Defence & Security · GS - III

The growing use of underground military infrastructure and mobile missile systems reflects the changing nature of strategic deterrence. Analyse their significance for modern warfare and the challenges they pose to regional security and arms control.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic deterrence, hardened military infrastructure, mobile missile launchers, survivability, military modernisation, escalation risks, arms race, missile defence, regional stability, confidence-building measures.

Model Answer

Introduction

Modern military strategies increasingly emphasise the survivability and dispersal of strategic assets. Underground missile facilities and mobile launch systems are important components of this evolving defence architecture.

Strategic Significance

- **Enhanced survivability:** Underground facilities protect missiles, equipment and production infrastructure from conventional air strikes.
- **Operational mobility:** Transporter-erector-launchers enable missiles to be moved and launched from different locations, complicating enemy surveillance.

- **Deterrence:** Greater survivability can strengthen a state's ability to retain retaliatory capabilities and discourage potential attacks.
- **Continuity of operations:** Protected infrastructure can help maintain military readiness during prolonged conflicts.

Challenges and Security Implications

- **Escalation risks:** Demonstrations of missile capabilities may intensify regional insecurity and strategic competition.
- **Arms race:** Rival states may expand missile defence systems and offensive capabilities.
- **Verification difficulties:** Concealed facilities complicate arms-control monitoring and confidence-building.
- **Misinterpretation:** Uncertain intelligence about underground installations can increase the risk of pre-emptive action.

Way Forward

Greater transparency, diplomatic engagement, crisis communication channels and verifiable arms-control arrangements are essential to reduce strategic mistrust.

Conclusion

Underground military infrastructure enhances operational resilience but cannot guarantee security. Regional stability ultimately requires credible deterrence alongside sustained diplomatic engagement.

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