Defence & Security · GS - III

Disinformation campaigns on social media have emerged as a challenge to national security and India's international image. Examine the challenges and suggest measures to counter them.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 10/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Disinformation, information warfare, social media manipulation, national security, diplomatic credibility, fact-checking, digital literacy, platform accountability, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Disinformation refers to the deliberate spread of false or misleading information to influence public opinion. Social media has increased its reach, speed and potential impact across national boundaries.

Key Challenges

- **Information warfare:** Misleading narratives can weaken public trust and create social divisions.
- **Diplomatic impact:** Falsely attributed images or videos can damage India's international reputation.
- **Rapid dissemination:** Viral content often spreads faster than verification and correction.
- **Attribution difficulties:** Identifying the origin and coordination of online campaigns can be challenging.
- **Freedom of expression:** Countermeasures must not become tools for suppressing legitimate criticism.

Measures to Counter Disinformation

- Strengthen independent fact-checking and public information systems.
- Improve digital and media literacy through education.
- Ensure transparent content moderation and accountability of platforms.
- Build institutional capacity for cyber intelligence and coordinated threat assessment.
- Promote international cooperation against cross-border information manipulation.

Conclusion

India needs a balanced approach combining technological capabilities, public awareness, diplomatic engagement and rule-based regulation. Protecting information integrity must go hand in hand with constitutional freedoms.

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