International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of India–US energy cooperation for India’s energy security and strategic autonomy. What challenges must both countries address to deepen this partnership?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Energy security; India–US strategic partnership; energy trade; supplier diversification; strategic autonomy; geopolitical uncertainty; clean energy transition; technology and investment

Model Answer

Introduction

Energy security is central to economic growth, industrial development and national resilience. India–US energy cooperation can strengthen bilateral relations while helping address changing global energy challenges.

Significance of Cooperation

- **Diversification:** Access to additional energy suppliers can reduce excessive dependence on individual sources.
- **Economic benefits:** Energy trade and infrastructure investment can support industrial growth and bilateral commerce.
- **Strategic partnership:** Cooperation can deepen diplomatic engagement and strengthen broader economic and defence ties.

- **Technology:** Collaboration in renewables, storage, nuclear energy and efficient energy systems can support the energy transition.

Key Challenges

- **Price volatility:** International market fluctuations can affect affordability and import expenditure.
- **Geopolitical pressures:** Sanctions and international conflicts may complicate energy transactions.
- **Infrastructure constraints:** Transport, storage and distribution capacity require continued investment.
- **Strategic autonomy:** India must balance partnerships with independent foreign-policy choices and diverse energy relationships.

Way Forward

India should pursue diversified imports, strengthen domestic renewable capacity, invest in storage and grid modernisation, and maintain transparent, mutually beneficial agreements.

Conclusion

India–US energy cooperation can improve resilience and deepen strategic ties, provided it complements India’s long-term energy transition and independent decision-making.

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