Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the significance of modernising the Indian Air Force and promoting indigenous defence manufacturing for India's national security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

IAF modernisation; operational readiness; air superiority; indigenous defence manufacturing; defence indigenisation; technological capability; strategic autonomy; defence preparedness

Model Answer

Introduction

The Indian Air Force plays a crucial role in safeguarding national sovereignty, maintaining air superiority and supporting joint military operations. Its modernisation is essential amid evolving regional security challenges.

Significance of Modernisation

- **Operational Readiness:** Modern aircraft, weapons and surveillance systems improve the ability to respond to emerging threats.
- **Technological Advancement:** Integration of advanced radar, electronic warfare and network-centric capabilities strengthens combat effectiveness.
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:** Domestic production of aircraft, engines, missiles and defence electronics reduces import dependence.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Indigenous capabilities improve long-term maintenance, supply-chain security and defence preparedness.

- **Joint Operations:** Better coordination among the Army, Navy and Air Force strengthens integrated military capabilities.

Way Forward

India should accelerate indigenous research and development, strengthen public-private partnerships, address critical technology gaps and ensure timely procurement and maintenance.

Conclusion

A technologically advanced and self-reliant Air Force is essential for India's strategic autonomy, credible deterrence and national security.

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