

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 22 August 2024

### Prithvi-II Missile Proves Its Pin-Point Accuracy Once Again in Night Test

- India successfully conducted a night test of its nuclear-capable ballistic missile, Prithvi-II, from a defence facility off the Odisha coast on Thursday. Developed by DRDO, this missile is capable of striking targets with precision up to a distance of 350 kilometers. The Prithvi-II missile, in a successful test, once again proved its utility by hitting the target with a high degree of accuracy.
- According to the Ministry of Defence, the night test launch of the Prithvi-II missile was carried out from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha, at around 7:46 PM. The nuclear-capable short-range ballistic missile, in a successful test, once again proved its utility by hitting the target with a high degree of accuracy.
- During the test, the missile met all the prescribed operational and technical parameters. The missile test was conducted under a routine training program.
- According to DRDO, this missile, which can strike up to 350 km, was fired from a mobile launcher. The Prithvi-II missile has a range of 350 kilometers. It is capable of carrying weapons weighing between 500 and 1,000 kilograms. This surface-to-surface missile, with a range of three hundred and fifty kilometers, is powered by two engines, one with liquid fuel and the other with solid fuel. It is powered by both liquid and solid fuels. The missile's trajectory was tracked by tracking systems and telemetric centres.



## North Korea Condemns New US Nuclear Strategic Plan Report

- North Korea vowed Saturday to advance its nuclear capabilities, reacting to a report that the United States had revised its own nuclear strategic plan.
- The country will "bolster up its strategic strength in every way to control and eliminate all sorts of security challenges that may result from Washington's revised plan", the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.
- The New York Times reported this week that a US plan approved by President Joe Biden in March was to prepare for possible coordinated nuclear confrontations with Russia, China and North Korea.
- The highly classified plan for the first time reorients Washington's deterrent strategy to focus on China's rapid expansion in its nuclear arsenal, the Times said.
- KCNA said North Korea's foreign ministry "expresses serious concern over and bitterly denounces and rejects the behavior of the US".
- It added North Korea vowed to push forward the building of nuclear force sufficient and reliable enough to firmly defend its sovereignty.
- Pyongyang and Moscow have been allies since North Korea's founding after World War II and have drawn even closer since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.



## IAF Gives Clearance To DRDO, BDL For Astra Missile Production

- In a boost to indigenous missile manufacturing capabilities, the Indian Air Force has given clearance to public sector firm Bharat Dynamics Limited for the production of 200 Astra Mark 1 air-to-air missiles.
- The Astra Mark1 missiles have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation with BDL as its production agency.
- The production clearance to the BDL was given during a visit by the Indian Air Force Deputy Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to Hyderabad recently, Indian Air Force officials said.
- "The approval for the over Rs 2,900 crore project was granted in 2022-23 by the Defence Acquisition Council and the production clearance has been given for that order now after completion of all tests and developments," defence sources said.
- The Astra missiles will be integrated on both the Russian-origin Su-30 as well as the indigenous LCA Tejas fighter aircraft after production.



## **NATO Airbase In Germany Raises Security Level Over 'Potential Threat'**

- "We raised the security level at NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen based on intelligence information indicating potential threat," the base said in a post on social media platform X.
- The announcement comes just over a week after a German military base was sealed off for several hours as authorities investigated suspected sabotage.
- The base in Cologne-Wahn was locked down after a hole was discovered in a fence near drinking water storage facilities.
- But test results eventually showed that the tap water was not contaminated, according to the German army.
- At the same time, NATO announced an attempted trespassing incident at the Geilenkirchen base.
- An individual attempted to enter the base but was stopped and sent away, a spokesman said.
- No link between the two incidents has been established.
- Germany -- a key ally of Kyiv -- has been on high alert for sabotage and attacks on military facilities in the country in the wake of Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.
- In April, investigators arrested two German-Russian men on suspicion of spying for Russia and planning attacks in Germany -- including on US army facilities -- to undermine military support for Ukraine.



## US Is Sending \$125 Million In New Military Aid To Ukraine

- U.S. officials said the latest package of aid includes air defense missiles, munitions for **High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)**, Javelins and an array of other anti-armour missiles, counter-drone and counter-electronic warfare systems and equipment, 155mm and 105mm artillery ammunition, vehicles and other equipment.
- The weapons are being provided through presidential drawdown authority, which means they are taken from Pentagon stockpiles and can be delivered more quickly.
- The aid comes as Ukrainian forces continue to broaden their surprise offensive into Russia, where officials say they have taken about 100 square kilometers of territory around Kursk. Russian troops, meanwhile, are making gains in the east, around the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. What is the estimated cost of the anti-submarine warfare Sonobuoys and related equipment to India by the United States?**

- A. USD 50 million
- B. USD 52.8 million
- C. USD 55.2 million
- D. USD 60 million

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which type of missiles and equipment are included in the latest military aid package sent by the USA to Ukraine?**

- A. S-400 missiles and submarines
- B. HIMARS munitions, Javelins, and counter-drone systems
- C. Patriot missiles and tanks
- D. Tomahawk missiles and aircraft carriers

**ANSWER: B**

**3. How many agreements were signed between India and Ukraine to enhance cooperation?**

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

**ANSWER: C**

**4. INFANTRY SCHOOL Is Located At**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Mhow
- D. Panaji

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Indian National Committee for Space Research Was The Former Name of Which Organisation?**

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO



- C. CSIR
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: B**

**6. IAI Harpy Is A**

- A. Drone
- B. Tank
- C. Submarine
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Operation Safed Sagar Was Launched In**

- A. 1997
- B. 1998
- C. 1999
- D. 2000

**ANSWER: C**

**8. INS Kadamba Is An Indian Navy Base Located At**

- A. Karwar in Karnataka
- B. Mumbai, M.H.
- C. Marmugao, Goa
- D. Kochi, Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**9. KONKAN Ex Conducted B/W India And**

- A. Oman
- B. Qatar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. UK

**ANSWER: D**

**10.L-HAV Stands For**

- A. Lance Havildar
- B. Loco Havildar
- C. Lake Havildar
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**11. The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 is a**

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Duty, Honour, Courage Is The Motto Of**

- A. Maratha Light Infantry
- B. The Grenadiers
- C. Rajput Regiment
- D. Jat Regiment

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By**

- A. MDL
- B. BDL
- C. CSL
- D. DRDO

**ANSWER: B**

**14. SCALP Missile Is Developed By**

- A. UK
- B. France
- C. Israel
- D. USA

**ANSWER: B**

**15. India Purchased Sako .338 TRG-42 Sniper Rifles From**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Finland

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Who Became The First Woman Combat Aviator In The Indian Army? “**

- A. Major Payal Goyal



- B. Flight Lt. Bhavana Singh
- C. Flight Lt. Avani Chaturvedi
- D. Captain Abhilasha Barak

**ANSWER: D**

**17. "Old Man and the Sea" Book Is Written By**

- A. Cervantes
- B. Ruskin Bond
- C. Goethe
- D. Ernest Hemingway

**ANSWER: D**

**18. Challenger 2 Is A Tank Of**

- A. Oman
- B. Qatar
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. UK

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Havana Is The Capital Of**

- A. Cuba
- B. Qatar
- C. Chad
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Full-Form of ATAGS Is**

- A. Adventure Towed Artillery Gun System
- B. Advanced To Artillery Gun System
- C. Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System
- D. Advanced Towed Artillery Gum System

**ANSWER: C**