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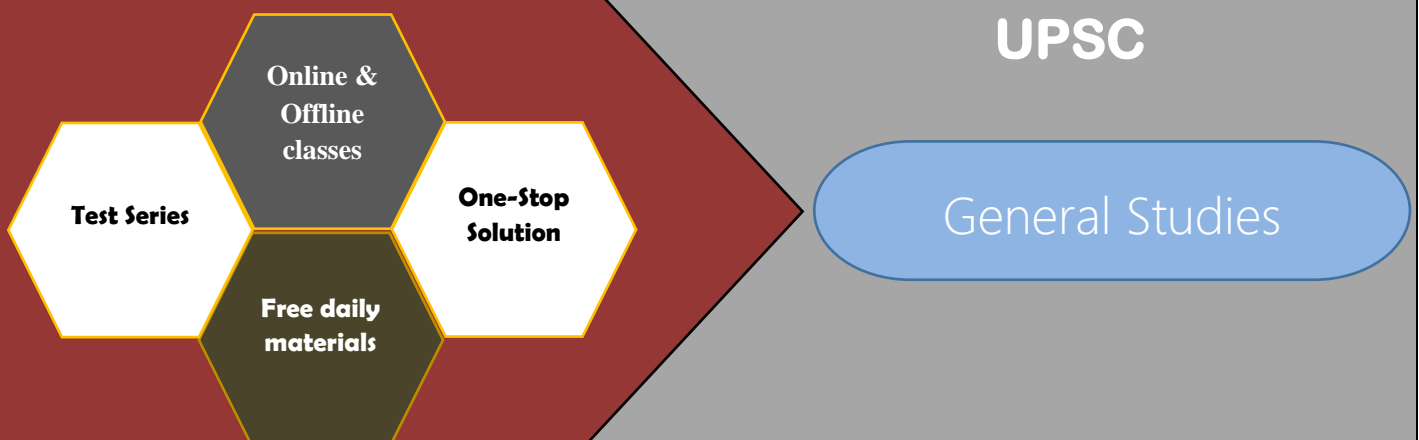
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France's First Space Military Exercise: AsterX

Notes for civil services preparation



France's First Space Military Exercise: AsterX

- Amid the growing competition among the world powers in the field of space, France has begun its **first space military exercises** to test its ability to defend its satellites.

Key Points

- **About the Exercise:**

- The exercise drills are codenamed "**AsterX**" to commemorate the first French satellite **Asterix** from
- The exercises are part of France's strategy to become the world's **third- largest space power**, after the USA and China.
- These space military exercises are the first ever attempt not only for the French army but also for Europe.
- Moreover, France has planned to develop **anti-satellite laser weapons** and to strengthen surveillance capabilities to close the gap with rivals; China and

Aim of the Exercise:

- To monitor a potentially dangerous space object as well as threats to its own satellite from another foreign power possessing a considerable space

Participants:

- Along with France, the new **US Space Force and German space agencies** are taking part in the

Background:

- In 2018, **Olymp-K**, a Russian satellite attempted to intercept transmissions from the **Athena-Fidus satellite** which is used by both Italian and French armies for secure communications. This was **termed as an act of ‘espionage’**.
- In 2020, the United States also **accused Russia** of having “conducted a non-destructive test” of an anti-satellite weapon from
- In 2019, France announced its **Commandement de l’Espace (CdE)** (French Space Command).
- It is set to have 500 personnel by

Similar Initiatives of India:

- **IndSpaceEx:** India’s first ever simulated space warfare