International Relations · GS - II

Examine the geopolitical and economic implications of selective restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. How can such restrictions affect India's energy security and international maritime order?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic importance of Strait of Hormuz, selective shipping exemptions, geopolitical leverage, UNCLOS and transit passage, freedom of navigation, diplomatic tensions, global oil and LNG supply chains, India's energy imports, maritime security, diversification of energy sources and multilateral diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Any restriction on shipping through it can have significant geopolitical and economic consequences.

Geopolitical Implications

Selective exemptions for countries such as India, China, Qatar and Iraq may protect economic partnerships. However, excluding other countries can generate diplomatic tensions, deepen geopolitical divisions and weaken confidence in predictable maritime access.

Impact on International Maritime Order

Under UNCLOS, transit passage through straits used for international navigation is protected. Restrictions inconsistent with applicable international maritime law can undermine freedom of navigation and increase regional instability.

Implications for India

India's dependence on imported crude oil and gas makes secure maritime routes essential. Disruptions can raise import costs, increase inflationary pressure and affect energy availability.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy suppliers and transport routes, strengthen maritime surveillance, maintain strategic reserves and pursue diplomatic engagement with regional powers.

Conclusion

Protecting freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is essential for international trade, energy security and regional stability. Multilateral diplomacy and respect for international law remain crucial.

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