International Relations · GS - II

Growing insecurity in strategically important maritime routes highlights the vulnerability of international trade and seafarers. Examine the implications of maritime security threats for India's economic and strategic interests and discuss the measures required to protect Indian seafarers.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Persian Gulf, maritime chokepoints, energy security, commercial shipping, UNCLOS, flag-state jurisdiction, naval diplomacy, consular assistance, evacuation, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Maritime security is essential for India's trade, energy supplies and overseas interests. Attacks on commercial vessels in strategically important waterways expose both shipping infrastructure and seafarers to serious risks.

Implications for India

- **Energy security:** Disruptions in Gulf shipping can affect crude oil and gas supplies.
- **Trade vulnerability:** Increased insurance premiums, freight costs and delays can disrupt international commerce.
- **Human security:** Indian seafarers face risks of injury, detention and loss of livelihood.
- **Strategic concerns:** Maritime instability can require greater diplomatic and naval engagement.

Measures to Protect Seafarers

India should strengthen maritime surveillance, information-sharing and naval coordination with regional partners. Timely consular assistance, emergency medical evacuation, repatriation arrangements and coordination with shipping companies are essential.

Adherence to UNCLOS and international maritime conventions, alongside diplomatic engagement, can support safer navigation and peaceful dispute resolution.

Conclusion

India's maritime strategy must integrate trade security, protection of overseas nationals and international cooperation. Safeguarding seafarers is fundamental to maintaining resilient maritime connectivity.

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