

8th October 2024

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests 4th Generation Very Short Range Air Defence System

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted three flight tests of the 4th Generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.



Key Point

- ❖ The tests were carried out against high-speed targets, demonstrating very critical parameters of maximum range and maximum altitude interception.
- ❖ VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Development cum Production Partners.
- ❖ The three services have been associated with the project from the beginning and participated in the developmental trials.

About DRDO

- ❖ DRDO Full Form: Defence Research and Development Organisation
- ❖ About: The DRDO is the premier R&D agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- ❖ Origin: The DRDO came into existence after merging the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories with the Defence Science Organisation in 1958.
 - Project Indigo was the DRDO's first major defence project, which involved development of Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM).

ANNA DARPAN

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has chosen Coforge Limited to spearhead a digital transformation initiative named Anna DARPAN



Key Point

- ❖ This new system is aimed at streamlining and enhancing FCI operations across various levels to improve productivity and efficiency by providing an interactive, user-friendly interface.
- ❖ Leveraging data analytics, Anna DARPAN will enable FCI to make more informed strategic and operational decisions. By analyzing trends and patterns, the FCI can optimize food distribution and storage decisions.
- ❖ The system will integrate both internal and external systems, facilitating seamless communication and data sharing, ensuring all stakeholders in the supply chain remain aligned.
- ❖ With a mobile-first approach, the project will be designed for use on smartphones and tablets, ensuring accessibility at any time and from any location. This will allow farmers, suppliers, and employees to access information and manage tasks on the go.

People's Plan Campaign 2024

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj conducted a National Workshop for the People's Plan Campaign 2024, titled "Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas," which marked the beginning of the nationwide campaign launch.



Key point

- ❖ The campaign is an annual initiative introduced by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 2019 to foster participatory planning in rural areas, in line with the goal of decentralized governance.
- ❖ **Objective:** It aims to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to spearhead development efforts by involving local communities in creating Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).
- ❖ The 2024 campaign builds on earlier initiatives, emphasizing the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into rural development plans.
- ❖ **Key Components of the Campaign:**
 - **Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP):** A community-driven plan crafted by Panchayats that mirrors local priorities while integrating SDG objectives.
 - **Village Prosperity and Resilience Plan (VPRP):** Formulated by Self Help Groups (SHGs), this plan shifts the focus from merely reducing poverty to enhancing community resilience and prosperity.

- **Special Gram Sabhas:** Regular gatherings involving local residents to discuss development strategies and promote transparency.
- **Integration of Technology:** Utilization of AI/ML-based planning tools like SVAMITVA maps, which offer insights into rural infrastructure, water resources, and solar potential, aiding in better resource allocation and project execution.

SCO Summit In Islamabad

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad to attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Summit on 15th October and 16th October.



Key point

- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- ❖ This marks the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan since Sushma Swaraj attended a conference in 2015.
- ❖ Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto visited India in May 2023 for an SCO Foreign Ministers meeting
- ❖ The last high-level visit by India to Pakistan was in December 2015, when then-EAM Sushma Swaraj attended the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference.

About SCO

- ❖ It was established on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ Founding members include Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ The SCO evolved from the Shanghai Five mechanism.
- ❖ The SCO currently comprises eight member states: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia have observer status in the organization.
- ❖ The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese.

Maldives President Delhi Visit

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu was accorded a grand ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on, as part of his inaugural five-day bilateral visit to India.



Key Point

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly welcomed President Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed upon their arrival at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ This visit marks President Muizzu's second trip to India this year, following his attendance at Prime Minister Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June

About Maldives

- ❖ Capital - Male
- ❖ Currency - Maldivian rufiyaa
- ❖ President - Mohamed Muizzu

Short News

- ❖ Switzerland and Italy have agreed to redraw a part of their national boundary, as **melting Alpine glaciers** shift the historically defined frontier.
- ❖ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar conferred the **25th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award** for Excellence for 2024 to Smt. Rajashree Birla at a function held at the Vice President's residence in New Delhi.
- ❖ India's first **3D Selfie Science Museum** was launched at the IBR Annual International Convocation in Faridabad.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the **Jal-Jagar Mahotsav** at the Ravishankar Reservoir in Gangrel Dam, Dhamtari, highlighting a major achievement in the state's water conservation efforts.
- ❖ Conrad K Sangma, Meghalaya Chief Minister launched the **GREEN (Grassroot level Response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing) Meghalaya Plus (GMP) Scheme** in the first week of October in the state.
- ❖ The United Kingdom and Mauritius have reached an agreement under which the United Kingdom will return the **Chagos Islands** and the atoll of **Diego Garcia** to Mauritius. This agreement marks the end of British colonialism on the African continent.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Young shooting player **Suraj Sharma** has won two medals in the ISSF Junior World Championship (Pistol/Rifle/Shotgun) held in Lima, Peru.
- ❖ Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner to win his first China Open title.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Recently in the news, VSHORADS is related to which of the following?

- (a) Missile defence system
- (b) Naval warfare
- (c) Space exploration
- (d) Cyber security

Answer – (a)

2. The Jal-Jagar Mahotsav, recently inaugurated by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, is celebrated in which state?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer – (c)

