Current Affairs · GS - II

Discuss the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific region for India. How can maritime cooperation contribute to regional stability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Sea lanes, trade, energy security, China's growing influence, freedom of navigation, QUAD, maritime domain awareness, HADR, piracy.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Indo-Pacific connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans and serves as a major centre of global trade, energy flows and strategic competition.

Strategic Significance for India

1. Trade and connectivity: India's economic interests depend heavily on secure maritime routes.
2. Energy security: Sea lanes facilitate the movement of imported oil and gas.
3. Geopolitical interests: The region's strategic competition and China's expanding maritime presence affect India's security environment.
4. Regional partnerships: Cooperation with ASEAN countries, Japan, Australia and the United States supports India's regional engagement.

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Role of Maritime Cooperation

1. Strengthens information-sharing and maritime domain awareness.
2. Helps combat piracy, trafficking and illegal fishing.
3. Promotes joint exercises, search-and-rescue operations and disaster relief.
4. Supports freedom of navigation and respect for international law, including UNCLOS.

Challenges:

Strategic rivalry, territorial disputes and unequal maritime capabilities can hinder cooperation.

Conclusion:

India can promote a stable and inclusive Indo-Pacific through naval diplomacy, regional partnerships and rules-based maritime cooperation.

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