International Relations · GS - II

What are strategic choke points in global geopolitics? Examine how control over critical supply chains, technology, trade routes and resources influences India's strategic autonomy. Suggest measures to reduce India's vulnerabilities.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Multipolar world order, strategic choke points, supply-chain concentration, semiconductor dependence, critical minerals, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Malacca, energy security, economic coercion, strategic autonomy, Atmanirbhar Bharat, supply-chain diversification, technology indigenisation, international partnerships.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

Strategic choke points are locations, resources or networks whose control can influence the movement of goods, technology, energy and information. They have become important instruments of geopolitical power in an increasingly multipolar world.

2. Impact on India's Strategic Autonomy

1. **Trade and energy:** Disruptions at maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz can raise oil prices and threaten energy security.
2. **Technology:** Dependence on foreign suppliers for semiconductors and advanced technologies can constrain domestic capabilities.
3. **Critical resources:** Concentrated supplies of rare earth elements and other critical minerals can expose Indian industries to export restrictions.
4. **Geopolitical pressure:** Economic dependence may limit policy choices during international disputes.

3. Measures to Reduce Vulnerabilities

1. Diversify import sources and strengthen resilient supply chains.
2. Promote domestic manufacturing through initiatives such as *Make in India* and semiconductor development programmes.
3. Build strategic reserves of essential commodities.
4. Deepen cooperation with trusted partners while maintaining strategic autonomy.

4. Conclusion

India must combine domestic capacity, diversified partnerships and secure trade routes to reduce strategic vulnerabilities and protect its national interests.

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