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Q20

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.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · GS III · 15 marks · Border Security and Organised Crime

Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

Core demand of the question

- 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
- Keep the explanation within a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Myanmar border threats are insurgent sanctuary, arms, and golden-triangle drugs; Assam Rifles lead.

Bangladesh border threats are illegal migration, cattle, FICN, and trafficking; BSF leads.

Pakistan IB is BSF versus infiltration and narcotics; the LoC is an Army counter-infiltration war.

Crime and terror fuse through hawala, heroin, and fake notes.

One-border-one-force plus police investigation is the role map; ITBP is not the Pakistan force.

Introduction

India's land borders are not one problem. Myanmar is hills, ethnicity, and a golden triangle of drugs and insurgent camps. Bangladesh is riverine density, cattle, fake notes, and migration politics. Pakistan and the LoC are a militarised line with terrorism as statecraft plus narcotics and fakes. Transborder crime is the peacetime face of the same maps. Different forces hold different stretches because the threat is not uniform.

Body

Myanmar border

- **Threats:** northeast insurgent groups historically using Sagaing / Chin depth, arms, and now a messier Myanmar civil-war spillover; **drug trafficking** (heroin, meth/WY) along the golden triangle route; wildlife and timber crime; possible radical or criminal misuse of unfenced hills.
- **Crimes:** precursor chemicals, small arms, and informal trade that finances cadres.
- **Forces:** **Assam Rifles** as the lead border-guarding force in much of the northeast under MHA, with **Indian Army** in counter-insurgency grids; **Narcotics Control Bureau** and State police on the crime side; **Sashastra Seema Bal** is not the Myanmar force.

Bangladesh border

- **Threats:** illegal migration as a political-security issue, **cattle smuggling**, **fake Indian currency notes (FICN)** routing, arms and explosive remnants in older modules, and Islamist or criminal networks that have used the riverine border.
- **Crimes:** human trafficking, phensedyl-type smuggling in some years, and gold.
- **Forces:** **Border Security Force (BSF)** is the designated border-guarding force; **State police**, **NIA** in terror-linked cases, and **coastal security** where the Sundarbans meet the sea. Fencing, floodlights, and coordinated patrol with BGB are the method; rivers still leak.

Pakistan border and LoC

- **IB (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, J&K IB patches):** **BSF** versus Pakistan Rangers; threats of infiltration, drones (a later intensification), **narcotics** in Punjab, and **FICN**.
- **LoC in J&K:** **Indian Army** holds the line; ceasefire violations, infiltration of terrorists, and transborder support to groups in the Valley are the core internal-security threat, not ordinary cattle crime.
- **Crimes plus terror:** heroin, weapons, and communication - a fused threat.
- **Other agencies:** **ITBP** is China-facing, not Pakistan; do not mix the maps.

Cross-cutting internal security

- **Terrorism, radicalisation, and communal rumour** can ride any of these routes.
- **Cyber and hawala** sit behind the physical crossing.
- **CIBMS**, fencing, and riverine boats are technology; **BADP** and perception (as in Q10) decide local spotting.

Role of security forces - how to state it

- **Army:** **LoC**, counter-infiltration, and hinterland CI in J&K; aid to civil power when asked.
- **BSF:** Pakistan and Bangladesh borders; law-and-order aid; civic action.
- **Assam Rifles:** Myanmar border and northeast CI, with a unique dual character.
- **ITBP / SSB:** China and Nepal/Bhutan respectively - mention only to show the **one-border-one-force** doctrine, not as Myanmar/Pakistan leads.
- **CAPF and State police:** investigation, UAPA cases, and the crime end that soldiers should not own forever.
- **Coast Guard and Navy:** the maritime flank of Bangladesh and Gujarat, because crime is not only a land problem.

What works

- Intelligence fusion (**Multi-Agency Centre**), joint interrogation, and disrupting the **crime-terror continuum** rather than treating a heroin mule as only an NDPS file.
- **Diplomacy:** coordinated border management with Bangladesh has improved; Myanmar and Pakistan are harder political terrains.

Flow diagram

Myanmar -> Assam Rifles drugs insurgency
Bangladesh -> BSF migration FICN cattle
Pakistan LoC -> Army infiltration terror
Pakistan LoC -> BSF IB narcotics
Assam Rifles drugs insurgency -> Internal security
BSF migration FICN cattle -> Internal security
Army infiltration terror -> Internal security

Conclusion

Myanmar brings drugs and insurgent depth, Bangladesh brings migration-crime and **FICN** on a riverine fence, Pakistan and the **LoC** bring terrorism fused with narcotics. Assam Rifles, BSF, and the Army are the respective spines, with police and specialist agencies on the crime-terror chain. One force, one border, plus a village that reports, is the working doctrine.

Facts & figures

One border, one force

Doctrinal assignment: BSF on Pakistan and Bangladesh, Assam Rifles on Myanmar, ITBP on China, SSB on Nepal/Bhutan.

LoC

Line of Control in J&K, held by the Army; infiltration and ceasefire violence are the primary threats.

FICN

Fake Indian currency notes, historically routed via Bangladesh and Pakistan-linked modules.

Golden Triangle

Myanmar-Laos-Thailand drug region whose product moves toward northeast India.

CIBMS

Integrated surveillance on selected border stretches to cut gap-crossing.

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