Defence & Security · GS - III

What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve maritime security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India faces maritime threats from terrorism, piracy, smuggling, illegal fishing, trafficking and strategic competition in the Indian Ocean. Effective security requires coordination among maritime agencies, surveillance technology, coastal community participation and standardised operating procedures to protect ports, shipping and offshore assets.

Model Answer

Introduction

India’s long coastline, island territories and dependence on sea-borne trade make maritime security essential for national security and economic stability.

Major Challenges

These include seaborne terrorism, piracy, arms and narcotics smuggling, illegal fishing, human trafficking, cyberattacks on port systems and threats to offshore energy infrastructure.

Initiatives

Organisational: The Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police and other agencies coordinate maritime surveillance. The National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security provides inter-agency coordination.

Technical: Coastal radar chains, the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC), vessel-monitoring systems, automatic identification systems and satellite surveillance improve maritime domain awareness.

Procedural: Vessel registration and tracking, coastal-security exercises, port security protocols, intelligence-sharing and community participation help identify suspicious activity. The 26/11 Mumbai attacks also prompted stronger coastal surveillance and coordination.

Conclusion

Maritime security requires an integrated approach combining capable institutions, modern technology and effective procedures. Continuous coordination and international cooperation are crucial to safeguarding India’s maritime interests.

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