International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz for global energy security. Discuss the implications of maritime insecurity in the region for India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Global oil transit; Persian Gulf connectivity; maritime chokepoint; energy supply disruptions; India’s import dependence; naval security; diplomatic engagement; strategic diversification

Model Answer

Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz, connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, is a critical maritime chokepoint through which a significant share of global oil and LNG trade passes. Recent reports of tankers catching fire after allegedly striking mines highlight its vulnerability to regional tensions.

Strategic Significance

- **Energy security:** Disruption can affect global petroleum supplies, increase oil prices and raise transportation and insurance costs.
- **Geopolitical importance:** The strait is central to the strategic interests of Iran, Gulf countries and major energy-importing powers.

- **Maritime security:** Mines, attacks on commercial vessels and military escalation threaten freedom of navigation and international trade.

Implications for India

- Higher crude prices can increase India's import bill, inflation and current account pressure.
- Disruptions may affect energy supplies from Gulf producers.
- Indian seafarers, commercial vessels and overseas economic interests may face security risks.

Way Forward

India should diversify energy sources, strengthen strategic petroleum reserves, enhance maritime surveillance and cooperate with regional and international partners to protect freedom of navigation.

Conclusion

Ensuring stability in the Strait of Hormuz is essential for global energy security. India must combine diplomatic engagement with energy diversification and maritime preparedness.

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