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# CCS Review — India's Energy Security Preparedness Amid West Asia Crisis

 HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 April 2026

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# CCS Review — India's Energy Security Preparedness Amid West Asia Crisis



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 Hindustan Times

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## INTERVIEW ANGLE

*"The Cabinet Committee on Security reviewed LPG, LNG, fertiliser and power supply chains — but is reactive supply-chain management sufficient, or does India need a permanent Energy Security Council with proactive authority?"*

## THE CORE ARGUMENT

PM Modi chaired a special Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting to assess India's preparedness amid the escalating West Asia conflict and Strait of Hormuz disruptions. The meeting reviewed critical supply chains — LPG, LNG, fertilisers, and power — signalling that India treats energy security as a **national security matter**, not merely an economic one. The question is whether India's institutional framework for energy security is adequate for a world of increasingly frequent geopolitical shocks.

## THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY (CCS)

The CCS is India's apex body for national security decisions. Established by executive order, it meets as needed and has no fixed schedule.

PARAMETER	DETAILS
Chair	Prime Minister
Members	Defence Minister, Home Affairs Minister, External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister
Permanent invitees	NSA, Cabinet Secretary, Chiefs of Defence Staff
Functions	Defence acquisitions above Rs 500 crore; nuclear weapons decisions; strategic intelligence assessments; crisis management

The CCS reviewing **LPG, LNG, and fertiliser supply chains** marks a significant broadening of its traditional defence/security mandate — reflecting how comprehensively energy and food security have become national security issues.

## WHAT THE WEST ASIA CRISIS THREATENS

### LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)

- India imports ~55% of LPG needs — primarily from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE
- Transit: Strait of Hormuz + Arabian Sea
- Disruption impact: Cooking gas shortages for 320 million LPG beneficiaries under PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana)

### LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)

- India imports ~45% of natural gas as LNG — from Qatar (largest), USA, Australia
- Qatar's North Field gas (world's largest gas reservoir) transits Hormuz
- Disruption impact: Power generation shortfalls, fertiliser plant shutdowns (urea uses natural gas as feedstock)

### Fertilisers

- **Urea:** India's largest fertiliser subsidy item; domestic capacity covers ~80%; imports from Oman, Saudi Arabia
- **DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate):** Heavily imported; from Saudi Arabia (Ma'aden), Jordan, Morocco
- Disruption impact: Planting season delays, food inflation

### Power

- Gas-based power plants (~25 GW capacity) depend on LNG
- During disruptions, coal-based plants absorb load — but coal logistics are strained at peak demand

## INDIA'S INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE ARCHITECTURE

### Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)

India has three underground SPR facilities:

- Visakhapatnam (1.33 million tonnes)

- Mangaluru (1.5 million tonnes)
- Padur (2.5 million tonnes)

Total: ~5.3 million tonnes — covering approximately **10 days of consumption**. The IEA recommends 90 days for member countries. India is not an IEA member (though it has cooperation agreements).

## Emergency Response Options

- 1 **Release from SPR** — temporary buffer for 10 days
- 2 **Spot cargo diversification** — emergency purchases from non-Gulf suppliers (Russia, USA, West Africa)
- 3 **Demand-side management** — energy rationing, differential pricing
- 4 **Fuel subsidy expansion** — fiscal cost of shielding consumers from price spikes

## THE CASE FOR AN ENERGY SECURITY COUNCIL

Currently, India's energy security is managed across:

- **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** (crude, LPG, LNG)
- **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy** (solar, wind)
- **Ministry of Coal** (coal security)
- **Ministry of Fertilisers** (fertiliser supply)
- **NSC Secretariat** (strategic dimension)

The **fragmentation** means crisis response is reactive and coordination-dependent. A permanent **Energy Security Council** — modelled on the US National Security Council's energy sub-committee — with standing authority to coordinate across ministries and pre-position responses, would improve India's resilience.

## UPSC MAINS RELEVANCE

**GS2 — Polity/Governance:** CCS composition and mandate; institutional architecture for national security; executive decision-making bodies.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

Cabinet Committee on Security; chaired by PM; members include Defence, Home, EAM, Finance Ministers

### INDIA'S SPR:

~5.3 million tonnes at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur; ~10 days of consumption

### IEA 90-DAY RULE:

International Energy Agency members must hold 90-day strategic reserves; India not a full IEA member

### PMUY:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana; free LPG connections to BPL women; 100 million+ connections

### QATAR LNG:

Qatar supplies ~40% of India's LNG imports; North Field gas reservoir (world's largest)

### UREA FEEDSTOCK:

Natural gas is the primary feedstock for urea production; gas supply disruption = fertiliser production disruption

### INDIA'S GAS IMPORT DEPENDENCE:

~45% of gas consumption is imported LNG; remainder is domestic production (primarily from Krishna-Godavari basin)

### STRAIT OF HORMUZ:

~20% of global oil trade; ~30% of global LNG; Iran can threaten closure using mines and missiles

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