

**19-04-2024**

### Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile

#### Why in News?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on April 18, 2024.

#### More About the News

- The missile performance was monitored by several Range Sensors like Radar, Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and Telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path.



- The flight of the missile was also monitored from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- The missile followed the desired path using way point navigation and demonstrated very low altitude sea-skimming flight.
- This successful flight test has also established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru.
- The missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and

reliable performance.

- The missile is developed by Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) along with contribution from other laboratories and Indian industries.
- The test was witnessed by many senior scientists from various DRDO laboratories along with the representatives from the production partner.

### Next Chief of the Naval Staff

#### Why in the News?

- The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, as the next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from the afternoon of April 30, 2024.

#### More About the News

- The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM retires from service on April 30, 2024.
- Born on May 15, 1964, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on July 01, 1985.
- A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has had a long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years.
- Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, he had served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has undergone courses at the Defence Services

Staff College, Wellington; Naval Higher Command Course, Karanja and Naval Command College at the United States Naval War College, USA.

### World Heritage Day 2024

#### Why in the News?

- World Heritage Day, also monikered as the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), is observed on April 18 every year to honor and protect out cultural legacy.

#### More About the News

- On this day, many organizations, societies, governments, and individuals come together to advocate the preservation of historical sites and to increase public awareness about their significance.
- The International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) created World Heritage Day, also referred to as The International Day for Monuments and Sites, in 1982.
- The purpose of World Heritage Day is to raise awareness among local communities about protecting our cultural heritage.
- This year, the theme of World Heritage Day is 'Discover and Experience Diversity'.
- The Survival International, which campaigns for the rights of indigenous and/or tribal peoples and uncontacted peoples, accused UNESCO of being complicit in the illegal eviction and abuse of Indigenous people in a new report launched on World Heritage Day 2024.



- According to the report, many UNESCO World Heritage Sites are, in fact, located on what were once indigenous lands.
- The report listed six World Heritage Sites that occupy stolen Indigenous land. Three are in Africa and three in Asia.
- They include Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania), Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Odzala-Kokoua National Park (Republic of Congo), Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand), Kaziranga National Park (India) and Chitwan National Park (Nepal).

### Srinagar vies for World Craft City

#### Why in the News?

- A three-member team of the World Crafts Council International (WCCI), which is headed by Saad Al-Qaddumi, is in Srinagar to inspect craft clusters, processes involved, and the status of artisans.

#### More About the News

- The World Crafts Council International (WCCI), a Kuwait-based organisation working on recognition and preservation of traditional crafts across the globe, has picked Srinagar for mapping its craft clusters before its final nomination as the World Craft City (WCC) from India this year.
- The team has inspected several clusters where artisans were working on local crafts like Pashmina shawls, carpets, papier mâché etc. They are evaluating how several crafts have kept itself alive, initiatives in place for artisans and the age-old practices involved. These are the parameters that make a city to qualify for the World Craft City (WCC) tag.
- The annual ceremony to grant WCC status to cities across the globe is aimed at "promoting, preserving and evolving handicrafts" and "building new market linkages".
- At present Srinagar is one of the probable cities in India. The final announcement about the city's inclusion is likely in the next two months.
- The WCCI has also proposed to hold its



annual meeting in Srinagar in November this year.

- The mega programme will help local artisans from Kashmir to interact with the best of artisans from across the world.
- The WCCI, founded in 1964, is behind “fostering economic development through income generating craft related activities, exchange programs, workshops, conferences, seminars, and exhibitions across the globe.
- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage-Kashmir (INTACH-K) is collaborating with the J&K Handicrafts department to map the craft sector ahead of the final nomination.
- According to official data, Srinagar, spread over 416 square kilometres, has a registered artisan base of 20,822 craftsmen, who are involved in multiple disciplines of papier mache, walnut wood carving, hand-knotted carpet, Kani shawl, Khatamband, pashmina, Sozni craft etc.
- The total craft related workforce in Srinagar stands at 1.76% approximately. The contribution of the handicraft to the overall economy of J&K stood at 2.64% by 2016-17.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AFMS & IIT Kanpur

#### Why in the News?

- The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur on 18 April 2024.

#### More About the News

- The MoU was signed by Director General Armed Forces Medical Services Lt Gen Daljit Singh & Officiating Director, IIT Kanpur Prof S Ganesh.
- Under this MoU, AFMS and IIT Kanpur will team up to undertake research and develop new technologies to address health problems faced by soldiers in difficult terrains.
- IIT Kanpur will also provide technical expertise for developing AI diagnostic models, at Armed Forces Centre for Computational Medicine established in Armed Forces Medical College, which is first of its kind amongst medical colleges in India.
- Under the ambit of this MoU, faculty exchange program, joint academic activities and development of training modules will also be planned.
- AFMS is dedicated to provide highest level of medical care to soldiers and collaboration with institutes of national importance like IIT is a significant step towards this commitment.



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