International Relations · GS - II

The question of India’s Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India’s economic progress. Analyze India’s energy policy cooperation with West Asian Countries.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

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Answer Hint

Crude oil imports; natural gas; strategic partnerships; energy diversification; maritime security; renewable energy cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

Energy security is essential to India's economic growth, industrial production and national security. West Asia remains a major source of India's crude oil and natural gas imports and an important region for energy diplomacy.

Importance of Cooperation with West Asia

- **Crude oil and natural gas:** Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are important energy partners for India.
- **Long-term supply relationships:** Government-to-government engagement and commercial agreements support continuity of energy supplies.
- **Strategic investment:** Indian and West Asian companies can cooperate in refining, petrochemicals, storage and energy infrastructure.
- **Indian diaspora:** A large Indian workforce in the region strengthens economic links and contributes through remittances.

- **Maritime security:** Cooperation is important for protecting shipping routes and energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz and adjacent waters.

Challenges

- Geopolitical tensions can disrupt supplies and increase prices.
- Concentrated import dependence exposes India to external shocks.
- Exchange-rate volatility and global price fluctuations affect the import bill.
- Regional conflicts and maritime insecurity can raise transportation and insurance costs.

Way Forward

- Diversify energy sources and import routes.
- Expand strategic petroleum reserves and improve emergency planning.
- Deepen cooperation in renewable energy, green hydrogen and energy efficiency.
- Strengthen maritime security and diplomatic engagement.
- Expand domestic clean-energy production while maintaining reliable transitional supplies.

Conclusion

West Asian partnerships are central to India's energy security, but dependence creates strategic vulnerabilities. Diversification, resilient infrastructure and cooperation in clean energy can support stable supplies and long-term economic progress.

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