Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the significance of integrating Rafale Marine fighter aircraft with INS Vikrant for India's maritime security and strategic capabilities. Discuss the importance of India-France defence cooperation in this regard.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Carrier-based aviation; maritime security; naval modernisation; Indo-Pacific; India-France strategic partnership; defence technology; strategic autonomy

Model Answer

Introduction

INS Vikrant, India's indigenous aircraft carrier, represents a major advancement in domestic warship-building capabilities. Its reported successful landing and take-off trials with Rafale Marine highlight progress in carrier-based naval aviation.

Strategic Significance

- **Maritime power:** Carrier-based fighters enhance air defence, surveillance and operational reach across distant maritime regions.
- **Indo-Pacific security:** They strengthen India's ability to protect sea lanes and respond to emerging maritime challenges.

- **Technological integration:** Compatibility testing involving aircraft dimensions, landing systems, lifts and deck operations is essential.
- **Strategic autonomy:** Combining indigenous platforms with advanced aviation technology can strengthen India's defence capabilities.

India-France Defence Cooperation

Defence cooperation includes aircraft procurement, naval technology, joint exercises and broader strategic engagement. It also supports interoperability and technology collaboration.

Challenges and Way Forward

India must strengthen maintenance infrastructure, pilot training, logistics, indigenous component manufacturing and lifecycle support.

Conclusion

The integration of advanced naval fighters with INS Vikrant can enhance India's maritime preparedness and reinforce its role as a security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

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