Current Affairs · GS - II

How do international economic sanctions affect India's energy security and strategic autonomy? Discuss with reference to the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Economic sanctions, energy security, Russian oil imports, India–US relations, strategic autonomy, crude oil prices, inflation, supply diversification, diplomatic balancing, national interest.

Model Answer

Introduction

Economic sanctions are used by countries to influence the behaviour of other states. The Russia–Ukraine conflict has highlighted the connection between sanctions, global energy markets and India's foreign policy choices.

Main Body

Impact on India's Energy Security

1. Energy affordability: Access to competitively priced crude oil can help reduce import costs and inflationary pressures.
2. Supply disruptions: Restrictions on oil trade may alter global supply chains and increase price volatility.
3. Diplomatic challenges: India must balance relations with the United States, Russia and other major partners.

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Strategic Autonomy

India's approach reflects its objective of making independent foreign policy decisions based on national interests. However, sanctions-related risks, shipping restrictions, insurance costs and payment difficulties can constrain its choices.

Diversifying energy suppliers, expanding renewable energy and maintaining diplomatic engagement can reduce these vulnerabilities.

Conclusion

India needs a balanced energy strategy that combines affordable imports, diversified supplies and strategic autonomy while complying with applicable legal obligations.

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