# Akash Prime Strengthens India's Air Defence: Precision Missile Tested Successfully in Ladakh

In a significant boost to India's air defence capabilities, the Indian Army has successfully test-fired the **Akash Prime** missile system in the high-altitude region of Ladakh. This upgraded variant of India's indigenous surface-to-air missile (SAM) system enhances the country's defence shield against potential aerial threats from Pakistan and China.

#### Akash Prime: A New Era in Air Defence

The **Akash Prime** system, developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, represents a major technological advancement over its predecessor. The latest trials, conducted at an altitude of **15,000 feet in Ladakh**, demonstrated the missile's improved precision and operational reliability in challenging high-altitude, low-temperature conditions.

During the trials, the missile successfully intercepted and neutralised two high-speed aerial targets at high altitudes, showcasing its advanced target-tracking and engagement capabilities.

#### **Enhanced Features of Akash Prime**

- Indigenous Active Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker: This allows the Akash Prime to achieve superior accuracy and target discrimination, significantly improving its performance against agile targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles, and drones.
- **Optimised for Extreme Conditions:** Engineered for reliable operation in harsh, high-altitude environments, the system is tailor-made for deployments in strategic regions such as Ladakh.
- Effective Engagement Range: With the ability to neutralize airborne threats within a range of 25 to 30 km, Akash Prime bolsters India's air defence against enemy drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and incoming missiles.

## Strategic Importance in the India-Pakistan-China Context

The Akash missile system already proved its critical value during recent India-Pakistan tensions, effectively countering incoming drones and missiles from across the border. The introduction of Akash Prime adds a sharper edge to this capability, especially in

safeguarding India's sensitive northern frontiers against both Pakistan and China.

As reported, **Akash Prime** will soon be integrated into the **third and fourth regiments of the Indian Army**, fortifying India's layered air defence network with indigenous technology.

### Why This Matters for India's Defence Preparedness

In an era where dependence on foreign weapon systems carries strategic risks, the success of indigenous defence projects like Akash Prime underscores India's growing self-reliance. By strengthening its **Make in India** defence initiatives, India enhances not just its military readiness but also national security autonomy.

**Akash Prime** is not just a missile—it's a symbol of India's evolving technological prowess and determination to secure its skies with homegrown solutions.

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