



BORDER MANAGEMENT – GS III MAINS

Q. Effective management of India's border with neighbouring countries is the sine qua non for the eradication of terrorism, organized crime, cross-border insurgency, and other internal security issues faced by India. (15 marks, 250 words)

News: *India's borders totally secure: Rajnath Singh*

What's in the news?

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India and its borders are "totally secure" and the people of the country should have full faith in the armed forces.

International Borders of India:

1. India's land borders exceed 15,000 km which is shared with seven countries like China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, including a small segment with Afghanistan (106 km) in northern Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
2. It has a coastline that is 7,683 km long, and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that is over two million square km in size.

Challenges with respect to Border Management:

1. Difficult Terrain:

- India-China Border is composed of difficult Himalayan terrain consisting of peaks and heights of more than 6000 metres.
- In such rough terrain of mountainous tracks, fast flowing rivers etc., it becomes very difficult to patrol borders.

2. Harsh Climatic Condition:

- Climatic conditions on the North, West and North-eastern border are extreme. In such extreme weather, continuous watch and oversight is problematic.

3. Porous Nature of Border:

- India's land border with Pakistan in Himalayan region, Myanmar in north eastern hills, and with Bangladesh is porous with nullah, fast-flowing rivers etc. These are often used by infiltrators and smugglers.

4. Undefined Borders:

- Undefined and unfenced border with China and Pakistan in the north western part and with Myanmar in the north eastern part is another challenge.
- It gives insurgent groups, arm dealers, drug smugglers, and human traffickers safe traveling options across the border.

5. Maritime Border Issues:



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- Especially in the west coast, there is always the possibility of infiltration of terrorists in ferryboats/fishermen boats as happened in case Mumbai Attack 2008.

6. Poor Technology Usage:

- India's borders are porous, difficult terrain, jungles, hostile neighbors etc. made border guarding very difficult task but usage of modern technologies like drones which can be very useful in border management and keeping 24 into 7 vigilance

7. Stress Among Existing Personnel:

- Border forces also suffer from long hours of duty and long-stay away from home, substandard behavior of officers towards their juniors etc.
- These issues affect the morale of security personnel which ultimately affect border guarding.

Importance of Effective Border Management:

1. Counter-terrorism:

- Effective border controls prevent the infiltration of terrorists and restrict the movement of arms and explosives.

2. Limit Organized Crime:

- Tight border security curtails illegal activities such as drug and human trafficking, smuggling, and illicit trade.

3. Suppress Cross-border Insurgency:

- A well-managed border deters insurgents from gaining foothold, resources, or support from external sources.

4. Preserve Sovereignty:

- Maintaining clear and secure borders upholds national sovereignty and ensures territorial integrity.

5. Regulate Migration:

- Effective management facilitates legal migration while preventing illegal entries, thus ensuring demographic stability.

Steps for Effective Border Management:

1. Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS):

- Effective implementation of CIBMS is required along all border areas to improve situational awareness at different levels of hierarchy to facilitate prompt and quick response to emerging situations along the India-Pakistan Border (IPB) and India-Bangladesh Border (IBB).

2. Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique (BOLD-QIT):



- It will monitor unfenced riverine areas of Brahmaputra and its tributaries, thus reducing problems of illegal migration and smuggling from Bangladesh.

3. Increasing Surveillance at Border:

- Day and night surveillance cameras and intrusion detection system, giving feed to security forces control room who send Quick Reaction Teams to thwart any illegal activity.
- Surveillance through unmanned aerial vehicles along difficult terrain can be an option.

4. Creating Infrastructure along the Borders:

- For the effective management and quick response along the borders, ramping up of projects for the development of border infrastructure such as Border Fence, Border Roads, Border Floodlights, Border Out Posts (BOPs), etc is necessary.
- The government is implementing the Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme which comprises projects aimed at infrastructure development of India's international borders.

5. Role of Artificial Intelligence in Border Management:

- AI-based software processes the data collected by these devices to identify potential threats and alert border patrol agents in real-time.
- Cameras powered by AI can scan a large number of people and can detect any suspicious activity.

India's border expanse is very diverse and manning it is a difficult task. India has been facing a number of challenges due to inefficient border management, but it is high time, especially in light of recent tensions and violence, that the entire security gamut and border management infrastructure be revisited and made more effective.