Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the strategic significance of India's defence exports in strengthening its foreign policy and expanding its role in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Defence exports, strategic partnerships, BrahMos, defence diplomacy, indigenous manufacturing, regional security, geopolitical competition

Model Answer

India's growing defence exports reflect the evolution of its defence policy from import dependence towards indigenous manufacturing and strategic engagement. Systems such as the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile demonstrate the potential of defence technology to strengthen international partnerships.

Strategic significance

1. **Defence diplomacy:** Defence exports deepen long-term military relationships and create opportunities for training, maintenance and technological cooperation.

2. **Strategic partnerships:** Defence cooperation with countries such as the Philippines and other regional partners can strengthen India's diplomatic presence.

3. **Indigenous manufacturing:** Exports create incentives for domestic research, innovation, production capacity and technological advancement.

4. **Strategic autonomy:** A stronger domestic defence industry can reduce excessive dependence on foreign suppliers and diversify India's international partnerships.

5. **Regional security:** Defence cooperation can enhance the capabilities of partner countries, although arms transfers may also generate concerns among neighbouring States.

Challenges

Export decisions require careful assessment of geopolitical sensitivities, end-user monitoring, technology security and international obligations. Regional rivalries can turn defence transactions into diplomatic disputes.

Conclusion

Defence exports should complement India's broader foreign policy objectives. A transparent, responsible and strategically calibrated export framework can strengthen India's global partnerships while supporting its ambition to become a major defence manufacturing hub.

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