Defence & Security · GS - III

Distinguish between intelligence gathering and counter-intelligence. Examine the importance of counter-intelligence in protecting India's strategic technologies and economic security.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Foreign intelligence, counter-intelligence, espionage, strategic technologies, corporate security, intellectual property, insider threats, cybersecurity, national economic security.

Model Answer

Introduction

Intelligence gathering involves collecting information relevant to national security and foreign policy. Counter-intelligence focuses on detecting and preventing hostile intelligence activities.

Key Differences

- **Intelligence gathering:** Collects information about foreign governments, military capabilities and strategic developments.
- **Counter-intelligence:** Identifies espionage networks, protects sensitive information and counters foreign intelligence operations.

Importance for India

1. **Strategic technologies:** Protects sensitive research in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, defence and telecommunications.
2. **Economic security:** Prevents theft of intellectual property and commercially valuable information.

3. **National security:** Detects foreign influence operations and unauthorised access to sensitive institutions.
4. **Cybersecurity:** Helps identify digital espionage and data breaches.

Measures Required

India should strengthen intelligence coordination, cybersecurity infrastructure, corporate security audits, insider-threat monitoring and awareness among researchers and employees.

Conclusion

In an increasingly technology-driven world, effective counter-intelligence is essential for protecting India's strategic autonomy, innovation ecosystem and national security.

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