International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic significance of the India-EU Security and Defence Partnership in addressing emerging traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

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15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Maritime security, defence technology, cyber threats, counterterrorism, Indo-Pacific, strategic autonomy, multilateralism

Model Answer

The India-EU Security and Defence Partnership reflects the growing convergence between two major actors in an increasingly uncertain geopolitical environment. The 12th India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations held in November 2026 reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening this cooperation.

Strategic significance:

1. **Maritime security:** Cooperation can strengthen maritime domain awareness, protect sea lines of communication and promote freedom of navigation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

2. **Defence technology:** Collaboration in defence industries, research and technology can support innovation, diversify supply chains and strengthen India's defence capabilities.

3. **Counterterrorism:** Intelligence cooperation and coordinated responses can help address terrorism, violent extremism and cross-border threats.

4. **Cybersecurity:** Joint efforts against cyberattacks, hybrid threats and emerging digital vulnerabilities can improve institutional resilience.

5. **Space security:** Cooperation in space technologies and protection of critical space infrastructure can address emerging strategic vulnerabilities.

6. **Rules-based international order:** Their shared emphasis on sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful dispute resolution strengthens support for international law and multilateralism.

However, differences in strategic priorities, defence regulations and approaches to geopolitical conflicts may constrain cooperation.

Way forward: Both sides should strengthen institutional dialogue, facilitate defence technology partnerships, improve information-sharing mechanisms and translate commitments into measurable outcomes.

A deeper India-EU security partnership can contribute to regional stability while allowing India to preserve its strategic autonomy and pursue an independent foreign policy.

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