International Relations · GS - II

The safety of Indian nationals and seafarers in West Asia highlights the close relationship between maritime security, energy security and India's foreign policy. Examine the challenges and suggest measures to protect India's interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Conflict in West Asia threatens Indian nationals, seafarers, energy supplies and maritime trade. India needs diplomacy, consular preparedness, shipping coordination, diversified energy sources and resilient supply chains.

Model Answer

The Ministry of External Affairs reported that 22 Indian nationals, including 14 seafarers, had been killed in the ongoing West Asia conflict. The casualties underline India's exposure to regional instability through its diaspora, maritime trade and energy dependence.

The Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb are critical maritime chokepoints. Disruptions can increase freight and insurance costs, delay exports, raise energy prices and threaten seafarers aboard merchant vessels. Indian nationals also require consular assistance, evacuation support and reliable communication during emergencies.

India should pursue dialogue and diplomacy, maintain regular contact with its diaspora, strengthen coordination between embassies and the Directorate General of Shipping, and ensure timely risk advisories for shipping companies and crews. Diversifying energy suppliers and transport routes, expanding strategic reserves and strengthening maritime domain awareness can improve resilience. India should also support international law, freedom of navigation and protection of civilian shipping.

A coordinated approach combining diplomacy, preparedness and economic resilience is essential to safeguard Indian lives and strategic interests.

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