International Relations · GS - II

Examine how instability in the Red Sea region affects global trade and India’s economic and strategic interests. Suggest measures India can adopt to safeguard these interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait; Suez Canal; maritime chokepoints; freedom of navigation; shipping costs; energy security; export competitiveness; naval diplomacy; international cooperation.

Model Answer

Instability in the Red Sea region poses significant challenges to international maritime trade because the route connects the Indian Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Suez Canal.

Attacks on shipping can force vessels to take longer routes around Africa, increasing freight costs, insurance premiums and delivery times. These disruptions may affect global supply chains, energy transportation and the competitiveness of Indian exports.

India has substantial interests in secure sea lanes, reliable energy supplies and the safety of seafarers. Prolonged disruptions can raise import costs and affect trade with Europe and other markets.

India should strengthen maritime surveillance, enhance naval preparedness and coordinate with regional and international partners. It should support freedom of navigation under international law, promote diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions and diversify trade routes where feasible.

A combination of naval capability, multilateral cooperation and diplomacy is essential to protect India’s maritime interests while avoiding unnecessary escalation.