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DRDO Successfully Conducts VSHORADS Flight Trials

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The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

Purpose of the trials:

To revalidate the capability of the VSHORADS missile system in neutralising high-speed aerial threats flying at varying speeds, ranges and altitudes, simulating real battlefield conditions.

Outcome:

All three flight tests were successful.

The missiles intercepted and destroyed all high-speed aerial targets mimicking enemy aircraft.

Tests met all extreme engagement parameters, confirming effectiveness.

Data captured via telemetry, radars and electro-optical systems validated performance.

What is VSHORADS?

VSHORADS stands for Very Short-Range Air Defence System.

It is a man-portable air defence missile system (MANPAD) designed to engage low-altitude aerial targets such as aircraft, helicopters, and UAVs at short ranges.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040
Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

The system is indigenously developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) with other DRDO labs and industry partners.

Operational Role:

VSHORADS is meant to augment India's short-range air defence capability, especially in challenging terrains like mountain fronts.

It can be deployed rapidly by infantry and forces needing mobile air defence solutions.

Technical Features:

It uses dual-waveband infrared guidance and modern avionics for improved tracking.

The propulsion is provided by a dual-thrust solid rocket motor.

Operational range is typically around 6 km with high maneuverability against fast moving threats.

Importance in Indigenous Defence Ecosystem:

VSHORADS replaces older foreign systems and aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant defence vision).

It fits into a multi-layered air defence architecture that includes systems like QRSAM and others.

Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur:

The ITR facility in Odisha is a key missile test range of India, where many strategic flight tests including ballistic missiles and air defence systems are conducted.