Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the potential of international defence manufacturing partnerships in strengthening India's aerospace industry. Discuss their significance for defence indigenisation, technology transfer and strategic autonomy.

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10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Defence indigenisation, aerospace manufacturing, international partnerships, technology transfer, Make in India, defence exports, supply-chain development, strategic autonomy, skilled employment, research and development

Model Answer

Introduction

India's defence modernisation requires advanced technologies, reliable supply chains and a strong domestic manufacturing ecosystem. International partnerships can accelerate the development of indigenous aerospace capabilities.

Significance of Defence Manufacturing Partnerships

Proposed collaboration between Embraer and Mahindra for local production of the C-390 Millennium transport aircraft illustrates the potential of international industrial cooperation.

Such partnerships can facilitate technology transfer, manufacturing expertise, skilled employment and the development of domestic component suppliers. They can also strengthen India's position in the global defence

supply chain.

Challenges

Dependence on imported components, intellectual property restrictions, high investment requirements and limited indigenous research capabilities may constrain long-term self-reliance. Domestic manufacturing must therefore extend beyond final assembly.

Way Forward

India should encourage meaningful technology transfer, local component production, research and development, private-sector participation and integration of MSMEs into defence supply chains. Export-oriented manufacturing can improve economies of scale.

Conclusion

International partnerships, combined with indigenous innovation and domestic industrial capacity, can strengthen India's aerospace sector and contribute to strategic autonomy.

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