Defence & Security · GS - III

Analyse internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Cross-border terrorism; insurgency; illegal migration; narcotics and arms smuggling; counterfeit currency; human trafficking; border fencing; intelligence coordination; BSF; Assam Rifles; Indian Army; Coast Guard and state police

Model Answer

Introduction

India's borders with Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan face different security challenges arising from difficult terrain, cross-border networks and regional instability. Effective management requires coordinated surveillance, intelligence and community engagement.

Major threats along the borders

- **Pakistan border and LoC:** Cross-border terrorism, infiltration, ceasefire violations, arms smuggling and the use of drones to deliver weapons or narcotics pose serious threats.
- **Bangladesh border:** Illegal trafficking of narcotics, cattle, counterfeit currency and other contraband, along with human trafficking and irregular crossings, require sustained monitoring.
- **Myanmar border:** Insurgent movement, arms trafficking and narcotics networks are major concerns, particularly in the Northeast. Political instability in Myanmar adds to the challenge.

- **Common vulnerabilities:** Difficult terrain, porous stretches, informal routes, corruption and inadequate local infrastructure can facilitate illicit movement.
- **Internal consequences:** These activities may finance organised crime, support insurgency, undermine border communities and strain law-enforcement capacity.

Role of security forces and agencies

- **Border Security Force (BSF):** Guards the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, prevents infiltration and counters smuggling.
- **Indian Army:** Plays a major role along the LoC and in selected operational areas, supporting surveillance and counter-infiltration.
- **Assam Rifles:** Has a key role in security along the India–Myanmar border and in counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):** Guards the India–China border and contributes to the broader border-security framework.
- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):** Guards the Nepal and Bhutan borders.
- **State police and intelligence agencies:** Investigate local networks, gather intelligence, prosecute offenders and coordinate with central forces.
- **Indian Coast Guard and maritime agencies:** Help prevent coastal infiltration and maritime smuggling, complementing land-border security.

Way forward

Improve integrated surveillance, intelligence-sharing, border infrastructure and inter-agency coordination. Combine enforcement with lawful cross-border cooperation, community participation, local development and effective action against trafficking networks.

Conclusion

India's border-security challenges differ by region but are interconnected with organised crime and internal security. A coordinated, intelligence-led approach supported by accountable administration and resilient border communities is essential for lasting security.