Lavan Island

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance Geography

Why in News?

Recent reports (May 2026) indicate that Lavan Island, a strategic Iranian territory in the Persian Gulf, was the target of covert military strikes during a broader regional conflict.

These strikes reportedly targeted an oil refinery on the island, leading to significant operational disruptions.

Lavan Island

- **Location -** Situated in the Persian Gulf, approximately 40 km west of Qeshm Island, within the Hormozgan Province of Iran.
- **Geography -** It measures approximately 25 km in length and 5 km in width.
- **Epithet -** Known as the "Hidden Pearl Island" due to its historical significance in the pearl fishing industry.
- **Economic Significance -** It serves as one of Iran's most critical **oil export terminals**.
- The island houses a major refinery and acts as a processing hub for offshore oil.
- It is the operating base for three major offshore fields: Salman, Resalat, and Reshadat.
- **Infrastructure -** Features process plants, storage facilities, maintenance utilities, and a loading jetty for oil tankers.
- **Strategic Importance -** Proximity to Strait of Hormuz: Located near the world's most important oil transit chokepoint, through which nearly 20% of the world's crude oil passes.
- **The Salman Field -** Located 144 km south of Lavan, it is one of the largest offshore complexes in the Persian Gulf, with crude oil transferred to Lavan for final processing and export.
- **Geopolitics -** Its role as a major energy hub makes it a sensitive target during regional conflicts, affecting global oil prices and maritime security.

Recent Conflict (May 2026)

- The reported strike on the Lavan refinery occurred during a period of high tension involving the U.S., Iran, and Gulf monarchies.
- Reports suggest the strike triggered retaliatory drone and missile attacks on regional energy and water infrastructure, highlighting the vulnerability of energy supply chains in the West Asian region.

FOR Reference : THE ECONOMIC TIMES



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