Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the threat posed by espionage and intelligence leaks to India's national security. Suggest measures to strengthen counter-intelligence capabilities.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Military intelligence, sensitive installations, human intelligence, cyber espionage, Official Secrets Act, inter-agency coordination, border security

Model Answer

Espionage involves the unauthorised collection and transmission of sensitive information to foreign intelligence entities. It poses a serious threat to India's military preparedness, strategic infrastructure and national security.

The alleged sharing of sensitive military installation details in the Bathinda case highlights the risks associated with intelligence leaks.

Major security implications

1. **Military vulnerability:** Disclosure of cantonment locations, deployment patterns and operational details can expose defence installations to hostile actors.
2. **Strategic disadvantage:** Intelligence leaks may compromise military planning and operational preparedness.
3. **Hybrid threats:** Espionage can be linked with drone-based arms smuggling, narcotics networks and other cross-border activities.

4. **Internal security:** Recruitment of local individuals by foreign intelligence agencies can exploit social and technological vulnerabilities.

Measures to strengthen counter-intelligence

- Strengthen coordination among Military Intelligence, state police and central intelligence agencies.
- Improve background verification and security audits of personnel accessing sensitive information.
- Use advanced surveillance, digital forensics and threat-detection systems.
- Enforce need-to-know access controls and secure communication protocols.
- Strengthen legal action under applicable provisions of the Official Secrets Act and other laws.
- Promote public awareness and secure channels for reporting suspicious activities.

Conclusion

Effective counter-intelligence requires a combination of technological preparedness, institutional coordination and legal accountability. Protecting sensitive information is essential to safeguarding India's defence capabilities.

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