

# DRDO

August 29, 2020

The DRDO has constituted a five-member committee, headed by the IIT-Delhi director, to **overhaul its 52 laboratories for current and future defence and battlefield needs**. Tasked to submit a report within 45 days, the committee is aimed at streamlining the labs and bringing about a change in how the Defence Research and Development Organisation works. This is the **second attempt being made in recent years to overhaul the DRDO, which has often been criticised for its slow pace of work**.

## Reforms in DRDO

In 2008, a committee was formed under P. Rama Rao, former secretary, Department of Science and Technology. The committee had then **recommended far-reaching changes, which involved the DRDO focusing on core technology areas rather than non-core areas** like making mosquito repellent and even juices. Based on the recommendations, the **DRDO's management was made leaner and its 52 labs were brought to form seven clusters** like electronic warfare, armaments, aeronautical systems and life science, among others.

DRDO is the **R&D wing of 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, while equipping our armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment** in accordance with requirements laid down by the three services. DRDO's pursuit of self-reliance and successful indigenous development and production of strategic systems and platforms such as **Agni and Prithvi series of missiles; light combat aircraft, Tejas; multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defence system, Akash; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems;** have given quantum jump to India's

military might, generating effective deterrence and providing crucial leverage.

**“Balasya Mulam Vigyanam”**—the source of strength is science—drives the nation in peace and war. DRDO has firm determination to make the nation strong and self-reliant in terms of science and technology, especially in the field of military technologies. **DRDO 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).** DRDO was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. Over the years, it has grown multi-directionally in terms of the variety of subject disciplines, number of laboratories, achievements and stature.