Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the strategic importance of the Indian Air Force in safeguarding India's national security. Discuss the major priorities for its modernisation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Air superiority; national air defence; operational readiness; advanced combat aircraft; indigenous defence manufacturing; surveillance systems; technological modernisation; strategic deterrence

Model Answer

Introduction

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is a crucial component of India's national defence architecture. It safeguards national airspace and provides strategic and operational support during conflicts and emergencies.

Strategic Importance

- **Air Defence:** Protects Indian airspace against hostile aircraft, missiles and aerial threats.
- **Deterrence:** Provides rapid-response capabilities and strengthens India's strategic deterrence.
- **Joint Operations:** Supports Army and Navy operations through coordinated military action.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Conducts evacuation, disaster relief and emergency supply operations.

Modernisation Priorities

- Strengthen indigenous aircraft, engine and missile development.
- Upgrade radar, surveillance and electronic warfare capabilities.
- Improve network-centric warfare and secure communication systems.

- Enhance pilot training, maintenance infrastructure and operational preparedness.

Conclusion

A technologically advanced and operationally prepared Air Force is essential for protecting India's sovereignty, strategic interests and regional security.

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