



Akash-NG Missile System

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Subject Preference: GS III (Internal Security & Defence Tech)

- **The News:** DRDO successfully completed **User Evaluation Trials (UET)**, clearing the path for its induction into the Indian Air Force.
- **Basics:** A Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (**SRSAM**) capable of intercepting high-agility aerial threats like cruise missiles and fighter jets at ranges up to **80 km**.
- **Strategic & Technical Context:**
- **Propulsion:** Unlike the older ramjet-powered Akash, the NG version uses a **dual-pulse solid rocket motor**, allowing for a smaller footprint and higher speed.
- **Canisterized System:** It uses a canister-based launcher, which ensures **shorter reaction time** and easier mobility (Plug-and-Play capability).
- **Indigenous RF Seeker:** Features an active Radio Frequency seeker for high-precision terminal guidance, reducing dependency on foreign sensor technology.