International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges before India in maintaining strategic autonomy while responding to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic autonomy, non-alignment, sovereignty, territorial integrity, India-Russia relations, India-West relations, energy security, defence dependence, dialogue and diplomacy, multipolar world order.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has created complex diplomatic challenges for India, requiring it to balance its national interests with established principles of international relations.

Challenges to Strategic Autonomy

- **Defence dependence:** India's longstanding defence cooperation with Russia influences its diplomatic calculations.
- **Western partnerships:** Growing cooperation with the US and Europe requires careful management of international expectations.
- **Energy security:** Access to affordable energy remains an important consideration.
- **Global principles:** India must uphold sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful dispute resolution.

India's Diplomatic Approach

India has advocated dialogue and diplomacy while maintaining communication with both Russia and Ukraine. It has also emphasised respect for the UN Charter and the need for a peaceful resolution.

Conclusion

India's approach reflects an effort to protect national interests while supporting a rules-based international order. Sustained diplomatic engagement and diversified strategic partnerships can strengthen its strategic autonomy.

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