



## Strait of Hormuz

### Why in News?

Recently, the United Arab Emirates and Iran's military have started their annual Drill in the coastal area of the [Gulf of Oman](#) and near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

- The maneuvers are **aimed at improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion.**

### What is the Strait of Hormuz?

- The strait is located at the **mouth of the Persian Gulf** and is crucial to global energy supplies, with about a fifth of all oil traded at sea passing through it.
- The waterway **separates Iran and Oman, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.**
- The Strait is 33 km wide at its narrowest point, but the shipping lane is just three km wide in either direction.
- Most crude exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq - all members of the [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries \(OPEC\)](#) - is shipped through this waterway.
- It is also the route used for nearly all the **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** produced by the world's biggest LNG exporter, Qatar.
- The UAE and Saudi Arabia have sought to find other routes to bypass the Strait, including building more oil pipelines.



## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

**Q.** Which one of the following straits is nearest to the International Date Line? **(2008)**

- (a) Malacca Strait
- (b) Bering Strait
- (c) Strait of Florida
- (d) Strait of Gibraltar

**Ans:** (b)

- The International Date Line (IDL) is an imaginary line on the Earth's surface which functions as a "line of demarcation" separating two consecutive calendar dates.
- The IDL is located halfway around the world from the prime meridian (0° longitude) or about 180° east (or west) of Greenwich (London, UK), the reference point of time zones.
- The date line runs from the North Pole to the South Pole and marks the divide between the Western and Eastern Hemisphere.
- Despite its name, the IDL has no legal international status and countries are free to choose the dates that they observe.
- In the north, the date line swings to the east through the Bering strait and then west past the Aleutian Islands.
- **Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

[Source: ET](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/strait-of-hormuz-2>