Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the role of Central Armed Police Forces in maintaining internal security and supporting state law-enforcement agencies in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Central Armed Police Forces, CRPF, Ministry of Home Affairs, Centre-State relations, public order, internal security, counter-insurgency, election security, federalism

Model Answer

Internal security is essential for maintaining public order, protecting citizens and ensuring effective governance. India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) assist state governments in addressing security challenges that require additional personnel and specialised capabilities.

Role of Central Armed Police Forces

1. **Maintenance of public order:** Forces such as the CRPF assist state police during riots, communal disturbances and major public events.
2. **Counter-insurgency operations:** Specialised CRPF units, including CoBRA, undertake operations against Left-Wing Extremism.
3. **Election security:** CAPFs are deployed to facilitate peaceful and secure elections, particularly in sensitive areas.
4. **Border management:** Forces such as BSF, ITBP and SSB perform specialised border security responsibilities.
5. **Critical infrastructure protection:** CISF provides security to important industrial establishments, airports and other strategic installations.

Challenges

1. Coordination gaps between central forces and state police.
2. Operational stress and difficult working conditions.
3. Intelligence-sharing and technological limitations.
4. Balancing security requirements with human rights and accountability.

Way Forward

Strengthening intelligence coordination, modernising equipment, improving personnel welfare and promoting cooperation between central and state agencies are essential.

Conclusion

CAPFs are important instruments of India's internal security framework. Their effective deployment, alongside capable state police forces and respect for constitutional safeguards, is necessary for maintaining peace and public order.

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