Defence & Security · GS - III

“Digital arrest scams reveal the growing intersection of cybercrime, financial fraud and psychological manipulation.” Examine the challenges these scams pose to India's internal security and suggest effective measures to address them. (150 words)

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 09/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Discuss impersonation, fear-based coercion, mule accounts, financial tracing, cyber literacy, inter-agency coordination, safeguards and accountability.

Model Answer

Digital arrest scams involve fraudsters impersonating law-enforcement or judicial officials through video calls and threatening victims with fabricated criminal allegations to extort money. These scams combine technological deception with psychological manipulation.

They pose several challenges. First, impersonation undermines public trust in law-enforcement institutions. Second, money-mule accounts facilitate rapid transfers and conceal the proceeds of crime. Third, cross-border networks, digital anonymity and fragmented jurisdiction complicate investigations. Victims may also suffer substantial financial losses and psychological distress.

Addressing these threats requires a coordinated strategy. Financial institutions should strengthen suspicious-transaction monitoring and promptly respond to fraud alerts. Law-enforcement agencies must improve digital forensics, transaction tracing and inter-state coordination. Public awareness campaigns should clarify that legitimate police procedures do not involve demanding money to avoid arrest.

At the same time, account freezes and investigations must follow legal safeguards, protect innocent account holders and respect due process.

Ultimately, effective prevention requires cybersecurity, financial accountability, public awareness and swift, rights-respecting law enforcement.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP