International Relations · GS - II

Examine the implications of the United States easing sanctions on Russian oil trade for India's energy security and foreign policy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Russian crude imports, energy security, discounted oil, US–India relations, Russia–Ukraine conflict, global oil prices, strategic autonomy, diversification of energy sources.

Model Answer

Introduction

India depends heavily on imported crude oil to meet its energy needs. Russian oil has become an important source of supply, partly because of competitive prices.

Implications for India

1. Energy security: Relaxed restrictions may help India continue purchasing Russian crude with reduced risk of certain US penalties.
2. Economic benefits: Access to competitively priced oil can help control import costs and inflationary pressures.
3. Foreign relations: The decision may ease immediate trade tensions between India and the United States while allowing India to maintain energy ties with Russia.
4. Uncertainty: The waiver may be changed or withdrawn, exposing India to future policy shifts.

Way Forward

India should diversify its energy suppliers, expand renewable energy, improve strategic petroleum reserves and maintain constructive relations with both the US and Russia.

Conclusion

Easing sanctions may offer India economic and strategic relief. Long-term energy security, however, requires diversified supplies and reduced dependence on any single source.

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