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Asia Europe USA UK Middle East Africa

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In this issue:

- **India building a fully automated surveillance network**
- **Major initiatives taken by the government to promote India's defence exports**



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India building a fully automated surveillance network

India is slowly but steadily building a fully automated surveillance network to make its airspace, which still has many gaping holes in central and peninsular mainland as well as island territories, as secure as possible in the years ahead. By progressive integration of all airborne and ground-based civilian and military radars around the country, the aim is to ensure any intrusion by a hostile aircraft, helicopter, drone or micro-light is detected as soon as it takes place.

The IAF has already established five nodes of the automated air defence network with data links or the IACCS (integrated air command and control system) at Barnala (Punjab), Wadsar (Gujarat), Aya Nagar (Delhi), Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Ambala (Haryana) with help from defence PSU Bharat Electronics

Under Phase-II of the IACCS, approved by the defence acquisitions council for Rs 7,160 Crore, four new major nodes and 10 sub-nodes will now come up. While three nodes will be in eastern, central and southern India, the fourth is meant for the strategically-located Andaman and Nicobar Island archipelago.

Some civilian radar are already linked to the IAF network, which includes the ones controlled by the Airports Authority of India at Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Bangalore.

For further information, please [click here](#)

[Top](#)

Major initiatives taken by the government to promote India's defence exports

The government has not just confined itself to “Make in India” drive but now has taken various measures to encourage the number of export orders that Indian companies are getting in the defence sector. These initiatives are taken by the Defence Ministry in order to defence companies in India.

Some of the major initiatives are:

- Formulation of a Defence Export Strategy outlining the policy and procedural initiatives to be taken by the government.
- Constitution of a Defence Export Steering Committee (DESC) to deliberate and decide policy and procedural issues related to defence exports.
- The SOP for issue of NOC for export has been simplified and streamlined and has been put in the public.
- The processing of receiving the applications for NOC for export and the process for issuing NOC have been made online.

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Middle East

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has a negative list of countries for defence export and views of MEA are taken into account before granting No Objection (NOC) for export to such countries, said Minister of State for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh in a written reply in Lok Sabha recently. The companies getting export orders apply to the Department of Defence Production (DDP) for NOC for export and the same is issued as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which has also been put in public domain.

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[Top](#)

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[Top](#)