Science & Technology · GS - III

Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming modern warfare but also creating new challenges for international security. Discuss with reference to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/10/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Emerging Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), Autonomous Warfare, International Security, AI Arms Race, International Humanitarian Law, Human Control, Civilian Protection, Ethical Concerns, Global Governance, India's Role.

Model Answer

Introduction

Emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), are transforming modern warfare. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) can identify, select and engage targets with varying levels of human involvement, raising concerns about security, ethics and accountability.

Main Body

Opportunities: AI-based defence systems can improve surveillance, threat detection, response speed and military efficiency.

Challenges: Autonomous weapons may cause civilian casualties, make errors and create uncertainty over responsibility for unlawful attacks. Their rapid deployment could intensify the global arms race and lower the threshold for armed conflict.

International Security: The use of such weapons raises questions about compliance with international humanitarian law, including distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack.

Way Forward: International cooperation is needed to establish clear rules, ensure meaningful human control, strengthen accountability and promote transparency in military AI. India can contribute through multilateral negotiations, responsible AI development and balanced defence diplomacy.

Conclusion

Emerging technologies must be developed and deployed responsibly. International rules, human oversight and accountability are essential to balance military innovation with global peace and civilian protection.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP