

Akash missile and economic growth

Why in news?

\n\n

The indigenously produced Akash missile system will help modernisation of defence and boost economic growth.

\n\n

What are the significance of Akash missile?

\n\n

\n

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

\n

\n\n

What are the issues with Akash production?

\n\n

\n

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

- \n
- While 330 smaller private firms feed into the Akash's production as Tier-2 and Tier-3 vendors.
- \n
- 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.
- \n
- The Akash production chain stands empty as the defence ministry bargains with BEL over the cost of its next order.
- \n
- Due to various norms the indigenous manufacturers face many difficulties in production.
- \n
- The cost of the missile stands high when compared with equivalent foreign systems.
- \n
- So far Akash had proved its effectiveness against a target far smaller than a combat aircraft.
- \n
- Due this Indian defence agencies are procuring missiles from foreign nations.
- \n

\n\n

How Akash will help in defence modernization and economy?

\n\n

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

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Business Standard

\n

