Defence & Security · GS - III

Local security personnel such as Special Police Officers can strengthen counter-insurgency operations, but their deployment also raises concerns regarding vulnerability, accountability and human rights. Critically examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Local intelligence and geographical familiarity, community-based policing, counter-insurgency support, vulnerability to militant retaliation, training and equipment, accountability mechanisms, human rights safeguards, rehabilitation and welfare, coordination with regular forces.

Model Answer

Introduction

In insurgency-affected regions, local security personnel such as Special Police Officers (SPOs) assist regular police and security forces in maintaining law and order. Their local knowledge can improve operational effectiveness.

Role in Counter-Insurgency

SPOs can provide area-specific intelligence, identify unfamiliar movements and facilitate communication with local communities. Their familiarity with terrain, language and social networks makes them valuable in security operations. They can also strengthen cooperation between civilians and security agencies.

Challenges and Concerns

Their involvement in sensitive operations can expose them to militant retaliation, as illustrated by attacks on local security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir. Inadequate training, equipment, insurance and institutional support can increase their vulnerability. Weak oversight may also create risks of arbitrary action and human rights violations.

Way Forward

SPOs require structured training, adequate protective equipment, insurance, timely compensation and psychological support. Clear operational responsibilities, independent oversight and accountability mechanisms must govern their deployment. Coordination with regular police forces should remain central.

Conclusion

Local security personnel can contribute significantly to counter-insurgency efforts, but their effectiveness and legitimacy depend on professional support, civilian trust and robust accountability.

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