International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic significance of the Gulf region for India's energy security and overseas interests. How can regional instability affect India's economic and diplomatic priorities?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Energy imports, Strait of Hormuz, maritime security, Indian diaspora, remittances, trade routes, regional tensions, strategic autonomy, energy diversification.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Gulf region is strategically important to India because of its proximity, energy resources, maritime routes and large Indian expatriate population. Stability in this region has direct implications for India's economic and national security.

Strategic Significance for India

- **Energy security:** Gulf countries are major suppliers of crude oil and natural gas to India. Disruptions in production or transportation can increase import costs.
- **Maritime connectivity:** The Strait of Hormuz and other regional chokepoints are critical for global energy trade and India's maritime interests.
- **Indian diaspora:** Millions of Indians work in Gulf countries, contributing significantly through remittances.

- **Trade and investment:** The region is an important partner in India's trade, infrastructure and investment cooperation.
- **Geopolitical engagement:** India's relations with Gulf states support its wider West Asian diplomacy and strategic interests.

Implications of Regional Instability

Regional conflicts and terrorist threats can disrupt shipping, raise insurance premiums, increase oil prices and threaten Indian citizens. Prolonged instability may also affect remittance flows, trade networks and India's diplomatic balancing among competing regional powers.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy sources, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves, enhance maritime surveillance and maintain effective evacuation mechanisms. Sustained diplomatic engagement and cooperation with regional partners are essential to protect Indian interests.

Conclusion

Peace and stability in the Gulf are closely linked to India's energy resilience, economic growth and the security of its citizens abroad. India must combine diplomatic engagement with strategic preparedness to manage regional uncertainties.

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