

India's Defence Strength

Powering National Security through Self-Reliance

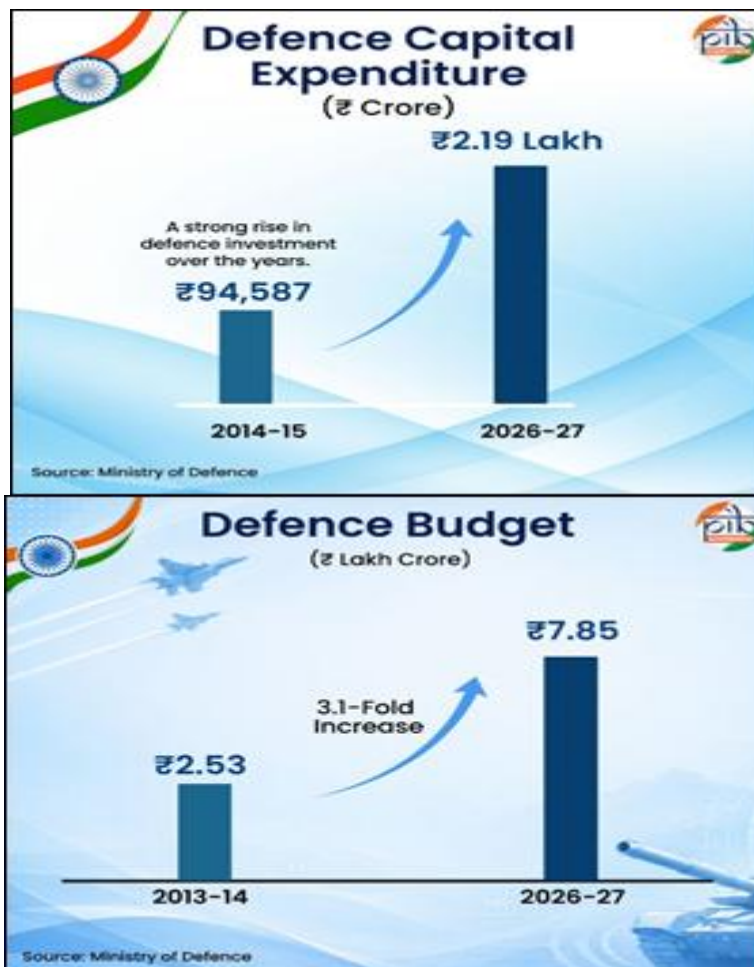
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Strengthening India's Defence

India's defence sector has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past decade. It has emerged as a stronger, more self-reliant and globally credible force. Guided by Atmanirbhar Bharat, sustained reforms, investment and indigenous innovation have strengthened defence capabilities. The domestic defence industrial base has also expanded significantly. As India marks its **80th Independence Day**, this transformation reflects growing confidence in India's ability to safeguard its sovereignty and contribute to global security.

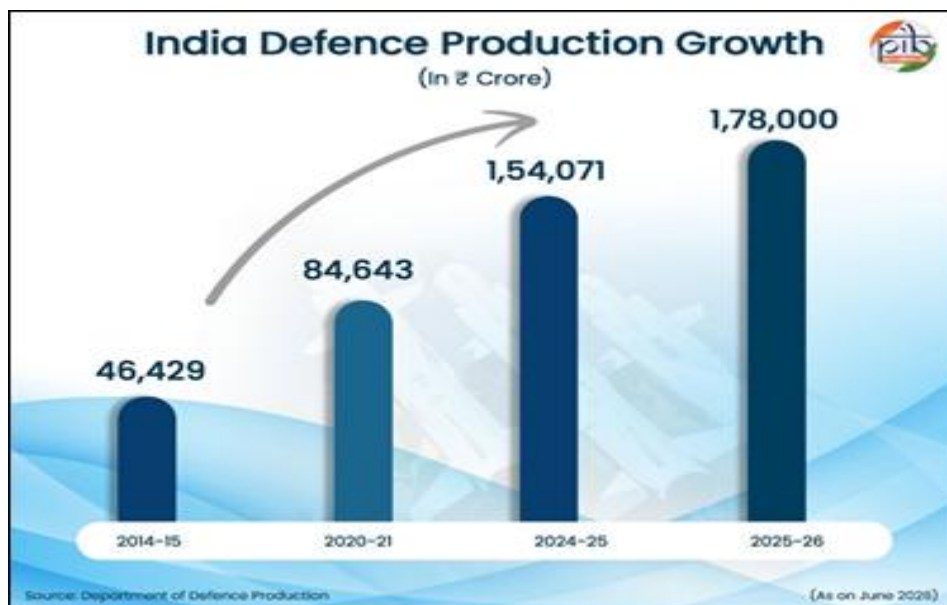
Defence Investment Strengthening Military Capabilities

- **3.1-Fold Growth in Defence Budget:** The defence budget rose from ₹2.53 lakh crore in 2013–14 to ₹7.85 lakh crore in 2026–27.
- **2.3-Fold Growth in Capital Expenditure:** Capital expenditure also increased from ₹94,587 crore in 2014–15 to ₹2.19 lakh crore in 2026–27, enabling sustained modernisation.



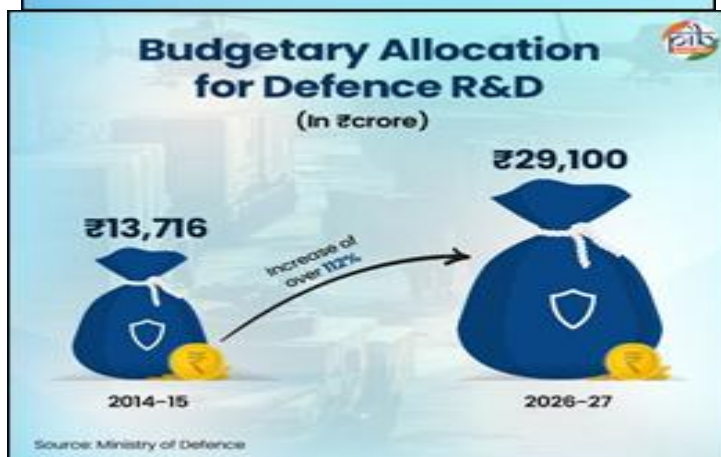
Investment Driving Indigenous Defence Production

- Defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in 2025–26.
- 76% production from public-sector entities and 24% from the private sector.



Domestic Industrial Base Expanding Exports

- **56-Fold Growth in Defence Exports:** Exports rose from ₹686 crore in FY2013–14 to ₹38,424 crore in FY2025–26.
- Exports is reaching **80+ countries** and increased to over **5,500%** in twelve years.
- Private sector contributed ₹17,353 crore or **45.16%** of defence exports in FY2025–26, while Defence Public Sector Undertakings contributed ₹21,071 crore or **54.84%**.
- The Government targets ₹3 lakh crore in annual defence production and ₹50,000 crore in exports by 2029.



Innovation Strengthening Technological Foundation

- Defence R&D allocation rose from ₹13,716.14 crore in 2014–15 to ₹29,100.25 crore in 2026–27, an increase of over 112%.
- Since 2022–23, 25% of the defence R&D budget has been opened to industry, start-ups and academia,
- Testing facilities across 24 DRDO laboratories are accessible through the Defence Testing Portal (DTP), a digital platform managed by the Ministry of Defence. This portal lets domestic manufacturers, startups, and industries request paid access to specialised government testing infrastructure to support indigenous defence production.

Key Initiatives Strengthening India's Defence Industrial Base

India is expanding its defence industrial capacity through indigenous manufacturing, modern infrastructure and greater private-sector participation. This growing ecosystem is strengthening domestic capabilities, supporting innovation and building a resilient defence supply chain.

Defence Acquisition Reforms

- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, India's apex defence procurement body, is driving **Atmanirbhar Bharat** through indigenous acquisitions. It has accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for over ₹6 lakh crore of DRDO-designed, Indian industry-manufactured systems.
- **Major indigenous acquisitions are strengthening combat capabilities:** Approvals include **97 Tejas Mk-1A fighter jets worth ₹62,000 crore** and **156 LCH Prachand helicopters worth ₹62,700 crore**. These procurements expand India's domestic aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities.
- **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** strengthened indigenous procurement and domestic manufacturing. It also expanded opportunities for Indian companies in defence design, development and production.
- **Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016** streamlined defence acquisitions while advancing **Make in India**. It laid the foundation for subsequent reforms in defence procurement.
- **Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025** streamlined nearly ₹1 lakh crore in revenue procurement. It enabled faster approvals, relaxed penalties for indigenous projects and assured long-term orders.

Draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2026

DAP 2026 proposes simpler acquisition categories and stronger support for indigenous design and development. It also proposes indigenous content requirements of up to 60%.

Boosting Innovation — iDEX, ADITI & TDF

- The **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** scheme, with a ₹498.78 crore outlay, engaged 676 startups, MSMEs, and innovators, resulting in 551 design and development contracts as of March 2026.
- **ADITI Scheme:** Approved with a ₹750 crore outlay (2023–24 to 2025–26), ADITI provides financial support through the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) to accelerate innovative defence technologies.
- **Technology Development Fund:** The scheme provides grants of up to ₹50 crore for critical defence technology development. As of June 2026, **80 projects worth ₹334 crore** were under implementation, with an additional ₹500 crore corpus sanctioned for deep technology and emerging technologies.

Technology Transfer & Industry Participation

- DRDO's **Development cum Production Partner framework** transferred technologies to 134 partner companies.
- 2,180 technology transfer agreements signed.
- 2,780+ IPRs opened for industry use as on March 2026.

Indigenisation & Domestic Manufacturing

- Till May 2026, 10 **Positive Indigenisation** lists, five each of DMA & DDP, covering 5,521 items were notified, resulting in increased Aatmanirbharta in defence production.
- **Srijan Defence Equipment Empowerment Platform (DEEP)** is a digital repository promoting indigenous defence sourcing. As of May 2026, it listed over 41,000 vendors and 2.7 lakh products, strengthening domestic supply chains.
- By April 2026, the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor** had attracted **₹42,057 crore** in investment commitments, with **₹4,409 crore grounded**.
- The **Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor** attracted **₹32,699 crore**, with **₹6,446 crore realised**, strengthening India's defence manufacturing base.
- The **BrahMos Integration & Testing Facility in Lucknow** has begun manufacturing missiles.

Ease of Doing Business & Defence Trade

- Industrial licence validity was extended from 7 (+3) years to 15 (+3, up to 18) years, with lifetime validity now granted under the Arms Act.
- The **revamped Defence Exim Portal** enables end to end application processing, automated company verification, simplified registration, real time tracking and secure payment integration, making defence trade clear and more efficient.
- The **FDI limit** in the defence sector was increased to 74% under the Automatic Route and up to 100% via the Government Route, attracting **₹6,670.59 crore** in inflows by March 2026.

The reforms have created a more enabling environment for defence manufacturing, with stronger institutional support and clearer pathways from innovation to deployment.

Advancing India's Defence Self-Reliance: FY 2025–26

India's defence landscape has undergone a significant shift towards greater domestic capability, technological sophistication and operational resilience. Indigenous development now spans ammunition, missiles, propulsion, air defence and naval platforms, supported by stronger government-industry collaboration.

Indigenisation Strengthening Operational Self-Reliance

- **The Indian Army achieved roughly 91% self-sufficiency by indigenising 159 out of 175 ammunition variants in its inventory.**
- India has successfully tested the **Agni-4 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile** and **Agni-5 Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile**, validating their operational and technical parameters.
- The **TARA Glide Weapon** and **RudraM-II air-to-surface missile** have also demonstrated indigenous precision-strike capabilities against ground targets.
- The **DRDO** has advanced multiple indigenous systems, including the **Kusha Long Range Air Defence Missile** and **Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)**. An integrated air-defence system combining missile interceptors, short-range weapons and laser technologies has also been successfully tested.

- DRDO successfully conducted a **12-minute ground test of an actively cooled scramjet combustor**, supporting hypersonic missile development.

Advancing Maritime Defence And Strike Capabilities

- The Indian Navy commissioned **12 warships and submarines**, including **INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer**.
- **INS Mahendragiri**, stealth frigate, also entered service with **over 75% indigenous content**.
- **SHACHI**, the first of **11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels**, launched. **INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray** also commissioned, completing the indigenous **Sandhayak-class survey fleet, expanding maritime surveillance and survey capabilities**.
- DRDO successfully tested the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Medium Range** and demonstrated **multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence** capability. It is strengthening India's ability to counter diverse aerial and maritime threats.

India's defence transformation has built greater depth across military preparedness, manufacturing and internal security.

Powering India's Defence Ambition to 2047

India's defence transformation reflects a clear shift towards greater self-reliance, technological capability and global confidence. Stronger indigenous production, research and development, innovation and industry participation are enhancing defence capacity across land, air and maritime domains. Growing exports and strategic partnerships are reinforcing India's role as a reliable global defence partner. With continued investment in advanced technologies and domestic manufacturing, India is building the capabilities needed to meet future security requirements and strengthen its position as a technologically advanced defence power by 2047.

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