

7th Feb 2023

GS-3 Internal security.

3. Revival of village defense guards Leads to an empowerment of Local bodies in securing the borders of the country. Explain

village defense committees were raised in 1990s to safeguard the civilians against ^{peak} military in Jammu & Kashmir.

Village Defense Guards

Mo Home affairs proposed to Reire village defense committees (in name - village defense guards)

The Guards will be under the command & control of superintendent of police. It consists of both villagers (+) police officers.

Significance

1. The Guards acts a 1st line of defense against military till the Army reaches the affected region
2. The villages have local knowledge, regional geography, etc;

Concerns

In Past → the village guards - criticized, for.

↳ Abuse of power, 'false notion of power'
human rights violations.

But the benefits of such Guards far outweigh the drawbacks.

Suggestions

current proposed system $\rightarrow$ was top down approach.

Concerns -

1. Top-down approach will keep the Guards under constant surveillance of executive.
2. It will not normally create any motivation.

Need for panchayat empowerment

1. panchayats on other hand, were much experienced with governance and also geography.
2. panchayats must be empowered to hold the of militants. & also accountability.
3. It will normally create motivation among the villagers [bottom-up governance]

Way forward

Empowering panchayats - will not only secure our borders, but also increase participatory governance as envisioned by Gandhi as decentralised governance.