Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the national-security implications of dependence on privately operated satellite communication systems during armed conflicts. Suggest measures to improve the resilience of critical communication infrastructure.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Satellite communications, private-sector dependence, military connectivity, strategic autonomy, critical infrastructure, cyber resilience, redundancy, public-private partnerships, indigenous capabilities, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Satellite communication systems have become essential for military coordination, civilian connectivity and emergency response. During armed conflicts, dependence on privately operated networks raises questions about continuity of service, state control and national security.

Key Implications

1. **Operational dependence:** Disruption or restricted access can affect battlefield communications and coordination.

2. **Private-sector influence:** Commercial decisions and service conditions may influence access to strategically important infrastructure.

3. **Cyber and security risks:** Satellite networks and their ground infrastructure may face cyberattacks, jamming and other disruptions.

4. **Civilian consequences:** Communication failures can affect hospitals, emergency services and communities in conflict zones.

Way Forward

- Develop diversified communication networks using satellite, fibre-optic and terrestrial systems.
- Invest in indigenous satellite capabilities and secure government communication infrastructure.
- Establish clear contractual arrangements for continuity of critical services during emergencies.
- Strengthen cybersecurity, anti-jamming capabilities and backup systems.
- Improve coordination between governments, private operators and international partners.

Conclusion

Private satellite networks offer valuable technological capabilities, but critical national functions should not depend on a single provider. Diversification, resilience and strategic planning are essential to ensure reliable communications during crises.

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