Defence & Security · GS - III

Hybrid warfare and cross-border sabotage have emerged as significant challenges to national security in Europe. Examine their implications for regional stability and the security architecture of NATO.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Hybrid warfare, cyberattacks, sabotage, critical infrastructure, intelligence operations, NATO Article 5, collective defence, Baltic region, deterrence, intelligence sharing, resilience.

Model Answer

Introduction

Hybrid warfare combines conventional and unconventional methods, including cyberattacks, disinformation, sabotage and covert operations. Such activities increasingly challenge national security and regional stability.

Major Security Implications

- **Critical infrastructure:** Attacks on energy networks, communication systems and defence industries can disrupt essential services.
- **National sovereignty:** Covert operations create security threats without necessarily triggering conventional military responses.
- **Regional instability:** Tensions between neighbouring countries may escalate through suspected cross-border interference.

- **Economic security:** Sabotage can damage industrial capabilities, investment confidence and supply chains.
- **Information security:** Disinformation campaigns can weaken public trust and social cohesion.

Role of NATO and Regional Cooperation

NATO's collective-defence framework, intelligence sharing and coordinated military preparedness strengthen deterrence. However, determining the source and scale of hybrid attacks remains challenging. Member states must improve cybersecurity, border surveillance and protection of critical infrastructure.

Way Forward

Greater intelligence cooperation, resilient infrastructure, diplomatic engagement and coordinated responses are essential.

Conclusion

Hybrid threats require an integrated security approach combining military preparedness, technological resilience and international cooperation to maintain regional stability.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP