Defence & Security · GS - III

Evaluate the significance of maritime security for India's economic resilience and strategic autonomy in an interconnected global economy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Sea lines of communication, Indian Ocean Region, energy security, naval modernisation, indigenous defence production, maritime cooperation

Model Answer

India's geographical position in the Indian Ocean Region gives it significant maritime responsibilities. Its dependence on overseas trade and energy supplies makes secure sea routes essential for economic stability.

Strategic and economic significance:

1. **Trade connectivity:** Maritime routes facilitate India's international trade, linking domestic markets with global supply chains.
2. **Energy security:** Disruptions in shipping lanes can affect the availability and prices of crude oil, natural gas and other essential commodities.
3. **National security:** Naval capabilities help deter maritime threats, piracy, smuggling and hostile activities.
4. **Strategic influence:** A credible maritime presence strengthens India's engagement with Indian Ocean littoral countries.
5. **Economic resilience:** Secure ports, shipping infrastructure and supply chains reduce vulnerability to external disruptions.

Priorities for strengthening maritime capabilities:

- Modernise naval platforms, surveillance systems and maritime domain awareness.

- Promote indigenous shipbuilding, defence manufacturing and advanced technologies.
- Strengthen cooperation through joint exercises, information sharing and regional partnerships.
- Expand women's participation and professional opportunities across naval roles.
- Improve port security and resilience of critical maritime infrastructure.

Conclusion: Maritime security is closely linked to India's economic prosperity and strategic autonomy. A technologically modern, professionally inclusive and increasingly self-reliant Navy can strengthen India's capacity to protect its maritime interests.

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