International Relations · GS - II

Examine how geopolitical tensions and dependence on external energy suppliers affect energy security in Europe. Suggest measures to strengthen regional energy resilience.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

European energy security; Russian gas dependence; geopolitical tensions; energy diversification; nuclear phase-out; renewable energy transition; regional cooperation; affordable energy access

Model Answer

Introduction

Energy security is a critical component of economic stability and strategic autonomy. Europe's dependence on imported energy, particularly natural gas, has exposed its economies to geopolitical disruptions and price volatility.

Major Challenges

- **External Dependence:** Reliance on a limited number of suppliers increases vulnerability to geopolitical conflicts and supply restrictions.
- **Price Volatility:** Supply uncertainty raises energy costs for households and industries.
- **Policy Differences:** Divergent national approaches towards nuclear energy, natural gas and renewables can create disagreements within the European Union.
- **Economic Impact:** High energy prices affect industrial competitiveness, inflation and employment.

Way Forward

Europe should diversify suppliers and transport routes, expand renewable and nuclear energy where nationally appropriate, strengthen energy storage and improve cross-border electricity and gas connectivity. Greater coordination among EU members can support collective responses to supply disruptions.

Conclusion

A diversified, affordable and sustainable energy system is essential for Europe's long-term energy security and strategic resilience.

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