

Project Kusha: Strengthening India's Indigenous Air Defence Capabilities

DRDO's Project Kusha and indigenous air defence programmes gain strategic momentum under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Project Kusha is DRDO's ambitious project to develop an indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) system offering multi-layered air defence capability.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Project Kusha** aims to deploy an advanced long-range air defence system with operational ranges up to **350 km**.
- The system is being indigenously developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** for the **Indian Air Force**.
- It provides a **multi-layered defence** shield against enemy stealth fighters, unmanned aerial vehicles, **cruise missiles**, and precision-guided munitions.
- The project incorporates **Active Electronically Scanned Array** radar technology to intercept fast-moving aerial targets.
- Indigenous air defence reduces critical reliance on foreign weapons platforms and boosts India's **strategic autonomy**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) was established in **1958** under the Ministry of Defence.

Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (**IGMDP**) was launched in **1983** under the leadership of **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.

The five core missiles developed under **IGMDP** are Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, and Akash (**PATNA**).

Akash is an indigenously developed short-range surface-to-air missile system with an operational range of **25 to 30 km**.

India signed a **\$5.43 billion** deal with Russia in **October 2018** to acquire five squadrons of the **S-400 Triumf** air defence missile system.

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), established in **2001**, is the highest decision-making body for capital procurement in the Ministry of Defence, chaired by the Union Defence Minister.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Project Kusha is DRDO's indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) system with a target range of 350 km.

Syllabus Relevance: Relevant for Group 1 & Group 2 Science & Tech, Defence Indigenisation, and DRDO programmes.

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