International Relations · GS - II

Examine the impact of US sanctions and changing global oil trade on India’s energy security and economic stability.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Russian oil imports, US sanctions and tariff pressure, energy security, rising import bill, current account deficit, rupee depreciation, inflation, diversification of suppliers, strategic petroleum reserves, renewable energy, strategic autonomy.

Model Answer

1. Introduction:

The Russia–Ukraine war and Western sanctions have reshaped global energy trade. Since 2022, discounted Russian crude oil has helped India diversify its energy supplies and manage import costs.

2. Impact on India:

Restrictions on Russian oil trade or changes in global energy arrangements could reduce access to discounted supplies and increase dependence on alternative sources. Higher crude oil prices may raise India’s import bill, widen the current account deficit, put pressure on the rupee and fuel domestic inflation. US sanctions and tariff measures may also complicate India’s trade relations with major powers. Furthermore, external pressure on energy purchases could challenge India’s strategic autonomy and its ability to pursue an independent foreign policy.

3. Policy Measures:

India should diversify its oil suppliers and import routes, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves and accelerate renewable energy adoption. Improving energy efficiency and maintaining diplomatic engagement with both the US and Russia can help minimise supply disruptions and economic risks.

Conclusion:

A diversified and pragmatic energy strategy is essential for safeguarding India’s energy security, economic stability and strategic autonomy amid changing global geopolitics.

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