Defence & Security · GS - III

Critical transport infrastructure is increasingly vulnerable to acts of sabotage and cross-border security threats. Examine the challenges involved in securing India's railway network and suggest suitable measures.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Critical infrastructure protection, railway security, cross-border networks, intelligence coordination, RPF, GRP, NIA, surveillance technology, cybersecurity, emergency response, public participation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Railways are a vital component of India's economic and strategic infrastructure. Any act of sabotage can disrupt transportation, threaten public safety and create wider economic consequences.

Major Security Challenges

The extensive railway network, remote tracks, vulnerable bridges and limited surveillance create security gaps. Cross-border handlers, local recruitment, explosives and digital communication can complicate threat detection. Coordination gaps between security agencies may further delay preventive action.

Institutional Framework

The Railway Protection Force protects railway property and passengers, while the Government Railway Police and state police handle criminal investigations within their jurisdiction. The NIA may investigate cases involving scheduled offences under its statutory mandate.

Way Forward

India should strengthen intelligence-sharing, track surveillance, drone monitoring, rapid response teams and forensic capabilities. Regular security audits, community reporting mechanisms and coordinated emergency drills can improve preparedness.

Conclusion

Protecting railway infrastructure requires a preventive, technology-driven and intelligence-led security framework supported by effective coordination between central and state agencies.

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