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1. Defence minister lays the foundation of new Brahmos manufacturing center in Lucknow (Dec. 27, 2021)

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for Defence Technology & Test Centre and BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre, established by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UP DIC).
- It will cover over 200 acres and produce the new BRAHMOS-NG (Next Generation) variant, which carries forward the lineage of the BRAHMOS weapons system.
- This new centre would be ready over the next two to three years and will commence production at a rate of 80-100 BRAHMOS-NG missiles per year.

Brahmos Aerospace Limited

- It is a joint venture of DRDO and NPO Mashinostroyenia of Russia.
- The Company is named after the river Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- It has developed the world's first supersonic cruise missile Brahmos with a range of 290 Km with a speed of 2.8 to 3 Mach.
- At present Brahmos Aerospace ltd has manufacturing centres at Hyderabad, Nagpur and Bilani (Madhya [Pradesh).

The new Generation Brahmos missile BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) is a mini version based on the existing BrahMos, will have same 290 km range and speed but it will weigh around 1.5 tons, 5 metres in length and 50 cm in diameter, making BrahMos-NG 50 percent lighter and three metres shorter than its predecessor.

2. DRDO successfully test Abhyas (Dec. 24, 2021)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of Indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) Abhyas on 23 December from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast, Odisha.
- Abhyas is an unmanned aerial vehicle which is used by the armed forces for target practice.

3. India's quasi ballistic missile "Pralay" successfully conducted the second flight-test (Dec. 23, 2021)

To the Point:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on December 23, 2021, successfully conducted the second flight-test of indigenously developed conventional Surface-to-Surface missile 'Pralay' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- **For the first time,** two consecutive flight tests of a ballistic missile have been conducted successfully on two consecutive days.
- In today's launch, the 'Pralay' missile was **tested for heavier payload and different range** to prove the precision and lethality of the weapon.

Pralay, the short-range solid fuel surface-to-surface ballistic missile can hit the target at a range of 150 to 500 kilometres with an accuracy of less than 10 metres and can be launched by Mobile Launcher.

 The missile guidance system includes the latest navigation system and integrated avionics.

4. Exercise PANEx-2021 (Dec. 21, 2021)

Exercise PANEx-2021 is a multi-nation Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise

Participants: BIMSTEC Countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and India.

Date and Location - December 20 to 22, 2021 in Pune, Maharashtra

Aim: To promote joint planning and building regional cooperation for responding to natural disasters.

Importance:

To bring transformative changes in Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to combat contingencies like the Pandemic in the future.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

- It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the areas of the Bay of Bengal.
- This organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- Secretariat Dhaka Bangladesh
- Current Chair Sri Lanka

5. New generation ballistic missile 'Agni P' successfully test-fired by DRDO (Dec. 19, 2021)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear capable medium range surface to surface ballistic missile 'Agni P' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha on December 18, 2021.
- The Agni P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with a dual redundant navigation and guidance system that can be launched from rail and road and stored for a longer period.
- The range of the New Generation Agni P missile is 1000KM to 2000 Km.

DRDO head Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy.

6. Defence export from India (Dec. 16, 2021)

- The government of India has informed the Parliament that in 2020-21 total defence export was Rs 8,434.84 crore.
- Minister of Defence: Mr. Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State for Defence : Mr Ajay Bhatt

7. Successful Launch of supersonic missile Assisted-Torpedo (SMART) (Dec. 15, 2021)

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully launched **Supersonic Missile Assisted-Torpedo System (SMART)** from Abdul Kalam Island (formerly known as Wheeler Island), Orissa on 13th December 2021.

Key Highlights:

- It is a missile assisted release of the lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for antisubmarine warfare (ASW) operations far beyond torpedo range.
- It is a canister based missile system, consisting of advanced technologies viz. two stage solid propulsion, electro-mechanical actuators and precision inertial navigation. The missile is launched from a ground mobile launcher and it can cover a range of distances.
- The system is a next-generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system.
- The missile is set to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian navy.

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Torpedo

A torpedo is an underwater ranged weapon launched above or below the water surface, self-propelled towards a target, and with an explosive warhead designed to detonate either on contact with or in proximity to the target.

Heavy Torpedo

- The Varunastra is an Indian advanced heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo, developed by Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Navy.
- It can be fired from Anti-Submarine Ship of the Indian Navy
- It has a range of 40 KM.
- It has been inducted in the Indian Navy.

Advanced Lightweight Torpedo

- The Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) **Shyena** (Sanskrit: 强阳强烈, "Falcon or Hawk") is being developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Navy.
- It has a range of 19 KM.
- The lightweight torpedo can be launched by ships, submarines, helicopters and Ilyushin Il-38 aircraft.

8. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh hands over DRDO developed products to Armed Forces (Dec. 15, 2021)

Key Highlights

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over five Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to the Armed forces and other security agencies at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi on December 14, 2021, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and iconic week of Ministry of Defence.
- Raksha Mantri said that the government is working in a concerted manner to realize the
 objective of "Make in India" and "Make for the World" by bringing in several policy
 reforms such as increasing FDI in the Defence sector to 74%, creation of defence
 corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, etc.
- He also handed over six **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** agreements to seven public and private sector companies. Earlier DRDO organised a Seminar on "Preparing For The Future".

Products handed over to different Armed Forces are:

- To the Armed Forces & Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Anti-Drone system,
 - Modular Bridge,
 - Smart Anti Airfield Weapon,

Chaff Variants and the Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit.

To the CISC

• The counter drone systems, developed by DRDO for detection, deterrence and destruction of incoming drones.

• To the Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane

- Modular Bridge developed by R&DE (Engineers).
- It is a single span, mechanically launched assault bridge of military load class MLC-70, and can be launched in different spans.

• To the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari

• Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW), an air launched, long-range, stand-off, air-to-surface Smart Bomb.

To the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar

• The variants of Advanced Chaff.

To the Special Secretary, MHA, Shri V S K Kaumudi

 Structural fire-fighting suit developed by DRDO's Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES).

The LAToT documents of seven DRDO developed systems for the systems/ technologies

- Coastal Surveillance Radar,
- Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (ACADA) & Chemical Agent Monitor (CAM),
- Unit Maintenance Vehicle,
- Unit Repair Vehicle,
- Fused Silica based Ceramic Core technology and
- the Fire Suppressing Gel.
- Secretary, DDR&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy; Vice Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Staff, other senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence and Home Affairs were also present on the occasion.

9. DRDO successfully test Stand Off Anti-Tank missile (Dec. 12, 2021)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF)
 flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Helicopter launched Stand-off
 Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan
- The SANT missile has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO labs and participation from industries.

The target range of the SANT missile is upto 10 KM...

10. DRDO Successfully test Multi-barrel rocket launcher Pinaka ER (Dec. 11, 2021)

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested multi barrel rocket launcher Pinaka Extended Range **at Pokhran, Rajasthan**
- The system is jointly designed by laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.
- The enhanced range version of the Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to 45km.