International Relations · GS - III

Examine the strategic significance of indigenous missile systems such as Pralay for India's defence preparedness and self-reliance in defence production.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Indigenous missile development; conventional deterrence; quasi-ballistic trajectory; precision strike capability; defence modernisation; strategic preparedness; technological self-reliance; regional security

Model Answer

Introduction

Indigenous missile development is an important component of India's defence modernisation. Systems such as Pralay strengthen conventional strike capabilities and support the objective of self-reliance in defence production.

Strategic Significance

Pralay is an indigenously developed surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile. Its manoeuvrability during flight can complicate interception by adversary air defence systems. Such capabilities can enhance operational flexibility and strengthen conventional deterrence.

Contribution to Self-Reliance

Domestic missile development promotes technological expertise, supports defence research and manufacturing, and can reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. It also creates opportunities for collaboration among defence laboratories, industries and specialised technology developers.

Challenges and Way Forward

Effective deployment requires rigorous testing, reliable command-and-control systems, trained personnel and integration with broader defence networks. India should continue investing in research, testing infrastructure, domestic supply chains and technological innovation while maintaining appropriate safeguards against escalation.

Conclusion

Indigenous missile systems can strengthen India's defence preparedness and technological autonomy. Their strategic value depends on reliable performance, effective integration and responsible management of regional security risks.

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