

Exercise Drone Prahar: Indian Army's Push Towards Drone Warfare

Location: Rayang Military Station, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh

Tags: Indian Army, Drone Technology, Defence Exercises, Military Technology, SSB Preparation

What is Exercise Drone Prahar?

Exercise Drone Prahar is a high-tech military drill conducted by the Indian Army to validate the integration of drone technology into tactical battlefield operations. The exercise was recently carried out at the Rayang military station in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang District under realistic combat-like conditions.

This exercise marks a significant step toward modernizing India's defence capabilities, focusing on drone-based intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and precision targeting.

Objectives of Exercise Drone Prahar

- To validate the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in real-time battlefield scenarios
- To improve command reach and situational awareness for tactical commanders
- To enable sensor-to-shooter coordination for faster and more accurate threat response
- To assess critical operational aspects like airspace management, secure communication, and multi-arm coordination

Key Features and Technical Evaluations

1. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)

Drones were deployed for continuous surveillance, allowing commanders to gather accurate, real-time data on enemy movements and terrain.

2. Precision Targeting and Real-Time Engagement

The exercise demonstrated sensor-to-shooter linkage, where drones provided instant intelligence to ground forces for pinpoint strikes on targets.

3. Airspace Deconfliction

Multiple aerial platforms were operated simultaneously, testing protocols to avoid aerial collisions and ensure smooth drone coordination.

4. Secure Communication Channels

The exercise validated encrypted communication systems between drones and control units to safeguard battlefield data.

5. Inter-Unit Coordination

Protocols were tested to ensure seamless integration of drone operations across infantry, artillery, air defence, and engineering corps.

Strategic Significance

- Reinforces the Indian Army's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technology in combat
- Marks a major stride in developing a technology-enabled, network-centric warfare model
- Enhances India's preparedness to respond to emerging hybrid warfare and high-tech threats

Future Implications for the Indian Military

- Wider operational deployment of UAVs across forward commands
- Integration of drone warfare modules in training institutions like IMA, NDA, OTA, and DSSC
- Boost in indigenous defence R&D and drone procurement strategies
- Reduced troop exposure and enhanced operational efficiency in high-risk areas

Importance for Defence Aspirants

For UPSC, NDA, CDS, and SSB aspirants, Exercise Drone Prahar is a must-know defence current affairs topic. Here's why:

- It highlights key trends in modern warfare—essential for General Studies and Defence Awareness
- Useful for answering questions in SSB interviews, group discussions, and

- Shows India's focus on self-reliant, tech-driven military advancements under initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India

Conclusion

Exercise Drone Prahar is a landmark event in India's military modernization journey, signaling a decisive move towards autonomous and data-driven warfare. For aspirants preparing for defence services, staying informed on such exercises is crucial for both written examinations and personality assessments.

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