



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Iran's Use of Small Boats and Naval Mines in West Asia Conflict

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Iran has reportedly used small boats and naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz as part of its strategy during rising tensions in West Asia involving the United States and Israel. This reflects Iran's asymmetric naval warfare strategy to challenge stronger military powers.

Key Highlights

Iran has used small fast boats to deploy naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategic maritime chokepoints.

The Strait of Hormuz handles nearly one-fifth of global oil trade, making disruptions there globally significant.

Small vessels can carry two to three mines each, allowing Iran to deploy mines quickly and covertly.

Iran's naval doctrine focuses on asymmetric warfare, where weaker forces use unconventional tactics against stronger militaries.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy plays a major role in operating fast-attack boats and coordinating maritime attacks.

Iran can use swarm tactics, where large numbers of small boats attack or harass enemy ships simultaneously.

What Are Naval Mines?

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Naval mines are underwater explosive devices placed in sea routes to damage or sink ships.

They can be triggered by contact, pressure, magnetic fields, or acoustic signals from passing vessels.

Naval mines are cheap but highly effective, making them a common tool in maritime warfare.

Strategic Importance of the Strait of Hormuz

Connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

Located between Iran and Oman.

Around 20% of global oil and LNG trade passes through this narrow passage.

Any disruption can lead to global oil price spikes and energy supply shocks.