

FINDER

27th

May

2026



FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

India's energy strategy needs price correction

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 3
Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

1. Strait of Hormuz Crisis and Global Energy Impact

- Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz **threaten global energy supply.**
- **Crude oil prices, freight costs, and insurance charges** have increased.
- Ships are **taking longer alternate routes**, increasing transport costs.
- **Energy markets worldwide are increasingly affected** by geopolitical tensions.

2. India's Energy Security Measures

- India **diversified crude sourcing** beyond Gulf countries.
- **Imports expanded from Russia, the United States, West Africa**, and the Atlantic region.
- **Strategic petroleum reserves** were strengthened.
- India **signed an agreement with UAE to store 30 million barrels of crude oil** in its Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
- Refinery operations and crude supplies have remained stable.

3. Government Response During the Crisis

- **Domestic LPG production was increased by nearly 50%** during peak response.
- **LPG connections increased** from 14.5 crore (2014) to over 33 crore.

- **Gas allocation was prioritized for households, public transport, and fertilizer plants.**
- Around **70% gas requirements of all 25 fertilizer plants were maintained.**
- Naval deployments and diplomatic efforts ensured uninterrupted supply chains.

4. Financial Stress and Structural Dependence

- **State-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** are facing significant **financial pressure.**
- The **government reduced excise duties and imposed temporary export restrictions.**
- India remains highly dependent on imported fossil fuels.
- **Key sectors affected include transport, agriculture, manufacturing, aviation, and fertilizers**

5. Emerging Challenges and Long-Term Priorities

- **Petroleum prices have already increased cumulatively** by around 7%.
- Estimates indicate an additional 13% increase could offset OMC losses.
- **Consumer inflation remained relatively moderate at 3.2–3.5%** in early 2026.
- Prolonged disruptions could widen India's fiscal deficit and weaken the rupee.
- Long-term priorities include **diversification, energy conservation, and resilience-building.**

Rajya Sabha defections, constitutional questions

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Indian Constitution-historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

1. Context

- On **April 24, 2026**, **seven out of ten AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) Rajya Sabha MPs** announced that **over two-thirds** had decided to **merge with BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party)**, invoking the **10th Schedule**.
- The episode raises key **constitutional questions** on the interpretation of the **anti-defection law**, especially the **“merger” exception**.
- Similar claims were seen earlier in the **Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena split (2022)** in Maharashtra.
- The present case is more significant as it occurs at the **national level** involving **Rajya Sabha**

2. Anti-Defection Framework and Evolution

- Originally (**1950**), disqualification of MPs was limited under **Article 103** and decided by the **President** on the **Election Commission’s advice**.
- The **52nd Amendment Act, 1985** introduced the **10th Schedule** to curb defections and empowered the **Speaker/Chairman** to decide disqualification.
- The law aimed to prevent **political defections** and ensure **party stability**.
- Initially, two exceptions existed: **“split” (Paragraph 3)** and **“merger” (Paragraph 4)** of the **10th Schedule**.
- The **“split” provision** allowed **one-third members** to defect without disqualification.
- It was removed by the **91st Amendment Act, 2003** based on **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990)** and **Law Commission 170th Report (1999)**.
- This marked a shift towards **strengthening party discipline** and giving **primacy to the political party** over the legislature party.
- In **Subhash Desai (2023)**, the **Supreme Court** reaffirmed that the **legislature party cannot act independently** of the political party.

3. Merger Exception and Constitutional Issue

- Paragraph 4** grants immunity in case of **merger**.
- The key issue is whether merger can be done only by **two-thirds legislators** or must reflect a decision of the **original political party**.
- The text suggests merger must involve the **“original political party”**, not just legislators.

- Paragraph 4(2) (two-thirds rule)** cannot override the **primacy of the political party**.
- Allowing legislators alone to merge would **invert the constitutional design** and revive the logic of the deleted **“split” provision**.
- Thus, **internal dissent** in the legislature party cannot determine **party identity**.
- AAP** has challenged the move before the **Rajya Sabha Chairman** under **Paragraph 6**.

4. Broader Implications

- The **anti-defection law** seeks to preserve the **integrity of the party system**, not just regulate individuals.
- It plays a key role in protecting the **institution of opposition** in a democracy.
- The case raises concerns about **legislative majorities appropriating party identity**.
- It has major implications for **parliamentary stability** and **democratic accountability**.
- Likely to require final interpretation by the **Supreme Court** due to lack of clarity.
- The outcome will shape the balance between **party supremacy** and **legislative autonomy**.

The judiciary’s role in complete justice

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 2
Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries

1. Supreme Court Recognises Right to Safe Travel as a Fundamental Right

- In **Phalodi Accident vs. NHAI (2025)**, the **Supreme Court** held that the **Right to safe travel on National Highways** is part of **Article 21 (Right to Life)**.
- The Court took **suo motu cognisance** after two road accidents in **November 2025** caused **34 deaths**.
- It ruled that **safe, well-maintained and motorable roads** are not merely a policy objective but a **constitutional obligation of the State**.

- Though **National Highways constitute only 2% of roads**, they account for nearly **30% of road fatalities**.
- India aims to reduce road accidents by **50% by 2030** through :
 - ➔ **Education**
 - ➔ **Engineering (roads & vehicles)**
 - ➔ **Enforcement**
 - ➔ **Emergency Medical Services**

2. Article 142 and the Supreme Court's Power to Deliver Complete Justice

- **Article 142** gives the Supreme Court **inherent powers** to pass orders necessary for **"complete justice."**
- These powers are used when:
 - ➔ **Law is silent**, or
 - ➔ Existing legal mechanisms are **insufficient to remedy injustice**.
- Conditions for invoking Article 142:
 - ➔ **Existence of a clear and obvious injustice or mistake**.
 - ➔ Failure to act may result in **travesty of justice**
- In **Delhi Judicial Service Association v. State of Gujarat (1991)**, the Court held that:
 - ➔ Article 142 powers are of a **different quality and level**.
 - ➔ **Ordinary laws cannot restrict constitutional powers**.

3. Meaning and Purpose of "Complete Justice"

- **Complete justice** means delivering **substantive and equitable justice**, not merely following technical legal procedures.
- It acts as a **constitutional safety valve** to fill legal gaps.
- The power must be exercised with:
 - ➔ **Fairness**
 - ➔ **Natural justice**
- In **Hitesh Bhatnagar v. Deepa Bhatnagar (2011)**, the Court emphasised cautious use of Article 142.

- In **Canara Bank v. Debasis Das (2003)**, the Court stated that where **legal justice fails, natural justice** should prevail.

4. High Courts, Judicial Activism and Debate on Judicial Overreach

- In **Anil Kumar Jain v. Maya Jain (2009)**, the Supreme Court clarified that **High Courts' powers under Article 226 are not equal to Article 142 powers**.
- High Courts can still deliver justice, but in a **more limited and structured manner**.
- Critics argue Article 142 may lead to **judicial overreach** and weaken **separation of powers**.
- Supporters argue that **judicial activism** is necessary when **new social realities** emerge and laws become inadequate.
- Article 142 enables the Supreme Court to uphold **social, economic, political and legal justice** and protect constitutional values.

The global impact of Indonesia's export policy shift

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

1. Context

- Indonesia **introduced the Government Regulation on Natural Resource Commodity Export Governance**.
- The **government will become the sole exporter of selected commodities**.
- Initially **covers palm oil, coal, and ferro alloys**.
- Producers **must sell to PT Danantara Sumberdaya Indonesia (state-run agency under Indonesia's sovereign wealth fund, Danantara)**.
- Policy comes into effect by September 2026, with a 3-month transition beginning in June.

2. Objectives of the Policy

- **Indonesia reportedly lost over \$900 billion in revenue** over 34 years due to fraud and under-invoicing.

- To **reduce revenue leakages** and improve oversight.
- To **increase state control over** taxation and pricing.
- Indonesia's revenue-to-GDP ratio is around 12%.

3. Global Significance

- Indonesia is the **world's largest exporter of palm oil and thermal coal**.
- It is also a **major producer of nickel**.
- Around **half of global thermal coal exports in 2025 came from Indonesia**.
- Major **importers** include **China, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines**.
- **Nickel** is a key input for stainless steel and electric vehicle batteries.

4. Market Response and Concerns

- The **Jakarta Composite Index fell by 2.4% after the announcement**.
- Energy and mining companies recorded major declines.
- **Investors are uncertain** about implementation impacts.
- **Concerns exist over increased state monopoly** and bureaucracy.
- **Risks of corruption and reduced investor confidence** have been highlighted.

5. Background and Future Implications

- **Indonesia banned raw nickel ore exports** in 2020.
- The aim **was to promote domestic processing and value addition**.
- The **policy reflects stronger state intervention** in the economy.
- The decision could significantly affect global commodity supply chains and prices.

KEYWORDS

Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative

- The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)-led Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative** was launched during the **Tokyo Leaders' Summit in May 2022**.
- It **aims to detect "dark shipping": vessels that switch off tracking systems** to evade surveillance.
- The initiative **seeks to strengthen maritime domain awareness and improve transparency** across key Indo-Pacific sea routes.
- It **uses commercial satellite radio frequency (RF) data and technology support to monitor maritime activities** in near real time.
- IPMDA **focuses on the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**, helping partner countries secure their **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)**.

Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)

- The Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC) is a **new initiative launched by the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**.
- It was **announced during the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi**.
- The initiative **aims to strengthen maritime domain awareness through better surveillance and real-time information sharing**.
- It **seeks to integrate regional maritime monitoring systems** to track suspicious and illegal maritime activities.
- The **initiative supports a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region by improving maritime security** cooperation among partner countries.

UMEED Portal (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development)

- The **UMEED Portal (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development)** is a **centralized digital platform** launched by the **Union Ministry of Minority Affairs** for **nationwide management of Waqf properties**.
- It enables **real-time registration, verification, and geo-tagging of Waqf assets**, improving **data accuracy and accessibility**.
- The portal operationalizes provisions of the **Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025**, making **digital record maintenance mandatory** for better governance.
- It places responsibility on **mutawallis and State Waqf Boards** to upload **property details, income records, and pending litigation status**, ensuring **accountability**.
- The key objective is to enhance **transparency, curb encroachments, prevent mismanagement**, and promote **efficient utilization of Waqf properties** for **community welfare**.

- It lies between the **Lebanon Mountains** in the west and the **Anti-Lebanon Mountains** in the east.
- The valley contains nearly **half of Lebanon’s arable land**, making it an important agricultural region.
- However, cultivation is less intensive than in the **coastal plains** due to **lower rainfall** and **greater temperature variation**.
- Major crops include **grains, fruits and vegetables**.
- The region has also been known for the long-standing cultivation of **cannabis**, contributing to its reputation as one of the **world’s major drug-producing regions**.

National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary

- The **National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary** is a **riverine protected area** spanning **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan**.
- It was established in **1979** under **Project Crocodile**, with a primary focus on conserving the **critically endangered Gharial**, and hosts the **largest wild breeding population** globally.
- It provides habitat to several threatened species such as the **endangered Ganges River Dolphin**, **critically endangered Red-crowned roof turtle**, and the **Indian Skimmer**, and is designated as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)**.
- The sanctuary’s **fragile riverine ecosystem** is under severe threat due to **illegal sand mining** and **environmental degradation**.
- The **Supreme Court** has intervened by ordering **carpet surveillance** and urging states to consider **prosecution immunity for frontline forest guards** to tackle **sand mining mafias**.

Places In News

Bekaa Valley



- The **Bekaa Valley** is a **broad fertile valley in east-central Lebanon**, stretching about **75 miles (120 km)** in a **northeast-southwest direction** along the **Litani and Orontes rivers**.

