International Relations · GS - II

Diplomatic engagement on counter-terrorism requires credible evidence, institutional cooperation and sustained international pressure. Examine the role of multilateral institutions and bilateral mechanisms in addressing cross-border terrorism, particularly in the context of India–Pakistan relations.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border terrorism, UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, UNSC Resolution 1373, FATF, INTERPOL, intelligence-sharing, mutual legal assistance, bilateral dialogue, accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Cross-border terrorism poses challenges to national security and regional stability. Addressing it requires cooperation among states, credible investigations and effective international legal mechanisms.

Role of International and Bilateral Mechanisms

1. **United Nations:** UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) obliges states to suppress terrorist financing, prevent terrorist support and strengthen international cooperation.

2. **FATF:** Its recommendations establish standards against money laundering and terrorist financing. Monitoring encourages improvements in national financial safeguards.

3. **INTERPOL:** It facilitates information exchange and international police cooperation through notices and secure communication systems.

4. **Bilateral cooperation:** Intelligence-sharing, evidence exchange, mutual legal assistance and coordinated investigations can help address transnational terrorist networks.

Challenges and the Way Forward

- Political mistrust often obstructs intelligence and investigative cooperation.
- Differences in legal systems and evidentiary standards complicate extradition and prosecution.
- International mechanisms require consistent implementation rather than selective political use.
- India and Pakistan need credible action against terrorist financing and infrastructure, alongside diplomatic channels for managing tensions.

Conclusion

Counter-terrorism cannot depend solely on diplomatic statements or international pressure. Evidence-based investigations, domestic enforcement and sustained multilateral cooperation are essential for accountability and regional security.

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