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DRDO & Research & Development:

On August 9, 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) continues to focus on key initiatives aimed at modernizing India's defense capabilities through indigenous technology. A significant development is the introduction of new M.Tech programs at the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) to address the defense sector's technological demands.

Research and Academic Initiatives

The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a DRDO-affiliated university, has launched two new M.Tech programs: one in semiconductor chip design and another in defence and space electronics. These courses are designed to meet the future needs of the Indian Armed Forces, upcoming DRDO projects, and the private defense industry. DRDO's Chairman, Samir Kamat, is scheduled to inaugurate two new laboratories on August 9th as part of these new academic and research initiatives.

In addition to these new courses, DIAT has been training a specialized team of "cyber commandos" for the Ministry of Home Affairs. These commandos are being trained to identify and neutralize cyber threats, especially those driven by advanced artificial intelligence (AI) tools. The training curriculum has been updated to address emerging challenges like AI-generated deepfakes and algorithmic attacks on critical infrastructure.

Strategic Focus Areas

DRDO is prioritizing eight "niche, deep technology areas" for intensified research and development. This strategic shift is in response to the evolving nature of modern warfare and the need to counter emerging and hybrid threats. The organization has also identified 183 military systems for exclusive development by the private industry, allowing DRDO to focus its internal resources on more complex and high-risk research.

This includes collaborations facilitated through programs like the Technology Development Fund (TDF), which provides funding to MSMEs and startups, and the establishment of DRDO-Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoE) to drive innovation in fields like quantum communication, cryptography, and advanced photonics.

Ongoing and Future Projects

While not announced today, recent reports indicate progress on several key projects, including:

A lighter, air-launched subsonic cruise missile.

A naval variant of the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS).

An indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile system under Project Kusha.

New Project 18-class destroyers for the Indian Navy, which will feature a sea-based ballistic missile defense system and hypersonic weapons.





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MCQS

1. Which of the following M.Tech programs has been launched by the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)?

- A) Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- B) Robotics and Automation
- C) Semiconductor Chip Design and Defence and Space Electronics
- D) Civil Engineering and Architecture

Answer: C) Semiconductor Chip Design and Defence and Space Electronics

The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has introduced two new M.Tech programs in semiconductor chip design and defence and space electronics to address the technological demands of the defense sector.

2. For which government body is DIAT training a team of "cyber commandos"?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D) Indian Army

Answer: B) Ministry of Home Affairs

DIAT is training a specialized team of "cyber commandos" for the Ministry of Home Affairs to combat cyber threats, including those posed by advanced AI tools and deepfakes.

3. What is the purpose of the Technology Development Fund (TDF) program mentioned in the text?

- A) To provide scholarships for students at DIAT
- B) To fund MSMEs and startups for defense-related projects
- C) To manage the budget for DRDO's internal projects
- D) To handle international defense collaborations





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Answer: B) To fund MSMEs and startups for defense-related projects

The Technology Development Fund (TDF) is a program that provides funding to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups to encourage their participation in defense research and development.

4. What is Project Kusha?

- A) A new class of destroyers for the Indian Navy
- B) An indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile system
- C) A new air-launched subsonic cruise missile
- D) A naval variant of the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)

Answer: B) An indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile system

Project Kusha is a key DRDO initiative focused on developing an indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile system to enhance India's air defense capabilities.



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