Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the emerging challenges posed by social media-enabled espionage and honey-trapping to India's national security. Suggest suitable countermeasures.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Social media exploitation; honey-trapping; military intelligence leaks; insider threats; cybersecurity; counter-intelligence; personnel awareness; inter-agency coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Espionage remains a significant national security challenge. The misuse of social media for honey-trapping and recruitment can expose sensitive military information and compromise operational security.

Major Security Challenges

- **Information Leakage:** Disclosure of troop movements, deployments and defence installations can undermine military preparedness.
- **Digital Manipulation:** Fake identities and online relationships may be used to exploit personnel psychologically.
- **Insider Threats:** Financial incentives, coercion or ideological influence can encourage unauthorised disclosure.

- **Operational Risks:** Leaked information may expose strategic vulnerabilities and endanger personnel.

Countermeasures

- Strengthen counter-intelligence surveillance and inter-agency coordination.
- Conduct regular cybersecurity and social media awareness training for defence personnel.
- Enforce strict access controls, secure communication protocols and monitoring of sensitive information.
- Establish confidential reporting mechanisms and provide psychological and financial counselling where appropriate.
- Ensure prompt investigation and lawful prosecution of espionage activities.

Conclusion

A combination of technological safeguards, personnel awareness and effective counter-intelligence is essential to protect India's defence information and national security.

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