Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the role of Central Armed Police Forces in assisting State governments in maintaining internal security while preserving the federal distribution of powers.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

CRPF, Article 355, State List, public order, police, Centre-State relations, federalism, law and order

Model Answer

Public order and police are primarily State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. However, situations involving serious disturbances, communal tensions or internal security threats may require assistance from central forces.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), play an important role in supporting State administrations.

Their major functions include:

1. **Law-and-order assistance:** CRPF personnel assist State police in managing sensitive situations and preventing violence.
2. **Internal security:** The force undertakes counter-insurgency and counter-extremism operations in designated areas.
3. **Election security:** CAPFs support peaceful elections by providing security at polling stations and during election-related activities.
4. **Protection of vulnerable locations:** Deployment may be undertaken to secure sensitive public institutions and maintain order during emergencies.

5. **Crisis response:** Central forces can provide additional manpower and operational resources when State capacities are under pressure.

Article 355 places a duty on the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance and ensure that their governments function in accordance with the Constitution.

However, deployment of central forces must respect the constitutional responsibilities of State governments. Coordination, clear operational mandates and accountability are essential to prevent institutional friction.

The reported CRPF deployment at Thiruparankundram in Tamil Nadu illustrates the security role of central forces in a sensitive local situation following judicial directions.

Thus, effective internal security requires cooperation between the Union and States, with central assistance complementing rather than unnecessarily displacing State law-enforcement institutions.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP