Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the significance of India–US cooperation in combating terrorism. Discuss the major challenges in counter-terrorism cooperation and suggest measures to strengthen it.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Intelligence sharing, 26/11 Mumbai attacks, terrorist financing, FATF, extradition, cyberterrorism, cross-border terrorism, international cooperation, data protection, legal frameworks, capacity-building and multilateral institutions.

Model Answer

Introduction

Terrorism remains a major threat to national security and international stability. India–US cooperation is important because terrorist networks often operate across borders and exploit financial, technological and communication systems.

Significance of Cooperation

- **Intelligence sharing:** Timely information exchange can help identify threats and prevent attacks.
- **Counter-terrorism capacity:** Joint exercises, training and law-enforcement coordination improve operational preparedness.
- **Financial security:** Cooperation aligned with FATF standards can help disrupt terrorist financing and illicit financial networks.

- **International coordination:** Engagement through the United Nations and other forums can strengthen collective action against terrorism.

Major Challenges

Differences in legal systems, extradition procedures, evidentiary requirements and data-sharing rules can delay investigations. Geopolitical differences, cyber threats and the use of emerging technologies by terrorist groups create additional difficulties.

Way Forward

India and the US should strengthen secure intelligence-sharing mechanisms, improve mutual legal assistance, coordinate financial investigations and enhance cybersecurity cooperation. Counter-terrorism measures must also uphold human rights, due process and international law.

Conclusion

Sustained bilateral cooperation, supported by multilateral institutions and effective domestic enforcement, can improve the ability of both countries to prevent and respond to terrorist threats.

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