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2.Gujarat's Banas kantha Range – National

Gujarat has bifurcated its Pakistan-border police jurisdiction by creating the Banas kantha Range to strengthen border management and security coordination. The newly created Banas kantha Police Range becomes Gujarat's 10th police range, overseeing Banas kantha, Patan, and Vav-Tharad districts while the existing Border Range primarily focuses on Kutch and adjoining areas. The restructuring provides two Inspector General (IG)-level officers for border policing instead of one, addressing emerging security challenges including illegal migration, drug trafficking, border village security, and protection of strategic infrastructure including energy and solar parks.

1. Key Changes in Gujarat's Pakistan-Border Police Structure

Creation of Banas kantha Range

1. Gujarat established new Banas kantha Police Range
2. Becomes State's 10th police range
3. Improves administration, security along India-Pakistan border

Division of Border Responsibilities

1. Banas kantha Range - Oversees Banas kantha, Patan, Vav-Tharad districts
2. Existing Border Range - Primarily focuses on Kutch and adjoining areas
3. Specialized territorial jurisdiction preventing administrative overlap

Enhanced Supervisory Mechanism

1. Two IG-level officers for border policing instead of one
2. Enabling specialized supervision of different border sectors
3. Faster decision-making, accountability

Focus on Emerging Security Challenges

1. Illegal migration
2. Drug trafficking (Punjab-Gujarat narcotics corridor concern)
3. Border village security
4. Protection of strategic infrastructure including energy, solar parks

2. About Border Security Management

Definition

1. Comprehensive framework protecting national sovereignty
2. Preventing illegal infiltration, terrorism, smuggling, trafficking, trans-border crimes
3. While facilitating legitimate movement and trade

3. Key Forces Responsible for Border Security

Force	Border Assigned	Primary Function
Border Security Force (BSF)	India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh	Primary peacetime border-guarding; preventing infiltration, cross-border crimes, smuggling
Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	India-China (LAC)	High-altitude Himalayan frontier; disaster management, surveillance



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Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	India-Nepal and India-Bhutan	Securing open borders; intelligence gathering, community engagement, trans-border crime prevention
Assam Rifles (AR)	India-Myanmar	Border guarding; counter-insurgency operations; Northeast stability
Indian Army	LoC (Pakistan) and critical LAC sectors (China)	Heavily militarized areas; conventional military deterrence
Indian Navy and Coast Guard	Maritime borders	Safeguarding coastline, territorial waters, maritime economic assets

4. Role of States in Border Management

Internal Security and Law Enforcement

1. State Police act as second line of defence maintaining law, order
2. Investigating crimes linked to border areas
3. Complementing CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces)

Intelligence Sharing and Coordination

1. State intelligence agencies collaborating with central security forces
2. Identifying infiltrators, smugglers, support networks
3. Providing local knowledge, ground intelligence

Border Area Development

1. States implementing developmental initiatives -
 1. Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme
 2. Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)
2. Improving living conditions in border regions reducing alienation

Auxiliary Support Forces

1. States raise, deploy Border Wing Home Guards
2. Assisting CAPFs in surveillance, patrolling activities
3. Cost-effective force multiplier for border security

5. Significance of Gujarat's Police Restructuring

Strengthening Border Governance

1. Bifurcation enabling focused monitoring of distinct border sectors
2. Improving administrative efficiency in strategically sensitive region
3. Clear jurisdictional boundaries preventing coordination gaps

Enhancing National Security Preparedness

1. Dedicated supervision facilitating faster responses to -
 1. Infiltration attempts
 2. Narcotics trafficking
 3. Other security threats
2. Critical given Gujarat's 1,000+ km Pakistan border

Improving Coordination with Security Agencies

More effective institutional framework for coordination among -



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1. State Police
2. CAPFs (BSF primarily)
3. Intelligence agencies (IB, RAW)
4. Defence forces

Addressing Strategic Infrastructure Protection

1. Gujarat hosts major solar parks (Khavda Solar Park – world's largest), energy infrastructure
2. Border proximity creating unique protection challenges
3. Dedicated police range providing focused infrastructure security

6. India-Pakistan Border – Key Facts

1. Total length – ~3,323 km (including LoC)
2. International Border (IB) – ~2,308 km managed by BSF
3. Line of Control (LoC) – ~740 km managed by Indian Army
4. Gujarat's Pakistan border – ~1,000+ km (Rann of Kutch to Rajasthan)
5. Challenges – Drone infiltration, narcotics smuggling, cross-border terrorism, cattle smuggling

7. Way Forward

1. Integrate biometric surveillance along Gujarat border sectors
2. Expand smart fencing (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System – CIBMS) in Banas kantha, Kutch sectors
3. Strengthen community policing in border villages preventing radicalization, narcotics networks
4. Enhance drone surveillance capabilities for new Banas kantha Range
5. Coordinate with BSF on real-time intelligence sharing under restructured framework

8. Conclusion

Gujarat's creation of Banas kantha Police Range as the state's 10th range reflects the growing emphasis on integrated border management – specialized jurisdiction, dual IG-level supervision, and focused attention on emerging threats (drug trafficking, illegal migration, solar park security) strengthening India-Pakistan border governance through state-central coordination.

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