

Editorial of the Day – 13.05.2026

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1. Data and justice – On courts in India and AI tools (TH)

GS Paper II – Governance / Polity

Topic – e-Governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; Structure, organization and functioning of the Judiciary.

Sub-Topic – Judicial Reforms, Artificial Intelligence in Law, and Access to Justice.

1. Introduction

On May 13, 2026, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant unveiled a significant digital transformation phase for the Indian judiciary. By launching the 'One Case, One Data' (OCOD) platform and the 'Su-Sahayak' AI chatbot, the Supreme Court aims to dismantle the "siloe" nature of judicial records, promoting a unified, transparent, and efficient justice delivery system.

2. 'One Case, One Data' (OCOD) – A Unified Digital Identity

The OCOD platform is designed to act as the "Single Source of Truth" for every legal matter in the country

Unified Digital Trail – It creates a single digital identity for a case, linking court records, appeals, and litigant actions across the hierarchy—from District Courts to the Supreme Court.

Operational Efficiency – * Reduces the need for manual verification of case history.

1. Streamlines the movement of records between lower and higher courts.

Data-Driven Governance – * Identifies procedural bottlenecks and specific points of delay in the case lifecycle.

2. Generates accurate judicial statistics for better policy planning.

Overcoming Fragmentation – Addresses the challenge of diverse software systems and uneven record quality across different states and judicial tiers.

3. 'Su-Sahayak' AI Chatbot – Digital Legal Assistance

Building on previous AI milestones like SUVAS (translation) and SUPACE (legal research), 'Su-Sahayak' serves as a public-facing interface –

Ease of Access – Integrated into the Supreme Court website to help users find case status, cause lists, judgments, and orders.

User Support – Provides immediate answers to FAQs and facilitates access to various e-services without manual navigation.

Defined Boundaries – The judiciary emphasizes that AI is restricted to administrative assistance and will not participate in substantive judicial reasoning or decision-making.

4. Challenges and Systemic Risks

The centralisation of judicial data brings forth significant concerns –

Data Security – A centralised database increases the risk of large-scale data breaches, surveillance, and unauthorised data misuse.

Interoperability – Ensuring that diverse legacy systems in various High Courts can seamlessly "talk" to the OCOD platform.

Record Integrity – The transition relies heavily on the quality and authenticity of older, digitised legacy records.

Privacy Protection – Protecting sensitive personal information of litigants in a highly transparent and linked system.

5. The Digital Divide and Inclusivity Concerns

There is a risk that "Digital Justice" may become "Exclusive Justice" if not managed carefully –

Infrastructure Barriers – Small-town lawyers and district-level practitioners may struggle with the costs of high-end scanners, cloud storage, and specialized software.

Emergence of Middlemen – A "tech-gap" could give rise to digital middlemen, adding extra unregulated costs for poor litigants.

Interface Limitations – 'Su-Sahayak' is primarily text-based, which may exclude non-tech-savvy individuals or those uncomfortable with typing complex legal queries.

Algorithmic Bias – The risk that AI models may inadvertently harbor biases against marginalized or historically disadvantaged groups.

6. Way Forward

Ethical AI Governance – Implementing strict frameworks to prevent algorithmic bias and ensure data accountability.

Inclusive Design – Developing voice-based interfaces for chatbots and providing shared digital infrastructure at district courts for small lawyers.

Cybersecurity Framework – Robust end-to-end encryption and a dedicated judicial data protection policy.

Capacity Building – Large-scale training programs for court staff and advocates to ensure smooth adoption of the OCOD system.

Conclusion

The OCOD and 'Su-Sahayak' initiatives represent a paradigm shift from a paper-heavy, fragmented judiciary to a data-driven, agile institution. While these tools offer the promise of clearing backlogs and improving transparency, the ultimate success of these reforms will be measured by their ability to remain inclusive. Justice must not only be digital but must be accessible to the last person in the queue, ensuring that technology bridges the gap rather than widening the digital divide.

Source – <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/data-and-justice-on-courts-in-india-and-ai-tools/article70970293.ece>

Question

"The digitalization of the Indian judiciary, through initiatives like 'One Case, One Data' (OCOD) and 'Su-Sahayak', promises a paradigm shift in administrative efficiency. However, it risks exacerbating the existing 'digital divide' in the legal profession. Critically analyze." (250 Words, 15 Marks)

1. Introduction

In May 2026, the Supreme Court of India took a monumental step toward judicial modernization by launching the 'One Case, One Data' (OCOD) initiative and the 'Su-Sahayak' AI-powered chatbot. These reforms aim to replace the fragmented "siloe" system of court records with a unified, vertical digital integration across all tiers—from Taluka courts to the Apex Court.

2. Promises of Efficiency – The Positive Paradigm

The initiatives offer several transformative benefits –

Vertical Data Integration – OCOD creates a single digital identity for a case, acting like an "Aadhaar for litigation." This prevents the recreation of records as cases move from lower to higher courts, ensuring a seamless digital trail.

Streamlining Administration – By automating data retrieval and cross-verification, the system reduces the manual paperwork and clerical errors that contribute to India's massive case pendency (currently exceeding 5 crore cases).

Democratizing Information – The 'Su-Sahayak' AI chatbot provides litigants and small-scale lawyers with instant access to case status, cause lists, and judgments, fulfilling the constitutional mandate of Article 39A (Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid).

3. The Risk of a "Digital Divide" – Critical Concerns

Despite the potential, several challenges threaten the inclusivity of these reforms –

Infrastructural Barriers – Rural and District-level lawyers may face the financial burden of adopting high-end digital tools (scanners, stable high-speed internet, cloud storage) required to participate in the OCOD ecosystem.

Emergence of "Digital Middlemen" – A lack of digital literacy among litigants and grassroots practitioners may lead to the rise of unregulated intermediaries, increasing the hidden cost of litigation.

Privacy and Surveillance – A centralized "Single Source of Truth" database for cases raises significant concerns regarding data privacy and the potential for surveillance, especially in the absence of a dedicated judicial data protection framework.

Algorithmic Bias – AI systems like 'Su-Sahayak', if trained on historical datasets, risk reinforcing systemic biases against marginalized communities who have historically faced disproportionate legal challenges.

4. Way Forward

To ensure that technology bridges the gap rather than widening it, the following measures are essential

Inclusive Tech Design – Transitioning from text-based to voice-assisted and multilingual AI interfaces to cater to low-literacy users.

Subsidized Digital Infrastructure – Providing shared digital workstations and training hubs in every District Bar Association to support local lawyers.

Human-in-the-Loop AI – Ensuring AI is used only for administrative support and research, keeping substantive judicial reasoning strictly in human hands to avoid "black box" justice.

Conclusion

The OCOD and 'Su-Sahayak' initiatives are vital for a "future-ready" judiciary. However, the measure of their success lies not just in the speed of case disposal, but in their inclusivity. For digital justice to be true justice, the technological "bridge" must be wide enough to accommodate the most marginalized litigant and the smallest town practitioner.

Source – <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/data-and-justice-on-courts-in-india-and-ai-tools/article70970293.ece>

2. Activist moves Supreme Court green panel over alleged illegal construction in Kaziranga wildlife corridors (IE)

GS Paper III – Environment & Ecology; Biodiversity

Topic – Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation; Environmental Impact Assessment.

Sub-Topic – Wildlife Corridors, Kaziranga National Park, Judicial Activism in Conservation, and Human-Wildlife Conflict.

1. Introduction

In May 2026, environmental activists filed a formal complaint with the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) regarding alleged illegal constructions in the Haldhibari and Panbari wildlife corridors. These corridors serve as the lifeblood for wildlife migrating between Kaziranga National Park and the Karbi Anglong Hills, particularly during the devastating annual Brahmaputra floods. The issue brings to the fore the challenge of enforcing the Supreme Court's 2019 ban on new constructions in these eco-sensitive zones.

2. Kaziranga National Park – A Global Conservation Landmark

Geographic Context – Situated in Assam along the Brahmaputra floodplains, it is a mosaic of tall elephant grass, marshlands, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests.

UNESCO Recognition – Declared a World Heritage Site in 1985 for its unique biodiversity and successful conservation history.

Flagship Species – Hosts the world's largest population of the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros.

1. One of the highest densities of Royal Bengal Tigers (notified Tiger Reserve).
2. Home to "The Big Five" – Rhino, Tiger, Elephant, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, and Swamp Deer.

Ecological Role of Floods – Annual flooding is essential to maintain the park's wetland ecosystem, but it necessitates safe passage for animals to higher ground.

3. The Vital Role of Wildlife Corridors

Definition – Natural strips of habitat that connect fragmented protected areas, ensuring genetic exchange and species survival.

The Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Link – During monsoons, animals move south toward the elevated Karbi Anglong Hills to escape drowning.

The Nine Key Corridors – Officially delineated in 2022, these include Amguri, Panbari, Haldhibari, Bagori, Harmati, Kanchanjuri, Hatidandi, Deosur, and Chirang.

Fragmentation Risks – Infrastructure like National Highway-37 (NH-37), tea garden expansions, and illegal resorts act as barriers, leading to –

1. High road mortality (accidents).
2. Increased Human-Wildlife Conflict.
3. Habitat isolation and genetic bottlenecks.

4. Legal and Institutional Framework for Protection

Supreme Court Mandate (2019) – Prohibited all new construction and mining activities in the nine identified corridors to preserve the integrity of the migratory path.

Central Empowered Committee (CEC) – A statutory body that assists the Supreme Court in monitoring compliance with environmental orders. It was born out of the landmark T.N. Godavarman case.

Constitutional Safeguards –

1. Article 48A – Directive Principle for the State to protect and improve the environment.
2. Article 51A(g) – Fundamental Duty of citizens to protect wildlife and have compassion for living creatures.

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) – Buffer areas around the park intended to act as "shock absorbers" against unregulated industrialization.

5. Emerging Threats and Challenges

Infrastructure Pressure – The widening of NH-37 and the lack of enough eco-bridges or underpasses.

Commercial Encroachment – Illegal hotels and shops catering to tourism often mushroom in the very pathways animals use at night.

Climate Change – Intensified rainfall patterns lead to more frequent and unpredictable flooding, making the reliability of these corridors a matter of life and death for the park's fauna.

Anthropogenic Stress – Rapid urbanization near the boundaries of Karbi Anglong limits the "refuge" space available to animals once they cross the corridors.

6. Conservation Strategies in India

Project Tiger & Project Elephant – Specialized missions that prioritize habitat connectivity.

National Wildlife Action Plan (2017–2031) – Shifts the focus from "Protected Area" management to "Landscape-based" conservation.

Landscape Integration – Recognizing that wildlife does not understand human-drawn boundaries and requires integrated management across forest and non-forest land.

7. Way Forward

Rigorous Enforcement – CEC must ensure that illegal structures are demolished and no further "creeping urbanization" occurs in the nine corridors.

Smart Infrastructure – Implementing "Green Infrastructure" such as elevated corridors or flyovers on NH-37 to allow unimpeded animal movement.

Community Stewardship – Integrating the local fringe-village residents into the "homestay" and "nature guide" economy to reduce their reliance on land-encroaching activities.

Science-Based Zoning – Using satellite tracking and GIS mapping to adjust corridor boundaries based on actual animal movement patterns.

Conclusion

The sanctity of Kaziranga's wildlife corridors is non-negotiable for the survival of India's most iconic megafauna. The intervention of the CEC underscores that conservation cannot be sacrificed for short-term commercial gains. True progress lies in an integrated landscape approach where infrastructure "builds around" nature rather than over it.

Source – <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/kaziranga-wildlife-corridor-illegal-construction-complaint-10685281/>

Question

"Wildlife corridors act as the 'biological arteries' of a landscape, essential for the resilience of fragmented ecosystems. Elucidate this statement with specific reference to the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape and the role of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its protection." (250 Words, 15 Marks)

1. Introduction

Wildlife corridors are natural pathways that connect fragmented habitats, allowing for the movement of species, genetic exchange, and climate-induced migration. In the context of Kaziranga National Park, these corridors are not merely elective pathways but functional necessities due to the park's unique flood-prone geography.

2. Biological Arteries – The Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Link

The landscape exemplifies the "arterial" role of corridors in several ways –

Seasonal Survival – Kaziranga is situated on the floodplains of the Brahmaputra. During the annual monsoon, nearly 90% of the park is submerged. Corridors like Haldhibari and Panbari allow megafauna (Rhinos, Elephants, Tigers) to migrate to the elevated refuge of the Karbi Anglong Hills.

Genetic Connectivity – By linking the floodplains with the highlands, these corridors prevent "island syndrome," ensuring that animal populations do not become genetically isolated, which is crucial for the long-term survival of the one-horned rhinoceros.

Mitigating Conflict – Defined corridors steer wildlife away from human settlements. Fragmentation of these paths by infrastructure like NH-37 forces animals into villages, escalating human-wildlife conflict and increasing road mortality.

3. Role of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC)

The CEC, as a Supreme Court-mandated body, serves as a guardian of these ecological arteries –

Monitoring Compliance – The CEC assists the judiciary in ensuring that the 2019 Supreme Court order—which prohibited new construction in nine identified corridors—is implemented on the ground.

Investigative Oversight – Acting as a specialized ombudsman, the CEC reviews complaints from activists regarding illegal resorts or infrastructure projects that threaten to sever these migratory links.

Balancing Development and Ecology – Through the T.N. Godavarman framework, the CEC provides technical expertise to the Court, helping it decide where infrastructure must yield to ecological imperatives.

4. Challenges to Preservation

Despite legal protections, the "arteries" face blockage from –

Creeping Urbanization – Unregulated tourism and commercial structures often mushroom in eco-sensitive zones.

Infrastructure Pressure – The widening of highways and the lack of scientific "Green Infrastructure" (like underpasses) create physical barriers to movement.

Conclusion

The Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong corridors are central to the integrity of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Elucidating their role reveals that conservation cannot be restricted to the boundaries of a National Park; it must extend to the "landscape level." The proactive role of the CEC and the judiciary ensures that these biological arteries remain open, safeguarding India's biodiversity against the pressures of unregulated development and climate change.

Source – <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/kaziranga-wildlife-corridor-illegal-construction-complaint-10685281/>

3. Decoding Banks' Return to Health (BL)

General Studies Paper – General Studies Paper III – Indian Economy

Topic – Indian banking system and financial sector reforms

Sub-Topic – Inclusive growth and economic stability

Introduction

India's banking sector has undergone major transformation over the last decade. Public Sector Banks (PSBs), which were once burdened with high Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), weak profitability, and capital stress, have shown signs of recovery through reforms, recapitalisation, digitalisation, and improved regulatory oversight. However, the article argues that the apparent recovery must be examined carefully because rapid credit expansion and debt-driven consumption can create fresh vulnerabilities if not supported by sustainable income growth and productive investment.

1. Evolution of India's Banking Sector

Earlier Banking Challenges

1. Indian banks, especially PSBs, faced severe stress due to rising NPAs, poor governance, and weak credit appraisal.

Impact of the Twin Balance Sheet Problem

1. Corporate debt distress and stressed bank balance sheets reduced lending capacity and economic growth.

Need for Financial Sector Reforms

1. Banking reforms became necessary to restore credit flow and financial stability.

2. Reasons Behind the Recovery of Banks

Reduction in NPAs

1. Banks have improved asset quality through recoveries, insolvency processes, and stricter provisioning norms.

Recapitalisation Measures

1. Government recapitalisation strengthened PSB balance sheets.

Improved Regulation and Supervision

1. RBI oversight and prudential norms improved risk management practices.

Digital Financial Transformation

1. Expansion of digital payments and fintech ecosystems increased banking efficiency and outreach.

3. Role of Financial Inclusion

Expansion of Banking Access

1. Schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana expanded formal banking access.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

1. UPI, Aadhaar, and digital payment systems deepened financial inclusion.

Wider Credit Penetration

1. Formal financial systems increasingly reached rural and underserved populations.

4. Credit Growth and Emerging Concerns

Rapid Expansion of Retail Credit

1. Consumer loans, housing loans, and personal credit have grown significantly.

Debt-Driven Consumption

1. Economic growth increasingly depends on credit-financed consumption.

Risks of Overleveraging

1. Excessive dependence on retail credit can create financial vulnerabilities.

5. Housing and Retail Credit Risks

Housing Loan Expansion

1. Housing finance has become a major component of retail lending.

Perception of Safety

1. Housing loans are often viewed as low-risk because they are asset-backed.

Potential Stress Risks

1. Income shocks, unemployment, or economic slowdowns can affect repayment capacity.

6. Structural Issues in Banking

Uneven Credit Allocation

1. Productive sectors such as manufacturing may receive less attention compared to retail lending.

Risk of Asset Bubbles

1. Excessive credit concentration can inflate real-estate or consumption bubbles.

Credit Quality Concerns

1. Rapid loan growth sometimes weakens lending standards.

7. Banking Sector and Economic Growth

Positive Role of Banks

1. Banks remain central to investment, consumption, and economic activity.

Need for Productive Credit

1. Long-term growth depends more on productive investment than consumption-driven borrowing alone.

Financial Stability Imperative

1. Sustainable banking growth requires balancing profitability with prudential discipline.

8. Role of Regulation and RBI

Prudential Norms

1. RBI plays a critical role in maintaining financial stability through capital adequacy and provisioning requirements.

Monitoring Retail Credit

1. Regulators increasingly monitor rapid growth in unsecured and retail lending.

Macroprudential Stability

1. Financial regulation aims to prevent systemic risks and credit bubbles.

9. Way Forward

Strengthen Credit Appraisal

1. Banks should maintain lending discipline and avoid excessive risk-taking.

Promote Productive Investment

1. Greater credit flow toward manufacturing, MSMEs, and infrastructure is necessary.

Enhance Financial Literacy

1. Borrowers must understand risks associated with excessive debt.

Maintain Balanced Credit Growth

1. Sustainable growth requires alignment between income growth and borrowing levels.

Conclusion

India's banking sector has made significant progress in restoring stability and profitability. However, long-term financial health depends on maintaining prudent lending standards, supporting productive investment, and avoiding excessive dependence on debt-driven consumption growth.

Source - <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/decoding-banks-return-to-health/article70970996.ece#~~~>

[text=It%20is%20marked%20by%20consolidation,for%20distribution%20of%20financial%20services.](#)

Question

Q. "The recovery of India's banking sector has improved financial stability, but rapid retail credit expansion may create new vulnerabilities." Discuss. (250 words)

Introduction

India's banking sector has witnessed significant improvement in recent years due to lower NPAs, recapitalisation, digitalisation, and regulatory reforms. However, rapid expansion of retail and consumption-driven credit has raised fresh concerns regarding financial stability.

Factors Behind Banking Recovery

1. Reduction in NPAs improved asset quality.
2. Government recapitalisation strengthened Public Sector Banks.
3. RBI regulations improved prudential discipline and provisioning.
4. Digital public infrastructure expanded financial inclusion and banking efficiency.

Emerging Concerns

1. Retail loans, including housing and personal loans, are growing rapidly.
2. Debt-driven consumption may not remain sustainable during income shocks or economic slowdowns.
3. Excessive retail credit concentration can create asset bubbles and repayment risks.
4. Rapid credit expansion may weaken lending standards and increase future NPAs.

Need for Balanced Banking Growth

1. Credit growth should support productive sectors such as manufacturing, MSMEs, and infrastructure.
2. Banks must maintain strong credit appraisal and risk-management systems.
3. RBI should continue monitoring systemic risks and unsecured lending growth.

Conclusion

India's banking recovery represents an important achievement for financial stability. However, sustainable banking growth requires balancing profitability and credit expansion with prudent regulation and productive investment-led economic growth.

Source - <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/decoding-banks-return-to-health/article70970996.ece#~~~>

[text=It%20is%20marked%20by%20consolidation,for%20distribution%20of%20financial%20services.](#)

4. India's 2047 Clock Is Ticking - Let Us Acquire War Shock Resilience (Mt)

General Studies Paper - General Studies Paper II - International Relations

Topic - Effects of external shocks on the Indian economy

Sub-Topic - India's foreign policy and global geopolitical developments

Simple Introduction

India aspires to become a developed nation by 2047. However, the modern global economy is increasingly vulnerable to wars, geopolitical tensions, supply-chain disruptions, and energy shocks. The Russia-Ukraine conflict and tensions in West Asia have demonstrated how global crises can rapidly affect oil prices, inflation, shipping routes, food security, and economic stability. The article argues that India must build "war shock resilience" through strategic reserves, energy diversification, resilient infrastructure, and long-term preparedness.

1. Meaning of War Shock Resilience

Definition

1. War shock resilience refers to the ability of a country to withstand and recover from disruptions caused by wars, geopolitical conflicts, and global crises.

Components of Resilience

1. It includes energy security, supply-chain stability, food security, financial stability, and strategic preparedness.

2. Why War Shock Preparedness is Necessary for India

Import Dependence

1. India remains heavily dependent on imported crude oil, gas, fertilisers, and critical minerals.

Vulnerability to Global Conflicts

1. Disruptions in major trade routes or energy-producing regions directly affect India's economy.

Aspirations of Viksit Bharat 2047

1. Sustained high growth requires stable energy supplies and macroeconomic resilience.

3. Lessons from Recent Global Conflicts

Russia-Ukraine War

1. The conflict caused sharp increases in oil, gas, fertiliser, and food prices globally.

West Asian Tensions

1. Tensions around strategic chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz exposed vulnerabilities in energy supply chains.

Supply-Chain Disruptions

1. Wars disrupted shipping routes, logistics, and global trade networks.

4. India's Energy Vulnerability

Heavy Dependence on Imported Crude Oil

1. India imports a major share of its crude oil requirements.

Exposure to Price Volatility

1. International oil-price fluctuations affect inflation, fiscal stability, and current-account balance.

Strategic Weakness

1. Limited strategic reserves reduce the ability to absorb prolonged external shocks.

5. Importance of Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs)

Meaning of SPRs

1. Strategic Petroleum Reserves are emergency crude oil stockpiles maintained for crisis situations.

Benefits of Larger Reserves

1. They help stabilise domestic supply during wars or supply disruptions.

Comparison with Other Countries

1. Several developed economies maintain much larger emergency reserves compared to India.

6. Need for Fuel Diversification

Reducing Dependence on Crude Oil

1. Diversification reduces vulnerability to global oil shocks.

Expansion of Renewable Energy

1. Solar, wind, green hydrogen, and biofuels improve long-term energy security.

Electric Mobility Transition

1. EV adoption can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

7. Maritime and Logistics Security

Importance of Sea Lanes

1. India's trade and energy imports rely heavily on maritime routes.

Strategic Chokepoints

1. Disruptions in areas such as the Strait of Hormuz or Red Sea can affect Indian trade.

Infrastructure Resilience

1. Ports, storage systems, and logistics networks must be strengthened.

8. Economic Implications of External Shocks

Inflationary Pressures

1. Rising fuel prices increase transport and production costs.

Fiscal Stress

1. Governments may need to increase subsidies during crises.

Current Account Deficit (CAD) Risks

1. Higher import bills widen trade deficits and external vulnerabilities.

9. Need for Institutional and Policy Preparedness

Long-Term Strategic Planning

1. Economic resilience requires integrated planning across energy, trade, defence, and infrastructure sectors.

Building Domestic Manufacturing Capacity

1. Reducing dependence on external suppliers strengthens resilience.

Strengthening Data and Forecasting Systems

1. Early warning systems improve crisis preparedness.

10. Way Forward

Expand Strategic Petroleum Reserves

1. India should gradually increase emergency crude oil storage capacity.

Accelerate Renewable Energy Transition

1. Renewable energy and green hydrogen investments should be prioritised.

Diversify Import Sources

1. Multiple sourcing strategies reduce geopolitical dependence.

Strengthen Domestic Production

1. Domestic manufacturing and refining capacities must expand.

Build Comprehensive National Resilience Framework

1. Economic, energy, maritime, and supply-chain resilience should be integrated into national planning.

Conclusion

India's development ambitions require more than economic growth alone. In an era of geopolitical instability and supply-chain disruptions, long-term national security depends on building resilient energy systems, strategic reserves, diversified supply chains, and institutional preparedness against global shocks.

Source - <https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/oil-shock-trade-turmoil-india-viksit-bharat-2047-resilience-gulf-war-economy-energy-reserves-oil-imports-11778509093837.html>

Question

Q. "Energy security and strategic resilience have become central to India's developmental ambitions in an increasingly uncertain global order." Discuss. (250 words)

Introduction

Recent geopolitical conflicts have highlighted the vulnerability of global supply chains and energy markets. As a major energy-importing economy, India faces significant risks from external disruptions, making strategic resilience essential for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Challenges Faced by India

1. Heavy dependence on imported crude oil increases vulnerability to external shocks.
2. Geopolitical tensions disrupt trade routes and maritime supply chains.

3. Rising fuel prices contribute to inflation and fiscal stress.
4. Limited strategic reserves reduce the capacity to absorb prolonged disruptions.

Importance of Strategic Resilience

1. Strategic Petroleum Reserves help ensure energy availability during crises.
2. Diversified energy sources reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports.
3. Renewable energy expansion strengthens long-term energy security.
4. Domestic manufacturing and resilient logistics networks improve economic stability.

Measures Required

1. Expand strategic fuel reserves and storage infrastructure.
2. Accelerate renewable energy and green hydrogen investments.
3. Diversify import partners and trade routes.
4. Strengthen maritime security and logistics resilience.
5. Integrate energy security into long-term national development planning.

Conclusion

In an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment, India's rise as a developed economy will depend not only on economic growth but also on its ability to withstand external shocks through strategic preparedness and resilient energy systems.

Source - <https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/oil-shock-trade-turmoil-india-viksit-bharat-2047-resilience-gulf-war-economy-energy-reserves-oil-imports-11778509093837.html>

