



UAV Procurement by Indian Army

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Why in News

The **Indian Army** has signed a contract to buy **high-altitude drones from ideaForge for USD 20 million.**

- ideaForge is a start-up founded and incubated by the alumni of **Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B)**.
- The contract is for a **high-altitude variant of SWITCH UAV**, an indigenous system used in surveillance operations.

Key Points

- **Significance of the Contract:**
 - It marks a **strategic shift of focusing on indigenous technologies** in the Indian defence procurement process.
 - This is an example of **how government-funded start-ups** can help the country grow.
 - This is the **biggest such order** in terms of the contract value, **for any Indian equipment manufacturer for drones.**

- **Importance of UAV for the Army:**

The Army has placed an order for the **advanced high-altitude version of SWITCH UAV**, a vertical take-off and landing drone. It is a fixed-wing hybrid Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). Its features include:



- **Advanced flight time** with a range of 15 km.
- Around 2.6m long and 1.8m wide and **weighs less than 6.5 kg**.
- **Higher safety and simple operation** with additional fail-safe redundancies.
- Used for long-duration operations in harsh environments for day and night surveillance in **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions**.
- **Used in Photogrammetry** - the technology of **obtaining reliable information** about physical objects and the environment **through the process of recording, measuring and interpreting photographic images** and patterns of electromagnetic radiant imagery.
- **Other Uses:** Crowd Monitoring, Disaster Management, **Precision Agriculture**, Mining, etc.

Source: TH