Defence & Security · GS - III

Assess the challenges faced by India in countering cross-border terrorism when militant networks operate within complex state and non-state power structures.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

State-sponsored terrorism allegations, militant proxies, FATF, intelligence cooperation, diplomatic pressure, regional security

Model Answer

Cross-border terrorism remains a major security challenge for India, particularly when militant organisations operate through networks involving non-state actors, ideological groups and alleged links with elements within state establishments.

Major challenges

1. **Proxy networks:** Militant groups can operate through organisational structures that provide recruitment, financing, logistical support and plausible deniability.
2. **Institutional complexity:** Distinguishing independent militant activity from alleged state support complicates diplomatic and security responses.
3. **Terror financing:** Informal financial channels, charitable fronts and cross-border transfers can sustain extremist networks.

4. **International enforcement gaps:** Differences in national priorities and geopolitical interests often weaken coordinated action against designated organisations.
5. **Information warfare:** Propaganda, online recruitment and ideological mobilisation can expand militant influence beyond territorial boundaries.

India's response mechanisms

India employs intelligence coordination, border management, counter-terrorism operations and diplomatic engagement. It also uses multilateral platforms, including the United Nations, to seek action against designated terrorist organisations.

FATF standards and international sanctions mechanisms can increase pressure on jurisdictions that fail to address terrorist financing. However, implementation requires credible evidence, sustained monitoring and international cooperation.

Strategic priorities

India should strengthen financial intelligence, cyber monitoring, border surveillance and intelligence-sharing partnerships. Consistent diplomatic engagement and adherence to international law are equally important.

Ultimately, countering cross-border terrorism requires more than military preparedness. It demands coordinated financial, intelligence, legal and diplomatic measures that disrupt militant networks while maintaining regional stability.

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