Geography · GS - I

Examine the strategic significance of energy infrastructure during armed conflicts. Discuss the wider consequences of attacks on electricity generation and transmission networks.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 07/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Energy security, critical infrastructure, electricity transmission, power substations, civilian population, industrial disruption, humanitarian consequences, economic losses, international humanitarian law, infrastructure resilience.

Model Answer

Introduction

Energy infrastructure is a critical component of national security and economic stability. Armed conflicts increasingly expose electricity generation and transmission networks to disruption.

Strategic Significance

- **Military operations:** Electricity supports communication, surveillance, logistics and defence installations.
- **Economic continuity:** Industries, transport systems and commercial activities depend on reliable power.
- **Civilian welfare:** Hospitals, water supply, heating and essential services require uninterrupted electricity.
- **Strategic pressure:** Disrupting energy networks can weaken economic activity and increase pressure during negotiations.

Wider Consequences

Damage to power plants, substations and transmission lines can cause prolonged blackouts, industrial losses, displacement and humanitarian emergencies. It may also disrupt healthcare, water distribution and digital communication.

Way Forward

Countries should strengthen grid resilience, decentralise energy systems, protect critical infrastructure and develop emergency restoration mechanisms. International humanitarian law requires parties to conflicts to distinguish civilian objects from military objectives and comply with proportionality and precautionary obligations.

Conclusion

Protecting energy infrastructure is essential for civilian welfare, economic resilience and post-conflict recovery.

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