Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the strategic significance of aircraft carrier deployments in the Persian Gulf and adjoining maritime regions. How can escalating naval confrontations affect India's energy security and maritime interests?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Aircraft carrier strike groups, power projection, Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, naval deterrence, freedom of navigation, energy imports, maritime trade, Indian Navy, strategic autonomy, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

The reported deployment of the USS Theodore Roosevelt alongside other US aircraft carriers highlights the strategic importance of naval power in West Asia. Such deployments strengthen military presence and influence calculations during regional crises.

Strategic Significance of Carrier Deployments

- **Power projection:** Aircraft carriers provide mobile air power and allow states to operate far from their territories.
- **Deterrence:** Carrier strike groups signal military readiness and can discourage hostile actions.
- **Maritime surveillance:** Their supporting naval assets strengthen monitoring and operational reach.

- **Crisis response:** They provide flexibility for evacuation, protection of shipping and other military contingencies.

Implications for India

1. **Energy security:** Instability around the Strait of Hormuz can disrupt oil and gas supplies.
2. **Trade vulnerability:** Maritime tensions may increase freight, insurance and transportation costs.
3. **Diaspora security:** Escalation can threaten Indian nationals residing in West Asia.
4. **Strategic balancing:** India must protect its interests while maintaining constructive relations with competing regional and global powers.

Way Forward

India should strengthen maritime domain awareness, naval preparedness and partnerships with regional maritime stakeholders. Diversification of energy sources, strategic petroleum reserves and diplomatic engagement can reduce vulnerabilities. India should consistently advocate freedom of navigation and peaceful dispute resolution.

Conclusion

Naval deployments are instruments of deterrence as well as strategic signalling. India's response should combine credible maritime capabilities, energy resilience and balanced diplomacy.

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