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DRDO & Research & Development

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DRDO & Research & Development:

Key Developments on August 13, 2025

On August 13, 2025, a significant development in India's defense sector was the arrest of a DRDO guest house manager in Jaisalmer for allegedly spying for Pakistan's ISI. The manager, identified as Mahendra Singh, was accused of passing sensitive information, including details about the movements of DRDO scientists and Indian Army officers during missile and weapons testing at the Chandan Field Firing Range. This incident highlights the ongoing security challenges and the importance of intelligence vigilance against foreign operations.

Broader DRDO and Defense R&D **Updates**

Beyond this specific incident, other important news from DRDO and related defense R&D efforts in early to mid-August 2025 include:

Defense Export and Production Growth: India's defense production has reached a record high of ₹1.51 lakh crore in fiscal year 2024-25, an 18% increase from the previous year. DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V Kamat expressed confidence that India would achieve its defense export target of ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29, driven by strong international interest in indigenous systems like the Pinaka, ATAGS, BrahMos, and Akash missiles. This success is attributed to government initiatives 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

IAF's Missile Program: Following the success of Operation Sindoor, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is prioritizing the induction of long-range missiles. The IAF is urging DRDO to accelerate the development of longer-range variants of the Astra missile and is pushing for progress on Project Kusha, an indigenous long-range air defense system.

Missile Testing: India has expanded a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a missile test scheduled for August 20-21, 2025, extending the danger zone to 2,530 km in the Indian Ocean. This has led to speculation that the test could involve an advanced system like the Agni-6 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) or a hypersonic variant, which would be a significant step in enhancing India's long-range strike capabilities.

New Technologies and **Projects:** DRDO continues to work on various projects. The development of the light tank 'Zorawar' is in its advanced stages, with user trials expected to commence in September. The DRDO is also planning to develop 'BrahMos-NG', a smaller version of the BrahMos missile, to be integrated into more fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

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- b) ₹50,000 crore
- c) ₹1.28 lakh crore
- d) ₹2.00 lakh crore

Answer: b) ₹50,000 crore

The DRDO Chairman expressed confidence that India would achieve its defense export target of ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29.

- 3. What indigenous long-range air defense system is the Indian Air Force (IAF) pushing DRDO to develop?
- a) BrahMos
- b) Agni-6
- c) Astra
- d) Project Kusha

Answer: d) Project Kusha

The text mentions that the IAF is "pushing fo progress on Project Kusha, an indigenous longrange air defense system."

- 4. What is the name of the light tank being developed by DRDO, with user trials expected to begin in September?
- a) Arjun
- b) T-90
- c) Zorawar
- d) Vijayanta

Answer: c) Zorawar

The text specifies, "The development of the light tank 'Zorawar' is in its advanced stages, with user trials expected commence to September."

- 5. What is the expanded NOTAM for a missile test on August 20-21, 2025, speculating to be for?
- a) BrahMos-NG
- b) Astra missile
- c) Agni-6 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) Page | 2

MCQS

- 1. A DRDO guest house manager was arrested for spying. What was his name and who was he allegedly spying for?
- a) Samir Kamat, for China
- b) Mahendra Singh, for Pakistan's ISI
- c) Jagan Singh, for Russia
- d) Rohit Sharma, for the USA

Answer: b) Mahendra Singh, for Pakistan's ISI The text states, "The manager, identified as Mahendra Singh, was accused of passing sensitive information... for Pakistan's ISI."

2. What is India's defense production target for exports by 2028-29?

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a) ₹1.51 lakh crore

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d) Pinaka missile

Answer: c) Agni-6 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)

The text indicates that the expanded NOTAM "has led to speculation that the test could involve an advanced system like the Agni-6 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) or a hypersonic variant."

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