Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the strategic significance of early-warning radar systems in modern missile defence architecture. How can attacks on such installations affect regional security and escalation dynamics in the Persian Gulf?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Early-warning capabilities, ballistic missile detection, integrated air and missile defence, strategic military infrastructure, Gulf security architecture, escalation risks, protection of critical installations, regional confidence-building measures.

Model Answer

Introduction

Early-warning radar systems are essential components of modern air and missile defence. They detect, track and help identify incoming aerial threats, enabling states to prepare defensive responses.

Strategic Significance

These systems provide advance warning of ballistic missile launches, aircraft movements and other aerial threats. Their integration with command centres, interceptor systems and allied surveillance networks improves situational awareness and response coordination.

Implications for Regional Security

Attacks on radar installations can reduce surveillance coverage, disrupt military coordination and create temporary vulnerabilities. In the Persian Gulf, where military facilities, energy infrastructure and international shipping routes

are concentrated, such attacks can increase insecurity. However, damage to an individual radar does not necessarily disable an entire defence network because states may employ overlapping sensors and alternative detection capabilities.

Escalation Risks and Responses

Retaliatory strikes against military infrastructure can trigger cycles of counter-retaliation, increase the risk of miscalculation and threaten regional energy security. Protecting critical infrastructure, maintaining military communication channels and strengthening diplomatic engagement are therefore important.

Conclusion

Early-warning systems are central to deterrence and defensive preparedness. Their protection, alongside regional dialogue and crisis-management mechanisms, is vital for preventing local military incidents from escalating into wider conflict.

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