International Relations · GS - II

Examine the key elements of India's strategy to manage its strategic competition with China while maintaining peace and stability along the border.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Border security; military modernisation; strategic partnerships; Quad cooperation; diplomatic engagement; economic resilience; conflict management

Model Answer

Introduction

India-China relations combine economic engagement with strategic competition and unresolved border disputes. India's approach seeks to protect territorial integrity while preventing escalation.

Key Elements of India's Strategy

1. Military Preparedness: Modernisation of armed forces, improved surveillance, logistics and border infrastructure strengthen India's ability to respond to security challenges.

2. Strategic Partnerships: Cooperation with the Quad partners—Australia, Japan and the United States—supports maritime security, critical technologies and resilient supply chains. The Quad is not a formal collective-defence alliance.

3. Diplomatic Engagement: Mechanisms such as Special Representatives' talks and the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs facilitate dialogue and help prevent misunderstandings.

4. Economic and Technological Resilience: Diversifying supply chains, strengthening domestic manufacturing and developing critical technologies can reduce strategic vulnerabilities.

Challenges

Differences over the LAC, the military and economic asymmetry, and mutual distrust complicate relations. Excessive confrontation could also disrupt regional stability and trade.

Way Forward

India should combine credible deterrence with sustained dialogue, reliable crisis communication, infrastructure development and selective cooperation on shared interests.

Conclusion

A balanced strategy integrating defence preparedness, diplomacy, partnerships and economic resilience can help India safeguard its interests while reducing the risks of prolonged confrontation.

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