International Relations · GS - II

Examine the challenges posed by attacks on commercial shipping in strategically important maritime regions. Discuss their implications for India's energy security, seafarers' safety and maritime diplomacy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Maritime chokepoints, Persian Gulf, flag-state jurisdiction, UNCLOS, energy imports, shipping insurance, seafarer welfare, naval cooperation, diplomatic coordination.

Model Answer

Introduction

Attacks on commercial vessels in strategically important waterways expose the vulnerability of global maritime trade. The Persian Gulf is particularly significant because of its role in international energy transportation.

Strategic and Economic Implications

Disruptions to shipping can increase freight charges, insurance premiums and energy prices. For India, which depends substantially on imported crude oil, instability in the Gulf can threaten energy security, supply chains and economic stability.

Seafarers' Safety and Legal Challenges

Crew members face risks of injury, detention and psychological distress. The flag state exercises jurisdiction over its vessels, while coastal-state responsibilities and applicable international maritime law also remain relevant. Effective coordination among shipowners, governments and maritime authorities is essential.

India's Response

India must strengthen maritime surveillance, naval cooperation, diplomatic engagement and contingency planning. Consular assistance, emergency medical evacuation and coordination with shipping companies are equally important for protecting Indian seafarers.

Conclusion

Securing commercial shipping requires international cooperation, respect for maritime law and a balanced diplomatic approach. Protecting seafarers and maintaining uninterrupted trade must remain central to India's maritime strategy.

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