International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of energy diplomacy in shaping France’s relations with Gulf countries. How can such engagements influence European energy security and strategic autonomy?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Energy security, Gulf Cooperation Council, oil and gas supplies, Strait of Hormuz, diversification, strategic autonomy, defence cooperation, renewable energy, geopolitical tensions.

Model Answer

Introduction

Energy diplomacy involves using diplomatic engagement and international partnerships to secure reliable and affordable energy supplies. Gulf countries remain important to global oil and gas markets, making them significant partners for European states.

Significance for France and Europe

- **Supply diversification:** Partnerships with Gulf producers can reduce dependence on individual suppliers.
- **Price stability:** Diplomatic engagement can support dialogue on energy supply and market disruptions.
- **Strategic cooperation:** Energy ties may complement defence, investment and technology partnerships.
- **Maritime security:** Secure shipping routes are essential for transporting oil and liquefied natural gas.

Challenges

Regional conflicts, disruptions around maritime chokepoints and competition among energy-importing countries can threaten supply security. Overdependence on fossil fuels also exposes economies to price volatility.

Way Forward

France and other European countries should diversify suppliers, strengthen renewable energy and storage capacity, protect international shipping through cooperation, and develop long-term partnerships based on mutual interests.

Conclusion

Gulf diplomacy can strengthen European energy security, but durable strategic autonomy requires diversified supplies, domestic clean-energy investment and effective multilateral cooperation.

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