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## DRDO & Research & Development:

### Strategic Projects & Missile Development

**Pralay Air-Launched Variant:** DRDO is actively working on an air-launched version of the Pralay short-range ballistic missile. This project faces significant technical challenges, particularly reducing the missile's weight, which currently exceeds 5 tons, to be compatible with aircraft like the Su-30 MKI. If successful, this would provide a new hypersonic, quasi-ballistic weapon with terminal maneuverability to evade missile defenses.

**"Mission Sudarshan Chakra" Contribution:** DRDO is a key player in the recently announced "Mission Sudarshan Chakra," India's plan for a multi-layered, integrated air and missile defense shield. This mission, which will protect critical and civilian infrastructure, will rely heavily on indigenous systems developed by DRDO. The Project Kusha is a part of this mission, focusing on a long-range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) system with interceptors capable of hitting targets at ranges up to 350 km.

**Success of Indigenous Systems in "Operation Sindoor":** DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat confirmed that indigenous systems played a crucial role in "Operation Sindoor," India's retaliatory strike against Pakistan. The BrahMos missile was the primary offensive weapon, while the Akashteer automated air defense control and reporting system provided the defensive backbone, effectively integrating sensors and neutralizing threats.

### Production & Exports

**Record Defence Production:** India's defense production reached a record ₹1,50,590 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year, an 18% increase over the previous year. This growth is attributed to the government's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) and "Make in India" initiatives, which have boosted domestic manufacturing.

**Rising Defence Exports:** Defence exports also hit a new high of ₹23,622 crore in FY25, a 12% rise from the previous year. Dr. Kamat expressed confidence that these exports could double in the next two to three years, citing strong global interest in indigenous systems like Pinaka, ATAGS, BrahMos, and Akash from countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

### Recruitment & Other News

**Recruitment Updates:** DRDO continues its recruitment drives, with ongoing application screening for various scientist and research fellow positions.

**Personnel Security:** A DRDO guest house manager was arrested in Jaisalmer on suspicion of spying for Pakistan, highlighting the ongoing security challenges faced by the organization.

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### MCQS

1. What is the primary technical challenge DRDO faces in developing the air-launched variant of the Pralay missile?

- A. Increasing the missile's range
- B. Reducing the missile's weight to be compatible with aircraft
- C. Developing a new propulsion system
- D. Enhancing its terminal maneuverability

**Answer:** B. Reducing the missile's weight to be compatible with aircraft

The provided text explicitly states that the project faces "significant technical challenges, particularly reducing the missile's weight,

which currently exceeds 5 tons, to be compatible with aircraft like the Su-30 MKI."

2. Which of the following is a key component of India's "Mission Sudarshan Chakra"?

- A. The BrahMos missile system
- B. The Akashteer automated air defense system
- C. The Project Kusha LR-SAM system
- D. The Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher

**Answer:** C. The Project Kusha LR-SAM system

The text states that "The Project Kusha is a part of this mission, focusing on a long-range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) system with interceptors capable of hitting targets at ranges up to 350 km."

3. According to DRDO Chairman Dr. Samir V. Kamat, which indigenous system was the primary offensive weapon in "Operation Sindoor"?

- A. Pinaka
- B. Akash
- C. BrahMos
- D. ATAGS

**Answer:** C. BrahMos

The text confirms that "The BrahMos missile was the primary offensive weapon" used in "Operation Sindoor."

4. What was the percentage increase in India's defense production in the 2024-25 fiscal year compared to the previous year?

- A. 12%
- B. 18%
- C. 23%
- D. 15%

**Answer:** B. 18%

The document states that India's defense production "reached a record ₹1,50,590 crore in







the 2024-25 fiscal year, an 18% increase over the previous year."

**5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a key factor in the growth of India's defense production?**

- A. The "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative
- B. The "Make in India" initiative
- C. Strong global interest in indigenous systems
- D. Increased recruitment of scientists

**Answer:** D. Increased recruitment of scientists  
The text attributes the growth in defense production to the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India" initiatives. While strong global interest is mentioned as a factor for exports, it is not listed as a reason for the increase in production. Increased recruitment is mentioned in a separate section and is not linked to the rise in defense production.



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