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MRSAM

- Recently the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) conducted two successful flight tests of the military version of the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- These tests were part of live firing trials against high speed air targets. The first launch was to intercept a medium-altitude long-range target and the second was to provide capability to a low-range short-range target.
- The first test of the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) for the Indian Army was conducted in the year 2020.

Military version of MRSAM:

- It is a surface-to-air missile system jointly developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for use by the Indian Army.
- It consists of a command and control post, multi-function radar and mobile launcher system.

‘Medium Range Surface to Air Missile’ (MRSAM):

- It is a fast-reaction supersonic missile, which has been developed to neutralize enemy air threats, such as missiles, aircraft, guided bombs and fighter aircraft, etc.

- The speed of supersonic missiles is greater than the speed of sound (Mach 1), but they cannot be faster than Mike-3.
- Its different versions have been developed for Army, Navy and Air Force.
- In May 2019, the Indian Navy, DRDO and IAI conducted the first test-fire of the naval version of the 'Medium Range Surface to Air Missile' (MRSAM).
- It is a land based version of Barak Air and Missile Defense System (AMD).
- Barak AMD has been purchased by India from Israel. It was designed and developed by Israel to protect its economic sectors and strategic institutions from various threats.
- The missile's management system calculates distance using radar to track and accurately identify targets and provides all information to the commander for interception decisions.
- This missile is 4.5 meters long and weighs about 275 kg.
- It is equipped with fins and canards to stabilize its flight and give it maneuverability.
- The missile is powered by a 'Thrust Vector Control System' with a solid propulsion system.
- It can hit multiple targets simultaneously up to a range of 70 km.

Koyna Dam

- Recently the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has informed about the delay in giving revised administrative approval to an incomplete hydroelectric project in Maharashtra. The allocation of funds has been blocked for more than six years due to this delay.
- The Water Resources Department (WRD), Government of Maharashtra had given administrative approval in 2004 for the construction of a 2×40 megawatt (MW) hydroelectric project on the left bank of the Koyna dam.

Koyna Dam:

- Koyna Dam is the biggest dam of Maharashtra, it is located in Koyana Nagar of Satara district.
- It is located on the state highway between Chiplun and Karad in the Western Ghats. The Koyna Dam is a rubble-concrete dam built on the Koyna River, which originates from Mahabaleshwar, a hill-station in the Sahyadri ranges.
- Work on Koyna Dam was started in the year 1951 and for the first time in the year 1962, the work for installing the turbine started.
- Presently Phase V of Koyna Hydroelectric Project is under construction.

- The main purpose of the dam is to supply hydroelectricity with irrigation facilities to the neighboring areas.
- The Koyna Dam provides hydroelectric power supply to western Maharashtra as well as some neighboring areas.
- Dam plays an important role in flood control during monsoon season. The catchment area connects the Koyna River with the Sivasagar Lake, which is about 50 km in length.
- Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary which is about 423.55 sq.km. Covers the area, was notified in the year 1985.
- In the year 2007, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary along with Chandoli National Park was declared as a part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- It is one of the largest civil engineering projects undertaken after the independence of India. Koyna Hydroelectric Project is operated by Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

About Koyna River:

- The Koyna, a tributary of the Krishna, originates from Mahabaleshwar in Satara district in western Maharashtra.
- Unlike most other rivers of Maharashtra which flow in an east-west direction, Koyna river flows in a north-south direction.
- It covers an area of 2,036 sq km in the 'Deccan area' of Satara district of Maharashtra state.
- With an altitude range of 550–1,460 m above mean sea level, it generally represents a geographical formation characteristic of the Deccan Plateau in the Western Ghats region.
- There is also a 'Koyna Dam', which builds the Sivasagar Reservoir in Koyna Nagar.
- Koyna River is supported by four tributaries, which include Kera, Vang, Morna and Mahind etc. The Kera, Vang and Morna dams are present on these rivers.

35th 'Surajkund International Crafts Mela'

- The 35th 'Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2022' is being organized from March 19 to April 4, 2022 in Faridabad, Haryana.
- This fair is organized every year in the month of February; However this year the schedule was modified due to the corona pandemic. This annual fair in Faridabad was last held in the year 2020.

Key points

- The fair is organized by Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- The fair was started in the year 1987 to promote the pool of skilled artisans who used indigenous techniques, but these people were suffering due to cheap machine-made products.
- This fair was upgraded to an international level fair in the year 2013.
- The Surajkund Mela showcases the richness and diversity of India's handicrafts, handlooms and cultural heritage, as well as being the world's largest crafts fair.
- The 'Theme State' for the year 2022 is Jammu and Kashmir and 'Partner Nation' Uzbekistan.

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