International Relations · GS - II

The effectiveness of international counter-terrorism cooperation depends on credible evidence, intelligence-sharing and mutual legal assistance rather than diplomatic assertions alone. Analyse the institutional and legal mechanisms available to address cross-border terrorism.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border terrorism, international cooperation, evidentiary standards, intelligence-sharing, FATF, UN conventions, Interpol, mutual legal assistance, extradition, state sovereignty, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Cross-border terrorism presents complex security challenges because terrorist networks, financial channels and operational activities often extend beyond national jurisdictions. Addressing it requires credible evidence and coordinated international action.

Institutional and Legal Mechanisms

1. **United Nations framework:** UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) obliges states to prevent terrorist financing, deny safe havens and strengthen cooperation.

2. **Financial intelligence:** FATF standards and recommendations help countries identify terrorist financing networks and strengthen financial monitoring.

3. **Police cooperation:** Interpol facilitates information-sharing, international alerts and coordination among national law-enforcement agencies.

4. **Mutual legal assistance:** States can exchange evidence, financial records and investigative assistance through bilateral and multilateral arrangements.

5. **Extradition mechanisms:** Extradition treaties and applicable domestic laws facilitate the transfer of accused persons for prosecution, subject to legal safeguards.

Major Challenges

- Differences in national definitions of terrorism.
- Political disagreements and lack of mutual trust.
- Difficulties in obtaining admissible cross-border evidence.
- Safe havens, illicit financial networks and weak enforcement capacity.
- Misuse of counter-terrorism measures for political purposes.

Way Forward

India and other countries should strengthen intelligence cooperation, improve evidence-based investigations, expand financial tracking and support international legal mechanisms while respecting sovereignty and due process.

Conclusion

Counter-terrorism cooperation requires verifiable evidence, institutional accountability and consistent application of international law. Effective collaboration is essential to prevent terrorist networks from exploiting jurisdictional and political divisions.