



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per. unthalaivar" Kamarajar"

Energy Security at Sea: Why the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal Matter More Than Ever

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Why in News?

Strategic maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal play a critical role in ensuring global energy security and stability of international oil markets.

Disruptions in these chokepoints can lead to energy supply shocks and volatility in global oil prices.

Geography and Global Energy Transport:

Global energy supply is influenced not only by production but also by geography and transport routes.

A few narrow maritime corridors (chokepoints) carry a large portion of the world's oil and natural gas trade.

These corridors are essential for linking major energy-producing regions with global markets.

Strait of Hormuz: Critical Oil Transit Route:

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with global shipping lanes.

Located between Iran and Oman.

Major Facts:

Around 20–21 million barrels of oil per day pass through this route.

Accounts for nearly one-fifth of global petroleum consumption.

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Key oil exporters using this route include:

Saudi Arabia

Iraq

Kuwait

United Arab Emirates

Strategic Importance:

A large share of global oil exports from the Middle East passes through this strait.

Suez Canal: Energy and Trade Corridor:

The Suez Canal is a man-made canal connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.

It acts as a vital bridge between Asian energy exporters and European markets.

Major Facts:

Roughly 8–9 million barrels of oil and petroleum products daily move through the canal and the SUMED Pipeline.

Ships using this route avoid traveling around the Cape of Good Hope.

Strategic Importance:

If shipping through the canal is disrupted, vessels must travel around the Cape of Good Hope, increasing time and transportation costs.

Disruptions can impact global supply chains and energy markets.

Impact of Disruptions on Energy Markets:

Shipping delays or security risks can affect tanker traffic and energy logistics.

Even the perception of disruption may lead to:

Increase in global oil prices

Market volatility

Higher transportation and energy costs

Energy Logistics in the Global Economy:

Energy security depends not only on production and reserves but also on safe transportation routes.

Oil and natural gas continue to play a major role in the global energy mix, despite the growth of renewable energy.

Stability of maritime routes remains essential for maintaining global energy supply chains.