
Mains Topics

How Geo-politics has shaped India's Crude Basket

Context

- From **West Asia-centric dependence**, India moved to **diversification across Africa and the Americas**, and since **2022, Russia has emerged as India's single largest crude oil supplier** due to **discounted prices following the Ukraine war and Western sanctions**.
 - However, recent data (Oct 2025) shows **India cutting Russian oil imports by 38%**, signalling **rebalancing amid geopolitical pressure, sanctions risk, and energy security concerns**.

Recent Crude Import Landscape of India

- **Pre-2005:** Over 70% of crude imports from West Asia.
 - Major suppliers were Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates.
- **2005–2015:** Entry of suppliers from:
 - **Africa:** Nigeria, Angola
 - **South America:** Venezuela
 - Still, **West Asia accounted for over 60%** of imports in 2011–12.
- **Iran Sanctions Phase (2010–2019): UN and US sanctions on Iran** over its nuclear programme disrupted India's sourcing.
 - Iran's share fell from **~11% (2011–12)** to **nearly zero by 2019–20**.
 - India compensated by increasing imports from United States, UAE and Saudi Arabia
- **Current Approximate import composition:** **Russia:** ~33%, **Middle East:** 40–45%, **Africa:** 8–10%, **Americas:** 10–12%

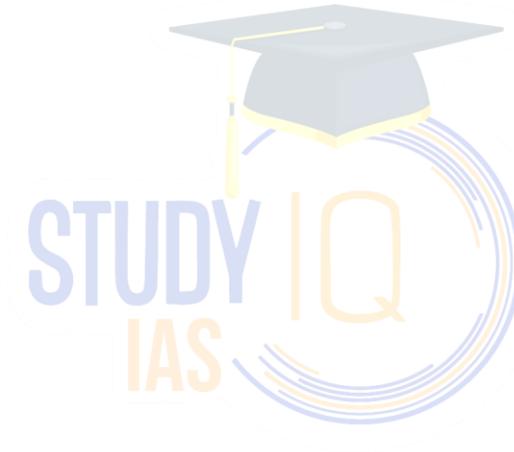
Key Issues in India's Crude Import Strategy

- **Geopolitical vulnerability:** Heavy dependence on politically sensitive regions (West Asia, Russia).
 - Sanctions (Iran, Russia) expose India to **external policy shocks**.
- **Over-concentration risk:** One-third dependence on Russian crude creates **supply concentration risk**, similar to earlier West Asia dependence.
- **Sanctions and financial risks:** Exposure to Secondary sanctions, Shipping insurance constraints, Payment and banking restrictions
- **Energy inflation risk:** Replacing discounted Russian crude with costlier alternatives may **Raise fuel prices, Fuel inflation, Compress refinery margins**.
- **Strategic autonomy vs global pressure:** Balancing **strategic autonomy** with relations with the US and EU remains complex.
- **Import dependence:** India imports **over 85% of its crude oil**, making energy security structurally fragile.

Way Forward

- **Deepen source diversification:** Reduce over-dependence on any single supplier by expanding imports from Africa, the Americas and new energy partners, ensuring a balanced crude basket.
- **Expand Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):** Increase storage capacity to cushion against supply disruptions, sanctions, and price shocks.
- **Adopt flexible procurement strategy:** Combine long-term contracts for stability with spot market purchases to leverage price advantages and manage volatility.
- **Accelerate energy transition:** Cut crude dependence by scaling up renewables, electric mobility, biofuels and green hydrogen in line with climate goals.
- **Strengthen domestic production & refinery resilience:** Boost domestic exploration and production and upgrade refineries to process multiple crude grades, enhancing energy security and strategic autonomy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



Prelims Topics

Defence Acquisition Council

Context

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for defence procurement proposals worth ~₹79,000 crore.

Key proposals approved

- **For the Indian Army:** Loiter Munition System, Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLWR), Long Range Guided Rocket Ammunition (Pinaka MRLS), Integrated Drone Detection & Interdiction System (IDD&IS) Mk-II
- **For the Indian Navy:** Bollard Pull (BP) Tugs, High Frequency Software Defined Radio (HF-SDR) Manpack, Leasing of HALE RPAS (High Altitude Long Endurance Drones)
- **For the Indian Air Force:** Automatic Take-off & Landing Recording System, Astra Mk-II Beyond Visual Range Missiles, Full Mission Simulator for LCA Tejas, SPICE-1000 Long Range Guidance Kits.

About Defence Acquisition Council

| Aspect | Details |
|--------------------|--|
| What is it? | Highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence for procurement. |
| Chairman | Defence Minister. |
| Members | Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Chiefs of Army, Navy, and Air Force. |
| Objective | To ensure expeditious procurement for the armed forces. |
| Formation | Formed in 2001 post Kargil War, following the recommendations of |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| | the Group of Ministers on 'Reforming the National Security System'. |
| Functions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approve the 15-year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for defence forces. ● Accord acceptance of necessity to acquisition proposals. ● Categorise acquisition proposals into 'Buy', 'Buy & Make', and 'Make'. ● Address issues related to single vendor clearance. ● Decide on 'offset' provisions for acquisition proposals above Rs 300 crore. ● Make decisions on Transfer of Technology under 'Buy & Make' category. ● Oversee field trial evaluation. |

Source: [Economic Times](#)

Law on 'Suspension of Sentence'

Context

- The Supreme Court of India stayed the Delhi High Court's order that had suspended the life sentence and granted bail to former MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case.
- The core controversy revolves around suspension of sentence in a life-imprisonment case and the interpretation of "public servant" under the POCSO Act.

Definition of 'Public Servant'

- **IPC, 1860 (Section 21):** Defines “public servant” to include **judges, magistrates, government officers, armed forces personnel, persons in government service**, etc.
 - **Does NOT include elected representatives (MPs/MLAs).**
- **POCSO Act, 2012: Does not define** “public servant”.
 - Section 2(2) provides that undefined terms shall draw meaning from IPC (1860), CrPC (1973), the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, or the Information Technology Act, 2000. Hence, **IPC definition applies** → MLAs are **excluded**.
- **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (Section 2(c)):** Includes **any person holding an office to perform a public duty**, expressly covering **MPs and MLAs**.

Judicial clarity

- In *R.S. Nayak v. A.R. Antulay* (1984), the Supreme Court of India held: **MLAs are not “public servants” under IPC Section 21**.
 - Courts cannot import the PCA definition into IPC/POCSO unless the statute permits.

Supreme Court’s Stance on Suspension of Sentence

- **Fixed-term sentences:** Suspension is the **norm**, unless exceptional circumstances exist. (*Bhagwan Rama Shinde Gosai v. State of Gujarat, 1999*)
- **Life imprisonment / serious offences:** Suspension is an **exception**, not a rule. Requires **strict scrutiny**.
 - **Key tests laid down by the SC:** Nature and gravity of offence, Manner of commission, Impact on victim and society, Likelihood of

acquittal on appeal, Risk of intimidation or misuse of liberty.

Recent clarifications

- **Long incarceration alone is not sufficient** to suspend sentence in life-imprisonment cases (*Shivani Tyagi v. State of Uttar Pradesh, 2024*)
- Suspension justified only if there is a **palpable or gross error** in the trial judgment indicating a **fair chance of acquittal** (*Chhotelal Yadav v. State of Jharkhand, 2025*)
- In POCSO cases, findings like **minority of the victim cannot be lightly unsettled** at the suspension stage (*Jamna Lal v. State of Rajasthan, 2025*)

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Ammonium Sulphate

Context

A new analysis by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) shows that secondary aerosols now contribute at least one-third of Delhi’s annual PM2.5 pollution. Among these, ammonium sulphate alone accounts for nearly one-third of Delhi’s PM2.5 load.

What is Ammonium Sulphate (as an air pollutant)?

- **Ammonium sulphate** is a **secondary inorganic aerosol**, not emitted directly from any source.
- It forms in the atmosphere when:
 - **Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)** is oxidised to form **sulfate**, and
 - The sulfate reacts with **ammonia (NH₃)** present in the air.
- The resulting particles are **fine (PM_{2.5})**, remain **airborne for days**, travel long distances, and **penetrate deep into the lungs**, posing serious health risks.

- Because it is **secondary**, controlling only visible sources like dust or traffic **does not immediately reduce** its concentration.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Kolleru Lake

Context

Kolleru Lake is now getting recognition for its delicious black dried fish.

About Kolleru Lake

- **Location:** Situated in **Andhra Pradesh**, between the **Krishna and Godavari river deltas**.
- **Hydrology:** Receives inflow mainly from the **Budameru and Tammileru rivers**.
- **Type:** Freshwater lakes.
- **International Status:** Designated as a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance (2002)**.
- **Ecological Significance:** Serves as an important habitat along the **Central Asian Flyway**, supporting large populations of **migratory birds**.

Source: [ETV Bharat](#)

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

Context

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) is being highlighted as a “low-effort, high-impact” climate-smart farming practice, especially suitable for small and marginal farmers in India.

What is AWD?

- **Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)** is a **water-efficient irrigation technique** used in **lowland (paddy) rice cultivation** to reduce overall water consumption.

- Under AWD, **irrigation is applied a few days after standing water disappears**, instead of maintaining continuous flooding.
- This results in fields being **periodically flooded and then allowed to dry**.
- The **dry period between irrigations** varies from **1 day to over 10 days**, depending on **soil type and field conditions**.
- In some regions, **large drones are used to spray organic fertilisers** over knee-high rice crops, supporting AWD-based farming practices.
- **Benefits of AWD:**
 - **Lower methane emissions** due to reduced anaerobic conditions, making it **environment-friendly**.
 - **Reduced labour costs** through the use of drones for fertiliser application.
 - **Precision farming:** Ensures accurate fertiliser use, preventing over-application.
 - **Climate benefit:** Avoids excess nitrogen application that can lead to the release of **nitrous oxide**, a potent greenhouse gas.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Parvati-Agra Bird Sanctuary

Context

The Government of India has declared Parvati-Agra Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)

About Parvati-Agra Bird Sanctuary

- **Location:** Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Establishment:** Notified as a **bird sanctuary on 23 May 1990**.
- **Ramsar Status:** Designated as a **Ramsar wetland (Wetland of International Importance)** in **2019**.
- **Geography:** Covers approximately **10.84 sq km (1,084 ha)** and consists of **two connected**

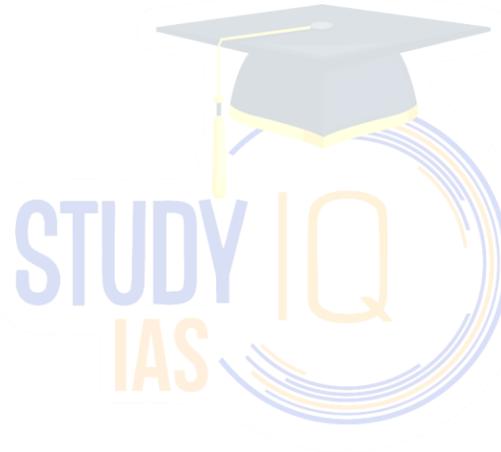
oxbow lakes — Parvati Tal and Arga Tal formed from an old river course in the **Gangetic plains' Terai region.**

● **Fauna:**

- **Over 150 bird species** recorded, including both **resident and migratory birds.**
- **Migratory birds** arrive each winter from distant regions such as **Siberia, Europe and Central Asia.**
- Includes waterfowl like **greylag goose, northern pintail, cotton teal, red-crested pochard, Eurasian coot and mallard.**

- **Threatened Species:** Habitat for several **IUCN-listed vultures** such as the **critically endangered white-rumped vulture and Indian vulture, and endangered Egyptian vulture.**
- **Other Wildlife:** Terrestrial fauna like **jackal, nilgai and wild boar** are also present.

Source: [Newsonair](#)



Personality in News

Srimanta Shankar Dev

News? Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the redevelopment project of Mahapurush Srimanta Shankar Dev birthplace, Batadrava Than, in Nagaon district of Assam.

About Srimata Shankar Dev

- A **15th–16th century Assamese polymath** and one of the most influential figures in Assam’s history.
- Renowned as a Saint-scholar, Poet and playwright, Dancer, actor, musician, and artist, Social and religious reformer.
- **Contribution:**
 - Systematised older cultural traditions and introduced **new artistic forms**, including:
 - **Borgeet** – Classical devotional music
 - **Ankia Naat and Bhaona** – One-act religious plays and theatrical performances
 - **Sattriya** – A classical dance form of India
 - **Brajavali** – A literary language used in devotional literature
 - Regarded as the **father of the modern Assamese society**.
 - Propounded **Ekasarana Dharma** (Bhagavatic Vaishnavism), a monotheistic devotional movement.
 - The movement significantly influenced: The Koch kingdom, The Ahom kingdom.
 - Emphasised:
 - **Naam (chanting and prayer)** over ritualistic idol worship
 - **Bhakti (devotion)** as the path to salvation
 - Inspired and shaped the **Bhakti movement in Assam**.
 - Advocated the principle: “**Eka Deva, Eka Seva, Eka Biney Nahi Kewa**” (There is one God, one form of worship, and no one else worthy of devotion).

Source: [PIB](#)