Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine how the presence of militant groups along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border complicates regional security and bilateral relations. Suggest measures to strengthen border management and counter-terrorism cooperation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border militancy, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Durand Line, intelligence sharing, border management, regional stability, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Pakistan-Afghanistan border has remained a major security concern due to cross-border militant networks, particularly the activities of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Recent Pakistani military operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa highlight the continuing challenge.

Security Implications

1. **Cross-border militancy:** Militant groups exploit difficult terrain and porous border stretches to maintain networks, movement and operational bases.
2. **Bilateral tensions:** Allegations of militant sanctuaries and external support deepen mistrust between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
3. **Regional instability:** Violence threatens border communities, trade routes and wider regional connectivity.
4. **Humanitarian concerns:** Military operations and retaliatory violence can cause civilian casualties, displacement and disruption of livelihoods.

5. **Extremist networks:** Ideological and operational linkages among militant organisations complicate counter-terrorism efforts.

Measures to Strengthen Security

- Improve intelligence-sharing and coordinated border surveillance.
- Strengthen border infrastructure, lawful checkpoints and monitoring of illicit movement.
- Use diplomatic mechanisms to address allegations through verifiable evidence.
- Enhance cooperation against terrorist financing, arms trafficking and recruitment networks.
- Promote regional engagement involving Afghanistan's neighbours and relevant international institutions.
- Combine security operations with development, education and rehabilitation initiatives in vulnerable border regions.

Conclusion

Sustainable regional security requires more than military operations. A combination of effective border management, intelligence cooperation, diplomatic engagement and socio-economic development is essential to prevent militant networks from destabilising the region.

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