

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

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About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

- It is the **R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence**, Govt of India, with a vision **to empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies** and a mission to **achieve self-reliance in critical defence technologies** and systems.
- It is **India's largest research organisation**.
- **Formation:** The organisation was **formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of** the then already functioning **Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO)**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- It **has a network of laboratories engaged in developing defence technologies** covering various fields, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, land combat engineering, life sciences, materials, missiles, and naval systems.
- **Major Projects:**

- DRDO's **first project** for the Indian military **was in surface-to-air missiles (SAM) known as Project Indigo**. However, it received little success and was therefore discontinued.
 - Since being set up, DRDO has **achieved many successes in developing major systems** and critical technologies **like aircraft avionics, UAVs, small arms, artillery systems**, EW Systems, tanks and armoured vehicles, sonar systems, command and control systems and missile systems.
 - **In 2016, It successfully tested its first indigenously developed heavy-duty drone, Rustom 2**, which is an unmanned armed combat vehicle developed on the lines of the US's Predator drone.
 - **DRDO co-developed INS Arihant, India's first nuclear ballistic missile submarine**, which became operational in 2018.
 - **In March 2019, DRDO developed India's first anti-satellite system** that made India one of the space superpowers.
 - DRDO has also **developed several ballistic missiles under its Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme**, which includes missiles like **Prithvi, Trishul, Agni, Akash and Nag**.
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Q1) What is an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)?

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), often referred to as a drone, is an aircraft that operates without a human pilot on board. UAVs are controlled remotely by a human operator or autonomously by onboard computers. These vehicles can vary greatly in size, design, and capabilities, and they are used for a wide range of applications across various industries.

Source: [Centre Sets Up High Powered 9-Member Committee To Review DRDO's Activities, Report Expected In 3 Months](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/defence-research-and-development-organisation-drdo/>

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