International Relations · GS - II

Examine the implications of attacks on civilian commercial shipping for India's maritime interests. Discuss the role of diplomacy and international cooperation in ensuring safe navigation and protecting Indian seafarers.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Maritime security; civilian shipping; safety of seafarers; freedom of navigation; international trade; UNCLOS; diplomatic condemnation; regional de-escalation; consular assistance; multilateral cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

Safe maritime navigation is essential for international trade and economic stability. The reported attack on the Indian-flagged vessel *MSV Al Jusufi* off the Oman coast, which killed an Indian seafarer, highlights the risks faced by commercial shipping in regions experiencing tensions.

Implications for India

Attacks on commercial vessels threaten civilian lives, disrupt supply chains and may increase freight and insurance costs. They can also create diplomatic tensions and undermine confidence in regional maritime security. Protecting Indian seafarers and ensuring assistance to survivors are important responsibilities of the government.

Role of Diplomacy and Cooperation

India can use diplomatic channels to condemn attacks, seek accountability and call for de-escalation. Cooperation with coastal states, maritime agencies and international institutions can strengthen information-sharing and emergency response. Consular coordination is essential for survivor assistance and repatriation.

Way Forward

States should respect international law, protect civilian shipping and pursue peaceful resolution of regional disputes. Maritime surveillance, timely information exchange and coordinated rescue mechanisms can further reduce risks.

Conclusion

A combination of diplomatic engagement, international cooperation and effective consular support is necessary to protect Indian seafarers, safeguard commercial shipping and preserve regional stability.

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