Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the role of strategic communication in safeguarding national security and shaping international perceptions during cross-border military operations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic communication, information warfare, misinformation, international media, public diplomacy, national security

Model Answer

Military operations today unfold not only on the battlefield but also in the information domain. Strategic communication has consequently become an important instrument of national security and international engagement.

Its role can be understood through the following dimensions:

1. **Countering misinformation:** Timely communication and credible evidence help address false narratives and prevent confusion during military operations.

2. **International outreach:** Engagement with foreign journalists and diplomatic missions enables countries to explain their position to global audiences.

3. **Building credibility:** Consistent communication, verifiable information and transparency strengthen the credibility of official accounts.

4. **Diplomatic support:** Communicating the rationale and objectives of counter-terrorism operations can help international partners understand a country's security concerns.

5. **Information security:** Strategic communication helps counter hostile propaganda and reduces the possibility of adversarial narratives dominating public discourse.

However, such initiatives must maintain operational secrecy, factual accuracy and journalistic independence. Excessive propaganda or selective disclosure can undermine credibility.

India's engagement with foreign defence journalists following Operation Sindoor illustrates the growing importance of communicating military developments beyond national boundaries.

Thus, strategic communication should complement military preparedness and diplomacy through credible, timely and responsible information-sharing.

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