Geography · GS - I

“Maritime chokepoints have become critical instruments of geopolitical influence and strategic competition.” Examine the significance of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait for global trade and India's maritime security interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, Suez Canal, global supply chains, energy security, Houthi attacks, maritime chokepoints, Indian Ocean Region, naval diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and forms a crucial link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean through the Suez Canal.

Strategic and Economic Significance

- It is a major route for global container shipping, energy supplies and commercial trade.
- Disruptions can force vessels to reroute around the Cape of Good Hope, increasing costs and delivery time.
- Instability involving Yemen and Houthi attacks has highlighted the vulnerability of this maritime chokepoint.

Implications for India

- Threats to shipping affect India's trade with Europe, energy imports and supply chains.

- Maritime insecurity increases freight, insurance and logistics costs.
- It necessitates protection of Indian vessels and seafarers in the western Indian Ocean.

Way Forward

- Strengthen naval surveillance and maritime domain awareness.
- Enhance cooperation with regional and international maritime partners.
- Support diplomatic efforts to reduce regional conflicts.
- Diversify trade routes and strengthen maritime resilience.

Conclusion

The security of Bab-el-Mandeb is closely linked to global economic stability and India's maritime interests. A combination of naval preparedness, international cooperation and diplomatic engagement is essential.

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