Defence & Security · GS - III

“The growing dependence of national security systems on privately operated digital infrastructure raises important questions of accountability, strategic autonomy and state control.” Examine in the context of satellite communication networks.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 14/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Private-sector participation, satellite communication, military connectivity, strategic autonomy, national security, parliamentary oversight, regulatory framework, vendor lock-in, redundancy, indigenous capabilities.

Model Answer

Introduction

Satellite communication networks have become essential for military coordination, intelligence, disaster management and emergency connectivity. Increasing private-sector participation has created new opportunities as well as strategic dependencies.

National Security Concerns

When defence establishments depend on privately operated networks, service restrictions, technical failures or commercial decisions can affect operational continuity. Concentration of critical services in a single provider may create vendor lock-in and expose sensitive communication to external vulnerabilities.

Accountability and Governance

Private ownership does not diminish the state's responsibility to safeguard national security. Clear contractual obligations, regulatory oversight, data protection and parliamentary scrutiny are necessary to ensure accountability. Governments must also establish protocols for service continuity during conflicts and emergencies.

Way Forward

India should diversify satellite communication providers, strengthen indigenous space capabilities, develop secure military communication systems and establish interoperable backup networks. Public-private partnerships must operate within transparent national security frameworks.

Conclusion

Private innovation and national security can coexist through effective regulation, technological self-reliance and institutional accountability. Strategic control over critical communication infrastructure must remain a national priority.

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