Defence & Security · GS - III

India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2024	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

India-China border, India-Pakistan border, LAC, LoC, territorial disputes, infiltration, terrorism, border infrastructure, BADP, BIM, border villages

Model Answer

Introduction

India's borders with China and Pakistan present distinct but interconnected security challenges. While the China border is dominated by unresolved territorial claims and military tensions, the Pakistan border also faces cross-border terrorism and infiltration.

Body

1. India-China Border

- The **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** remains disputed and its differing perceptions create patrolling and standoff risks.
- Territorial disagreements particularly concern eastern Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Military infrastructure development on both sides increases strategic competition.
- Difficult terrain, extreme weather and inadequate connectivity historically complicated India's border management.

2. India-Pakistan Border

- The **Line of Control (LoC)** remains a major security zone.
- Cross-border terrorism, infiltration and ceasefire violations have historically posed serious challenges.
- Drone-based arms and narcotics smuggling have created newer threats.
- The international border also faces organised smuggling and illegal cross-border movement.

3. Development under BADP and BIM

The **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** focuses on improving socio-economic infrastructure and strengthening the sense of security among border populations through facilities such as roads, education, health, drinking water and community infrastructure.

The **Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme** supports border fencing, border roads, floodlights, Border Out Posts, helipads and foot tracks, along with technological solutions in areas where physical fencing is difficult. The Ministry of Home Affairs lists the approved BIM outlay for 2021-22 to 2025-26 at ₹13,020 crore.

Conclusion

Effective border management requires both hard security and human security. Better connectivity, livelihood opportunities and essential services in border villages, combined with surveillance and resilient infrastructure, can transform border areas from vulnerable spaces into strategic assets.