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DRDO & Research & Development:

Project Kusha

The Project Kusha is an ambitious initiative by DRDO to develop an indigenous long-range air defence system. The system, also known as the Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS), is designed to provide a multi-layered shield against a wide range of aerial threats, including:

Stealth fighters

Drones

Cruise missiles

Hypersonic threats

The project is structured with three different interceptor variants, each with a different range: M1 (150 km), M2 (250 km), and M3 (350-400 km). While all variants will share a common kill vehicle, they'll use different boosters to achieve their specified ranges. The M1 missile, which is the first to be tested, will fill the operational gap between India's medium-range missile systems (80 km) and the Russian S-400 system (400 km). The system's integration with the Indian Air Force's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) will enable real-time coordination and enhanced situational awareness.

Other Developments

In addition to Project Kusha, DRDO continues to work on various other projects and initiatives:

Recruitment: DRDO's Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC) is actively engaged in the recruitment process for Scientist 'B' posts with application closing dates and screening in progress.

Collaboration: DRDO has collaborated with institutions like AIIMS Bibinagar to develop a cost-effective Carbon Fibre Foot Prosthesis, demonstrating its work on civilian applications of military technology.

Quantum Technology: The organization has a focus on advanced technology, including the inauguration of a Quantum Technology Research Centre to boost indigenous capabilities for strategic and defence applications.

Missile Tests: Earlier, in July 2025, DRDO successfully conducted two consecutive flight tests of the Pralay missile.

Technological Roadmap: The Defence Ministry has also released a Technology Perspective Capability Roadmap which serves as a wishlist for the domestic defence industry, including advanced platforms like hypersonic missiles, stealth unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), and AI-driven weapon systems.





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MCQS

1.What is the primary purpose of the Project Kusha initiative by DRDO?

- A) To develop a new type of reconnaissance drone.
- B) To create an indigenous long-range air defense system.
- C) To design an advanced submarine for the Indian Navy.
- D) To build a new main battle tank for the Indian Army.

Answer: B)

The text explicitly states that Project Kusha "is an ambitious initiative by DRDO to develop an indigenous long-range air defence system," which is also known as the Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS).

2.The M1 missile, the first variant of Project Kusha, is designed to fill the operational gap between which two existing systems?

- A) India's short-range missiles and the Akash system.
- B) India's medium-range missile systems (80 km) and the Russian S-400 system (400 km).
- C) The BrahMos missile and the Agni series.
- D) The naval version and the army version of the missile.

Answer: B)

The text specifies that the M1 missile "will fill the operational gap between India's medium-range missile systems (80 km) and the Russian S-400 system (400 km)," providing a crucial layer of defense.

3.Which of the following is an example of a civilian application of military technology mentioned in the provided text?

- A) The development of hypersonic missiles.
- B) The integration of AI in weapon systems.





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C) The creation of a cost-effective Carbon Fibre Foot Prosthesis.

D) The establishment of a Quantum Technology Research Centre.

Answer: C)

The text highlights a collaboration where DRDO, with AIIMS Bibinagar, developed a "cost-effective Carbon Fibre Foot Prosthesis, demonstrating its work on civilian applications of military technology."

4.What are the three different range variants of interceptor missiles planned under Project Kusha?

- A) 100 km, 200 km, and 300 km.
- B) 150 km, 250 km, and 350-400 km.
- C) 50 km, 100 km, and 150 km.
- D) 200 km, 300 km, and 400 km.

Answer: B)

The text clearly outlines the three variants and their respective ranges: "M1 (150 km), M2 (250 km), and M3 (350-400 km)."

5.The Technology Perspective Capability Roadmap released by the Defence Ministry includes a wishlist for which of the following?

- A) New civilian transport vehicles.
- B) Advanced platforms like hypersonic missiles and AI-driven weapon systems.
- C) Agricultural technology for food security.
- D) Infrastructure projects and smart city development.

Answer: B)

The text states that the roadmap is a "wishlist for the domestic industry" that includes "advanced platforms such as: Hypersonic missiles, Stealth unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), AI-driven weapon systems."

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