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## DRDO & Research & Development:

### DRDO & R&D News on September 13, 2025

On September 13, 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is at the forefront of India's defense R&D efforts, with key developments in missile technology, a major jet engine collaboration, and a renewed focus on domestic manufacturing.

#### Key Developments

**Pralay Missile Flight Tests:** The DRDO has successfully conducted two consecutive flight tests of the Pralay missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island. These trials were part of a user evaluation to validate the missile's range capabilities and pave the way for its future induction into the Armed Forces.

**Jet Engine Development with France:** A joint venture between DRDO and French aerospace company Safran is set to begin building a new 120 kilonewton fighter jet engine. This is a major step toward indigenous development of engines for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fifth-generation fighter jet. The collaboration aims for a full transfer of intellectual property rights, including advanced single-crystal blade technology.

**Project Kusha Missile Test:** The DRDO is gearing up for a test of the Project Kusha M1 missile in September 2025. This test is a crucial step in bolstering India's indigenous, multi-layered air defense network, with the M1 variant laying the

foundation for subsequent trials of longer-range M2 and M3 variants.

**Focus on MSMEs and Startups:** The DRDO recently held a conclave in Lucknow to engage with Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. The goal is to boost their participation in defense research, development, and production, especially within the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, reinforcing the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

**Data Leak Case Update:** An alleged Pakistani ISI operative, Asif Ali, was produced in a Balasore court in connection with the high-profile Chandipur DRDO data leak case. The case is linked to the leaking of classified information from the DRDO's Integrated Test Range (ITR).

#### New Technologies & Collaborations

**Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Missile:** DRDO has successfully flight-tested the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3. This enhanced missile is equipped with a high-definition dual-channel seeker and was released from an indigenously developed UAV, showcasing a successful collaboration between DRDO and private Indian startups.

**Through Wall Imaging Radar:** The DRDO has demonstrated a Through Wall Imaging Radar (TWIR) to agencies like the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Delhi Police. This technology can image scenarios and identify individuals behind walls, which is crucial for hostage situations and tactical operations.





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**New R&D Projects:** The DRDO's Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme has sanctioned several new projects to private sector companies, including the development of an Underwater Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Graphene-Based Smart & E-textiles for multifunctional applications.

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## MCQS

**1:What is the primary purpose of the recent flight tests of the Pralay missile?**

- A. To test a new fighter jet engine.
- B. To validate its range capabilities for future induction into the Armed Forces.
- C. To collaborate with French aerospace companies.
- D. To demonstrate the capability of a Through Wall Imaging Radar.

**Answer:** B. To validate its range capabilities for future induction into the Armed Forces.

The text states that the flight tests were "part of a user evaluation to validate the missile's range capabilities and pave the way for its future induction into the Armed Forces."







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**2: The joint venture between DRDO and a French company is set to develop a new fighter jet engine. For which aircraft is this engine primarily intended?**

- A. Rafale fighter jet
- B. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)
- C. Tejas Mark-IA
- D. Project Kusha missile system

**Answer:** B. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)

The text specifies that the new 120 kilonewton fighter jet engine is "a major step toward indigenous development of engines for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) fifth-generation fighter jet."

**3: Which new technology demonstrated by the DRDO is crucial for hostage situations and tactical operations as it can image individuals behind walls?**

- A. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3
- B. Pralay missile
- C. Through Wall Imaging Radar (TWIR)
- D. Graphene-Based Smart & E-textiles

**Answer:** C. Through Wall Imaging Radar (TWIR)

The text states that the "Through Wall Imaging Radar (TWIR)" can "image scenarios and identify individuals behind walls, which is crucial for hostage situations and tactical operations."

**4: What is the name of the missile variant that will be tested as part of Project Kusha in September 2025?**

- A. M3
- B. ULPGM-V3
- C. M2
- D. M1

**Answer:** D. M1

The text mentions that the DRDO is gearing up for a test of the "Project Kusha M1 missile" in September 2025, which will lay the foundation for subsequent trials of the M2 and M3 variants.

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