International Relations · GS - II

The spread of armed conflict into strategically sensitive maritime regions highlights the growing vulnerability of commercial shipping and regional security. Analyse the implications of such incidents for maritime security, international trade and geopolitical stability.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Maritime chokepoints, commercial shipping, Baltic Sea security, drone warfare, UNCLOS, freedom of navigation, state responsibility, attribution of attacks, escalation risks, energy and supply-chain security, maritime cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

The use of drones against commercial vessels demonstrates how modern conflicts can extend beyond traditional battlefields. Such incidents create risks for maritime trade, civilian shipping and regional stability.

Major Implications

1. **Commercial shipping security:** Attacks on cargo vessels can disrupt trade routes, increase insurance premiums and raise freight costs.
2. **Geopolitical escalation:** Uncertain attribution and proximity to other states can increase diplomatic tensions and the risk of unintended confrontation.

3. **Energy and supply-chain vulnerability:** Maritime disruptions can affect the movement of essential commodities, including energy resources.
4. **Changing nature of warfare:** Unmanned aerial and maritime systems make attacks more accessible, difficult to attribute and potentially less costly for perpetrators.
5. **International legal concerns:** Attacks on civilian vessels raise questions of state responsibility, protection of civilian objects and applicable maritime and humanitarian law.

Way Forward

- Strengthen maritime domain awareness through satellite surveillance, coastal radar and information-sharing.
- Improve protection of commercial vessels and critical maritime infrastructure.
- Establish effective mechanisms for incident investigation and attribution.
- Promote diplomatic communication and adherence to international law.
- Strengthen multilateral cooperation against emerging maritime threats.

Conclusion

Maritime security is closely linked to global economic stability. Preventing conflict spillovers requires coordinated surveillance, credible investigation, restraint and respect for international legal frameworks.

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