International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of India's defence and counter-terrorism cooperation with ASEAN in strengthening security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Act East Policy; ASEAN centrality; counter-terrorism cooperation; maritime security; UNCLOS; freedom of navigation; strategic partnerships; regional stability

Model Answer

Introduction

India's offer to share counter-terrorism expertise with ASEAN reflects its growing role in regional security cooperation and its commitment to a stable Indo-Pacific.

Significance of Cooperation

- **Counter-terrorism:** Sharing operational experience, intelligence and capacity-building support can strengthen regional responses to terrorism.
- **Maritime security:** Cooperation against piracy, trafficking and other transnational threats can secure vital sea lanes.
- **Rules-based order:** Respect for UNCLOS and freedom of navigation supports peaceful maritime activities.
- **Act East Policy:** Defence engagement strengthens India's strategic partnership with ASEAN.
- **Regional capacity-building:** Joint exercises, training and information-sharing improve interoperability and preparedness.

Challenges

Geopolitical rivalries, differences in national priorities, maritime disputes and evolving non-traditional threats may constrain cooperation.

Way Forward

India should expand joint exercises, maritime domain awareness, intelligence-sharing and institutional engagement while respecting ASEAN centrality and international law.

Conclusion

Sustained India-ASEAN security cooperation can contribute to a secure, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

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