Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine how drone warfare and cyberattacks are changing the nature of contemporary armed conflicts. Discuss the challenges they pose to national security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 03/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Unmanned aerial vehicles; precision strikes; air defence; cyber warfare; critical infrastructure; emergency communication; escalation risks; integrated security preparedness

Model Answer

Introduction

Contemporary armed conflicts increasingly combine conventional military operations with drone warfare and cyberattacks. These technologies can extend surveillance and strike capabilities while creating new vulnerabilities for states.

Changing Nature of Warfare

Drones enable persistent surveillance, reconnaissance and attacks at varying costs. Their deployment can place pressure on air defence systems and complicate battlefield assessment. Simultaneously, cyberattacks targeting digital infrastructure can disrupt communications, essential services and emergency warning systems without requiring physical destruction.

National Security Challenges

The proliferation of relatively affordable drones increases the number of potential aerial threats. Cyber operations can affect civilian infrastructure and complicate attribution. Escalation risks also increase when attacks cross borders or affect sensitive facilities. States must therefore prepare for interconnected physical and digital threats.

Way Forward

India should strengthen integrated air defence, counter-drone technologies, cyber incident response and protection of critical information infrastructure. Intelligence-sharing, regular security exercises, resilient communication networks and international cooperation are equally important.

Conclusion

Modern security requires an integrated approach that combines conventional defence with technological preparedness, cyber resilience and effective crisis management.