Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine how cross-border recruitment through social media can create vulnerabilities in India's internal security. Discuss the role of investigative agencies and the need for a comprehensive response.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Social media exploitation, online radicalisation, honey-trapping, foreign handlers, digital surveillance, cyber intelligence, NIA, inter-agency coordination, community awareness, data protection.

Model Answer

Introduction

Social media has expanded communication but has also created opportunities for hostile networks to recruit, manipulate and exploit individuals across national borders. Alleged cases of online recruitment linked to sabotage highlight emerging internal security challenges.

Security Vulnerabilities

Foreign handlers may use deceptive identities, emotional manipulation and encrypted communication to establish contact with vulnerable individuals. Such networks can facilitate espionage, recruitment, reconnaissance or assistance in sabotage. Digital platforms also make attribution and evidence collection difficult.

Role of Investigative Agencies

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) investigates scheduled offences under the NIA Act, 2008, including relevant terrorism-related cases. Effective investigations require digital forensics, financial tracking, intelligence-

sharing and coordination among central and state agencies.

Way Forward

India needs stronger cyber-intelligence capabilities, timely information-sharing, international cooperation and public awareness about suspicious online approaches. These measures must operate within constitutional safeguards, due process and privacy protections.

Conclusion

Countering digitally enabled cross-border threats requires a coordinated approach combining technological capacity, institutional cooperation and protection of civil liberties.

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