International Relations · GS - II

The vulnerability of maritime chokepoints has significant implications for global energy security and India's economic interests. Analyse the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz for India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strait of Hormuz, energy imports, maritime chokepoints, oil and LNG supplies, shipping insurance, inflation, supply-chain disruption, naval security, energy diversification, strategic petroleum reserves.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Its security is essential for global energy trade and India's economic stability.

Strategic Importance for India

India depends significantly on imported crude oil and natural gas, making uninterrupted maritime energy routes essential. Disruptions in the strait can have several consequences:

1. **Energy security:** Restricted tanker movement can affect crude oil and LNG supplies, increasing import uncertainty.
2. **Economic impact:** Higher global oil prices can widen India's import bill, increase inflationary pressures and affect the current account deficit.

3. **Maritime security:** Threats to commercial vessels increase shipping insurance costs and endanger seafarers.
4. **Geopolitical implications:** Regional instability can complicate India's relations with Gulf countries and other major powers.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy suppliers and transport routes, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves, promote renewable energy and maintain maritime surveillance through naval cooperation and diplomacy.

Conclusion

The Strait of Hormuz demonstrates how regional conflicts can generate global economic consequences. A combination of energy diversification, maritime preparedness and diplomatic engagement is essential for India's long-term energy security.

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