



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# U.S. Naval Blockade of Venezuela

Published On: 28-12-2025

**Context:** The U.S. has escalated its "maximum pressure" campaign against the Maduro government by announcing a naval blockade to stop all sanctioned oil tankers.

- **The Basics:** A **Naval Blockade** is an act of war under international law where a power prevents vessels from entering or leaving a port/coast. The U.S. claims this is to stop "narcoterrorism," while Venezuela views it as an illegal violation of sovereignty.
- **Impact on India:**
- **Energy Security:** India is a major refiner. Disruptions in Venezuelan crude (which is heavy and suited for Indian refineries) can spike global oil prices.
- **Oil-for-Debt:** India has historically used "oil-for-debt" swaps with Venezuela's PDVSA to recover dues; a blockade makes such transactions impossible.
- **Subject Reference:**
- **GS Paper II:** International Relations (Bilateral groupings involving India/Interests of India).
- **GS Paper III:** Energy Security.

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