Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the role of security forces in managing ethnic conflicts in India. What challenges do they face in restoring peace in conflict-affected regions such as Manipur?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 23/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ethnic diversity, internal security, role of CAPFs, protection of civilians, civil–security coordination, public trust, human rights, intelligence gathering, peacebuilding, political dialogue.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Ethnic conflicts pose challenges to India’s internal security, social harmony and governance. The situation in Manipur, affected by Meitei–Kuki violence since May 2023, highlights the need for a coordinated security and peacebuilding approach.

Role of Security Forces:

1. Maintaining law and order: Prevent violence, protect civilians and secure sensitive areas.
2. Border management: Prevent illegal movement of armed groups and trafficking where relevant.
3. Protection of vulnerable communities: Help safeguard lives and essential infrastructure.
4. Coordination: Work with state police, civil administration and intelligence agencies.

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Key Challenges:

1. Mistrust between conflicting communities.
2. Difficult terrain and the circulation of illegal weapons.
3. Allegations of bias or excessive force that may weaken public confidence.
4. The limitations of security measures without political dialogue and reconciliation.

Way Forward:

Security operations should follow the rule of law, remain impartial and respect human rights. Community engagement, disarmament where lawful, rehabilitation of displaced people and sustained political dialogue are essential.

Conclusion:

Security forces can create conditions for peace, but lasting stability requires inclusive governance, accountability and reconciliation among communities.

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