Defence & Security · GS - III

Evaluate the ethical and strategic challenges posed by the growing use of Artificial Intelligence in warfare.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Human control, autonomous weapons, International Humanitarian Law, accountability, civilian protection, arms race, global governance

Model Answer

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence is transforming modern warfare through autonomous systems, predictive intelligence, surveillance and precision targeting. However, its military applications raise significant ethical, legal and strategic concerns.

Major Challenges

1. **Erosion of human control:** Autonomous weapons may make life-and-death decisions with limited human intervention, raising concerns about accountability and moral responsibility.

2. **Civilian safety:** Algorithmic errors, biased data and inaccurate target identification can cause civilian casualties and undermine the principle of distinction under International Humanitarian Law.

3. **Accountability gap:** Determining responsibility for unlawful attacks becomes difficult when decisions involve military commanders, developers and autonomous systems.

4. **Strategic instability:** AI-enabled weapons can accelerate military decision-making, increase miscalculation and intensify arms competition among major powers.

5. **Cybersecurity threats:** AI systems can be manipulated through adversarial inputs, hacking and data poisoning, compromising military operations.

Way Forward

1. **Human oversight:** Retain meaningful human control over decisions involving the use of lethal force.
2. **Legal compliance:** Ensure AI-enabled military systems comply with distinction, proportionality and precaution under International Humanitarian Law.
3. **Global norms:** Strengthen multilateral negotiations, including discussions under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
4. **Responsible innovation:** Establish testing, transparency, auditability and accountability standards.
5. **India's role:** Advocate inclusive global AI governance that balances technological innovation, national security and humanitarian principles.

Conclusion

AI can improve military capabilities, but technological efficiency cannot replace human judgement and legal responsibility. International cooperation and accountable human oversight are essential to ensure that military AI remains consistent with humanitarian values.

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