International Relations · GS - II

The Strait of Hormuz demonstrates how the disruption of a strategically located maritime chokepoint can transform a regional conflict into a global economic and security challenge. Examine the implications for India's energy security and maritime diplomacy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Maritime chokepoints, Strait of Hormuz, crude oil imports, energy supply chains, shipping insurance, UNCLOS, naval security, strategic autonomy, energy diversification, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime passage connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Its disruption can affect international energy supplies, trade and regional stability.

Implications for India

- **Energy security:** Disruption can threaten India's crude oil and liquefied natural gas supply chains, increasing import uncertainty.
- **Economic impact:** Higher oil prices and shipping insurance premiums can widen the import bill, fuel inflation and increase logistical costs.

- **Maritime security:** Risks to commercial vessels can require greater naval surveillance and protection of shipping routes.
- **Strategic concerns:** Regional instability can complicate India's relations with Gulf countries, Iran, Israel and the United States.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy suppliers and transportation routes, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves, enhance maritime domain awareness and maintain diplomatic engagement with all relevant parties. Respect for international maritime law and peaceful dispute resolution must remain central.

Conclusion

India's response should combine energy diversification, naval preparedness and balanced diplomacy. Protecting freedom of navigation is essential for its economic interests and regional stability.

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