

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

### **DRDO successfully flight-tests New Generation Akash Missile**

Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO today successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile, a surface-to-air Missile from Integrated Test Range off the coast of Odisha. The flight trial was conducted from a land-based platform with all weapon system elements such as Multifunction Radar, Command, Control and Communication System and launcher participating in deployment configuration.

The missile system has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories. During the test, the missile demonstrated high manoeuvrability required for neutralising fast and agile aerial threats. Defence Ministry said, the New Generation Akash Missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the air defence capability of the Indian Air Force.

### **DRDO successfully flight tests indigenously developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Missile**

In a major boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat and strengthening Army, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) today.

The missile was launched from a man-portable launcher integrated with thermal site and the target was mimicking a tank. The missile hit the target in direct attack mode and destroyed it with precision. The test has validated the minimum range successfully.

All the mission objectives were met. The missile (Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile) has already been successfully flight-tested for the maximum range. The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Miniaturized Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.

### **11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting held**

India is seeking a multi-dimensional engagement with the Mekong region considering its great importance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

In an address at the 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting, Jaishankar also called for a "collective and collaborative" response to effectively deal with coronavirus pandemic, saying the virus does not respect national boundaries.

The MGC initiative comprising six countries -- India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam -- was launched in 2000 to boost cooperation in a range of areas including connectivity, tourism and culture.

### **Pfizer & BioNTech sign agreement with Biovac Institute to produce COVID-19 vaccine in South Africa**

Pfizer and BioNTech have signed an agreement with South Africa's Biovac Institute to produce the COVID-19 vaccine in South Africa for the African Union, Pfizer in a statement. Both companies expect that Biovac's Cape Town facility will be incorporated in their global vaccine supply chain by the end of 2021, while technical processes and on-site equipment activities will start immediately, the statement added.

Pfizer Chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said that our latest collaboration with Biovac is a shining example of the tireless work being done, in this instance to benefit Africa. He promised to continue efforts to expand the vaccine supply chain in other regions, including Latin America. At full operational capacity, the annual production will exceed 100 million finished doses, which will be distributed within the 55 member states of the African Union, the statement said. To date, Pfizer and BioNTech have shipped more than 1 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to more than 100 countries or territories in every region of the world.

### **For the first time, Saudi women stand guard in Mecca during haj**

Since April, dozens of female soldiers have become part of the security services that monitor pilgrims in Mecca and Medina, the birth places of Islam.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has pushed through social and economic reforms as part of plans to modernise the conservative Muslim kingdom and attract foreign investment under a diversification drive.

Under his reform plan, known as Vision 2030, the crown prince lifted a driving ban on women, allowed adult women to travel without permission from guardians and granted them more control over family matters.

### **Australia's Brisbane to host 2032 Summer Olympic Games**

The International Olympic Committee announced that Australian city of Brisbane will host the 2032 Summer Olympic Games.

Brisbane will also host the Paralympic Games.

According to an estimate, the cost to prepare Brisbane for the event is 5 billion dollars.

### **Tokyo Olympics: Anurag Thakur urges people to make & share video with #HumaraVictoryPunch to support athletes**

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has urged people to make a video with their friends and family members and share it with # HumaraVictoryPunch in support of Indian athletes representing the country in Tokyo Olympic. In a tweet, Mr Thakur said, the people can make the video and tag it to five people and invite them to share their videos to show their support for the Indian Olympics Team. He also appealed to people to make cheer for India a mass movement.

Last week, Mr Thakur launched the 'Cheer4India' song of the country's Olympic contingent. He also urged the public to wholeheartedly rally behind its athletes during the Tokyo Games.