Defence & Security · GS - III

The increasing use of missiles and armed drones against critical infrastructure has expanded the security challenges facing energy-producing regions. Analyse its implications for regional stability and India's energy security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Asymmetric warfare, missile defence, armed drones, critical infrastructure, energy supply disruptions, Strait of Hormuz, oil price volatility, maritime security, strategic reserves.

Model Answer

Introduction

Missile and drone attacks against energy infrastructure illustrate the growing vulnerability of strategic economic assets to asymmetric warfare.

Implications for Regional Stability

Attacks on oil facilities, refineries and other critical infrastructure can trigger retaliation, intensify regional conflicts and undermine diplomatic negotiations. Low-cost drones can impose substantial defensive costs on technologically advanced states. Such attacks also threaten maritime routes and global energy supply chains.

Implications for India

India's dependence on imported crude oil makes regional instability in West Asia a major economic concern. Supply disruptions can increase international oil prices, widen the current account deficit and create inflationary pressures. Threats to Indian nationals and maritime trade further complicate the security environment.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy imports, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves, enhance maritime surveillance and develop resilient critical infrastructure. Diplomatic engagement and cooperation with regional partners remain essential.

Conclusion

Protecting energy infrastructure requires integrated defence preparedness, supply-chain resilience and sustained diplomatic efforts to prevent regional escalation.

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