International Relations · GS - II

Examine the significance of India–United States defence cooperation for India’s strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific. Discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with this partnership.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

LEMOA; COMCASA; BECA; defence technology transfer; joint production; Indo-Pacific security; strategic autonomy; interoperability and regional stability

Model Answer

Introduction

India–United States defence cooperation has expanded through logistics arrangements, secure communications, information sharing and efforts to develop defence technology jointly. It reflects growing convergence on regional security while preserving India’s strategic autonomy.

Significance

1. Operational cooperation: LEMOA facilitates reciprocal logistics support, while COMCASA enables secure military communications. BECA supports geospatial information sharing, improving situational awareness.

2. Technology and manufacturing: Joint research, co-production and technology transfer can strengthen India’s defence industrial base, support skilled employment and reduce selected import dependencies.

3. Indo-Pacific stability: Cooperation in maritime awareness, exercises and information sharing can improve responses to emerging security challenges and support a rules-based regional order.

Challenges

Differences in strategic priorities, technology-transfer restrictions, procurement costs and dependence on foreign platforms can constrain cooperation. India must also manage its relations with other major powers and protect sensitive information.

Way Forward

India should prioritise domestic research, joint development, diversified defence procurement and clearly defined cooperation mechanisms. Regular dialogue and respect for sovereign decision-making can deepen mutual trust.

Conclusion

The partnership can enhance India’s defence capabilities and regional influence if cooperation remains balanced, mutually beneficial and consistent with India’s independent foreign policy.

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