International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz for global energy security. How can military escalation in this region affect international trade and regional stability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Global energy chokepoint; oil and LNG supplies; freedom of navigation; energy price volatility; international maritime law; diplomatic de-escalation

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and is among the world's most strategically important maritime chokepoints. Its security has implications for energy markets and international trade.

Strategic significance

A substantial share of global seaborne oil trade and significant LNG shipments pass through the strait. Disruption can increase freight and insurance costs, raise energy prices and intensify inflationary pressures in import-dependent economies such as India.

Impact of military escalation

Naval blockades, attacks on commercial vessels and threats to shipping can interrupt supply chains, undermine investor confidence and increase the risk of wider regional conflict. Prolonged disruption may also affect fertiliser production, transport costs and industrial activity.

Under international maritime law, including UNCLOS, navigation rights and the applicable passage regime are important considerations. Political declarations or military control do not automatically determine internationally recognised geographical names or sovereignty.

Way Forward

Regional dialogue, protection of commercial shipping, adherence to international law and diversified energy supplies can reduce vulnerabilities. India should strengthen strategic reserves and supplier diversification.

Conclusion

Maintaining safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is essential for global energy security, economic stability and regional peace.

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