International Relations · GS - II

Analyse how developments in great-power diplomacy and energy cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region can influence India's energy security and strategic autonomy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Energy import dependence, Russian crude oil, Strait of Hormuz, APEC, great-power rivalry, strategic autonomy, diversification, Indo-Pacific, energy transition.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's energy security is closely connected with developments in global geopolitics. Diplomatic engagements among major powers, changes in oil supply arrangements and regional economic cooperation can influence India's energy prices, availability and strategic choices.

Implications for India

1. **Energy supply diversification:** Increased availability of Russian petroleum could provide India with additional sourcing options and reduce dependence on particular suppliers.
2. **Price stability:** Greater global supply may moderate crude oil prices, potentially reducing India's import bill and inflationary pressures.
3. **Strategic autonomy:** Engagement with the US, Russia and China requires India to maintain independent foreign-policy choices without becoming aligned with competing power blocs.
4. **Maritime security:** Instability around critical sea routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Malacca Strait, can disrupt energy transportation.

5. **Regional economic engagement:** APEC-related developments influence trade, investment, supply chains and India's wider Indo-Pacific interests.

Challenges and Policy Priorities

- **Geopolitical uncertainty:** Energy supplies can be affected by sanctions, diplomatic tensions and changing international commitments.
- **Supplier diversification:** Maintain balanced energy partnerships across West Asia, Russia, Africa and other regions.
- **Strategic reserves:** Strengthen strategic petroleum reserves and emergency supply arrangements.
- **Domestic resilience:** Expand renewable energy, electric mobility and energy efficiency.
- **Multilateral engagement:** Deepen cooperation through platforms such as the G20, BRICS and Indo-Pacific partnerships.

Conclusion

India must combine diversified energy sourcing with stronger domestic capabilities and balanced diplomacy. Energy security should remain an instrument of strategic autonomy rather than dependence on any single geopolitical partnership.

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