International Relations · GS - II

India's position that meaningful dialogue with Pakistan requires credible action against cross-border terrorism reflects the intersection of security concerns and diplomatic engagement. Examine the role of counter-terrorism cooperation, bilateral mechanisms and international pressure in addressing this challenge.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border terrorism, bilateral dialogue, Simla Agreement, intelligence-sharing, FATF, UN counter-terrorism framework, trust deficit, regional stability

Model Answer

Introduction

India–Pakistan relations have remained affected by cross-border terrorism and a persistent trust deficit. India's stated position links meaningful bilateral engagement with credible action against terrorist infrastructure and networks.

Instruments for Addressing the Challenge

1. **Bilateral mechanisms:** The Simla Agreement provides a framework for peaceful resolution of differences through bilateral negotiations or other mutually agreed peaceful means.

2. **Counter-terrorism cooperation:** Intelligence-sharing, investigation of terrorist networks and action against financing channels can address security concerns.

3. **International frameworks:** UNSC Resolution 1373 and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism establish obligations to prevent terrorist financing and support.

4. **FATF mechanism:** Monitoring compliance with anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorist-financing standards can encourage improvements in national financial safeguards.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- Persistent mistrust and competing security narratives obstruct dialogue.
- Terrorist networks operating across borders require credible investigation and accountability.
- Diplomatic engagement should be supported by verifiable commitments and institutional mechanisms.
- Communication channels should remain available to manage escalation and humanitarian concerns.

Conclusion

Sustainable India–Pakistan engagement requires addressing security concerns alongside maintaining diplomatic channels. A combination of verifiable counter-terrorism action, international cooperation and mutually agreed dialogue can contribute to regional stability.

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