

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022

**The 12th edition of the biennial DefExpo will be organized from October 18 to 22 in Gujarat.**

### Key facts

- The theme for the DefExpo 2022 is 'Path to Pride', which is in line with the Indian Government's vision towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- For the first time, only Indian exhibitors are allowed in this event. However, foreign companies are invited to conduct seminars and meetings during the show, including the one in which they will be invited to invest in Indian startups and companies.
- The event will be held in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, involving live demonstrations showcasing the equipment and skills of the Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), and private entities.
- It will mark the celebration of one year of the formation of 7 new Defence companies that have been carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). These companies will be taking part in the DefExpo for the first time.
- The Indian Pavilion – a marque pavilion of the Defence Production Department – will demonstrate the development of indigenous Defence products, startups, latest technologies, including AI in Defence.
- At the pavilion, around 50 Indian startups will demonstrate their products.
- For the first time, states and union territories will be setting up pavilions during the event.
- As part of the event, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the DRDO will conduct live demonstration of the land, naval, and air procedures and systems at the Sabarmati River Front. The joint live demonstration will include combat freefall, Saranghelo aerobatics, high-speed boat runs, neutralizing adversary posts, and slithering from helo into a boat.
- The event will also include the hosting of the 2nd edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, which will witness the participation of Defence ministers of various African countries.
- A separate Indian Ocean Region (IOR) plus conclave will also be organized.
- The focus of DefExpo 2022 is to promote Defence export to countries in Africa and IOR.
- During the event 451 agreements are expected to be inked, including MoUs, transfer of technology agreements, and product launch. These agreements are estimated to be worth over Rs. 1.5 lakh crore.



## What is HTT-40?

The indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft HTT-40 is set to be unveiled during the 12th edition of the DefExpo on October 19, 2022.



### Key facts

- The indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft HTT-40 (Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40) is developed and manufactured by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The trainer aircraft is expected to be unveiled at the India Pavilion during the DefExpo 2022.
- The HAL and Indian Air Force will finalize a contract for 70 HTT-40s during the event.
- The aircraft will be powered TPE331-12 family of engines developed by Honeywell International Inc. This enables the trainer aircraft to quickly accelerate, consume lesser fuel, and increase reliability and flexibility to conduct a wide range of training missions.
- 70 per cent of the HTT-40 is made of indigenous Indian content.
- HTT-40 will be used by the IAF for training new pilots before they are allowed to use more advanced HAL HJT-16 Kiran (intermediate jet-powered trainer aircraft) and “Hawk” Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT).
- After the AJT training is complete, the trainees can be posted to fighter squadrons of the Indian Air Force.
- The HTT-40 will be used for basic flight training, aerobatics, instrument flying, and close formation flight.
- The aircraft is equipped with the latest avionics, an air-conditioned cabin, and ejection seats.
- It provides the best-in-class fuel economy and power rating and is capable of taking off from a short distance. It has a high rate of climb and a maximum speed of 450 km per hour.
- It can reach a maximum distance of 1,000 km.
- The aircraft successfully completed its spin flight certification test last year.
- It is now set to be certified to international military aircraft training standards. It had completed all tests required for the certification.
- HAL is currently planning to develop a weaponized version of this aircraft to be used in counter-insurgency and limited strike operations.