Defence & Security · GS - III

The deepening China–Pakistan strategic partnership has added complexity to India's security environment by increasing the possibility of a coordinated two-front challenge. Analyse its implications for India's national security and strategic preparedness.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

China–Pakistan nexus, two-front threat, CPEC, military modernisation, Operation Sindoor, Indian Ocean Region, maritime security, strategic autonomy, defence preparedness

Model Answer

Introduction

India's security environment is shaped by simultaneous strategic challenges along its western and northern borders. The growing China–Pakistan partnership has strengthened concerns about a potential two-front contingency, as highlighted by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Implications for India's Security

1. **Military coordination:** Joint exercises, defence technology cooperation and arms transfers can enhance Pakistan's military capabilities.
2. **Strategic pressure:** A simultaneous challenge on the western and northern fronts could stretch India's military resources and operational preparedness.
3. **Territorial concerns:** CPEC through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir reinforces India's sovereignty concerns.

4. **Indirect strategic support:** Intelligence, logistics, diplomatic backing and military supplies can influence a conflict without direct Chinese participation.
5. **Maritime dimension:** China's expanding Indian Ocean presence creates additional challenges for India's maritime security and sea lines of communication.

Strategic Preparedness Required

- **Integrated defence planning:** Strengthen jointness among the Army, Navy and Air Force through theatre-based operational coordination.
- **Border infrastructure:** Improve roads, tunnels, surveillance and logistics along sensitive borders.
- **Maritime partnerships:** Expand cooperation with like-minded countries through information sharing, naval exercises and maritime domain awareness.
- **Defence indigenisation:** Accelerate domestic production of critical technologies, ammunition, drones and advanced platforms.
- **Diplomatic engagement:** Maintain strategic autonomy while strengthening partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Deterrence and resilience:** Improve cyber, space and intelligence capabilities alongside conventional military preparedness.

Conclusion

India must prepare for a two-front contingency through integrated military capabilities, maritime strength, technological self-reliance and calibrated diplomacy. A credible deterrence strategy should prevent escalation while safeguarding national sovereignty.

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