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# Strait of Hormuz in Focus Amid Iran–Israel Tensions

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The Strait of Hormuz has gained global attention due to rising tensions linked to the Iran–Israel conflict, as any instability in the region could disrupt one of the world’s most critical energy trade routes.

## Location and Geographical Importance

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow maritime passage that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

It lies between Iran to the north and Oman to the south, making it a strategic maritime gateway for global oil shipments.

## Importance in Global Energy Trade

The Strait of Hormuz is considered the world’s most important oil chokepoint, through which nearly one-fifth of global petroleum consumption passes every day.

Major oil-exporting countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Iran transport crude oil through this route.

## Importance for Asian Countries

Around 80% of oil shipments passing through the strait are destined for Asian countries, including India, China, Japan, and South Korea.

Therefore, any disruption in this route could significantly affect energy prices and supply security for these economies.

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## **Strategic and Security Concerns**

Due to its narrow width and heavy tanker traffic, the Strait of Hormuz is highly vulnerable to geopolitical tensions. During the Tanker War in the 1980s, several oil tankers were targeted in this region, highlighting its vulnerability during conflicts.

### **Key Facts:**

The Strait of Hormuz is considered the most critical oil transit chokepoint globally.

At its narrowest point, it is about 33 km wide, with shipping lanes roughly 3 km wide in each direction.

It connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea via the Gulf of Oman.

It is the second-busiest oil chokepoint after the Strait of Malacca.

Major LNG exports from Qatar also pass through this strait.