Indian Economy · GS - III

“Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the *sine qua non* to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.Comment on the progress made in India in this regard.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Energy access and SDGs; renewable energy expansion; rural electrification; clean cooking fuel; energy efficiency; affordability and reliability challenges

Model Answer

Introduction

Affordable, reliable and clean energy is essential for poverty reduction, economic growth, public health and climate action. SDG 7 seeks universal access to sustainable and modern energy.

Progress in India

1. **Electricity access:** Saubhagya and rural electrification initiatives significantly expanded household electricity connections.
2. **Renewable energy:** Solar and wind power capacity increased through the National Solar Mission, solar parks and renewable energy auctions.
3. **Clean cooking:** Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana expanded access to LPG connections for eligible households.

4. **Energy efficiency:** The UJALA scheme promoted LED bulbs, while the Perform, Achieve and Trade scheme encouraged industrial energy savings.
5. **Clean mobility:** Electric vehicle initiatives and green hydrogen programmes aim to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Remaining Challenges

- Affordability, reliable supply and distribution-company financial stress.
- Continued dependence on coal and imported fossil fuels.
- Unequal access to clean cooking and modern energy in remote areas.
- Renewable-energy intermittency and inadequate storage infrastructure.

Conclusion

India has made substantial progress in energy access and clean-energy deployment. Achieving SDG 7 requires affordable tariffs, stronger grids, energy storage and a just transition towards low-carbon energy.

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