# Akash missile and economic growth

## Why in news?

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The indigenously produced Akash missile system will helps modernisation of defence and boosts economic growth.

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## What are the significance of Akash missile?

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- Akash is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile defence system.
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- It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
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- The missile system can target aircraft up to 30 km away, at altitudes up to 18,000 m.
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- It consists of a Rohini radar that detects incoming aircraft at ranges out to 120 km and relays the information to a command post.
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- It has the capability to "neutralise aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles" as well as ballistic missiles.
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- It is in operational service with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
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## What are the issues with Akash production?

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- The production of Akash missiles is not under single body, DRDO develops only foundational technologies.
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- Numerous private sector companies will develop crucial sub-systems.

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- While 330 smaller private firms feed into the Akash’s production as Tier-2 and Tier-3 vendors.
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- Two defence public sector undertakings Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) will function as “systems integrators” that put the entire system together.
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- The Akash production chain stands empty as the defence ministry bargains with BEL over the cost of its next order.
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- Due to various norms the indigenous manufacturers face many difficulties in production.
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- The cost of the missile stands high when compared with equivalent foreign systems.
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- So far Akash had proved its effectiveness against a target far smaller than a combat aircraft.
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- Due this Indian defence agencies are procuring missiles from foreign nations.
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## How Akash will help in defence modernization and economy?

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- Technological updates will make Akash more accurate and capable of longer ranges.
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- Producing the Akash in India provides employment, a key aim of the **“Make in India”** programme.
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- Procuring Akash by various defence departments of India will creates a multiplier effect at multiple levels of our economy.
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- Facilitating the development of defence systems in India creates strategic intellectual property.
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- The Akash production will teach India about the dynamics of mass production, maintenance and spares support and upgrading it to the next level.

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## Source: Business Standard

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