Science & Technology · GS - III

Examine the challenges of ensuring individual cybersecurity in an increasingly interconnected digital environment.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Digital identity, session hijacking, phishing, public devices, cyber hygiene, institutional awareness

Model Answer

Introduction

The growing use of digital communication platforms has increased convenience but also exposed individuals to risks such as unauthorised access, identity theft and phishing. Improperly secured WhatsApp Web sessions illustrate the importance of individual cyber hygiene.

Major Cybersecurity Challenges

1. **Unauthorised Account Access:** Active sessions on shared computers may allow others to read private communications and misuse personal information.

2. **Identity Theft and Impersonation:** Criminals may exploit compromised accounts to impersonate individuals and solicit money or sensitive information.

3. **Phishing and Social Engineering:** Fraudsters use deceptive messages and links to obtain passwords, financial credentials and personal data.

4. **Inadequate Cyber Awareness:** Users may mistakenly assume that closing a browser tab automatically terminates an authenticated session.

5. **Public Device Vulnerabilities:** Shared computers may contain malicious software, insecure configurations or compromised browser environments.

Measures to Strengthen Cybersecurity

1. **Individual Responsibility:** Users should log out of linked sessions manually, avoid saving credentials on shared devices and enable available authentication safeguards.

2. **Institutional Awareness:** Government agencies, educational institutions and organisations should conduct regular cybersecurity awareness campaigns.

3. **Technical Safeguards:** Platforms should provide session monitoring, device management, suspicious-login alerts and accessible security controls.

4. **Reporting Mechanisms:** Citizens should report cyber financial fraud through helpline 1930 and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

Conclusion

Cybersecurity requires shared responsibility among individuals, digital platforms and government institutions. Strong cyber hygiene, awareness and effective security mechanisms are essential to protect digital identities and maintain trust in online communication.

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