Defence & Security · GS - III

Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Insurgent movement; difficult terrain; porous border; arms trafficking; narcotics; human trafficking; refugee flows; border infrastructure; intelligence cooperation; local livelihoods

Model Answer

Introduction

The India–Myanmar border, stretching across Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, runs through forested hills and communities with cross-border ethnic and cultural ties. These features make border management particularly complex.

Major Security Challenges

1. Insurgent Movement

Militant groups have historically used remote terrain and cross-border networks for movement, shelter and logistical support.

2. Drug Trafficking

The border's proximity to the Golden Triangle makes it vulnerable to trafficking in heroin, methamphetamine and other narcotics, contributing to addiction and organised crime.

3. Arms Smuggling

Illegal weapons and ammunition can reach insurgent groups through transnational criminal networks.

4. Human Trafficking and Illegal Trade

Weakly monitored routes may facilitate trafficking in persons, smuggling and other illicit activities.

5. Difficult Geography

Dense forests, mountains, limited roads and harsh weather complicate surveillance, patrols and rapid deployment.

6. Ethnic and Social Linkages

Communities across the border maintain family and cultural connections. Heavy-handed controls can disrupt legitimate movement and alienate local populations.

7. Political Instability in Myanmar

Conflict and instability can generate refugee movements, humanitarian pressures and opportunities for armed groups and criminal networks.

Measures to Counter the Challenges

- Strengthen border roads, communications, surveillance technology and appropriately equipped patrols.
- Improve intelligence sharing and operational coordination with Myanmar, subject to prevailing bilateral arrangements.
- Disrupt narcotics and arms networks through coordinated investigations and financial tracking.
- Improve coordination among border forces, state police, customs and intelligence agencies.
- Combine border security with humanitarian screening and protection for vulnerable displaced people.
- Consult local communities and preserve legitimate cross-border livelihoods through transparent arrangements.
- Support development, healthcare, education and employment in border districts to reduce recruitment and criminal vulnerability.

Conclusion

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP

Effective management requires a balanced approach combining security, regional cooperation, community trust and development. Technology and enforcement must be supported by intelligence-led policing and respect for humanitarian obligations.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP