International Relations · GS - II

Examine how India can balance its strategic partnership with the United States, energy security interests and strategic autonomy in the context of trade negotiations and Russian oil imports.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic autonomy, energy security, import dependence, trade tariffs, India–US relations, diversification of energy sources, diplomatic engagement, national interest.

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s engagement with the United States involves economic cooperation, defence ties and energy diplomacy. Trade negotiations alongside concerns over Russian oil imports illustrate the challenge of balancing international partnerships with national interests.

Key Challenges

1. Energy security: India depends heavily on imported crude oil. Affordable and reliable supplies are essential for economic growth and price stability.

2. Trade interests: Tariffs and market-access restrictions can affect Indian exports, investment and employment. A mutually beneficial trade agreement can strengthen economic ties.

3. Geopolitical pressures: US concerns over Russian oil purchases may create diplomatic friction. Abruptly changing suppliers could increase costs and disrupt supply chains.

Way Forward

- Diversify crude oil suppliers and expand renewable energy, strategic petroleum reserves and domestic exploration.
- Negotiate trade agreements that protect key domestic sectors while improving export opportunities.
- Maintain dialogue with the US and Russia based on international law and India’s national interests.
- Strengthen domestic manufacturing and energy efficiency to reduce external vulnerabilities.

Conclusion

India’s strategic autonomy requires pragmatic diplomacy, diversified energy sources and balanced economic partnerships. Its foreign policy should prioritise long-term energy security and sustainable economic development.

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