



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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DRDO tests laser weapon system that can disable missile and drones

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Context

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Sunday announced the successful trial of the **Mk-II(A) Laser-Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) system** “**mastering the technology of disabling missiles, drones and smaller projectiles**”.
- The success has put India in the exclusive club of nations which have the high power Laser-DEW system, the DRDO said in a statement.
- “**Indigenously designed and developed** Mk-II(A) DEW system was demonstrated in its entire spectrum of capability by engaging the fixed wing drones at long range, **thwarting a multiple drone attack** and destroying enemy surveillance sensors and antennae,” the statement said.
- “The lightning speed of engagement, the precision and the lethality delivered at the target within few seconds made it the **most potent counter drone system**.”
- Detailing the functioning of the system, the statement said once **detected by a radar or by its inbuilt Electro Optic (EO) system**, laser-DEW can engage targets at the **speed of light** and **use an intense laser beam to cut through the target, leading to structural failure** or more impactful results if the warhead is targeted.
- This type of cutting-edge weaponry has the potential to **revolutionise the battlespace** by **reducing the reliance on expensive ammunition**, while also lowering the risk of collateral damage, it stated. The trial was carried at the **National Open Air Range, Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh**.

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