Defence & Security · GS - III

Evaluate the challenges of managing India's International Border with Pakistan, particularly along riverine and difficult terrain.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Border management, riverine terrain, infiltration, surveillance technology, border fencing, BSF, local communities, integrated security

Model Answer

India's International Border with Pakistan faces multiple security challenges arising from cross-border infiltration, difficult terrain and the possibility of illicit activities. Riverine stretches are particularly challenging because conventional fencing and patrolling may be difficult.

1. Major operational challenges

1. **Riverine geography:** Rivers, changing channels and seasonal flooding create gaps in physical barriers and complicate continuous surveillance.
2. **Infiltration attempts:** Individuals or organised networks may exploit darkness, difficult terrain and gaps in monitoring to cross the border.
3. **Cross-border threats:** Smuggling, arms trafficking and narcotics networks can exploit vulnerable stretches.
4. **Technological limitations:** Fog, adverse weather and communication disruptions can reduce the effectiveness of surveillance systems.

2. Strengthening border management

1. **Technological surveillance:** Integrated border management systems, thermal imagers, ground sensors, drones and radar can improve detection.
2. **Infrastructure:** Appropriate fencing, flood-resilient border infrastructure, roads and observation posts can strengthen operational capacity.
3. **Intelligence coordination:** The BSF, local police and central intelligence agencies need timely information-sharing and coordinated responses.
4. **Community participation:** Border residents can contribute through local intelligence and cooperation with security agencies, supported by trust-building measures.

3. Balancing security and accountability

Border personnel must operate under clear rules of engagement, proportionality and established procedures. Incidents involving the use of force require appropriate documentation and investigation.

Conclusion

Effective border security requires a combination of physical infrastructure, technological capability, intelligence coordination and professional accountability. A terrain-sensitive approach is essential for securing India's riverine border stretches.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP