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DRDO & Research & Development:

Key Developments in DRDO R&D as of September 20, 2025

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) continues to focus on indigenous development and strategic collaboration to advance India's defense capabilities. Several key developments and announcements have been made this month, reflecting a push towards next-generation technologies and greater self-reliance.

Project Kusha Missile Test: DRDO is scheduled to conduct the first test of the Project Kusha M1 missile in September 2025. This marks a significant step for India's indigenous air defense system, officially known as the Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS). The M1 variant has a range of 150 km and is designed to bridge the gap between existing medium-range and long-range air defense systems like the MR-SAM and the S-400.

Emphasis on Emerging Technologies: At the "East Tech 2025" event, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Anil Chauhan, stressed the need for DRDO to prioritize research in Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum technology, machine learning, and directed energy weapons (DEWs). This reflects a strategic shift towards preparing for future, technology-driven warfare.

Collaboration with Industry and Academia: The DRDO has been actively working to enhance collaboration with the private sector and academic institutions. The organization has transferred three advanced materials technologies to the industry in September, demonstrating its commitment to indigenization. Furthermore, the DRDO 2.0

initiative is moving towards handing over the development and production of conventional weapon systems to the private sector, allowing DRDO to concentrate on cutting-edge research.

Career and Recruitment Activities: DRDO has been active in its recruitment and engagement efforts. This month's announcements include calls for consultants, apprentices, and research fellows at various DRDO facilities across the country. These recruitments are crucial for sustaining the pipeline of talent needed for future research and development projects.

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MCQS

1. What is the name of the indigenous air defense system being developed by DRDO, with its first test of the M1 variant scheduled for September 2025?

- a) Project Agni
- b) Project Shakti
- c) Project Kusha
- d) Project Pralay

Answer: c) Project Kusha

The text explicitly states that DRDO is scheduled to conduct the first test of the "Project Kusha M1 missile" in September 2025 as part of the "Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS)."

2. According to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), which of the following is an emerging technology that DRDO should prioritize for future warfare?

- a) Conventional artillery
- b) Artificial Intelligence and Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs)
- c) Traditional infantry tactics
- d) Manned fighter jets

Answer: b) Artificial Intelligence and Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs)

The provided information notes that the CDS, Anil Chauhan, "stressed the need for DRDO to prioritize research in Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum technology, machine learning, and directed energy weapons (DEWs)."

3. The DRDO 2.0 initiative focuses on:

- a) Expanding the production of conventional weapons.
- b) Handing over conventional weapon systems development to the private sector.
- c) Reducing all forms of collaboration with private industry.
- d) Focusing solely on manned fighter aircraft development.

Answer: b) Handing over conventional weapon systems development to the private sector.

The text states that the "DRDO 2.0 initiative is moving towards handing over the development and production of conventional weapon systems to the private sector, allowing DRDO to concentrate on cutting-edge research."

4. What is the primary purpose of DRDO's recent transfer of advanced materials technologies to the industry?

- a) To increase foreign military sales.
- b) To compete with global defence contractors.
- c) To demonstrate a commitment to indigenization.





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d) To recruit foreign scientists.

Answer: c) To demonstrate a commitment to indigenization.

The passage mentions that DRDO has "transferred three advanced materials technologies to the industry in September, demonstrating its commitment to indigenization."

5. Which of the following describes the purpose of the Project Kusha M1 missile?

- a) To replace the existing BrahMos missile system.
- b) To serve as a short-range anti-tank guided missile.
- c) To bridge the operational gap between India's medium-range and long-range air defense systems.
- d) To be used as a ballistic missile for land-based strikes.

Answer: c) To bridge the operational gap between India's medium-range and long-range air defense systems.

The text specifies that the M1 variant is "designed to bridge the gap between existing medium-range and long-range air defense systems like the MR-SAM and the S-400."

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