Defence & Security · GS - III

Rising defence capital expenditure and large-scale procurement programmes can strengthen India's military preparedness, but their strategic value depends on domestic technological capability and efficient execution. Critically examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Defence capital outlay, military modernisation, Atmanirbhar Bharat, indigenisation, technology transfer, defence industrial base, procurement delays, fiscal sustainability, exports, strategic autonomy

Model Answer

Introduction

India's proposed increase in defence capital expenditure and major aircraft and submarine procurement programmes reflect the need to modernise its armed forces amid evolving regional security challenges.

Strategic Significance

1. **Military modernisation:** Acquisition of advanced aircraft, submarines and weapons systems strengthens operational readiness across different domains.
2. **Deterrence:** Modern capabilities improve India's ability to address conventional and emerging security threats.

3. **Industrial development:** Defence orders generate demand for domestic manufacturers, MSMEs and technology suppliers.
4. **Employment and innovation:** Indigenous production promotes skilled employment, research and technological development.
5. **Strategic autonomy:** Reduced dependence on foreign suppliers strengthens India's long-term defence preparedness.

Key Challenges

- **Import dependence:** Critical engines, sensors and advanced technologies continue to involve foreign suppliers.
- **Procurement delays:** Complex acquisition procedures and contractual disputes can postpone capability development.
- **Cost escalation:** Large projects may create fiscal pressures and increase lifecycle costs.
- **Execution capacity:** Domestic firms must improve production quality, delivery timelines and technological competitiveness.

Way Forward

India should strengthen domestic R&D, promote public-private partnerships, improve procurement transparency and encourage technology transfer. Lifecycle maintenance, indigenous components and export competitiveness must receive equal attention.

Conclusion

Higher defence expenditure becomes strategically meaningful when translated into timely capability creation, technological self-reliance and a competitive domestic defence ecosystem.

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