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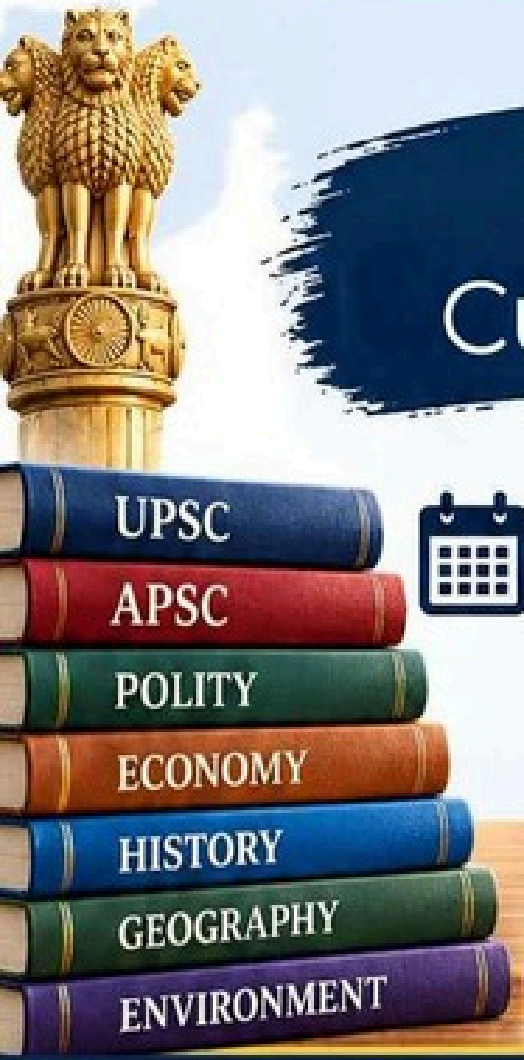
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GS Paper II: International Relations

India–ASEAN Defence Cooperation

- **DefenceMinisterRajnath SinghcalledforstrongerIndia–ASEAN defence and technological cooperation.**
- **Key proposals include joint defence research, co-production of military equipment and enhanced maritime security.**
- **2026 is designated as the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation.**
- **Cooperation will focus on maritime domain awareness, interoperability and underwater surveillance.**

Key Initiatives:

- **Act East Policy: Strengthens India's engagement with Southeast Asia.**
- **SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region.**
- **MAHASAGAR: Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.**

Significance:

- **Promotes a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.**
- **Strengthens regional maritime security.**
- **Reduces dependence on foreign defence technology.**
- **Counters emerging traditional and non-traditional security threats.**

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Prelims Questions

What does SAGAR stand for?

A. Security and Growth for All in the Region

B. Strategic Alliance for Global Asian Relations

C. Security Agreement for Regional Growth

D. Sustainable Advancement for Global Asian Resources

Answer: A. Security and Growth for All in the Region

Mains Question (GS Paper II):

Discuss the significance of India–ASEAN defence cooperation in strengthening maritime security and promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (150 words)