International Relations · GS - II

“Instability in West Asia poses challenges to India's energy security, maritime trade and the safety of its overseas citizens. Discuss the implications and suggest measures India should adopt.”

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–West Asia Relations, India–Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership, Yemen Conflict, Houthi Movement, Indian Diaspora, Consular Diplomacy, Energy Security, Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Maritime Chokepoints, Supply Chain Disruptions, Oil Price Volatility, Maritime Security, Diplomatic Engagement, Evacuation Preparedness, Strategic Autonomy

Model Answer

Introduction

West Asia is strategically important to India because of its energy supplies, trade routes, investment ties and large Indian diaspora. Regional conflicts, including the Yemen conflict and Houthi attacks, create significant economic and security challenges.

Main Body

Implications for India:

1. **Energy security:** Regional instability can disrupt oil and gas supplies and increase international energy prices.
2. **Maritime trade:** Threats to Red Sea shipping and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait can increase freight costs, insurance premiums and delivery times.
3. **Diaspora safety:** Indian nationals in affected countries may face risks to their lives, employment and mobility.
4. **Economic impact:** Higher transport and energy costs can contribute to inflation and affect India's trade balance.

Measures required:

1. Maintain diplomatic engagement with regional stakeholders and support peaceful conflict resolution.
2. Strengthen maritime surveillance and cooperation with regional partners.
3. Update travel advisories, emergency contact systems and evacuation plans for Indian nationals.
4. Diversify energy sources and shipping routes while maintaining adequate strategic reserves.

Conclusion

India should pursue balanced diplomacy, protect its citizens abroad and strengthen energy and maritime resilience to safeguard its strategic and economic interests.

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