

CLAT revision deck · 2026

LEGAL CURRENT AFFAIRS 2026

| Judiciary, Legislation, Elections & Beyond



CLAT, AILET & OLETS

Article 21 and Article 14 expand: acid attack victims and highway safety

Acid attack victim definition (Shaheen Malik petition)

- **Trigger:** survivors forced to consume acid had internal organ damage but no external scars, so were excluded from disability certificates and welfare
- **Provisions:** Article 14; Schedule 2(ze), RPWD Act, 2016; Section 124, BNS, 2024
- **Holding:** forced acid ingestion victims are acid attack victims under the RPWD Act, **retrospectively**; Court flagged the arbitrary distinction between throwing and administering acid

Right to safe travel on highways (suo motu)

- **Trigger:** 34 lives lost in Phalodi (Rajasthan) and Rangareddy (Telangana); National Highways are 2% of road length but 30% of fatalities
- **Holding:** safe passage on highways is a fundamental right under **Article 21**; immediate ban on new dhabas, eateries and commercial structures within NH rights-of-way



Facts: Harish Rana (32), 100% quadriplegic, in a permanent vegetative state since a 2013 fall, for nearly 13 years.

Provisions: Article 21 (right to die with dignity); *Common Cause v. Union of India* (2018).

Harish Rana: the first SC verdict allowing withdrawal of life support



Holding: withdrawal of Clinically-Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) via PEG tube permitted; framework expanded to home-care patients, easing approvals and reducing court oversight.

Active vs passive euthanasia (Justice J.B. Pardiwala)

Active · illegal

A positive, overt act that introduces a new external harm, such as a lethal injection, and cuts lifespan short.

Passive · permitted (Art. 21)

Withdrawing or withholding support so the underlying affliction takes its natural course; the doctor creates no new risk, consistent with the duty of care.

All adoptive mothers get 12 weeks of maternity leave, whatever the child's age

- **Issue:** leave denied to mothers adopting children older than 3 months (petition by Hamsaanandini Nanduri); Bench: Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan
- **Provisions:** Arts. 14 and 21; Section 60(4), Code on Social Security, 2020 (formerly Sec 5(4), Maternity Benefit Act, 1961); JJ Act, 2015
- **Ruling:** the 3-month cap is an "artificial distinction", struck down; 12 weeks' paid leave from the date of handover
- **Art. 14:** fails intelligible differentia and rational nexus. **Art. 21:** reproductive and decisional autonomy is not limited to biological childbirth
- **Wollstonecraft's Dilemma:** Court urged the Union to legislate mandatory paternity leave
- CARA RTI data: less than 5% of adopted children were under 3 months old



Leave entitlement in weeks

Category

Biological mother...

Adoptive mother...

Paternity leave (...)



0

26

Weeks

Biological mothers (2017 Amendment)	26
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Adoptive mothers, any age (SC rule)	12
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Paternity leave (Central Govt only)	2
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12 weeks at any child age, versus 26 for biological mothers.

Converting to Christianity ends Scheduled Caste status (Chinthada Anand)

Issue: whether a Hindu-Madiga (SC) man who became a Christian pastor for a decade can invoke the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; Bench: Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan.

Provisions: Clause 3, Constitution (SC) Order, 1950; Arts. 341 and 366(24).

Evolution: Hindus only in 1950; Sikhs added in 1956; Buddhists added in 1990.

Ruling: converting to any religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism means immediate and complete loss of SC status; "profess" means open avowal and outward practice of the faith.

Re-conversion test (cumulative): proof of original caste; bona fide reconversion with renunciation of the previous faith; acceptance by the original caste.

ST contrast: the ST Order, 1950 has no religion-based exclusion.

Dignity in schools and access to justice: menstrual health and India's first paperless judiciary



Menstrual health in schools

- Lack of menstrual hygiene facilities violates **Article 21** (Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan), under the RTE Act framework
- States and UTs have **3 months** to provide free sanitary pads and separate toilets for girls and boys; private schools risk de-recognition

First paperless state judiciary

- In Himalayan terrain, distance to court was once measured in days of travel; e-Courts Project, rule of law, access to justice
- CJI Surya Kant declared **Sikkim** India's first paperless state judiciary at the Gangtok National Conclave



Speech on trial: sedition proceedings revived, NCERT content under review

Sedition

S.G. Vombatkere v. UoI

- SC lifted its May 2022 freeze on sedition trials for consenting accused who want a speedy trial and closure
- **Provisions:** Section 124A IPC (repealed); Arts. 14, 19(1)(a), 21; *I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu*
- Lower courts may decide Section 124A matters on merits; the constitutionality challenge is still pending

NCERT textbooks

Suo motu contempt

- CJI Surya Kant's bench banned a Class 8 textbook over the sub-topic "Corruption in the Judiciary"
- **Expert panel to vet legal curricula:** Justice Indu Malhotra, K.K. Venugopal, Justice Aniruddha Bose (NJA)
- Solicitor-General objected to cartoons for children of "impressionable age"; propriety referred to the Malhotra Committee; contrast *Indibility Creative v. State of West Bengal* (2020), which protected satire from "hyper-sensitive" evaluation (Art. 19(1)(a))



Sabarimala 9-judge reference: where essential religious practice meets reform

Context: review of the 2018 judgment allowing women of menstruating age to enter the Sabarimala shrine.

Provisions: Article 25 (religious freedom); Article 26 (denominational rights); Essential Religious Practices (ERP) test.

Union Govt stance: legislature, not courts, drives religious reform.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna

"Social ills cannot be branded and passed off as essential religious practices."



Supreme Court strength rises from 34 to 38 to tackle a backlog of 92,000+ cases

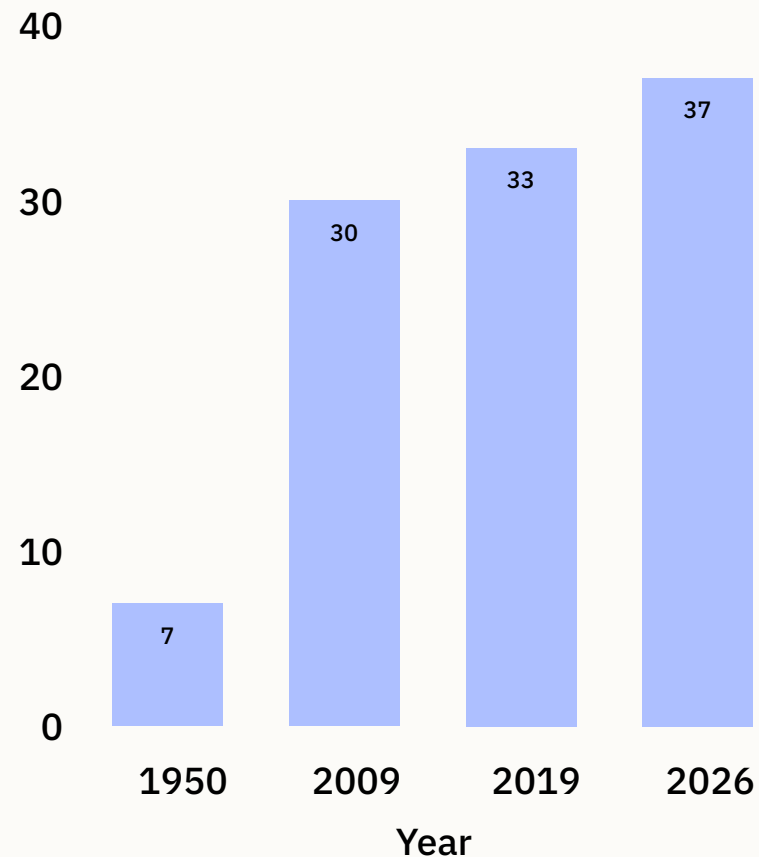
34 → 38

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026, promulgated under **Article 123**, amends Section 2 of the 1956 Act: 37 judges + 1 CJI.

Backlog of 92,000+ cases

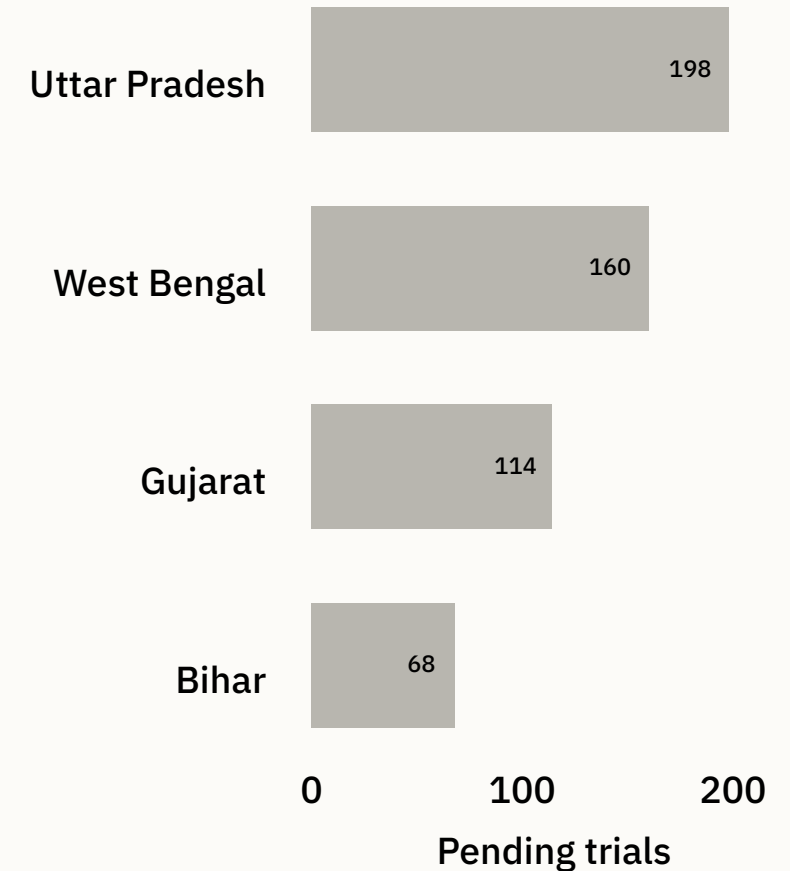
SC judges excluding CJI

Judges (excl. CJI)



Pending acid attack trials (SC compliance affidavits)

State



The ordinance route: Articles 123 and 213 and their limits

- **Power:** Art. 123 lets the President promulgate an ordinance when either House is not in session and immediate action is needed; Art. 213 gives Governors the same power for states
- **Force and limit:** an ordinance has the force of law but must be laid before the legislature and lapses six weeks after it reassembles unless approved
- **D.C. Wadhwa v. State of Bihar (1986):** 5-judge bench under CJ P.N. Bhagwati. Bihar's routine re-promulgation of ordinances (Bihar Forest Produce, Intermediate Education Council, Bricks Supply Third Ordinances, 1983) after prorogation was a colourable exercise of power, repugnant to the constitutional scheme
- **Krishna Kumar Singh v. State of Bihar (2017):** 7-judge bench, judgment by D.Y. Chandrachud J. Successive ordinances taking over 429 Sanskrit schools, never laid before the legislature, were a "fraud on constitutional power" and had no legal effect



Six weeks

ART. 123

Used for the 2026 SC (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance.

An ordinance cannot create enduring rights, though no recovery was ordered of salaries already paid to the Bihar teachers.

Parliament moves from punishment to trust and settles Andhra's capital

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 · passed (Rajya Sabha)

- Amends 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts (26 ministries), building on the 2023 Act (183 provisions, 42 laws); 717 provisions marked for decriminalisation
- Jail terms removed in 57 provisions, fines removed in 158, 113 converted to civil penalties; 30-day grace period for expired driving licences; registration valid across a state
- Moves regulation from punitive to trust-based, following the principle of proportionality

A.P. Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 · passed (both Houses)

Amends the 2014 Act with retrospective effect from June 2, 2024.

Amaravati is the sole permanent capital, reversing the 3-capital model (Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, Kurnool).

The 131st Amendment failed: 298 votes fell short of the 352 needed

Aim: amend the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 to fast-track the 33% women's quota on 2011 Census data, and expand the Lok Sabha by 50% to 816 seats by 2029, with a companion Delimitation Bill.

Rule: Article 368, special majority.

Vote: 298 for, 230 against; it needed two-thirds of the 528 present and voting (352). Cleared by Cabinet, defeated in the Lok Sabha; the 2023 Act still stands.



298

Votes for

352

Needed (2/3 of 528)

230

Votes against

States legislate on honour killings and sacrilege

Karnataka: Eva Nammava Eva Nammava Bill, 2026

- Passed unanimously by both Houses; awaits the Governor's assent; overrides/supplements the BNS; offences cognizable and non-bailable
- Affirms adults' absolute right to choose partners without parental or caste consent; minimum 5 years' additional imprisonment for honour killings; district *Eva Nammava Vedike* (headed by the DC) and special fast-track courts

Punjab: Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026

- Passed unanimously; investigation by an officer not below DSP/ACP rank
- 7–20 years + ₹2L–₹10L fine for *beadbi*; life imprisonment + up to ₹25 lakh fine if a conspiracy to disturb communal harmony; SGPC must keep a register of *Saroops*

Six types of majority in Parliament, from simple to strictest



Type	Formula	Applications
Simple	More than half of those present and voting	Ordinary, Money and Financial Bills; confidence and no-confidence motions
Absolute	More than half of total membership	Shows a clear majority to form a government
Effective	More than half of (total membership minus vacancies)	Removal of Vice-President (Art. 67(b)), Deputy Chairman of RS (Art. 90), Speaker/Deputy Speaker (Art. 94)
Special Type 1	Two-thirds of those present and voting	Art. 249 (State List), Art. 312 (All-India Services)
Special Type 2	Majority of total membership + two-thirds of present and voting	Art. 368 amendments (where the 131st failed); removal of SC/HC judges and the CEC (Art. 124(4))
Special Type 3	Type 2 + ratification by half the State Legislatures	Art. 368 proviso (federal provisions)
Special Type 4	Two-thirds of total membership	Art. 61, impeachment of the President



Removing the Lok Sabha Speaker: five steps, never yet successful

01

Written notice

2+ MPs to the Secretary-General, with at least 14 days' notice

02

Rule 200A scrutiny

Specific, precise charges; no arguments, inferences or defamation

03

Admission

At least 50 MPs must rise, or the motion fails

04

Debate and vote within 10 days

Speaker may speak and vote in the first instance but has no casting vote on a tie

05

Resolution

Passed by an effective majority of all the "then members" (Art. 94(c))

Context

The Opposition moved against Om Birla. Earlier motions: 1954 (G.V. Mavalankar), 1966 (Hukam Singh), 1987 (Balram Jakhar). None succeeded.

Kerala to 'Keralam': renaming a state under Article 3



- 1 Kerala Assembly passes unanimous resolutions (2023, June 2024)
- 2 Approved by the Home Minister; vetted by the Dept of Legal Affairs
- 3 Union Cabinet approves the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026
- 4 Under the proviso to Art. 3, the President refers the Bill to the Kerala Assembly for its views
- 5 Introduced in Parliament on the President's recommendation; amends the First Schedule

Roots

Keralaputra in Ashoka's Rock Edict II (257 BCE); Gundert linked Keralam to Cheram; the Aikya Kerala movement; Kerala formed on linguistic lines on November 1, 1956 (*Kerala Piravi*). West Bengal's request to become 'Bangla' is still pending.



The Election Commission's reach: roll revision upheld, PM's broadcast challenge

Bihar Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

EC ordered a nationwide SIR starting in Bihar (June 2025), citing 20 years of migration; challenged by ADR.

Provisions: Art. 324; Sec 21(3) RP Act, 1950; Rule 21A RER, 1960; Citizenship Act, 1955

Upheld

"any" constituency includes "many" or "all"; passes the proportionality test; Aadhaar added as a valid ID

EC may make a limited citizenship enquiry; deletions on citizenship grounds go to the competent authority

PM's broadcast and the MCC

April 18 address on DD, Sansad TV and AIR urged women voters in TN and WB to punish the Opposition over the 131st Bill

Sec 123(3) (*Abhiram Singh*, 2017) covers only religion, race, caste, community and language, not gender or party

The **T.N. Prathapan petition** invokes **Sec 123(7)** (use of government servants and public broadcasters); **MCC Part VII**; *Mohinder Singh Gill* (1978)

Model Code of Conduct: a consensus code with no statute behind it

- **Nature:** norms laid down by the EC with the consensus of political parties; not statutory. Covers manifestos, speeches, processions and general conduct
- **1960:** first adopted in Kerala Assembly elections (February); circulated to all parties for the 1962 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls
- **1968–69:** 'minimum standard of conduct' document. **1974:** revision set up district-level committees chaired by the District Collector
- **October 1979:** comprehensive code, adding Part VII on the party in power. **1991:** consolidated and reissued



Enforcement

ART. 324

Applies from announcement of the poll schedule until the process concludes, including to caretaker governments (e.g., Telangana).

Bribery and undue influence are dealt with under the RP Act. Debate: should the MCC get legal teeth? (former CEC S.Y. Quraishi)

The anti-defection law under strain: the AAP merger and unlimited executive tenure

Rajya Sabha AAP merger

- April 24, 2026: 7 of 10 AAP RS MPs claimed a more-than-two-thirds merger with the BJP
- 10th Schedule (52nd Amendment, 1985); 'split' deleted by the 91st Amendment, 2003; Paras 4(1), 4(2), 6
- **Core question:** can a two-thirds legislative faction merge under Para 4(2) without a merger of the original party under Para 4(1)? *Subhash Desai* (2023): a legislature party cannot cut its "umbilical cord" with the parent party



Executive tenure without limits

8,931

Days PM Modi reached as head of an elected government (CM + PM) on March 22, 2026, passing Pawan Kumar Chamling (8,930).

Ambedkar (Nov 4, 1948) preferred "daily assessment" to term limits; the 10th Schedule (*Kihoto Hollohan*, 1992) disabled it. The irony: the President follows a 2-term convention while the PM has no limit.

Anti-defection law: from the 52nd Amendment to the Speaker's deadline

- **Tenth Schedule:** added by the 52nd Amendment, 1985. Grounds: voluntarily giving up membership or defying the party whip
- **91st Amendment, 2003:** deleted the one-third 'split' exception, leaving only the two-thirds merger exception (Para 4)
- **Kihoto Hollohan (1992):** upheld the Tenth Schedule; the Speaker's decision as tribunal is subject to judicial review
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker, Manipur (2020, R.F. Nariman J):** a Congress MLA was sworn in as minister in the BJP-led Manipur government in 2017. Speaker's inaction is reviewable; petitions to be decided within a reasonable time, three months outer limit absent exceptional circumstances
- **Subhash Desai (2023):** a legislature party cannot cut its umbilical cord with the political party



Speaker's deadline

4 WEEKS

The Speaker was ordered to decide within four weeks in *Keisham Meghachandra*.

The Court recommended Parliament consider a permanent independent tribunal instead of the Speaker.



Removing judges and the CEC, and how Rajya Sabha elections are won

01

Motion signed by
**100 LS or 50 RS
MPs** (Sec 3, Judges
(Inquiry) Act, 1968)

02

**Speaker or
Chairman** admits or
refuses it

03

**3-member
committee:** an SC
judge, an HC Chief
Justice, a
distinguished jurist

04

If guilty: both
Houses vote in the
same session by
**Special Majority
Type 2** (Art. 124(4))

05

President orders
removal

CEC

Same ground (**proved misbehaviour or incapacity**)
under Art. 324(5) + Sec 11, CEC Act, 2023; other ECs
removed on the CEC's recommendation. Context:
Justice Yashwant Varma resigned under Art. 217 before
the report, keeping his pension; the Opposition moved
against CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Rajya Sabha

Maximum **250 (238 elected + 12 nominated)**;
minimum age 30; 6-year term, one-third retire every 2
years; UTs represented: Delhi, Puducherry, J&K; STV
by open ballot. Quota = $(\text{votes} \div (\text{seats} + 1)) + 1$; for
200 MLAs and 4 seats, 41 votes.

Beyond India: blockades, rights, smoking bans and platform liability

US seizure of the *Touska*

USS Spruance seized an Iran-flagged ship in the Gulf of Oman during an April 13 blockade. A blockade is a wartime act: the US says the ceasefire is a pause under LOAC; Iran calls it peacetime piracy (UNCLOS 1982).

Hungary

The ECJ held that Orban's anti-LGBTQ laws (Pride ban, facial recognition) violate EU law; a test for new leader Peter Magyar.

UK Tobacco and Vapes Bill

Legal age rises one year every year, covering anyone born on or after Jan 1, 2009; bans vape sales to under-18s (64,000 deaths a year).

Komagata Maru (1914)

Gurdit Singh, 376 Indians; the Continuous Journey Regulation of 1908 barred them; only 24 disembarked; police firing at Budge Budge killed 20, galvanising the Ghadar Party.

Meta–YouTube (LA jury)

Addictive design treated as a defective product, getting around Section 230; \$3M damages, Meta 70% (\$2.1M), YouTube 30% (\$0.9M).

Komagata Maru, 1914: the voyage that tested Canada's colour bar

Why in news

Highlighted by Diljit Dosanjh in Vancouver.

The ship

Japanese steamship Komagata Maru, renamed Guru Nanak Jahaz, chartered by Gurdit Singh from Hong Kong; 376 Indians (340 Sikhs, 24 Muslims, 12 Hindus).

The law

Canada's Continuous Journey Regulation, 1908 barred immigrants who did not arrive via a continuous, non-stop journey from their country of birth, practically impossible from India by sea. Backdrop: Asiatic Exclusion League (1907).

Timeline

1. **May 23, 1914:** arrived in Burrard Inlet, Vancouver, anchoring in Coal Harbour; only 24 allowed to disembark; ship held two months.
2. **Shore Committee** led by Husain Rahim raised \$20,000 for the legal battle; ship ultimately forced to return.
3. **September 1914, Budge Budge (near Kolkata):** met by British soldiers; police firing killed 20 passengers, others jailed; galvanised the Ghadar Party.
4. **May 18, 2016:** PM Justin Trudeau apologised in the House of Commons, calling it "a stain on Canada's past".

Exam angle: links immigration law, colonial racism and the Ghadar movement.

Emergency powers: NSA detention revoked, Essential Commodities Act invoked for LPG

NSA, 1980: MHA revoked Sonam Wangchuk's detention after 170 days in Jodhpur jail (detained Sept 26, 2025), ahead of the SC hearing on Gitanjali J. Angmo's petition. Sec 14 allows revocation at any time; preventive detention of up to 1 year without trial.

ECA, 1955: invoked on March 5 and 9, 2026 after the Strait of Hormuz blockade. Under Sec 3, refineries (IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC, Reliance, Nayara) were ordered to divert propane, butane, propylene and butene (C3 and C4 streams) to LPG.

Vulnerability: LPG use is 31.3 MMT, 59% imported (90% via Hormuz); LNG use is 189 MMSCMD, 48% imported; Ujjwala took LPG coverage from 62% (2016) to ~100% (2026).



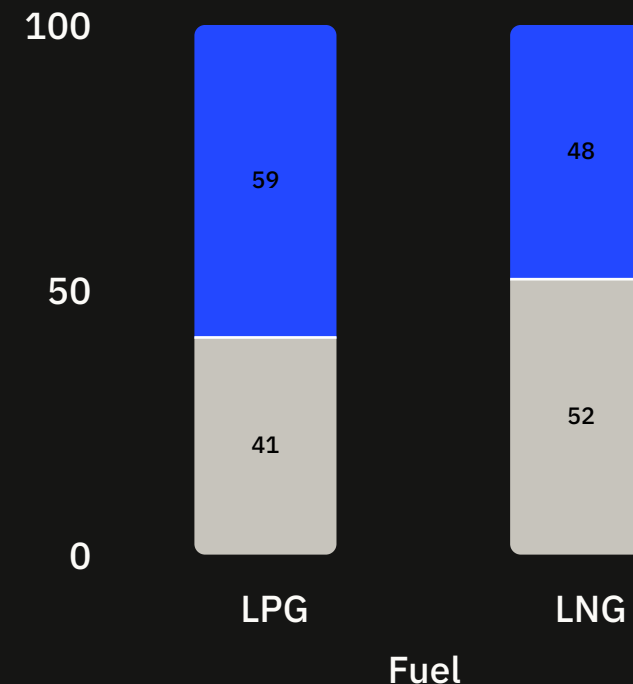
Import dependence (%)



Domestic %



Imports %



LPG is far more import-dependent than LNG.