International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of India's counter-terrorism and defence cooperation with ASEAN and its dialogue partners in advancing regional security and the Act East Policy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–ASEAN strategic partnership; ADMM-Plus; counter-terrorism capacity-building; maritime security; cybersecurity; intelligence sharing; Act East Policy; strategic autonomy and regional stability

Model Answer

Introduction

Terrorism, maritime insecurity and cyber threats increasingly transcend national boundaries. India's offer to share counter-terrorism expertise with ASEAN members and their dialogue partners reflects the importance of cooperative regional security.

Significance of Defence Cooperation

Counter-Terrorism: Sharing operational experience, intelligence and training can strengthen the capacity of partner countries to prevent terrorist attacks, disrupt financing and counter radicalisation.

Maritime Security: Cooperation can improve information-sharing, maritime domain awareness and responses to piracy, trafficking and other threats affecting vital sea lanes.

Cybersecurity: Joint capacity-building can help address cyberattacks, terrorist use of digital platforms and threats to critical infrastructure.

Act East Policy: Defence engagement complements India's economic and diplomatic ties with Southeast Asia and supports a stable, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Challenges

Differences in national priorities, intelligence-sharing restrictions, technological disparities and geopolitical rivalries can limit cooperation. Counter-terrorism measures must also respect human rights and the rule of law.

Way Forward

India should promote regular joint exercises, secure information-sharing mechanisms, maritime coordination and specialised cyber training through ASEAN-led platforms, including ADMM-Plus.

Conclusion

Sustained, inclusive and rules-based defence cooperation can strengthen regional resilience while advancing India's strategic partnerships in Southeast Asia.

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