Defence & Security · GS - III

Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

State-sponsored terrorism, cross-border infiltration, proxy warfare, insurgency, organised crime, narcotics trafficking, counterfeit currency, cyber attacks, disinformation, radicalisation, drone-based threats, intelligence coordination, border management, international cooperation, whole-of-government approach

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Model Answer

Introduction

India faces a complex internal-security environment in which external state and non-state actors exploit geographical vulnerabilities, social divisions, technological weaknesses and economic networks to undermine national stability.

Challenges Posed by External State Actors

- **Proxy warfare:** Hostile states may support militant groups, provide training or resources and use terrorism to destabilise India while maintaining plausible deniability.
- **Cross-border infiltration:** Porous and difficult-to-monitor borders facilitate the movement of armed militants and illegal entrants.

- **Cyber operations:** State-linked actors may target power grids, financial networks, defence systems and critical information infrastructure.
- **Information warfare:** Disinformation campaigns can aggravate communal tensions, undermine trust in institutions and influence public opinion.

Challenges Posed by Non-State Actors

- **Terrorist and insurgent groups:** They exploit local grievances, recruit vulnerable populations and attack civilians or security forces.
- **Organised crime:** Narcotics trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking and counterfeit currency finance criminal and extremist networks.
- **Technology-enabled threats:** Drones, encrypted communications and online radicalisation complicate surveillance and law enforcement.
- **External linkages:** Criminal syndicates, extremist organisations and illicit financial networks may cooperate across national borders.

Measures to Combat These Threats

- **Strengthen border security:** Improve surveillance, fencing where appropriate, coastal security, anti-tunnelling measures and drone detection.
- **Improve intelligence coordination:** Strengthen information-sharing among central agencies, state police and military institutions.
- **Counter cyber threats:** Protect critical infrastructure, build indigenous capabilities and strengthen incident-response mechanisms.
- **Disrupt terror financing:** Enforce anti-money-laundering laws, trace illicit funds and improve financial intelligence.
- **Address local grievances:** Promote inclusive development, education, employment and community engagement in vulnerable regions.
- **Strengthen diplomacy:** Improve intelligence cooperation, extradition arrangements and coordinated action against cross-border criminal networks.
- **Ensure accountable security operations:** Protect civil liberties and maintain public trust through lawful, proportionate action.

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Conclusion

India requires an integrated security strategy combining technological preparedness, effective policing, border management, international cooperation and inclusive governance. Durable internal security depends on both preventing external interference and reducing domestic vulnerabilities.

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