Current Affairs · GS - II

Examine the challenges in balancing India’s strategic partnership with the United States and its energy and economic interests with Russia.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–US Relations, India–Russia Relations, Strategic Autonomy, Energy Security, Bilateral Trade, Economic Diplomacy, Multipolarity, National Interest.

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s foreign policy seeks to strengthen partnerships with major powers while safeguarding its strategic autonomy. Relations with the United States and Russia illustrate the challenge of balancing strategic cooperation, economic interests and energy security.

Main Body

Key Challenges

1. Trade negotiations: Differences over tariffs, market access and trade imbalances can complicate India–US economic relations.

2. Energy security: Russian crude oil has been an important source of energy for India. Pressure to diversify imports may affect procurement costs and refinery operations.
3. Geopolitical tensions: The Russia–Ukraine conflict creates competing expectations regarding India’s energy purchases and international partnerships.
4. Strategic autonomy: Excessive dependence on any single power could constrain India’s independent foreign-policy choices.
5.

Way Forward

India should diversify its energy suppliers, negotiate mutually beneficial trade agreements and expand cooperation with the US in defence, technology and critical minerals. Simultaneously, it should maintain constructive relations with Russia and assess energy decisions according to national interests.

Conclusion

India must pursue a pragmatic, multi-aligned foreign policy that combines strategic cooperation with economic resilience. Diversified partnerships and independent decision-making are essential to protect national interests in an increasingly uncertain global order.

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