



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

US-Iran Ceasefire 2026 — Strait of Hormuz, India's Energy Exposure, and the Limits of Multi-Alignment

9 April 2026 · **GS2** **GS3**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

US-Iran Ceasefire 2026 — Strait of Hormuz, India's Energy Exposure, and the Limits of Multi-Alignment

9 April 2026 · 5 min read · 1 tag

▼ On this Page

- 01** Background: How the Conflict Began
- 02** The Strait of Hormuz: Strategic Importance
- 03** India's Exposure: Three Dimensions
 - 1. Energy Dependence
 - 2. Diaspora and Remittances
 - 3. Trade and Shipping
- 04** India's Multi-Alignment: Test and Assessment
 - Critique of Multi-Alignment
- 05** Pakistan's Mediator Role: Implications for India
- 06** Iran's 10-Point Peace Plan
- 07** UPSC Relevance
 - GS Paper 2 — International Relations
 - GS Paper 3 — Energy Security
 - Mains Angles
- 08** Facts Corner



WHY IN NEWS:

A ceasefire was announced on April 9, 2026, ending 39 days of US-Iran conflict that had disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Pakistan served as the primary mediator through the “Islamabad Talks,” and the agreement includes the Strait’s reopening and a 10-point Iranian peace proposal addressing sanctions relief, uranium enrichment rights, and troop withdrawal.

BACKGROUND: HOW THE CONFLICT BEGAN

The US-Iran conflict of 2026 escalated from a combination of unresolved nuclear negotiations, retaliatory strikes on Gulf Arab infrastructure attributed to Iran, and US enforcement actions in the Persian Gulf. Iran partially blockaded the Strait of Hormuz, imposing transit fees of approximately **\$2 million per vessel** and disrupting global energy supply chains for 39 days. The regional death toll exceeded 3,000.

The ceasefire was announced after Pakistan’s intervention, reflecting Islamabad’s longstanding diplomatic ties with both Tehran and Washington.

THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ: STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

METRIC	DETAIL
Global energy share	~20% of global energy (crude oil, LNG, petroleum products)
Daily crude passage	~17–18 million barrels per day
Strait width (narrowest)	~34 km total; 2 km lanes in each direction
Bordering countries	Iran (north), Oman (south)
Alternate routes	Suez Canal; Cape of Good Hope; Habshan-Fujairah pipeline (UAE)

India has no realistic overland bypass for Gulf crude. The Strait is effectively a **single point of failure** for Indian energy security.



INDIA'S EXPOSURE: THREE DIMENSIONS

1. Energy Dependence

India imports approximately **60% of its crude oil from Gulf countries** — UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and (via secondary markets) Iran. During the 39-day blockade:

- India's crude oil import bill was on track to exceed **₹1.5 lakh crore per quarter**
- Brent crude crossed **\$105/barrel**, straining India's current account deficit
- Refiners faced shipping diversions, delays, and premium costs

India's **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** capacity — approximately 5.33 million metric tonnes spread across Vishakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur — provides roughly **9.5 days of consumption cover**, far below the IEA's recommended 90 days.

2. Diaspora and Remittances

Over **1 crore Indian nationals** live and work in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. During the conflict:

- **8 Indian casualties** were reported
- Remittances from GCC to India (worth approximately ₹2 lakh crore annually) were disrupted
- MEA activated special evacuation protocols for Indian nationals in high-risk zones

3. Trade and Shipping

India-UAE and India-Saudi Arabia **bilateral trade** cumulatively exceeds **\$120 billion annually**. The Strait disruption affected:

- LPG tanker routes (essential for domestic cooking fuel)
- Container shipping through the Arabian Sea
- India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) infrastructure investment logic

INDIA'S MULTI-ALIGNMENT: TEST AND ASSESSMENT

India's foreign policy during the 39-day conflict was characterised by:

- **Abstention on UNSC resolutions** condemning either side — maintaining strategic ambivalence
- **Maintained diplomatic ties** with Iran (Chabahar Port) and the US simultaneously
- **No endorsement** of Pakistan's mediator role — while not opposing the peace process
- **Emergency oil sourcing** from Russia, Latin America, and West African suppliers via spot markets



Critique of Multi-Alignment

Critics argue India's reluctance to take positions — even in crises directly affecting its energy and diaspora — reduces its leverage. India was not part of the Islamabad Talks despite having the largest economic stake in Gulf stability after the US and China.

Proponents argue that **multi-alignment** preserved India's credibility with all parties, allowing post-ceasefire re-engagement on Chabahar, IMEC, and bilateral trade deals without alignment costs.

PAKISTAN'S MEDIATOR ROLE: IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

Pakistan's successful mediation of the US-Iran ceasefire represents a diplomatic elevation that India must process carefully:

- Pakistan leveraged its **Muslim-majority status** and existing ties with both Tehran and Washington
- The mediation partially offsets India's superior economic and strategic profile in global perception
- **India-Pakistan relations** remain contested — Indian Express editorial argues India should support peace regardless of who brokers it

India has historically insisted on bilateral-only dialogue with Pakistan. Whether the ceasefire mediation creates pressure for indirect India-Pakistan engagement through the "Islamabad channel" is a developing question.

IRAN'S 10-POINT PEACE PLAN

Iran's conditions for the ceasefire include:

- ① **Sanctions relief** — partial lifting of US financial and oil sanctions
- ② **Non-aggression pact** — written security guarantees
- ③ **Uranium enrichment rights** — recognition of civilian nuclear programme
- ④ **US troop withdrawal** from proximate Gulf bases
- ⑤ **UN resolution termination** — dissolving prior UNSC resolutions
- ⑥ **Compensation** for damages sustained during the conflict 7–10. Various regional security architecture proposals

The ceasefire is fragile — Iran's underlying strategic objectives (enrichment, regional influence, sanctions relief) remain unresolved.



UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 — International Relations

- India's multi-alignment doctrine — definition, examples, critique
- Strait of Hormuz's strategic importance for India
- India-Iran relations: Chabahar Port, connectivity, sanctions-era navigation
- Pakistan's foreign policy: mediator role, Islamic solidarity dimension

GS Paper 3 — Energy Security

- India's crude oil import dependence — 60% from Gulf
- Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) — capacity, locations, IEA standard
- Energy security frameworks: diversification, long-term contracts, SPR adequacy

Mains Angles

- “India's multi-alignment doctrine was put to its most severe test during the 2026 US-Iran conflict. Critically examine.” (GS2)
- “India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve is structurally inadequate for extended supply disruptions. Analyse and suggest reforms.” (GS3)



FACTS CORNER

ITEM	FACT
Conflict duration	39 days
Ceasefire date	April 9, 2026
Regional death toll	>3,000
Mediator	Pakistan (Islamabad Talks)
Strait of Hormuz share	~20% of global energy flows
Iran transit fee	~\$2 million per vessel during conflict
India's Gulf crude dependence	~60% of crude imports
Indian nationals in Gulf	~1 crore
Indian casualties	8
Brent crude (conflict peak)	>\$105/barrel
India's SPR capacity	~5.33 MMT (~9.5 days consumption cover)
IEA recommended SPR	90 days of net imports
SPR locations	Vishakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur
IMEC	India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor — announced G20 2023
Chabahar Port	India-developed; key Iran connectivity asset; exempted from some US sanctions

← **PREVIOUS ARTICLE**

Current Affairs Today — April 9, 2026

NEXT ARTICLE →

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill 2026 —...





CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari](#) →<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/04/09/us-iran-ceasefire-india-energy-security-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](https://bharatnotes.com) → bharatnotes.com

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com

