Defence & Security · GS - III

“India's extensive coastline and maritime interests require a coordinated, multi-layered coastal security architecture.” Examine the significance of joint coastal defence exercises in strengthening India's maritime security preparedness.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Coastal surveillance, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, marine police, inter-agency coordination, intelligence sharing, EEZ protection, maritime terrorism, illegal trafficking, port security, operational preparedness.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's extensive coastline, island territories and maritime economic interests create complex security challenges. Coastal defence therefore requires coordination among multiple security and intelligence agencies.

Significance of Joint Exercises

- **Operational readiness:** Exercises assess the ability of agencies to respond to infiltration, maritime terrorism and suspicious vessel movements.
- **Inter-agency coordination:** They improve coordination among the Navy, Coast Guard, marine police, customs and port authorities.

- **Surveillance integration:** They test coastal radar networks, communication systems and information-sharing mechanisms.
- **EEZ protection:** Coordinated maritime monitoring helps protect fisheries, offshore installations and other economic interests.
- **Institutional preparedness:** Exercises identify gaps in infrastructure, personnel training and emergency response procedures.

Challenges

Fragmented information systems, jurisdictional overlaps, inadequate coastal infrastructure and varying capacities among coastal states can weaken preparedness.

Way Forward

India should strengthen real-time maritime information sharing, coastal police infrastructure, technology integration and regular joint training.

Conclusion

A technology-enabled and institutionally coordinated coastal security framework is essential to safeguard India's maritime sovereignty, economic assets and national security.

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