Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the significance of India–Israel defence cooperation in strengthening India's maritime security and technological capabilities.

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Answer Hint

Defence technology partnership, Barak missile system, naval air defence, technology transfer, joint development, indigenous manufacturing, maritime threats, Indian Ocean Region, strategic autonomy, defence diversification.

Model Answer

Introduction

India–Israel defence cooperation has evolved into a significant strategic partnership, particularly in advanced military technologies. The Barak missile programme reflects collaboration in strengthening India's naval air-defence capabilities.

Significance of Defence Cooperation

- **Enhanced maritime security:** Upgradation of the Barak system improves the Navy's ability to counter aircraft, drones and incoming missiles.
- **Technology collaboration:** Joint development and modernisation facilitate access to advanced missile, radar and interception technologies.
- **Operational preparedness:** Improved air-defence systems strengthen the protection of naval vessels and maritime assets.
- **Indigenous capabilities:** Collaboration can support domestic defence manufacturing, maintenance and technological learning.

- **Strategic diversification:** Partnerships with multiple countries reduce excessive dependence on a single source of defence technology.

Challenges

Dependence on foreign components, maintenance requirements, technology-transfer limitations and integration with existing naval platforms remain important concerns. Defence cooperation must also align with India's long-term goal of strategic autonomy.

Way Forward

India should promote deeper technology transfer, domestic research and development, indigenous component manufacturing and joint production. Greater participation of Indian defence industries can help build sustainable technological capabilities.

Conclusion

India–Israel defence cooperation contributes to maritime preparedness and defence modernisation. Its long-term value will depend on converting external partnerships into stronger indigenous technological capacity.

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