Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the strategic significance of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait for global maritime trade and India's energy security. Discuss the implications of instability in Yemen for India's maritime interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Maritime chokepoints, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Suez Canal, global supply chains, energy security, Houthi attacks, shipping costs, Indian Ocean Region, naval diplomacy, maritime surveillance.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is a strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden. Its security is essential for international trade and India's maritime interests.

Strategic and Economic Significance

The strait forms part of the major shipping route connecting the Indian Ocean with Europe through the Suez Canal. Disruptions can increase shipping costs, delay cargo movement, affect energy supplies and destabilise global supply chains.

Implications for India

Instability in Yemen and threats to commercial vessels can affect India's exports, imports and energy transportation. It also creates risks for Indian seafarers and maritime trade routes. The reported withdrawal of Yemeni government forces from the area highlights continuing security uncertainties.

Way Forward

India should strengthen naval surveillance, maritime domain awareness and coordination with regional partners. Diversifying energy supplies, protecting commercial shipping and supporting diplomatic efforts for regional stability are equally important.

Conclusion

Securing critical maritime chokepoints is essential for India's economic resilience and strategic interests. India needs a coordinated approach combining naval preparedness, international cooperation and diplomatic engagement.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP