International Relations

Regional energy cooperation and strategic petroleum reserves are emerging as important instruments of economic security. Analyse their significance for India's energy security and its engagement with the Indo-Pacific region.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/11/2026	—	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Import dependence, strategic petroleum reserves, supply-chain resilience, energy diplomacy, ASEAN cooperation, maritime chokepoints, diversification, regional stockpiling, infrastructure investment, energy transition.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP

Model Answer

Introduction

Energy security is essential for economic stability, industrial growth and national security. Geopolitical tensions and disruptions along maritime routes make regional cooperation and emergency petroleum reserves increasingly important.

Significance of Strategic Petroleum Reserves

1. **Supply resilience:** Emergency stocks provide a buffer against sudden disruptions in crude oil imports.
2. **Price stability:** Timely release of reserves can moderate supply shortages and market volatility.
3. **Strategic autonomy:** Adequate reserves reduce vulnerability to geopolitical pressure and external supply shocks.

Importance of Regional Cooperation

- **Collective preparedness:** Joint stockpiling and storage-sharing arrangements can strengthen regional crisis response.
- **Infrastructure development:** Cooperation can improve storage capacity, refining facilities and energy logistics.
- **Maritime security:** Coordination among Indo-Pacific countries can protect critical energy transportation routes.
- **Economic diplomacy:** Energy partnerships deepen regional interdependence and strategic engagement.

Challenges and Way Forward

India must expand storage capacity, diversify import sources and strengthen domestic energy infrastructure. Regional arrangements require clear rules on ownership, access, release mechanisms and emergency coordination. Long-term resilience also requires renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Conclusion

Strategic reserves provide short-term protection, while regional cooperation strengthens collective resilience. India should combine domestic preparedness, diversified energy partnerships and clean-energy transition to achieve sustainable energy security.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP