Defence & Security · GS - III

The evolving India-China border situation requires technological modernisation, joint military preparedness and strategic deterrence. Examine the role of the Indian Air Force in addressing India's security challenges along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India-China border, LAC, air power, strategic deterrence, high-altitude operations, ISR, air defence, indigenous defence production, jointness, military modernisation.

Model Answer

Introduction

The India-China frontier remains strategically sensitive, requiring continuous military preparedness. The Indian Air Force (IAF) plays a crucial role in surveillance, deterrence and operational support along the Line of Actual Control.

Role of the Indian Air Force

- **Strategic deterrence:** Combat aircraft and air defence systems strengthen India's ability to respond to potential threats.
- **Surveillance:** Aircraft, drones and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities improve situational awareness.

- **Operational support:** Air transport and logistics facilitate troop deployment and supply in high-altitude areas.
- **Rapid response:** Air power provides flexibility during contingencies across difficult mountainous terrain.

Key Challenges

- High-altitude conditions affect aircraft performance and logistics.
- Infrastructure gaps and technological asymmetries require continuous attention.
- Cyber, electronic warfare and evolving missile capabilities create new operational challenges.

Way Forward

Accelerate indigenous defence production, modernise aircraft and surveillance systems, strengthen jointness among the armed forces and improve border infrastructure.

Conclusion

A credible deterrence strategy requires an integrated combination of air power, technological superiority, intelligence and inter-service coordination. The IAF remains central to India's preparedness along the LAC.

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