Defence & Security · GS - III

Examine the importance of modernisation and defence indigenisation in strengthening the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Air power; squadron strength; indigenous defence production; advanced fighters; drones and AI; strategic preparedness

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Indian Air Force is central to India’s air defence, deterrence and joint military operations. Modernising its capabilities while strengthening domestic defence production is important amid evolving regional security challenges.

Importance of modernisation

- **Operational preparedness:** Adequate combat squadrons and serviceable aircraft improve the ability to respond to multiple security contingencies.
- **Technological advancement:** Advanced fighters, drones, sensors and AI-supported systems can enhance situational awareness and mission effectiveness.
- **Defence self-reliance:** Indigenous manufacturing can reduce import dependence and improve access to spare parts, maintenance and upgrades.
- **Industrial development:** Defence research and production can support skilled employment, innovation and collaboration between public and private industries.

- **Strategic autonomy:** A stronger domestic defence ecosystem can improve India’s ability to maintain military capabilities despite external supply disruptions.

Challenges and way forward

High acquisition costs, delays, technological gaps and dependence on imported components remain important concerns. India should strengthen research and development, promote private-sector participation, improve procurement efficiency and invest in domestic engines, electronics and other critical technologies.

Conclusion

A modern, technologically advanced and increasingly self-reliant Air Force is essential for credible deterrence. Balanced investment in operational readiness, indigenous innovation and personnel training can strengthen India’s long-term defence preparedness.

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