



## DRDO & Research & Development:

**Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS):** DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight tests of the IADWS on August 23, 2025. This is a multi-layered air defense shield that integrates three indigenous technologies:

Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)

Very-Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles

**A high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW)**

During the tests off the coast of Odisha, the system successfully engaged and destroyed three simultaneous aerial targets, including two high-speed fixed-wing UAVs and a drone. This success follows lessons from "Operation Sindoor" in May, which highlighted the need for homegrown defense systems.

**Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) MkII:**

DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is advancing its work on the AMCA MkII, a fifth-generation stealth fighter. A central part of this project is the AI-powered E-Pilot (Electronic Pilot) system, which is being developed to handle autonomous takeoffs, landings, and eventually, combat missions without a human pilot.

**Space-Based Interceptors:** Under the Sudarshan Chakra program, India is reportedly working on developing space-based interceptors to neutralize hostile ballistic missiles during their most vulnerable "boost-phase." This program

builds on DRDO's Project Kusha and aims to provide a next-generation missile defense shield.

### Other Projects:

The Indian Army's "Fleur-De-Lis Brigade," in collaboration with DRDO's Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, has successfully tested a kamikaze FPV drone with an anti-tank munition.

DRDO successfully conducted ground trials of an indigenous automatic fire protection system for the Dornier-228 aircraft.

DRDO also test-fired the indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) 'Astra' with an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker.

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## MCQS

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the three indigenous technologies integrated into the new Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)?

- a) Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)
- b) Very-Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles
- c) A high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW)
- d) BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile

**Answer:** d) BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile  
The text explicitly lists QRSAM, VSHORADS, and a laser-based DEW as the three indigenous technologies integrated into the IADWS. The BrahMos missile is not mentioned as part of this specific system.

2. What type of targets did the IADWS successfully engage and destroy during its flight tests off the coast of Odisha?

- a) A single high-speed fixed-wing UAV.
- b) Three simultaneous aerial targets, including two high-speed fixed-wing UAVs and a drone.
- c) Two hostile fighter jets.
- d) A cruise missile and a helicopter.

**Answer:** b) Three simultaneous aerial targets, including two high-speed fixed-wing UAVs and a drone.

The text states that the system "successfully engaged and destroyed three simultaneous aerial targets, including two high-speed fixed-wing UAVs and a drone."

3. What is the key feature of the AMCA MkII project being developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)?

- a) A new type of stealth material for the aircraft's body.
- b) An AI-powered E-Pilot system for autonomous flight.
- c) A new engine co-developed with a foreign partner.
- d) A new type of vertical take-off and landing capability.

**Answer:** b) An AI-powered E-Pilot system for autonomous flight.

The text highlights that a "central part of this project is the AI-powered E-Pilot (Electronic Pilot) system, which is being developed to handle autonomous takeoffs, landings, and eventually, combat missions without a human pilot."

4. The "Sudarshan Chakra" program is aimed at developing what?

- a) An advanced satellite communication system.
- b) A new type of attack helicopter.







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- c) Space-based interceptors to neutralize hostile ballistic missiles.  
d) A new reconnaissance satellite.

**Answer:** c) Space-based interceptors to neutralize hostile ballistic missiles.

The text explicitly states that under the Sudarshan Chakra program, "India is reportedly working on developing space-based interceptors to neutralize hostile ballistic missiles."

**5. What type of drone was successfully tested by the Indian Army's "Fleur-De-Lis Brigade" in collaboration with DRDO?**

- a) A surveillance drone with high-resolution cameras.  
b) A cargo drone for delivering supplies.  
c) A kamikaze FPV drone with an anti-tank munition.  
d) A solar-powered long-endurance drone.

**Answer:** c) A kamikaze FPV drone with an anti-tank munition.

The text notes that the "Fleur-De-Lis Brigade," in collaboration with DRDO, "has successfully tested a kamikaze FPV drone with an anti-tank munition."

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