

About- West Asia (Middle East)

It is a subregion of Asia that is bordered by Europe to the west, Central Asia to the north, South Asia to the east, and Africa and the Arabian sea to the south.



Countries Included in the Region

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Iran, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Reasons for Strategic Vitality

- Energy resources** (oil & gas reserves);
- Chokepoints:** Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez Canal;
- Religious significance** (Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina);
- Geo-strategic location** linking Asia, Africa, and Europe;
- Major external power involvement** (US, Russia, China);
- The region is currently undergoing **structural transformation** marked by power realignments, proxy wars, and strategic competition.

Important Maps and Key Features



Focus: Strait of Hormuz

• **Location** - The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran to the north and Oman and the United Arab Emirates to the south, linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. At its narrowest point it is about 33 kilometres wide, with shipping lanes just a few kilometres across in either direction.



• **Significance**- Nearly half of India's crude oil and around 60 per cent of its natural gas imports pass through the strait.

