Defence & Security · GS - III

Cross-border militancy in the Afghanistan–Pakistan region illustrates the complex relationship between geography, ethnic linkages and internal security. Analyse the major challenges it poses to regional stability and suggest measures to address them.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border terrorism, Durand Line dispute, porous borders and difficult terrain, militant safe havens, Pashtun ethnic linkages, Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, intelligence coordination, border management, regional cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Afghanistan–Pakistan border region, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, faces persistent security challenges arising from militant networks, difficult terrain and unresolved political and territorial issues.

Major Security Challenges

The Durand Line, established in 1893, remains politically contentious between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Its mountainous and porous stretches complicate surveillance and effective border management. Militant organisations exploit these vulnerabilities to move across borders, organise attacks and establish operational networks.

The region's Pashtun ethnic and tribal linkages across the border add a social dimension to security management. Military operations, displacement and recurring violence also affect civilian populations, livelihoods and regional development. Mutual accusations of providing militant sanctuaries further strain bilateral relations.

Measures to Address the Challenges

Pakistan and Afghanistan need sustained intelligence-sharing, coordinated border surveillance and mechanisms for investigating cross-border attacks. Border infrastructure, community engagement and development initiatives can reduce the vulnerabilities exploited by militant groups. Regional diplomatic cooperation and civilian protection must complement security operations.

Conclusion

Durable stability requires a comprehensive approach combining counterterrorism, effective border governance, regional dialogue and inclusive development.