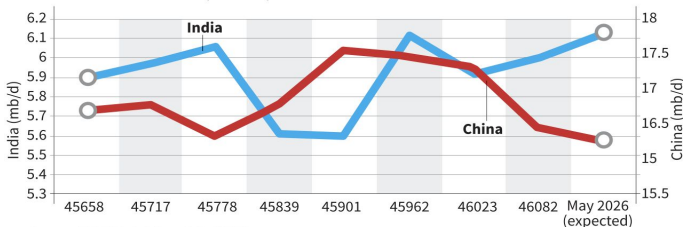
## Breakdown of the Old Energy Order

- Lessons from Global Conflicts - Russia-Ukraine War
- Europe reduced - RUSSIAN GAS IMPORTS, Consumption
- Pivoting Back - Nuclear Energy

## Energy requirements

India is now the world's third-largest oil consumer, with high dependence on crude imports. As a result, fluctuations in crude oil prices, freight rates, and currency exchange rates remain a concern, especially during geo-economic conflicts

India and China oil demand (2025-26)

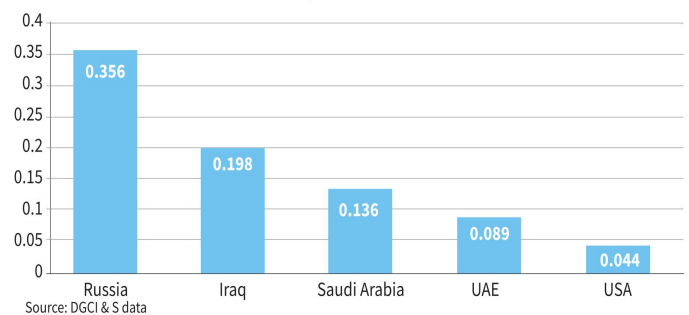


- Strategic Choke Points Matter - Strait Of Hormuz
- Disruptions Here → Instant Global Price Shocks
- Global Strategic Responses?
- CHINA - 25 MMT LNG Contracts
- JAPAN - Stockpiled Crude Oil
- SOUTH KOREA - Diversified Oil Routes
- Lesson? - Diversification + Strategic Reserves

## India's Position: Strengths & Opportunities

- High Dependence but Strong Adaptability
- - IMPORTS & CAPACITY - T, R, E
- Rising Demand Advantage
- Projections - 5.74 mb/d (2025) → 5.99 mb/d (2026)
- India's demand growth?
- Strategic Diversification
- Russia share?
- Iraq, Saudi Arabia, UAE, USA
- India's strength = "optionality"

India's FY2024-25 Crude import shares: Top 5 sources



## Structural Risks for India

- Extreme Import Dependence - FY2024-25
- Crude Dependence?
- Domestic Production?
- Vulnerable to -
- Geographical Constraints
- Heavy reliance on SLOC - Hormuz
- Security Costs - Operation Sankalp
- Energy Transition Risks
- New Dependencies - Critical Minerals - Skewed Distribution
- China Processing Capacity - India?

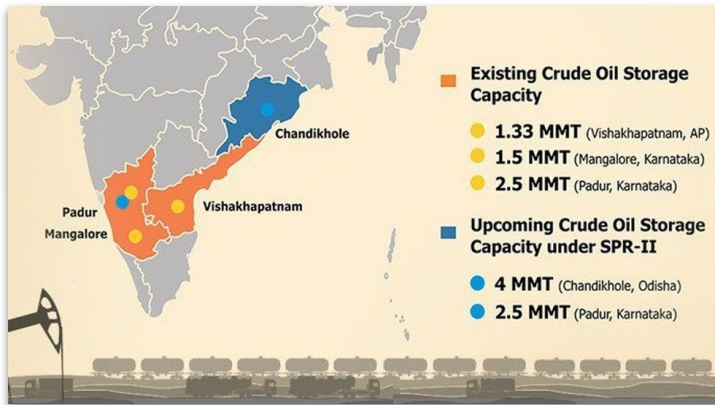


# India's Energy Security in a Volatile World

**CONTEXT:** In a fragmented energy market, India's edge lies not in self-sufficiency but in optionality.

## Way Forward for India

- Build Strategic Reserves – Japan
- Reduce Oil Dependence – EVs, Public Transport, Biofuels
- Strengthen Maritime Security – NSP – IO
- Secure Critical Minerals – Partnerships – Co-Development
- Expand Domestic Production – KG Basin



## Mains Practise Question

*“Energy security in the 21st century is no longer about affordability alone, but about resilience and strategic autonomy.” In the context of recent geopolitical shocks, examine India's energy security challenges and suggest a way forward.*

**(15 Marks, 250 words)**



# Cabinet Approves More Judges to SC



**CONTEXT:** The move is a step towards tiding over crisis of pendency plaguing the court for years

## 124. Establishment and Constitution of Supreme Court

### How are Supreme Court Judges Appointed?

- Composition and Strength of the Supreme Court
- Originally - SC - 8 Judges
- "until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number"
- Current Strength - 34 Judges

### Qualifications for Appointment as a Judge - Article 124(3)

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and—

- (a) has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- (b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or
- (c) is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

### Appointment

- The Judges of the SC are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- The President consults with judges of the SC & HCs to make informed appointments.

### Oath of Office

- Every appointed judge must make and subscribe to an oath before the President or an appointed person.
- The oath includes commitments to uphold the Constitution, sovereignty and integrity of India, and perform duties without fear or favor.

### Tenure and Resignation

- There is no prescribed minimum age limit for a judge's appointment.
- A judge of the SC serves until they reach the age of 65 years.
- However, a judge may resign before reaching the age of 65 years by tendering their resignation to the President.

#### IV

Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India:—

"I, A.B., having been appointed Chief Justice (or a Judge) of the Supreme Court of India (or Comptroller and Auditor-General of India) do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the solemnly affirm

Constitution of India as by law established, [that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,] that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws."

### Collegium System for Judicial Appointments

- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed through the collegium system.
- The collegium, consisting of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, decides on appointments, elevations, and transfers of Judges.
- The term "collegium" is not mentioned in the Indian Constitution but has been established through judicial pronouncements.

### Evolution of Collegium System

- First Judges Case (1981): "primacy" of the CJI's recommendation - refused for "cogent reasons." - Primacy to Executive
- Second Judges Case (1993): SC introduced - Collegium system - "consultation" = "concurrence"; not the CJI's individual opinion - consultation with the two senior-most judges SC
- Third Judges Case (1998): SC - President's reference - expanded the Collegium - 5 membered body
- Fourth Judges Case (2015): The 99th CAA, 2014 and JAC Act, 2014 - replaced collegium system - NJAC; SC - Unconstitutional



# Cabinet Approves More Judges to SC



**CONTEXT:** The move is a step towards tiding over crisis of pendency plaguing the court for years

## Memorandum of Procedure (MoP):

- The MoP is the list of rules and procedures for the appointment of judges to the SC & HCs. It is a document framed by the government and the judiciary together.
- The Union government framed an MoP on 30 June 1999.
- It states that all appointments of judges to the Supreme Court must be recommended by the Collegium, composed of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the SC. This recommendation is then sent to the central government. The law minister will forward it to the PM, who is to advise the President on the appointment.

**Revised MoP:** In 2015, the Supreme Court instructed the central government to develop a new MoP to ensure transparency in the collegium's proceedings. In 2017, although the MoP was finalized, the government did not adopt it, citing a need to reconsider the matter.

## Mains Practise Question

*What do you mean by "Collegium System"? Elaborate upon the various cases which led to the evolution of Collegium System.*

**(10 Marks, 150 words)**



**SYLLABUS: Prelims: Judiciary**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu; Page Number : 4**

## What is a Public Interest Litigation (PIL)?

According to the **Supreme Court** (in *Janata Dal v. H.S. Chaudhary*, 1993) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) means a legal action started in a court of law for the enforcement of public/general interest where the public or a particular class of the public have some interest (including pecuniary interest) that affects their legal rights or liabilities.

- Public Interest is the interest belonging to a particular class of the community that affects their legal rights or liabilities.
- The concept of PIL has its origin in the USA in the 1960s.

## History of PIL in India

- **Mumbai Kamagar Sabha vs. Abdul Thai (1976)**: In this case, Justice Krishna Iyer argued that PIL had an important role to play in ensuring that the legal system served the interests of the poor and the oppressed.
  - He emphasized that PIL was not a substitute for traditional litigation but rather to complement it.
- **Hussainara Khatoon vs. State of Bihar case (1979)**: It was the first reported instance of PIL, which brought attention to the inhuman conditions of prisoners and under-trial prisoners.
  - This case established the right to speedy justice as a basic fundamental right.
- **S.P. Gupta vs. Union of India (1981)**: It was presided over by Justice P.N. Bhagwati, which led to a new era for PIL.
  - The decision held that any individual member of the public or a social action group can invoke the jurisdiction of the **High Courts** (Article 226) or the Supreme Court (Article 32) and seek remedies for violations of legal or constitutional rights for those who are unable to do so due to social, economic, or other disabilities.

## What are the features of PIL in India?

The following are some of the features of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India:

- PIL has neither been defined in the Constitution nor in any Indian statute.
- **Constitutional provisions**: The Supreme Court and the High Court under Articles 32 and 226 (authority to issue writs) of the Constitution, respectively, can hear a PIL petition submitted by any concerned individual.
- **Relaxation of locus standi rule**: PIL in India was made possible by the relaxation of the requirement of "locus standi".
- **Different from traditional litigation**: PIL is different from traditional litigation, which is adversarial in nature and involves disputes between two parties.
- **Proactive role of courts**: In PIL, the role of the court is more proactive than in traditional actions and requires a more positive attitude in determining acts.
- **Flexibility**: While PIL allows for greater flexibility in the procedure, it must still adhere to judicial procedure and principles.



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Judiciary  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number :** 4

## What is the significance of PIL in India?

Some of the key significance of PIL in India are:

- **Widening the scope of Article 32:** PIL has widened the scope of Article 32 of the Constitution (right to constitutional remedies) and has allowed public-spirited citizens to file litigation in the interest of the public at large.
- **Access to justice:** PIL has provided access to justice for marginalized or underrepresented communities who might otherwise not have had a voice.
- **Strengthening the judiciary:** PIL has helped to strengthen the Indian judiciary by allowing the court to take suo motu action to address issues of public importance.
- **Social and political change:** PIL has played a critical role in bringing about social and political change in India and has been instrumental in exposing and addressing various issues that affect the public at large.
- **Protecting the rights of the marginalized:** PIL has been used to protect the rights of the marginalized, such as bonded laborers, prisoners, and slum dwellers, and has helped to improve their living conditions.



**SYLLABUS:** Prelims: Geography and International Relations  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number:** 16

## Consider Teesta water deal under 'current circumstances': Bangladesh

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the West Bengal Assembly election, Bangladesh has issued an urgent call to consider the long-pending Teesta water sharing agreement under the "current circumstances."

Outgoing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has long been seen as a hurdle in efforts to resolve the dispute between India and Bangladesh.

In Dhaka's first-high level response to the poll results, Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on Tuesday reiterated Bangladesh's demand for a greater share of the Teesta's waters.

In case of any further "push in" from the Indian



Khalilur Rahman

side, he said, Bangladesh will take "whatever measures are necessary".

India and Bangladesh had reached an in-principle agreement to seal the deal on the Teesta's waters in 2011 during the Manmohan Singh-era, but the matter remained unresolved for several reasons including an alleged lack of coordination between the

Centre and the Trinamool government in West Bengal led by Ms. Banerjee.

Referring to the 2011 agreement, Mr. Rahman said, "We hope that the agreement reached at that time can be 'considered' again under the current circumstances."

### Talks with Beijing

Mr. Rahman was speaking to journalists in Dhaka before leaving for Beijing, where he is expected to meet his counterpart Wang Yi. He indicated that, during his meetings there, he would discuss the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project that China has been campaigning for.

"Of course, Teesta will be discussed. This is a matter of life and death for the people of that region".

Earlier on Monday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaid had described the election as a "domestic development" of India.

This was followed by Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Media Cell member Syrul Kabir Khan, who had expressed hope for positive developments in Dhaka-Delhi relations.

Meanwhile, commentators in Dhaka have expressed concern about the role played by the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, who has complained about illegal immigrants from Bangladesh in West Bengal. Mr. Adhikari had earlier supported ousted Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, saying she had received a death sentence in October 2025 due to influence of Pakistan in Bangladesh.

The Teesta River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River (known as **Jamuna** in Bangladesh) and flows through India and Bangladesh (**only 17%**). It has a potential source for hydropower projects due to its rapid flow through steep terrains in Sikkim.



### Origin of Teesta River

- It originates in the Himalayas near the **Tso Lhamo Lake, in Sikkim Himalayas**, near the border with Tibet.
- It forms a boundary between Sikkim and West Bengal.
- **Khangse Glacier** and **Chho Lhamo** are considered sources of the Teesta River by many authors.
- The total length of the river is 309 km (192 mi), and it drains an area of 12,540 km<sup>2</sup>.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Geography and International Relations  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number : 16**

## Course of River Teesta

- It passes through the plains of West Bengal and enters Bangladesh, where it joins the [Brahmaputra River](#) (known as the Jamuna in Bangladesh).
- Flows southward, cutting a deep gorge through the Siwalik Hills east of Darjeeling (West Bengal).
- Turns southeast to run through the Sivok Khola pass (Darjeeling) onto the plains of West Bengal.
- Initially emptied directly into the upper Padma River ([Ganga River](#)).
- Around 1787, the river changed its course to flow eastward, crossing the Rangpur region of Bangladesh to join the Brahmaputra River near Chilmari after a total course of about 320 km (200 miles).

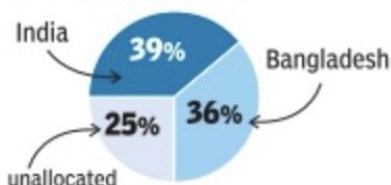
## Key Points of Teesta Water Dispute

- **Historical Context:** The Teesta River is crucial for both West Bengal (India) and northern Bangladesh, providing irrigation and supporting agriculture in both regions. The dispute over water sharing dates back to the time of the partition of India in 1947.
- **Interim Agreement:** In 1983, an ad hoc agreement was reached, which allocated 39% of Teesta's water to India and 36% to Bangladesh during the dry season, leaving the remaining 25% unallocated. However, this agreement was never formalized into a permanent treaty.
- **Proposed Agreement of 2011:** A new water-sharing agreement was proposed in 2011, which suggested a more equitable distribution of water. According to reports, the draft agreement proposed India receiving 42.5% of the water and Bangladesh receiving 37.5%. However, the deal was not finalized due to opposition from the West Bengal government, which argued that the proposed distribution would adversely affect the state's farmers.
- **Current Status:** As of now, no final agreement has been reached, and negotiations continue. The issue remains a sensitive political matter, affecting bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh.
- **Importance to Bangladesh:** For Bangladesh, the Teesta River is a vital source of water, particularly during the dry season (October to April). The lack of a stable water-sharing agreement has led to significant water shortages in the country's northern regions, affecting agriculture and livelihoods.
- **Indian Perspective:** From the Indian side, particularly in West Bengal, there is concern that releasing more water to Bangladesh could lead to water scarcity in the state's northern districts, impacting agriculture and local communities.

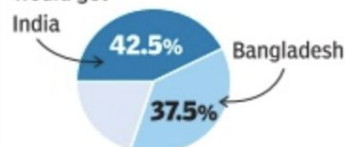
### What is the dispute

➤ Bangladesh wants **50% of Teesta's water** between Dec and May annually; **India claims a share of 55%**

**Negotiations since 1983,** preliminary deal gave



**In 2011, Delhi & Dhaka struck interim deal for 15 years – India would get**



- But Banerjee opposed it; signing shelved to later that year
- Teesta water-sharing agreement waiting to be signed since 2011

Hydropower on Teesta is another point of conflict; At least **26 projects** on the river mostly in Sikkim, aimed at **producing some 50,000MW**



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Governance  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number :** 14

# 30 banks integrated with UDGAM portal to help legal heirs trace funds

**Aaratrika Bhaumik**

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that 30 banks have been integrated into its centralised web portal, UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access InforMAtion), to enable legal heirs to trace funds belonging to deceased account holders.

A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by journalist Sucheta Dalal, contending that funds lying in dormant or inoperative accounts were increasingly being transferred to government-managed pools.

The petitioner sought directions for the creation of a centralised platform to

provide information on financial assets held by deceased persons.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for the RBI, submitted that the UDGAM portal had already been operationalised to address the petitioner's concerns. "The UDGAM portal is an interactive platform. There are around 20 lakh registered users who have carried out around 44 lakh searches on the portal as of April 1," he said.

Mr. Kumar added that the 30 banks integrated into the portal account for nearly 90% of the funds held in the Depositors' Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF), a corpus set up by the RBI in 2014 to house unclaimed deposits from commercial and co-operative banks.

The RBI clarified that



30 banks integrated into the portal account for nearly 90% of the funds held in DEAF.

the UDGAM portal that enables individuals to look up unclaimed deposits and accounts, but does not function as a claims settlement mechanism. "The object of the portal is to facilitate the identification and tracing of unclaimed deposits, so that the concerned depositor or claimant may approach the respective bank for settlement of the claim

in accordance with the applicable procedure," it said.

## Challenges for heirs

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner pointed out that deposits held in post offices, provident funds, and insurance schemes had not yet been integrated into the portal, thereby posing challenges for legal heirs seeking to claim such assets.

Taking note of the submissions, the Bench granted one week to the Centre and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to place on record the relevant circulars and outline the steps taken to enable the return of unclaimed funds of deceased persons held with banks and financial institutions.



# Russia Strikes Ukraine



**SYLLABUS : Prelims: Mapping**  
**Newspaper: The Hindu; Page Number : 16**



### RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

#### Which Ukrainian regions is Russia annexing?

Four partially Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine - **Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia** - will be incorporated into Russia following 'referendums' held in the regions, the Kremlin has said.



**SYLLABUS : Prelims:** Mapping  
**Newspaper:** The Hindu; **Page Number :** 16

## Widening U.S. sanctions on Cuba 'illegal', says China

Reuters  
HONG KONG

China urged Washington on Tuesday to immediately end its embargo and sanctions on Cuba, saying the expanded measures were "illegal" and "seriously violated" the norms of international relations.

U.S. President Donald Trump, seeking to put more pressure on Havana after ousting Venezuela's leader Nicolas Maduro, a close ally of Cuba, signed an executive order on Friday broadening U.S. sanctions against the Cuban government, two White House officials said.

Daily life for many Cubans has come to a standstill as a U.S. energy blockade triggers severe power outages and fuel shortages.

Beijing has voiced sup-



**Reeling under blockade:** A man fill containers with potable water during a blackout in capital Havana. AP

port for the socialist island after tension flared in January between the United States and Cuba after the U.S. captured Mr. Maduro.

"The U.S. has intensified its illegal unilateral sanctions against Cuba," China's Foreign Ministry said, criticising the move as "seriously violating" the basic norms of international relations.

"China ... urges the U.S. to immediately end the embargo and sanctions against Cuba," it added in a statement, saying they violated the Cuban people's right to existence and development. China backs Cuba's efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and resolutely opposes interference in its internal affairs, the Ministry added.



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**Q1. With reference to Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. PIL allows any public-spirited individual or organisation to approach courts for the protection of public interest.
2. PIL can be filed only by a person whose fundamental rights have been directly violated.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Q2. With reference to the Teesta River, consider the following statements:**

1. It originates in the eastern Himalayas and flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.
2. It is a tributary of the Ganga River.
3. The Teesta River is an important source of hydroelectric power generation in Sikkim.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: b**

**Q3. With reference to the UDGM Portal, consider the following statements:**

1. It is operated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
2. It has been launched to help users search for and claim unclaimed deposits across multiple banks in one place.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b**

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

1. Crimea is a peninsula located to the south of mainland Ukraine along the Black Sea.
2. The Sea of Azov lies to the west of Crimea.
3. Ukraine shares its border with Slovakia and Hungary.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

**Answer: d**

**Q5. With reference to Cuba and its geographical location, consider the following statements:**

1. Cuba lies at the junction of the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico.
2. Jamaica lies to the north of Cuba.
3. Cuba is the largest island in the Lesser Antilles.

**How many of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

**Answer: a**





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