International Relations · GS - II

Analyse the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz for global energy security. How can geopolitical tensions in the region affect India's economic and maritime interests?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Strait of Hormuz, energy security, oil and LNG imports, maritime chokepoints, shipping costs, inflation, naval security, diplomatic engagement, energy diversification

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz, connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, is one of the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints. A substantial share of globally traded petroleum passes through this narrow waterway.

Strategic Significance

1. **Global energy flows:** It serves as a major transit route for crude oil and liquefied natural gas exports from Gulf producers.
2. **Geopolitical leverage:** Disruptions can affect international energy prices and supply chains.
3. **Maritime connectivity:** It connects energy-producing Gulf states with international markets through the Arabian Sea.

Implications for India

- **Energy vulnerability:** Disruptions can increase crude oil and LNG import costs.
- **Economic impact:** Higher energy prices can widen the import bill, increase inflation and pressure the current account.
- **Shipping risks:** Threats to vessels may raise insurance premiums, freight costs and delivery times.
- **Strategic interests:** Indian seafarers, commercial vessels and regional connectivity projects may face heightened risks.

Way Forward

- Diversify energy suppliers and strategic petroleum reserves.
- Strengthen maritime domain awareness and naval preparedness.
- Maintain diplomatic engagement with regional stakeholders.
- Promote international freedom of navigation and peaceful dispute resolution.

Conclusion

Stability in the Strait of Hormuz is closely linked to India's energy and economic security. A combination of strategic preparedness, diversified energy supplies and diplomacy is essential to manage disruptions.

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