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Akash missile test fired from ITR at Chandipur

Balasore (Odisha): India today test fired its indigenously developed surface-to-air Akash missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here.

The missile targeted an unmanned air vehicle (UAV) named 'Banshee', an official of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

The missile, with a strike range of 25 km and capability to carry warhead of 60 kg, was test fired from the launch complex-3 of the ITR, he said.

It is a medium-range surface-to-air anti-aircraft defence system developed by DRDO as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

Akash is powered by Ramjet-rocket propulsion system which renders thrust for the missile to intercept the target at supersonic speed without any retardation.

It can fly at a supersonic speed ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5 and can engage aerial targets upto a range of approximately 25 km, the official said.

More than three decades after the project was initiated, the missile was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force and the Army last year.

Akash has the capability to neutralise aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles. The last trial from this base was conducted on January 28.

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Kit for testing quality of drinking water to be commercialised

New Delhi: With the development of an effective test kit for determining the quality of drinking water, the government is keen to commercialise the test kit to prevent disease, particularly in rural areas.

In this regard, the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), under Ministry of Science and Technology, has entered into a license agreement with M/s Ramashree Chemicals Pvt. Ltd, Bhopal for commercialisation of "Test kit for Microbiological Quality of Drinking Water" developed by Defence Research and Development Establishment (DRDE), Gwalior, DRDO, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, an official release said.

The company plans to take this technology across the country through a network of dealers. So far, the kit has been licensed to more than 20 companies in India and is useful to ascertain the quality of drinking water especially in developing countries.

The kit is used for detection of H2S producing organism in drinking water, which are present along with coliforms. Waterborne diseases like typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea and jaundice are caused by polluted water supply.

It is an inexpensive, reliable and convenient method of testing in field conditions and is approved by World Health Organization (WHO).