International Relations · GS - II

“Attacks on critical energy infrastructure in West Asia can have consequences far beyond the immediate conflict zone.” Discuss with reference to global oil markets and India’s energy security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Houthis, Iran–Saudi Arabia Rivalry, Saudi Aramco, Critical Infrastructure, Oil Supply Disruptions, Strait of Hormuz, Bab al-Mandeb, Crude Oil Prices, India’s Import Dependence, Energy Security.

Model Answer

Introduction:

West Asia is central to global oil production and maritime energy trade. Attacks on energy infrastructure or shipping routes can therefore create international economic consequences.

Impacts:

Missile and drone attacks can damage facilities, interrupt operations or increase the perceived risk of future supply disruptions. Even without confirmed production losses, uncertainty may raise crude prices, insurance premiums and shipping costs. Higher oil prices can increase inflation, transport expenses and production costs in importing economies.

For India, which relies heavily on imported crude oil, sustained price increases can widen the import bill, put pressure on the current account and complicate inflation management. Disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz or Bab al-Mandeb can also affect maritime routes and delivery schedules.

Way Forward:

India should diversify energy suppliers and transport routes, maintain adequate strategic petroleum reserves, strengthen maritime cooperation and accelerate energy efficiency and renewable-energy adoption.

Conclusion:

Protecting critical energy infrastructure and ensuring secure maritime routes are essential for regional stability and global economic resilience.

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