International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic and technological concerns arising from defence technology transfers in South Asia. How can India safeguard its security interests while strengthening defence partnerships?

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Defence technology transfers; India-US defence cooperation; Pakistan-China relations; end-use monitoring; export controls; strategic autonomy; regional security

Model Answer

Introduction

Defence technology transfers can strengthen military capabilities and interoperability but also create concerns about end-use compliance, technology leakage and regional military balances. India's reported warning regarding sensitive US technology supplied to Pakistan highlights these challenges.

Strategic Concerns

1. Technology leakage: Sensitive equipment, software or technical information may reach third parties if safeguards are inadequate, potentially affecting the technological advantage of the original supplier.

2. Regional security: Transfers involving countries with close defence partnerships may influence military planning and perceptions of strategic balance in South Asia.

3. Trust and interoperability: Uncertainty over end use can complicate defence cooperation and create concerns regarding the protection of sensitive information.

Safeguards and Policy Options

The United States and other suppliers can strengthen end-use monitoring, contractual restrictions, export licensing and compliance assessments. India should enhance intelligence-sharing with trusted partners, indigenous defence R&D, cybersecurity and protection of classified information.

Dialogue on technology security and transparent communication can help address concerns without escalating regional tensions.

Conclusion

Defence partnerships require both cooperation and credible safeguards. A balanced approach combining export controls, end-use verification, indigenous capabilities and sustained diplomacy can protect India's security interests while preserving strategic autonomy.

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