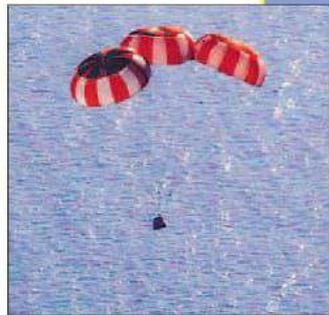


# KEY MILESTONE ACHIEVED IN GAGANYAAN MISSION

NEW DELHI, Aug 24 (Agencies)

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01), marking a key milestone in the preparation for India's ambitious Gaganyaan Mission.

## ISRO completes first air-drop test



An ISRO official said that the end-to-end demonstration was conducted near Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The Gaganyaan project aims

to demonstrate India's capability to send humans into space and safely return them to Earth. Planned as the country's first human spaceflight programme, it will also involve precursor unmanned missions to test systems critical for crew safety. The parachute-based deceleration mechanism is a key component to ensure the safe recovery of the crew module during re-entry and landing.

According to ISRO, the successful trial was a collaborative effort involving multiple defence and research organisations, including the Indian Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard. In a post on X, ISRO wrote, "ISRO successfully accomplishes first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) for end-to-end demonstration of parachute-based deceleration system for Gaganyaan missions. This test is a joint effort of ISRO, Indian Air Force, DRDO, Indian Navy

and Indian Coast Guard." Earlier, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that development and ground testing of the Human Rated Launch Vehicle (HRLV3) of India's first human spaceflight programme Gaganyaan have already been completed. "Orbital Module: The Propulsion systems for Crew Module and Service Module have been developed and tested. ECLSS engineering model realised. Crew Escape System (Contd on page 5)

## 'Gaganyaan Mission symbolises a new chapter'

NEW DELHI, Aug 24 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said Gaganyaan mission symbolises a "new chapter" in the journey of Atmanirbhar Bharat and called astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the other three chosen Gaganyatris as country's "gems" and pioneers of national aspirations.

At an event hosted by the IAF at Subroto Park here, Singh felicitated the four Gaganyatris.

The ceremony comes after the successful Axiom 4 mission, in which Shukla was a team member and represented India. "We do not see space only as a field of research, but as the future of tomorrow's economy, security, energy, and humanity," Singh said. He said that India is steadily advancing beyond the Earth's surface into "new frontiers of space."

(Contd on page 5)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, (L) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and (R) Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal A P Singh with (2nd L) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, (2nd R) Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, (3rd R) Group Captain Ajith Krishnan and (3rd L) Group Captain Angad Pratap during the felicitation ceremony of Gaganyatris in New Delhi on Sunday. (PTI)

# Maiden flight tests of new air defence system **SUCCESSFUL**

NEW DELHI, Aug 24 (PTI)

**INDIA** has "successfully" conducted the maiden flight tests of an integrated air defence weapon system (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha, demonstrating its growing military capabilities in the face of an evolving regional security scenario.

The IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system consisting of indigenous quick reaction surface-to-air missiles (QRSAM), very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missiles and a high power laser based direct-energy weapons (DEW) sys-

tem, according to the Defence Ministry.

The indigenous air defence system was flight-tested 1230 hours off the coast of Odisha on Saturday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the developer of the platform, and the Armed Forces on the flight tests.

The flight tests of the new air defence system came three-and-half months after Operation Sindoor.

"I con-  
gratu-

late the DRDO, Indian Armed Forces and the industry for successful development of IADWS," Singh said on social media.

"This unique flight test has established the multi-layered air-defence capability of our country and is going to strengthen area defence for important facilities against enemy aerial threats," he said.

Under the IADWS, an integrated operation of all the weapon systems will be controlled by a centralised command and control centre.

The command  
and

control centre has been developed by the DRDO, which is the nodal laboratory for the air defence programme.

The VSHORADS and DEW are developed by Research Centre Imarat and Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences respectively.

"During the flight-tests, three different targets, including two high-speed fixed wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle targets and a multi-copter drone were simultaneously engaged and destroyed completely by the QRSAM, VSHORADS and high energy laser weapon

(Contd on page 5)



# Rs 70,000 cr sub deal gets GREEN GO

NEW DELHI, Aug 24 (ANI)

**AFTER** being stuck for over six months, the Centre has given clearance to the Defence Ministry and Mazagon Dockyards Limited to begin negotiations for the deal to buy six submarines to be built in India with German support under 'Project 75 India.'



6 SUBMARINES  
TO BE BUILT IN  
INDIA WITH  
GERMAN  
SUPPORT  
UNDER  
'PROJECT 75  
INDIA.'

The Defence Ministry had selected state-owned MDL for building six submarines with Air Independent Propulsion systems with German ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems as its partner in January. Defence officials said, "The Centre has now given clearance to the Defence Ministry and the MDL to begin negotiations for the project, and the process is expected to start by the end of this month." The Centre took the decision after a very high-level meeting, including top defence and national security functionaries, who discussed the roadmap and future of the country's submarine fleet, they said.

# North Korean leader Kim supervises tests of new anti-air missiles

SEOUL, Aug 24 (AP)

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of two types of new anti-air missiles, state media said Sunday,



displaying his expanding military capabilities as the South Korean and US militaries carry out joint drills.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the test on

Saturday proved the missiles effective in countering aerial threats such as drones and cruise missiles, and that Kim assigned unspecified "important" tasks to defense scientists ahead of a major political conference expected early next year.

The report did not specify the missiles that were tested or where the event took place. It did not mention any remarks by Kim directed at Washington or Seoul.

The test coincided with new South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's trip to Tokyo for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, where they vowed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and their trilateral partnership with the United States to address common challenges, including North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Lee was to depart for Washington on Sunday for a summit with US President Donald Trump. Kim's government has repeatedly dismissed calls by Seoul and Washington to restart long-stalled negotiations aimed at winding down his nuclear weapons and missiles programs, as he continues to prioritize Russia as part of a foreign policy aimed at expanding ties with nations confronting the United States. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Kim has sent thousands of troops and large shipments of weapons, including artillery and ballistic missiles, to help fuel President Vladimir Putin's warfighting.

# 'Govt will continue with reforms to make India developed nation by 2047'

NEW DELHI, Aug 24 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country will soon become the world's third-largest major economy and asserted that the Government will continue with reforms to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Modi said the next-generation GST reform process will be completed before this Diwali. It will make the GST law simpler and bring down prices.

The Prime Minister asked the private sector to increase investment in research & development in various sectors, including clean energy, quantum technology, battery storage, advanced materials and biotechnology.

Speaking at the Economic Times World Leaders Forum, the Prime Minister said India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world today.

"We are soon going to become the third-largest economy in the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi address at The Economic Times World Leaders Forum, in New Delhi on Saturday. (ANI)

world. Experts are saying that India's contribution to the world's growth is going to be around 20 per cent very soon," he noted.

The growth and resilience seen in the Indian economy are due to macroeconomic stability in the last 10 years, Modi said.

On key economic fundamentals, the Prime Minister said India's fiscal deficit has been reduced to 4.4 per cent despite challenges posed by the COVID pandemic.

Indian companies are raising record funds from capital markets, he pointed out.

Banks are much stronger now, inflation is very low, interest rates are low, and the current account deficit is in control, he asserted, adding that forex reserves are strong. Every month, the Prime Minister said, lakhs of domestic investors are putting thousands of crores in the capital market through SIPs.

When economic fundamentals are strong, the positive impact could be seen all around, he added.

Modi noted that the latest June EPFO data shows that 22 lakh formal jobs have been added, the highest-ever in a single month.

Retail inflation is at the lowest level since 2017.

# CISF to have all-women commando team for specialised operations

NEW DELHI, Aug 24 (PTI)

THE Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has decided to create an all-women commando team for conducting specialised counter-terrorist operations, officials said. A group of 100 female personnel deployed across the country as part of the aviation security group (ASG) guarding civilian airports are the first to be trained for the task. The about 1.70 lakh-strength CISF is primarily tasked to guard 69 civil airports, the Delhi Metro and a number of other vital installations in the Government and private domain.

“The training for the first batch of the women personnel in commando skills has been started at a training centre located in Barwaha, Madhya Pradesh. “This



eight-week advanced commando course will prepare women personnel for quick reaction team (QRT) and special taskforce (STF) duties at high-security establishments and plants,” a CISF official said.

The personnel will be trained in physical fitness and weapons

training, live-fire drills under stress, endurance-building exercises like running, obstacle courses, rappelling, survival training in forests, and a 48-hour confidence-building exercise designed to test decision-making and teamwork under adverse conditions, he said.