Defence & Security · GS - III

“India's response to cross-border terrorism requires a balance between credible military deterrence, diplomatic engagement and long-term security measures.”

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border terrorism, national security, military deterrence, surgical strikes, intelligence coordination, border management, diplomatic relations, international cooperation, regional stability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Cross-border terrorism remains a major challenge to India's national security and regional stability. Statements by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh warning of a stronger response to future terrorist attacks, and Pakistan's subsequent criticism, highlight continuing tensions between the two countries.

Main Body

Importance of a comprehensive response

1. Military deterrence: Credible defence capabilities can raise the costs of sponsoring or conducting terrorist attacks.
2. Border security: Surveillance technology, intelligence sharing and improved border infrastructure can help prevent infiltration.

3. Diplomatic engagement: Bilateral and multilateral channels can communicate concerns and reduce the risk of unintended escalation.
4. International cooperation: Intelligence sharing and action against terrorist financing can strengthen counter-terrorism efforts.
5. Crisis management: Clear communication and adherence to international law can reduce the possibility of military confrontation escalating into a wider conflict.

Way forward

India should strengthen intelligence-led operations, modernise border management and maintain diplomatic engagement while retaining credible defensive capabilities.

Conclusion

A sustainable counter-terrorism strategy requires more than military retaliation. Combining deterrence, intelligence, diplomacy and international cooperation can help protect national interests while supporting regional peace and stability.

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