Defence & Security · GS - III

Insider threats and foreign espionage pose serious challenges to national security in an increasingly interconnected world. Examine the challenges and suggest measures to strengthen counter-intelligence mechanisms.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Espionage, insider threats, classified information, counter-intelligence, cybersecurity, personnel vetting, intelligence coordination, institutional safeguards, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Espionage involves the unauthorised acquisition or transfer of sensitive information to foreign actors. Insider threats make this challenge more complex because individuals with legitimate access may misuse their positions.

Major Challenges

- **Strategic information leakage:** Defence plans, technological research and diplomatic communications may be compromised.
- **Insider vulnerabilities:** Financial inducements, coercion or ideological motivations can facilitate unauthorised disclosures.
- **Digital threats:** Cyberattacks and encrypted communication complicate detection and investigation.

- **Cross-border networks:** Foreign intelligence operations may involve intermediaries across multiple jurisdictions.
- **Institutional trust:** Espionage allegations can undermine confidence within sensitive organisations.

Measures to Strengthen Counter-Intelligence

- Conduct regular personnel vetting and security assessments.
- Apply need-to-know access controls and continuous monitoring.
- Strengthen cybersecurity, encryption and secure communication systems.
- Improve coordination among intelligence, law-enforcement and defence agencies.
- Establish clear reporting mechanisms, legal safeguards and accountability.

Conclusion

Effective counter-intelligence requires technological preparedness, institutional vigilance and international cooperation. Security measures must protect classified information while ensuring due process and preventing arbitrary surveillance.

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