International Relations · GS - II

The Strait of Hormuz demonstrates how the geographical concentration of critical maritime routes can convert regional tensions into global economic and security challenges. Analyse its implications for India's energy security and maritime interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Strait of Hormuz, maritime chokepoints, Persian Gulf, crude oil imports, LNG supplies, UNCLOS, freedom of navigation, strategic petroleum reserves, naval diplomacy, energy diversification

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman. Any disruption to navigation through this narrow passage can affect global energy markets and India's economic and strategic interests.

Implications for India

1. **Energy security:** India imports a substantial share of its crude oil and gas requirements, making uninterrupted Gulf energy supplies strategically important.
2. **Price volatility:** Maritime tensions or blockades can increase oil prices, inflation, transportation costs and the current account deficit.

3. **Supply-chain disruption:** Delays in energy shipments can affect refineries, fertiliser production, industries and electricity generation.
4. **Maritime security:** Threats to commercial vessels increase insurance premiums and create risks for Indian seafarers and shipping companies.
5. **Geopolitical challenges:** Regional instability requires India to balance relations with Gulf countries, Iran, Israel and major external powers.

Challenges and Response

- **Energy diversification:** Expand procurement from multiple suppliers and increase renewable energy adoption.
- **Strategic reserves:** Strengthen strategic petroleum reserves to manage temporary supply disruptions.
- **Maritime preparedness:** Enhance naval surveillance, escort capabilities and information-sharing arrangements.
- **Diplomatic engagement:** Support de-escalation, freedom of navigation and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- **International law:** Promote compliance with UNCLOS and protection of commercial shipping.

Conclusion

The Strait of Hormuz highlights India's vulnerability to disruptions in distant maritime regions. A combination of energy diversification, strategic reserves, maritime preparedness and active diplomacy is essential to ensure long-term energy security.

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