International Relations · GS - II

“Geopolitical instability in West Asia poses significant challenges to India's energy security and foreign policy.” Discuss.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

West Asian geopolitics, crude oil imports, Strait of Hormuz, energy security, oil price volatility, maritime security, Indian diaspora, trade routes, strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

West Asia is vital to India's energy security and foreign policy. India depends heavily on imported crude oil, while millions of Indian citizens live and work in the Gulf region. Therefore, regional conflicts can directly affect India's economic and strategic interests.

Main Body

Impact on energy security:

1. Oil supply disruptions: Conflict involving Iran and Israel may threaten oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.
2. Price volatility: Rising crude oil prices can increase inflation, import expenditure and the current account deficit.
3. Shipping risks: Attacks on vessels and higher insurance costs can disrupt trade and energy supplies.

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Challenges for India's foreign policy:

1. Regional balance: India maintains relations with Israel, Iran and Arab countries, requiring careful diplomacy.
2. Diaspora safety: Regional conflict can endanger Indian citizens and require evacuation operations.
3. Strategic interests: Instability may affect connectivity projects, trade and India's wider regional engagement.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy sources, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves, protect maritime routes and pursue diplomatic de-escalation.

Conclusion

A combination of energy diversification, strategic preparedness and balanced diplomacy is essential to safeguard India's national interests amid West Asian instability.

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