

Stage Set for User Trials of Akash Missile from Today

BALASORE: A series of user trials of surface-to-air supersonic Akash missile system will be carried out from a defence test facility off the Odisha coast from Thursday. Reliable sources said, the tests will be conducted from launching complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, about 15 km from here. The indigenously developed missile air defence system has been produced by Bharat Electronics Ltd. "A couple of tests has been planned on Thursday and Friday. The tests assume significance as those would be first in the series after the induction of the missile in the armed forces - Army and Air Force," said a defence official. Akash is a mobile, multiple- target handling and medium range air defence missile developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). After years of rejection, allegedly for faults in the missile system, the Army had agreed to accept the modified version of the missile, which was formally inducted in the Army on May 5 last year. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar had handed over the missile to the Air Force on July 10. Along with 13 DRDO laboratories, 19 public sector units, five ordinance factories, three national laboratories and six academic institutions, Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) successfully partnered with more than 265 private industries across the country to produce Akash.

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India successfully test fired Akash missile at Chandipur

India on 28 January 2016 test fired its indigenously-built surface-to-air Akash missile from complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).at Chandipuri in Odisha. It was as part of a user trial mission. Three rounds of test were carried out by Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel aiming at para-barrel targets. About Akash Missile

- * The Akash (sky) is a mid-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.
- * It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India under the integrated guided-missile development programme (IGMDP).
- * IGMDP is also involved the development of the Nag, Agni and Trishul missiles and Prithvi ballistic missile.
- * The first missile was delivered to the IAF in March 2012. The missile was formally inducted into the IAF in July 2015.
- * The missile can fly at supersonic speeds ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5 and can engage aerial targets up to a range of approximately 25 kilometers.

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