Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the operational challenges faced by India's border guarding forces in preventing trans-border crimes along riverine and difficult terrains.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Riverine borders, difficult terrain, smuggling networks, surveillance limitations, inter-agency coordination, technology, personnel safety

Model Answer

Introduction

India's international borders include rivers, wetlands, forests and densely populated settlements. These geographical conditions create operational challenges for border guarding forces such as the Border Security Force (BSF), particularly in preventing smuggling and unauthorised crossings.

Major Operational Challenges

1. **Difficult Geography:** Riverine stretches, changing river channels, floods and marshlands restrict mobility and make continuous surveillance difficult.

2. **Evolving Smuggling Networks:** Organised networks exploit remote locations, porous stretches and local vulnerabilities to transport narcotics, cattle and other contraband.

3. **Surveillance Limitations:** Inadequate lighting, communication gaps and limited infrastructure can delay detection and response.

4. **Personnel Safety:** Pursuit operations in fast-flowing rivers, adverse weather and unfamiliar terrain expose personnel to drowning, injuries and other occupational hazards.

5. **Coordination Requirements:** Effective border management requires cooperation among the BSF, local police, customs authorities and civil administration.

Measures Required

1. **Technology Integration:** Expand the use of drones, thermal imaging, river surveillance systems and real-time communication networks.

2. **Specialised Training:** Provide personnel with riverine rescue, swimming, disaster response and watercraft-handling skills.

3. **Infrastructure Development:** Improve floating border outposts, patrol boats, lighting and all-weather access routes.

4. **Inter-agency Coordination:** Establish rapid information-sharing and joint operational mechanisms with local authorities.

5. **Personnel Welfare:** Ensure protective equipment, rescue teams, emergency medical support and standard operating procedures for high-risk pursuits.

Conclusion

Effective border management requires a combination of human capability, technological surveillance and inter-agency coordination. Protecting personnel safety alongside operational effectiveness is essential for securing India's difficult border regions.