



Indian Army Enhancing Operational Preparedness

For Prelims: Emergency Procurement, [UAVs](#), Tethered drones, [SWARM Drones](#), [Make projects, iDEX \(Innovation for Defence Excellence\)](#)

For Mains: Significance of enhancing capabilities of Indian armed forces

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

To enhance its overall operational preparedness, the Indian Army has signed contracts for the procurement of **130 tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators** under **Emergency Procurement (EP)**.

- The long-endurance tether drone systems can be used in high-altitude areas.

Note:

- The emergency financial powers were first given to the **armed forces** after the **2016 Uri attack** to help them circumvent the slow bureaucratic system of procurement. Under these powers, the **services can ink contracts worth Rs 300 crore** each on their own.

What are Tethered Drones and Simulators?

- **Tethered Drones:** Tethered drones are a category of [unmanned aerial vehicles \(UAVs\)](#) linked to a ground-based station via a tether.
 - These tethered drone systems, with wings that span both day and night, are **meant to be watchful protectors, sending important data and video feeds** to enhance border security continuously.
 - Beyond aviation, tethered drones are a paradigm shift in surveillance, virtually anchored to the ground while bearing vital loads like cameras and radios.
 - With their advanced sensor technology and ability to provide an uninterrupted view of vast areas, Tethered Drones can play a crucial role in **enhancing situational awareness and tactical decision-making on the battlefield.**
- **Simulators:** The simulators are supposed to **virtually help in the training of the drivers of tanks and infantry combat vehicles (ICV)** and will contribute to minimising wear and tear on tanks and ICVs during training.

How is the Indian Army Enhancing its Preparedness in Recent Times?

- The army is observing **2023 as the 'Year of Transformation'**, and is working on several projects

to reshape and remodel the functional processes to bring in a "**quantum jump in its capabilities**".

- Since the [India-China stand-off in Eastern Ladakh in 2020](#), the Army has concluded a series of contracts with Indian start-ups for small drones for surveillance and load-carrying.
- **Niche technologies** like logistic and nano drones, counter-drones, loiter munitions, [SWARM drones](#), UAV-launched precision-guided missiles, and automatic spectrum monitoring systems, are being procured.
- Aligning with the larger vision of '[Atmanirbharta](#)', the Army is achieving modernisation with indigenisation through various modes, such as '[Make](#)' projects, [iDEX \(Innovation for Defence Excellence\)](#), and outreach programs like setting up of '**Army Cells**' at leading technology institutions to **promote R&D aligned with the army's requirements**.

What are Some Initiatives to Boost Domestic Production of Defence Equipment?

- [Defence Industrial Corridors](#)
- [Corporatization of the Ordnance Factory Boards](#)
- [Defence India Startup Challenge](#)
- [Draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020](#)
- [Innovations for Defence Excellence \(iDEX\)](#)
- [Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti](#)
- [Indian Navy Indigenisation Plan \(INIP\) 2015-2030](#)
- [Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation \(NIIO\)](#)

Why is it Significant for the Indian Army to Enhance its Capabilities?

- **National Security:** Given India's complex geostrategic environment and its history of conflicts, bolstering defence capabilities is essential to safeguard its borders and citizens.
- **Deterrence:** India's robust defence forces can discourage adversaries from initiating conflicts or hostile actions, contributing to regional stability.
- **Conflict Resolution:** In the unfortunate event of a conflict, superior defense capabilities can lead to quicker and more favorable conflict resolutions.
- **Counter Terrorism:** India has faced numerous instances of terrorism and insurgent activities; enhanced defence capabilities allow for more effective counterterrorism operations.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Strengthening defence capabilities reduces dependency on external sources for defence equipment, technology, and expertise, enhancing India's strategic autonomy.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. What is "Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)", sometimes seen in the news? (2018)

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India's indigenous anti-missile program
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea.

Ans: C

Q. From which one of the following did India buy the Barak anti-missile defence systems? (2008)

- (a) Israel

- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) USA Ans: (a)

Q. In the context of the Indian defense, what is 'Dhruv'? (2008)

- (a) Aircraft-carrying warship
- (b) Missile-carrying submarine
- (c) Advanced light helicopter
- (d) Intercontinental ballistic missile

Ans: (c)

Mains:

Q. How is S-400 air defense system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world? (2021)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/indian-army-enhancing-operational-preparedness>

