International Relations · GS - II

Analyse the importance of India-France counter-terrorism cooperation in addressing the evolving threats of cross-border terrorism, terror financing and technology-enabled radicalisation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Strategic partnership, intelligence sharing, cross-border terrorism, FATF, UN cooperation, cyber radicalisation, terrorist financing, PRAHAAR strategy, defence cooperation, international legal frameworks.

Model Answer

Introduction

Terrorism increasingly operates through transnational networks, digital platforms and illicit financial channels. India-France cooperation provides an important bilateral mechanism to address these evolving threats through intelligence sharing and multilateral engagement.

Major Areas of Cooperation

1. **Intelligence sharing:** Exchange of information on terrorist networks, operatives and cross-border activities strengthens preventive capabilities.

2. **Counter-terror financing:** Cooperation through FATF and financial intelligence mechanisms helps identify suspicious transactions, illicit networks and funding channels.

3. **Technology-enabled terrorism:** Joint efforts can address online radicalisation, encrypted communications, cyber threats and misuse of emerging technologies.

4. **Multilateral coordination:** Both countries support stronger international cooperation through the United Nations and implementation of global counter-terrorism frameworks.

5. **Strategic partnership:** Defence, intelligence and diplomatic cooperation strengthens their shared commitment to combating terrorism.

Challenges

- Differences in national legal frameworks and evidentiary standards.
- Difficulties in tracking cryptocurrency and informal financial channels.
- Rapid technological changes and encrypted digital networks.
- Geopolitical differences affecting international consensus on terrorism.

Way Forward

India and France should strengthen real-time intelligence exchange, financial investigations, cyber-forensic capabilities and cooperation on international legal instruments. Greater coordination at the UN and FATF can also improve global counter-terrorism responses.

Conclusion

Counter-terrorism requires sustained international cooperation rather than isolated national action. India-France partnership can contribute to a coordinated, technology-responsive and rules-based global framework against terrorism while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

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