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Q10

For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · GS III · 10 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

- For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to create favourable perception among the people
- Keep the explanation within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Militants need local silence, supplies, and a grievance story.

Deny support by hitting overground finance, tightening surveillance, and ending force abuse.

Surrender-plus-livelihood and fast cases against harbouring shrink the helper pool.

Favourable perception needs **BADP** roads and schools, civic action, and jobs for youth.

A fence without trust still leaks; a trusted village is part of the border.

Introduction

Militants on a border do not live only in a jungle. They need food, silence, SIM cards, and a story that the State is the stranger. Border area management is therefore development and trust as much as fencing. Deny the logistic base; earn the perception that the uniform protects the village.

Body**Deny local support to militants**

- **Intelligence from the village**, not only from the post: police-army-BSF fusion cells that pay for quality information and protect informers.
- **Cut** finance and stores: fake currency, narcotics, cattle-smuggling, and **overground workers** who rent rooms. Enforcement must hit the crime that funds the gun.
- **Fence, floodlights, sensors, and CIBMS**-style surveillance so crossing is costly; pair with patrols that do not farm the village as an enemy.
- **Rehabilitation and surrender** policies with a real livelihood, so the militant's family is not trapped as a permanent logistics cell.
- **Speed of criminal justice for harbouring and arms**: delay is itself a recruitment poster.
- Stop **security-force predation** (illegal taxes, harassment at checkpoints). Abuse is the most efficient recruiting sergeant the militant has.

Favourable perception among locals

- **Border Area Development Programme (BADP):** roads, health, schools, sports, and drinking water that the post-independence map actually delivers.
- **Civic action** by **BSF, ITBP, Assam Rifles, and Army:** medical camps, veterinary camps, and school coaching without turning them into a PR-only drill.
- **Free movement for genuine life:** farming up to the zero line, cross-border kin where policy allows, and predictable opening of gates - security that still lets a livelihood exist.
- **Jobs and skills** for border youth (including recruitment transparency) so the pay of a militant courier is not the best wage in the hamlet.
- **Local language, religion, and jhum or grazing custom** respected in operations; women-led village committees for complaint against forces.
- **Media and rumour management:** prompt, factual account of an encounter so the militant narrative does not own the night.

One principle

- A sealed border with a hostile population leaks. A slightly porous livelihood border with a loyal population holds.

Flow diagram

Militants -> Local logistics
 Crime finance cut -> Support denied
 No harassment -> Support denied
 BADP civic jobs -> Favourable perception
 Favourable perception -> Support denied

Conclusion

To deny militants local support, choke money and harbouring, professionalise intelligence, and end checkpoint abuse. To win perception, deliver **BADP** services, civic action, jobs, and a dignified everyday movement of border people. The fence works when the village wants it to.

Facts & figures

BADP

Border Area Development Programme: block-level infrastructure and services in notified border blocks.

CIBMS

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System: cameras, sensors, and command for stretches of the land border.

BSF civic action

Border Security Force medical and school outreach used as a perception tool along India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders.

Assam Rifles

Force with a dual border-and-counter-insurgency role in the northeast; perception among Naga and other communities is operationally decisive.

Overground workers

Civilian logistics and finance nodes; targeting them is how local support is actually cut.

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